



POLARIN

POLAR
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Implementation of the SLP with Terms of Reference

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SUMMARY

The POLARIN project will provide integrated and combined access to a portfolio of polar research infrastructures (RI) to support interdisciplinary research on the complex processes which drive the current changes in the Polar Regions. To ensure that the research which will benefit from POLARIN services is excellent and addresses the most important research challenges, the POLARIN consortium must be able to rely on a strong scientific expertise. This support will be provided by a Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP), a team of international experts which will assist the consortium in tasks and activities which require scientific expertise.

The SLP composition will be such that the expertise of members covers a wide range of scientific disciplines relating to the main polar research challenges, including Arctic and Antarctic research, and land- and marine-based observations. The SLP composition should also guarantee diversity, gender equality and be an independent voice with regards to the POLARIN consortium, with at least 50% of the members being external to the POLARIN consortium.

The main mission of the SLP will be to provide scientific guidance in the implementation of the calls for proposal that will be launched to propose access to the POLARIN portfolio of research infrastructures. More specifically, the SLP will be involved in (i) reviewing the priority topics to be addressed by each call and in (ii) the scientific evaluation of the submitted proposals.

1. POLARIN Scientific Liaison Panel Terms of Reference

1.1. General

The POLARIN Project, founded by the European Union HORIZON EUROPE programme and launched in March 2024, will provide integrated and combined access to a portfolio of polar research infrastructures (RI) to support interdisciplinary research on the complex processes driving the current changes in the Polar Regions. As such, the research supported by POLARIN services should address the most important challenges in the Polar Regions. To identify such challenges and to ensure the excellency of POLARIN funded projects, the POLARIN consortium must be able to rely on a strong scientific expertise. This support will be provided by a team of experts, both internal and external to the project, the Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP), which will be appointed by the POLARIN consortium and will assist it in all science relevant aspects during the course of the project.

1.2.Membership

The SLP is a panel of international scientific experts in the different fields of polar research.

In order for the SLP to be able to fulfil its mission, the panel composition should guarantee that:

- Expertise of members covers the range of scientific disciplines relating to the main polar research challenges, including Arctic and Antarctic research,
- Expertise of members includes good understanding of polar field work practices, including land- and marine-based observations,
- Members belong to a diversity of research organizations/programmes/institutes spanning across a wide range of countries,
- The panel can be considered as an independent voice with regards to the POLARIN consortium, with more than 50% of the members being external to the POLARIN consortium
- Gender equality will be addressed in the panel composition.

The usual term for a member of the SLP is the full duration of the Project, but the SLP member can resign anytime by informing the POLARIN Evaluation Secretariat.

1.3.Purpose

The members of the SLP have a central role in the evaluation of submitted transnational access proposals to guarantee a consistent and transparent ship-time evaluation process.

The main role of the SLP is to assist POLARIN in the proposal evaluation process. The access to research infrastructures will be granted to successful proposals reviewed by external referees, a process which is overseen by the SLP and the POLARIN Evaluation Office.

The SLP will also act as liaison between the POLARIN project and the scientific community.

The SLP may contribute to the call definition by:

- assisting the consortium in the identification of research priorities, providing recommendations when necessary.

- Review the call documentation including Code of Conduct and guidelines for evaluators. providing recommendations when necessary.

1.4.POLARIN proposal evaluation system

Proposals submitted to POLARIN will follow the evaluation procedure, previously established in the former EU projects EUROFLEETS, INTERACT and ARICE. Accordingly, proposals are evaluated in two steps: In the first step, proposals are evaluated scientifically, and in a second step, the operators of the research infrastructures evaluate their logistical feasibility. In this way, the evaluation process ensures that only excellent proposals are considered for funding.

In the scientific evaluation, proposals submitted to POLARIN are reviewed by at least two independent experts (referees). A consensus is reached by the SLP recommending which proposals will move to the logistical evaluation.

1.5.Duties of the SLP

- Contribute to the call definition by assisting the consortium in the identification of research priorities, providing recommendations when necessary.
- Review the call documentation including Code of Conduct and guidelines for evaluators. providing recommendations when necessary.
- Contribute to the scientific evaluation of the submitted proposals, in such a way that members:
 - ✓ act as “watchdogs” for those proposals which fall within their range of expertise,
 - ✓ suggest external reviewers (from the available pool of external experts or beyond),
 - ✓ review proposals that fall within their expertise,
 - ✓ elaborate a short statement summarizing the external reviews and including their own opinion,
 - ✓ participate in the consensus meeting of the evaluation panel which decides which proposals are recommended for access.
- Possibility to follow up the proposals until the project reporting to ensure that the research objectives have been achieved.

1.6.Communication channels

The POLARIN Evaluation Office is based at OGS (Trieste, Italy) and a representative of this office will be the principal recipient of the SLP’s communications and advice. The secretary will report to the POLARIN Steering Board. Feedback will be captured in the minutes from the SLP Consensus Meetings.

A Chair and a Co-Chair of the SLP will be elected within its members to coordinate the actions of the SLP.

1.7.Meetings

- The Chair will make the link between the SLP and the Evaluation Office, and report to the rest of the POLARIN consortium as necessary.

- The Chair will take part at the annual POLARIN General Assembly meetings to follow the progress of the project and report the SLP activities. Travel expenses will be reimbursed by POLARIN.
- All other SLP activities will take place as online meetings and email exchanges.
- One SLP meeting (consensus meeting) is planned for each of the call for proposals to decide which proposals are recommended for implementation (access recommendation).

1.8. Remuneration

SLP members will be compensated with a fixed amount of 30€ per proposal in which they take a role either as watchdog or as an expert evaluator. A Service Contract will be implemented between the SLP member and the Alfred Wegener Institute as Project Coordinator.

SLP members that belong to POLARIN organisations and are directly involved in POLARIN must claim instead their equivalent used time (0,01 PM per allocated proposal) at each periodic report. SLP members claiming PMs in POLARIN should not sign a Service Contract.

If travelling expenses are incurred in connection with the duties of the SLP, the costs will be covered by the POLARIN project.

2. MEMBERS OF THE SLP

2.1. Non-affiliated to POLARIN institutions

João Canário - *Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal*

Scientific interests: Environmental chemistry; biogeochemical cycle of contaminants in Antarctica, including mercury; ecotoxicological effects of key pollutants on polar living organisms; impact of climate change on permafrost degradation; role of organic matter composition in greenhouse gas emissions; export of contaminants from permafrost to boreal ecosystems.

Biography: João Canário is an Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering at University of Lisbon. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Universities of Laval and Trent and a visiting researcher at the Center for Northern Studies, Canada. He holds a PhD in Environmental Chemistry from NOVA University Lisbon. He serves as the Vice-President of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and Chair of the Terrestrial Working Group.

Lee Cooper - *University of Maryland, The United States of America*

Scientific interests: Stable and radioisotope composition of organic materials and natural waters; aquatic plant physiology; high latitude oceanography and hydrology; response of arctic marine ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles to environmental changes.

Biography: Lee Cooper is a Professor at the Center for Environmental Sciences at University of Maryland and teaches in the Marine-Estuarine Environmental Science Program. He is a botanist and biological oceanographer, and holds a PhD in Oceanography from University of Alaska Fairbanks. He has been chief scientist on many sea-going research programs. He is member of the IASC Marine Working Group (Chair, 2016-2020) and the joint PICES/ICES Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Northern Bering Sea - Chukchi Sea.

Christopher Jones - *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, La Jolla, The United States of America*

Scientific interests: Antarctic finfish population characterization, dynamics, and assessment; Antarctic ecosystems; management approaches; policy initiatives; risk of disturbance to benthic invertebrates in the Southern Ocean.

Biography: Christopher Jones is a research fishery biologist and leads the Finfish and Benthic Invertebrate Program for the Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division (AERD). He earned a Ph.D. in Marine Biology and Fisheries at the University of Miami. He has participated in numerous demersal finfish surveys. He also serves as U.S. technical coordinator for the CCAMLR scientific observer program. His research is used to provide scientific advice for U.S. policy on fisheries and management issues in the Southern Ocean.

Kimmo Kahilainen - *Lammi Biological Station, University of Helsinki, Lammi, Finland*

Scientific interests: Basic and applied aquatic research, environmental science, ecotoxicology, food webs, lakes, land use, fish biology and fisheries, evolutionary biology, ecosystem functioning.

Biography: Kimmo Kahilainen is a Professor of Environmental Research at Lammi Biological Station. He is supervisor of doctoral programmes in Wildlife Biology, Interdisciplinary Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Use of Renewable Natural Resources

Runa Magnússon - *Plant Ecology & Nature Conservation, Wageningen University, The Netherlands*

Scientific interests: Interactions between climate change; permafrost and tundra ecology; impacts of extreme rainfall events; field monitoring, remote sensing and dendrochronology on Arctic shrubs.

Biography: Runa Magnusson is Assistant Professor at Wageningen University. She holds a PhD from the same university on permafrost – vegetation – climate interactions in the Siberian lowland tundra.

Marc Oliva - *Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain*

Scientific interests: Cold-climate geomorphological processes and past environments in the polar regions and high mountains, using a wide range of natural records (glacial, periglacial, lacustrine).

Biography: Marc Oliva is a Professor at the Department of Geography, where he leads the Research Group Antarctic, Arctic and Alpine Environments (ANTALP). He is also an Associate Professor at the Université Laval, Canada. He holds a PhD in Geography on Holocene alpine environments in Sierra Nevada. He has been co-chair of the SCAR Action Group “Antarctic Permafrost, Periglacial Environments and Soils (ANTPAS)” (2018-2023) and is currently the Spanish Chair of the International Permafrost Association.

Olga Povoroznyuk - *Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria*

Scientific interests: Infrastructure and development; post-socialist transformations; ethnicity; gender; identity; Indigenous peoples; climate and environmental changes; Circumpolar North and Russia.

Biography: Olga Povoroznyuk is a Post-Doc Researcher and Lecturer at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, and a researcher at the Austrian Polar Research Institute. She holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Vienna. She is a member of the IASC Social and Human Working Group and a co-lead of the IASC research initiative RATIC – “Rapid Arctic Transitions due to Infrastructure and Climate”.

Francesca Sangiorgi - *Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands*

Scientific interests: Marine palynology for paleoenvironmental and paleoclimate reconstructions; interdisciplinary approaches (including inorganic and organic geochemistry, sedimentology, micropaleontology); Neogene climate and oceanography in the Arctic and Antarctic Ocean; eutrophication of coastal seas; natural variability vs anthropogenic impact; land-sea nexus; ocean sustainability.

Biography: Francesca Sangiorgi is Associate Professor at the Department of Earth Sciences and leads the Marine Sciences master program at Utrecht University. She received a PhD in Environmental Sciences from Bologna University, working on modern marine systems and (recent) past ecology. She has joined several sea-going expeditions, including IODP drilling expeditions.

Annette Scheepstra - *University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands*

Scientific interests: Arctic social Science; Stake- and rightsholder involvement; transdisciplinary research; co-production of knowledge; polar tourism.

Biography: Annette Scheepstra is a researcher at the Arctic Centre of the University of Groningen. She holds a PhD in Pedagogy from the same university. She is currently the Dutch representative in the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council and member of the IASSA Council.

Anna Wagner – *US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Fairbanks, Alaska, The United States of America*

Scientific interests: Permafrost hydrology; permafrost thermal analysis and degradation; groundwater; environmental engineering; geography; snow hydrology.

Biography: Anna Wagner is a research environmental engineer at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Fairbanks, Alaska. She holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering. She is a member of the United States Permafrost Association in which she served as President in 2023.

Manfred Wendisch – *Universität Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany*

Scientific interests: Atmospheric radiation; airborne measurements; radiative transfer and weather forecast models; radiative energy budget of clouds; microphysical properties; Arctic mixed phase clouds; cirrus.

Biography: Manfred Wendisch is a professor at Leipzig University where he is the head of the Institute for Meteorology. He holds a PhD in Meteorology from the Humboldt-University of Berlin. He will be President of the International Radiation Commission starting in 2025.

2.2.Affiliated to POLARIN institutions

Syndonia Bret-Harte – *University of Alaska Fairbanks, The United States of America*

Scientific interests: Plant community and ecosystem ecology; global climate change impacts on Arctic vegetation composition and nutrient cycling.

Biography: Syndonia Bret-Harte is a Professor at the Institute of Arctic Biology of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She also serves as the principal investigator and science director of Toolik Field Station, the largest scientific research station in the Arctic.

Florence Colleoni - *Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS), Trieste, Italy*

Scientific interests: Past and future evolution of ice sheets; climatic processes at various timescales integrating all the components of the climate system; multidisciplinary approach; sedimentological processes of polar areas; sea level changes.

Biography: Florence Colleoni is a paleoclimate and ice sheet modeler at OGS. She got her Ph.D in "Numerical modeling of past glaciations" at Institut des Geosciences de l'Environnement (Grenoble, France) and Stockholm University (Sweden). She is the co-chief officer of the SCAR Scientific Research Program INSTANT – "Instabilities and Thresholds in Antarctica".

Matthias Forwick - *The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway*

Scientific interests: Sedimentary processes and paleo-environments on glaciated continental margins; analyses of acoustic and core material; reconstruction of glacial activity during glaciations and

interglacials including ice rafting by sea-ice and/or icebergs; slope stability in fjords and on continental slopes; deep-sea turbidites.

Biography: Matthias Forwick is a Professor, head of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Tromsø. He also teaches at the University of Svalbard and at GEOTOP, UQAM (Canada). He holds a PhD on sedimentary processes and palaeoenvironments in Spitsbergen fjords from the University of Tromsø.

Zoe Koenig - *The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway*

Scientific interests: Arctic Ocean dynamics; ice-ocean interactions; in situ observations; under-ice mixing and turbulent fluxes of nutrients and oxygen.

Biography: Zoe Koenig is a Post-Doc Researcher in physical oceanography at the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology. She holds a PhD in Physical Oceanography from Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, for which she was awarded the Prize of the French Committee (CNFGG) of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG).

Timothy Lane - *Aarhus Universitet, Aarhus, Denmark*

Scientific interests: Glacial geomorphology; environmental change; landscape development in formerly glaciated regions; behaviour of Arctic ice caps and ice sheets; cosmogenic nuclide dating; sedimentology and lake core analysis.

Biography: Timothy Lane is Assistant Professor at the Department of Geoscience.

Kathy Law - *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris, France*

Scientific interests: Tropospheric trace gases; chemistry-climate interactions; atmospheric composition; long-range transport; Arctic pollution (local, remote and impacts); chemical and aerosol modelling.

Biography: Kathy Law is a CNRS researcher working at the Laboratoire Atmosphères Observations Spatiales (LATMOS) at Sorbonne Université. She holds a PhD on tropospheric trace gases from the University of Cambridge (UK). She has been the French representative at the IASC Atmosphere Working Group (Vice-chair, 2013-2015) and member of Arctic Council AMAP Expert Group on "Short-Lived Climate Forcers".

Katrine Raundrup – *Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Greenland*

Scientific interests: Herbivores (caribou, muskoxen and sheep) and their interactions with vegetation, parasitology; terrestrial ecology; wildlife management and conservation;

Biography: Katrine Raundrup is a research scientist at the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. She holds a PhD from Aarhus University (Denmark) studying the effects of climate change on marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the Arctic. Since 2009 she has worked with data collection of ecological parameters in the terrestrial environment: plant phenology, passerine bird monitoring, C-flux measurements, freshwater lake monitoring. She also undertook vegetation studies in the sheep farming districts in South Greenland. She is a member of the Transnational Access Evaluation Board of the INTERACT project.

Pedro Rodrigues - *Rif Field Station, Raufarhöfn, Iceland*

Scientific interests: Genetic, geographic and temporal aspects of birds; bird diseases; arctic ecosystems and plants.

Biography: Pedro Rodrigues is a marine biologist with a PhD in phylogeography, dealing with avian genetics and evolution. He is the Manager of the Rif Field Station, belonging to the INTERACT network.

Søren Rysgaard - *Arctic Research Center, Aarhus Universitet, Aarhus, Denmark*

Scientific interests: Marine microbiology and biogeochemistry in Arctic sea ice, ocean and sediments; carbon and nutrient cycling in Arctic marine ecosystems; sea ice processes and glacier-fjord-ocean interactions; global change.

Biography: Søren Rysgaard is Professor at the Department of Biology-Aquatic Biology and leads the Arctic Research Center at Aarhus University. He is a biologist and holds a PhD on sediment biogeochemistry. He has long-standing experience in the management and scientific coordination of international projects and consortia.

Jean-Baptiste Sallée - *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Paris, France*

Scientific interests: Southern Ocean dynamics and climate, from oceanic turbulence to large-scale ocean circulation, and impact on the global ocean circulation; heat, salt and anthropogenic carbon sequestration in the Southern Ocean; impact of the ocean physics on biology.

Biography: Jean-Baptiste Sallée is a CNRS researcher working at the Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat (LOCEAN) at Sorbonne Université. He holds a PhD in Physical Oceanography from Université de Toulouse. He is currently coordinating the H2020 project SO-CHIC (Southern Ocean Carbon and Heat Impact on Climate), one of the EU-Polar Cluster projects. He has been a lead author of the chapter Ocean, Cryosphere and Sea Level Change of the IPCC AR6.