INTAROS – Integrated Arctic Observation System

A project funded by EC - H2020 2016-2021

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Overall objective: to develop an efficient integrated Arctic Observation System by extending, improving and unifying existing and evolving systems in different regions of the Arctic



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An integrated Arctic Observing System needs to include data from

- Atmosphere
- ≻Ocean
- Terrestrial themes

on variables according to user requirements.

The largest gaps are in the in-situ observation network, which should provide:

- data that cannot be obtained from remote sensing
- data needed for validation of remote sensing
- data needed in modelling (forecasting, reanalysis, etc.)





INTAROS field activities in 2017-2018



CNRS IUEM), and seismometer

deployment (UIB)



Arctic sea ice in summer

Sea Ice Concentration 06 September 2015



Sea ice concentration 15 September 2018





Institute of Environmental Physics



Arctic sea ice decrease in the last decades









SIMBA ice mass balance buoy work in 2018

Also deployment from ODEN, NABOS and AWI expeditions

R/V Xuelong expedition CHINARE2018





Cheng et al, 2018, AGU poster



Snow and ice thickness from the SIMBA buoys



- SIMBA measures high resolution temperature profiles in airsnow-ice-water.
- Interface detection based on temperature profile.
- Collaboration between FMI and PRIC





Structure of the integrated observation system



Distributed data centres

ACTRIS Arctic Data Archival System Arctic Data Centre Alaska Ocean Observing System CAFF CMEMS EPOS ICOS ... NMDC NorDataNet Ocean Networks Canada ... PANGAEA Polar Data Catalogue SIOS WIGOS





Data integration work

- Identify the existing and most suitable data repositories for atmosphere, ocean and terrestrial themes
- Need long term funding secured, a well documented data life cycle model and data governance framework
- Focus on compliance with FAIR principles
- Work to develop best practices for metadata and data
- Link to ongoing standardisation activities (e.g. ADC, IEEE)





Challenges in building Arctic observing systems

- Develop coordination and collaboration between data providers and stakeholders in the pan-Arctic region in order to better use existing systems and resources (Organisation)
- (2) Improvement of the observing platforms and sensors, filling of gaps in the observing network and facilitate for year-round operation, how to go from research to operational systems (Technology)
- (3) Data sampling, transmission, calibration, processing, archiving and retrieval of required variables and build distributed and connected databases (Data dissemination, data management)
- (4) How to develop sustainability of the observing systems, and what are the funding mechanisms ? (Funding)



