



EU-PolarNet

At a glance

Title:	EU-PolarNet – Connecting Science with Society
Instrument:	Coordination and Support Action
Total Cost:	€ 2.174.505,00
EC Contribution:	€ 2.174.505,00
Duration in months:	60
Start Date:	1/03/2015
Consortium:	DESCA 2020
Project Coordinator	LOCHTE, Karin
Coordinating Organisation	Alfred-Wegener-Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, DE
Project Web Site	www.eu-polar.net
Key words:	Polar Research, Arctic, Antarctic, Stakeholder Engagement, Infrastructure

The challenge

The rapid changes occurring in the Polar Regions are significantly influencing global climate with consequences for global society. European polar research has contributed critical knowledge to identifying the processes behind these rapid changes but datasets from the Polar Regions are still insufficient to fully understand and more effectively predict the effects of change on our climate and society. This situation can only be improved by a more holistic integrated scientific approach, a higher degree of coordination of polar research and closer cooperation with all relevant actors on an international level as requested in the Horizon 2020 programme.

Project Objectives

The objectives of EU-PolarNet are to establish an on-going dialogue between policy-makers, business and industry leaders, local communities and scientists to increase mutual understanding and identify new ways of working that will deliver economic and societal benefits. The results of this dialogue will be brought together in an Integrated European Research Programme that will be co-designed with all relevant stakeholders and coordinated with the activities of polar research nations beyond Europe. This programme will be accompanied by a feasible implementation plan to provide Europe with the capability to define the nature of environmental risks so that governments can design policy measures to mitigate them and businesses and other stakeholders benefit from the opportunities that are opening up in the Polar Regions.

Work Packages

Work Package 1: International Integration and Policy Guidance

WP 1 includes project management and a strategic component to guaranteeing an effective, smooth and high-quality performance of the project. It will provide support to the other EU-PolarNet work packages by organising the so-called Town Hall Meetings, workshops and policy briefings. Additionally, WP 1 also has strategic objectives, such as developing a strategy to connect and integrate EU-PolarNet with international partners and organisations. WP 1 will support the European Commission and national decision makers by providing evidence-based guidance to policy questions related to the Polar Regions.

Work package 2: Polar Research for Science and Society

WP2 will improve the coordination in European Polar Research by compiling and prioritizing key questions in polar research. The priority questions in polar research will then be addressed in a series of white papers. WP2 will further coordinate and optimize existing monitoring and modelling programmes, through publishing an inventory and strategic analysis of existing monitoring and modelling programmes and by developing a roadmap for optimisation these. WP2 will moreover co-design an Integrated Polar Research Programme with scientists and various stakeholders.

Work Package 3: Infrastructures, Facilities, and Data

WP3 will design a resource-oriented European infrastructure access and usage plan for the Integrated Polar Research Programme. This involves publishing a European polar infrastructure catalogue, compiling existing space assets, as well as setting up a database of polar commercial infrastructures. In the course of this WP3 will publish a white paper on European polar infrastructure access and interoperability and an infrastructure implementation plan. WP3 will further work towards a coordinated European polar research data infrastructure and improve open access to quality-controlled data.

Work Package 4: Interaction with Stakeholders

WP4 will initiate, conduct and sustain an on-going dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders for the Polar Regions. To achieve this WP4 will firstly map and compile all potential stakeholders and identifying those most important for the polar areas, as well as establish a communications and engagement strategy that defines the aims and objectives for stakeholder interaction and engagement. Subsequently WP4 will publish a report describing the needs of stakeholders, gaps in the current research programmes and opportunities for cooperation of scientists and stakeholders, as well as a white paper describing the status of stakeholder engagement in polar research.

Expected Impacts

EU-PolarNet will substantially increase the scale and ambition of polar research cooperation in Europe. By co-designing the European Polar Research Programme with a wide range of stakeholders, it will revolutionise the way scientists cooperate with industry, public and private decision makers and residents of the Arctic. This will be a major step forward in implementing the Europe 2020 Innovation Union. Furthermore, the majority of global polar actors will be involved in EU-PolarNet activities, which will significantly improve global cooperation and create a win-win situation for Europe and its international partners in polar research, in particular in respect to development of common standards in observations or in the optimised use of research infrastructures. Moreover, EU PolarNet has the best pre-conditions to activate scientific knowledge to inform government policy and business strategy with a high level of expertise.

Project Partners

Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Helmholtz - Zentrum für Polar- und Meeresforschung	DEU
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	FRA
Natural Environment Research Council - British Antarctic Survey	GBR
Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche – Department of Earth System Science and Environmental Technologies	ITA
Polarforskningssekretariatet	SWE
Institut Polaire Français Paul Emile Victor	FRA
Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território – Universidade de Lisboa	PRT
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	NLD
Norges Forskningsråd	NOR
Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad	ESP
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas	ESP
Universität Wien – Austrian Polar Research Institute	AUT
Bulgarski Antarkticheski Institut Association	BGR
Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland	DNK
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	BEL
Oulun Yliopisto	FIN
Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique	BEL
Instytut Geofizyki Polskiej Akademii Nauk	POL
TTÜ Geoloogia Instituut	EST
Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme Secretariat	NOR
World Ocean Limited	GBR
Gronlands Naturinstitut	GRL