

Workshop on International Access to Research Infrastructure in the Arctic

ASSW 2020

March 29, 2020 at University of Akureyri, Iceland.

Meeting room: M102

Time: 8:30-17:00

Organized by FARO

Purpose of the workshop: Initiating dialogue and developing networks that facilitate access for international scientists to national research facilities and infrastructure in the Arctic (also referred to as “transnational” or “cross-border” access): Identifying challenges, best practices and next steps.

Physical access to research infrastructure in the Arctic – polar research vessels, stations, and aircraft - is essential for polar science. Knowledge about the availability and services of existing platforms is key to selecting the appropriate research site and experimental design for projects. In practice, this means that operators and managers of infrastructure need to cultivate a strong communications effort with the scientific community. Communication is also paramount in outlining each platform’s guidelines, which ensures well-prepared and efficient visitors. Facilitating this exchange of information and available space for international access is challenging at the national level. Adding an international dimension to operations makes it even more challenging, especially since funding mechanisms need to be in place to implement links between scientists and infrastructure.

These topics will be explored through a series of presentations and interactive break-out sessions to identify major challenges, best practices, and next steps for matching scientists and infrastructure, providing international access, and sharing knowledge. Questions that will be explored include:

- What are the most urgent logistical needs and locations for polar research in the next 10 years?
- What are the scientific and logistical possibilities and challenges for implementing shared international access?
- What mechanisms or exchange modes can be envisaged to coordinate networks of polar research infrastructure (e.g. vessels, stations, aircraft) at an international level? Will these mechanisms provide access to all researchers while continuing to recognize respective research infrastructures as national assets?

Facilitator: Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)

Participants: Users and operators of Arctic infrastructure platforms, including but not limited to ARICE, INTERACT, the EPB, Isaaffik, SIOS, and others.

Participants are asked to register in advance by e-mail to: faro-arctic@bios.au.dk

Output: Workshop report highlighting major challenges, best practices, and next steps/recommendations.

DRAFT AGENDA

0830-0850 Welcome (FARO)

- Workshop purpose
- Round of introductions

0850-1000 5-10 minute introductory presentations of major infrastructure access projects including previous workshop findings

- EPB
- ARICE
- INTERACT
- Ny-Ålesund Research Station (Nalan Koc)
- Others are encouraged to contact FARO and request a presentation (tbd.)

1000-1030 Coffee Break

1030-1045 Introduction of BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (Plenum)

1045-1215 PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (marine and land-based groups):

Identifying major challenges for scientists in accessing international infrastructure and facilities (Breakout groups will have a discussion facilitator and a scribe).

Available rooms: Austurborg and Vesturborg

1215-1230 Report out (Plenum)

1230-1330 Lunch

1330-1345 Introduction of BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (Plenum)

1345-1515 PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (marine and land-based):

Developing best practices and recommendations for international access to infrastructure and facilities, including: expanding access, usefulness of platforms for sharing operational information, funding mechanisms, cross-cultural interactions/expectations.

(Breakout groups will have a discussion facilitator and a scribe).

Available rooms: Austurborg and Vesturborg

1515-1530 Report out (Plenum)

1530-1600 Coffee Break

1600-1700 Plenum: Develop Recommendations and Next Steps

1700 Closing of workshop (Follow up actions and timeline for workshop report)

Networking Reception to follow immediately after Workshop Closing