

2015-2022 ACTIVITIES



3 HIGHLIGHTS



**EUROPEAN
POLAR BOARD**



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ABOUT THE EPB

The European Polar Board (EPB) is an independent organisation that focuses on major European strategic priorities in both the Arctic and the Antarctic regions. Current EPB membership includes research institutes, funding agencies, scientific academies and polar operators from across Europe.

Since 2015, the EPB has been an independent entity, with its Secretariat hosted by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in The Hague. Established in 1995, the EPB was earlier an Expert Board of the European Science Foundation, formed to provide strategic advice on Arctic and Antarctic issues.

The EPB envisions a Europe with a strong and cohesive polar research community and wherein decisions affecting or affected by the polar regions are informed by independent, accurate, and timely advice from the EPB.

Vision:

To be the **strong** collective voice of European research in the polar regions, providing **independent** policy advice at national and international levels.

Mission:

To **promote, coordinate** and **advance** European research at high latitudes by providing a single collaborative platform for European polar researchers.



The EPB has a mission to improve European coordination of Arctic and Antarctic research, by optimising the use of European polar research infrastructures. We promote multilateral collaborations between our Members and provide a single contact point for the global polar community. We advance the collective knowledge of polar issues, particularly in the context of European societal relevance.

THE EPB - FROM 2015 TO 2022

2015



2016



..... 2017

March
31st

EPB Spring 2017 Plenary Meeting | Prague

March
31st

Recognise common goals of engaging and supporting polar science through scientific activities, promotion of polar facilities, and education, outreach and communication

EPB – APECS MoU

March
31st

Collaboration of Arctic and Antarctic projects funded by the European Commission

Founding of EU Arctic Cluster (Now EU Polar Cluster, 2019)

May
26th

"Polar change and implications for mid-latitude weather – science and policy for society in Europe"

EPB Town Hall Session at European Geosciences General Assembly

November
21st

EPB Autumn 2017 Plenary Meeting | Bremerhaven

Luxembourg's polar network

New Member: polar.lu

..... 2018

March
4th

Detailed information on European stations, vessels and aircraft available for Arctic and Antarctic research

European Polar Infrastructure Database launched

EPB Spring 2018 Plenary Meeting | Davos

June
15th

Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University, Sweden

New Member: ARCUM

Workshop: Minimising plastic use and waste in polar research and logistics

September
3rd

'Connecting Polar Research, Policy and Stakeholders Across Scales - Examples from Europe and Beyond'

UArctic Congress 2018

November
22nd

EPB Retreat and Autumn 2018 Plenary Meeting | La Cristalera



2019.....

- European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue published*

Includes a total of 64 European polar facilities, 32 in the Antarctic and 32 in the Arctic, with EU-PolarNet

February 13th
- EPB Spring 2019 Plenary Meeting | Lisbon

March 27th
- Workshop: Towards Harmonisation of Polar Infrastructure Access*

With ARICE, EU-PolarNet, FARO, GEO-CRI and INTERACT

August 1st
- EPB Autumn 2019 Plenary Meeting | Brest

October 22nd
- Founding of Project: SO-CHIC*

Objective is to understand and quantify variability of heat and carbon budgets in the Southern Ocean

November 13th

2020.....

- 25th Anniversary of the EPB

Several activities and events planned at major international Antarctic and Arctic research and policy meetings

January 1st
- Founding of Project: INTERACT III*

Build capacity for identifying, understanding, predicting and responding to diverse environmental changes of the Arctic

February 13th
- EPB Spring 2020 Plenary Meeting | Online

April 23rd
- First EPB Members COVID-19 discussion meeting

July 1st
- Second EPB Members COVID-19 discussion meeting

August 7th
- Founding of Project: EU-PolarNet 2*

Platform to co-develop strategies to advance the European Polar Research action and its contribution to the policy-making processes

October 1st
- EPB Autumn 2020 Plenary Meeting | Online

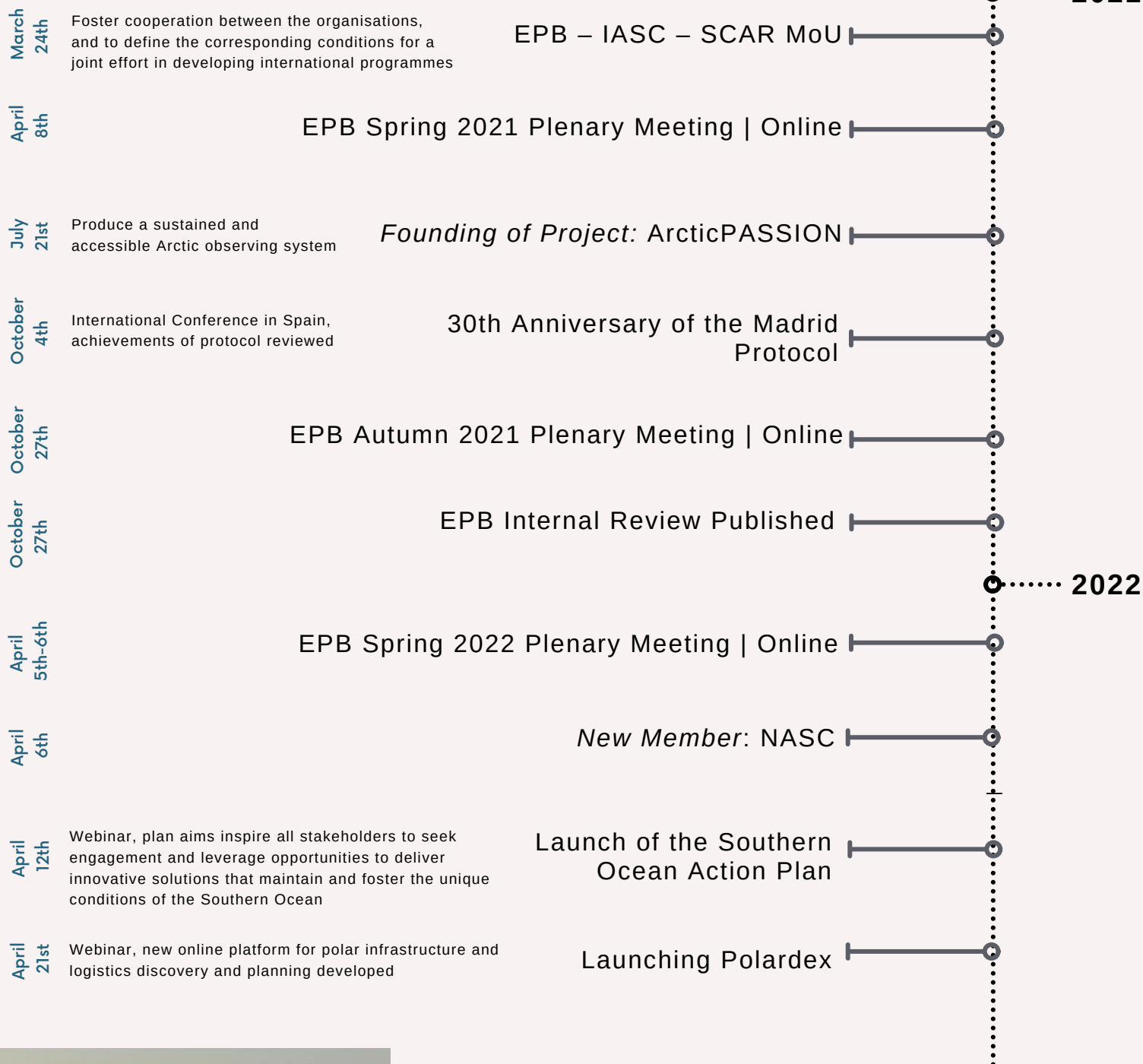
October 15th
- New Member: TUBITAK-MAM PRI*

TUBITAK Marmara Research Center Polar Research Institute, Turkey

October 15th
- ASM3 webinar series hosted by the EPB

The EPB hosted the official webinar series of the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial, in collaboration with ASM3 organisers Iceland and Japan

October to June 2021

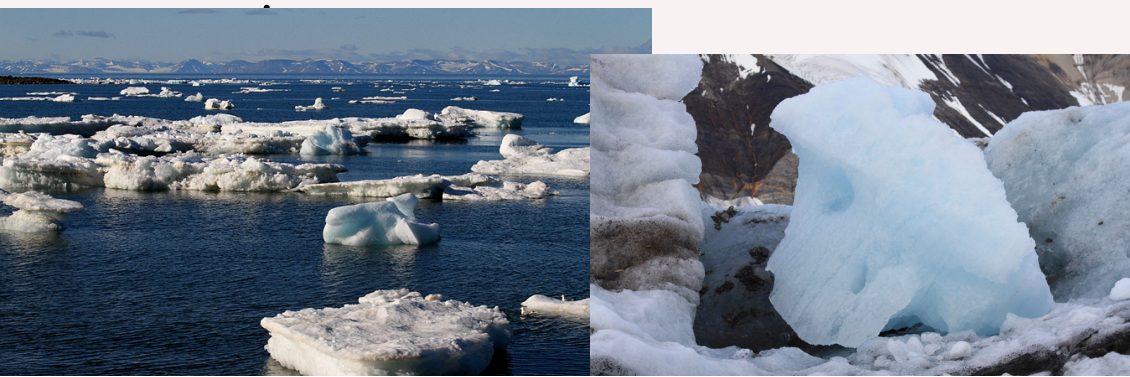
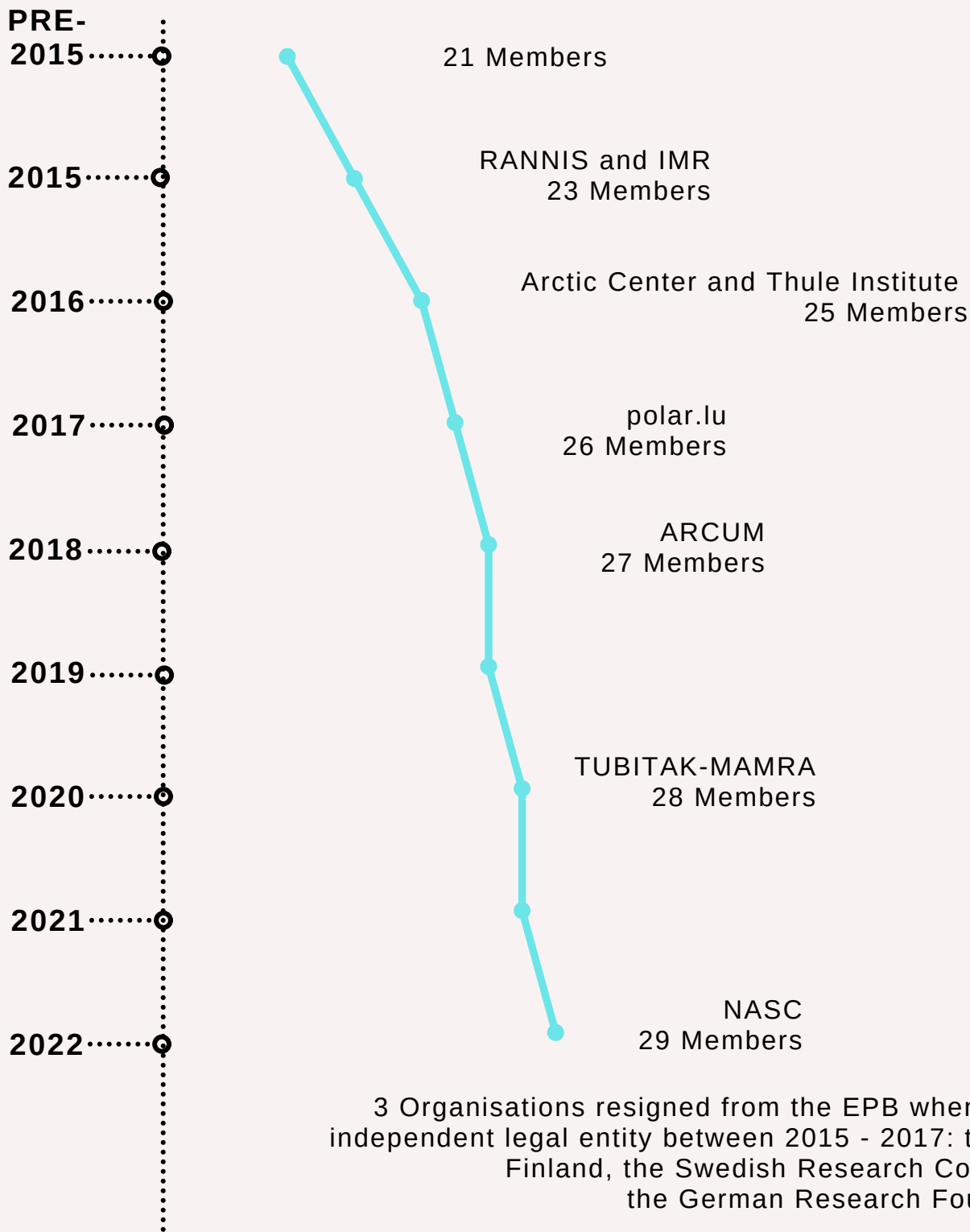


2022.....

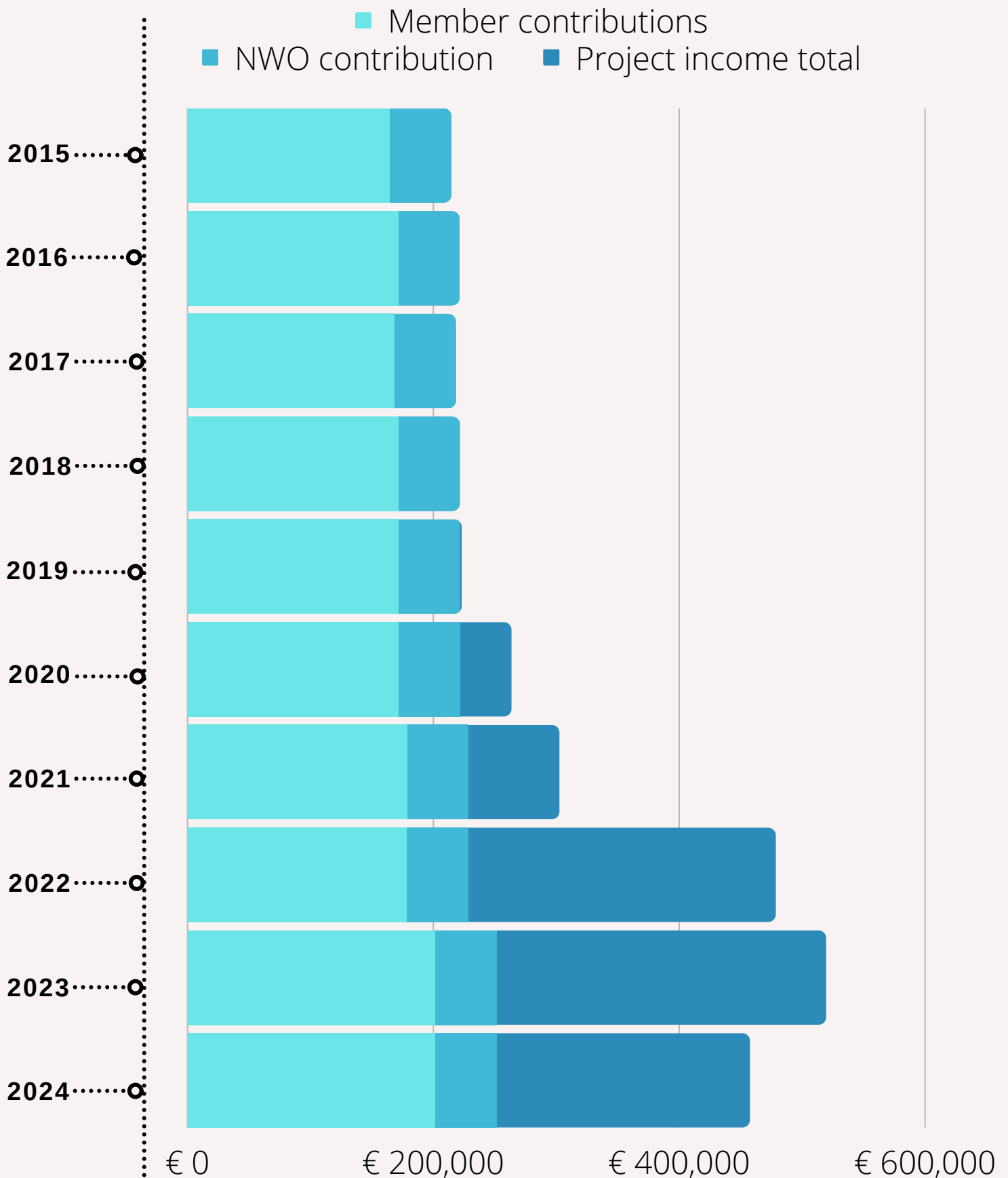
EPB Strategy Retreat Bologna	Developing the EPB's Strategy for the period 2023-2027	June 13 - 17th
EPB welcomes a new Policy Officer & a Communications Officer		June / July
EPB Members Online discussion on the impacts of high fuel prices on polar research		October 25th
<i>Founding of Project: OCEAN:ICE</i>	Ocean-Cryosphere Exchanges in ANTarctica: Impacts on Climate and the Earth System	November 1st
EPB Autumn 2022 Plenary Meeting Luxembourg		November 19 - 22nd



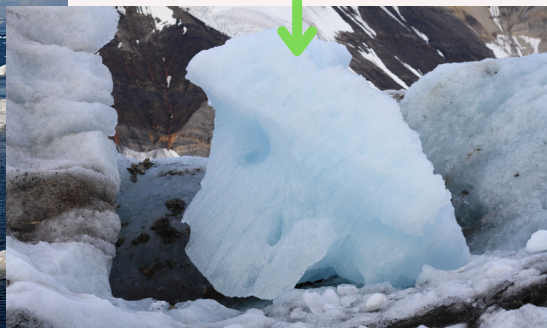
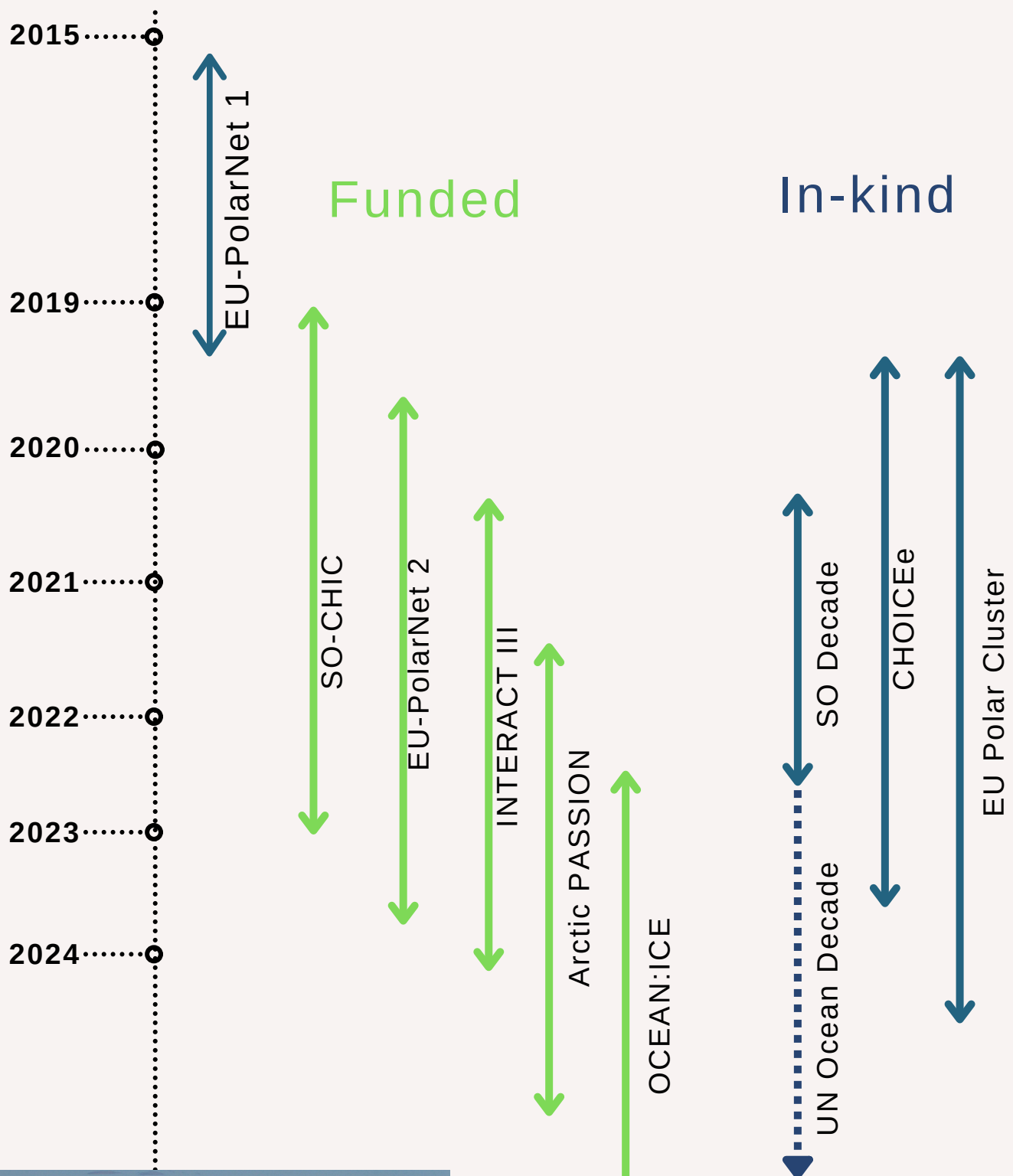
EPB MEMBERSHIP 2015 - 2022



EPB'S FINANCES



PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS



PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS



EU-POLARNET EU-PolarNet

2015 - 2020 Connecting Science with Society

2020 - 2024 Coordinating and co-designing the European Research Area

EU-PolarNet 2 is the world's largest consortium of polar research expertise and infrastructures, composed by 25 partners representing all European Member States and Associated Countries which have well-established Polar Programmes. The ambition of EU-PolarNet 2 is to establish a sustainable and inclusive platform to co-develop and advance European Polar research actions and to give evidence-based advice to policymaking processes.

EPB deliverables

- Definition of the vision and mission of the EU Polar Cluster incl. terms of reference (complete)
- Terms of reference for the EPCO
- Process to identify a suitable host entity for the EPCO
- An outline work plan for the EPCO's first years of work



ARCTIC PASSION



ARCTIC
PASSION

Pan-Arctic observing System of Systems:
Implementing Observations for societal Needs
2021-2025

The Arctic is more affected by climate warming than any other region. To monitor the ongoing changes, to predict the evolution of the climate system and to develop mitigation measures, we need a coherent system of Earth Observation.

EPB deliverables and activities

- Briefing Meeting to inform MEPs and European Officials on Arctic topics of emerging priority
- Legacy planning for Arctic PASSION
- Supporting EU Polar Cluster activities



SO-CHIC



Southern Ocean Carbon and Heat Impact on Climate | 2019 - 2024

To contribute to reducing uncertainties in climate change predictions, the overall objective of SO-CHIC is to understand and quantify variability of heat and carbon budgets in the Southern Ocean through an investigation of the key processes controlling exchanges between the atmosphere, ocean and sea ice using a combination of observational and modelling approaches.

EPB deliverables

- Design of project visual identity and branding material, and social media profiles
- Dissemination and communication plan and its updates
- Two Press briefing events
- Policy Briefing Events - one (European policy makers) Brussels (in context of IPCC AR6 WG1 report) and two, at the side of ATCM
- Skill-building workshop for early career researchers
- Two cross cutting conference sessions held at relevant scientific conferences (EGU and SCAR)
- Competition for creating a Scientific illustration and visualisation
- Webinar series describing SO-CHIC research
- White Paper summarising results from SO-CHIC science workshop



OCEAN:ICE  **OCEAN:ICE**

Ocean-Cryosphere Exchanges in ANTarctica: Impacts on Climate and the Earth System | 2022 - 2026

OCEAN:ICE is an exciting new project that will push forward the boundaries in our understanding of how the Antarctic ice sheet and surrounding Southern Ocean influences our global climate, as well as reduce the dangerous levels of uncertainty around how much it will melt in the coming centuries.

EPB deliverables

- Two policy briefing events
- Webinar series describing OCEAN:ICE research



INTERACT III INTER \neq ACT

Provides Access to Numerous Research Stations | 2020 - 2024

INTERACT is an infrastructure project under the auspices of SCANNET, a circumarctic network of currently 89 terrestrial field bases in the Arctic.

INTERACT specifically seeks to build capacity for research and monitoring, and is offering access to numerous research stations through the Transnational Access Program.

EPB deliverables

- Report on Significance of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation for Research in the Arctic
- Policy briefing events for Arctic and Antarctic policymakers

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

EU POLAR CLUSTER



Brings together EC funded projects on polar topics

The EU Polar Cluster is a network of Horizon 2020 and a Framework Programme 7 funded polar projects, including a range of Arctic, Antarctic and Southern Ocean, and Polar projects. Projects that have ended still provide input to the Cluster, and we include them here to support the legacy of these projects. The Cluster projects are also supported by key partners, who are involved in the Task Groups.

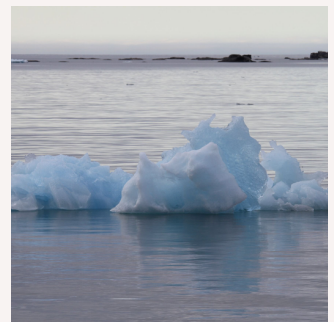


SO DECADE



Ensuring Sustainable Management of Oceans Across the Globe| 2021 - 2030

In the aim of reversing the cycle of decline in ocean health, the United Nations proclaimed a Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) to globally strengthen the international cooperation needed to develop the scientific research and innovative technologies that can connect ocean science with the needs of society.



AANCHOR

All Atlantic Cooperation for Ocean Research and Innovation |

The main ambition of AANCHOR is to promote the implementation of the South Atlantic Research and Innovation Flagship initiative and the Belém Statement (BS), signed by the EU, Brazil and South Africa in 2017, to upscale research and innovation cooperation within the Atlantic basin, from Antarctica to the Arctic.



COLLABORATIONS

Memoranda of Understanding

EPB — ESA MOU

February 3rd, 2016 | Paris

The purpose of this agreement is to foster cooperation between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the EPB and to define the corresponding terms and conditions for the use of European Antarctic stations for scientific and technological purposes, including planetary simulation studies, medical and psychological relevant issues and life support.



EPB — APECS MOU

March 31st, 2017 | Prague

With this MoU, the EPB and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) recognise common goals of engaging and supporting polar science through scientific activities, promotion of polar facilities, and education, outreach and communication. The EPB and APECS recognise the importance of fostering the next generation of researchers that will be faced with increasingly critical challenges due to the impacts of climate change on the polar regions and their global significance.



EPB — IASC — SCAR MOU

Renewed March 24th, 2021

The purpose of this MoU is to foster cooperation between the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and the EPB and to define the corresponding terms and conditions for a joint effort in developing international programmes and initiatives based on scientific priorities, scientific excellence and use of European Antarctic and Arctic infrastructures.



2017

ACTIVITIES OF THE EPB

April 23rd | Vienna

EPB Town Hall Session at European Geosciences General Assembly

May 22nd | Beijing

EPB Plenary Members at ATCM XL

July 7th | Hobart

HASSEG Conference Workshop: Towards the Incorporation of the Humanities and Social Sciences into Large Polar Research Projects

Depths and Surfaces: Understanding the Antarctic Region through the Humanities and Social Sciences

July 10th | Leuven

XIIth SCAR Biology Symposium EPB Pannel

Penguins: Waddle we do without them? – Collaborative Approaches to Polar Issues

October 14th | Reykjavik

EPB at the Arctic Circle Assembly Breakout Session

Science as a Catalyst for International Cooperation | EU-PolarNet, INTERACT

Scales of Observations – Connecting Arctic Data, Information and People | GEO, SAON, WMO, ICC

October 27th | Online

1st Webinar "Antarctic Treaty and the protection of the environment" | EPB & APECS

November 2nd | Online

2nd Webinar "An introduction to the Arctic Council" | EPB & APECS

2018

March 15th | Online

3rd Webinar "ESA's Human Research Programme" | EPB & APECS



April 18th | The Hague

● **EPB & PPP-SERA Open Session**

'Generating Societal Value from Improved Weather, Water & Ice Forecasts in the Polar Regions'

June 5th | Online

● **4th Webinar "EU Arctic Cluster" | EPB & APECS**

June 16th | Davos

● **POLAR2018 Workshop**

'Minimising plastic use and waste in polar research and logistics'

June 18th | Davos

● **'Celebrate the Arctic' Event**

Casual evening of informal networking to highlight successes of the Arctic research community | ARCUS, IASC, NAS PRB, FARO, APECS

October 21st | Reykjavik

● **Arctic Circle Assembly Break-Out Session | EPB & INTERACT**

'Minimising the Footprint of Arctic Research'

2019

May 26th | Arkhangelsk

● **ASSW | EPB Panel Discussion**

'Towards greater Collaboration in Polar Research'

July 1st | Prague

● **ATCM XLII Side Event | EPB & EU-PolarNet**

'Connecting European Polar Research with Antarctic Policymakers'
Side Meeting: July 5th | EPB, EU-PolarNet, Latin American Representatives ATCM & CEP

October 2nd | Online

● **RAPAL Introduction to the EPB**

'Towards greater coordination and collaboration in Polar research – an EPB perspective'

2020



EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD 1995 - 2020

January 29th | Tromsø

EPB at Arctic Frontiers Lecture

'At the Confluence of Science and Policy in the Polar Regions'

April 7th | Online

Webinar | SO-CHIC: Introduction

June 11th | Online

Webinar | "Stronger Together" EPB & EU-PolarNet

'"Stronger together": European Cooperation for Polar Science and Society' - Introduction of the first fully co-designed European Polar Research Programme

July 1st | Online

COVID-19 Responses to Disruptions Discussion

Discussion meeting on COVID-19 disruption to polar fieldwork and responses by Members

September 25th | Online

Melting Arctic - Global Science TV

An episode featuring the EPB Plenary Members

October 21st | Online

ASM3 Webinar Series: Introduction webinar

Webinar series introducing and contributing to the Third Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3) process, in cooperation with ASM3 Organisers, Iceland and Japan

October 26th | Online

Polar Amplification Session at 2020 European Polar Science Week

Blue-Action, SO-CHIC and the EPB

November 11th | Online

ASM3 Webinar 1: Addressing Gaps and Barriers in International Arctic Science Research

December 2nd | Online

ASM3 Webinar 2: Indigenous Peoples' Interests in ASM3

January 20th | Online

- 1 **ASM3 Webinar 3: Theme 1, Observe: Observing Networks; Data Sharing – Towards Implementation**

January 27th | Online

- 2 **EPB Hosts SO-CHIC Webinar: Ocean variabilities in the Southern Weddell Sea**
'Minimising plastic use and waste in polar research and logistics'

February 17th | Online

- 3 **ASM3 Webinar 4: Theme 2, Understand**
'Enhance understanding and prediction capability on Arctic environmental and social systems and its global impact'

March 17th | Online

- 4 **ASM3 Webinar 5: Theme 3, Respond**
'Sustainable development; Evaluation of vulnerability and resilience; Application of knowledge'

March 23rd | Online

- 5 **EPB Session at ASSW**
'Europe in International Polar Research – 25 years of Arctic and Antarctic cooperation with the EPB'

April 7th | Online

- 6 **ASM3 Webinar 6: Theme 4, Strengthen**
'Capacity Building; Education; Networking; Resilience – Prepare the Next Generation Greater Collaboration in Polar Research'

April 28th | Online

- 7 **Webinar | European Perspectives on the Arctic Science Ministerial Process | EPB & EU-PolarNet 2**

May 17th | Online

- 8 **EPB session at UArctic Congress 2021**
'European Cooperation in Polar Research – Past, Present and Future', EPB's 25th anniversary

June 2nd | Online

- 9 **All-Atlantic2021 EPB Side Event**
'Networking from Pole to Pole: Facilitating Access for Research and Infrastructure' | EPB & EU-PolarNet 2

September 2nd | Online

2nd Southern Ocean Regional Workshop

Contributing to the UN Ocean Decade | EPB Hosted

September 23rd | Online

Polar Data Forum IV | EPB Hosted supported by NIOZ

November 3rd | Online

COP26 EU Side Event: 'Polar Warming, Global Warning'

EPB, EU Polar Cluster, KEPLER, EU-PolarNet 2, CHARTER, iCUPE, JUSTNORTH, SIOS, SO-CHIC, TiPASCCs, British Antarctic Survey, Alfred Wegener Institute and the University of Grenoble

November 24th | Online

Webinar | The New EU Arctic Policy and Research & Innovation | EPB, EU Polar Cluster, EU-PolarNet 2

'Biodiversity, nature-based solutions, oceans'

December 1st | Online

Webinar | UN Ocean Decade Southern Ocean Update

'Southern Ocean UN Decade - Updates'

2022

March 29th | Online

ASSW EPB Session | 'Looking Back and Ahead'

This session showcased the EPB's achievements so far, and the impact it has had in the last 5 years.

March 29th | Online

ASSW EPB Session | 'Introducing Polardex'

During this hybrid session, the EPB provided a walkthrough to become acquainted with Polardex and how to explore the database.

May 6th | Online

EU Polar Cluster: Russia Workshop

May 11th | Online

EU-PolarNet 2 Workshop: Recommendations towards an Integrated Polar Observing

Co-organised by the EPB and University of Oulu

June 21st - 22nd | Brussels

EU Polar Cluster Meeting

Meeting of the EU Polar Cluster members co-organised by the EPB

June 27th | Lisbon

UN Oceans Conference

EPB leading one session based on the SO Decade activities, and co-organising the second session with partners

12 July | Washington DC

AANCHOR – Ministerial Event

A side-event co-organised with the EU-PolarNet 2 focusing on "Polar Research Cooperation from Pole to Pole"

August 1st - 10th | Online

SCAR Open Science Conference

The EPB held two sessions relevant to the Southern Ocean and Antarctic research community through the project SO-CHIC and participated in the "Sharing science data FAIRly to support interdisciplinary research collaborations" session

August 29th - September 1st | Online & Montreal (QC)

Year of Polar Prediction

Presenting Polardex

September 5th - 7th | Goa

XXXVII SCAR Delegates meeting

EPB participated in the SCAR Delegates meeting, and presented EPB activities of interest to SCAR

September 13th - 15th | Sofia

EU-PolarNet 2 General Assembly & Retreat

The EPB participated in as a WP6 lead

September 22 | Brussels

Polar symposium

The EPB gave Scientific Opening speech. At the symposium work of the EPB, its partners, and projects that the EPB participates in was highlighted.

September 26 - 30th | Keflavik

INTERACT GA

The EPB presented initial results for its deliverable on transnational access

October 13th - 16th | Reykjavík

Arctic Circle Assembly

EU Polar Cluster booth co-organised by the EPB and the EU PolarNet 2

October 18th - 20th | Kuala Lumpur

Polar Research Symposium & AFoPS AGM

The EPB presented its activities and helped to co-organise a joint information sharing workshop on polar research and infrastructure between the EPB and AFoPS Members.

October 27th | Brussels

The Future of Research Infrastructure in the Arctic

Event co-organised by the EPB with ARICE, FARO and EU-PolarNet 2

November 7th - 10th | Paris

OCEAN:ICE Kick-off meeting and SO-CHIC GA

Presentation of the EU Polar Cluster, update on the SO-CHIC WP8

November 29th - 30th | Brussels

Arctic Futures Symposium

The EPB members participated in several panel sessions of the symposium

December 7th - 9th | Athens

EuroGEO Workshop

A session "EU polar observations – challenges ahead in terms of technology and governance" co-chaired by the EPB, EU-PolarNet 2 and EISMEA

December 8th | Online

SO-CHIC Webinar: Variability and trends of heat, carbon uptake and storage

Webinar hosted by the EPB

December 12th - 16th | Chicago

AGU Fall Meeting

EU Polar Cluster booth organised by the EPB

ACTION GROUPS



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Chair:

C Krieger

Members: N Biebow, H Burgess,
M Vancauwenberghe, V Vitale

European research in the Arctic and Antarctic is notable for its excellence, diversity and societal relevance, achieved through extensive collaboration between disciplines, institutes and countries. Noting this, the EPB and its Members endeavour to develop collaborative initiatives within Europe and around the world, for the benefit of polar research. The EPB's activities in this area are organised and implemented by the Action Group on International Cooperation.

Main products:

- Towards greater collaboration in polar research (Arctic Science Summit Week 2019 panel session)
- EPB/EU-PolarNet session at ATCM XLII (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Prague) 2019
- EPB and RAPAL (Administrators of Latin American Antarctic Programs) Meeting 2019
- Polar Research in Russia - Background Paper 2021. Prepared by Nina Lavrenteva, University of Liège, for the EPB Action Group on International Cooperation.
- EPB and AFoPS (Asian Forum of Polar Sciences) Meeting 2022

INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair:

M Ojeda

Members: P Głowacki, D Mateev, A Quesada, H Savela, J Sorribas, M Vancauwenberghe, G Vieira, V Vitale



This group was initially formed to finalise the European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue and Database. Following the Autumn 2018 Plenary Meeting, the Action Group was renewed with a mandate to focus on improving access to polar infrastructure for the European research community.

Main products:

- "Towards harmonisation of polar infrastructure access" Workshop 2019
- Polar dex, an online platform for polar infrastructure, logistics discovery and planning. Launched in 2022.

POLARDEX

ACTION GROUPS



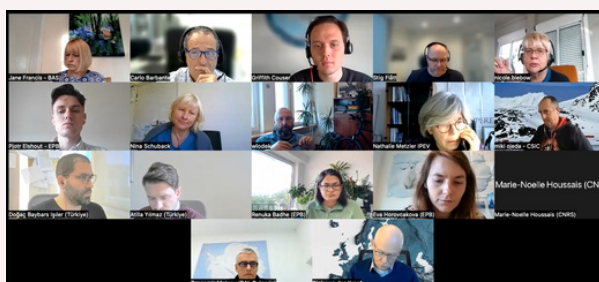
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF POLAR RESEARCH AND LOGISTICS

Members: J Jania, E Topp-Jørgensen, A Yilmaz, M Blunt, T Gibéryen, P Elshout

Building on the POLAR2018 conference in Davos, and the breakout session in the 2018 Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, this action group was formed to focus on how the footprint of Arctic research could be reduced, all of which were captured and will feed into the and to create guidelines for EPB Members to minimise the negative impacts of their field research activities

Main products:

- "Minimising plastic use and waste in polar research and logistics" Workshop during the POLAR2018 conference in Davos 2018
- 'Minimising the footprint of Arctic research' breakout session at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik 2018
- "Synthesis Report on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research in the Polar Regions" 2022/2023



POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Co-Chairs: N Koç, V Vitale

Members: N Biebow, J Chappellaz, F Dichmann, J Francis, P Huybrechts, ET Nielsson, A Quesada, G Vieira

Acts on requests received for policy advice on Polar issues, and supports EPB in policy-related questions asked by an entity deemed relevant. The PAG's mission is to provide policy-relevant evidence-based advice on Polar issues. The PAG ensures a joint voice and coordinated input from the European polar research community is heard on relevant issues in European and international organisations and fora.

Main products:

- Policy Brief on the Impacts of High Fuel Prices on Polar Research 2022

A FEW STATISTICS

2015 -----> 2022

8 new Member Organisations
| 29 Total

Involved in 5 Projects

MoUs with 7
Organisations

15 Plenary Meetings, 2
Retreats

€30k increase in the core annual
EPB Budget & from 2019, total
income from projects €800,000+

Balance of online and
inperson activities - 30+
sessions at conferences,
80+ webinars and
conference videos on
EPB's YouTube channel

SECRETARIAT STAFF

Renuka Badhe, Executive Secretary 2015-present

Joseph Nolan, Policy Officer, 2016-2022

Pjotr Elshout, Project Officer, 2020-present

Griffith Couser, Policy Officer, 2022-present

Eva Horovčáková, Communications Officer, 2022-present

Admin support (2015 - current) provided by NWO:

Bea de Roos, Esther Driebergen, Sherida Soeleman, Debbie Liauw, Jeanique Everts



Collated by: Michelle Joos
Eva Horovčáková
Griffith Couser
Pjotr Elshout
Joseph E Nolan
Renuka Badhe

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