

# 2015-2022 ACTIVITIES



**EUROPEAN  
POLAR BOARD**

**3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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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



EPB moves its Secretariat to the Netherlands, hosted by NWO

Secretariat hosted by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) in The Hague

January 1st

EPB Spring 2015 Plenary Meeting | Toyoma

April 25th

*Founding of EU-PolarNet*

Brings together 22 of Europe's internationally-respected multi-disciplinary research institutions to develop and deliver an integrated European polar research programme that is supported by access to first-class operational polar infrastructures

May 19th

EPB Autumn 2015 Plenary Meeting | Vienna

November 5th

1st Central European Polar Meeting

Memorial to the Austrian polar explorer and scientist Julius Payer

November 10th

2016



EPB - ESA MoU

Provides a framework for a wider cooperation between ESA and the EPB, and defines the use of European Antarctic stations for scientific and technological purposes

February 3rd

EPB becomes a Legal Entity

March

EPB Spring 2016 Plenary Meeting | Stockholm

April 11th

EPB Autumn 2016 Plenary Meeting | Akureyri

October 4th



..... 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

Luxemborg'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

Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University, Sweden

*New Member: ARCUM*

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

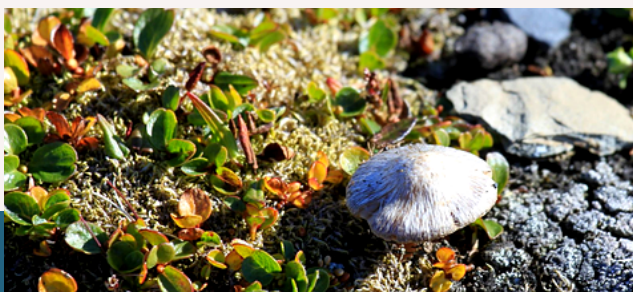
September  
3rd

'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.....○

- February 13th

*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
- March 27th

EPB Spring 2019 Plenary Meeting | Lisbon
- August 1st

*Workshop: Towards Harmonisation of Polar Infrastructure Access*

With ARICE, EU-PolarNet, FARO, GEO-CRI and INTERACT
- October 22nd

EPB Autumn 2019 Plenary Meeting | Brest
- November 13th

*Founding of Project: SO-CHIC*

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

2020.....○

- January 1st

25th Anniversary of the EPB

Several activities and events planned at major international Antarctic and Arctic research and policy meetings
- February 13th

*Founding of Project: INTERACT III*

Build capacity for identifying, understanding, predicting and responding to diverse environmental changes of the Arctic
- April 23rd

EPB Spring 2020 Plenary Meeting | Online
- July 1st

First EPB Members COVID-19 discussion meeting
- August 7th

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

*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 15th

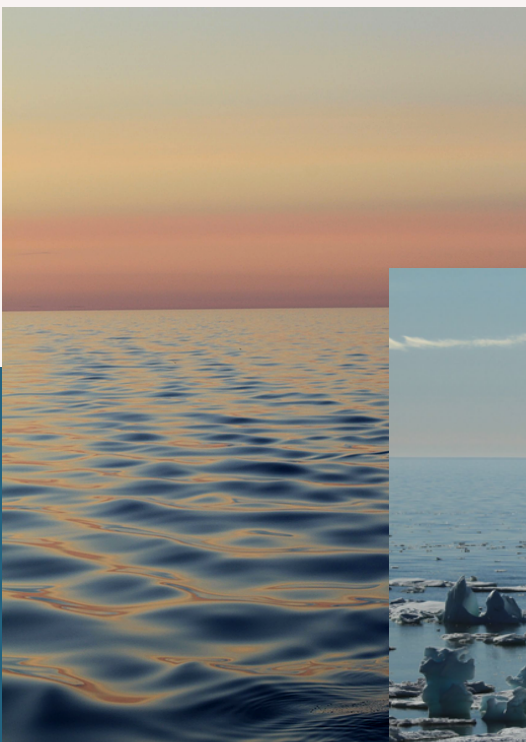
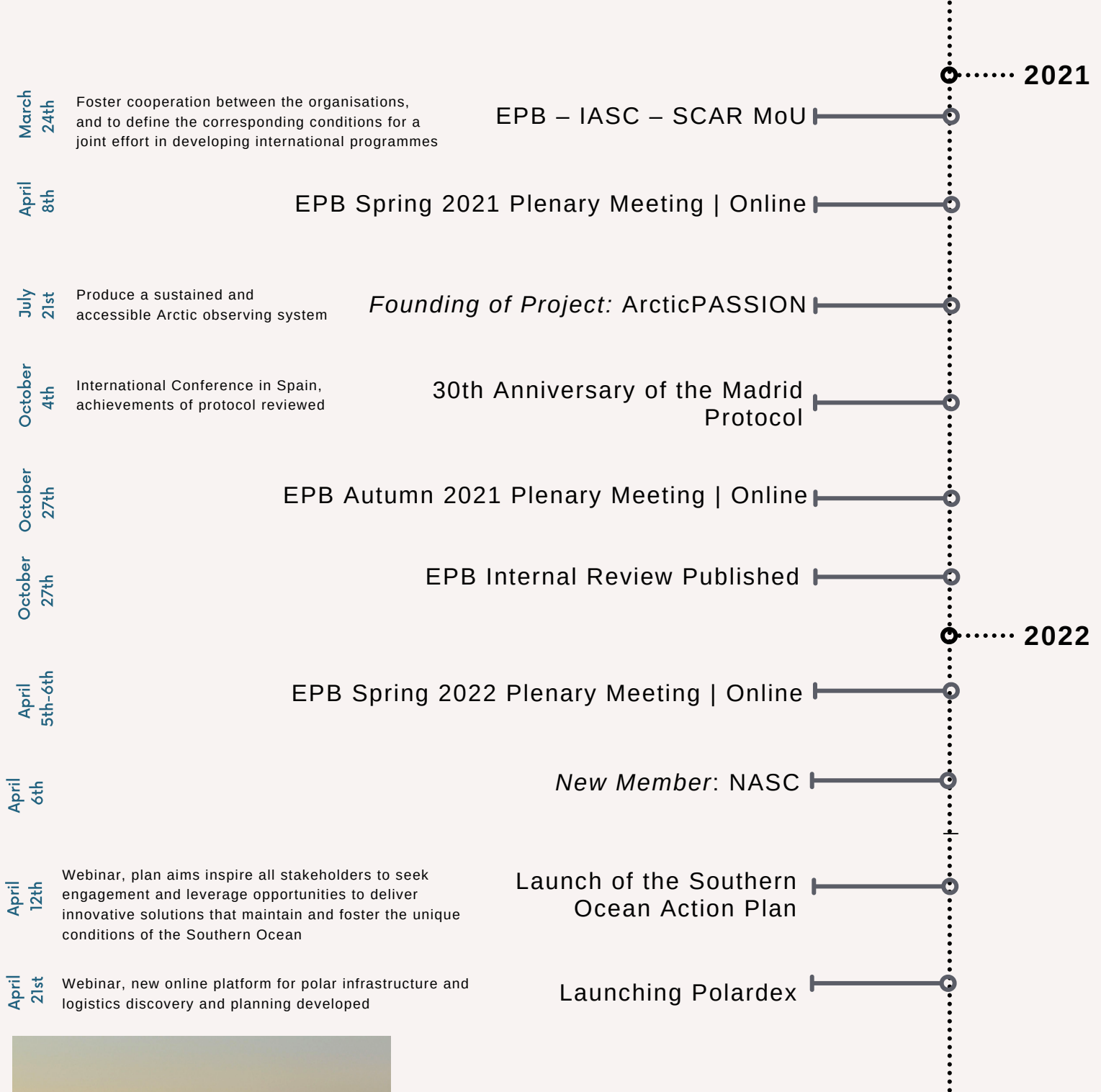
EPB Autumn 2020 Plenary Meeting | Online
- October 15th

*New Member: TUBITAK-MAM PRI*

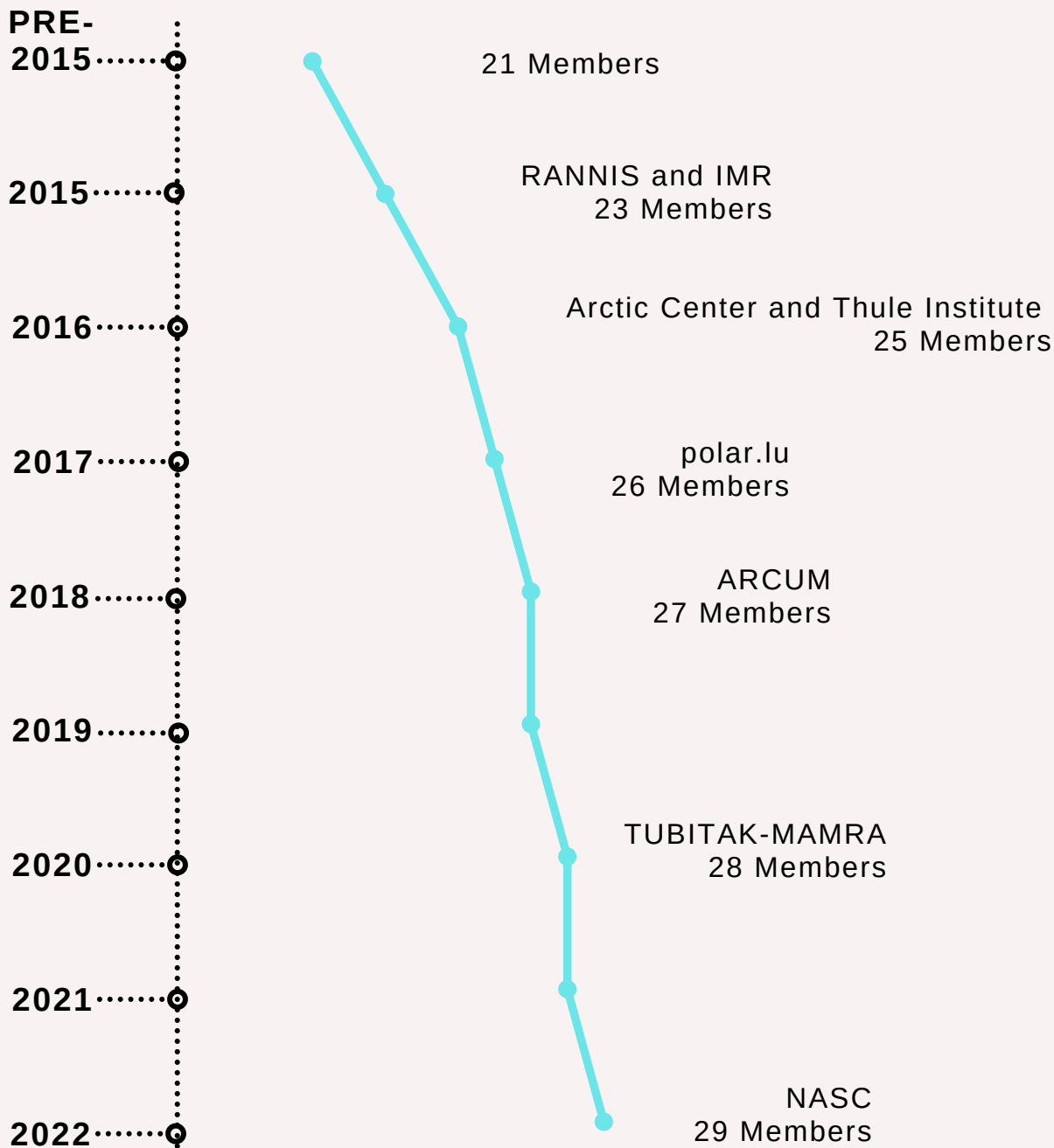
TUBITAK Marmara Research Center Polar Research Institute, Turkey
- October to June 2021

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



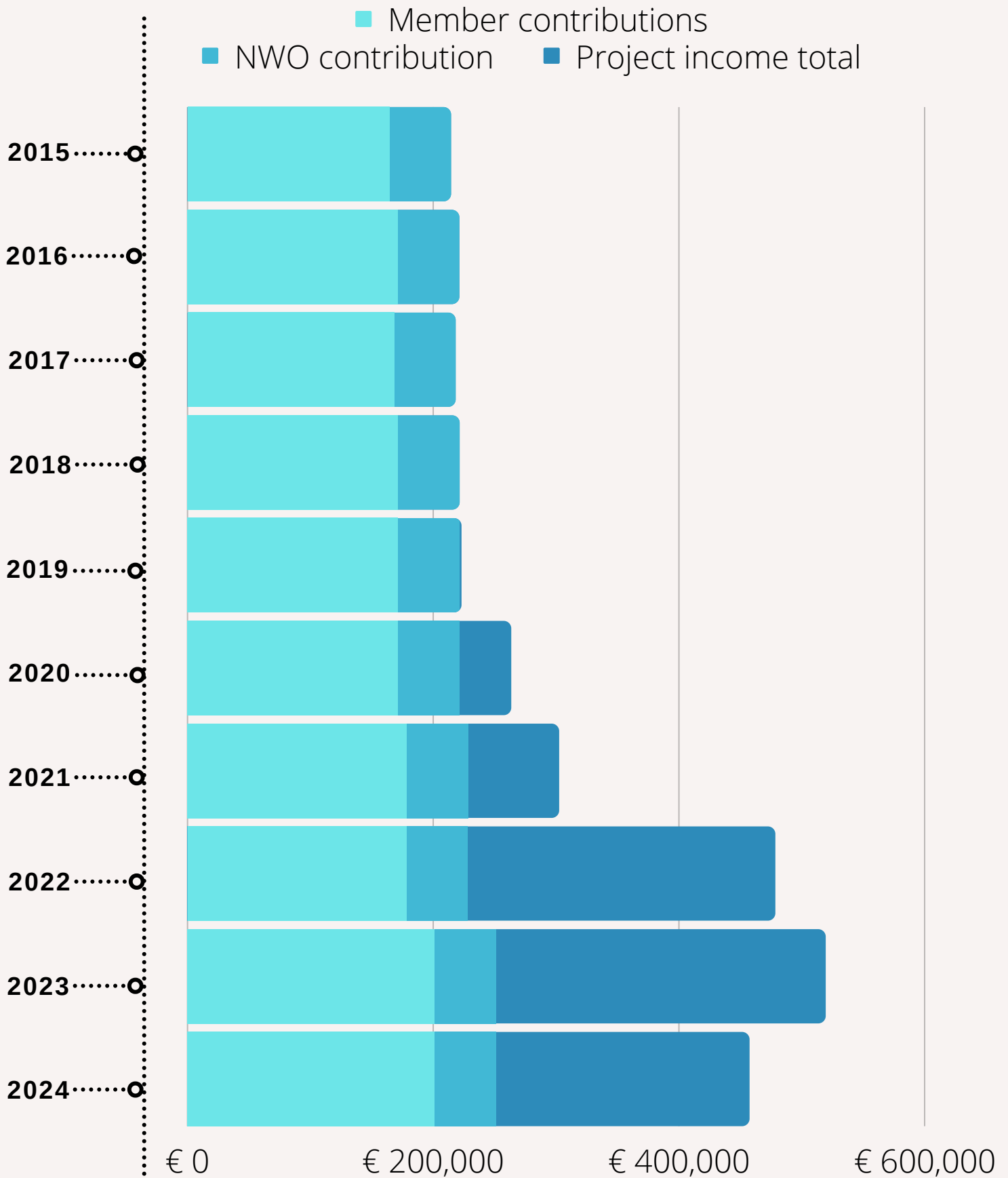
# EPB MEMBERSHIP 2015 - 2022



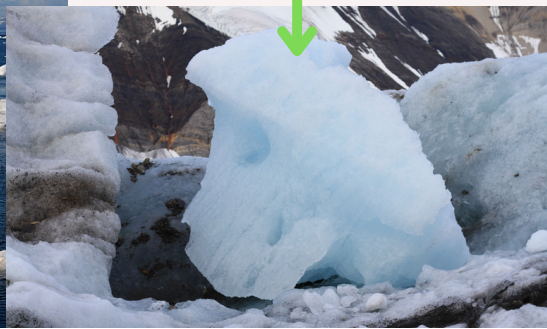
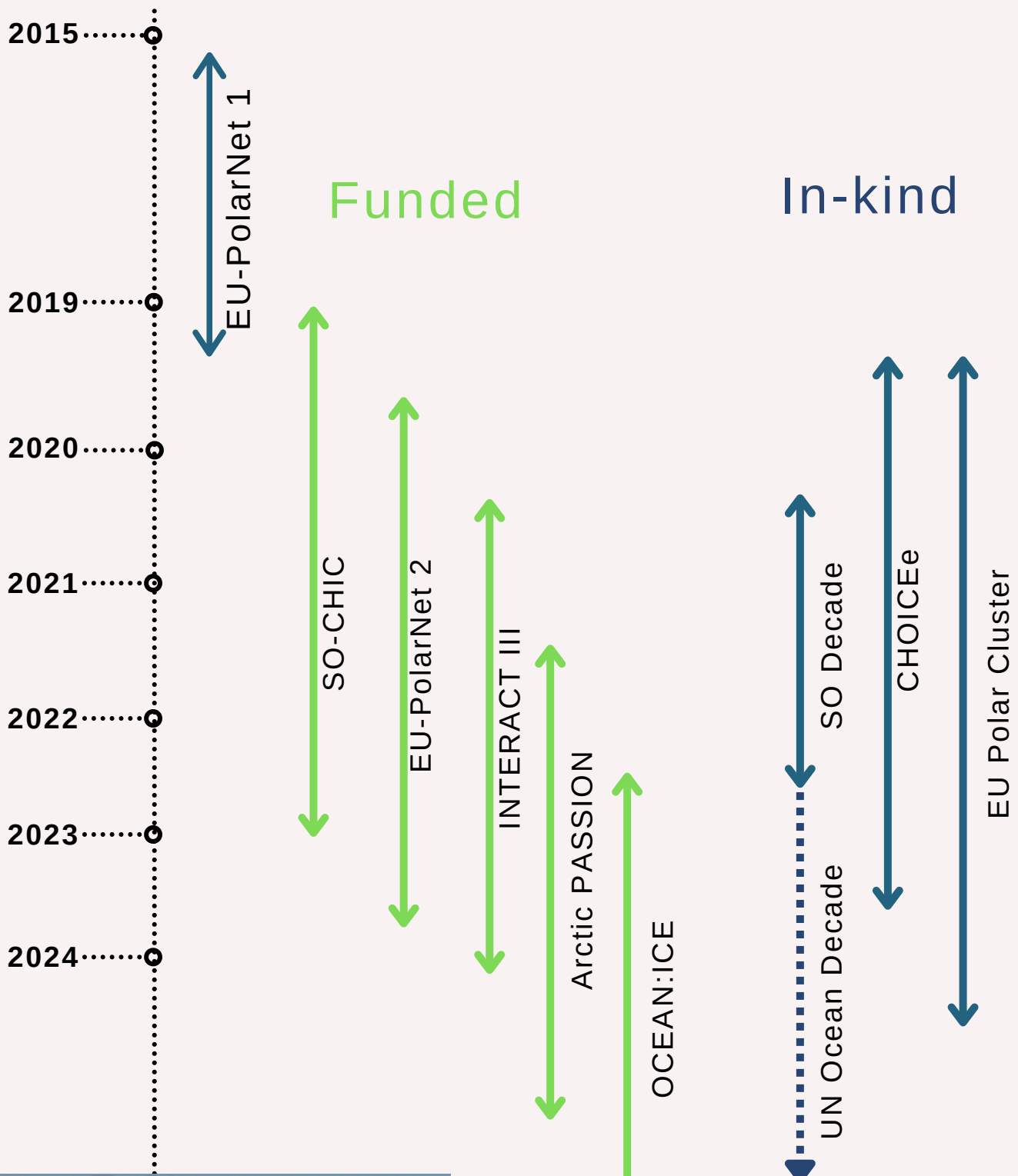
3 Organisations resigned from the EPB when it acquired an independent legal entity between 2015 - 2017: the Academy of Finland, the Swedish Research Council (VR) and the German Research Foundation (DFG)



# EPB'S FINANCES



# PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS



# PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS

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## 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



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



## 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



## 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

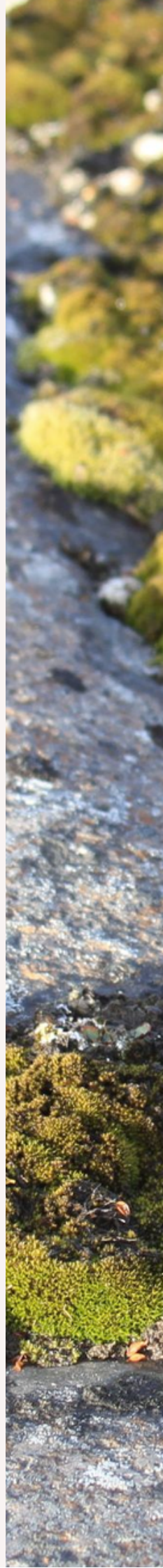
Blue-Action, SO-CHIC and the EPB

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



# UPCOMING

June 13th | Bologna

## EPB Retreat

In-preson EPB Retreat at Bologna to formalise the next EPB strategy 2022-2027.

June 27th | Lisbon

## UN Oceans Conference

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

The Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, comes at a critical time as the world is seeking to address many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs. To mobilise action, the Conference will seek to propel much needed science-based innovative solutions aimed at starting a new chapter of global ocean action.

July | Brasilia & Washington DC

## AANCHOR

'Co-organising a side event at the Ministerial High-Level & Stakeholder Conference, Washington DC

August 1st | Online & India

## SCAR

The SCAR Open Science Conference brings together researchers to engage with one another.



# ACTION GROUPS



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

**Chair:** C Krieger | **Members:** N Biebow, H Burgess, M Vancauwenberghe, V Vitale



## 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.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF POLAR RESEARCH AND LOGISTICS

**Members:** J Chappellaz, J Jania, E Topp-Jørgensen, K Jones-Williams



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

## 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.

## A FEW STATISTICS 2015 -----> 2022

8 new Member Organisations | 29 Total

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

Involved in 5 Projects

MoUs with 7 Organisations

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

15 Plenary Meetings, 2 Retreats

## SECRETARIAT STAFF

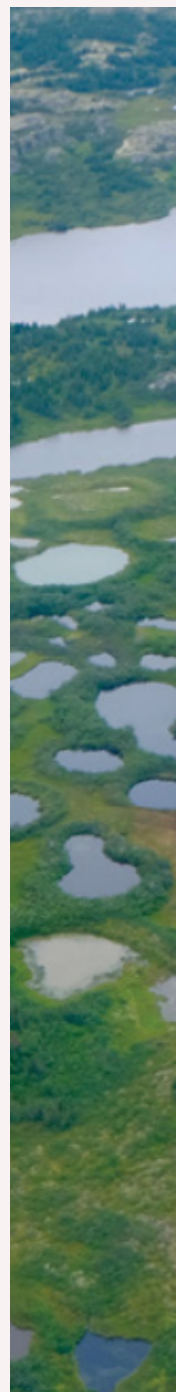
Renuka Badhe, Executive Secretary 2015-present

Joseph Nolan, Policy Officer, 2016-present

Pjotr Elshout, Project Officer, 2020-present

Admin support (2015 - current) provided by NWO:

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






Collated by: Michelle Joos  
Pjotr Elshout  
Joseph E Nolan  
Renuka Badhe

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 @EuPolarBoard

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