

The Italian Arctic Facilities

Mauro Mazzola

National Research Council of Italy
Institute of Polar Sciences (CNR-ISP)

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Dirigibile Italia, Ny-Ålesund research station, Svalbard



- Opened in 1996
 - Managed by **CNR-ISP**, but hosts researchers from other institutions and universities
 - Surface 330 m² with sleeping rooms, offices and laboratories
 - Can host up to 7 researchers
 - Since 2018 runs **all year round**
 - Access through a national call and a peer-review process.
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- Chemistry laboratory (laminar flow cabinet, fume hood, ultrapure water, etc.)
 - Calibration laboratory (temperature, pressure, gas concentration)
 - Workshop (mechanics and electronics)

Covid-19 challenges and solutions

C: organization of the campaigns during lockdown

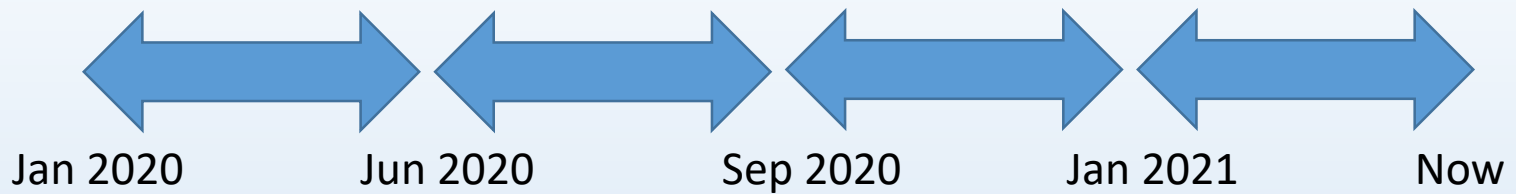
S: longer times, postponement of the activities, support from locals

C: international travelling

S: testing, quarantine, support letters , support from locals

C: shipping

S: alternative carriers (e.g. tourist boats)



- During 2020 we had one technician at our station in Ny-Ålesund up to June, **voluntarily stuck**.
- After his return to Italy we had **help from the Norwegian Polar Institute** personnel for basic monitoring programs (mainly atmospheric aerosol sampling) up to September 2020.
- In September a team of 5 researchers went to Ny-Ålesund in order to make periodic maintenance of the instrumentation, thanks to the **slowdown of the pandemic**.
- From October and up to now, we were able to send 2 people at the station every two months to manage the routine operations. This required **10 days of quarantine in Oslo, covid tests** and, from the end of January 2021, **letters of invitation from NPI** to pass the border.

Look ahead for large campaign and infrastructure plans (next 3-5 years)

- CNR and ENI have signed an agreement for a 5-years (2019-2024) programme for studies on the Arctic. Budget, 5 Millions Euro. First field activities were planned for spring 2020 (Svalbard) and 2021 (Alaska). Postponed at least by 1 year due to COVID19. **Some atmospheric activities were implemented in Sept 2020 and in March 2021**
- PRA (Arctic Research Programme): special funding programme for studies over the Arctic. 3 year (2018-2020). Funded by the Italian Ministry for University and Research (MIUR). Budget 3 Millions Euro. Two calls for projects, one in 2019 and one in 2021. **First activities will hopefully start during summer 2021.**
- Special plan for research infrastructures funded by MIUR. We plan to upgrade our existing observation facilities in Ny-Ålesund (CCT, Gruvebadet lab, moorings) during 2021-2022. **Less affected by the pandemic.**