



POLARIN

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NETWORK

3rd POLARIN TA Call:

Webinar for Applicants

14th Sept, 2026

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www.eu-polarin.eu



Program



13.00-13.15 Introduction to POLARIN project and activities

13.15-13.45 3rd POLARIN Transnational Access Call: guidelines for applicants

13.45-14.15 How to prepare a successful proposal? Scientific and logistic perspectives.

14.15-14.40 Introduction to the POLARIN TAP on-line application platform

14.40-15.00 Questions and Answers





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3rd POLARIN Transnational Access Call -Guidelines for Applicants

Webinar on 14th Sept, 2026

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2. Information about the TA Call
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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.

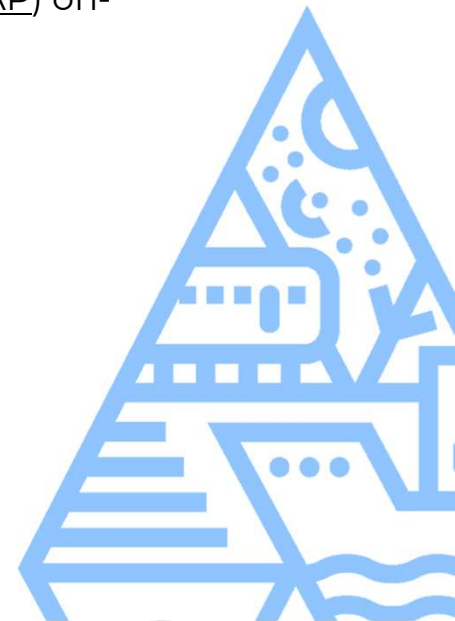


2. POLARIN TA call(s) 2026 –Key Features



Two separate calls:

- 3rd TA Call for access to terrestrial stations and vessels (in-person, RA) **31 RIs**
- 3rd Call to access Core Repositories (in-person, RA) **4 core repositories**
- Deadline of both calls on **29th Oct at 16:00 CEST**
- Applications + submission in POLARIN Transnational Access Platform (POLARIN TAP) on-line system
- Same eligibility rules, evaluation process and criteria as before
- New: **Access Pool** for Antarctic RIs and Vessels
- New: **Key Research Priority 8** Closing Polar Knowledge Gaps
- Simplified evaluation for access to core repositories (scientific + logistic evaluation directly by the RIs)
- Results announced in mid-March 2026 from both calls



2. Information about the TA Call(s)



Deadline for submission of proposals is **29th of October 2026, 4 pm CET**.

Information about the calls and applications:

- 1) POLARIN website at www.eu-polarin.eu
- 2) Dedicated call webpages ([TA Call](#), [Core Repositories Call](#))
- 3) Guidelines for Applicants ([TA Call](#), [Core Repositories Call](#))
- 4) POLARIN GIS at www.polarin-gis.org (Arctic and Antarctic RIs, Vessels)



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 of 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, dl. to apply the endorsement is **30.9.2026**).

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



Appendices required



1) **Project Description:** Must adhere to the maximum number of pages (6 or 8 pages), depending on the type of RI you are applying for access. 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

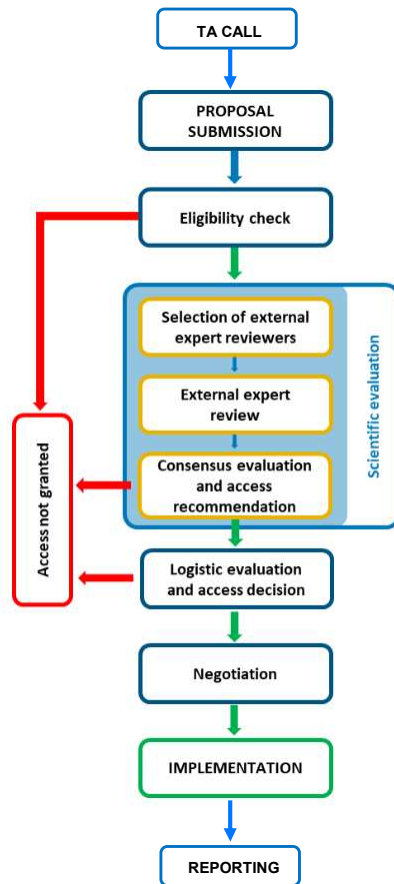
5) **Endorsement Letter:** Only to TARA and Antarctica InSync. Applicants must prepare a short project summary following the provided template and send it by email to the contact point of the RI. The request should be made as soon as possible and before the endorsement request deadline on 30th Sept,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

Access Pool (new)

Logistic evaluation

Negotiation

Implementation

Reporting

5. Eligibility



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

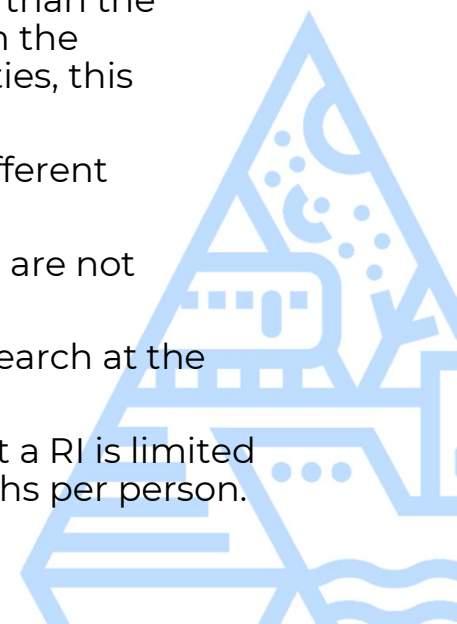
1. Affiliation:

- a) The User Group Leader and the majority of the users must work in an institution based in an [European Union Member State](#) or [HORIZON EUROPE associated country](#), with the exception of user groups led by Ukrainian researchers from government-controlled territories.
- b) The user group leader and at least the 80% of the users must work in countries other than the country(ies) where 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.

The User Group listed in POLARIN TAP should not include any additional members that are not accessing the infrastructure(s), either in person or via remote access.

2. Expertise: The user group leader must have the appropriate expertise 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 less than three months per person.



5. Eligibility, cont.



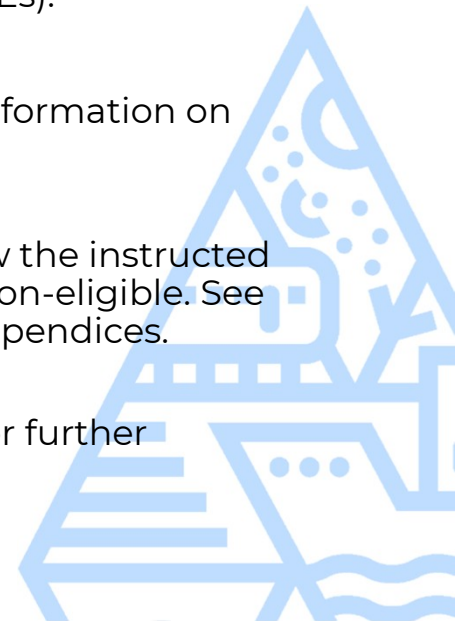
4. Key research priorities: Proposals must contribute to addressing at least one of the key research priorities in the polar regions as detailed in the call text. More information available on the [POLARIN website](#).

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 the 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. See the document templates with the embedded guidelines for the maximum length of appendices.

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



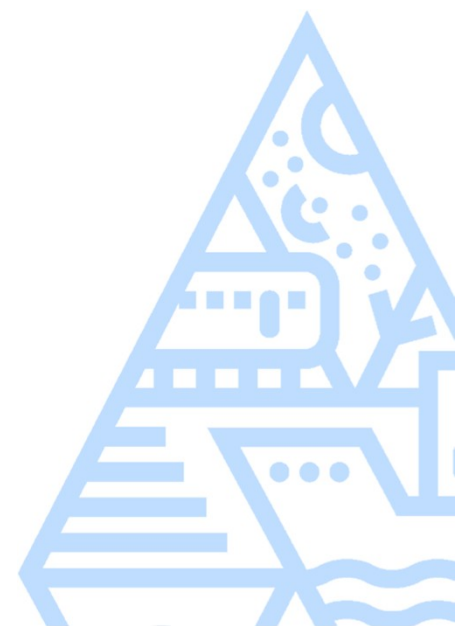
6. Call Topic: Research Priorities in Polar Regions



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
8. Closing (selected) Polar Knowledge Gaps (**new**)

More information about the content of each key research priority can be found from the [TA Call webpage](#).



7. POLARIN Data Policy



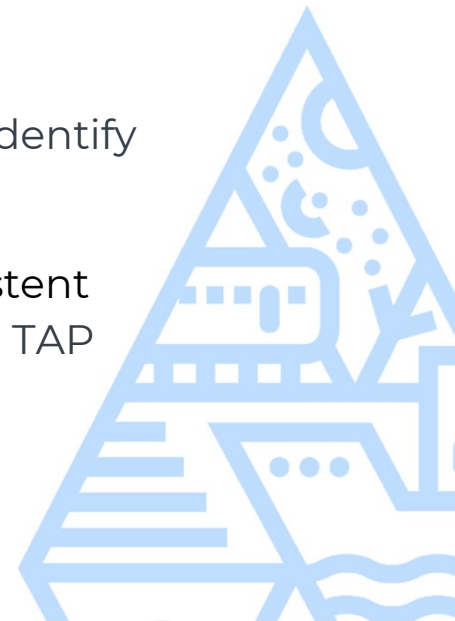
The applicants [must comply](#) with the POLARIN Data Policy.

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

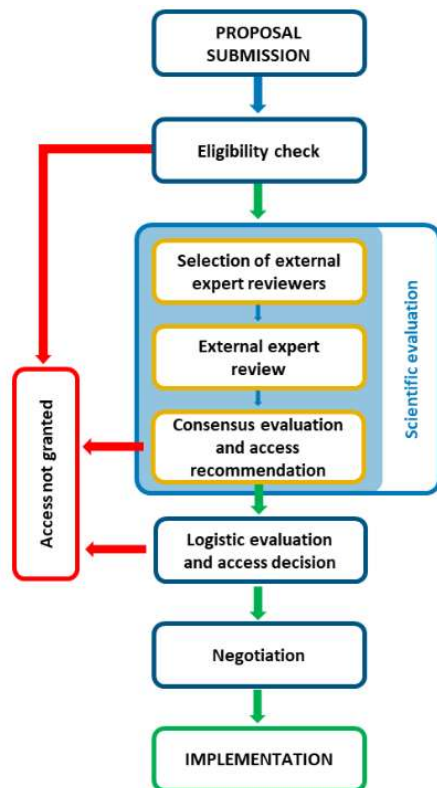
User Groups granted POLARIN TA must [agree to publish their data in a trusted repository](#) the latest within 24 months from the completion of their access.

[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



1) Eligibility check based on the eligibility criteria.

2) Scientific evaluation and access recommendations

- 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

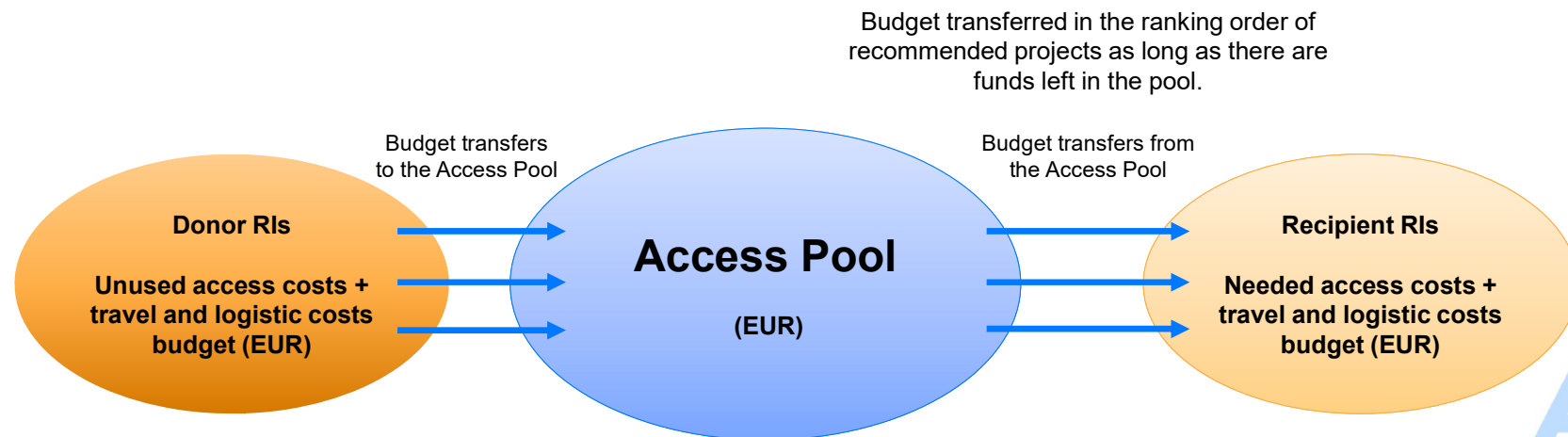
Scientific evaluation criteria, each scored 1- 5 (poor-excellent):

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%)

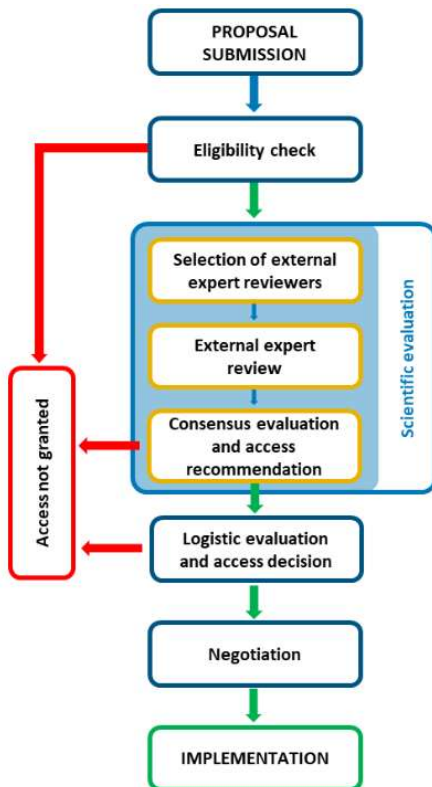
8. Evaluation and selection process, cont.

3) Access Pool implementation

- Done between the scientific and logistic evaluation phases
- Re-allocation of TA budget, based on ranking of recommended proposals by the SLP
- Implemented for **Antarctic RIs** and **Vessels** (separate pools) in the 3rd TA Call



8. Evaluation and selection process, cont.



4) Logistic evaluation and access decisions

- 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 or Closing Polar Knowledge Gaps key research priority.



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?



2) [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 Transnational 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!

