



HORIZON 2020 - Coordination and Support Action

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

Deliverable No. 7.6

**Organisation and minutes of the third EU-
PolarNet 2 General Assembly**

Submission of Deliverable

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Introduction

After two years of project running time, we held the third EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly and mid-term retreat from 13th to 15th of September 2022 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The meeting was hosted by our EU-PolarNet 2 partners from the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute.

More than 50 participants from the project, EU Polar Cluster members, representatives from the Advisory Board and Policy Advisory Board of the project attended the meeting in person and online on the 13th of September. The General Assembly 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 14th and 15th of September, EU-PolarNet 2 held its internal mid-term retreat. The focus of this event was to discuss the progress and next steps of the individual Work Packages.

This deliverable contains the minutes of the General Assembly on the 13th of September 2022.

Date: 13 September 2022 (General Assembly) & 14-15 September 2022 (Project Retreat)

Venue: Grand Hotel Millennium Sofia 89B, Vitosha Blvd, 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria and online on 13 September 2022

Rapporteurs: A. Strobel (AWI), F. Pausch (AWI), P. Elshout (EPB)



Figure 1: Participants of 3rd EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria, 2022.

1 Meeting attendees

Consortium attendees:

Given Name	Surname	Institution
Nicole	Biebow	AWI
Anneli	Strobel	AWI
Franziska	Pausch	AWI
Antonio	Quesada	MICINN
Kirsi	Latola	UOULU
Carlo	Barbante	ISP-CNR
Chiara	Venier	ISP-CNR
Vito	Vitale	ISP-CNR
Jon Børre	Ørbæk	RCN
Renuka	Badhe	EPB
Pjotr	Elshout	EPB
Griffith	Couser	EPB
Eva	Horovcakova	EPB
Annette	Scheepstra	NWO
Katrine	Bisgaard	DAFSHE
Marie-Noelle	Houssais	CNRS
Jacek	Jania	UoS-CPS
Majchrowska	Elzbieta	UoS-CPS
Agnieszka	Kruszewska	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics PAS
Piotr	GŁOWACKI	Instytut Geofizyki PAN
Marta	Chmielewska	UoS-CPS
Tomasz	Jalukowicz	SWPS University
Dragomir	Mateev	BAI
Christo	Pimpirev	BAI
Marta	Blunt	BAI
Rein	Vaikmae	IG-TUT
Christine	Valentin	WOC Europe
Maaïke	Vancauwenberghe	BELSPO
Serge	Scory	BELSPO
Philippe	Deleu	BELSPO
Heidi	Sevestre	AMAP
Joana	Baptista	IGOT-UL
Maria Teresa	Cabrita	PROPOLAR
Anna-Maria	Perttu	SPRS
Burçu	Ozsoy	ITU-PolReC
Özgün	Oktar	ITU-PolReC
Josef	Elster	USB
Basil	Fahrländer	SPI
Svein D.	Mathiesen	ICR

Egill	Nielsson	RANNIS
Lindsay	Arthur	RANNIS
Invited guests		
Gerlis	Fugmann	IASC
Volker	Rachold	AWI
Diego	Fernandez Prieto	ESA
Jose Luiz	Moutinho	AIR Centre
Marta	Terrado	BSC
Thora	Herrmann	UOULU, UFZ/iDiv

Remote attendees:

Name	Institution
Anne Rännäli-Kontturi	City of Oulu/ Arctic Mayors Forum (AB)
Gael Durand	Protect
Janet Pawlak	AMAP
Jan-Rene Larsen	AMAP
Joelina Delphin	AWI

AB = Advisory Board, PAB = Policy Advisory Board

2 Agenda: EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly

Date: 13 September 2022	
<i>Chair: Nicole Biebow</i>	
Local Time	
8:30	<i>Registration</i>
9:00	Welcome by Bulgarian Antarctic Institute (<i>C. Pimpirev, BAI</i>)
9:20	Presentation by EC Policy Officer (<i>Ana-Maria Stan, EC</i>). CANCELLED.
9:35	Meeting opening by the coordinator (<i>Nicole Biebow, AWI</i>)
9:40	Introduction of the consortium members (<i>Tour de table</i>)
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30	Updates on the EU Polar Cluster (<i>Anneli Strobel, AWI</i>)
10:45	European Space Agency (<i>Diego Fernandez, ESA</i>)
11:05	All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (<i>Jose Moutinho, Aircentre</i>)
11:25	EU-PolarNet 2 Service Contracts: ArcticXchange (<i>Marta Terrado, BSC</i>)
11:40	EU-PolarNet 2 Service Contracts: Co-Create (<i>Thora Herrmann, UOULU, UFZ/iDiv</i>)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00	Work Package 1: Research Coordination (<i>Antonio Quesada, MICINN</i>)
13:30	Work Package 5: Policy Advice, Dissemination and Communication (<i>Nicole Biebow, AWI</i>)
14:00	Work Package 3: Research Prioritisation (<i>Carlo Barbante, ISP-CNR</i>)
14:30	Work Package 4: Research Optimisation (<i>Jon Børre Ørbæk, RCN</i>)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30	Work Package 2: Stakeholder Involvement (<i>Kirsi Latola, UOULU; Annette Scheepstra, NWO</i>)
16:00	Work Package 6: European Polar Coordination Office (<i>Renuka Badhe, EPB</i>)
16:30	Work Package 7: Project Management (<i>Anneli Strobel, AWI</i>)
17:00	Open questions / Summary of the day (<i>Nicole Biebow, AWI</i>)
19:00	Conference Dinner; Millennium Hotel

CONTENTS OF THE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE NOT REPEATED IN THE MINUTES. ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PROJECT INTERNAL WEBSITE.

3 Meeting minutes – General Assembly (13 September 2022)

1. Welcome words by Christo Pimpirev (BAI)

Christo Pimpirev welcomed all participants to the first face-to-face General Assembly of EU PolarNet 2. He told that BAI just entered the 2nd phase of its Polar Programme, which also includes a new 5 years programme for the Arctic. He mentioned that BAI might also become an IASC member in the future. He continued with the role of BAI in work package 1 of the EU-PolarNet 2 consortium. EU-PolarNet 2 is unique in collaborating and coordinating scientific research and policy in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

He underlined that BAI is pleased to host the 3-days EU-PolarNet 2 meeting, and mentioned some highlights and the history of the city and the close surrounding. He wished EU-PolarNet 2 success for the meeting, the realisation of the project aims and the continuation of the EU-PolarNet 2 legacy.

2. Meeting opening (Nicole Biebow, AWI, EU-PolarNet 2 coordinator)

Nicole Biebow opened the meeting with underlining that this was the first EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly in person. She explained that the GA on the 13th of September will focus on the progress of the project and the WPs. The project retreat on 14th and 15th of September will focus on discussions about how to make progress the next 2 years to fulfill the project objectives, as the Covid pandemic restricted a large part of the initially planned tasks for the first 2 project years.

Nicole Biebow appreciated that members of the EU-PolarNet Advisory Board and Policy Advisory Board joined the GA to give advice on the project.

She continued highlighting that the core of EU-PolarNet 2 is the coordination of polar research. In this respect, EU-PolarNet 2 invited guests from ESA and AANCHOR to this meeting, with whom EU-PolarNet 2 is cooperat. Furthermore, there will be presentations about the status of the two Service Contracts funded by EU-PolarNet 2.

Nicole Biebow explained the role of EU-PolarNet 2 as advisory project to the EC, and EU-PolarNet 2 being part of a new Unit, Healthy Ocean and Seas. The role of EU-PolarNet 2 here is not as clear as it was during EU-PolarNet 1. The EC is now concentrating on its EU Missions, where Polar research is not overly well reflected. Therefore, the project work is now focused a bit more on the Oceans. Nonetheless, EU-PolarNet 2 is having monthly meetings with EC representatives and pushes to also focus on land based polar research.

3. Introduction of the meeting participants

This was the first face-to-face general meeting in EU-PolarNet 2 with representatives from almost all consortium members. As not all project members had met before this meeting, we did a tour de table where all participants introduced themselves personally. This also included Joelina Delphin, who attended online, and will start supporting EU-PolarNet 2 from October 2022 onwards.

4. Update on the EU Polar Cluster (Anneli Strobel, AWI, EU Polar Cluster coordinator)

Anneli Strobel presented the EU-PolarNet 2 task to coordinate the EU Polar Cluster, which is reflected in Task 1.1 and 5.2 of the project:

- Overseeing the actions of the 5 current EU Polar Cluster Task Groups, taking care of regular exchange between the task group leads.
- Organising regular meetings of the EU polar Cluster members, coordinating joint cluster activities at conferences (thematic workshops, booths, or panel discussions)
- Supporting joint policy briefings

The Mission of the EU Polar Cluster and Terms of Reference were developed by EU-PolarNet 2 in deliverable D1.2. The Mission of the Cluster is:

- To **connect** EU Polar Cluster Members to further develop European polar research, polar observations, and infrastructure sharing.
- To organise **joint activities** by Cluster Members for greater impact than possible individually, while minimising duplication, sharing workload, and avoiding stakeholder fatigue.
- To support the sustainability and accessibility of large-scale EU-funded Polar projects' selected **legacy** outputs after their official end.
- To share **advice and best practices** among EU Polar Cluster Members.
- To **promote** the European polar research community, especially the strength, excellence, integration and best practices of EU-funded polar research.
- To provide a single **contact point** to all EU Polar Cluster Members for external partners.

After the presentation, Nicole Biebow highlighted the importance of the Cluster to the EC. For them it is important that the Cluster members are actively working together to increase their joint impact.

5. Presentations by invited guests European Space Agency (Diego Fernandez, ESA)

Diego Fernandez presented on ESA and its ESA Science Clusters. These are fostering a community open science approach to scientific exploitation bringing together different teams and projects to work together towards common ambitious goals addressing all major scientific domains.

The approach of the ESA Science Clusters is:

- Promote collaborative research across projects and teams (also non-ESA projects) towards common and more ambitious goals;
- Promote a coordinated approach to science, through networking and partnerships;
- Maximise the scientific impact of ESA science activities by exploiting synergies and different expertise across domains;

- Securing a continuous dialogue with the scientific community;

He highlighted the synergies and knowledge sharing between the EU Polar Cluster and the ESA Polar Science Cluster.

After the presentation, questions came up about the earth digital twin project. This was followed by a question how ocean knowledge is incorporated. Diego Fernandez responded that there will be a digital twin of the ocean, which will address priorities of the EC Ocean Missions.

Nicole Biebow commented that the connections between the EU Polar Cluster and the ESA Polar Science Cluster needs to be strengthened.

5.2. All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (Jose Luis Moutinho, AIR centre)

Jose Moutinho started with an overview about the Galway and Belem Statements. He highlighted that the EU has invested in more than 40 projects with over 250 million for cooperation and hands-on common work among European and international scientists from around the Atlantic. Research projects received funds to contribute to the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Community, one of them is the AANChOR Coordination & Support Action. He named some activities that focused on the poles:

- All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum from pole to pole, 3-4 December 2020
- All-Atlantic 2021 side event “Networking from pole to pole: facilitating access for research and infrastructure”, organised by EU-PolarNet 2 & the EPB
- All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum 2022, 12 July 2022, side event on Research Cooperation from pole to pole, co-organised by EU-PolarNet 2 & the EPB

Jose Moutinho continued explaining the Horizon Europe Mission Areas and the EU Missions Governance (Figure 2). He focused on the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030” and closed with an overview of the BlueMissionAA project, which aims at building a coordination hub to support the mission implementation in the Atlantic and Arctic Basins. The project will kick-off in November 2022.

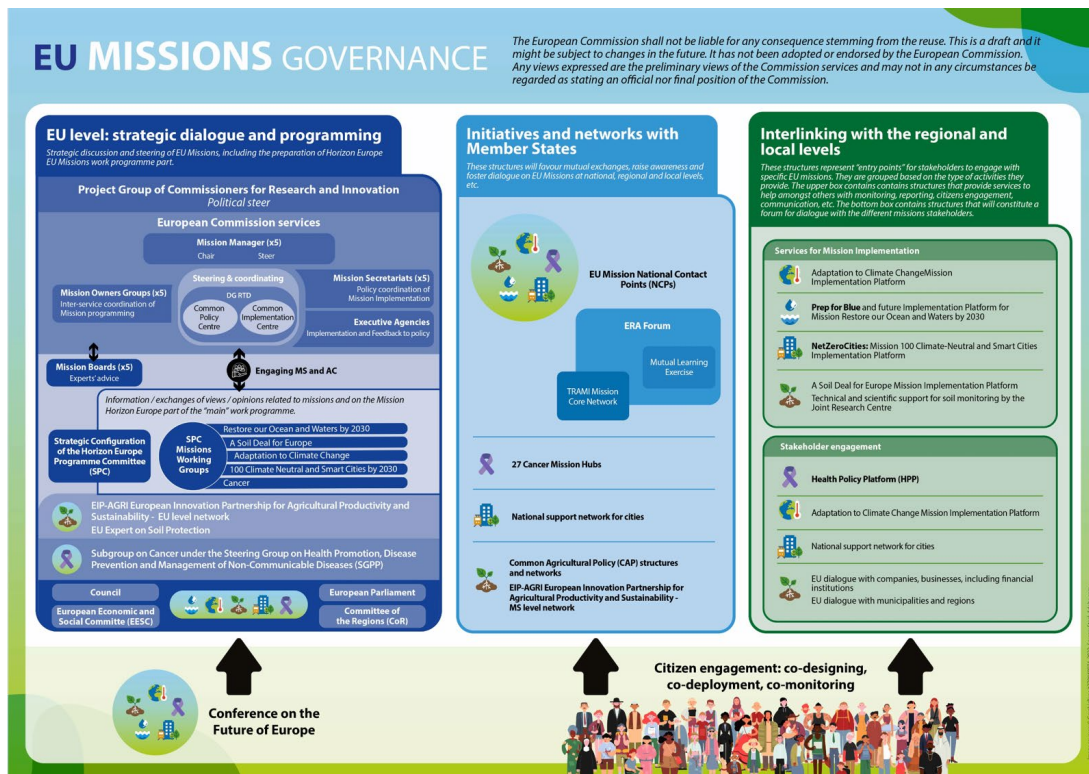


Figure 2: EU Missions Governance, from presentation by Jose Moutinho

After the presentation, Nicole Biebow highlighted the opportunity to raise awareness about the poles through the mentioned programmes, as the All Atlantic Alliance spans from pole to pole.

Jon Børre Ørbæk was wondering about the interaction of the coordination and support actions and concrete research projects. Jose Moutinho responded that it is part of the EU lighthouse. Where a focus lies on innovation, research project must be involved. A database about all related projects supports information sharing/collaboration will be developed.

Christine Valentin asked a question in the chat on how the private sector is involved in the AANChOR and BlueMissionAA projects. Jose Moutinho responded that they have dedicated match making opportunities for companies and funders, studies for case studies to attract companies, data bases are being set up, and how industry can profit from ocean restoration activities.

5.3. EU-PolarNet 2 Service Contracts: ArcticXchange (Marta Terrado, BSC)

Marta Terrado started her presentation with giving some background information about the Service Contract "Exchanging knowledge and co-producing climate services with reindeer herders and Arctic communities (ArcticXchange)". It lasts 12 months, March 2022 – February 2023. It involves two partners: Barcelona Computing Center (ES) and Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland (FI).

The objectives are:

- Co-produce knowledge that benefits the adaptation and decision-making of Arctic reindeer herding communities in the context of climate change **through co-development of a case study**
- Co-explore how (climatic) **scientific knowledge** can complement the **traditional knowledge** of reindeer herders
- Provide a **proof-of-concept** of a climate service for herders in Finnish Lapland as a first step towards a future operationalisation of the service

A survey was launched in June 2022, targeted to reindeer herders in Finland. Currently, a case study is conducted. The next step is the organisation of a round table with reindeer herders in mid-November.

After the presentation, Kirsi Latola commented that EU-PolarNet 2 is partially dealing with similar topics than ArcticXchange, and was wondering about the link to EU-PolarNet 2. In the following, the difference between stakeholder involvement in Sweden and Norway was discussed.

Nicole Biebow commented that EU-PolarNet 2 will receive a report and recommendations how to serve reindeer herders in Finland.

Jon Børre Ørbæk added that we should widen the perspective and think of how to apply climate service to a range of stakeholders.

Antonio Quesada was asking how to solve the problem of community engagement. Martha Terrado responded that in her work, this depended on the stakeholder (the person in Finland) who she contacted. In general, she involved stakeholders that she already had connections to. In her present work, she focusses more on a proof of concept. Her next steps will be round table discussions.

5.4. EU-PolarNet 2 Service Contracts: Co-Create (Thora Herrmann, UOULU, UFZ/iDiv)

Comprehensive Policy Brief to the EU Commission – A roadmap to decolonial Arctic research

The objectives of Co-Create are:

- 1) Elaborate a strategic *Roadmap* for the EU Commission to achieve successful inclusion of Indigenous rightsholders and Indigenous knowledge into the EU project and funding landscape:
 - calls for projects,
 - proposal and project evaluation
 - funding
- 2) Provision of mechanism to EU PolarNet for implementation of
 - The European Polar Research Programme and EU White Paper
 - Tasks of the European Polar Coordination Office
- 3) Provide support for future project calls for research, focusing on the methodologies, applications, and impacts of co-creative approaches in Arctic research

The Co-Create consortium held a 1st Dialogue Session with EU Commission representatives – 27.6.2022. The results are:

Challenges raised by the participants align with previous results/conversations in the project e.g. stakeholder fatigue and researchers just checking off boxes

Some specific questions:

- How can we encourage Indigenous peoples to take part in EU research projects?
- What are the needs of Indigenous Peoples when it comes to research?
- What would be the best way for Indigenous Peoples to cooperate in projects?
- What would Indigenous Peoples expect in return?

Needs

- Transdisciplinary research
- Best practice examples and success stories
- Seed funding
- Feedback from Indigenous Peoples about research gaps
- Adding a separate section in the evaluation process where experts are asked to assess the potential benefit for Indigenous Peoples
- Full project cycle involvement

After the presentation, Vito Vitale asked how the roadmap could feed into the research prioritisation retreat? Thora Herrmann commented that the roadmap aims to give tools specific to the points in the EPRP where co-creation is mentioned.

6 Presentations of the EU-PolarNet 2 Work Packages

6.1 WP1 Research Coordination (Antonio Quesada, MICINN)

Antonio Quesada presented the key objectives of WP1, which are to:

- **Coordinate the EU Polar Cluster** to ensure common support for dissemination, exploitation and valorisation of research and innovation results of the Cluster projects as a joint initiative (T1.1).
- Develop **Cooperation Tools** to ease facilitation and promote better coordination at all levels including, EU Polar Cluster, national programmes, European, and global programmes (T1.2).
- **Liaise with overseas partners** and activities to increase the perspective and added value of the European investments in science, and to coordinate **the participation in larger initiatives** (T1.3).

Some of the WP1 highlights from last year were:

- EU Polar Cluster as a working consortium with European and international relevance, met in Brussels June 2022
- Toolbox for coordination and facilitation: Catalyst Platform
- Catalogue of National Polar Programmes in collaboration with WP4
- Launching Catalyst Platform
- Organisation of webinars

- Joint workshop with the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance on 12 July 2022

After the presentation, Gerlis Fugman encouraged WP1 to ask for a community meeting at ASSW 2023 and ASOP, to support the international cooperation work of EU-PolarNet 2.

Marta Terrado asked how the Catalyst platform will be maintained. Antonio Quesada explained that this will be maintained in EPCO.

6.2 WP5 Policy Advice and Communication (Nicole Biebow, AWI)

Nicole Biebow presented the key objectives of WP5, which are:

- Provide timely, evidence-based policy advice on request or on its own initiative, and science-based input into relevant EC Polar strategies (T5.1)
- Disseminate EU-PolarNet 2's results to target groups (T5.2)
- Create global visibility for EU-PolarNet 2, including the management

She highlighted some policy advice events over the last 12 months, e.g.

- The new EU Arctic Policy and Research and Innovation, 24th November 2021 – webinar jointly with the EPB
- Research Cooperation from Pole to Pole, 12th of July 2022 – side event to All-Atlantic Ministerial jointly with the EPB

After the presentation, Nicole Biebow raised the question how EU-PolarNet 2 should handle the four thematic webinars, which EU-PolarNet 2 promised to deliver each year. The problem would be that the community is nowadays overloaded with webinars, thus the question is if all webinars have to take place? Of course, working meetings on request of the EC will take place.

Jose Moutinho commented that webinar recordings placed on YouTube can be very successful, if they are continuously and strongly promoted.

6.3 WP3 Research Prioritisation (Carlo Barbante, ISP-CNR)

Carlo Barbante started with the tasks of WP3:

- Develop future strategies to advance European Polar research in an international dimension, by prioritising research themes during transdisciplinary workshops and with the help of a Polar Expert Group (*Research Prioritisation Tool*) **(T3.1)**
- Support the development of large-scale Polar research initiatives of global significance with European researchers in leading roles **(T3.2)**
- Seek bottom-up input to the research prioritisation process and support the preparation for research projects of European interest and high societal relevance in a competitive process (*Research Prioritisation Tool*) **(T3.3)**

Status of WP3 activities:

- 22nd November 2021: EU-PolarNet 2 Executive PEG meeting (participation of WP3 Leader and ExPEG Members; presentation of the project objectives, explanation of WP3 and PEG tasks, discussion on proposal for chair and vice-chair, explanation of next steps)
- Official appointment of Prof. Pauline Snoeijs and Dr. Giovanni Macelloni, as respectively chair and co-chair of the Polar Expert Group (PEG)
- Scheduling the PEG retreat:
 - Venue: San Servolo Island, Venice (Italy)
 - Dates: 12-16 June 2023 (around 50 participants)
- Preparing a preliminary document for the retreat to be organised for the summer 2023 with a request to postpone the relative deliverable.
- Organising a meeting of an “extended” WP3/WG3 (agenda: task status, discussion of retreat document, what input we can expect for WP2, what we can/should do for WP4).
- 1st call (research needs 4 and 6 of the European Polar Research Programme)

Funded projects:

 - ArcticXchange: Exchanging knowledge and co-producing climate services with reindeer herders and Arctic communities;
 - CO-CREATE: Comprehensive Policy Brief to the EU Commission - A roadmap to decolonial Arctic research
- 2nd call (research needs 3 and 5 of the European Polar Research Programme)

No projects funded.

After the presentation, Gerlis Fugman proposed to contribute to the ICARP 4 process, which is currently being prepared for 2025 -> icarp.iasc.info.

Volker Rachold added that the research prioritisation process should also be compared to other processes, such as the one from the Arctic Science Ministerial, ICARP 3 and other comparable planning processes (maybe from SCAR?).

Agnieszka Kruszewska asked about a Service Call for social sciences. Nicole Biebow responded that this topic was already covered in the first call for services.

Another comment was that Arctic Funders Forum would be a good audience for the EU-PolarNet 2 WP3 activities, to make them aware of the research priorities that are being developed by EU-PolarNet 2.

6.4 WP4 Research Optimisation (Jon Børre Ørbæk, RCN)

Jon Børre Ørbæk started with the WP4 objectives:

- Provide an overview of the landscape of Polar research funding in Europe and a better understanding of the coordination potential of European Polar research funding programmes
- Support the development of a European Polar Research Area by networking with national Polar research funding agencies in Europe

- Demonstrate how cooperative actions and joint programming initiatives can add value and enable more synergetic use of European resources in Polar research

Jon Børre Ørbæk mentioned the following WP4 highlights:

Accomplishes tasks:

- **Task 1 - D4.1 Mapping the landscape** of Polar research funding in Europe
- **Task 1 - D4.2 White Paper** on the European Polar Research funding landscape and cooperation potential

Future tasks:

- **Task 1 - D4.3 Dialogue and networking** with national funding agencies and the EU
- **Task 2 - D4.7 Summary of priority actions and large initiatives** for which investments from Horizon Europe and national programmes have added value
- **Task 2 - D4.8 Activity report** from dialogues between national funding agencies, research operators, the EC, relevant EU institutions and international initiatives
- **Task 2 - D4.9 Partnership initiative recommendations** for European polar research
- **Task 3 - D4.4 Pilot studies** of successful polar cooperative research
- **Task 3 - D4.5 Best practices** in infrastructure and logistics coordination.
- **Task 3 - D4.6 Dialogue and networking** with national funding agencies, national operators, the EU, ...

Thora Herrmann commented after the presentation that the Co-Create project recently published a paper on Polar research funding with a list of funding recommendations.

6.5 WP2 Stakeholder Involvement (Kirsi Latola, UOULU; Annette Scheepstra, NWO)

Kirsi Latola started with the key objectives of WP2, which are:

- To develop strategies for capacity building related to meaningful stakeholder involvement in Polar Research and to sustain this expertise in a Stakeholder Involvement Tool for the EPCO.
- Collect research and innovation needs from stake- and right holders as input in the research prioritisation process in WP3.
- Develop a repository for meaningful stakeholder involvement (*Stakeholder Involvement Tool*) that enables strategies for capacity building for Polar stake- and right holders including early career researchers.
- Safeguard and support transdisciplinary perspectives and focus on societal relevance in all EU-PolarNet 2 actions (*Stakeholder guardian*).

She reported on the first transdisciplinary workshop, which was hit by Covid-19:

- The originally planned transdisciplinary workshop with Indigenous rightsholders was divided into two workshops to allow more intense discussion with the respective communities: Greenland (Nuuk & Sisimiut TBC) November 2022 and Koutakeino January 2023

- A preparatory visit to Koutakeino took place in August 29-31, 2022
- The Greenland workshop is hosted by DAFSHE and GINR, the Koutakeino workshop in Norway is hosted by ICR
- The workshops will focus on: research priorities set by local and Indigenous communities including fisheries, reindeer herders & research ethics, co-production of knowledge, how to conduct transdisciplinary research prioritized?

The second transdisciplinary workshop on cooperation and research needs of maritime industry was organised as part of the SMM Hamburg, September 6-9th, 2022. A joint exhibition space with ARICE and the EU Polar Cluster was set up, an open questionnaire on research cooperation and research needs, a spotlight presentation and a panel discussion (ARICE) were performed. The focus was on research priorities set by the maritime industry, needs and interest of cooperation with researchers.

Upcoming are the two transdisciplinary workshops in Greenland in November 2022 (small scale workshops) and in Kautokeino January 2023 (postponed twice due to Covid-19) including invited high-level representatives (e.g. EU).

After the presentation, Vito Vitale suggested to engage with the SERA group.

Then, it was discussed who could be the stakeholders for the third transdisciplinary workshop, with the focus on Antarctica. The number of stakeholders in Antarctica is limited, they could come from the private or tourism sector. They could also be representatives in CEP or the Antarctic Treaty, and it was suggested to connect with YOPP. The next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting will take place in Finland in 2023. The EPB already has a plan for this event and will follow-up with Kirsi Latola to potentially organise the third WP2 workshop there.

Nicole Biebow added to take the large stakeholder group of policy makers and politicians also into account when planning the third transdisciplinary workshop. The next ASM in Finland would offer a good opportunity here.

Action item: EPB to follow-up with Kirsi Latola to potentially organise the third WP2 workshop during the Antarctic Treaty meeting in Finland 2023.

In charge: R. Badhe (EPB)

6.6 WP6 European Polar Coordination Office (Renuka Badhe, EPB)

Renuka Badhe began her presentation with the tasks of WP6:

- Optimising Polar observing capacities with a unified European voice
- Defining the role, structure and operational processes of the European Polar Coordination Office (EPCO)
- Preparing for the implementation of the European Polar Coordination Office

She reported on the EU-PolarNet 2 workshop on Polar observations on 7 June 2022, which identified long term and short-term recommendations in terms of infrastructure and data, governance structures and funding mechanisms.

Renuka Badhe gave an overview on the status of the EPCO:

- EPB/EU-PolarNet 2 meeting in October 2021 discussed the vision and structure of the EPCO and voted unanimously that the EPB should host the EPCO and integrate it as closely as possible.
- Several rounds of feedback completed.
 - Joint EPB/ EU-PolarNet 2 EPCO Action Group formed to oversee drafting process
 - EPB Members, EU-PolarNet 2 Members, European Commission all gave feedback to the ToR
- D6.2 Terms of Reference of the EPCO to be finalised at the EU-PolarNet 2 GA2022 and the EPB Autumn Plenary 2022.
- D6.3 Terms of Reference for National Contact Points drafted and submitted by UOULU.

After the presentation, Vito Vitale opened the discussion about the relation between the EPB and national contact points. This aspect was covered in deliverable D6.3 *Terms of reference for national contact points to the EPCO*, which was prepared by Kirsi Latola and submitted in March 2022. Kirsi Latola added that this deliverable about the national contact points was due quite early in the EPCO development process. She therefore formulated the Terms of reference in a way that they can be updated later on, when the EPCO will be established.

Renuka Badhe agreed that changes might be needed in the Terms of reference prepared for EPCO, and that they can be amended when the EPCO will be implemented.

6.7 WP7 Project Management (Anneli Strobel, AWI)

Anneli Strobel explained that the tasks of WP7 are the contractual and financial, and operational and strategic management of the project.

She gave an overview of the timeline and status of the project:



Anneli Strobel reported that up to now, 25 of the 64 EU-PolarNet 2 deliverables have been submitted, and 4 out of 14 milestones were achieved.

She gave an overview about the use of resources until the end of the 1st reporting period in 31 March 2022 (M18). She reported that the 1st report was accepted by the EC in July and the 1st interim payment was transferred to AWI and forwarded to the project partners on 5th September 2022.

In the end, Anneli Strobel reminded the project partners that the project outputs are published on the [EU-PolarNet 2 website](#), [Zenodo](#) and the [Catalyst platform](#).

7 Meeting close (Nicole Biebow)

Nicole Biebow commented on organisational and financial matters related to EU-PolarNet 2. She explained that the personal months dedicated to each project partner are related to the number of deliverables the partners have to submit. She also stressed that travel costs are only covered if the travel is related to EU-PolarNet 2. A presentation or other kind of contribution to an event is needed to justify the travel costs.

Nicole Biebow encouraged the partner to actually use their budget, otherwise one will have to pay it back at the end of the project. If a partner would need one more person month to fulfil its duties, this is no problem, but a short justification will be needed.

Kirsi Latola gave a short overview about the next EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly from 2 - 4 October 2023, which will be hosted by UOULU, Finland. The meeting venue will be a hotel in Rokua. Participants should fly to Oulu (to get there, first one needs to fly to Helsinki) and from there take a bus or car to Rokua, which is about 80 km away from Oulu in the forest.

Nicole Biebow closed the meeting, since there were no more questions by the audience.