



POLARIN

POLAR
RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE
NETWORK

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V1, date

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Lead author	Vanessa Spadetto
Contributors	UOULU
Contributing authors	Hannele Savela
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SUMMARY

D2.3 Logistic evaluation report of the first call for proposals provides an overview on the process and outcomes of the logistic evaluation in the 1st POLARIN Transnational Access (TA) Call. The logistic evaluation is performed after the scientific evaluation, and it is conducted by the RI operators with the guidance of the Infrastructure Operator Forum. It is focused on assessing the feasibility of the proposal for implementation and on the logistical aspects of the recommended proposal(s) in order to identify the timing, resources, facilities and support needed from the infrastructure for the proposal implementation. The logistic evaluation of the 1st TA call was conducted between the 3rd and the 21st of March 2025 and finalized with the submission of access decisions. Out of the 46 proposals recommended for TA in the scientific evaluation, 37 were granted access after the logistic evaluation.

1. Introduction

The main goal of POLARIN is to address the scientific challenges of polar regions by providing integrated free-of-charge Transnational Access (TA) to a wide array of high-level Research Infrastructures (RIs) for selected user groups. The first TA call for proposals was opened at the very beginning of October 2024 (Month 8 of the POLARIN project lifetime), offering transnational access to 49 RIs. The scientific evaluation was managed by the POLARIN Scientific Evaluation Secretariat, with the support of a Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP). The scientific evaluation of submitted proposals was followed by the logistic evaluation performed by the RI operators with the advice of the Infrastructure Operators Forum (IOF), a forum that includes all RI operators of the project consortium. The logistic evaluation within the framework of POLARIN is essential to ensure the feasibility for implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed research proposals for Transnational Access (TA). The RI operators assess the practical and logistical aspects of each proposal, including consideration of timing, resources, facilities and support needed from the infrastructure for the proposal's implementation. The process is coordinated by the TA Coordinator (WP2 lead) and the IOF Chair. The IOF provides a platform for RI operators to review, discuss, and finalize their evaluations, clarifying any doubts on the budget allocation, the logistic evaluation criteria and guidelines and any specific questions about the recommended proposals. Through this structured and collaborative approach, the logistic evaluation ensures that access is granted to proposals that are both scientifically sound and logistically achievable, maintaining transparency and efficiency across all participating infrastructures.

2. Logistic evaluation process

2.1 Logistic evaluation procedures and structure

The evaluation of proposals is conducted in several steps: Eligibility Check, Scientific Evaluation, Logistic Evaluation and access decision, and Negotiation Phase (Figure 1). The logistic evaluation follows the scientific evaluation, which is coordinated by the POLARIN Scientific Evaluation Secretariat, with the support of the Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP). To know more about the scientific evaluation process and its outcomes regarding the 1st TA call, see D1.6 Selection report of the first call for proposals.

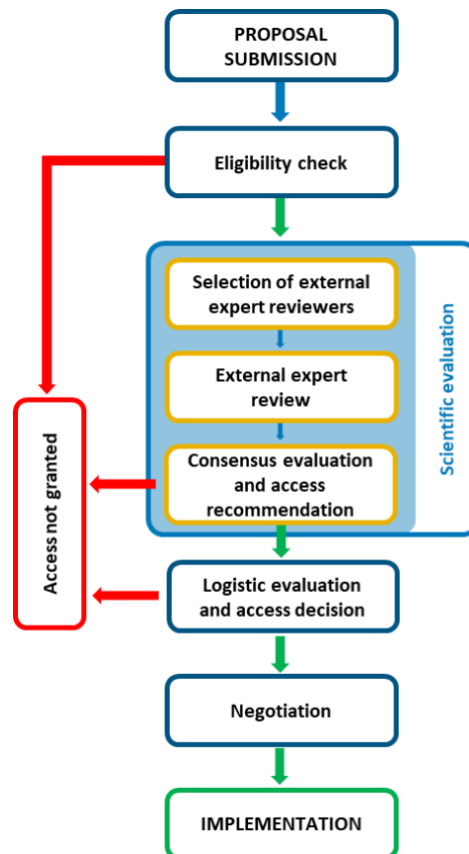


Figure 1. Workflow and different phases involved in the POLARIN evaluation procedure.

The structure and workflow of the logistic evaluation process is described in D2.1. Report on requisites for access and description of the logistic evaluation procedure. As a summary, the logistic evaluation is conducted by RI operators, following the Infrastructure Operator Forum (IOF) sub-meetings where the RI operators review and discuss any concerns or questions about the logistics and implementation of recommended proposals. The RI operators assess the recommended proposals to their RI(s) by paying special attention to the feasibility of the proposal for implementation and to the logistical aspects that allow the determination of the timing, resources, facilities and support needed from the infrastructure for the proposal's implementation. Based on the guidelines provided in D2.1 (Report on requisites for access and description of the logistic evaluation procedure, see Annex 1), the RI operators formulate logistic evaluation statements and either grant or reject the recommended proposals to their RI(s) in [POLARIN TAP](#) system. In the logistic evaluation, the RI operators also review the duration of the TA and the travel and logistic costs, based on their experience and assessment. The TA Coordination reviews the logistic evaluation results in POLARIN TAP and sends them to the applicant via the system; with this last step, the access decision is announced to the applicant.

2.2 Timeline and workflow of the logistic evaluation process in the 1st TA call

With regards to the 1st POLARIN TA call, the Infrastructure Operator Forum (IOF) sub-meetings were held on 3rd – 5th March 2025 for Arctic terrestrial stations, Antarctic terrestrial stations and research vessels who received recommended proposals. During the meetings, the RI operators were presented with the schedule for logistic evaluation and access decision and the outcomes of the call and of the scientific evaluation. They were instructed on how to prepare their logistic evaluation statements,

advised on budget considerations, and guided on how to submit the logistic evaluation and access decision in POLARIN TAP. Additionally, the TA coordination provided all RI operators who received recommended proposals with a budget table to help them keep the granted access within their available TA budget. The logistic evaluation conducted in POLARIN TAP (i.e., submission of logistic evaluation statements and access decisions by RI operators) took place between the 6th and 17th of March, and access decisions were sent out by 21st March 2025, with few exceptions for RI(s) who needed additional time to consider the implementation of the projects. Figure 2 summarizes the timeline of the 1st POLARIN TA Call.

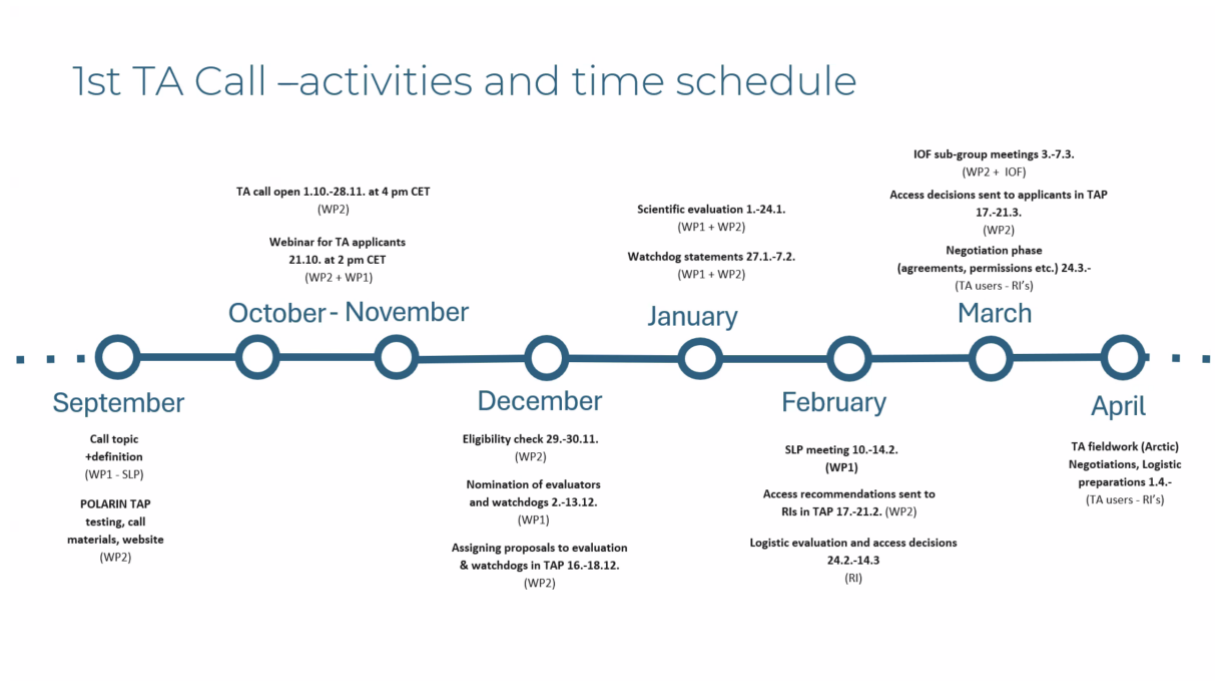


Figure 2. Time schedule of the 1st POLARIN TA call.

3. Results from logistic evaluation of the 1st call

In the 1st POLARIN TA Call, access was offered to 49 RIs in both polar regions: 27 Arctic Stations, 1 Observatory, 11 Antarctic Stations, 12 Polar vessels and platforms and 4 Core Repositories. 96 proposals were submitted, of which 86 were eligible and proceeded to scientific evaluation. Out of the 86 eligible proposals, 46 were recommended for funding by the SLP. For more information about the scientific evaluation process, please see D1.6 Selection report of the first call for proposals.

Following the logistic evaluation, 37 of the recommended proposals were granted access by the RI operators, out of which 1 was withdrawn by the User Group Leader due to health reasons. Three of the granted projects are utilizing Remote Access. In the first Reporting Period (01.03.2024 – 31.08.2025), 17 of the granted projects were implemented.

Table 1. Information about the TA/RA Calls and granted access in POLARIN (One TA Call arranged in RP1).

TA / RA Call	Submitted proposals	Eligible proposals	RIs applied	Days Applied	Projects Granted	Days Granted	RIs granted	Success rate (%)
1 st TA Call	96	86	28 (out of 49 offered in the call)	4283	37	1325	27	43%
TOTAL	96	86	28 (out of 49 offered in the call)	4283	37	1325	27	43%

The following paragraphs present statistics on granted projects as a result of the logistic evaluation process. The statistics refer to 36 proposals, excluding the withdrawn project.

The gender balance of the User Group Leaders in the 1st TA call was exactly 50% females, 50% males. The research career status of the User Group Leaders granted access was 36% early career scientist (Post Doctoral 19%, PhD student 17%), 64% experienced researcher. Large majority of the User Group Leaders (69%) work for universities, 28% for public research institutions, and 3% for other (e.g. company).

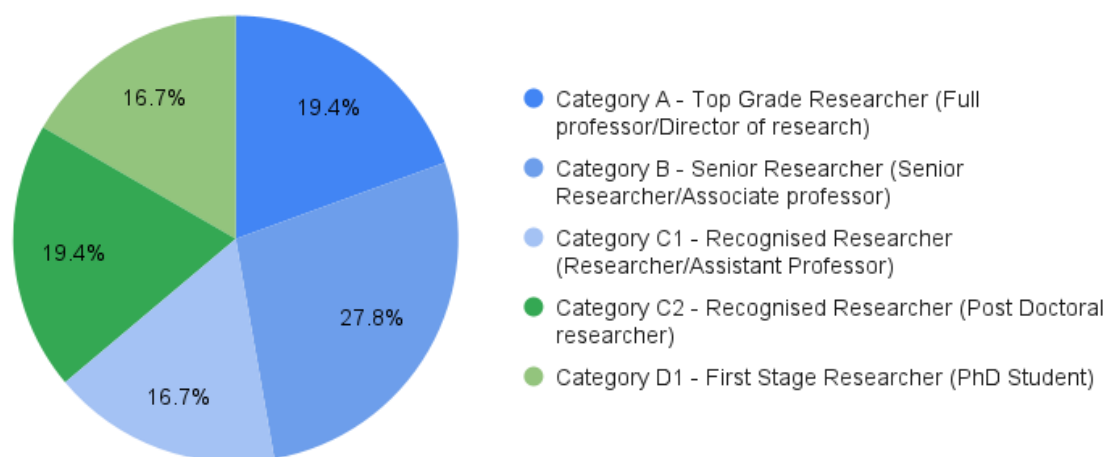


Figure 4. Career stage of the User Group Leaders granted access in the 1st TA call.

The granted User Group Leaders were affiliated with institutions from 15 different countries. The countries and their percentage distribution are presented in the chart below. The percentage of User Group Leaders (and/or majority of user group members) from institutions not located in EU Member States or Association countries was 25%. POLARIN Coordination is monitoring the composition of user groups granted access and took a preventive measure to limit the 2nd TA call to user groups with the User Group leader and majority of users from EU Member State or Associated state in order to maintain the percentage on non-EU majority User Groups below 20% by the next Reporting Period.

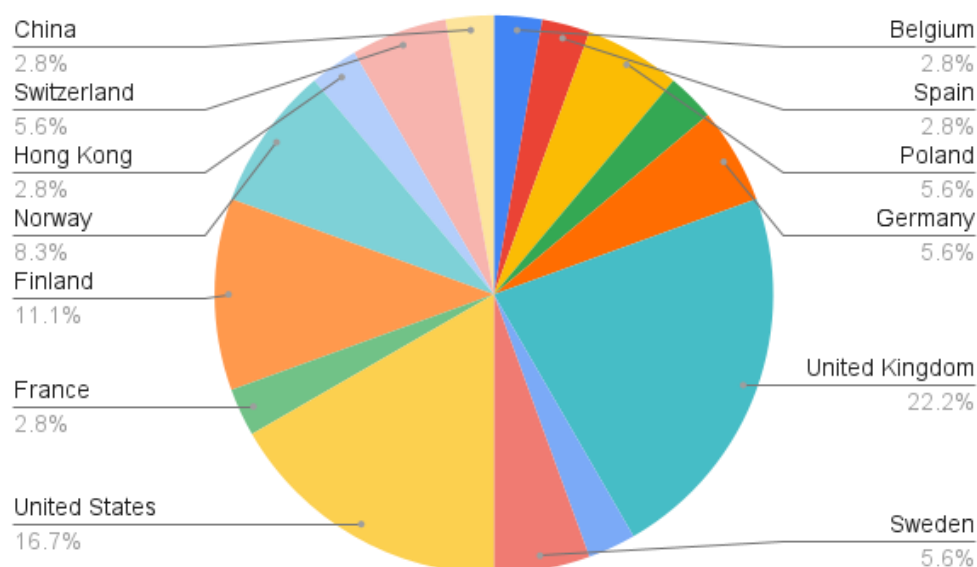


Figure 4. User Group Leaders granted access in 1st TA call by Country of Institution.

The User Group Leaders' fields of research are presented in the chart below. Large majority of the users represent the Earth Sciences & Environment (89%; sub-disciplines: Earth Sciences & Environment: Ecosystems & Biodiversity, 39%; Earth Sciences & Environment: Marine science/Oceanography: 19%; Earth Sciences & Environment: Other - Earth Sciences: 17%; Earth Sciences & Environment: Other - Environment: 8%; Earth Sciences & Environment: Global change & Climate observation: 6%), followed by Life Sciences & Biotech (6 %; sub-disciplines: Life Sciences & Biotech: Medicine, 3%; Life Sciences & Biotech: Other - Life Sciences & Biotech: 3%), Chemistry (3%), Social Sciences (3%).

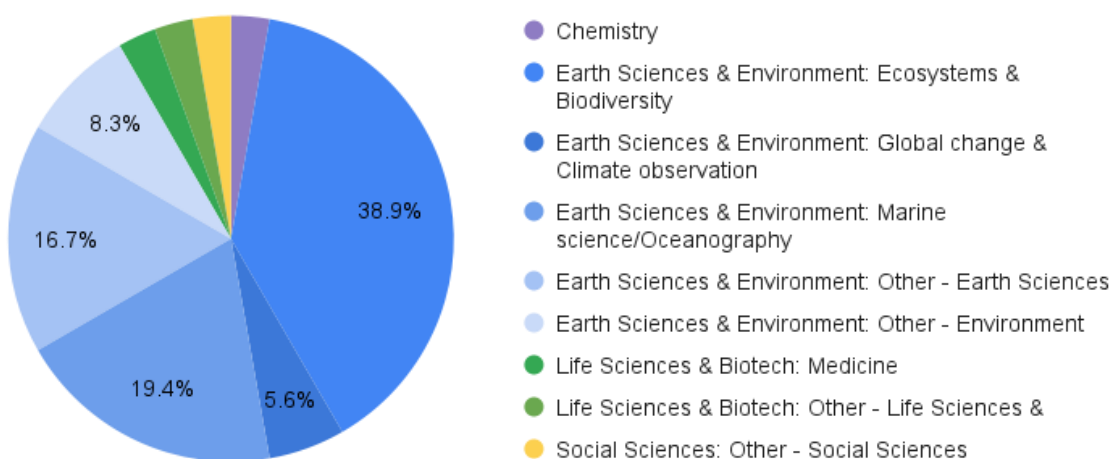


Figure 5. User Group Leaders granted access in the 1st TA call by field of research.

In terms of distribution of granted proposals between the polar regions, 27 were Arctic-based, 8 were Antarctic-based and 1 was bi-polar.

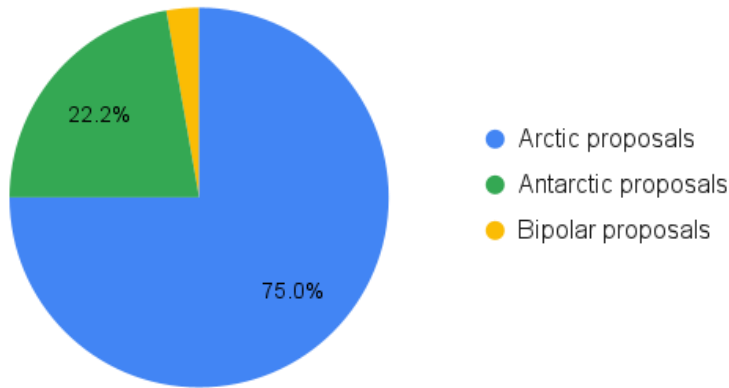


Figure 6. *Distribution of the granted proposals by region.*

Below is presented the full list of granted proposals following the logistic evaluation, including the project withdrawn by the applicant (96 CREEPIES).

Table 2. *List of granted proposals following logistic evaluation.*

Application Id	Acronym	Title	Group Leader Name	Group Leader Surname	Group Leader Organization	Group Leader Organization Country	List of Ris	RI Operator Country list	Granted Total Units
14	BlueCFjords	Blue carbon storage in Arctic fjords in response to glacier melt	Matthias	Troch	Department of Geology, Renard Centre of Marine Geology, Ghent University	BE	RV Celtic Explorer	IE	8
15	BIPOLAR	Cryptogam biodiversity dynamics under climate change in the Arctic and Antarctic poles	Mariana	García Criado	Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF)	ES	Kilpisjärvi Biological Station, Pallas-Sodankylä Atmosphere-Ecosystem Supersite, Professor Julio Escudero Station	FI, FI, CL	72

19	Pro-Carbon	Optical Proxies for estimation Carbon Fluxes in the Fram Strait	Piotr	Kowalczyk	Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences	PL	RV Kronprins Haakon	NO	38
24	DENIIS	Deglaciation of the Northeastern Icelandic Ice Sheet	Timothy	Lane	Aarhus University	DK	Rif Field Station, RV Árni Friðriksson	IS, IS	25
25	ArCoFun	Diversity and ecological roles of fungal parasites on benthic diatoms in Arctic coastal waters	Doris	Ilicic	Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB)	DE	Barrow Arctic Research Center	US	30
41	ENCHANT II	Environmental Change in High Arctic Lakes across the Holocene	David	Ryves	Loughborough University	GB	Villum Research Station	DK	14
42	FOCUS	Flux of Organic Carbon Understanding and Sediment	Natalia	Venturini	Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de la República	UY	MV Le Commandant Charcot	FR	30

		trophic status in Antarctic Fjords							
49	DROP	Deep Roots in Thawing Permafrost	Gesche	Blume-Werry	Umeå University	SE	Toolik Field Station	US	30
50	SCOOP	Sources and cycling of organic matter along glacial-proglacial-fjord flow paths	Eva	Doting	University of Pennsylvania	US	UK Arctic Research Station	GB	28
52	DORMANT	Dormancy in Extreme Antarctic Microbial Ecosystems	James	Bradley	Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography	FR	Mario Zucchelli Station	IT	40
54	IceVar	New observations on pack ice spatiotemporal variability and primary production	Jari	Haapala	Finnish Meteorological Institute	FI	MV Le Commandant Charcot	FR	103

62	BeNTHEC	Benthic Nutrient dynamics and the Temporal and spatial controls on High latitude fjord Elemental Cycling	Ricarda	Runte	UiT - The Arctic University of Norway, Department of Geosciences	NO	Polish Polar Station Hornsund	PL	25
63	PODS	Predator and ocean dynamics in the South Orkney Islands region	Angelika	Renner	Institute of Marine Research	NO	RV Hesperides	ES	28
65	PathoPast	Accessing penguin pathogens of the past using ancient guano deposits	Alexander	Williams	The University of Hong Kong	HK	Professor Julio Escudero Station	CL	50
71	HoBoPolar	The role of microbiota of plant holobiont in adaptive radiation of plants in polar regions	Kari	Saikkonen	University of Turku	FI	Ny-Ålesund Research Station - Sverdrup	NO	22

75	FLAIR	Fluid-seafloor interactions across the Antarctic seafloor under climate-driven change	Aaron	Micallef	MBARI	US	RV Hesperides	ES	42
85	USNA-PL	Upscaling estimates of Arctic Soil nutrient Availability from Plot to Landscape	Richard	Streeter	University of St Andrews	GB	Kilpisjärvi Biological Station	FI	23
88	ARC-LINK	Arctic Carbon Cycling: Linking terrestrial and aquatic systems	Cheristy	Jones	University of New Hampshire	US	Zackenberg Research Station	DK	30
91	ROBIN	The roles of biotic interactions in shaping the diversity, distribution, and functions of	Diana Laura	Rojas Guerrero	Jagiellonian University	PL	Arctic Station, The DMI Geophysical Observatory Qaanaaq, Zackenberg	DK, DK, DK	57

		Arctic pollinators					Research Station		
92	NICE	Unraveling the role of ice cover on bacteria diversity and nitrogen cycling in warming arctic lakes	Anna	Carratala Ripolles	EPFL	CH	Arctic Station	DK	42
93	MOSQUITO	Mosquito-borne viruses of the Arctic: an ecosystem perspective	Essi	Korhonen	University of Helsinki	FI	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	DK	28
94	NYRSTERT	Conducting repeated geophysical studies on various permafrost landforms in Northwestern Svalbard, spanning from the 1990s to 2025	Martin	Hoelzle	University of Fribourg	CH	Ny-Ålesund Research Station - Sverdrup	NO	44

96	CREEPIES (project withdrawn)	Climate relevant effects of microbial predation in eroding soils	Maria	Scheel	Wageningen University and Research	NL	Arctic Station	DK	7
106	ARCTICOLLAB	A view from nowhere? Situating research collaborations in the Swedish Arctic	Hanna	Oosterveen	University of Manchester	GB	Abisko Scientific Research Station	SE	14
109	PIONER	Present and past ice-ocean interactions in George V Land	Dimitrios	Evangelinos	Imperial College London, Department of Earth Science and Engineering	GB	RVIB Laura Bassi	IT	6
110	AEAD	Exploring Fungal Biodiversity and Neuroprotective Chemical Potential from sub-Arctic Fungi for Alzheimer's Disease: A	Jaime Roberto	Cabrera-Pardo	Roseman University of Health Sciences	US	Abisko Scientific Research Station	SE	34

		Multidisciplinary Expedition at Abisko Research Station							
117	TWILIGHT	Life in the twilight: diversity and ecology of fungi and protists in anoxic freshwater environments in the Arctic	Anne D.	Jungblut	Natural History Museum	GB	Barrow Arctic Research Center	US	42
120	PROMETHEUS	Proglacial Development, Methane and Subglacial Legacies in Ice Marginal Lakes in Eastern Greenland	Joost Martijn	van Genuchten	The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)	NO	Zackenberg Research Station, Sermilik Station	DK, DK	75
122	REEF	Research on Emerging maroalgal Ecosystems in a high arctic Fjord	Kai	Bischof	University of Bremen - Marine Botany	DE	Villum Research Station	DK	28

127	TEMPNET	The temperature-dependence of arctic interaction networks	Patricia Kaye	Dumandan	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	SE	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Zackenberg Research Station	DK, DK	22
132	AMP'D	Arctic Microbial Permafrost Degradation	Chukwufumnanya	Abuah	University of Southern California	US	Arctic Station Dirigibile Italia	IT	33
139	GLASS	GLacier Algal Sampling Strategies	Christopher	Williamson	University of Bristol	GB	Tarfala Research Station	SE	60
142	TERN	Timing of Eurasian ice sheet Retreat across the mid-Norwegian margin	Christine	Batchelor	Newcastle University	GB	RV DANA	DK	8
143	ODISIMP	Observational Data for Improved Sea Ice Modeling and Prediction	Wesley	Moses	U.S. Naval Research Laboratory	US	RV Kronprins Haakon	NO	70

144	HoPPD	Holocene changes in Penguin Population on Deception Island, South Shetland Islands	Yuesong	Gao	Yunnan Normal University	CN	Spanish Antarctic Station "Gabriel de Castilla"	ES	15
148	Whitelce	The White, glittering Ice: consistent modelling of the surface scattering layer in Antarctic ice shelves and Arctic sea ice	Roberta	Pirazzini	Finnish Meteorological Institute	FI	Mario Zucchelli Station	IT	60
150	SuRViVAL	Seasonal dRiVers of soil organic carbon Vulnerability in Arctic Landscapes	Catherine	Hirst	Durham University, UK	GB	Abisko Scientific Research Station	SE	42

4. Conclusions

The logistic evaluation of the 1st POLARIN TA Call successfully ensured that the recommended proposals were assessed for practical feasibility and for compatibility with available infrastructure capacities. Out of the 46 scientifically recommended proposals, 37 were granted access, demonstrating a strong alignment between the scientific merit and logistical viability. The outcomes of this first evaluation round provide valuable insights and lessons that will guide future calls, ensuring continuous improvement of the evaluation workflow and maintaining POLARIN's commitment to enabling excellent quality, and feasible and impactful polar research.

1 Acknowledgements

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