

Brief Report from France

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The number of French scientific programs in the Arctic is significantly increasing. In 2014, a total of 24 projects have been implemented, representing about 30 % of the projects supported by the French Polar Institute (70 % are in the South, in Antarctica or in the Sub-Antarctic islands). Among the Arctic project, 13 were located in Svalbard, especially at the French-German AWIPEV Base in Ny-Ålesund. The others were located in Canada (5), Greenland (3) and Russia (3), respectively. 97 French scientists were involved in the field campaigns related to these projects, for a total of 2498 man-days.

In terms of scientific disciplines, 8 projects were related to Human and Social Sciences, 7 to Life Sciences and 11 to Earth/Atmosphere Sciences.

Regarding the logistics in Svalbard, the new small vessel Jean Floch, was equipped with sonar (400 m) for bathymetric purposes. A ROV survey was also implemented by one of the project in the Kongsfjord.



The new vessel Jean Floch at the AWIPEV Base

The Corbel Station, 6 km far from Ny Ålesund and part of the AWIPEV Base is now fully operational on the basis of an autonomous power supply (solar panels and wind generator). An infra-red connection between Corbel and Ny Ålesund is now available for high speed internet connections.



The Corbel Station

In parallel to the IPEV activities, we can mention the active role of the French Arctic Initiative, coordinated by the CNRS-INSU. This initiative published in early 2015 a Science Plan: National program for research on Key scientific issues about the Arctic, covering environmental science, ecology and geosciences, human and social sciences as well health sciences (see <http://www.chantier-arctique.fr/en/index.php>).