

annual accounts 2023

DRAFT

**Vereniging European Polar Board
at The Hague**

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Project: INTERACT III	
Project: EU-PolarNet 2	
Project: Arctic PASSION	
Project: OCEAN ICE	

Report of the Board 2023

General information

Legal name: European Polar Board (EPB)
 Address: Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300, 2593 CE The Hague, The Netherlands
 Legal status: Dutch association with full legal capacity
 CCI number: 65665759
 RSIN: 856206362

The European Polar Board (EPB) is an independent organisation focused on major strategic priorities in the Arctic and Antarctic. EPB Members include research institutes, logistics operators, funding agencies, scientific academies and government ministries from across Europe.

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. The EPB serves 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.

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

The EPB promotes and optimises 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.

The EPB's work is largely implemented through its various **Action Groups**, focused on issues such as infrastructure, international cooperation, policy advice and the environmental impacts of polar research and logistics.

The EPB also participates in large-**scale projects** with European and international partners, with tasks focusing on coordination of polar research and communication with policymakers or other stakeholders.

The EPB Members together form the **Plenary**, which meets twice annually to advance its work in line with the EPB **Strategy**.

Established by the European Science Foundation in 1995, the EPB has been an independent entity since 2015, with its **Secretariat** hosted by the **Dutch Research Council (NWO)** in The Hague.

The Association has as its object:

- a. to be the voice of the European polar research;
- b. to facilitate cooperation in all fields of polar science in its Member organisations across Europe;
- c. to perform all other actions related to the above in the broadest sense of those terms, or which could be beneficial to these.

Organisation of the Association

The organisation of the Association comprises:

- the Board (Executive Committee)
- the Plenary Meeting
- the Secretariat

Governance structure

The Plenary is the highest decision-making organ within the EPB, followed by the Board (Executive Committee) and then the Chair.

Members of the Board as of 31st of December 2023:

- Nicole Biebow (Chair)
- Egill Thor Níelsson
- Marie-Noelle Houssais
- Miguel Ojeda Cárdenes
- Peter Sköld
- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary)

Members of the Financial Committee as of 31st of December 2023:

- Nicole Biebow (Chair)
- Rein Vaikmae
- Philippe Huybrechts
- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary, non-voting member)

Members of the Association as of 31st of December 2023:

- Austrian Science Research Fund (FWF), Austria
- National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Belgium
- Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium
- Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO), Belgium
- Bulgarian Antarctic Institute (BAI), Bulgaria
- Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DASHE), Denmark
- Estonian Academy of Sciences (EAS), Estonia
- Thule Institute, University of Oulu, Finland
- Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
- National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
- French Polar Institute Paul Emilie Victor (IPEV), France
- Helmholtz Association (HGF), Germany
- Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), Iceland
- Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- National Programme for Research in Antarctica (PNRA), Italy
- Polar.lu, Luxembourg
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Netherlands
- The Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
- Institute of Marine Research, Norway
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), Spain
- Ministry of Science and Innovation (MCIN), Spain
- Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University (ARCUM), Sweden
- Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS), Sweden
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), Switzerland
- TÜBITAK Marmara Research Center Polar Research Institute (TÜBITAK-MAMPRI), Turkey
- State Institution National Antarctic Science Center (NASC), Ukraine
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UK

Secretariat:

- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary)
- Griffith Couser (Policy Officer)
- Eva Horovcakova (Communications Officer)
- Pjotr Elshout (Project Officer)
- Jeanique Everts (Administrative Assistant)

Summary statement of income and expenditure per reporting date with budget 2023

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023
	€	€
Income		
Income from membership fees	190,600	190,600
Income from hosting party	50,000	50,000
Income project SO-CHIC	64,148	74,213
Income project INTERACT III	34,428	54,697
Income project EU-PolarNet 2	41,586	45,967
Income project Arctic PASSION	85,248	98,253
Income project OCEAN ICE	23,650	30,941
Other income	1,360	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	491,020	544,671
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure		
EPB Committee Meetings	17,199	30,000
Direct activity in support of polar research community	23,009	34,000
Communication & Outreach	23,227	39,000
EPB internal activities	115	5,000
Management and administration	168,313	210,000
Project costs SO-CHIC	51,318	59,371
Project costs INTERACT III	27,542	43,757
Project costs EU-PolarNet 2	33,269	36,774
Project costs Arctic PASSION	68,198	78,603
Project costs OCEAN ICE	18,920	24,753
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	431,110	561,258
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance income and expenditure	59,910	- 16,587
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The balance of income and expenditure will be added to the general reserve.

Activities and financial perspective

For the period 2023, the EPB had a budgeted balance of income and expenditure of € 16,587 negative and realised a balance of income and expenditure of € 59,910.

The realised income 2023 is € 53,651 lower than budgeted, due to lower than budgeted income from the projects.

The realised expenditure is € 431,110, budgeted was € 561,258. The actual expenses spent in the budget lines for 2023 were lower than budgeted, due to the lower costs than anticipated for activities such as the EPB Committee Meetings and direct activity in support of polar research community expenses, EPB internal activities and Communication & Outreach. Also the project costs are lower than budgeted.

Several science activities are carried forward to the budget of 2023 as the activities continue in the next calendar years.

Taxes

As of 2017 the Tax Administration designated European Polar Board as an institution for General Benefit (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling or ANBI). Donations to the Foundation can therefore be deducted from income tax, as well as from company and inheritance tax.

Report of activities 2023

EPB Plenary Meetings

The EPB's Spring 2023 Plenary Meeting was on the 19th and 20th of April 2023 and the Autumn 2023 Plenary Meeting was on the 6th and 7th of November 2023. The Spring Plenary Meeting was held in Sofia. The Autumn Plenary Meeting was held in Tromsø.

EPB Spring Plenary 2023, Sofia, Bulgaria

- DECISION: M Vancauwenberghe, V Willmott, and MN Houssais join the Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics.
- DECISION: Confirm A Yılmaz as Chair of the Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics.
- DECISION: The Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics to decide actions based on the listed topics and present these for approval to Plenary during Autumn Plenary 2023.
- DECISION: Accept the new EPB Strategy 2022-2027 to guide future work, and make it publicly available.
- ACTION: Set up an evaluation committee to evaluate bids for hosting the EPB Secretariat.
- ACTION: Revise the EPB Secretariat Hosting Requirements Document to include the shortlisting process, a line stating that bids are evaluated on the best combination of requirements met, and to add a final submission deadline of 30 September; send this revised document to the Plenary as soon as possible.
- DECISION: Reappoint MN Houssais to a second term as EXCOM Member.
- DECISION: Appoint M Ojeda to a first term as EXCOM Member.

EPB Autumn Plenary, Tromsø, Norway

- DECISION: Accept the Centre of Arctic and Antarctic Research, Luleå University of Technology (LTU) as a Member of the EPB.
- DECISION: Plenary accepted the suggested changes to Bylaw 4.
- DECISION: The host-designate for the EPB Secretariat and EPCO office, beginning 1 January 2025, will be the Arctic Centre of Umeå University.
- DECISION: N Biebow to continue for a second term as EXCOM Chair on acclamation.
- DECISION: ET Nielsson to continue for a second term as EXCOM Member on acclamation.
- DECISION: Extend the mandate of the Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics by another four years, and approve their Terms of Reference.

EPB Action Groups activities 2023

In 2022, the **EPB Action Group on Infrastructure** launched Polar dex, a tool that can be used to plan scientific Polar cruises. The Action Group disseminated and promoted Polar dex at several relevant conferences. To further develop Polar dex, Plenary approved a € 3,000 budget increase. Polar dex has since undergone several (both technical and content) updates. Polar dex is the successor of a deliverable of the EUPolarNet project, the Polar Infrastructure Catalogue. Currently, Polar dex integrates data from CCAMLR, JCOMMOPS, DUESOUTH, COMNAP and IAATO (via SOOS' DueSouth platform), as well as INTERACT, ISSAAFIK, COMNAP, EU-PolarNet 2, AWI and BAS - often via the EPB database. It is maintained by the EPB Secretariat and the EPB Infrastructure Action Group, with technical work done by Blue Lobster.

The **EPB Action Group on International Cooperation** Following the 2023 Autumn Plenary, the Action Group had prioritised meetings with Canada, New Zealand, and Australian polar programmes. Following a successful meeting with Polar Knowledge Canada on the side-lines of the Arctic Circle Assembly in October 2023, interest in further introductory meetings with EPB Members was expressed. However, due to scheduling constraints in early 2024, these meetings are anticipated to take place later in 2024, or early 2025.

The **EPB Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research and Logistics** worked to facilitate and contribute to a report, "Synthesis Report on the Environmental Impacts of Research and Logistics in the Polar Regions" which was published following the EPB Spring 2023 Plenary meeting. Following the Spring Plenary meeting 2023, this Action Group was given an extension to its mandate of one year, to provide it time to formulate plans for future activities, to be approved by Plenary. The Synthesis Report will continue to be featured among EPB Publications and disseminated at conferences and other relevant opportunities. Currently several initiatives are planned, including a webinar series

The **EPB Policy Advisory Group** received a request from EPB Member IPEV, asking advice regarding the impact of high fuel prices on polar research. The Policy Advisory Group produced a Policy Brief on the Impacts of High Fuel Prices on Polar Research in response, and approved this Policy Brief to be public, to ensure other relevant parties would have access to its contents. The Policy Advisory Action Group The Action Group remains open to requests from EPB Members and or external requests.

Activities in 2023 of collaborative EU level projects the EPB participates in:

EU-PolarNet 2:

EU-PolarNet 2 is an EU Horizon project that aims to coordinate and co-design the European Polar Research Area. The EPB leads Work Package 6 and has overseen ongoing work to develop the European Polar Coordination Office (EPCO). During Autumn Plenary 2022, EPB Plenary and the EU-PolarNet 2 board decided the future EPCO will be hosted by the EPB.

EPB's work on the European Polar Coordination Office will continue, as does the EPB's responsibility as Work Package lead until the end of the project in December 2024.

SO-CHIC:

SO-CHIC is an EU Horizon project, which aims to understand the Southern Ocean carbon and heat impact on the climate. The EPB leads Work Package 8. In 2022, the EPB has organised policy briefings for representatives of the European Parliament and European Commission. SO-CHIC General Assembly, likely in October/November of 2024. All the Work Package 8 updates will be presented by the EPB, and the project will close its work. Following this, project wrap-up activities will be carried out, including final reports and financial disbursements.

Arctic PASSION:

Arctic PASSION is an EU Horizon project which aims to develop an overarching system that combines separate already existing polar observing tools and systems, and to utilise these tools for societal needs and benefits. The EPB is involved in Work Package 6, 7 and 8 of Arctic PASSION. The EPB work focus is on policy advice, supporting EU Polar Cluster and for the legacy planning of the project. In 2023, representatives of partners of the Arctic PASSION project met in Italy during the Arctic PASSION General Assembly to share their work for Arctic PASSION.

INTERACT III:

INTERACT III is an EU Horizon project that connects research stations in the circumpolar and alpine regions to facilitate knowledge exchange. The project also coordinates a transnational access programme, enabling international polar scientists to access remote stations. The EPB is involved in Work Package 6, for which it studies the efficiency of the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation, signed by the Arctic Council in 2018. In 2023 and 2024, the EPB will disseminate the findings to international policy makers.

OCEAN ICE:

OCEAN ICE is a project that started end 2022 and aims to understand the interactions between oceans and ice sheets and is closely connected to SO-CHIC. The EPB is involved in Work Package 9, which focuses on policy and communication.

EU Polar Cluster:

The EU Polar Cluster is a network of 20+ EU Horizon Projects and three permanent polar organisations which facilitates knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices between Members. The EPB is together with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI) co-coordinators of this cluster. The EPB Secretariat has actively promoted this cluster at relevant events to draw attention to expertise European Polar Science and has organised meetings for EU Polar Cluster Members to meet and exchange experiences on relevant topics, such as the impact of COVID-19 on polar research and the effects of the ban on working with Russian entities on EU Horizon polar projects.

[Policy regarding continuity reserve and general reserve](#)

The EPB has a policy regarding holding a reserve for continuity which amounts to one year of operational costs. Plenary decided to increase the reserve with an additional € 50,000 to reflect the current EPB, to a total of € 150,000. Any results are first added to this reserve if needed, or added to a general reserve. The general reserve is held by the EPB to finance its new, existing and developing activities in the future in line with its Strategy.

[Treasury policy](#)

All funds are held in a Dutch bank account. This to make certain the EPB can use its liquidity at all times. This reflects the low risk profile of treasury by the EPB.

[Communication with external stakeholders' policy](#)

The EPB communicates with external stakeholders in a variety of ways. The EPB communicates with other organisations and partners directly through attendance and representation at a variety of relevant European and international meetings, using presentations, workshops and individual face to face contact. Additionally, the EPB utilises a variety of online communication methods, including webinars, a website, an email newsletter, active Twitter and YouTube accounts and emails directly to individuals within partner organisations. To increase efficiency of communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EPB utilised all relevant online communication tools.

Activities 2023: New EPB strategy

The EPB Strategy 2023-2027 was adopted by the Plenary in the Spring Plenary 2023. The new Strategy aims to build on the foundation of the last twenty five years to optimise the strong and diverse member network of European polar organisations within the EPB. The Strategy also seeks new and exciting opportunities to engage with and further support European polar organisations. Full details can be found as a [downloadable PDF here](#).

Members of Board, financial committee and Governance

[Tasks and responsibility of Board members](#)

The Board is charged with the management of the Association. Its duties include the adoption of a current policy plan that provides insight into the work to be carried out by the Association in the pursuit of its object, the manner in which income is to be acquired, the management of the capital of the Association and the deployment thereof. The Board shall ensure that the administration expenses of the Association are in reasonable proportion to the expenditure for the purposes of its object.

[Remuneration policy](#)

Members of the Board shall receive no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, for the work they perform for the Association in that capacity. Members of the Board will receive a reasonable, non-excessive compensation for direct costs incurred for the benefit of the Association.

The Executive Secretary is a member of the Board (Executive Committee) and is head of the EPB Secretariat. The Executive Secretary receives a salary for the work she does as head of the EPB Secretariat.

[Composition, appointment and resolution of members of Executive Committee](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Date appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>
<i>Current EXCOM Members (December 2023):</i>			
Nicole Biebow	EPB Chair	November 2021	2 nd
Egill Thor Nielsson	EPB EXCOM Member	November 2021	2 nd
Miguel Ojeda Cárdenes	EPB EXCOM Member	April 2023	1 st
Peter Sköld	EPB EXCOM Member	October 2020	2 nd
Marie-Noelle Houssais	EPB EXCOM Member	April 2021	2 nd
Renuka Badhe	EPB Executive Secretary	January 2015	N/A

Before January 1st 2015, the EPB was part of the European Science Foundation. The EPB formed a non-governmental body under the auspices of the European Science Foundation. The EPB Board was composed of several Executive Committee Members. Terms of current Executive Committee Members include this previous period as well.

[Overview of other positions of members of Executive Committee](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Position</u>
<i>Current EXCOM Members (December 2023):</i>		
Nicole Biebow	Alfred Wegener Institute	Head, International Cooperation Unit
Egill Thor Nielsson	Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)	
Miguel Ojeda Cárdenes	Spanish National Research Council	Planning Manager Marine Technology Unit
Peter Sköld	Arctic Research Centre (ARCUM) at Umeå University	Director
Marie-Noelle Houssais	Laboratory of Ocean and Climate (LOCEAN, CNRS-Sorbonne University Joint Unit)	Senior Scientist
Renuka Badhe	European Polar Board	Executive Secretary

Future

Looking ahead to 2024, the European Polar Board (EPB) will maintain its commitment to advancing polar research through ongoing participation in six EU projects, with three of these initiatives reaching completion during the year. A significant focus will be on preparing for the EPB Secretariat's relocation to Sweden, where it will be hosted by Umeå University from January 2025. The handover process is set to commence in early 2024. Concurrently, the EPB's Action Groups will maintain their ongoing activities, with the Action Group on Environment planning to host a webinar series on the environmental impact of polar research and logistics, and the Polardex initiative of the Action Group on Infrastructure to continue. This transition period will also see the establishment of the European Polar Coordination Office (EPCO) at Umeå University (to be hosted by the EPB Secretariat) from Jan 2025, further enhancing the EPB's role in coordinating European polar research and providing expert input to policymakers.

Budget 2024

Budget year 2024 per budget item (approved at Spring 2024 Plenary Meeting)

	<u>2024</u>
	€
Income	
Member contributions	196,100
NWO contribution	50,000
SO-CHIC	61,844
EU-PolarNet 2	34,475
Arctic PASSION	98,253
OCEAN ICE	<u>30,941</u>
Total income	<u>471,613</u>
Expenditure	
EPB Committee Meetings	30,000
Direct activity in support of polar research community	34,000
Direct activity costs project SO-CHIC	49,475
Direct activity costs project EU-PolarNet 2	27,580
Direct activity costs project Arctic PASSION	78,603
Direct activity costs project OCEAN ICE	24,753
Communication & Outreach	39,000
Operational costs	<u>205,000</u>
Total expenditure	<u>488,411</u>
Balance income and expenditure	<u><u>- 16,798</u></u>

Risk

The EPB has a strong position in Europe. The EPB is the voice and facilitator of European polar research coordination. Entry to this is subjected by the need of vast network of participants involved.

As an organisation which interacts as a communication channel and facilitator for Members and polar research in general compliance and reputation risks are at hand. Entering into agreements and/or connections with other parties in this high political environment could damage the reputation of the EPB. The EPB is very cautious in entering into a relationship with any organisation, such as a new Member, possible collaboration or connection. Decisions on this are made by Plenary and/or Executive Committee.

Currently, the geo-political development regarding the conflict between Ukraine and Russia also affects polar international scientific research and science diplomacy, as large parts of the Arctic are Russian territory. The EPB is not directly affected by this conflict.

The EPB is exposed to financial risks by not receiving the membership fee in time or at all. Members are expected to pay every year during the first quarter of that year, but due to several reasons not every Member is able to cope with this. This risk is minimised by personal contact by the Executive Secretary with the applicable Member, contact with other Executive Committee Members and reporting on the status of payments during Plenary meetings.

The EPB has a continuity reserve of € 150,000 to cope with unexpected losses.

Risk profile of the EPB is acceptable and risks were adequately controlled during 2023.

There is no doubt about the going concern of the EPB (there is a good cash position). In the coming next years, the EPB is expected to further develop as an organisation as it continues work to fulfil its new Strategy.

The Hague, ... 2024

Nicole Biebow Chair
Chair

Egill Thor Níelsson
EXCOM Member

Miguel Ojeda Cárdenes
EXCOM Member

Peter Sköld
EXCOM Member

Marie-Noelle Houssais
EXCOM Member

Renuka Badhe
Executive Secretary

A. Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023
(after allocation of balance from income and expenditure)

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>31-12-2022</u>
	€	€
ASSETS		
	Current assets	
1.	37,561	-32,134
2.	696,258	667,711
	<u>733,819</u>	<u>635,577</u>
	Total current assets	
	<u>733,819</u>	<u>635,577</u>
	<u>733,819</u>	<u>635,577</u>
LIABILITIES		
3.	Reserves	
	150,000	150,000
	361,399	301,489
	<u>511,399</u>	<u>451,489</u>
	Total reserves	
	<u>511,399</u>	<u>451,489</u>
	Debts	
4.	222,420	184,088
	<u>222,420</u>	<u>184,088</u>
	<u>733,819</u>	<u>635,577</u>
	Total liabilities	
	<u>733,819</u>	<u>635,577</u>

B. Statement of income and expenditure

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	
	€	€	€	
INCOME				
5.	Income from membership fees	190,600	190,600	196,100
6.	Income from hosting party	50,000	50,000	50,000
7.	Income SO-CHIC	64,148	74,213	62,026
8.	Income INTERACT III	34,428	54,697	13,645
9.	Income EU-PolarNet 2	41,586	45,967	95,256
10.	Income Arctic PASSION	85,248	98,253	45,263
11.	Income OCEAN ICE	23,650	30,941	3,743
12.	Other income	1,360	0	5,000
	Total income	<u>491,020</u>	<u>544,671</u>	<u>471,033</u>
EXPENDITURE				
<i>Spent on objectives</i>				
13.	- EPB Committee Meetings	17,199	30,000	27,629
14.	- Direct activity in support of polar research community	23,009	34,000	14,311
15.	- Communication & Outreach	23,227	39,000	2,454
16.	- EPB internal activities	115	5,000	26,813
	<i>Total spent on objectives</i>	<u>63,550</u>	<u>108,000</u>	<u>71,207</u>
17.	Management and administration	<u>168,313</u>	<u>210,000</u>	<u>155,610</u>
18.	Project costs SO-CHIC	51,318	59,371	49,621
19.	Project costs INTERACT III	27,542	43,757	10,916
20.	Project costs EU-PolarNet 2	33,269	36,774	76,205
21.	Project costs Arctic PASSION	68,198	78,603	36,210
22.	Project costs OCEAN ICE	18,920	24,753	2,994
	Total expenditure	<u>431,110</u>	<u>561,258</u>	<u>402,763</u>
	Balance income and expenditure	<u>59,910</u>	<u>-16,587</u>	<u>68,270</u>
Allocation:				
	- Continuity reserve	0	0	50,000
	- General reserve	59,910	-16,587	18,270
	Total	<u>59,910</u>	<u>-16,587</u>	<u>68,270</u>

C. Accounting principles

General information

The reporting entity, the European Polar Board, was founded on March 23, 2016. It has its registered office at Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300, 2593 CE in The Hague.

The fiscal year 2023 covers the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

The objective of the Association, under its Articles of Association (art. 3.1) reads as follows:

The Association has as its object:

- a. to be the voice of the European polar research;*
- b. to facilitate cooperation in all fields of polar science in its Member states across Europe;*
- c. to perform all other actions related to the above in the broadest sense of those terms, or which could be beneficial to these.*

The Association shall endeavor to achieve this object by, inter alia (art 3.2):

- a. providing a forum for the comprehensive inclusion of all relevant partners in Europe and the broad coverage of all scientific fields of polar research;*
- b. promoting polar research to the European Community based on its bipolar vision;*
- c. providing a central organizational structure supporting European polar science;*
- d. supporting development of joint scientific programmes, in optimized use of European research infrastructures and in representation of polar issues within European research framework programmes.*

Going concern

The accounting policies within the financial statements are based on the assumption that the European Polar Board will be able to continue as a going concern.

RJ C1

This presentation of the financial statements is in accordance with Dutch Accounting Standard: Board's Guideline for Annual Reporting C1 for small not-for-profit organisations.

Estimates

In applying the accounting policies and standards for preparing financial statements, the European Polar Board is required to make estimates and judgments that might be essential for the amounts disclosed in the annual accounts. If insight is required, the nature of these judgments and estimates, including the associated assumptions, is included in the notes to the relevant financial statement items.

Accounting principles for the balance sheet

Unless otherwise indicated, assets and liabilities are entered at historical cost and are used for the objectives of the Association.

The balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement include references to the notes.

Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value. If payment of the receivable is postponed under an extended payment deadline, fair value is measured on the basis of discounted value of the expected revenues. If a receivable appears to be uncollectible a provision for bad debts will be created and reported in the figures.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and bank balances with a term of less than twelve months. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at nominal value.

Reserves

The continuity reserve is created to ensure that the Association can meet its legal and moral obligations in case of a significant fall in income in the future.

The general reserve is held by the EPB to finance its new, existing and developing activities in the future in line with its strategy. The general reserve is used to finance multiyear activities planned by the EPB, and to finance any deficit between income and expenditure in future budgets. The EPB is proactive in reallocating finances from its general reserve in response to unforeseen circumstances, with the general reserve allowing for flexibility and responsiveness.

Employee pension plan

The pension scheme is administered by Stichting Algemeen Burgerlijk Pensioenfonds (ABP). In the event of a deficit at the pension fund, the European Polar Board has no obligation to pay additional contributions other than higher future contributions. If there is a surplus or a deficit in the fund, ABP will decide to either reduce or increase the contributions. Premiums are recognised as personnel expenses when due. Prepaid premiums are recognised as accrued assets if this results in a refund or a reduction in future payments. Premiums not yet paid are recognised as a liability on the balance sheet. As at the balance sheet date, the fund has a policy funding ratio of 110.5% (2022: 110.9%).

Liabilities

Liabilities are initially recognised at fair value. Transaction costs directly attributable to the incurrence of the liabilities are included in the measurement on initial recognition. Liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised costs; this is the amount received plus or less any premium or discount and net of transaction costs.

Accounting principles for the statement of income and expenditure

Income and expenditure

Income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred and are recorded in the financial statements of the period to which they relate. Losses are taken into account if they originate in the financial year and as soon as these are anticipated. Profit or loss is determined as the difference between realisable value of the services delivered and the costs and other charges for the year.

The project income is recorded as income and matched with the expenditure, according to the project agreement, in the financial statements of the period to which they relate. The personnel costs are based on the real personnel cost and time registration of each employee.

Employee benefits

Wages, salaries and social security charges are included in the statement of income and expenditure on the basis of the conditions of employment, insofar as they are payable to employees.

Accounting principles for transactions in foreign currency

Functional currency

Items included in the financial statements are valued with due regard for the currency in the economic environment in which the Association carries out most of its activities (the functional currency). The financial statements are denominated in euros; this is both the functional currency and presentation currency of the Association.

Transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are stated in the financial statements at the exchange rate of the functional currency on the transaction date.

D. Notes to the balance sheet

	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>31-12-2022</u>
	€	€
1. <u>Receivables</u>		
Amounts receivable membership fees	7,700	14,550
Other receivables	<u>29,861</u>	<u>-46,684</u>
Total receivables	<u><u>37,561</u></u>	<u><u>-32,134</u></u>
- Amounts receivable membership fees		
SNF	7,700	7,700
MINECO	0	3,250
Belspo	<u>0</u>	<u>3,600</u>
Total amounts receivable membership fees	<u><u>7,700</u></u>	<u><u>14,550</u></u>
- Other receivables		
Project EU-PolarNet 2	15,852	-25,734
Project Interact III	13,457	-20,971
Interest	<u>552</u>	<u>21</u>
Total other receivables	<u><u>29,861</u></u>	<u><u>-46,684</u></u>
<i>To receive project EU-PolarNet 2</i>		
Balance at 1 January	-25,734	-61,672
Received payment	0	-59,318
Income	<u>41,586</u>	<u>95,256</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>15,852</u></u>	<u><u>-25,734</u></u>

	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>31-12-2022</u>
	€	€
<i>To receive project Interact III</i>		
Balance at 1 January	-20,971	-21,299
Received payment	0	-13,317
Income	<u>34,428</u>	<u>13,645</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>13,457</u></u>	<u><u>-20,971</u></u>

2. Cash and cash equivalents

ABN AMRO - Bank Account .443	314,938	300,919
ABN AMRO - Bank Account .453	206,011	122,195
ABN AMRO - Bank Saving Account	150,829	100,000
ABN AMRO - Bank Account (other projects)	<u>24,480</u>	<u>144,597</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>696,258</u></u>	<u><u>667,711</u></u>

The cash and cash equivalents can be withdrawn upon demand.

3. Reserves

- Continuity reserve

Balance at 1 January	150,000	100,000
Allocation balance income and expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>150,000</u></u>	<u><u>150,000</u></u>

The Board has decided to create a continuity reserve of € 150,000 to cope with unexpected losses.

	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>31-12-2022</u>
	€	€
- General reserve		
Balance at 1 January	301,489	283,219
Allocation balance income and expenditure	<u>59,910</u>	<u>18,270</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>361,399</u></u>	<u><u>301,489</u></u>

The general reserve is held by the EPB to finance its new, existing and developing activities in the future in line with its Strategy. The general reserve is used to finance multiyear activities planned by the EPB, and to finance any deficit between income and expenditure in future budgets. The EPB is proactive in reallocating finances from its general reserve in response to unforeseen circumstances, with the general reserve allowing for flexibility and responsiveness.

4. Short-term debts

Received in advance		
- Arctic Passion	79,368	93,513
- OCEAN ICE	31,736	-3,743
- SO-CHIC	9,544	3,108
- Membership contribution	11,000	0
Staff costs	57,913 *	54,657
Balance leave hours	12,474	5,167
Salary taxes	7,125 *	9,192
Reservation holiday pay	6,610 *	5,399
Travel expenses	0	11,002
Other short-term debts	<u>6,650 *</u>	<u>5,793</u>
Total short-term debts	<u><u>222,420</u></u>	<u><u>184,088</u></u>

* Paid in 2024.

- Received in advance Arctic Passion

Balance at 1 January	93,513	-2,659
Received payment	71,103	141,435
Income	<u>-85,248</u>	<u>-45,263</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>79,368</u></u>	<u><u>93,513</u></u>

	<u>31-12-2023</u>	<u>31-12-2022</u>
	€	€
- Received in advance OCEAN ICE		
Balance at 1 January	-3,743	-3,743
Received payment	59,129	0
Income	<u>-23,650</u>	<u>0</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>31,736</u></u>	<u><u>-3,743</u></u>
- Received in advance SO-CHIC		
Balance at 1 January	3,108	65,134
Received payment	70,584	0
Income	<u>-64,148</u>	<u>-62,026</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u><u>9,544</u></u>	<u><u>3,108</u></u>

RIGHTS AND COMMITMENTS NOT APPEARING IN THE BALANCE SHEET

With the 'Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek' (NWO) a hosting agreement until 2020 has been agreed upon as decided by Plenary Meeting in Autumn 2014. NWO will facilitate housing, office, IT, finance, administration and staffing services.

In April 2018, the EPB received notification from NWO of their decision to extend their offer to host the Secretariat in The Hague for a second period of 5 years, starting on 1st January 2020 and ending 31st December 2024. The offered conditions of the hosting agreement remain the same as the first 5-year period, subject to practical and required operational adjustments based on mutual agreement between the EPB and NWO.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events post balance date which would materially affect the annual accounts.

E. Notes to the statement of income and expenditure

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>
	€	€	€
INCOME			
5. <u>Income from membership fees</u>			
Membership fees	<u>190,600</u>	<u>190,600</u>	<u>196,100</u>
Total income from membership fees	<u><u>190,600</u></u>	<u><u>190,600</u></u>	<u><u>196,100</u></u>
6. <u>Income from hosting party</u>			
Contribution hosting party	40,000	40,000	40,000
Contribution hosting party in kind	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Total income from hosting party	<u><u>50,000</u></u>	<u><u>50,000</u></u>	<u><u>50,000</u></u>
7. <u>Income project SO-CHIC</u>			
Income project SO-CHIC	<u>64,148</u>	<u>74,213</u>	<u>62,026</u>
Total income project SO-CHIC	<u><u>64,148</u></u>	<u><u>74,213</u></u>	<u><u>62,026</u></u>
<p>The EPB is one of the partners in the EU project SO-CHIC. The coordinator of the SO-CHIC project is the Sorbonne University. The project has started on November 1st 2019 and had a duration of 48 months. The project is extended budget neutrally till October 31st 2024. The total budget of the EPB is € 253,250, the total budget of the project is € 7,989,925. The total project costs (direct and indirect costs) from the start of the project until December 31st 2023 is € 183,445.</p>			
8. <u>Income project INTERACT III</u>			
	<u><u>34,428</u></u>	<u><u>54,697</u></u>	<u><u>13,645</u></u>

The EPB is one of the partners in the EU project INTERACT III. The coordinator of the INTERACT III project is the Lund University. The project has started on January 1st 2020 and had a duration of 48 months. The project is extended budget neutrally till December 31st 2024. The total budget of the EPB is € 89,875, the total budget of the project is € 10,000,000. The total project costs (direct and indirect costs) from the start of the project until December 31st 2023 is € 70,214.

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>
	€	€	€
9. <u>Income project EU-PolarNet 2</u>	<u>41,586</u>	<u>45,967</u>	<u>95,256</u>

The EPB is one of the partners in the EU project EU-PolarNet 2. The coordinator of the EU-PolarNet 2 project is the Alfred Wegener Institute. The project has started on October 1st 2020 and has a duration of 48 months. The project is extended budget neutrally till December 31st 2024. The total budget of the EPB is € 211,250, the total budget of the project is € 3,299,254. The total project costs (direct and indirect costs) from the start of the project until December 31st 2023 is € 177,273.

10. <u>Income project Arctic PASSION</u>	<u>85,248</u>	<u>98,253</u>	<u>45,263</u>
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The EPB is one of the partners in the EU project Arctic PASSION. The coordinator of the Arctic PASSION project is the Alfred Wegener Institute. The project has started on July 1st 2021 and had a duration of 48 months. The project is extended budget neutrally till December 31st 2025. The total budget of the EPB is € 292,625, the total budget of the project is € 14,998,301. The total project costs (direct and indirect costs) from the start of the project until December 31st 2023 is € 133,170.

11. <u>Income project OCEAN ICE</u>	<u>23,650</u>	<u>30,941</u>	<u>3,743</u>
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The EPB is one of the partners in the EU project OCEAN ICE. The coordinator of the OCEAN ICE project is Danmarks Meteorologiske Institut (DMI). The project has started on November 1st 2022 and had a duration of 48 months. The project ends at October 31st 2026. The total budget of the EPB is € 122,344, the total budget of the project is € 4,886,889. The total project costs (direct and indirect costs) from the start of the project until December 31st 2023 is € 27,393.

12. <u>Other income</u>			
IRSNB	0		5,000
Interest	<u>1,360</u>		<u>0</u>
Total other income	<u>1,360</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>
	€	€	€
EXPENDITURE			
13.	<u>Direct costs: EPB Committee Meetings</u>		
	EPB Committee Meetings	<u>17,199</u>	<u>30,000</u>
	Total direct costs EPB Committee Meetings	<u><u>17,199</u></u>	<u><u>30,000</u></u>
14.	<u>Direct activity in support of polar research community</u>		
	EPB Action Groups	6,200	6,000
	Infrastructure online database	6,387	5,000
	Support for research initiatives	2,298	10,000
	EPB representation costs	1,105	5,000
	Implementation of EPB MoUS	<u>7,019</u>	<u>8,000</u>
	Total direct activity in support of polar research community	<u><u>23,009</u></u>	<u><u>34,000</u></u>
	There were fewer individuals that represented the EPB than budgeted.		
15.	<u>Direct costs: Communication & Outreach</u>		
	EPB website (training, maintenance)	822	6,000
	EPB Outreach	11,085	15,000
	Publication costs	5,152	6,000
	Support for policy initiatives	<u>6,168</u>	<u>12,000</u>
	Total direct costs Communication & Outreach	<u><u>23,227</u></u>	<u><u>39,000</u></u>
	Next year, with the EPB in the new place, there will be major changes to the website, therefore this year were only minor updates and maintenance done.		
16.	<u>EPB internal activities</u>		
	EPB Strategy (2023-2027) development	0	0
	EPB information and data archiving and policy	<u>115</u>	<u>5,000</u>
	Total EPB internal activities	<u><u>115</u></u>	<u><u>5,000</u></u>

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>
	€	€	€
17. <u>Management and administration</u>			
C2 Employment costs for Policy	197,909	164,601	163,283
C3 Employment costs for Executive Secretary	125,031	200,000	117,084
Allocated to SO-CHIC	-40,725	-28,059	-44,029
Allocated to INTERACT III	-25,493	-25,340	-9,106
Allocated to EU-PolarNet 2	-19,254	-19,920	-55,923
Allocated to Arctic PASSION	-60,973	-70,057	-24,205
Allocated to OCEAN ICE	-17,994	-21,225	-2,644
Bank costs	0	0	499
Other direct costs	<u>9,812</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,651</u>
Total management and administration	<u><u>168,313</u></u>	<u><u>210,000</u></u>	<u><u>155,610</u></u>

The members of the Executive Committee receive no remuneration. The Executive Secretary is only compensated for her work at the Secretariat.

<i>Average FTE of Staff on the payroll</i>	2.88	2.49
<i>Number of FTE at year end</i>	2.5	3

18. <u>Project costs SO-CHIC</u>			
Labor costs	40,725	28,059	44,029
Travel and other costs	<u>10,593</u>	<u>31,312</u>	<u>5,592</u>
Total project costs SO-CHIC	<u><u>51,318</u></u>	<u><u>59,371</u></u>	<u><u>49,621</u></u>

19. <u>Project costs INTERACT III</u>			
Labor costs	25,493	25,340	9,106
Travel and other costs	<u>2,049</u>	<u>18,417</u>	<u>1,810</u>
Total project costs INTERACT III	<u><u>27,542</u></u>	<u><u>43,757</u></u>	<u><u>10,916</u></u>

20. <u>Project costs EU-PolarNet 2</u>			
Labor costs	19,254	19,920	55,923
Travel and other costs	<u>14,015</u>	<u>16,854</u>	<u>20,282</u>
Total project costs EU-PolarNet 2	<u><u>33,269</u></u>	<u><u>36,774</u></u>	<u><u>76,205</u></u>

	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Budget 2023</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>
	€	€	€
21. <u>Project costs Arctic PASSION</u>			
Labor costs	60,973	70,057	24,205
Travel and other costs	<u>7,225</u>	<u>8,546</u>	<u>12,005</u>
Total project costs Arctic PASSION	<u><u>68,198</u></u>	<u><u>78,603</u></u>	<u><u>36,210</u></u>
22. <u>Project costs OCEAN ICE</u>			
Labor costs	17,994	21,225	2,644
Travel and other costs	<u>926</u>	<u>3,528</u>	<u>350</u>
Total project costs OCEAN ICE	<u><u>18,920</u></u>	<u><u>24,753</u></u>	<u><u>2,994</u></u>

The Hague, ... 2024

Nicole Biebow
Chair

Egill Thor Níelsson
EXCOM Member

Vito Vitale
EXCOM Member

Peter Sköld
EXCOM Member

Marie-Noelle Houssais
EXCOM Member

Renuka Badhe
Executive Secretary

Project: SO-CHIC

Information

Grant Agreement: 821001
 Start: 01-11-2019
 Original end date: 01-11-2023
 Original duration: 48 months
 Extension end date: 31-10-2024

Reporting period 1: 1 up to 18 months (01-05-2021)
 Reporting period 2: 19 up to 36 months (01-11-2022)
 Reporting period 3: 37 up to 48 months (01-11-2023)

		Budget			Realisation						
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Annual report 2019</u>	<u>Actual 2019</u>	<u>Correction 2019</u>	<u>Actual 2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Total</u>
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Personal costs: 27 person months of € 5,000	a	135,000	5,000	0	-5,000	17,911	23,011	44,029	40,725	0	125,676
Subcontracting	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs:											
- Travel		15,000	1,086	1,086	0	2,006	1,803	5,592	10,593	0	21,080
- Other goods and services		52,600 *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal other direct costs	c	67,600	1,086	1,086	0	2,006	1,803	5,592	10,593	0	21,080
Total direct costs (a + c)		202,600	6,086	1,086	-5,000	19,917	24,814	49,621	51,318	0	146,756
Indirect costs (25% of a + c)	d	50,650	1,521	271	-1,250	4,979	6,204	12,405	12,830	0	36,689
Total budget (a + b + c + d)		253,250	7,607	1,357	-6,250	24,896	31,018	62,026	64,148	0	183,445
Maximum allowable EC Contribution (a + b + c + d)		253,250	7,607	1,357	-6,250	24,896	31,018	62,026	64,148	0	183,445

* It has been agreed with the main party that these costs may be used as 'personal costs'.

Project: INTERACT III

Information

Grant Agreement: 871120
 Start: 01-01-2020
 Original end date: 31-12-2023
 Original duration: 48 months
 Extension end date: 31-12-2024

Reporting period 1: 1 up to 18 months (01-05-2021)
 Reporting period 2: 19 up to 36 months (01-11-2022)
 Reporting period 3: 37 up to 48 months (01-11-2023)

	Budget	Realisation					Total
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
	Total						
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Personal costs: 9 person months	a 50,000	5,182	10,858	9,106	25,493	0	50,639
Subcontracting	b 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs:							
- Travel	12,900	456	1,217	1,810	2,049	0	5,532
- Other goods and services	9,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal other direct costs	c 21,900	456	1,217	1,810	2,049	0	5,532
Total direct costs (a + c)	71,900	5,638	12,075	10,916	27,542	0	56,171
Indirect costs (25% of a + c)	d 17,975	1,410	3,019	2,729	6,886	0	14,043
Total budget (a + b + c + d)	89,875	7,048	15,094	13,645	34,428	0	70,214
Maximum allowable EC Contribution (a + b + c + d)	89,875	7,048	15,094	13,645	34,428	0	70,214

Project: EU-PolarNet 2

Information

Grant Agreement: 101003766
 Start: 01-10-2020
 Original end date: 30-09-2024
 Original duration: 48 months
 Extension end date: 31-12-2024

Reporting period 1: 1 up to 18 months (31-03-2022)
 Reporting period 2: 19 up to 36 months (30-09-2023)
 Reporting period 3: 37 up to 48 months (30-09-2024)

	Budget	Realisation					Total	
	Total	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	
Personal costs: (€ 8,500 x 14 months)	a	119,000	7,728	21,852	55,923	19,254	0	104,757
Subcontracting	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs:								
- Travel	}	50,000	0	2,765	20,282	14,015	0	37,062
- Other goods and services		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal other direct costs	c	50,000	0	2,765	20,282	14,015	0	37,062
Total direct costs (a + c)		169,000	7,728	24,617	76,205	33,269	0	141,819
Indirect costs (25% of a + c)	d	42,250	1,932	6,154	19,051	8,317	0	35,454
Total budget (a + b + c + d)		211,250	9,660	30,771	95,256	41,586	0	177,273
Maximum allowable EC Contribution (a + b + c + d)		211,250	9,660	30,771	95,256	41,586	0	177,273

Project: Arctic PASSION

Information

Grant Agreement: 101003472
 Start: 01-07-2021
 Original end date: 30-06-2025
 Original duration: 48 months
 Extension end date: 31-12-2025

Reporting period 1: 1 up to 18 months (01-01-2023)
 Reporting period 2: 19 up to 36 months (01-07-2024)
 Reporting period 3: 37 up to 48 months (01-07-2025)

	Budget	Realisation					Total
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
	Total						
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Personal costs	a 201,600	2,127	24,205	60,973	0	0	87,305
Subcontracting	b 0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs:							
- Travel	} 32,500	0	12,005	7,225	0	0	19,230
- Other goods and services		0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal other direct costs	c 32,500	0	12,005	7,225	0	0	19,230
Total direct costs (a + c)	234,100	2,127	36,210	68,198	0	0	106,535
Indirect costs (25% of a + c)	d 58,525	532	9,053	17,050	0	0	26,635
Total budget (a + b + c + d)	292,625	2,659	45,263	85,248	0	0	133,170
Maximum allowable EC Contribution (a + b + c + d)	292,625	2,659	45,263	85,248	0	0	133,170

Project: OCEANICE

Information

Grant Agreement: 101060452

Start: 01-11-2022

Original end date: 31-10-2026

Original duration: 48 months

Reporting period 1: 1 up to 18 months (01-05-2023)

Reporting period 2: 19 up to 36 months (01-11-2024)

Reporting period 3: 37 up to 48 months (31-10-2026)

		Budget	Realisation					Total
		Total	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
		€	€	€	€	€	€	
Personal costs	a	84,000	2,644	17,994	0	0	0	20,638
Subcontracting	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct costs:								
- Travel		1,875	350	926	0	0	0	1,276
- Other goods and services		12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal other direct costs	c	13,875	350	926	0	0	0	1,276
Total direct costs (a + c)		97,875	2,994	18,920	0	0	0	21,914
Indirect costs (25% of a + c)	d	24,469	749	4,730	0	0	0	5,479
Total budget (a + b + c + d)		122,344	3,743	23,650	0	0	0	27,393
Maximum allowable EC Contribution (a + b + c + d)		122,344	3,743	23,650	0	0	0	27,393