

Mandate of the ROADS Advisory Panel

The ROADS Advisory Panel should:

- Guide and advise on the implementation of the SAON Roadmap for Arctic Observing and Data Systems by adding value to the process; the Panel should assist, rather than own the SAON Roadmap
- Be knowledgeable of ongoing efforts from a range of possible partners (from global to regional to local) so as to communicate ROADS efforts and to encourage linkages with others
- Ensure connections are made with other Arctic observing efforts that are working to identify and implement Essential Arctic Variables
- Complement and create synergies where possible and avoid duplication of efforts with existing initiatives
- Fully engage with Permanent Participants in a meaningful manner; ensuring equitable inclusion of Indigenous expertise
- Report to a body that will support the ROADS process by providing motivation and forward drive
- Mobilize international participation and collaboration with global networks
- Consider innovative approaches to communicate and promote the implementation of ROADS – for example, development of a “ROADS Year” achieved in close collaboration with partners
- Work with relevant funding agencies and organizations to advance financial support for ROADS efforts, including the Expert Panels
- Act on specific tasks, as required, including actions under the upcoming EU Horizon 2020 Arctic GEOSS project where there will be very concrete, operational task assignments coming up within the next four years (e.g. in relation to identification of Essential Arctic Variables)
- Maintain the integrity of the overall SAON structure
- Advocate and promote SAON’s Mission and Guiding Principles in the ROADS efforts:
 - SAON Mission - SAON facilitates, coordinates and advocates for coordinated international pan-Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them.
 - SAON Guiding Principles – the design and operation of the Observing System will be guided by a balance between bottom-up and top-down needs and priorities; the Observing System will utilize Indigenous and local knowledge; implemented and sustained through open cooperation among/with all those committed to Arctic observations under a common SAON umbrella

With respect to the proposed ROADS Expert Panels, the ROADS Advisory Panel should:

- Support alignment between and across Expert Panels at each phase of their progress

- Support the implementation of activities, once those implementation strategies have been collectively identified by the Expert Panels
- Support the Expert Panels in communicating implementation strategies back to partners to increase awareness and understanding making sure that the people who are going to act on these implementation strategies are engaged (e.g. range of partners from EU Commission to communities)
- Provide a neutral standing body to assure that each Shared Arctic Variable is identified, defined and follows an implementation strategy that is consistent with ROADS principles
- Foster integration with other panels; and work to cultivate consensus approaches across panels
- Interact with Expert Panels following the multi-phase process proposed and described within the SAON Roadmap (e.g. Initiate; Phase 1; Phase 2; Phase 3)
- Assist with any future evaluation and assessment undertakings of the ROADS process