Email from Eva Kruemmel, 8th July 2019

Thanks Jan,

I went through the text and noted that SAON is mentioned twice:

**LC-CLA-21-2020**: Coordination of European Polar research (p. 46) is for “Coordination and Support Action” on “the cryosphere”, budget is thought to be around 3 million Euros, there is one deadline for this (13 Feb 2020). This is to “*provide a platform to co-develop the strategies to advance and further coordinate the European Polar Research action and its contribution to the policy-making processes. This should include the prioritisation of research areas during transdisciplinary workshops, strategies for capacity building related to meaningful stakeholder involvement, allocation of seed money for the preparation of pre-studies and interaction with national funding agencies on ways of building synergies and optimising the use of resources*.” […]

“*The office should also coordinate and support the contributions of the EU and the Associated Countries to International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS). Proposals should coordinate the EU Arctic Research Cluster ensuring a good cooperation between the projects in areas such as communication, dissemination, and stakeholder engagement*.”

**LC-CLA-20-2020**: Supporting the implementation of GEOSS in the Arctic in collaboration with Copernicus (p.53) is for “Research and Innovation Action”, budget is thought to be around 15 million Euros, first deadline is 13 Feb 2020, second 03 Sep 2020. This is to “*to develop coordinated Earth observations and information services specifically targeting this region, also building on the essential contribution of indigenous knowledge and community-based monitoring systems. These observations and services need to be delivered in order to support a sustainable development in the Arctic, particularly for responding to the needs of the people who live there*.”

It also includes “*improving and extending the terrestrial, marine and cryospheric in-situ measurements and the community-based monitoring systems necessary for the monitoring of the Arctic*;”

While we have talked a lot about the second one (CLA-20), the first (CLA-21) is also very important and relevant, and I’m wondering who is involved in proposals for this.

CLA-21 could for example help with the organization of AOS, and could assist European countries to set up national SAON committees (or equivalent committees in the countries to provide input into SAON). It obviously would also be good (and seems to be meant for) to help capacity building for Arctic Indigenous Peoples. So I would be very interested to find out more about this, and if SAON can play a central role there – or even apply for it.

With regards to CLA-20, my impression so far (from what Nicole said) was that this should mainly coordinate, but in fact it also is to “improve and extend in-situ measurements”.

I have to say that I do not find the call very clear in how/if this group should work with SAON. It does say it should establish “joint operational activities in order to support the mission and objectives” of SAON. But the “expected impact” only mentions GEO-CRY and that it should initiate ArcticGEOSS, and deliver EuroGEOSS. On data management, it only mentions GEOSS Data Management Principles and best practices (aligning with INSPIRE).

Anyway, I think what SAON needs to communicate is the following:

* SAON is already a partnership of major players in Arctic monitoring: Arctic Council countries/and PPs, AMAP and IASC, as well as several global organizations, such as GEO and WMO. It already has networks established that need to be engaged in any case.
* SAON already works on Data Management Principles, which align with other organizations (Peter can say who is involved)
* SAON is already working to develop strategies for advancing and coordinating research and monitoring in the Arctic, and (particularly also through the AOS) has meaningful stakeholder engagement.
* SAON has already established what gaps need to be addressed (e.g. national coordination by member countries and organizations)
* SAON works in partnership with Arctic Indigenous Peoples, and is ahead with knowing about needs on CBM and Indigenous knowledge, how to engage Arctic Indigenous Peoples properly etc.

These are just a few points. I’d be happy to provide more input and/or call in for the meeting, if the time difference permits.

Cheers,

Eva