**Living Planet Symposium – Agora Session**

**EC and ESA collaboration**

**Polar Science Challenges and future activities**

**Date: 15th May 2019, 13.00 – 15.00**

**Room: AGORA ESA**

The Directorate General for research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA) have in place framework agreement to coordinate, align and cluster research activities funded under Horizon 2020 and the ESA Earth observation scientific programme.

The flagship activity under Horizon 2020 is the “Polar science”. The objectives of this Agora session are to update the scientific community about the cooperation, to describe what DG RTD and ESA already fund to support Polar science, to inform about our future common plans, and to receive feedback on how to develop the cooperation and support clustering activities.

**Agenda of session**

*Chairpersons: Diego Fernandez (ESA), Attilio Gambardella (DG RTD), Ola Grabak (ESA)*

1. Welcome and short presentation of ESA-RTD collaboration Initiative.

2. EC and ESA Polar science actions, activities and plans, including: existing projects; future actions, and support to clustering and networking

3. Presentation of key projects:

**EU-PolarNet -** Nicole Biebow, Alfred-Wegener-Institut

**Polar TEP -** Andrew Fleming, British Antarctic Survey

**INTAROS** - Pedro Gonçalves, Terradue

**S34Sci Snow Albedo -** Jason Box, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland

**NUNATARIUK** - Annett Bartsch, b.geos

**CryoTop -** Noel Gourmelen, University of Edinburgh

4. Open discussion:

- General recommendations on EC-ESA partnership initiative

- Looking ahead: what Polar science topics would benefit from the cooperation

- What can we do to make projects working better together?