

Early Career engagement bridges polar boundaries: a case study from EU Arctic Cluster

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APECS

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) is a multidisciplinary, international organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, educators, and others with interests in the Polar and Alpine Regions, as well as the wider cryosphere.

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APECS and the EU Arctic Cluster

A key goal of APECS is to help bridge polar boundaries by developing international training opportunities for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). This is achieved through in-person and online training activities (e.g. workshops, webinars), integrating ECRs into polar research and coordination activities, or by developing training activities targeted at ECR. Since 2016 and in cooperation with its hosting institutions, APECS has been a partner in four **EU Horizon 2020-funded projects** of the **EU Arctic Cluster**:

- **APPLICATE** and **INTERACT** with **UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway**
- **ARICE** and **Nunataryuk** (with **Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Germany**)

APECS is responsible for the training and some of the outreach tasks of these projects and has hired two early career researchers as new staff members at UiT and AWI to help with the management of the APECS tasks in the projects.



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APPLICATE

Advanced Prediction in Polar regions and beyond: modelling, observing system design and linkages associated with a Changing Arctic Climate



- Polar Prediction School 2018 (17 – 27 April 2018, Abisko Scientific Research Station, Sweden)
- Polar Prediction Webinar Series 2017
- Online Course on Polar Prediction (early 2019)
- Other in-person training panels and workshops at Polar conferences

INTERACT

International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic



- ECR Transnational Access (TA) Evaluation Board member
- Fieldwork Planning Handbook (planned release 2019)
- Fieldwork Guidebook (planned release 2019)
- Templates for introductory videos about the INTERACT stations

ARICE

Arctic Research Icebreaker Consortium



- ARICE Webinar Series (starting 2018)
- ARICE Summer School 2020
- Training course for technicians and engineers
- Other in-person training panels and workshops at Polar conferences

Nunataryuk

Determining the impacts of thawing coastal and subsea permafrost on the global climate, and developing targeted and co-designed adaptation and mitigation strategies for the Arctic coastal population.



- Training Workshop 2018 (30 Sep – 6 Oct 2018, San Servolo, Italy)
- Nunataryuk Summer School 2020 (at Abisko Scientific Research Station in Sweden)

APECS: Facilitating ECR engagement

- APECS serves as an institutional partner to support early career involvement in projects and to reduce a project's organizational risk of working with ECRs given, for example, inherent and relatively unpredictable career transitions.
- APECS brings great experience and knowledge when partnering on education, outreach, and training activities within projects.
- Partners that wish to include ECRs on their boards and steering committees can utilize APECS' extensive experience and expertise in the recruitment of highly qualified ECRs to create calls, disseminate them through our vast ECR network and assess applicants.
- Benefits to projects who welcome ECRs include gaining unique perspectives from passionate, skilled minds as well as having an active role in training future leaders of these groups.