



EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD

The Voice of European Polar Research

Strategy 2023 - 2027





Cover image: Glacier terminus, Antarctica.

Left: Reindeer in the Arctic in summer.

Right: Scientific equipment mounted on a balloon being delivered to the release site.

Foreword

Nowhere on Earth is the impact of climate change more noticeable than in the polar regions, and these impacts have profound global consequences which will require the attention of policymakers, scientists, and the wider public. Understanding these changes is essential to planning for a sustainable future, and mitigating the effects of a changing climate.

Europe has been at the forefront of polar research, and since 1995, the European Polar Board (EPB) has served as the unified voice of European polar research. The EPB brings together leading research institutes, universities, and funding agencies in Europe focused on better understanding the polar regions. In the past few years, the EPB has expanded both its membership and its activities, participating in projects and communicating with decision-makers on the most pressing polar issues and important polar research findings.

We carry this into the future with this updated strategy for 2022-2027. This Strategy reflects EPB's capabilities and priorities for coming 5 years. The EPB remains proud of its growth in nearly three decades, and we are confident that this Strategy will maintain the momentum we have built so far.



Nicole Biebow

Dr Nicole Biebow
Chair, EPB



Renuka Badhe

Dr Renuka Badhe
Executive Secretary, EPB



A small rigid inflatable boat makes its way through brash ice in the polar regions.

Introduction

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

Established in 1995, the EPB was an Expert Board of the European Science Foundation formed to provide strategic advice on Arctic and Antarctic issues. Since 2015, the EPB has been an independent entity with a rotating host for the Secretariat supported by a member organisation (NWO 2015-2024).


The EPB is a unified network for the European polar community to coordinate and collaborate on scientific priorities and communicate as the voice of European polar research.

As the single contact point for communication, the EPB has a mission to foster and advance the coordination of, and collaboration with the European polar research community and beyond.

This Strategy aims to build on the foundation of the last twenty five years to optimise the strong and diverse member supported network of European polar organisations. The Strategy also seeks new and engaging opportunities to support the future development of the next generation of polar researchers.

The Voice of European Polar Research.

The EPB envisions a unified network for polar organisations across Europe to coordinate and collaborate on scientific priorities and communicate as the voice of European polar research.

A circular inset image showing a close-up of a vintage-style marine spotlight mounted on a ship. The spotlight's lens reflects a vibrant sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the water's surface. The background of the inset shows a calm sea and a distant shoreline under a twilight sky.

A marine spotlight reflects a sunset onboard a polar research ship.

Mission

To foster and advance the coordination of, and collaboration with the European polar research community as the single contact point for communication.

There are three pillars to the EPB's work, each with internal activities directly supporting Members, as well as external activities for the wider European polar research community: **Coordination**, **Collaboration** and **Communication**.





Top left: Gentoo penguins, Antarctic peninsula.
Bottom left: A group heading out on a glacier.
Right: Scientific cruise in the polar oceans.





Coordination

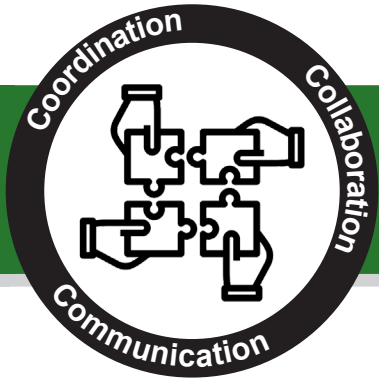
Serve as a **knowledge-sharing forum** for members and the wider European polar research community by supporting **scientific cooperation** and **information-exchange** in **research, logistics** and **infrastructure** in the polar regions.

In order to coordinate European research in the polar regions, the EPB seeks to:

- Be the hub for **information sharing in the European polar research community**
- Be the **forum for coordination** of large-scale polar science projects
- Provide scientific **policy advice**



European Polar Board Members get together to facilitate collaborative activities.



Collaboration

Foster the strong member network and find synergies with existing and new organisations to identify opportunities and tools for collaboration in flagship polar research projects

In order to collaborate with the European polar research community, the EPB seeks to:

- Facilitate the **exchange** of information
- Identify timely **synergies** among EU research programs
- Provide a **forum** for discussing research possibilities
- Continue to value and grow **partnerships** with relevant international organisations



Top left: Setting up a weather station in Antarctica.
Bottom left: Tasiilaq, Greenland.
Right: Transferring researchers and scientific equipment from a research ship to the ice shelf.



Communication


Promote and optimise communication tools and platforms for members and the research community to encourage knowledge-sharing, provide sound policy advice, and strengthen networks for the next generation in Polar research.

In order to facilitate communication for and with the European research in the polar regions, the EPB seeks to:

- Support a **platform for useful information exchange**
- **Promote actions and identify opportunities** for EPB members in other organisations and fora
- Provide **instruments to communicate** with other Polar organisations
- Elevate the level of polar activities on a global scale

Looking Towards The Future

Developed by an engaged and active Membership, this Strategy will provide momentum and continuity towards the future of the EPB and support the streamlining of European polar research initiatives. This high-level strategy is accompanied by separate implementation plan and further progress monitoring will ensure the effective realisation of the vision and mission set forth by the Members.



Transport of researchers and equipment into the field using skidoos.

Acknowledgements



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Graphic Design by Emma Needham.

Reindeer antlers on a cabin in Svalbard.
Right: Swedish Icebreaker Oden.



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Aurora over an Antarctic station.