



# Strategy 2017–2022



**EUROPEAN  
POLAR BOARD**

# The European Polar Board

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.

Since 2015, the EPB has been an independent entity, with its Secretariat hosted by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). Established in 1995, the EPB was 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, wherein decisions affecting or affected by the polar regions are informed by

**independent**, accurate, and timely advice from the EPB.

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

With this Strategy we aim to consolidate and further strengthen the EPB's standing as a leader within European and international polar research communities.



# Foreword by EPB Chair

Never has understanding of the polar regions, how they are changing, and the implications of these changes been more relevant to Europe and the world. Ongoing global climate and environmental changes are having profound implications for the sensitive high-latitude environments, climates and ecosystems, which in turn are driving or exacerbating significant, tangible impacts around the planet. With Arctic and Antarctic issues demanding increasing global attention, the EPB has an essential role to play as the strong and independent voice of European polar research.

The EPB has developed significantly since its original formation in 1995 as an Expert Board of the European Science Foundation. Bringing key European players around the same table, the EPB is able to combine research needs and goals with logistical, technical and policy requirements.

With its new status as an independent organisation, gained in 2015, the EPB will be able to cope with new challenges in logistics, technology and science in the polar regions. The EPB will implement its new strategy to advance, coordinate and promote Arctic and Antarctic research to help tackle a range of major issues with genuine relevance for Europe.

I am proud of the great work that has taken the EPB to where it is today, and confident for the future. As the EPB enters a new phase it will build on its legacy to sustain Europe's place as a global leader in Arctic and Antarctic research, ensuring that adequate knowledge is available to guide decisions affecting or affected by the polar regions.

**Maaïke Vancauwenberghe**  
*Chair, European Polar Board*



# Vision

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

**Strong**

Advancing coordination and fostering greater collaboration in and for European research in the polar regions. Being open and inclusive, and supporting capacity building.

**Independent**

Provide evidence-based, unbiased policy advice on issues affecting or affected by the polar regions through transparent processes, particularly in the context of European societal relevance.

# Mission

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

**Promote**

Strengthen connections with the worldwide polar research community, and be the central organisation to bodies seeking collaboration with European polar organisations.

**Coordinate**

Provide a platform for greater European coordination and integration for logistics, infrastructures, and scientific cooperation in polar regions.

**Advance**

Identify, highlight and support strategic priority areas in research in high latitudes, especially in the context of European societal relevance.



## European Polar Board's Vision

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



## Strong:

Advancing coordination and fostering greater collaboration in and for European research in the polar regions. Being open and inclusive, and supporting capacity building.



The EPB's strength comes from our Members, and the breadth of Arctic and Antarctic research they represent.

EPB Members represent an active community of thousands of polar researchers working on a diversity of issues. Our collective expertise spans astronomy, climate research, geosciences, oceanography, cryospheric science, biology, social sciences and humanities, geopolitics, atmospheric sciences, and many other disciplines.

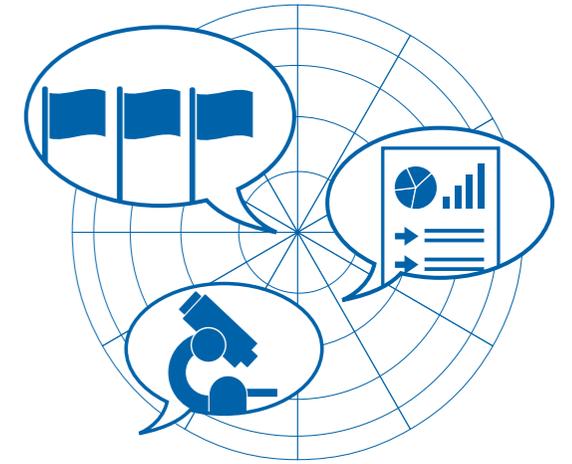
Our Members' research infrastructures, facilities and logistical capabilities exemplify both the EPB's strength and Europe's leading role in polar research. The EPB provides a forum in which synergies between Members can be realised.





## Independent:

Provide evidence-based, unbiased policy advice on issues affecting or affected by the polar regions through transparent processes, particularly in the context of European societal relevance.



The EPB is an independent organisation that enables active dialogue between researchers, decision makers, and all relevant actors.

As an independent source of knowledge, we raise awareness of emerging issues for both the Arctic and Antarctic among stakeholders in all sectors.

We champion polar research and advocate for its prominence, helping to align priorities at national and regional levels to benefit European society.





## European Polar Board's **Mission**

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



## Promote:

Strengthen connections with the worldwide polar research community, and be the central organisation to bodies seeking collaboration with European polar organisations.



In order to **promote** European polar research, the EPB seeks to:

- Be a strong voice, proactively communicating with policymakers at the highest levels to achieve a greater prioritisation of polar issues, advising on polar matters and representing the European polar research community throughout Europe and beyond.
- Represent European research in polar regions in an international setting, including as part of international bodies and frameworks, and effectively communicate key achievements and successes in European polar research to stakeholders.

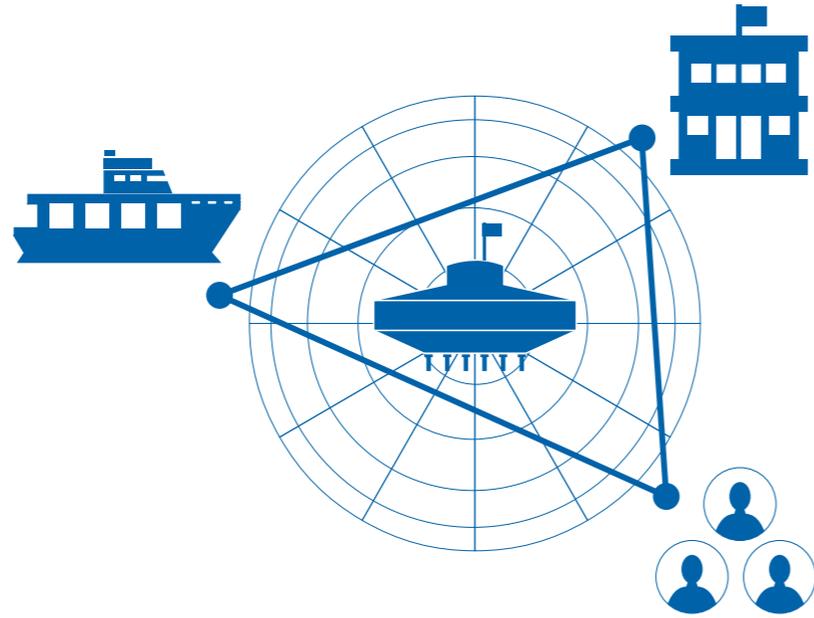
- Work towards making the EPB, European polar institutions, and polar research as a whole more open and accessible to all, to ensure opportunities are available to all stakeholders, and ensure the EPB is open to external advice and ideas.

### Implementation:

To promote European research in both the Arctic and Antarctic, the EPB will initiate discussion of polar issues through publications, briefings, online communications and interdisciplinary events, pushing for greater prominence of polar issues throughout Europe.

## Coordinate:

Provide a platform for greater European coordination and integration for logistics, infrastructures, and scientific cooperation in polar regions.



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

- Forge, maintain, and develop strong networks among European and international organisations and individual researchers, catalysing collaborations between researchers and between organisations throughout Europe.
- Identify, contribute to, and help expand existing polar networks, thus facilitating participation of European researchers in international networks, and of international partners in European research.

- Align the objectives of polar researchers and research organisations throughout Europe, identifying mutual priorities and potential collaborations.

### Implementation:

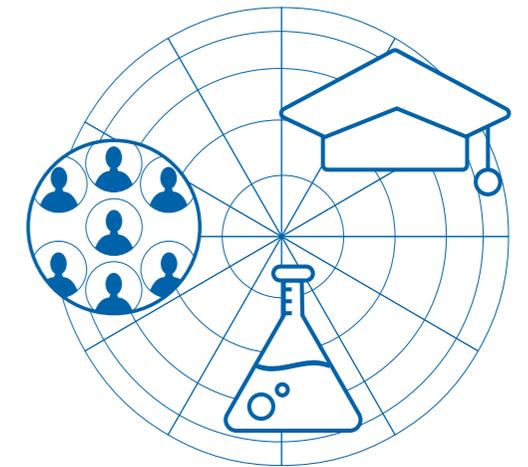
To coordinate European research in high latitudes, the EPB will actively foster useful complementarities between national and European priorities, and maintain relevant products from European initiatives.





## Advance:

Identify, highlight and support strategic priority areas in research in high latitudes, especially in the context of European societal relevance.



In order to **advance** European polar research, the EPB:

- Influences funding providers to prioritise polar research, and align their objectives with the needs of polar researchers and the polar research community.
- Supports initiatives to advance specific aspects of research in and on the polar regions, such as “important but unsupported” research questions, data issues, and infrastructure.
- Advocates open sharing of data, infrastructure, and resources for polar research in Europe and worldwide.

- Champions the participation of early career researchers and indigenous peoples in all roles and activities within research and polar organisations.

### Implementation:

To advance European polar research, the EPB will increase the discoverability and accessibility of opportunities, funding, and facilities for all European polar researchers, ensuring access for researchers at all career stages, and work particularly to improve active participation of indigenous communities in European polar research at all levels.



## Implementation Plan

In order to fulfil the EPB Strategy, an Implementation Plan will guide our activities over the next five years. The Implementation Plan details initiatives, activities and outputs, so that the progress of the EPB can be followed by Members and stakeholders. The EPB Implementation Plan is aligned with our Mission to advance, coordinate and promote European research in polar regions; the EPB will follow the Implementation plan to realise our Vision as the strong and independent voice of European polar research.

The EPB Implementation Plan is structured around eight Action Areas:

1. Aligning polar priorities
2. Infrastructures
3. Data, information and observations
4. Policy advice
5. Representing the polar research community in Europe
6. Representing European polar research internationally
7. Outreach and communications
8. Progress monitoring

## Progress Monitoring

This EPB Strategy will be implemented over the period 2017-2022. An internal review of progress will be performed for the mid-point of the Strategy implementation, followed by an external review in 2022 before entering the next Strategy cycle.

## Future

This Strategy will position the EPB in a leading role, driving momentum to address emerging priorities and developments in the European and international polar research communities, with an open and participatory approach.

## Acknowledgements

The EPB would like to thank all those who contributed to the development of this Strategy. Particular thanks are extended to B Dahlbäck, who led the process, the EPB Plenary and Executive Committee for their detailed input, and the EPB Secretariat (R Badhe and J Nolan). Great thanks are extended to the many members of the polar community who kindly provided feedback.

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R Badhe  
S Bokhorst  
K Latola  
S Martin  
J Nolan  
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**European Polar Board (EPB)**

PO Box 93138, NL-2509 AC The Hague

+31 (0) 70 344 0782

[epb@nwo.nl](mailto:epb@nwo.nl)

[www.europeanpolarboard.org](http://www.europeanpolarboard.org)

Twitter: @EuPolarBoard



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