

INTERACT III NEWSLETTER #3 MAY 2021



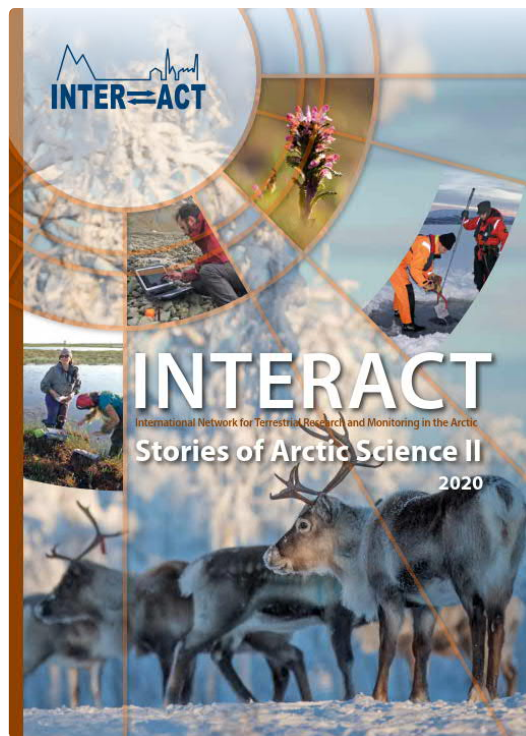
INTERACT General Assembly held online

Given the still-present threat of covid-19, we decided to have an online meeting until it is safe to travel and meet in person again. The first day was spent on the second General Assembly for INTERACT III, and the second day was devoted to the third Station Managers' Forum. 85 people from 14 different countries were present. This is the first of two general assemblies planned for 2021. The next will be in November. The presentations from the General Assembly are available [here](#), and soon the meeting minutes will be available under "[Deliverables](#)" on the INTERACT website.

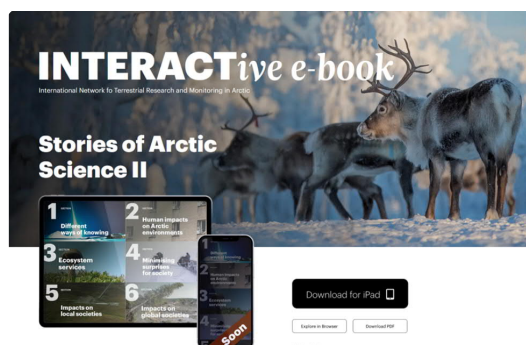
INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science II and INTERACTIVE E-book

The INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science II has now been printed in Denmark and hard copies are available in Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The e-version of the book is currently being developed by Tomsk State University. Additional learning material is being developed by Wicked Weather Watch in collaboration with Terry Callaghan.

The physical book and the e-book were both launched at an event at the University of the Arctic Congress on the 17th of May.



INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science II is available for download [here](#) and the INTERACTIVE e-book can be accessed via <https://interactsciencesstories.org/>



INTERACT Data portal Launch

On the 22nd of March, the INTERACT VA Data Portal was launched during the ASSW. Over 90 people attended the event and there was a lot of positive feedback and interest toward the portal. Presentations were given by Margareta Johansson, Øystein Godøy and Hannele Savela. The data portal was presented and demonstrated by its developer Raoul Nuccetelli. The INTERACT VA Data Portal is based on metadata harvesting from several organizations and sites with end points to real data on various topics on e.g. earth sciences and ecosystems. The number of datasets presented in the portal is growing day by day, including both near real-time observation datasets and unique historical, retrospective data digitized and provided for free and open access. The data portal is accessible through <https://dataportal.eu-interact.org/> or directly from the first page of the [INTERACT website](#).

Workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic

On the 23rd of March, a joint workshop was held between INTERACT Station Managers' Forum, FARO, ARICE and APECS. The aim of the meeting was to initiating dialogue and developing networks that facilitate access for international scientists to national research facilities and infrastructure in the Arctic: Identifying challenges, best practices, and next steps. There were 70 people attending the workshop. Some barriers were identified:

- Long term funding for science, infrastructure, infrastructure networks
- Permit systems, including import/export
- Data standards – networks and network gaps
- Funding for data management and interoperability

FARO will bring the thematic infrastructure organisations together to discuss challenges, liaise with IASC (science part) and possibly feed into Arctic Council work towards another meeting at ASSW 2022.



Field Season 2021

INTERACT 2

The original plan was that postponed projects from last year would be carried out in 2021. However, due to current circumstances it is likely that many of the projects cannot be carried out during 2021 either. We have requested an additional prolongation of one year to the EU but this was not granted. If we were to move the projects to INTERACT III for field season 2022, this would exceed the budgets for many stations. We therefore have to cancel all TA projects in INTERACT2 that cannot be carried out in 2021. The TA users have however a possibility to re-apply within INTERACT 3 in future calls.

INTERACT 3

Access decisions have been made and the field work that cannot be carried out in 2021 will be postponed to 2022.

Arctic Permit Systems

Work package 2 (Station Managers' Forum) has together with APECS developed an online tool about [Arctic Permit Systems](#) that can be reached from the INTERACT website, to give the visiting scientist an overview to facilitate field preparations as each country has its own rules and regulations when it comes to field instrumentation, export and import of samples etc.



INTERACT E-library

The new [INTERACT e-Library](#) contains all information materials related to INTERACT Transnational, Remote and Virtual Access, divided under following categories:

- Accessing the Arctic
- TA/RA Call Information for Applicants
- Information for TA User Groups
- Webinar recordings and Presentations
- Publications

e-Library is quick and easy to use – it's a service for you to find all information from one page! Find the e-Library/Info Materials [here](#).

Joint seminar WP2 and WP8

On 10 March, an [INTERACT Station Managers' Forum \(WP2\) Seminar](#) was held focusing on [AMAP](#) monitoring programmes on emerging contaminants (WP8) and waste handling at INTERACT stations.



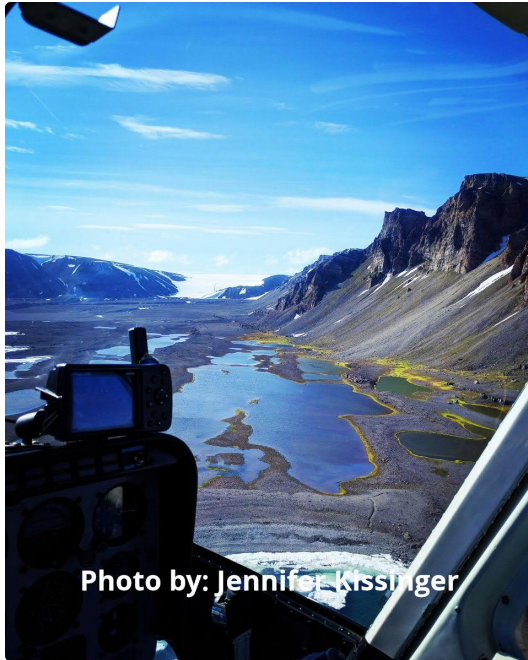


Photo by: Jennifer Kissinger

Station Managers' Forum upcoming Publications

INTERACT handbook on communication in the Arctic is an 80 pages handbook developed together with APECS – 14 days after Easter this book will be ready to be published.

INTERACT reducing environmental impact from Arctic Science. This book has been out for review with the station managers and there are a few comments. The book is soon ready for the layout phase.

INTERACT reducing the environmental impact of arctic research stations. This is a 140-pages manuscript that is at final proof reading stage and soon ready for layout.

The fourth publication is just at the starting phase. This will also be a book together with APECS, and will be about reducing carbon dioxide imprint of arctic science.

25th anniversary of INTERACT partner European Polar Board

The European Polar Board (EPB) is an independent organisation focused on major strategic priorities in the Arctic and Antarctic. EPB Members include research institutes, logistics operators, funding agencies, scientific academies and government ministries from across Europe. In 2021 the EPB has continued its core activities while celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Since late 2020, the EPB has co-organised an 8-part webinar series with the ASM3 organisers Iceland and Japan. All webinars in this series are available on [the EPB YouTube Channel](#).

Due to the pandemic, the EPB has been able to reallocate resources such as towards the development of [the European Polar Infrastructure Database](#), and to further support initiatives by [EPB Action Groups](#). Apart from being a partner in INTERACT, The EPB is a partner in several large-scale projects such as [Southern Ocean Climate and Heat Impact on Climate](#), [the project CHOICEe](#) (co-organised by the European Space Agency) [EU-PolarNet 2](#) and the [EU Polar Cluster](#).

Please subscribe to our [mailing list](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or visit our [website](#) to find out more.





INTERACT at meetings

INTERACT spent the winter and spring presenting our project and progress in different online fora, some examples are listed below:

18th May INTERACT was presented in a session about [“The Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation: Empowering Institutions and Individuals”](#) at the UArctic Congress.

17th May INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science II and the INTERACTIVE e-book were launched at the UArctic Congress

19-30 April INTERACT was sharing a booth with the ENVRI community at the EGU General Assembly

23 March, a joint workshop between INTERACT, FARO, ARICE and APECS was held at the ASSW virtual event.

22 March, the INTERACT VA Data Portal was launched during the ASSW.

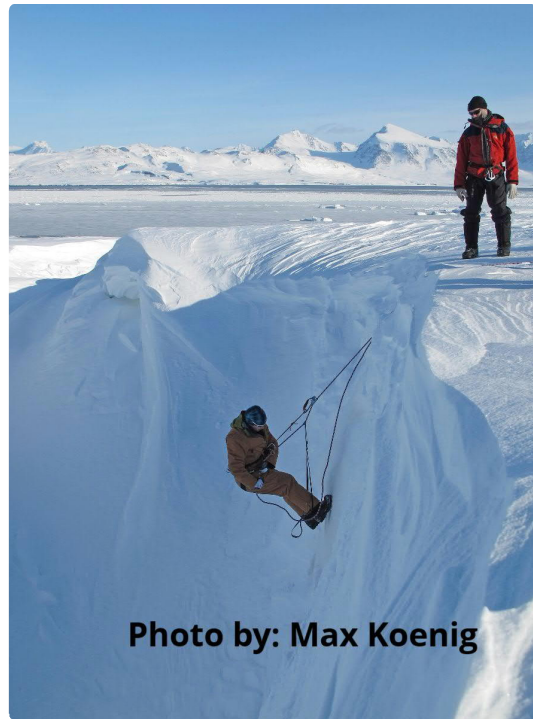
11 February 2021 INTERACT was presented at [INTAROS](#)' Geosphere research dialog meeting.

news from the stations

Ny-Ålesund Research Station

Ny-Ålesund research station has recently established its own regular newsletter. Please sign up to receive news from the station: <https://nyalesundresearch.no/newsletter/>

We would also like to draw your attention to the third [Svalbard Science Conference](#) in Oslo 2-3 November 2021. The conference will focus on how to achieve excellent science through cooperation; how to enhance cooperation and quality in Svalbard research, how to build and strengthen interdisciplinary and international networks, and how to consolidate Svalbard as an attractive platform for Arctic research. The registration for the conference is open.



Sudurnes Science and Learning Center

This summer the station's research on the Icelandic Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) continues. Sudurnes Science and Learning Center started a citizens science project with six primary schools in the area, that gives students in 7th grade (12 years old) the opportunity to participate in ecological work. The Icelandic Oystercatcher population is partially migratory, one third stays in Iceland during the winter, but others migrate and winter in western Europe. This research is part of a larger project where scientists try to determine what drives a migratory population to become resident. Oystercatchers mate for life and this summer six couples will be marked with GPS trackers that will give us accurate information about their living conditions and whereabouts.

The CEN network expands with two new stations in high Arctic

A group of multi-university researchers led by Professors Gilles Gauthier, Scientific Director of Centre d'études nordiques (CEN) and Marcel Babin, Director of Takuvik and Scientific leader and CEO of Amundsen Science, has obtained a



\$17.5 million grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Quebec government and other partners to build two northern research stations on Baffin Island (Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut). These stations, equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, will allow more than thirty experts from various disciplines to study an exceptional variety of Arctic ecosystems, both terrestrial and marine, year-round. The research activities, conducted in close collaboration with northern communities, will help to better determine the fate of these regions and the populations that depend on them. The project is carried out in partnership with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) who will participate in the planning and management of the stations.

The two future stations will be built in Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq, two Inuit villages of a few hundred inhabitants each located respectively in the north and south of Baffin Island. These two new research stations will be integrated into the CEN network, which extends over Nunavik and part of Nunavut.



ApRES radar test on Hintereisferner

INTERACT funded TA project Glacier Sliding Dynamics performed first field test on 8th and 9th May 2021 on Hintereisferner / Station Hintereis. COVID restrictions required to cut down the field program to a feasible minimum. However, Inka Koch, Reinhard Drews and Reza Ershadi from the University of Tübingen (Germany) managed to travel to Austria and test their devices under controlled conditions. Postprocessing of data is on its way and preparations for the summer campaign will start soon.

milestones & deliverables

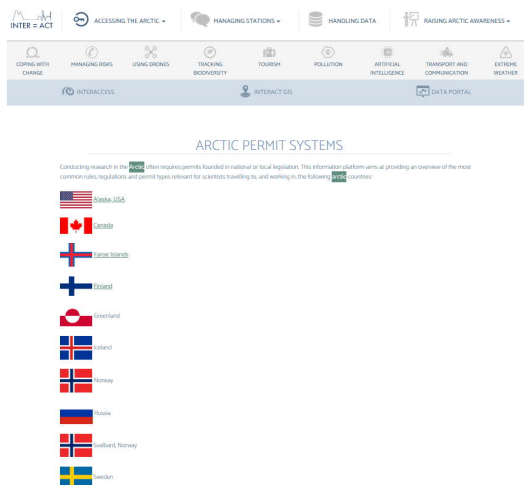
D2.6 - Guide on research permit systems for all arctic countries on INTERACT website

Deliverable D2.6 “[Guide on research permit systems for all arctic countries on INTERACT website](#)” developed in the Station Managers Forum (WP 2) is available on the INTERACT website. This is a great asset for travelling scientists. To ensure that the information is kept updated, there needs to be a contact point for station managers to provide any updates and it was suggested to have an annual report back from station managers if they know about any changes.



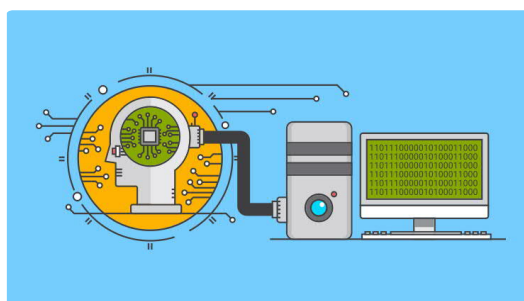
D6.1 and D6.2

Two deliverable reports from Work Package 6 “Climate Action: Making data widely available”, are now available for download. The first report is [A Preliminary Study on Inquiries and Needs from Station Managers and Researchers](#) and the second one is a [Workshop Report on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Arctic Research](#). All deliverable reports can be found under “[Deliverables](#)”.



D3.1 - Quality Assessment Programme for access provision

The Quality Assessment Programme for access provision in INTERACT III covers the whole access provision chain from access calls and provision of on-line virtual access, to reporting of scientific publications resulting from the access used, including feedback from users of all activities during the access provision chain. The quality assessment includes a variety of on-line tools, performance indicators, evaluations, organizational structures and safeguards, collection of feedback from both access users and providers, and analyzing the information gathered from these at regular time intervals to take corrective actions and improvements in access provision chain where needed. This deliverable report can be found under “[Resources](#)” on the INTERACT website or downloaded [here](#).



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