

# Workshop on the coordinated usage of European Icebreakers

*A Joint Initiative by the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and the European Polar Board*

Date: 22. April 2012, 13:30 – 17:30

Location: Room 512 AE, Palais des  
congrès de Montréal





## The Vision of this icebreaker initiative:

- to develop a **European or International network** for joint research icebreaker operations in the Arctic Ocean and its ice-covered marginal seas with the available European vessels,
- to **increase the coordination** of available heavy icebreakers and ice-strengthened research vessels across Europe,
- to concentrate today's heterogenous national polar research strategies into a **coherent science planning** based on an open, transparent international consensus,
- to enter into agreements between Partners **to share and jointly fund** operational ship time on these vessels for a certain period of time per year,
- to achieve **long-term political and financial commitments** in the order of about 5 years.



## Workshop on the “Perspectives for the Coordinated Usage of European Icebreakers in Support of Future Arctic Research Challenges”, Bremerhaven onboard RV *Polarstern*, 14. October 2011

- served as a kick-off meeting for developing concepts of joint operations in the Arctic Ocean and its ice covered marginal seas with existing European research icebreakers
- aim was to bring together key European Arctic Research Institutions and operators to initially explore the potential for establishing a framework of co-operation for the joint operations of European research icebreakers
- 24 participants from 11 European countries (incl. Russia) and from the European Commission





## Agenda

13:30 Welcome

**Information about the European Icebreaker initiative and national priorities for Arctic Research by European and international participants**

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break

**Discussion on “How European partners can move on with this initiative”**

Topics to be addressed/working groups to be established:

1. Compilation of a Science strategy to explain the platform user demand,
2. Analysis of the respective national science communities' sizes and resulting scientific demand,
3. Concepts for potential ship operation and project funding.

17:30 Workshop ends



And, finally some good news from the EC:

The EUROFLEETS 2 project „**New operational steps towards an alliance of European research fleets**“ has entered into negotiations with the EC and will get a funding of about 9 Mio. € for 4 Years. The anticipated start of the project is autumn 2012. 31 partners of 20 European Nations and associated countries to the EU are participating.

EUROFLEETS2 is a continuation of EUROFLEETS1 with the principal aim to consolidate the **construction of a pan-European distributed research fleet infrastructure** with common **strategic vision and coordinated access** to European marine research vessels and equipment.





The new EUROFLEETS 2 project will include a “Flagship initiative for polar access”:

It aims at integrating the European Polar Research Vessel fleet and establishing models for implementing a joint coordination of these vessels. It aims at optimizing the usage of the European Polar Research Fleet by:

- i) determining the available capacities of Polar Research Vessels,
- ii) comparing that with the scientific demand, in accordance with IASC and SCAR, for research in the Polar Oceans and
- iii) establishing models for optimization of this fleet by better coordination of the vessels’ scheduling and by harmonizing the deployment of ice-strengthened research vessels with the heavy icebreakers.

This WP aims to support European marine research in ice-covered waters, with main focus on the “high Arctic”. Nevertheless, a better coordination of Arctic Research capacities would directly lead to more research capacities in the Antarctic. The final goal of this WP is to establish models of implementation of a European/International Polar Research Fleet for both the Arctic and the Antarctic.



# EUROFLEETS 2 Transnational Access to the (Sub)Polar Regions

Polarstern



Magnus Heinason



OGS Explorer



G.O. Sars



Hesperides



Sanna







**Thank you very much for your  
attention and looking forward to  
seeing you at the workshop**