

# Research Cooperation from Pole to Pole

## Side event to the All Atlantic 2022 Ministerial Meeting

The in-person workshop “Research Cooperation from Pole to Pole” took place on 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Residence of the Portuguese Ambassador in Washington D.C. It follows a first virtual workshop on Polar Research Cooperation which took place at the All Atlantic Ministerial and Stakeholder Conference in 2021. One of the outcomes of the first workshop was that we need to follow-up and discuss common scientific priorities in more detail to have a solid base for future cooperation and possible sharing of infrastructures.

The second workshop on 12th July 2022 in Washington D.C., USA informed about research priorities of the different AANCHOR partners. It comprised short presentations on national research priorities and overarching topics and closed with a moderated discussion about joint interest and next steps. This workshop also provided a platform to discuss better cooperation in the future for Polar Research (Arctic and Antarctic/Southern Ocean) and Infrastructures through the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

The following recommendations for the All Atlantic 2022 Ministerial Meeting on 13th July have been developed from this workshop.

### Recommendations:

**“We need knowledge [from the polar regions], which is backed up by data, thus making it actionable by policymakers”.**

- 1. Access to infrastructures** – Transnational access to infrastructures usually works on personal contacts. A process and a permanent mechanism is needed for ensuring transparency and equitable transnational access to polar infrastructure. This would also maximise the utility of the available infrastructure. Infrastructure includes all polar infrastructure (ships/stations) but also infrastructure locally including in-country laboratories (e.g. at universities, or polar research organisations). The following points shall be supported:
  1. Access to information, data and both data & modelling infrastructures; Ensuring open access to data according to FAIR and CARE principles
  2. Sharing of infrastructure
  3. Implementation of large-scale international collaborative initiatives
  4. Digitalisation of infrastructure
- 2. Funding:** Polar research (and supporting logistics and infrastructure) is costly. There is a need to ensure that available infrastructures are optimally utilised. A balance is needed between research and infrastructure funding particularly in the polar regions as both science and logistics/infrastructure are extremely expensive to run and maintain. Further, funding is essential for ensuring that the data collected is processed and made freely accessible.
- 3. Communication:** Identification of stakeholders and ensuring that the right language (and timescale) is used for each stakeholder is important. This would also increase knowledge and

understanding of the polar regions for the general public. Messages to policy makers need to be clear and evidence-based, thus making them actionable.

4. **Diversity: “Talent is equally distributed, opportunity is not!”** We need to have equitable and inclusive access to the polar regions, ensuring the widest diversity of voices at the table. Diversity should encompass – gender, local and indigenous knowledge, career stages, mindset, geographical diversity, amongst other things. Best-practices are needed to measure the success of co-development.
5. **Cooperation:** The polar community shall make efficient use of existing networks, best practices and programmes from the polar regions to further advance cooperation and amplify outcomes and messages.
6. **Legacy:** Successful projects and initiatives produce both data and deliverables that are extremely useful to the community. Legacy planning for selected deliverables will ensure that these products continue their usefulness in supporting the polar research community for years beyond the project timescales.

#### **Further information on the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance**

The All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance is a science diplomacy effort between countries along and across the Atlantic Ocean. It builds on the successes of the Galway and Belém Statements, signed respectively in 2013 and 2017 between the European Union and its Atlantic partners. The EU has invested in more than 40 projects with over EUR 250 million to promote cooperation between European and international scientists from around the Atlantic, making itself a major investor and player in Atlantic Ocean research. The results of the projects are fit-for-purpose science that will drive policy in the years to come, and will offer an important basis for the next phase of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance, kicking off with the new Political Declaration signed in Washington, D.C. (U.S.) in July 2022. Please find success stories of the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance here: [All-Atlantic ocean research alliance - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://publications-office.europa.eu/en/all-atlantic-ocean-research-alliance).