



HORIZON 2020 - Coordination and Support Action

Grant Agreement No: 101003766



EU-PolarNet 2 - Co-ordinating and Co-designing the European Polar Research Area

Deliverable No. 1.8

2nd Yearly Summary Report on Highlights of European Polar Research

Submission of Deliverable

Document information	
Work Package	WP 1 Research coordination
Deliverable No	D1.8
Deliverable title	2nd Yearly summary report on highlights of European Polar Research
Version	Final
Dissemination level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PU - Public <input type="checkbox"/> PP - Restricted to programme partners <input type="checkbox"/> RE - Restricted to a group specified by the consortium <input type="checkbox"/> CO - Confidential, only for members of the consortium
Lead Beneficiary	UNIVIE (partner 12)
Contributors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 – AWI, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – MICINN, <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – UOULU, <input type="checkbox"/> 4 – ISP-CNR, <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – RCN, <input type="checkbox"/> 6 – EPB, <input type="checkbox"/> 7 - NWO, <input type="checkbox"/> 8 – DAFSHE, <input type="checkbox"/> 9 - CNRS, <input type="checkbox"/> 10 – UoS-CPS, <input type="checkbox"/> 11 – BAI, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 – UNIVIE, <input type="checkbox"/> 13 –IG-TUT, <input type="checkbox"/> 14 – WOC Europe, <input type="checkbox"/> 15 – BELSPO, <input type="checkbox"/> 16 – AMAP, <input type="checkbox"/> 17 – IGOT UL, <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - SPRS, <input type="checkbox"/> 19 – UKRI-BAS, <input type="checkbox"/> 20 – ITU, <input type="checkbox"/> 21 – USB, <input type="checkbox"/> 22 – RANNIS, <input type="checkbox"/> 23 – FAMRI, <input type="checkbox"/> 24 – ICR, <input type="checkbox"/> 25 – SPI
Coordinating author	Wolfgang Schöner
Contributing authors	Wolfgang Schöner, Nicole Biebow, Anneli Strobel
Due date	30-09-2022
Delivery date	30-09-2022

Document history	
Creation Date	20-09-2022
Revision	V1
Revision Date	20-09-2022
Author	AWI
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WP lead approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coordinator approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Board approved
Status date	29-09-2022



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003766

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY	4
Introduction	5
Highlights in European polar research in the Arctic	6
New RV Belgica Enhances Belgian Marine Polar Research	7
Geomorphological Processes Shape Arctic Plants	8
Greenland Integrated Observing System (GIOS)	9
Longer and warmer autumns can greatly decrease butterfly’s chances of surviving winter	10
The Estonian Academy of Sciences confirmed two research professorships for Arctic studies for the 2022-2023 period	11
Polish-Norwegian cooperation on Svalbard: CRIOS project is launching	12
The first magnetotelluric survey of the interior of Greenland	14
Austria establishes a permanent research station on Ammassalik Island in East Greenland in cooperation with Denmark	15
Highlights of European polar research in the Antarctic	16
World’s Largest Fish Breeding Area Discovered in Antarctica	17
Reactivation of the Polish A. B. Dobrowolski Polar Station	18
First Ice Core Drilling Campaign of Beyond EPICA Successfully Completed	19
The 10th Portuguese Flight Supporting the Antarctic Summer Season 2021/22	20
Expedition to validate satellite measurements of the Antarctic ice sheet	21
Fostering Polar Research	22
EU-PolarNet 2 Held its Second General Assembly	23
Catalyst Platform Launched	24
EU-PolarNet 2 Published its Key Documents	25
Konrad Steffen Grant for Enhanced Swiss-Greenlandic Research Collaboration	26
Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Spain and Turkey	27
Departure of the 6th Turkish Antarctic Expedition (TAE-VI)	28
Conference Highlights	29
5th Polar Sciences Workshop and 2nd Polar Sciences Festival	30

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

The polar regions are key regions of the Earth system and climate change, but European polar research currently consists of a multitude of organisations and individual activities. The HORIZON 2020 project EU-PolarNet 2 aims to overcome this initial situation and to coordinate and consolidate European polar research. This 2nd annual report on European polar research highlights presents a selection of contributions to Europe's polar research in the second year of EU-PolarNet 2. The highlights reports are organised into 4 overarching themes: European Research Highlights in the Arctic, European Research Highlights in the Antarctic, Promoting Polar Research and Conference Highlights.

Introduction

European polar research consists of a wide range of organisations and individuals working to consolidate knowledge about the complex dynamics of the polar regions and their role in the Earth system. This second annual report of the European Polar Research Highlights aims to provide a comprehensive, but not exhaustive, insight into Europe's rich contributions to polar research in the second year of EU-PolarNet 2. Naturally, it is challenging and almost impossible to give a balanced overview of the variety of activities that have taken place. The approach taken here has been to compile the news items provided by Consortium members, national polar organisations and the EU Polar Cluster for the quarterly EU-PolarNet newsletters. In addition, we called for additional scientific highlights that would allow us to capture the most important developments and news for 2021-22. As for 2020-21, it was an extremely difficult year for people and for science. Far beyond the health and socio-economic issues, COVID-19 still has important and long-lasting impacts on polar and Earth system science, such as disruption of field activities and critical degradation of data time series. Even under these difficult conditions, the international research community has continued its work and fought to maintain the quality of the research and support infrastructure.

The 2nd Annual Report provides a glimpse into the vibrancy of the European polar research community and consists of a selection of highlights organised into 4 broad themes: Highlights of European Research in the Arctic, Highlights of European Research in Antarctica, Advancing Polar Research and Conference Highlights.

We would like to thank all partners and collaborators who contributed to this report by submitting highlights of their activities.

Highlights in European polar research in the Arctic

New RV Belgica Enhances Belgian Marine Polar Research

On 13 December 2021 Belgium's new oceanographic research vessel, the RV Belgica, entered her home port in Zeebrugge. There are 14 permanent crew members on board and the ship can accommodate up to 26 scientists. Compared to its predecessor, the new RV Belgica is larger (71,40 m length and 16,80 m width) and offers more space to the scientists (four times the laboratory space).



The New RV Belgica (credits: Freire Shipyard)

The new RV Belgica is a green ship and is equipped with state-of-the-art scientific equipment that, amongst others, allows samples to be taken at depths of up to 5.000 m. It is also a silent ship, which is important for e.g. fishery research, and has a light ice strengthening to be able to conduct research in Arctic waters during the summer. Although the North Sea remains the main focus of the new ship, the research area extends further than that of the old RV Belgica: northwards above the Arctic Circle, further south including the Mediterranean and Black Sea, and westwards to the Atlantic Ocean.

Further Information on the new RV Belgica: [RV BELGICA \(naturalsciences.be\)](https://naturalsciences.be/rv-belgica)

BELSPO

Geomorphological Processes Shape Arctic Plants

Rapid climatic change in the Arctic is shaping the soil and plants in many ways. Cryoturbation relocates soil, and plant communities are affected by soil mixing, a new study shows. It is hard for plants to grow tall, but on the other hand nutrients may rise from deeper in the soil.



Credits: Julia Kemppinen

Julia Kemppinen, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oulu and physical geographer, and her colleagues investigated how geomorphological processes influence Arctic plants. The group collected data from Svalbard, Greenland, and Fennoscandia. They found that the plant communities were most affected in study plots with cryoturbation. Cryoturbation is the mixing and relocation of soil material as the ground freezes and thaws. This has an impact on the plants that grow on cryoturbated soils.

Further information: [Geomorphological processes shape Arctic plants | University of Oulu](#)

Publication in the Global Ecology and Biogeography Journal:

<https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.13512>

University of Oulu

Greenland Integrated Observing System (GIOS)

Under the name „GIOS – Greenland Integrated Observing System”, a group of research institutions in the Kingdom of Denmark takes the collection of Arctic research data to a whole new level. Since 2021 the GIOS partners have started developing and launching a network of automated measuring stations in and around Greenland. Measurements from individual measuring stations are transmitted to local hubs. From these local hubs data are continuously transmitted by satellite and made available at the GIOS website to all interested parties throughout the world. The GIOS project runs until the end of 2025, when a new research infrastructure must be in place and ready to deliver measurements for many years of changes in air, ice, land and sea in the Arctic. GIOS has a total budget of approx. €10 million.



GIOS Automated Data Hub in North-East Greenland (Credits: Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen)

Link to the GIOS Website: [GIOS – Greenland Integrated Observing System](#)

University of Oulu

Longer and warmer autumns can greatly decrease butterfly's chances of surviving winter

Warmer than usual autumn weather can have detrimental effects on butterflies in their pupal stage, a new study from the University of Oulu and Stockholm University finds. As temperatures are higher than normal, the metabolic rate of the pupae remains elevated during their diapause, or winter dormancy, which means they consume more energy with no chance of eating and refuelling.



Pieris napi butterfly (Credits: Sami Kivel)

Dr. Matthew Nielsen from the University of Oulu led the team of researchers which included Karl Gotthard and Philipp Lehmann from Stockholm University in the study that consisted of exposing *Pieris napi* (green-veined white) butterfly pupae to different temperatures in the prewinter phase, while the winter and spring conditions were the same for all pupae.

Mass is a very important factor in terms of survival. The pupae lost mass during the autumn treatments and we expected to see some consequences after winter. What surprised us was that the effects were so strongly delayed. The pupae were mostly still alive at the end of the treatments and it wasn't until later in spring that they started dying, Dr. Nielsen explains. The effects of warm winters have been studied before, but Nielsen argued that the impact of prewinter conditions has been understudied so far. Climate change will make prewinter periods both longer and more intense, which makes it important to understand how dormant organisms cope with them and what the ultimate consequences are.

Further information: [Butterfly's chances of surviving winter](#)

The Estonian Academy of Sciences confirmed two research professorships for Arctic studies for the 2022-2023 period

The Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised an open competition for research professorships for Arctic studies for the 2022-2023 period. According to recommendations from the assessment commission of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, the Board of the Academy selected two candidates who will be asked to take up the position of a research professor and create a research professorship in their university.

The professorships were awarded to research teams led by Professor Lauri Laanisto at the Estonian University of Life Sciences and Aimar Ventsel, Associate Professor of Ethnology at the University of Tartu. Lauri Laanisto will study the connections between the diversity and productivity of plant communities in Svalbard in the framework of the extensive NutNet research project. The research is important because thanks to particularly rapid climate change there, polar regions are the best source of knowledge about the impact of climate change. Aimar Ventsel will concentrate on the representative organisations of the indigenous people of the Arctic and their activities. The study will give an overview of the role of scientists in the organisations included in the study, the projects and cooperation formats of the organisations of indigenous peoples and ways in which Estonia could cooperate with these organisations.

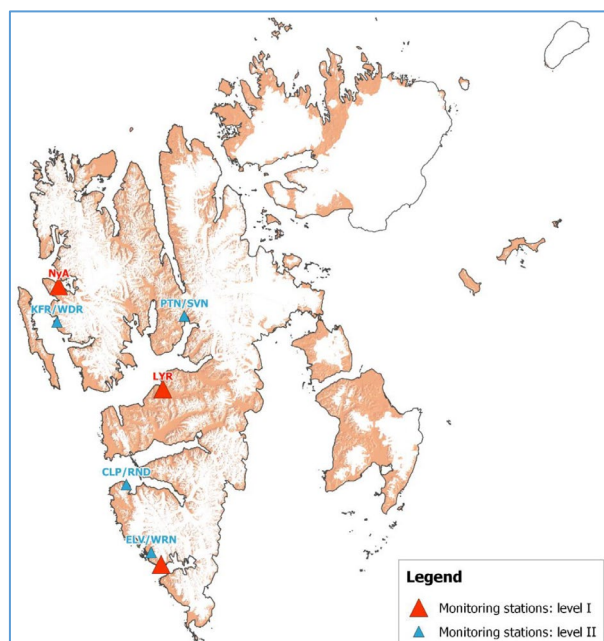
The aim of establishing research professorships is to support the participation of Estonian researchers in Arctic studies, increase the expertise of Estonian researchers on the Arctic and contribute to their ability to take part in important international research.

Further information: [Two research professorships for Arctic studies](#)

IG-TUT

Polish-Norwegian cooperation on Svalbard: CRIOS project is launching

In early fall of 2022, as a result of Polish - Norwegian cooperation, the Cryosphere Integrated Observatory Network on Svalbard (CRIOS) project is launching. CRIOS aims to modernize and expand an automated monitoring network focused on the cryosphere of Spitsbergen as a calibration/validation system for indirect research. The network will be based on existing Polish Polar Stations and Norwegian facilities in western Spitsbergen. Sites will be equipped with the newest cryosphere monitoring technologies and will operate following the standardized measurement protocols. The key element of the observatory network will be real-time data transfer to the open repositories, following the FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability), for researchers and stakeholders.



Location of the CRIOS monitoring sites in Svalbard.

Level I (red triangles): NyA = Ny-Ålesund, LYR=Longyearbyen, HOR = Hornsund. Level II (blue triangles): KAF/WDR = Kaffiøyra and Waldemarbreen, PTN/SVN = Petuniabukta and Svenbreen, CLP/RND = Calypsobyen and Renardbreen, ELV/WRN = Elveflya and Werenskioldbreen. (Source of vector and DEM: Norwegian Polar Institute)

The CRIOS project strives for interdisciplinary and bilateral cooperation in the framework of past research efforts such as the Polish Svalbard Snow I Program or Community Coordinated Snow Study in Svalbard and is in line with the SESS Report recommendation for the directions of cryosphere monitoring. Broad research scope will open the possibility of creating a network for continuous characterization of snow and permafrost conditions, a weather observation system allowing for real time satellite data transfer, and high-resolution monitoring of interactions between the atmosphere, cryosphere and other relevant environmental components.

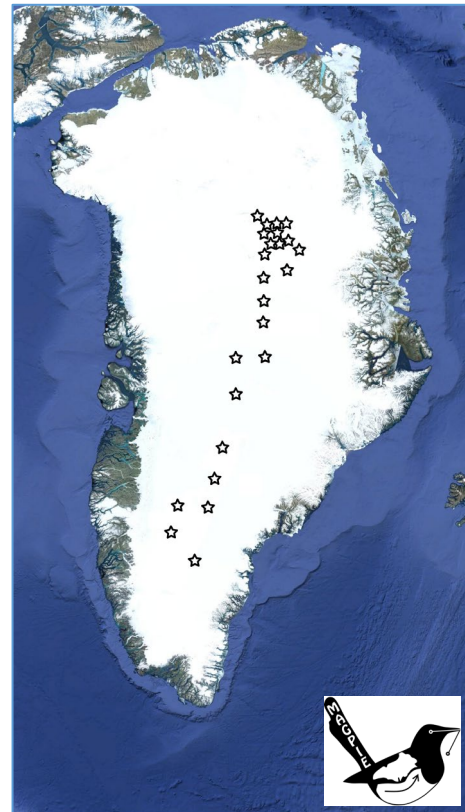
The CRIOS network will operate within the framework of the existing Svalbard Observing System (<https://sios-svalbard.org/ObservingSystem>) and may become part of an innovative Arctic Earth System environment observatory to constrain better changes within the cryosphere and the ecosystem interfaces.

University of Silesia, Centre for Polar Studies (UoS-CPS)

The first magnetotelluric survey of the interior of Greenland

Last summer the first-ever magnetotelluric (MT) survey of the interior of Greenland was completed as part of Norway's MAGPIE project (Magnetotelluric Analysis of Greenland and Postglacial Isostatic Evolution, funded by the Norwegian Research Council). During the summers of 2019 and 2022, we deployed 24 MT stations across Greenland. Each station collected data for about a week or longer. Field operations were based out of EastGRIP station in 2019 and RAVEN and Summit stations in 2022. Transport across the ice was accomplished using snowmobiles.

The MAGPIE project is designed to gain new constraints on the viscosity structure of Greenland's upper mantle (down to ~350 km depth). In particular, we hope to constrain a possible path of reduced viscosity associated with remnant heat from the Iceland plume, which crossed Greenland 50 to 90 million years ago. The MT measurements help to constrain viscosity by measuring electrical conductivity. This is useful because the same factors that increase the electrical conductivity of rocks (heat and water content) also reduce their viscosity. Thus, we can use the MT data from the MAGPIE survey to place new constraints on viscosity variations. These constraints will be used to develop better models of uplift associated with glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA). Such models will help us to better correct GPS measurements for the effects of past melting, thus making uplift observations more useful for constraining current ice melting patterns.



The magnetotelluric survey of the MAGPIE project (Figure credits: Kate Selway)

Further information: [First magnetotelluric survey of the interior of Greenland](#)

UiO

Austria establishes a permanent research station on Ammassalik Island in East Greenland in cooperation with Denmark

Austria has been active in polar research for a long time, but has not operated a research station until now. Through private sponsorship by an Austrian industrialist family, it has now been possible to raise the necessary funds to expand the Sermilik Research Station in East Greenland and bring it up to modern standards. The research station, which was previously run by the University of Copenhagen, will in future be run as a cooperation between the Universities of Copenhagen (Denmark) and Graz (Austria). The station will have space for about 20 researchers and will be linked to the goals of sustainability and cooperation with the population in Greenland. Interdisciplinary environmental research in the broadest sense up to transdisciplinary research will be topics of the Sermilik Research Station in the future.



The new building of the Sermilik Research Station (East-Greenland) in September 2022
(Credits: Lars Vestergaard)

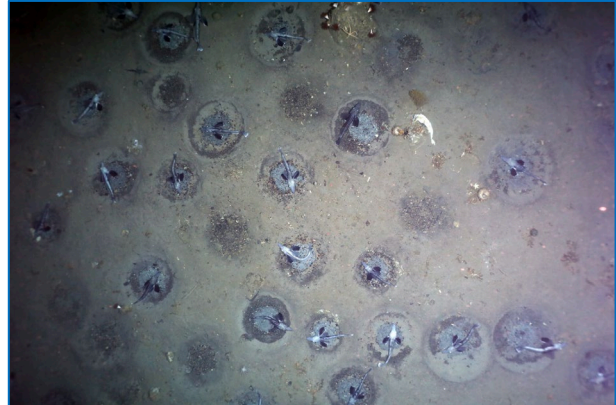
Further information: [Austria establishes a permanent polar research station on Ammassalik Island in East Greenland in cooperation with Denmark](#)

Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI)

Highlights of European polar research in the Antarctic

World's Largest Fish Breeding Area Discovered in Antarctica

Near the Filchner Ice Shelf in the south of the Antarctic Weddell Sea, a research team has found the world's largest fish breeding area known to date. A towed camera system photographed and filmed thousands of nests of icefish of the species *Neopagetopsis ionah* on the seabed. The density of the nests and the size of the entire breeding area suggest a total number of about 60 million icefish



Fishnests in the Weddell Sea (Credits: AWI)

breeding at the time of observation. Since its biomass is calculated at 60,000 tons the breeding area is an extremely important ecosystem for the Weddell Sea and probably the most spatially extensive contiguous fish breeding colony worldwide to date.

These findings provide support for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean. A proposal for such a MPA is being defended by the by the European Union and its member states as well as other supporting countries in the international Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Further Information:

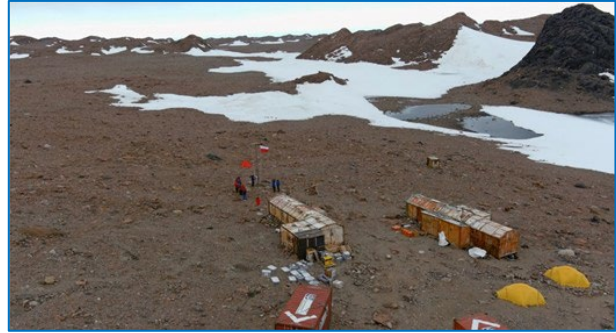
Detailed report on the scientists' findings: [Single view - AWI](#)

Video footage of the breeding colony: <https://youtu.be/sqAlHxj4gPo>

Alfred-Wegener-Institut

Reactivation of the Polish A. B. Dobrowolski Polar Station

In January 2022, the Polish A.B. Dobrowolski Antarctic Station in the Bunger Hills Oasis, East Antarctica, resumed its activity. The facility was passed on to Poland by the Soviet Union in 1958. Unfortunately, due to difficult access, only a few expeditions were organized there in the '50s, '60s and '70s of the 20th century. After 43 years of absence, four



A. B. Dobrowolski Polar Station (Credits: Dobrowolski Station Expedition's Archive)

Polish scientists came back to the Station to activate a new program that includes meteorological, ionospheric and geomagnetism monitoring as well as geological, geomorphological and glaciological observations. Another important task of this expedition was to assess the condition of infrastructure and buildings in terms of future development of research activity. The leading premise of the program is to use a set of modern automatic and autonomous equipment for monitoring of geophysical fields of the Bunger Hills region serviced once a year or every second year by small expeditions.

Further information: [Home - Strona Stacji A.B. Dobrowolskiego \(igf.edu.pl\)](http://igf.edu.pl)

Centrum Studiów Polarnych

First Ice Core Drilling Campaign of Beyond EPICA Successfully Completed

The Beyond EPICA project successfully completed the first ice core drilling campaign in Antarctica.

During the 2021/22 field activity, the team completed the field camp installation, set up the drilling area, completed the temporary storage cave and installed the complex drilling system.

From late November 2021 to the end of January 2022, the international team of 12 scientists, drillers and logistics – reached a depth of 130 meters, where the ice preserves information on the climate and atmosphere of approximately the last 3000 years.

The next campaign 2022/23 will involve a final testing of the drilling system and then proceed to conduct deep drilling.

Further information: [Beyond EPICA: Press releases](#)



In preparation of the casing operation at the BEOIC drilling trench (Credits: Carlos Barbante ©PNRA/IPEV)

ISP-CNR

The 10th Portuguese Flight Supporting the Antarctic Summer Season 2021/22

For the tenth time, Portugal contributed to the international logistics supporting science in Antarctica by chartering a flight between Punta Arenas (Chile) and the airfield Teniente R. Marsh in King George Island, South Shetlands Islands Archipelago. The inbound and outbound flights took place on the 22nd of January 2022 and were beginning of the Portuguese Antarctic Campaign 2021-22 that ran from January until the beginning of March, with the support of several partner Antarctic programs. The flight transported a total of 86 researchers from the Portuguese, Bulgarian, Chilean, Korean and Spanish polar programs, all following quarantine in Punta Arenas (Chile) and strict Covid-19 procedures before flying to King George Island. PROPOLAR supported 6 Antarctic projects last season.



The chartered Portuguese flight in preparation for its departure (Credits: Goncalo Vieira)

Further information on PROPOLAR (in Portuguese only): [PROPOLAR - Programa Polar Português](#)

IGOT

Expedition to validate satellite measurements of the Antarctic ice sheet

In December 2021, the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat organised the Antarctic expedition DML 2021/2022 to the Swedish research station Wasa. The station is situated on the Basen nunatak in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica. A research team led by Ian Brown, Associate professor in Earth Observation at Stockholm University, arrived in Antarctica on 4 December and spent 44 days on Earth's southernmost continent. The goal was to implement a snow measurement program to validate satellite measurements of the ice sheet. The program aims to better understand how great the uncertainty is in satellite measurements and why.



Researchers on the DML 2021/2022 expedition heading out into the field. (Credits: Ola Eriksson)

Link to website: <https://www.polar.se/en/>

The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

Fostering Polar Research

EU-PolarNet 2 Held its Second General Assembly

One year into the project, it was time for the second EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly, which took place as hybrid meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 – 26 October 2022. More than 50 participants from the project, EU Polar Cluster members, representatives from the different Advisory Boards of the project and from the EC attended the meeting online. Divided into two parts,



In-Person-Participants at the General Assembly in Brussels

the first day provided an overview on the project achievements of the last year and was open to anyone interested in the work of EU-PolarNet 2. On the second day, the different EU-PolarNet 2 work packages discussed their progress and upcoming work. The second day focused on discussing the research prioritisation process in EU-PolarNet 2.

The General Assembly was followed by a joint EU-PolarNet 2 and European Polar Board (EPB) session on the development of the European Polar Coordination Office (EPCO), which is the expected final outcome from the EU-PolarNet 2 project. The session aimed to jointly consolidate the concept and vision for the EPCO, and to develop its role and activities.

EU-PolarNet 2

Catalyst Platform Launched

One of the main goals of EU-PolarNet 2 is to facilitate the exchange of information within the European polar community, to identify synergies and to develop partnerships within Europe.

The basic collaboration tool that EU-PolarNet 2 has developed for this purpose is the Catalyst platform. The Catalyst platform will accommodate a continuous information exchange and an interactive room as a discussion forum for the

Polar community to identify synergies and develop partnerships within Europe. It will also serve as catalyst where researchers, stake- and rightsholders, industry, and others discuss new ideas and big collaborative initiatives involving several parties.

The platform was launched on Thursday, 30 June 2020. Everyone is welcome to visit the platform to share resources and join the discussions.

Visit the new Catalyst Platform here: [Catalyst | Polar Research Community \(polarcatalyst.eu\)](https://polarcatalyst.eu)

A recording of the launch is available here: [Catalyst Platform launch webinar, 30-06-2022 – YouTube](#)



Screenshot of the new Catalyst Platform

EU-PolarNet 2

EU-PolarNet 2 Published its Key Documents

In spring 2022, EU-PolarNet 2 published its key documents, the “Catalogue of national Polar programmes and other large-scale programmes” and the “Directory of Polar research funding programmes in Europe”.

The catalogue of national Polar programmes and other large-scale

programmes” is the first and crucial step of EU-PolarNet 2 to improve the coordination and cooperation of national polar research programmes in Europe. The “Directory of Polar research funding programs in Europe” provides an overview of the governance, strategies, and procedures of polar research funding in Europe.

Both documents together reflect the different approach of each country to polar policy and research funding.



EU-PolarNet 2's Key Documents

Catalogue of National Polar Programmes and Other Large-Scale Programmes: [EU-PolarNet-2 Catalogue-national-Polar-programmes 2022.pdf](#)

Directory of Polar Research Funding Programmes in Europe: [EU-PolarNet-2 Directory-of-EU-Polar-Research-funding 2022.pdf](#)

EU-PolarNet 2

Konrad Steffen Grant for Enhanced Swiss-Greenlandic Research Collaboration

In 2021, the Swiss Polar Institute, in collaboration with the Greenland Research Council (NIS), launched a call for interest for a new funding opportunity, the Konrad Steffen Grant (KSG). In memory of Konrad Steffen, one of the founders of the Swiss Polar Institute and its first Scientific Director, the KSG builds on his legacy of collaborative research between researchers based in Switzerland and Greenland on environmental change in Greenland.



Participants of the Koni Steffen Workshop on Natural Hazards (Credits: Greenland Research Council)

It is designed to provide seed money for collaborative research on the topic of Natural Hazards in Greenland. The hope is that the first 2 KSG projects will foster exchange of expertise, networking, and future collaboration opportunities between Swiss and Greenlandic researchers to address some of the big challenges ahead related to natural hazards in Greenland.

A workshop was held in Nuuk in March 2022 to allow the bottom-up collaborative development of projects with the most effective spread of available funding.

Further Information on the Konrad Steffen Grant: [Konrad Steffen Grant – Swiss Polar Institute](#)

Koni Steffen Workshop on Natural Hazards: [Koni Steffen Workshop on Natural Hazards – Swiss Polar Institute](#)

Swiss Polar Institute

Memorandum of Understanding Signed Between Spain and Turkey

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Spain and Turkey on scientific and logistic cooperation in polar regions on 17 November 2021. The signing took place in the extent of the 7th Turkey-Spain Intergovernmental Summit where Mr. Mustafa Varank (Turkish Minister of Industry and Technology) and Mr. Jose Manuel Albares Bueno (Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation) signed the Memorandum between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and the Ministry of Science, Innovation of Spain.



Further Information (in Turkish only): [Türkiye ile İspanya arasında 6 anlaşma imzalandı](#)

Polar Research Institute

Departure of the 6th Turkish Antarctic Expedition (TAE-VI)

The team of the sixth Turkish Antarctic Expedition started its journey to reach Antarctica by leaving Turkey on 22 January 2022.

The expedition team was on quarantine on Puerto Williams (Chile) before flying to King George Island. Strict procedures on Covid-19 were applied prior to entering Antarctica including a series of PCR tests. The expedition started from King George Island to Horseshoe Island in

West Antarctic Peninsula where the studies were focused on.

During one and a half months in Antarctica, the team was going to conduct studies for 14 different projects in different fields, including among others earth and life sciences. Apart from that, some nationally developed products were going to be tested during the expedition.



Team of the 6th Turkish Antarctic Expedition
(Credits: TUBITAK)

Further Information: [Turkish researchers depart for 6th Antarctic expedition \(aa.com.tr\)](https://aa.com.tr)

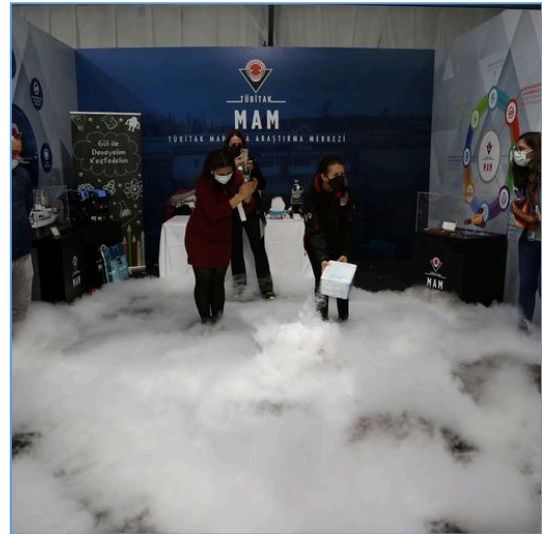
Polar Research Institute

Conference Highlights

5th Polar Sciences Workshop and 2nd Polar Sciences Festival

The 5th National Polar Sciences Workshop was held on 30 November 2021. The workshop, which hosted over 500 participants throughout Turkey, brought the polar researchers and related stakeholders together to provide information exchange in the Turkish polar community. The next day, the 2nd Polar Sciences Festival was organised on 1 December 2022, Antarctica Day. The festival mainly targeted the young generation, as future polar scientists, to create awareness on polar regions and global climate change. With the participation of over 10,000 students, various activities including workshops, games, exhibitions and promotions took place in the main tent of 2000 m².

Further Information: [Turkish Polar Sciences Workshop and Festival \(scar.org\)](https://scar.org)



2nd Polar Sciences Workshop (Credits: TUBITAK)



5th Polar Sciences Workshop (Credits: Anadolu Agency)

Polar Research Institute