



# EUROPEAN POLAR BOARD

Photo: Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research



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

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**Presentación para la Reunión de Administradores de Programas Antárticos  
Latinoamericanos (RAPAL), Oct 2019**



# Background

Formed in 1995 as a strategic advisory body to European Science Foundation. Became independent legal entity hosted by NWO in Den Haag since January 2015

EPB is a Dutch legal entity and an “Organisation for Public Benefit”





# Strategy 2017-2022



**EUROPEAN  
POLAR BOARD**





# Mission

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





# Strengths - Composite and comprehensive membership

Range of research and infrastructure organisations - a mix of scientific competence and management skill



**27** EPB  
MEMBERS

The EPB's 27 Members include national polar programmes, research institutions, government departments, national funding agencies and university centres from across Europe, representing the combined polar research communities of 19 countries.





# Strengths – Bipolar vision

## 20 POLAR RESEARCH VESSELS

The EPB Members operate a total of 20 research ships specialised for operations in polar waters, including heavy icebreakers, along with countless smaller vessels and craft in Arctic and Antarctic waters. If all EPB Members' research vessels were lined up, bow to stern, they would stretch over 2 km.

## 7 POLAR RESEARCH AIRCRAFT

EPB Members operate seven aircraft dedicated to polar research, carrying out scientific surveys and providing logistical support to field operations in the Antarctic and the Arctic.



## 67 POLAR RESEARCH FIELD FACILITIES

EPB Members own or operate a total of 67 polar fieldwork facilities, including large stations, cabins, shelters and field camps to support field campaigns by polar researchers - 33 in Antarctica and 34 in the Arctic.



## International Partners

APECS  
IASC  
SCAR  
UArctic  
COMNAP  
FARO

## European Partners

European Commission  
ESA  
EU Arctic Cluster  
EU-PolarNet  
INTERACT  
ICE-ARC  
ECRA  
European Marine Board

## Regional Counterparts

AFoPS  
PAG  
RAPAL



## Members

Arctic Centre  
ARCUM  
Bulgarian Antarctic Institute  
BELSPO  
CNR  
CNRS  
CSIC  
DASTI  
Estonian Academy of Sciences  
FCT  
FNRS  
FWF  
FWO  
HGF/AWI  
IMR  
IPEV  
MINECO  
NERC/BAS  
NWO  
PAN  
PNRS  
polar.lu  
RANNIS  
Research Council of Norway  
SNF  
SPRS  
Thule Institute

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## The EPB is a structure supporting international cooperation in polar research

- The EPB provides a single contact point through which all of its Members can be reached.
- Members actively share knowledge and best practices.
- Uniquely positioned with a polar (Arctic and Antarctic) European focus.





# EPB – How does it work?

## Action Groups

Defined activities within a limited lifetime

5 Action Groups active

## Projects

Externally funded, where EPB plays a variety of roles

4 Projects ongoing, or recently funded





# EPB Action Groups – some examples

## **Action Group on Polar Infrastructure**

Transfer and further maintenance the EU-PolarNet Polar Infrastructures Database, and creating the EU-PolarNet Polar Infrastructures Catalogue

## **Action Group on International Cooperation**

Working to improve cooperation and collaborations between European and international polar research communities

## **Action Group on Environmental Impacts of Polar Research & Logistics**

Sharing best practice examples of reducing impact of polar research from both poles







# Example: EPB Action Group on Infrastructure

- The forum provided by the EPB enables Members to coordinate and share information on infrastructure facilities and access
- Leads to tools and coordinated initiatives that can support collaboration with international partners around the world
- European Polar Infrastructure Catalogue and Database
- Upcoming activities to share and harmonise access requirements between Members, to also benefit international partners
- Members collectively reaching out

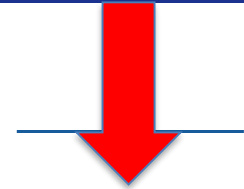






# European Infrastructure - Antarctic

<http://www.europeanpolarboard.org>



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[Stations](#) [Vessels](#) [Aircraft](#) [Info](#)

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Location

Type

Operating country

Operational period

Facility operator/manager

Max number of personnel



# EPB Projects– some examples

## **CHOICEe**

Building on previous work at Concordia station as a collaboration between IPEV, PNRA and ESA, this project looks at allergic responses in over wintering staff at polar stations

## **EU-PolarNet**

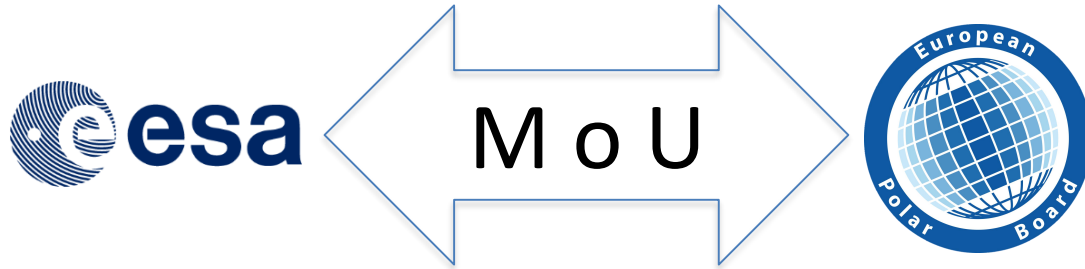
A strategic framework and mechanisms that deliver tangible benefits for society - legacy of EU-PolarNet will be sustained by the EPB

## **Southern Ocean Carbon and Heat Impact on Climate: SO-CHIC**

Project on the role of Southern Ocean on the global climate system, starting Nov 2019



# EPB as a single contact point



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## Members

- Arctic Centre
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- BELSPO
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- DASTI
- Estonian Academy of Sciences
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# Example: EPB-ESA-University of Munich project – CHOICEe

- Investigating the epidemiology of potential newly developed allergic reactions in Antarctic over-wintering station staff, as an analogue for space flights
- Through the EPB, ESA able to develop collaborative project with all EPB Members interested in involving their stations in CHOICEe
- Possible due to EPB being a single contact point to EPB Members







# Thank you

For further information

**Website, join our mailing list:**

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

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@DrRenukaBadhe





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