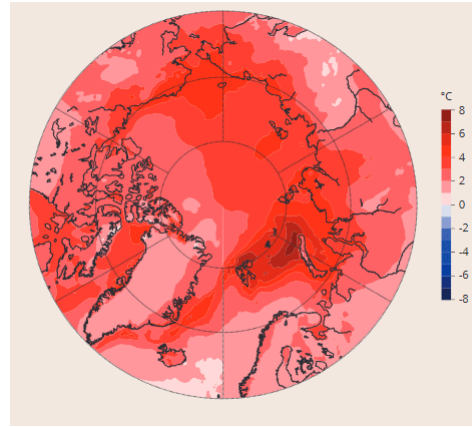


# Collaborating towards a pan-Arctic Observing System of System: perspectives from the Arctic PASSION project

Michael Karcher and the Arctic PASSION team



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© AMAP



© Snowchange



© J. Bamber



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# Arctic Change and Arctic Observing

## What do we face? What are the needs?

- Facing a Changing Arctic environment
- Changes impacting the livelihood of people living in the Arctic and societies outside the Arctic
- Need best available data and knowledge to make knowledge-based decisions
- Need for well coordinated, user-driven integrated observing system of systems
- More holistic approach, also from the scientific perspective
- Observing system still fragmented, lack of data interoperability, lack of inclusion of consented Indigenous and local knowledge
- Equity in access to and shaping the observing system for all people



# ARCTIC PASSION

Pan-Arctic Observing  
System of Systems:  
Implementing Observations  
for Societal Needs

- European Commission H2020 Program
- 4 years, 15 Mio Euro, 18 countries
- > 40 partner institutions and Indigenous Communities
- July 2021 – June 2025
- Website: [www.arcticpassion.eu](http://www.arcticpassion.eu)
- Coordination: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research



© M. Karcher



## Overall objectives - what we want to achieve

- Co-create a **coherent, integrated and sustainable pan-Arctic Observing System of Systems**
- Meaningful collaboration with **Arctic communities, Indigenous Peoples and organisations;**
- **Expand monitoring capabilities**, also through **broad inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge;**
- Improve **data interoperability** and simplify access to 'application-ready' environmental data for the benefit of all users;
- **Improve monitoring to support predictions, risk assessment, inform and guide mitigation and adaptation and sustainable development**
- Develop **Pilot Services and support SAON to upgrade Arctic GEOSS into a 'GEO initiative'**
- Initiate **SAV Expert Panels** and develop SAVs in **support of SAON's ROADS** program

➡ founding on and collaborating with previous and ongoing international efforts

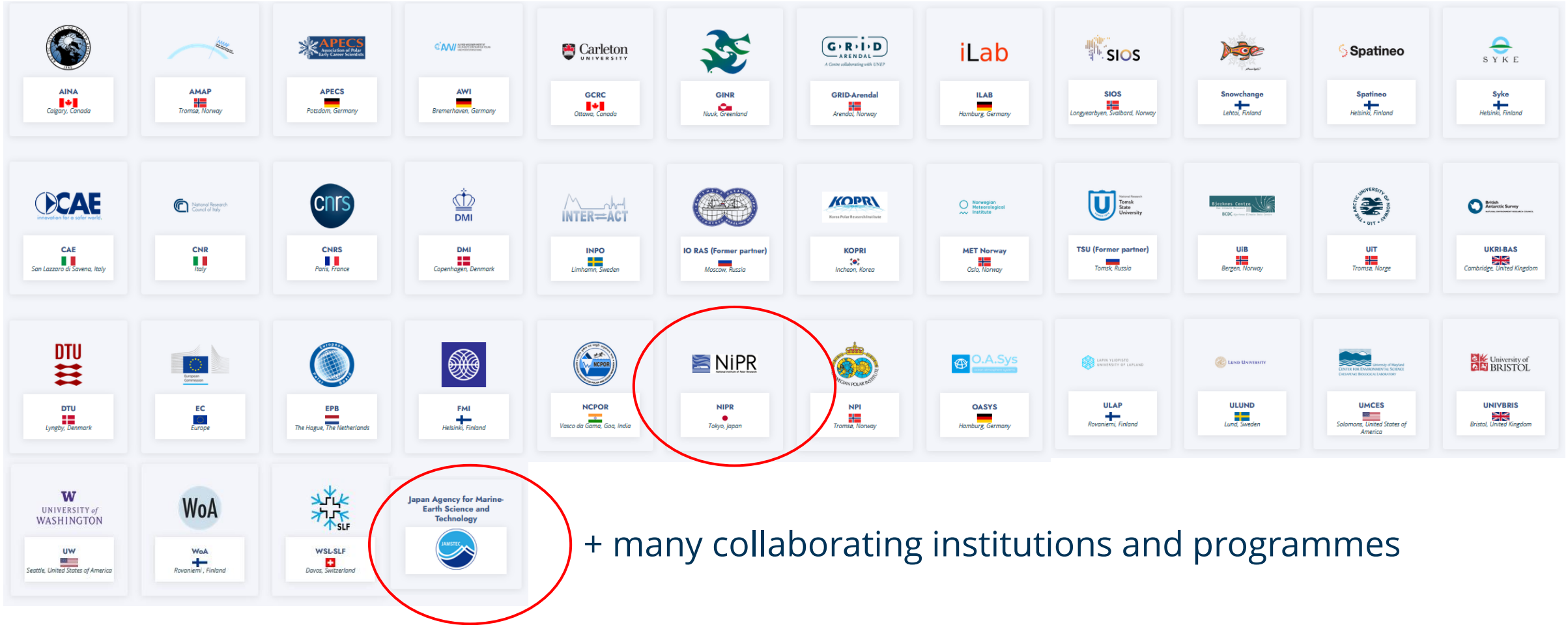
# Who we are: Institutional partners



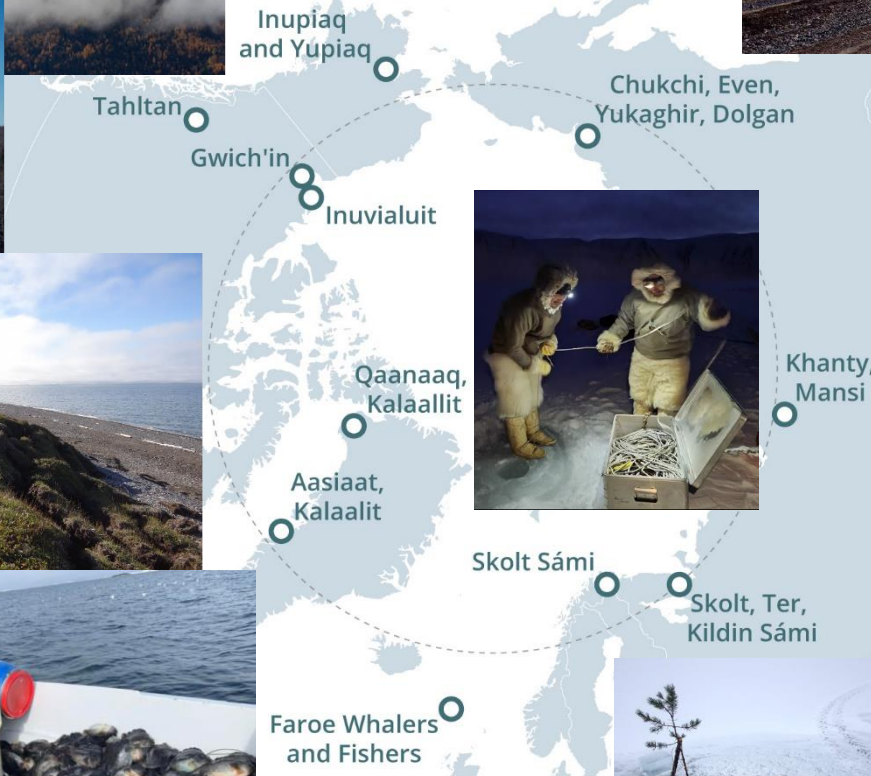
+ many collaborating institutions and programmes



# Who we are: Institutional partners



+ many collaborating institutions and programmes



Who we are:  
Arctic communities

Photo credits: anticlockwise starting on top: Ikaagun Engagement, Mika Honkalinna, Tero Mustonen, Nuunoq Frederiksen, Tero Mustonen, Risto Semenoff, Snowchange (3), Steffen Olsen (center).



## Areas of activity: what we do

- Enhancing instrumentation and coordination
- Inclusion of different knowledge systems
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- Developing of new (pilot) services
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- Providing policy and decision-making support
- Contributing to developing a clearer and more equitable international Structure for Arctic observing

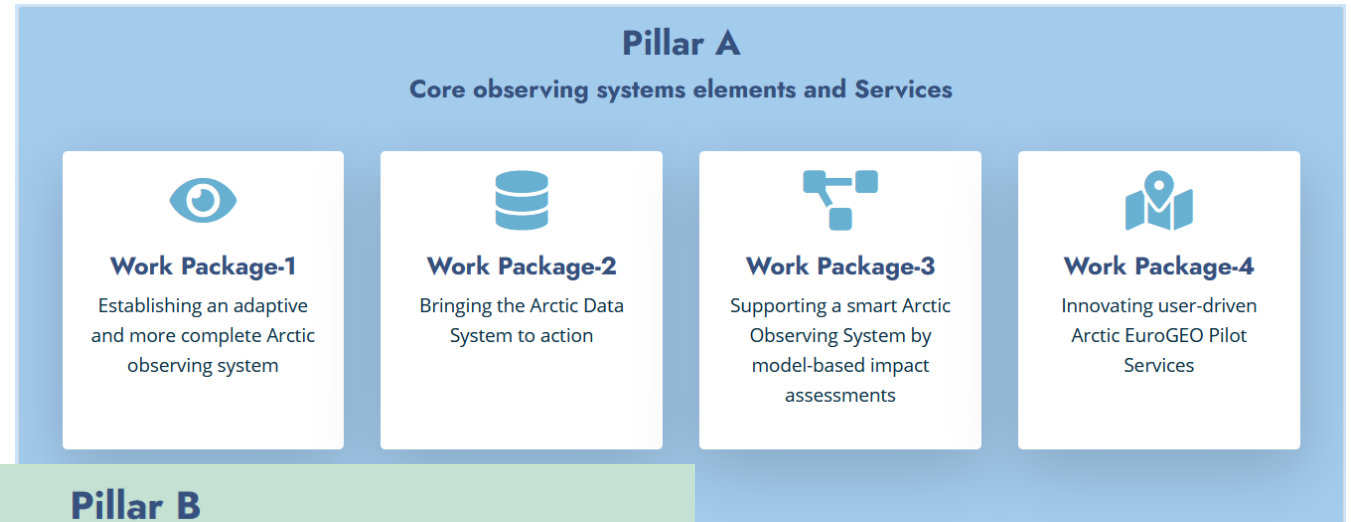
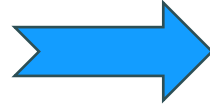


O. Rempel

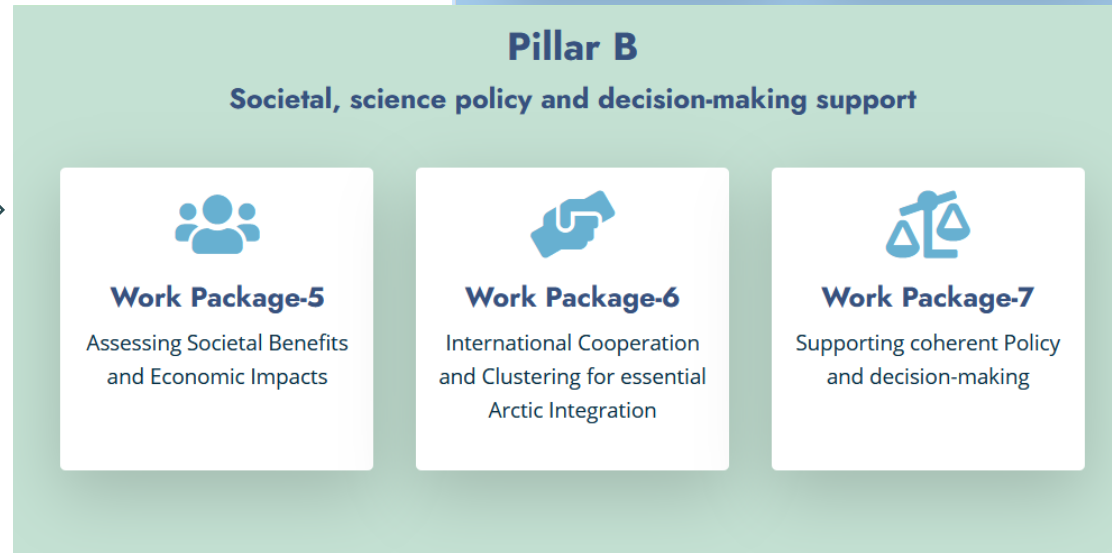


# The Structure of Arctic PASSION

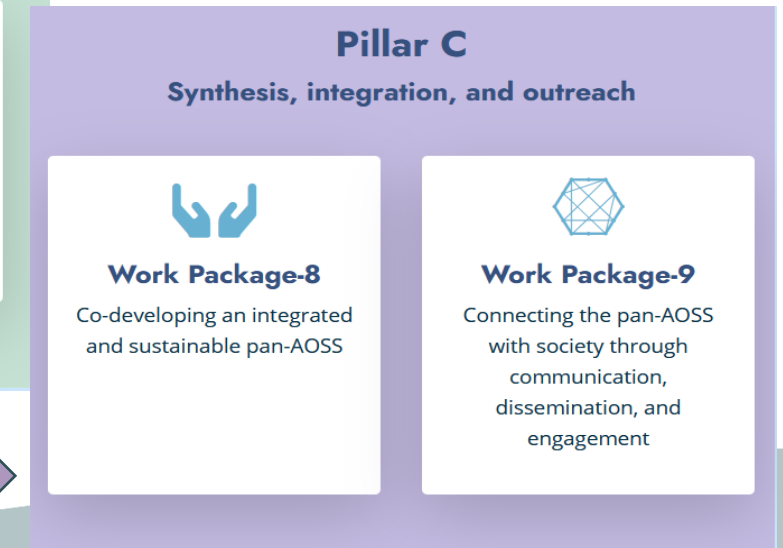
Strengthening  
core observing  
system elements



Decision-making  
support



Synthesis and  
outreach

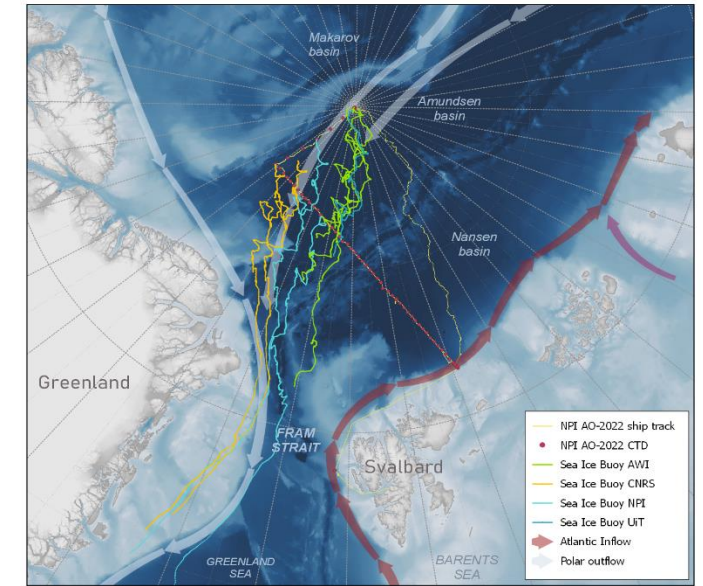


## Areas of activity: what we do

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- New multi-disciplinary moorings
- New sensor and instrumentation developments for marine and atmosphere
- Deployment of drifting buoys
- Building unified snow/ice interface detection for IMBs
- Building of a microwave observation operator for sea ice
- Improving monitoring of glacier runoff and calving front positions



Sundfjord, NPI



		Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC)	CEN Whapmag ootuk Station	Toolik Field Station	Arctic Station	Zackenberg Research Station	Kovgusha Research Station	CNR Arctic Station "Ungava" (Italy)	Rif Field Station	NIIC Swahol research station	Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC)
Climate	Meteorology	Air temperature	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Meteorology	Air humidity	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Meteorology	Air pressure	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Meteorology	Wind velocity	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Meteorology	Wind direction	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Meteorology	Precipitation	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Short Wave incoming	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Short wave outgoing	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Long wave incoming	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Long wave outgoing	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Net radiation	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	UV-B	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Sensible heat flux	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Latent heat flux	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Soil heat flux	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Climate	Energy balance and radiation	Ground surface	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Sub surface characteristics	Temperature	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Sub surface characteristics	Soil temperature	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Cryosphere	Sub surface characteristics	Active layer depth	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Sub surface characteristics	Permafrost	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Snow characteristics	Snow depth	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Snow characteristics	Snow density	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Cryosphere	Snow characteristics	Snow temperature	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO



Invitation of ten terrestrial stations & conducting thorough review of existing monitoring

Discussion on how to fill gaps in terrestrial monitoring

Agreement on which instruments and equipment are missing

Discussions of best solutions for each station with instrument distributor

INPA purchases instruments and provides user agreement



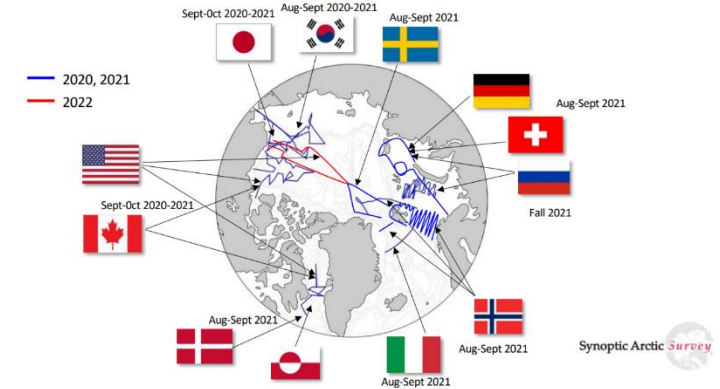
Installation of equipment and making data accessible

**More details:** <https://arcticpassion.eu/blog/TerrestrialMonitoring>

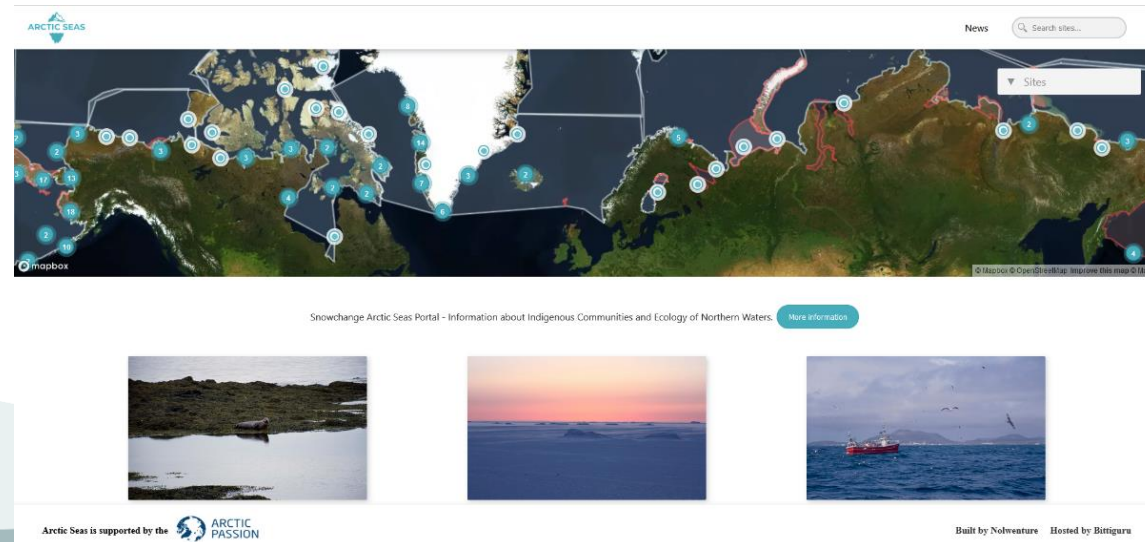


# Enhancing coordination and inclusion

- Advancing the Synoptic Arctic Survey SAS, including preparation for SAS II
- First assessment on missing elements for an improved Arctic observing system - focus on how CBM networks can contribute actively
- Advancing the visibility of Indigenous marine occupancy, situated locations and knowledge by developing and maintaining the portal [arcticseas.org](https://arcticseas.org)



International SAS Cruises (12 Nations)



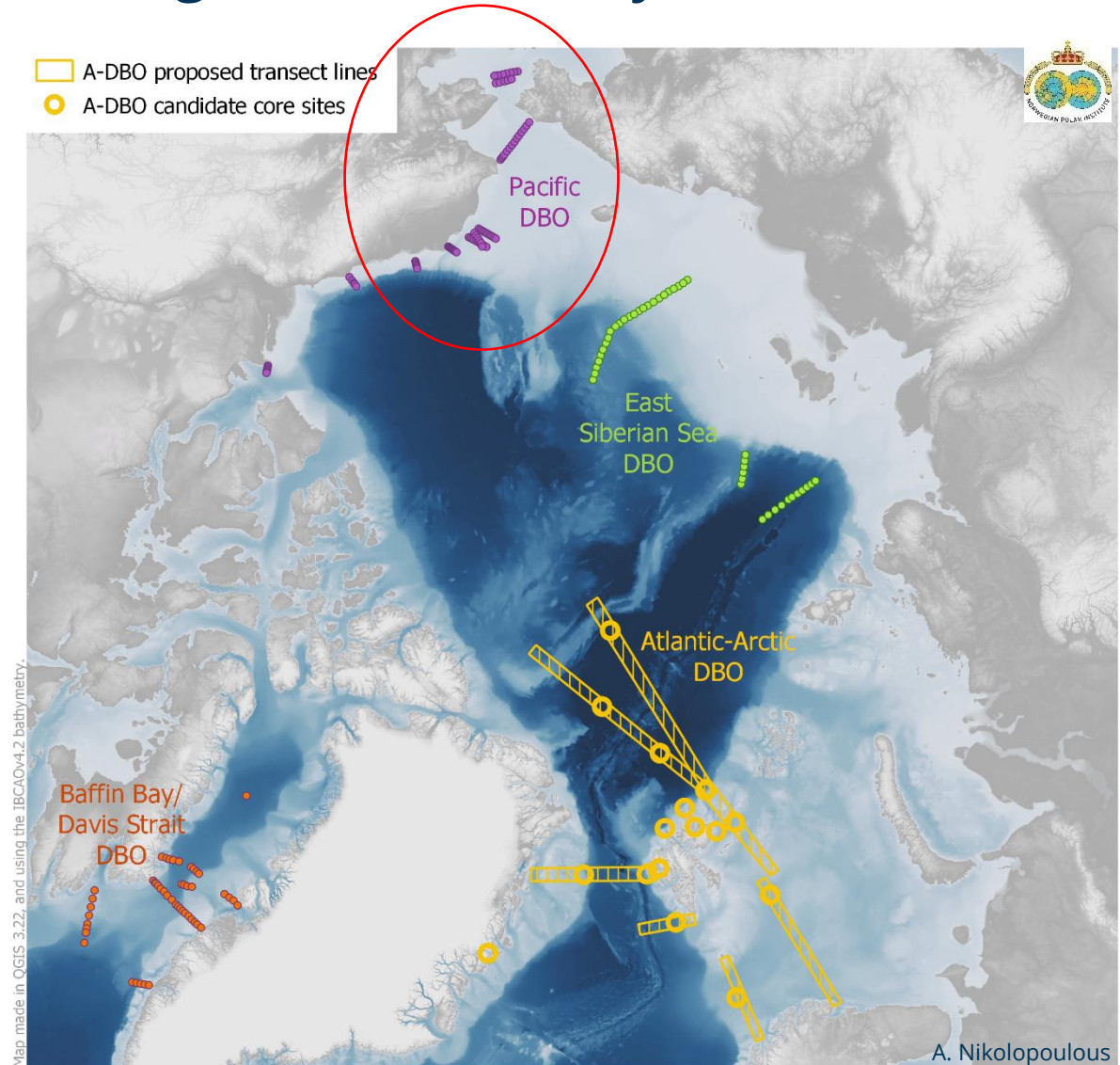


ARCTIC  
PASSION

# The Atlantic-Arctic Distributed Biological Observatory A-DBO

-> a comprehensive marine observing system for climate and environment

- Identify key locations for collaborative monitoring and research
- Joint and open planning - better use and sharing of infrastructure
- Better and more open sharing of data, common protocols for data processing and handling
- Create win-win situations between institutions with long-term funding and mandates, and those working on project basis with more focused research objectives



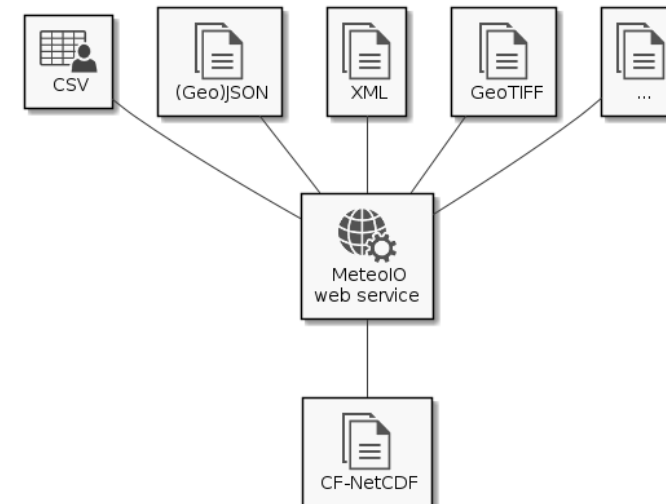
Preliminary A-DBO map, to be further refined

## Areas of activity: what we do

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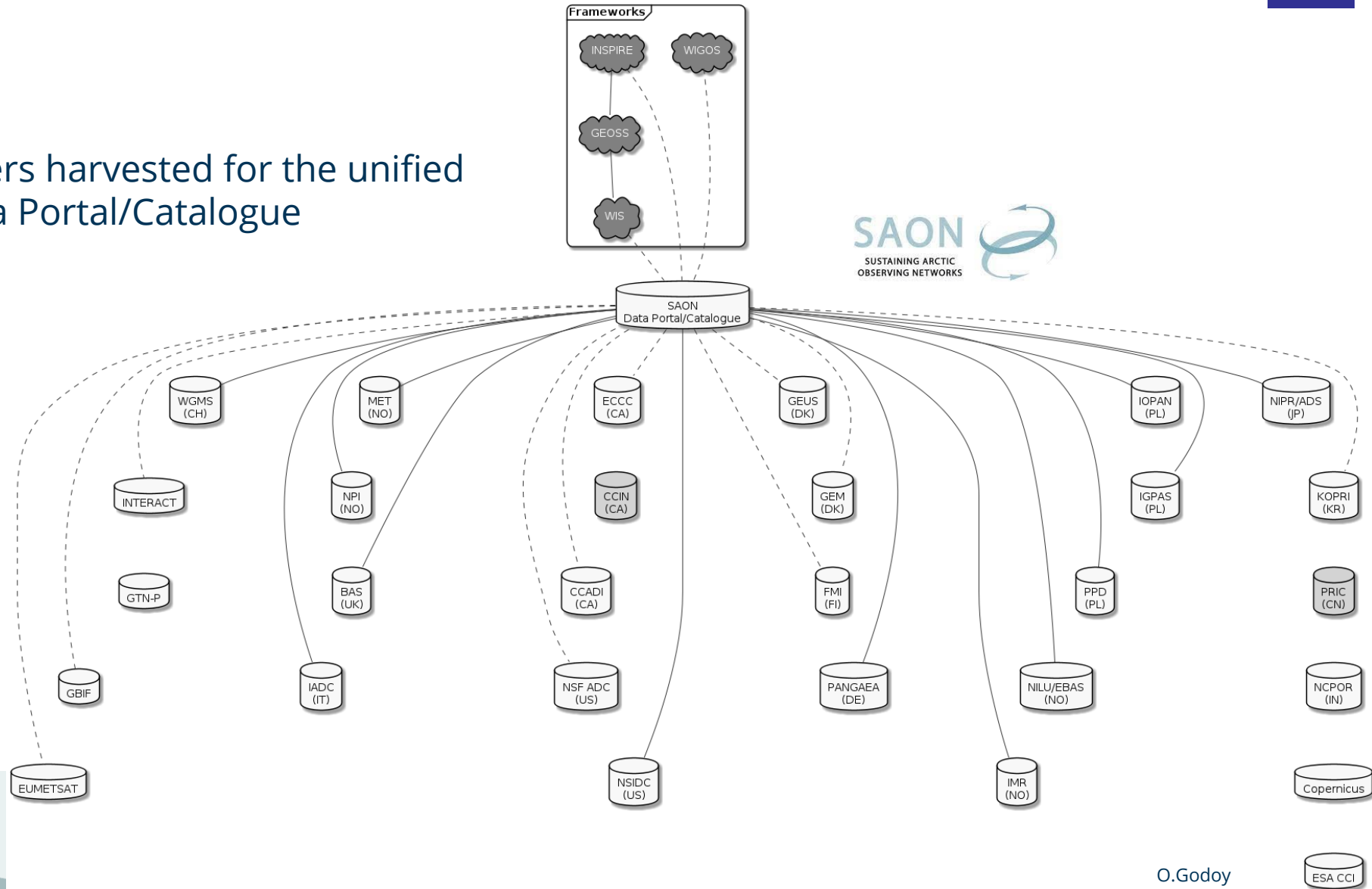
- Enhancing instrumentation and coordination
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- Mapping the Polar Data
  - creation of maps and interactive visual representations of the underlying data.
  - currently > 81 aggregating data centres/catalogues
- Synthesis of the Arctic Data System
- Building of an Arctic Window of Copernicus (aligned with the ArcticHub)
- Transformation of data to standardized form
- FAIR Data and Service provision
- Long term data preservation





- Data centers harvested for the unified SAON Data Portal/Catalogue



## Areas of activity: what we do

---

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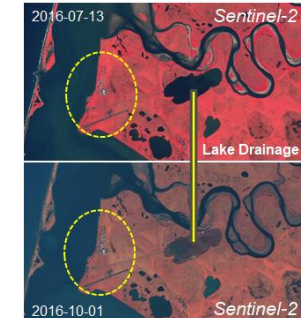


## PS1: 'Event Database of CBM Using Oral Histories, IK and LK' (Snowchange)



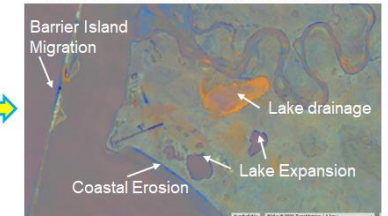
Ph.: Snowchange

## PS2: 'Pan-Arctic requirements-driven Permafrost' (AWI)



### Impacts on Northern Communities

Google Earth Engine App with Remotely Sensed Trends in 30m resolution from 2001-2020

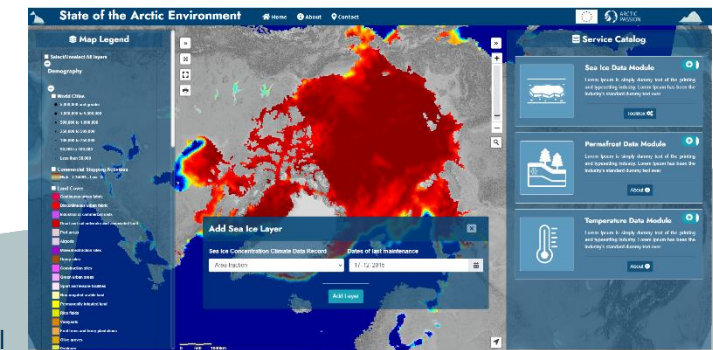


ESA GlobPermafrost + ESA CCI+ Permafrost

G. Grosse & A.Irrgang, AWI

Village of Point Lay, Northern Alaska

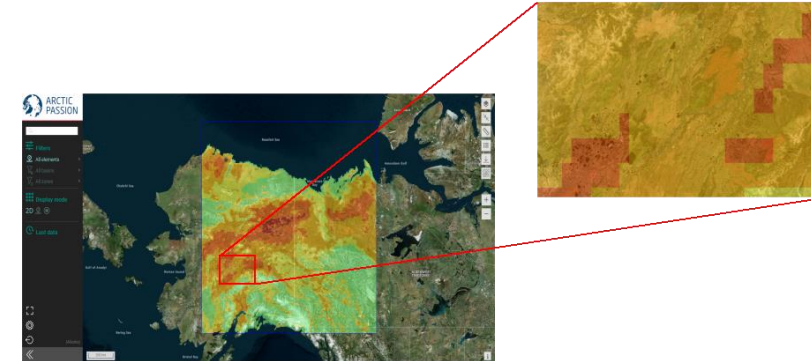
## PS3: 'State of the Arctic Environment' (NPI)



A. Sundfjord, NPI



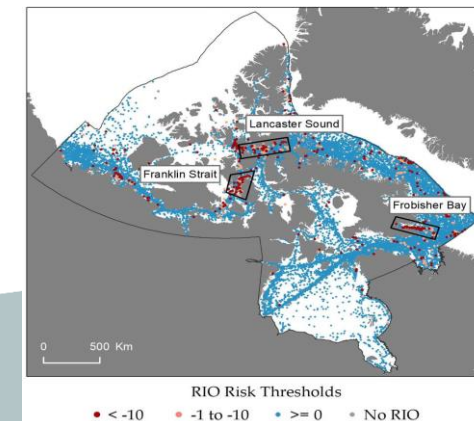
PS4: 'Integrated Fire Risk Management - INFRA' (CNR)



PS5: 'Local Atmospheric Pollutant Forecast Service' (JRC)



PS6: 'Improving Safety for Shipping in the Polar Seas Service' (BAS)





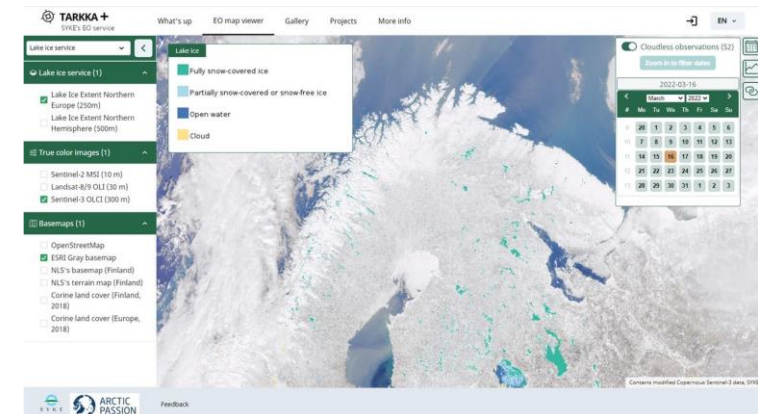
PS7: 'CBM for Arctic marine climate change, noise pollution & impacts on marine living resources' (GINR/DMI)

S. Olsen, DMI



PS8: 'Lake Ice Service for Arctic Climate and Safety' (SYKE)

K. Heinila, SYKE



## Areas of activity: what we do

---

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Concept based on SAON ROADS and Arctic Observing Summit (AOS).

Sets of observables that help tackling local/regional problems (based on science, IK & LK)

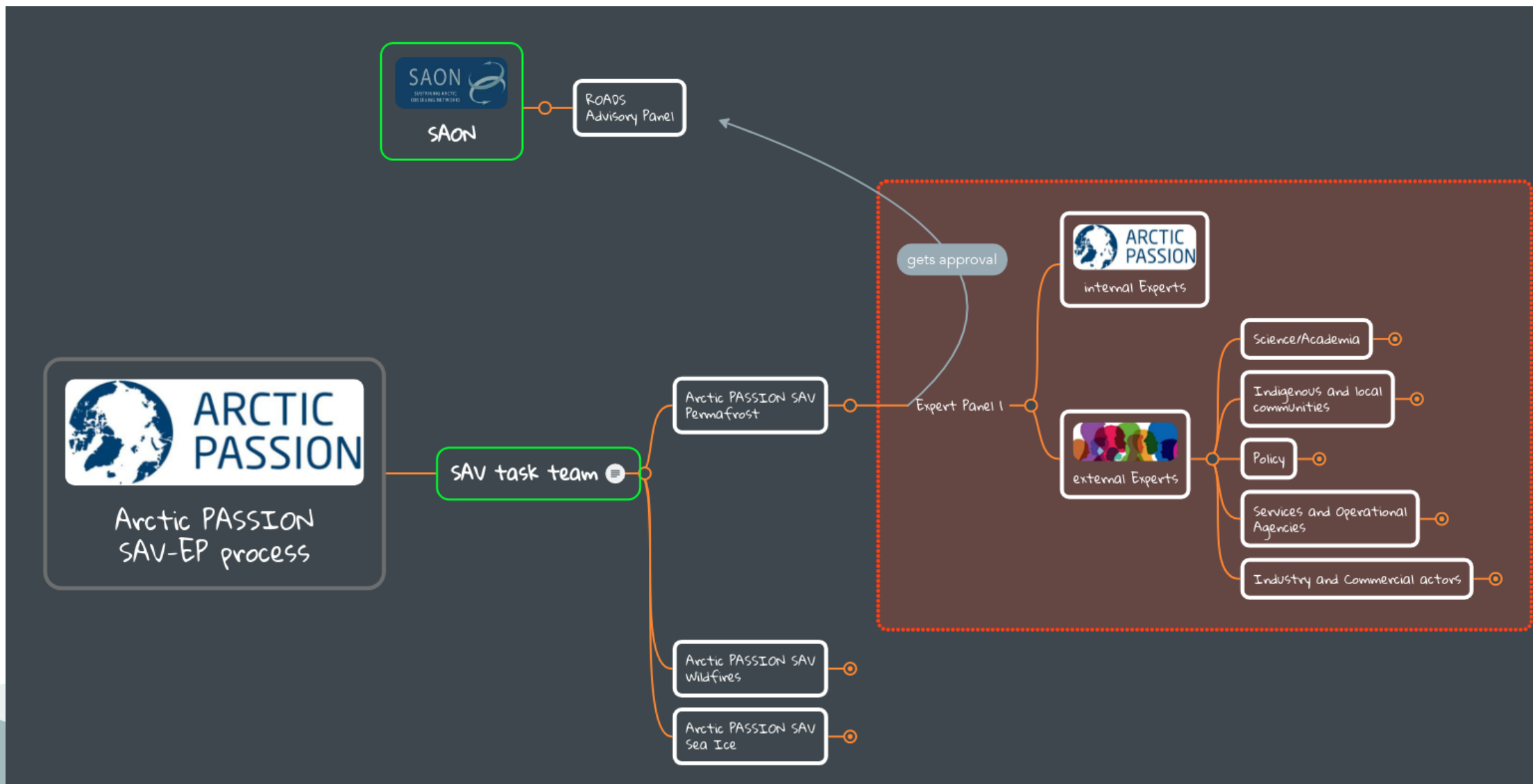
Arctic PASSION with Canadian partners and US RNA CoObs first projects to launch SAV processes



*Three SAV themes of relevance*

- *Permafrost (Living on frozen ground)*
- *Wildfires*
- *Sea Ice*

# SAV s in Arctic PASSION





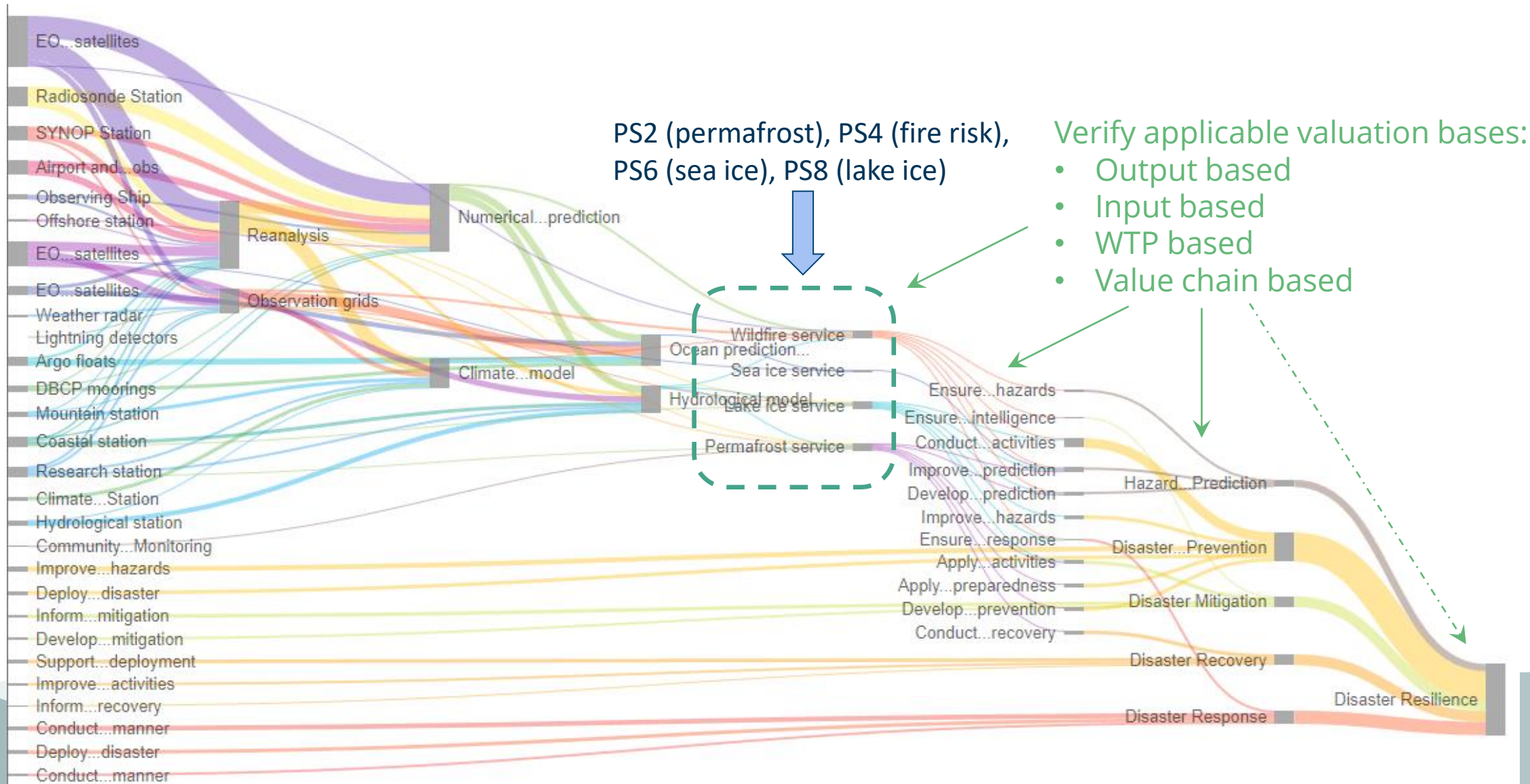
- The process of SAV identification (the sets of observables) for the three themes by the Expert Panels is meant to be finished during the project duration
- Expert Panels will contribute to identifying stewards for the SAVs
- The further development of the SAVs and our experiences with the SAV process will reach beyond the project
- Shared Arctic Variables can play a key role in guiding the development of a more useful Arctic observing system
- Shared Arctic Variables have the potential to empower Indigenous and local communities

## Areas of activity: what we do

---

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# Value Tree Analysis (VTA) as basis extend from cost attribution to value generation



## Areas of activity: what we do

---

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# International collaboration

A key element of Arctic PASSION is international collaboration with other programmes and projects also beyond the projects of the EU-Polar Cluster and the ESA Polar Science Cluster, such as for example:

- ArcCs II (Japan)
  - RNA-CoObs (USA)
  - CCADI (Canada)
  - K-AWARE (South Korea)
  - NCPOR (India)
- 
- SAON
  - Arctic Council Working Groups
  - Copernicus
  - WMO
  - ...



JAMSTEC



NIPR



## Areas of activity: what we do

---

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- **Contributing to developing a clearer and more equitable international Structure for Arctic observing**

# Furthering the outcome of the Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) meetings regarding sustained Arctic observations



Volker Rachold

ASM: Washington 2016  
ASM2: Berlin 2018  
ASM3: Tokyo 2021  
ASM4: ~~France and Russia~~

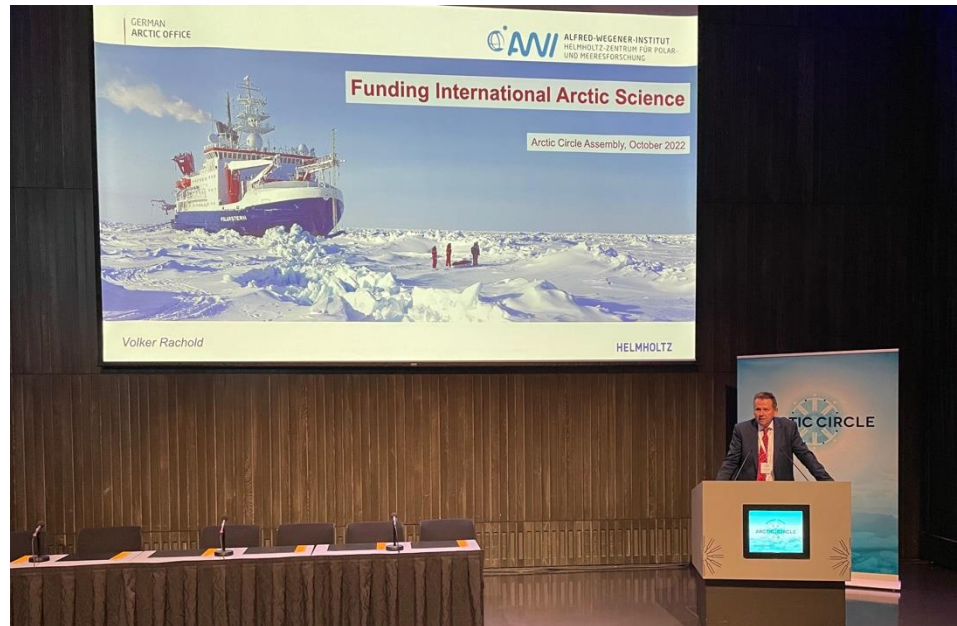
{ Arctic Science Funders Forum  
(ASFF) }



GERMAN  
ARCTIC OFFICE



## Arctic Circle Assembly 2022



Grosfeld

- Breakout Session on International Funding
- Informal Meeting of the ASFF

## ISAR-7

### S21: Funding International Arctic Science

The session will address and discuss the need for stronger international coordination of Arctic science funding.

#### Conveners:

*Volker Rachold, Egill Thor Nielsson,  
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, Lindsay Arthur,  
Ágúst Hjörtur Ingþórsson*

March 8, 13:30-15:00 & 15:15-16:45

Venue 6 (NINJAL244)



Alaska Centre for Climate Assessment and Policy;  
City & Borough of Juneau;  
Municipality of Anchorage



Environment and Climate Change Canada;  
The Government of Yukon;  
The Government of Northwest Territories;  
The Government of Nunavut;  
The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador;  
Municipality of Yellowknife, NWT



Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency,  
Energy and Environment;  
Avannaata Municipality



Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources;  
The Environment Agency of Iceland;  
Westfjords Regional Development Office;  
Municipality of Akureyri;  
Municipality of Dalvík;  
Municipality of Siglufjörður;  
Municipality of Reykjavík (Greater Reykjavík Area)



Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development  
Norwegian Centre for Climate Services  
Troms and Finnmark County;  
Tromsø Municipality;  
Harstad Municipality;  
Tana Municipality;  
Vardø Municipality



County Administrative Board of Norrbotten;  
Luleå Municipality



Regional Council of Lapland;  
Lapland Centre for Economic Development,  
Transport and the Environment;  
Kuusamo Municipality  
Kemijärvi Municipality



P. Tkach/A.Stepien

Scoping Workshop:  
“Data-driven subnational  
decision-making in the Arctic”

Policy Brief:  
“Data-driven Subnational Decision-making in  
the Arctic Towards identifying the key issues”

- Gender central to human–environment relations
    - affects how individuals interact with the environment, observe change, and are involved in relevant local, regional, national and global decision-making bodies
- (Pan-Arctic Report on Gender Equality in the Arctic 2021)
- Sex- and gender-disaggregated data rarely collected: gap in our understanding.
  - Gender-dimension needed to account for internal diversity
  - First systematic application of a gender lens into Arctic observing system elements:
    - Pilot Services as a start to tackle this dimension



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Co-create a coherent, integrated  
and sustainable pan-Arctic  
Observing System of Systems

- Improvements under way - Arctic PASSION contributes to international efforts
  - Enhanced instrumentation and data interoperability
  - International coordination and planning: DBOs, INTERACT, Arctic GRA, SAON
  - Strengthened European contributions
  - Strengthened SAON SAVs concept has potential to empower local communities
  - Additional Services
  - Unique 'Event Database of CBM and Indigenous Knowledge and Local knowledge'
  - Policy and decision-making support actions
  - Contributions to more inclusion

- Work to be done on the international level
  - transparent governance structure for Arctic observing system
  - Integration/collaboration of national observing projects and programmes
  - sustainable funding of observing system
  - equity from start on (funding for Indigenous and local inhabitants or representatives)
  - stronger inclusion of IK and LK in planning and implementation of Arctic Observing system, as well as decision making
  - communication channels so local & regional needs are heard at and involved in (future) observing system governance structure
  - more action needed to make observing system useful for all people (e.g. gender)
  - more holistic approach in Arctic Observing and inclusion of different knowledge systems
  - Overcome pausing of AC and its working groups as well as ASMs

**13:30 – 16:45 8.3.23**

**(S4) Synoptic Arctic Survey – international collaboration for Arctic Ocean transdisciplinary studies**

Main convener: Shigeto Nishino;

Co-conveners: Carin Ashjian, Kumiko Azetsu-Scott, Kyoung-Ho Cho, Jacqueline Grebmeier, Jianfeng He, Motoyo Itoh, Sung-Ho Kang, Are Olsen, Øyvind Paasche, William Williams, Michiyo Yamamoto-Kawai

**13:30 – 16:45 8.3.23**

**(S21) Funding International Arctic Science**

Main convener: Volker Rachold;

Co-conveners: Egill Thor Nielsson, Tetsuo Sueyoshi, Lindsay Arthur, Ágúst Hjörtur Ingpórssón

**13:00 – 16:15 9.3.23**

**(S1) High-latitude Fires, Arctic Climate, Environment and health (HiFACE)**

Main convener: Adriana Ford;

Co-conveners: Stephen Arnold, Marianne Tronstad Lund, James Ford, Michael Karcher, Vito Vitale

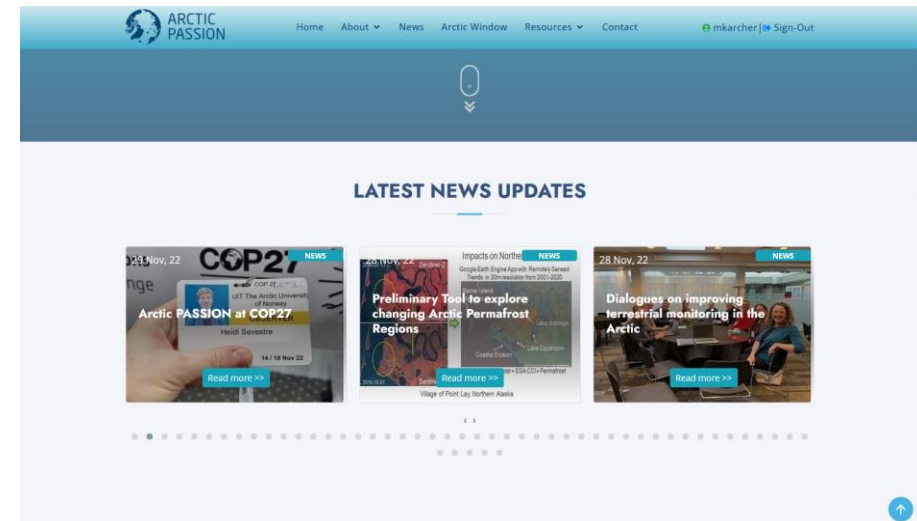
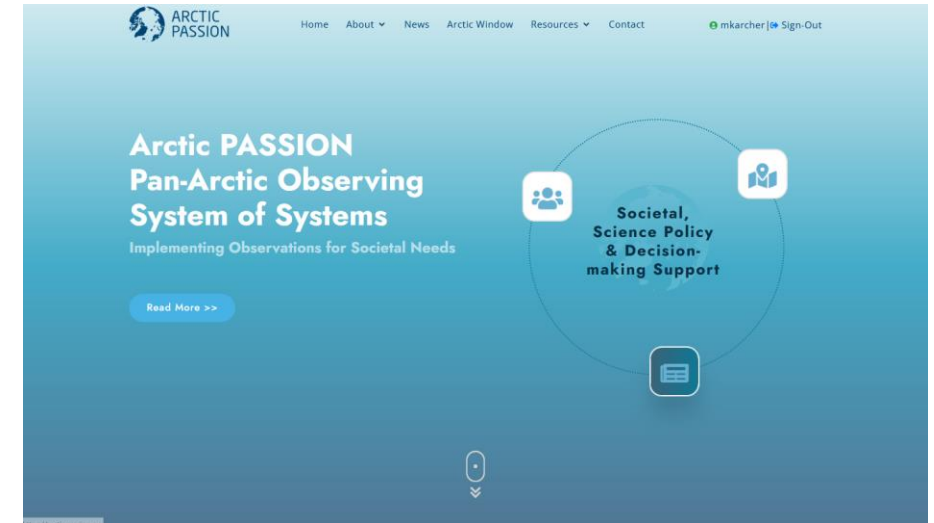


# ARCTIC PASSION

Pan-Arctic Observing  
System of Systems:  
Implementing Observations  
for Societal Needs

Website:

[www.arcticpassion.eu](http://www.arcticpassion.eu)



If you want to collaborate, feel free to contact us!

