



INTERACT Transnational Access

–process management and best practises

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Transnational Access and the process involved



- Free access to **43 research stations**
- 6850 person-days of TA, and 970 person-days of RA in 2016-2020
- TOTAL TA/RA **7820 days**
- Trans-national > Not to national infrastructures
- Annual call in Aug-Oct > decisions in Feb-March >> **INTERACCESS**
- Max. 90 days per user group
- **So far, 75 % access used**
- **Final TA call opens in Aug 2019**

Used TA/RA (Oct 2016-Feb 2019)

TA / RA Call	Projects	Stations	Days	ODC (T&S, EUR)	Status
1 st TA/RA Call (104)	58 (2 RA)	32	1689	417 550	<i>Reported (PR1)</i>
2 nd TA/RA Call (81)	47 (3 RA, 4 mix)	36	1464	296 711	<i>Reporting (PR2)</i>
1st RA Call (3)	1	6	30	3 600	<i>Reported (PR2)</i>
2 nd RA Call (6)	2	4	20	3400	<i>Accepted (PR2)</i>
3rd TA/RA Call (217)	61	33	2618	534 189	<i>Granted (PR2)</i>
TOTAL (411)	169 (375 users)	42	5821	1 255 450	
<i>Offered in GA</i>	-	43	7820	1 566 936	

Strengths and limitations

- Strong **brand** with a high TA User satisfaction (95%) and User Community
- **New collaboration** and research to stations, improved infrastructure use
- **Streamlined process** from application and evaluation to reporting and feedback (INTERACCESS) >> enables working with **large volumes** and **follow-up** of access and budget usage, and **process improvements**
- Stations have the final word on accepting/rejecting project for access (availability, feasibility, budget) and can follow their own admin practises with travel reimbursements etc. >> enables **individuality**
- The joint system is synchronized with the possible station application/permitting processes >> **main system feeds into individual processes where there is more flexibility**
- **Not easy to redirect/swap projects** between stations (different daily unit costs, travel costs etc)
- **Import/export and customs issues (depends on the country)**
- Eligible and non-eligible costs >> **reimbursement after the access is used**

Novel solutions to improve access: Remote Access



Photo: Jan Kavan.

- Modality of Transnational Access
- Station staff collects the samples according to the research plan
- 17 stations, 970 staff-days
- Logistic costs reimbursed
- Same calls, application and evaluation process to TA
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Suitable for multi-station and comparative approach, but requires simple set-up

Novel solutions to improve Access: Virtual Access

VIRTUAL ACCESS



Virtual Access in INTERACT

Virtual Access (VA) means free access to stations' data and databases. Altogether 29 research stations located in the **Arctic** and northern forest and alpine areas will offer Transnational Access by 2020.

Below you can find a listing of the INTERACT partners that currently offer Virtual Access, including a description of the data or database available and a link to it.

When using the data retrieved via Virtual Access in publications, please acknowledge the Partner/station/database providing the data and INTERACT Virtual Access under EU-H2020 Grant Agreement No.730938.

Partner	Description of the VA offered	Link to the data/database
Centre d'études nordiques (CEN)	CEN studies geosystems and ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater and coastal) in the changing Arctic. The CEN Network is composed of 9 research stations and over 110 automated climate stations, and extends across a 4000 km gradient of ecozones, from boreal forest to extreme polar desert environments in the Canadian High Arctic. To archive and disseminate environmental data from this network and from other Arctic research and monitoring activities, CEN has established Nordicana D (www.cen.ulaval.ca/nordicana_d), a formatted, peer-reviewed, online data publication series. Produced only in electronic form, the data entries can be updated, and derived values (daily, month and annual means) are freely and openly accessible. Each volume is indexed via an assigned Digital Object Identifier (DOI), which provides citation credit to the research group or individual. The volumes are cross-referenced in Polar Data Catalogue (www.polardata.ca), and contain extensive metadata, photographic documentation, and citation details. To date, 28 data series have been published, ranging from 29 years of climate station data. The average weather we would expect over a long period of time (seasons, years, decades). Climate varies from place-to-place across the Earth. Climate is determined by long-term (over at least... station data, to multi-year data from transects of borehole and near-surface ground temperatures, to groundwater monitoring, lake ice photographic data, microbiological DNA reference sequences, and lemming population monitoring data.	Nordicana D
Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, Asiaq - Greenland Survey, National Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland	Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) is an integrated monitoring and long-term research programme on ecosystems and climate change effects and feedbacks in the Arctic. Data collected via GEM at the stations Zackenberg Research Station, Nuuk-Basic and Arctic Station is freely available and covers more than 3000 variables measured on a continuous basis spanning bio-, climate-, geo-, glacio-, and marine parameters. Metadata describing the data and links to specific manuals are included in the database or at the GEM homepage (www.g-e-m.dk).	GEM database
Aurora Research Institute	The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) maintains a collection of scientific research license information for studies conducted within the Northwest Territories (NWT), Canada. ARI has developed the NWT Research Database to make this research licensing data publicly available. This database is a compilation of license information from various processes that have been in place for administering the NWT Scientists Act since 1974.	NWT Research database
Natural Resources Institute Finland	Kainuu Fisheries Research Station (KFRS) offers over forty-year-long time series (catch, cpue, size and age of the fish since 1974) of the most commonly caught fish species that have been collected from lake Oulujärvi (surface area 928 km ²) situated nearby the KFRS. The data has been processed to include, for example, the annual mean, median, and range of each species. In addition, water temperature and water quality data from the station is available as background information. Kolarí Field site of Natural Resource Institute Finland offers access to metadata of long and short term ecological research data concerning boreal forests, sub-arctic flora and fauna and use of polar nature. Long term data consists of timberline studies and phenomenology of Northern Finland. Majority of the data has been processed and ready for use. A registration is required to access the data. Metadata can be	KFRS database RADAR database

- Free and open access to data and metadata
- INTERACT [Virtual Access single-entry point](#)
- 18 partners offer at the moment
- No application process >> **new collaborations via registration and user attribution**
- **Increased the usage** of data from INTERACT stations
- **Unique retrospective/historical data** made available
- **Supplements the data** from TA/RA
- Data not always in a usable form (**standardization/harmonization**)
- **Data products and visualizations not necessarily available yet** from all providers

Experience in harmonising access requirements to INTERACT Stations

- The joint application, evaluation, recommendation, reporting and feedback system works well and helps to harmonize the access requirements and practises
- Special aspects regarding station facilities, permitting, budget, cost structure etc. can anyhow be taken into account >> information to TA Users, access decisions, travel reimbursement procedures
- **The joint part of the process feeds to the station level processes and again back to the joint process from the TA Users and Stations**

5 Recommendations for Best practise

1. Plan and define which parts of the access process can be coordinated jointly (between different stations/infrastructures)
2. Plan and define which parts should take into account the differences between stations/infrastructures or feed to the station level processes
3. Efficient feedback and information flow at all levels of the access process and between access providers and users is the key to continuous development and fine-tuning of the system
4. Prepare to start small (pilot) and build from there, based on the gained experience and feedback
5. Don't make it too complicated >> simple and practise-oriented usually works the best