

**Wednesday 25 March 2026 from 10:00 – 12:00 CET**

**Open session, meeting room # 2.**

**Bridging Climate and Ecosystem Science Needs and Research Infrastructure in the Arctic**

As the Arctic undergoes rapid environmental, geopolitical, and socio-economic transformations, the alignment between scientific priorities and research infrastructure becomes increasingly critical. This session will explore how to strategically match evolving science questions developing within ICARP IV and International Polar Year (IPY) 2032/2033 processes with the infrastructure required to support them.

The session will discuss pathways to effective research cooperation and effective international pan-Arctic cooperation for the delivery of Arctic research outcomes related to climate and ecosystems science. The session will bring together representatives from ICARP IV Research Priority Teams (RPT) to discuss lessons learned from the ICARP IV, to explore how organisations can work together to optimize investments in observing systems, data sharing platforms, field stations, and logistical networks to ensure they are responsive, inclusive, and resilient to science needs. The session will bring together research and infrastructure organisations to co-develop pathways for a more integrated and need-driven Arctic research ecosystem in support of ICARP IV and IPY 2032/2033.

This session is organized by Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO). FARO is an international umbrella organization for countries operating research infrastructures in the Arctic. FARO facilitates information exchange, establishment of cooperation and development of new ideas among national operators of ships, stations and aircrafts in the Arctic.

**Suggested presentations:**

- 1) Welcome by Dirk Mengedoht, Chair of FARO  
Introduction on importance of aligning science needs, infrastructure and funding (7 min)
  
- 2) International cooperation - ICARP IV, IPY. (7 minutes)  
Henry Burgess, IPY Executive Committee. President, International Arctic Science Committee
  
- 3) Synoptic Arctic Survey (SAS)- Coordinated planning, operations, and sharing of research infrastructure (10 minutes)  
Presenter: Øyvind Paasche, Chair of the SAS Scientific Steering Committee
  
- 4) Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) - overview of infrastructure/observing networks (10 min) Sandy Starkweather, co-chair SAONs Arctic ROADS process
  
- 5) ICARP RPT 7 priorities - Infrastructure, Logistics, and Services (10 minutes)  
Presenter: Elmer Topp-Jørgensen RPT7/INTERACT
  
- 6) ICARP IV RPT 4 priorities - Suggestions for aligning science needs and infrastructure, coordination of national and international funding agencies (10 minutes)  
Presenter: Co-Chair of RPT4 Malgorzata Smieszek-Rice

*BREAK 10 min*

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**Panel discussion 45 min:**

How can we ensure cooperation among science and infrastructure to develop a responsive, inclusive, and resilient alignment of infrastructure and science needs.

**Moderator:** Dirk Mengedoht

Introduction – input from the Arctic Frontiers roundtable discussion 2026 by Nalan Koc

Tentative questions for the panel discussion:

Where does the discussion on aligning science needs and Arctic research infrastructure stand today, and what have we learned from recent processes such as ICARP IV?

Is there a need for a more formal or institutionalized framework to anchor and facilitate future dialogue between science, infrastructure providers, and funders? If so, who should serve as this anchor?

Who are the key stakeholders—scientific communities, research infrastructure operators, Indigenous organizations, funding agencies, governments, and international bodies—that must be engaged?

What mechanisms or models exist—or should be developed—to ensure internationally coordinated access to research facilities, data platforms, and logistical support across the Arctic? Including how to maintain a comprehensive, accessible overview of existing Arctic research infrastructures, observing systems?

What role should funding entities play in strengthening the linkages between scientific priorities and infrastructure investments, including long-term support for observing systems and cross-border cooperation?

Close with clear “next steps”

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