

Letter of intent between the European Polar Board (EPB) and the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT).

Given that:

- The European Polar Board (EPB) is an international Organization of 24 Members from national operators and research institutes in 17 countries. EPB has a mission to coordinate European Arctic and Antarctic research, optimize the use of European research infrastructures and foster multilateral collaboration. With over 40 Polar Stations in the Arctic and Antarctica are managed by the EPB members, the EPB provides a scientific and technological bi-polar platform with a remit that covers terrestrial and marine infrastructure and the capacity to involve national scientific or funding agencies in Europe.
- In the frame of the EU-PolarNet project, the European Polar Board is looking at compiling an updated assessment of the European Polar Infrastructures in Antarctica and in the Arctic (European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue) based on the assessment carried out in 2006 by the EC-FP6 European Polar Consortium ERA-Net. In this framework, the European Polar Board is looking forward to cooperating with INTERACT which has provided a valuable assessment of the Arctic Stations belonging to the Network.
- The EPB has addressed a letter of support to INTERACT which will be used in the proposal of INTERACT II.
- INTERACT is an infrastructure of currently 65 research stations belonging to 19 countries in the Arctic and neighbouring forest and alpine regions. The stations annually host thousands of researchers in a wide range of disciplines including cryosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, lower atmosphere, coastal and human dimensions. The INTERACT infrastructure is the fundamental building block for other networks, international research and monitoring programmes and EU, North American and Russian projects.
- The achievements of INTERACT are unique and have set a standard and model for future collaboration and coordination of Arctic research and monitoring. INTERACT is happy to share its expertise and strongly supports the EU-PolarNet project, which is aiming at creating an Integrated European Polar Research Program that will conduct societally-important, state-of-art the science in both Polar Regions.
- INTERACT has addressed a letter of support to EPB which has been used in the proposal of EU-PolarNet.

The European Polar Board and INTERACT agree to implement a mutual cooperation on the following points:

1. EPB and INTERACT agree to joint their effort in assessing the European Polar Infrastructure by exchanging expertise and methodologies, as well as to look forward a unified and coherent approach and best practices for accessing and managing Polar infrastructures;
2. INTERACT and EPB will exchange information about their respective EU proposals (or part of them) in due time to inform each other on the European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue (EPB) and INTERACT II (INTERACT) status of art;
3. The EPB will encourage its Members who manage stations in the Arctic to join INTERACT and provide information on their infrastructures;
4. EPB and INTERACT will exchange any information, including templates, questionnaires, example of survey procedure etc., as well as report on best practices for operating a research station, which could be relevant and useful for improving the mutual cooperation and facilitating the achievement of the common task.
5. EPB will contact COMNAP to explore and facilitate its contribution to achieve the common targets.

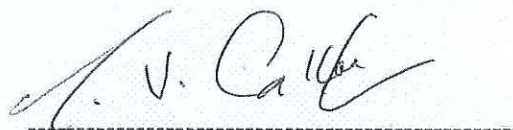
Signed in _____

on 2 December 2014



Dr Harald Loeng

Chairman of the European Polar Board



Terry v. Callaghan PM 6

Co-ordinator INTERACT