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2nd POLARIN TA Call:

Webinar for Applicants
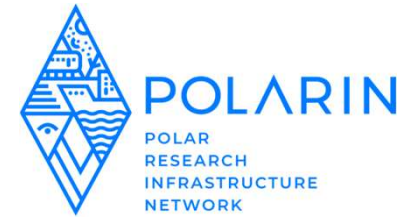
18th Sept, 2025

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University of Oulu

www.eu-polarin.eu

UNIVERSITY OF OULU

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Program

10.30-10.45 Introduction to POLARIN project and activities

Veronica Willmott-Puig, POLARIN Project Manager, AWI

10.45-11.20 2nd POLARIN Transnational Access call: guidelines for applicants

Hannele Savela, POLARIN TA Coordinator, University of Oulu

11.20-11.35 Introduction to the POLARIN TAP on-line application platform

Vanessa Spadetto, POLARIN TA Assistant, INTERACT

11.35-12.00 Questions and Answers

Content

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1. What is Transnational Access (TA)?

In-person access: free of charge, trans-national access to research infrastructures or installations. The access includes the use of the RI, travel and logistic costs, meals and accommodation at RI, and specific support and training for researchers using the infrastructure, up to the granted amount.

Remote Access (RA): users are provided with reference materials or samples, get access to a high-performance computing facility, or receive the data from the study that the RI staff has conducted according to user's research plan and protocol. The access includes use of the RI and logistics costs (freight, shipping) up to the granted amount.

In-person and Remote Access can also be combined!

What is NOT included: Salary, allowances (daily, meal, km, insurance costs, subcontracting, publication costs, overheads, equipment purchases or rental, consumables, phone bills, etc.

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2. Information about the TA Call

42 RIs offered for access in the call

Deadline for submission of proposals is 30th of October 2025, 4 pm CET.

The proposals must be submitted through the POLARIN Transnational Access Platform (POLARIN TAP) on-line system.

Late submissions and submissions via any other channel will not be accepted.

The access decisions will be announced in mid-March 2025 via POLARIN TAP.

Information about the call and applications:

1) Call webpage at https://eu-polarin.eu/transnational-access-call-2025/

2) Guidelines for Applicants (pdf)

3) POLARIN GIS (link)

3. How to Apply?

1. Read carefully the Guidelines for Applicants.
2. Create a user account in POLARIN TAP.
3. Contact the RI operator(s) to consult if your proposal is feasible to be conducted at the RI where you are planning to apply.
4. Fill in the application form in POLARIN TAP.
5. Prepare and upload the appendices to the application.
6. Submit before the deadline.

You can work on the application in several sessions and store it in-between the sessions, but you can submit only one application per call.

Appendices required: 1) Project description, 2) CV, 3) Preliminary TA Data Management Plan, 4) Letters of Recommendation (only ECRs), 5) Endorsement letter (only TARA and Antarctica InSync).

Templates, including guidelines, are available on the call webpage and in POLARIN TAP.

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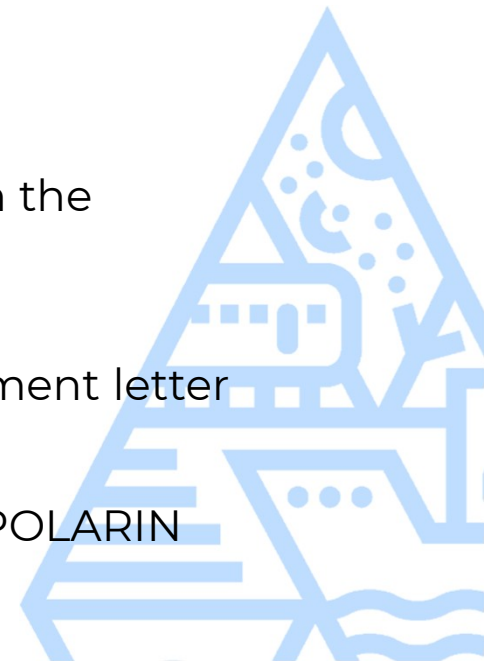
Appendices required

1) Project Description: Must adhere to the maximum number of pages, depending on the type of RI you are applying for access (6 or 8 pages). Research plans failing to follow the instructed structure and exceeding the maximum length will be rejected from the evaluation. Consult the relevant Research Infrastructure manager(s) about the required permits, if needed.

2) CV of the User group Leader: Use the CV template. The page limit is 1 page.

3) TA Data Management Plan: Use the Preliminary TA Data Management Plan template to describe the management of data gathered by your project. The DMP will only be assessed if the project is selected for implementation, but a preliminary version must be submitted with the proposal.

4) Letter of Recommendation: Early career researchers (undergraduate, graduate or post- graduate level up to 5 years active in science after last degree) applying as user group leader must provide 1-2 LoR from their academic supervisor and/or other relevant person in support of their application

5) Endorsement Letter: Only to TARA and Antarctica InSync. Applicants must prepare a short project summary following the provided template and send it by email to the contact point of the RI. The request should be made as soon as possible and before the endorsement request deadline on 30th Sept, to allow sufficient time for review and issuance of the endorsement letter.

The templates including guidelines can be downloaded from the TA Call webpage and the POLARIN TAP.

Research Infrastructure information is available on the POLARIN website and in POLARIN GIS.

4. POLARIN Transnational Access provision
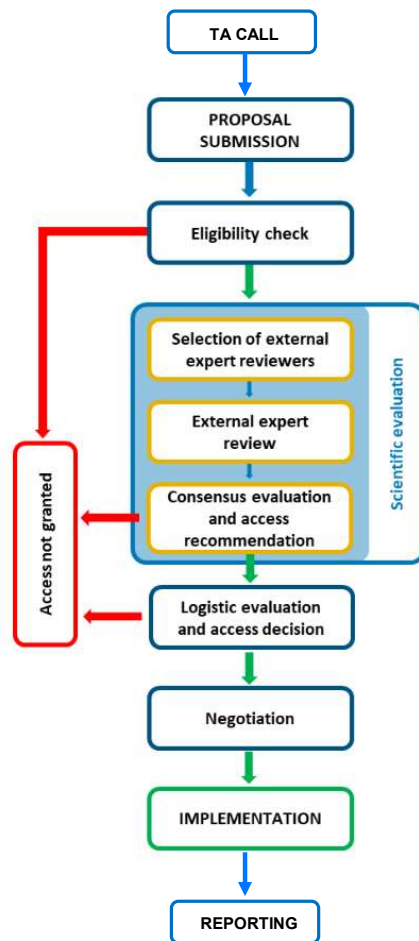
Consists of several stages:

TA Call
Eligibility check
Scientific evaluation
Logistic evaluation
Negotiation
Implementation
Reporting

5. Eligibility

Proposals will only be accepted for evaluation if they meet the following seven (7) Eligibility Criteria

1. **Affiliation:**

a) The <u>User Group Leader and majority of the users</u> must work in an institution based in <u>European Union Member State</u> or <u>HORIZON EUROPE associated country</u>, with the exception of user groups led by Ukrainian researchers from government-controlled territories.

b) The <u>user group leader and at least the 80% of the users</u> must work in countries other than the country(ies) were the legal entity operating the requested infrastructure is based. When the infrastructure is composed of several research facilities, operated by different legal entities, this condition must apply to each facility.

c) User groups with more than four users must include researchers from at least two different countries.

2. Expertise: The <u>user group leader must have the appropriate expertise</u> to lead the research at the requested research infrastructure.

3. Duration of the period of access to RIs: The maximum duration of granted access at a RI is limited to the units of access offered in POLARIN and must in any case be <u>less than three months</u>.
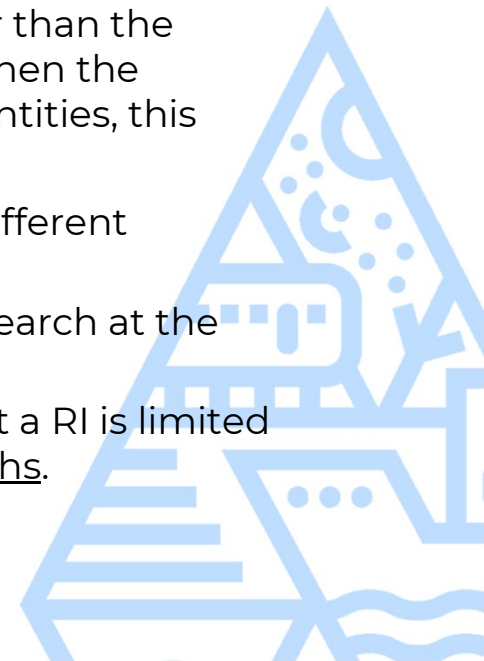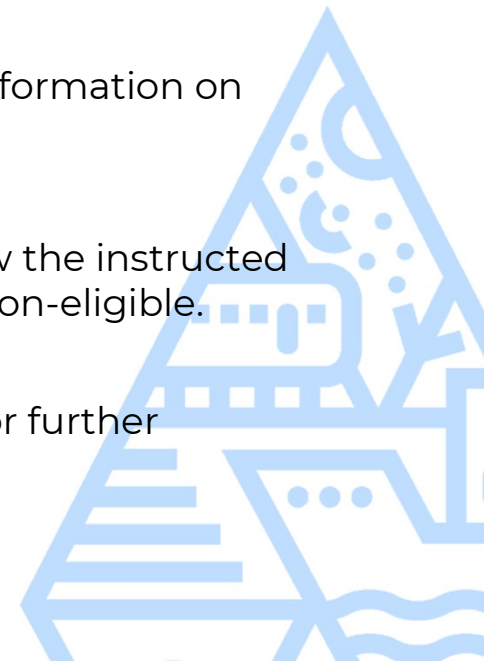
5. Eligibility, cont.

4. Key research priorities: Proposals must contribute to addressing at least one of the key research priorities in the polar regions as detailed in the call text. More information available at on the POLARIN website.

5. Dissemination: Only user groups that are allowed and willing to disseminate the results they have generated under the project are eligible for access (unless the users are working for SMEs).

6. Data policy: User groups must agree to comply with the POLARIN data policy (see information on the TA Call webpage and in Guidelines for Applicants).

7. Application documents: Proposals with Project Descriptions and CVs failing to follow the instructed structure and exceeding the maximum length will be rejected from the evaluation as non-eligible.

Non-fulfillment of any of the previous criteria implies non-acceptance of the proposal for further evaluation.

6. Call Topic: Research Priorities in Polar Regions

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Proposals must contribute to addressing at least one of the following key research priorities in the polar regions:

1. Sea Ice and Polar Oceans in the Climate System
2. Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level
3. Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Permafrost
4. Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity
5. Atmosphere Dynamics and Chemistry
6. Paleoclimate Processes and Variability
7. Humans, Societies and Global Changes

More information about the content of each key research priority can be found from the TA Call webpage.
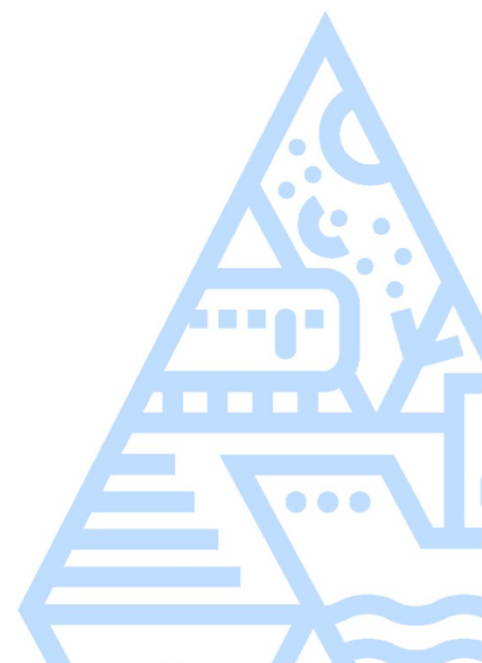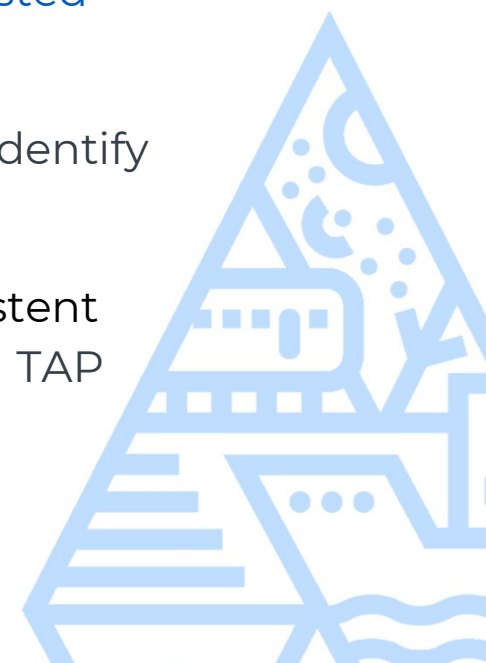
7. POLARIN Data Policy

The applicants must comply with the POLARIN Data Policy.

Preliminary TA Data Management Plan is a compulsory appendice of the proposal, but will only be assessed if access is granted.

User Groups granted POLARIN TA must agree to publish their data in a trusted repository the latest within 24 months from the completion of their access.

Support and training will be available for TA User Groups regarding e.g. to identify suitable metadata and data standards.

TA User Groups are obliged to report the citation and DOI or relevant persistent identifier of the resulting datasets, as well as their publications, in POLARIN TAP or in POLARIN Zenodo Community .

8. Evaluation and selection process

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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION → Eligibility check → Scientific evaluation [Selection of external expert reviewers → External expert review → Consensus evaluation and access recommendation] → Logistic evaluation and access decision → Negotiation → IMPLEMENTATION

Access not granted
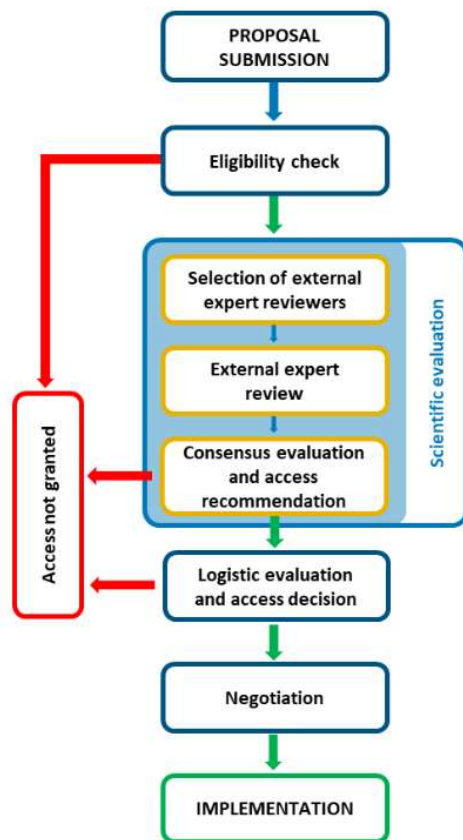
**1) Eligibility check** based on the eligibility criteria.

2) Scientific evaluation and access recommendation
- Managed by the Scientific Evaluation Secretariat and supported by the Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP), with >50% external members to POLARIN
- Each proposal is assigned a Watchdog from the SLP
- External reviewers evaluate the proposal by pre-defined criteria
- SLP prepares Scientific Evaluation Statements and access recommendation
- Recommended proposals move to logistic evaluation

Scientific evaluation criteria, each scored 1- 5 (poor-excellent):
1. Scientific quality of the planned research (weighing 25%)
2. Scientific and societal impact (weighing 10%)
3. Quality of the work plan and possible risks (weighing 25%)
4. Scientific competence of the user-group leader and user-group (weighing 15%)
5. Expected results (weighing 10%)
6. Exploitation of results (weighing 15%)

8. Evaluation and selection process, cont.

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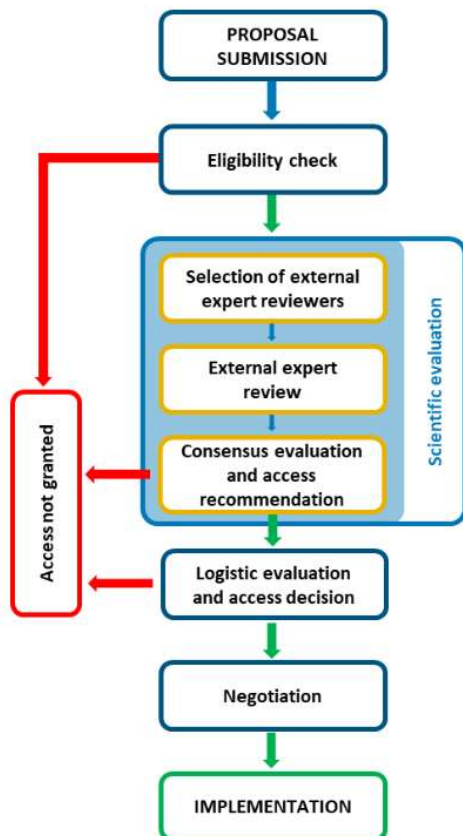
4) Logistic evaluation and access decision
- Done by the RI operators based on e.g. the logistic feasibility of the proposed work, use of equipment, area of operation and timing of access.
- Infrastructure Operators Forum provides support and consultation
- RI operators provide a short Logistic Evaluation Statement and make the access decision based on the scientific and logistic evaluation results

5) Access decisions are sent to the applicants, including the amount of granted access and travel and logistic costs, together with the scientific and logistic evaluation statements, via POLARIN TAP

6) Negotiation phase
- Applicants accept the granted access in POLARIN TAP
- Possible adjustments according to recommendations by the SLP or the RI operator(s)
- Signing of the agreements with the POLARIN Consortium and with the RI where access is granted.

9. Access Priority

The selection of user groups for access is based on scientific excellence, but at equal scientific merits priority will be given to user groups composed of users who:

- Have not previously used the installation.
- Are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists.
- Multidisciplinary and multinational user groups.
- User groups with gender balance and involvement of early career researchers.
- Ukrainian researchers from government-controlled territories as user group leaders.

Or projects that consider:

- Remote access to RIs, access to multiple RIs or a two-pole approach.
- Making a contribution to Large-Scale Polar Initiatives.

10. What happens after access is granted?

1) Preparations to the access implementation are done by the User Group, in consultation and collaboration with the RI:

- Confirming the dates of the access and booking accommodation from the RI.

- Applying or undergoing the RI specific permitting, licensing, training, medical examination processes.

- Making travel and freight arrangements to and from the RI (chartered parts arranged by the RI).

- Taking care of insurance arrangements (SAR etc.)

10. What happens after access is granted?

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2) Access field work / remote access implementation by the User Group, following the policies and safety and other regulations of the RI.

3) After the access has been implemented:

- Submission of a project report in POLARIN TAP (general, scientific, feedback)
- Submission of a travel claim to RI(s)
- Analyzing and publishing the data and making it openly available
- Reporting publications and open access datasets in POLARIN TAP or in POLARIN Zenodo Community.

11. Contact Information

General questions about POLARIN TA applications:
polarin_ta@listserv.dfn.de

Inquiries regarding the Scientific Evaluation:
polarin_evaluation_secretariat@ogs.it

Technical matters regarding POLARIN TAP:
polarin@inkode.it

POLARIN Expert Pool

Join the POLARIN Expert Pool to help
evaluate Trasnational Access applications!

Register to the pool from this link, it will only take
couple of minutes!

More information:
polarin_evaluation_secretariat@ogs.it

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Many thanks
for your interest and good luck in
the application process!