



# Forum of Arctic Research Operators

**FARO Annual Meeting 2025**

**20 March, 09:00 – 17:00 US time, Hybrid meeting**

**Boulder, Colorado, USA**

**Glen Miller Ballroom in UMC - 208**

## **Minutes**

### **1. Opening Session: led by Dirk Mengedoht, FARO Chair**

FARO Chair Dirk Mengedoht welcomed everyone to the 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting for FARO.

Approval of meeting minutes from 2024 was done without any comments.

The meeting agenda was adopted with no changes.

Report from the Chair:

Dirk Mengedoht highlighted that FARO has reached its 27<sup>th</sup> year. Dirk has been the chair since last year, and the ExCom met almost monthly. FARO ExCom has prepared for implementation of the FARO Strategy 2024-2028 and a concept of thematic FARO working groups for consideration during the Annual Meeting will be presented later. In agreement with the strategy, FARO ExCom also arranged a session at ASSW2025 to ensure linkages between science priorities and infrastructure (to be held on 28 March 2025).

FARO is represented in the Steering Committee of ICARP IV (FARO Chair, Dirk Mengedoht), and the Research Priority Team 7 (Technology, Infrastructure, Logistics, and Services)(FARO Secretariat, Marie Frost Arndal). Regular posts were made on social media, thanks to the secretariat and the FARO newsletter was re-established. Country updates could be put in the news letter – also to reach more audience. Spain's country membership was confirmed.

### **2. Updates from Countries**

Focus was on:

1. Brief general update
2. Overview of planned vessels/icebreaker capacity, with updates on route and availability of the vessels/icebreakers (when, where, capacity and contact info).
3. Update on modernizing infrastructures in terms of green transitions

All presentations are available online, with more details on cruise plans and contact info: <https://faro-arctic.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2025>

**Canada:** Canada has four operational offshore patrols, which also include science-based projects on the vessels. The icebreaker fleet also engages in scientific activities, with the Amundsen still active. Canada will host a workshop with Denmark and Norway in June. Next week, a meeting in Canada will discuss the future of the Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators (CNNRO), which has not been active recently. The goal is to reactivate the network, which includes around 40 stations/facilities, to bring operators together and streamline coordination of logistics and infrastructure. Ongoing work aims to benefit the entire infrastructure and science community. The Arctic Pulse is a Canadian-led science initiative that will bring together international Arctic scientists, government partners, academic institutions, non-profit and Indigenous organizations to address science gaps and questions that will inform the next International Polar Year (IPY). This program includes funding initiatives that are already in place and open for colleagues to join, focusing on better utilizing observing capacity on land and in water. They will have a session on March 24 during this ASSW.

**China:** No slides. China plans to conduct two operations in the Arctic in 2025. An icebreaker (Xuelong 2) will be sent from July to the end of September for a marine cruise focusing on sea oceanography, marine pollutants, atmospheric science, ecology, and extreme life evolution. Currently, there are no plans for the Xuelong icebreaker to undertake an Arctic expedition. At Ny Ålesund station, China plans to send 60 people for glacier monitoring, atmospheric studies, and other research activities in 2025.

**Denmark:** Unfortunately Denmark's NPOC could not attend this meeting.

**Finland:** No slides. The vessel operated by SYKE is 66 m long shelf and polar class 6 or 7 with oceanographic measurements available. Capability for mooring, and availability is 1-2 week slots. The Finnish Meteorological Institute operates 4 research stations and an atmosphere station in Finland.

**Greenland:** The research administration has conducted two rounds of round table discussions with research stakeholders in Greenland. The key objectives include gaining an overview of projects and activities in Greenland. International research should be co-designed and disseminated to locals from the very beginning. The new ship Tarajoq at the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources is available for charter. The new website for the expedition office was announced – relevant for all travels to 'remote areas' of Greenland.

**Germany:** Provided information on the new Polarstern II vessel. The new vessel is almost double the size of the old one, has a higher ice class with 1.8 m ice-breaking capability, will be prepared for usage of methanol for propulsion power and is expected to be ready for IPY in 2030. The RV Uthörn runs on bio/methanol and is currently experiencing some problems. It is in the testing phase, and techniques are being improved.

**France:** AWIPEV is operating at full capacity. It contributes to all four flagships of Ny Ålesund. For more details, see the station report on the website.

**Italy:** No presentation.

**Iceland:** A new research vessel for oceanographic studies will be launched in March 2025, replacing the old vessel. There are two Icelandic vessels, neither of which are icebreakers (for more details, see the slides and visit the websites mentioned). The vessels conduct 14-18 surveys per year, including annual fisheries surveys to count fish and sea floor mapping in the summer within the exclusive economic zone. If you have a student or scientist interested in joining the vessels, contact NPOC Anna Olafsdottir for information on rental costs, which are kept to a minimum.

**Japan:** The Arctic Challenge for Sustainability II (ArCS II) will conclude at the end of this fiscal year. An English summary of the ArCS II 2020-2025 report is available. Preparations are underway for the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability III (ArCS III), which will run from 2025 to 2029. The new Arctic Research Vessel Mirai II, with icebreaking capabilities, is scheduled for delivery in November 2026.

ISAR 8 Symposium: The Eighth International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-8) will be held from October 28 to 31, 2025, in Hachioji City, Tokyo, Japan

**Korea:** The Araon icebreaker is currently on a cruise. There is an open call for a new icebreaker builder, with the government showing positive support for funding it. Dasan Station in Svalbard is actively engaged in atmospheric research.

**Netherlands:** The call for research proposals in collaboration with AWI is currently under evaluation, with six projects likely to be granted. A new call, Tri-polar, is also in progress. The new research vessel, Anna Weber-van Bosse, is ice-strengthened but not specifically built for Arctic waters. The renewal of the polar strategy is timely and aligns with the polar programme. There is also an Insync call in collaboration with the Insync program. There is hope for a call involving the new vessel. The NL Polar Day will be held on April 8, focusing on safety in the Arctic, in collaboration with APECS NL and the ministry.

**Norway:** Highlights of past activities, including Go North and the Distributed Biological Observatories (DBO) initiative involving NPI, IMR, AWI, and IOPAN. Upcoming events include the Svalbard Science Conference 2025, scheduled for October 28th-29th in Oslo, Norway. Key research infrastructures are the Ny-Ålesund Research Station, Troll Research Station, and the RV Kronprins Håkon.

**Portugal:** Portugal has no dedicated polar infrastructure and is focusing on projects for 2025. There is cooperation with many institutions, with one project processing samples and four involving fieldwork. Approximately five projects have been conducted per year in the past years, but no additional projects are expected due to budget constraints. The country is also working on its polar science strategy

**Poland:** Operates two vessels in Svalbard: the research vessel OCEANIA and the scientific-training vessel HORYZONT II. Although the OCEANIA vessel did not receive support this year, funding is secured for the next two years. The Polish Polar Station in Hornsund is awaiting funding decisions. Last year, 320 researchers from Poland conducted monitoring and research in Svalbard, with many scientific proposals accepted, leading to the station being fully booked. Seasonal stations include the Nicolaus Copernicus University Polar Station in Kaffiøyra and the University of Wrocław Polar Station in Baranowka. A new infrastructure project, BERA, is managed by Dariusz Ignatiuk. The BERA center was established under the auspices of the Centre for Polar Studies to support logistics and research, aims to reduce its carbon footprint, and modernizes buildings with solar panels and wind turbines.

**Spain:** No slides. Spain is actively engaged in research projects involving vessels in Greenland and the Norwegian Sea, participating in many international projects. A new ice-class vessel has recently returned from Antarctica - is open for collaboration in the Arctic. The Spanish polar strategy is in its final stage and is expected to be ready by the end of summer. The main focus of this strategy is the Arctic, with an emphasis on increasing collaboration with European partners.

**Sweden:** The icebreaker Oden conducted research in Greenland in 2024, including activities in Victoria Fjord and near the Pittufik Space Base, with helicopters onboard for terrestrial sampling. In 2025, Sweden will collaborate with Canada on a project running from 2026 to 2027, with Oden providing support and an Early Career Researcher (ECR) science program. The Polar Connect project, which the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat is part of, involves mapping for a fiber cable (Green Line) to enhance digital communication. Sweden is in the first step of a two-step procurement process for a new icebreaker, but a governmental decision for the second step is still pending. Sweden and Oden is open for collaboration in 2026-2027, except in periods when collaborating with Canada. The plan is to apply cables for Polar Connect by 2030. Sustainability efforts at Abisko Station include transitioning to electric cars and updating to geothermal heating pumps, with data made available to reduce travel emissions. The SWERVE project, in collaboration with BAS and Gothenburg University, aims to support ECRs, with an expected call in 2025 involving Sweden, the UK, and Greenland

**UK:** Three spring projects are underway in Ny-Ålesund, with minimal snow observed this winter. Summer projects will commence in June, with July being the most popular month. Funding for Arctic science in the UK is currently insufficient, resulting in less activity compared to previous years. The RRS Sir David Attenborough is operating in Antarctica until June due to building work and will not be available in the Arctic this year. There are plans for the vessel to operate in the Arctic during the summer of 2026. In Greenland, bathymetric surveys were conducted in 2024, supported by helicopters. In Svalbard: A new station foundation has been established on bedrock, rather than permafrost, with buildings winched off. The Kangerlussuaq Fjord project, which aimed to study the retreat of the thinning ice sheet, faced conflicts with narwhal hunters and did not receive permission to work in the fjord. Consequently, other fjords were chosen for the study, where no narwhals were observed and no conflicts occurred

### **3. Updates from ICARP and IPY – Gerlis Fugmann**

The Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) results will be presented in 2026, focusing on urgent needs for the next decade and how these can be implemented. FARO has recently joined the IPY planning group, and several task groups will be established. An IPY project is defined by its contribution to the overarching goals of the International Polar Year, which include advancing polar science, fostering international collaboration, and addressing critical research priorities. FARO should leverage the ICARP IV planning process to develop opportunities for infrastructure operators to participate in and contribute to discussions around the implementation of Arctic science and future research priorities.

### **4. Updates from other organizations and projects**

- COMNAP – Antonio Quesada, COMNAP Chair

COMNAP is a technical, non-political organization that presents working papers similar to SCAR. The InSync collaboration, led by AWI, is facilitating scientific research. Safety measures now include monitoring for avian influenza in Antarctica, discovered in 2024, with 50% of tested animals carrying the virus. Green ambitions include initiatives such as the Smart Green Energy Manual and the Antarctic Forest concept. Infrastructure issues are being addressed, particularly for stations close to the coast, which are affected by rising sea levels. The AGM COMNAP Symposium will be held in Poland in August 2025.

- AFoPS – Thamban Meloth

The Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) is a 20-year-old organization dedicated to advancing polar research and cooperation in Asia. It serves as a regional alliance with a global perspective, facilitating human and information exchange, research collaboration, and logistic cooperation among its six member countries: China, Japan, India, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand. Observers include Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The current chair is NCPOR, India, and the permanent Secretariat is hosted by PRIC, China. Major activities

include research collaborations, joint field campaigns, joint journal publications, and science symposiums. Human exchange is facilitated through fellowships, joint workshops, and training programs. AFoPS also engages in inter-organizational cooperation, submitting reports to ATCM and maintaining MOUs with IASC and SCAR. Future plans for AFoPS include strengthening the organization, deepening Asian and international cooperation on polar research, increasing the visibility of Asian polar science, and promoting the connectivity of polar regions to the global ecosystem, especially in Asia.

- PAG – Jacqueline Grebmeier

Cruise plan 2025: Multiple international cruises planned across the Pacific Arctic as part of the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) and associated initiatives. Key vessels include CCGS Sir Wilfrid Laurier, R/V Mirai, and CCGS Louis S. St-Laurent. Continued focus on long-term observations, international collaboration, ecosystem change, and integration of advanced technologies for monitoring and modeling. The new chair for PAG as of November 2024 is Dr. Eun Jin Yang of KOPRI.

- EPB – Maria Grigoratou

The European Polar Board (EPB) moved to Umeå in January 2025 and is now hosted by the Arctic Centre, Umeå and Luleå University, and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat. EPB has established several action groups, including those focused on the polar infrastructure database: Polardex, and other initiatives aimed at improving cooperation and reducing the environmental impact of polar research. Since January 2025, the EPB has also hosted the European Polar Coordination Office, which functions as a central contact point for the European polar research community, policymakers, and decision-makers, including the European Commission. Stakeholder engagement remains a key focus, with efforts to build on the results of successful EU PolarNet projects and facilitate collaboration through fellowships, joint workshops, and training programs. The EPB continues to strengthen its role in inter-organizational cooperation, and maintaining MOUs with IASC and SCAR.

- POLARIN – Nicole Biebow

POLARIN aims to integrate and combine access to Arctic and Antarctic research infrastructures, improve online services and data access, and ensure that new generations are trained to utilize research infrastructures. The network provides access to 64 research infrastructures, including research stations, polar vessels, observatories, and data infrastructures. The first call for proposals in 2024 received 96 submissions, with 86 eligible proposals. The call offered access to 49 research infrastructures, including Arctic and Antarctic stations and vessels. The network supports fully funded access for research projects addressing key questions in the polar regions, with options for in-person, remote, and virtual access.

- INTERACT – Elmer Topp-Jørgensen

INTERACT now continues as a non-profit association (INPA) and is a partner in four EU-funded research and infrastructure projects and is open for collaboration in 2025. INTERACT supports 99 research stations, bringing station managers together to identify good practices and new technologies. The association produces handbooks and guidebooks for safe and sustainable science, which are freely available on their website. Online tools for science planning, including an overview of national permit systems and a GIS for member stations, are also provided. Between 2011 and 2024, 548 research projects were realized, with 1,275 scientists from around the world participating. The first pilot call of the INTERACT Association Access Program will open on May 1, 2025, supporting up to three research projects in the 2026 field season, specifically for early-career researchers. While it has been possible to join EU projects making use of INTERACT tools and capacities, it is more challenging to find funding to maintain bottom-up network of station managers.

- Arctic Funders Forum - Tetsuo Sueyoshi, NIPR Japan

The Arctic Science Funders Forum (ASFF) is a multilateral discussion platform originating from the Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) in 2018. It aims to initiate and enhance collaborative scientific activities in the Arctic by facilitating information sharing about national and international calls for Arctic research projects. The forum is chaired by Jon L. Fuglestad from the Research Council of Norway, with vice-chairs Egill Þór Níelsson from the Icelandic Centre for Research and Tetsuo Sueyoshi from the National Institute of Polar Research in Japan. Participation is voluntary and open to representatives of Arctic science funding programs from governments and Arctic Indigenous Peoples Organizations that participated in ASM meetings, as well as representatives from the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) in an advisory role. In 2024, ASFF held a workshop at ASSW2024 in Edinburgh, a plenary meeting at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, and meetings at Arctic Frontiers 2025 in Tromsø. Key topics included the status and progress of ICARP IV and IPY, funding international collaboration, and shaping an integrated Arctic observing system. The forum aims to enhance information sharing among members through an online platform under the IASC website, providing an overview of calls and activities. The current chair and vice-chairs will work as an interim executive committee until the election of the next chair and vice-chair in October 2025.

## **5. Thematic discussions**

- a. Infrastructure disturbances and cooperation with local/ indigenous communities - sharing existing guidelines for equity.

Introduction by David Hik, Polar Knowledge Canada: emphasized the importance of ensuring that activities respect Indigenous communities and organizations through co-development. Polar Knowledge Canada, established ten years ago, operates the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS), working closely with local communities and younger people to incorporate local knowledge into their research. They provide region-specific research information links related to Indigenous engagement. When conducting research in Nunavut, it is essential to coordinate with the Government of Nunavut (GN) well in advance, as there is no single portal for research applications. Polar Knowledge Canada

assists international researchers by providing resources and tools to navigate Canada's regulations and procedures in the North. Researchers are encouraged to review tools and 'good practices' produced by communities and Northerners.

The thematic session on infrastructure disturbances and cooperation with local/Indigenous communities emphasized sharing existing guidelines for equity.

## **Discussion**

In Canada, legislation is specific to territories, making it difficult to harmonize the system. Instead, easy access to region-specific rules, recommendations and guidelines should be prioritized and best practices across organizations should be considered.

Greenland hopes to centralize 'one-door' system in Greenland for all permits. There is no comprehensive overview of researchers' locations in Greenland, and some areas experience research fatigue, which is also known in Nunavut.

Research facilities hosting scientists have the responsibility to connect with local communities and guide researchers, ensuring they understand processes for engaging local communities and expectations when working on their, including data ownership issues, Free prior and informed consent, installation of equipment/sensors and staying traversing local lands. This information should be shared with researchers prior to arrival at the research station, so the scientists can take the necessary precautions before leaving for the field.

Netherland programme: The importance of involving local communities and building relationships was emphasized. Such collaborations will take time, and the discussion highlighted the value of starting early to build relationships. Funding bodies want co-development, but there is often not enough time to achieve this in application phases or in short projects/programmes. The EU PolarNet has worked on co-creation papers to address the difficulties Indigenous people face in applying for funding compared to researchers. Obtaining money to write proposals is challenging due to administrative rules, making EU funding difficult for Indigenous and local communities with limited knowledge of EU governing structures and priorities. Societal impact on e.g. policy or local solutions to challenges is easier to achieve when projects are anchored in an arctic country than in e.g. the Netherlands. Opportunities for local involvement exist, but it is not always possible to engage locals at the beginning of a proposal. A two-step approach with funding for Indigenous and local communities for application development, different from traditional call processes, was suggested.

Asian countries also face difficulties in working with local communities, and would benefit from a better overview of guidelines. Poland is implementing strategies to start discussions with locals. The

Polish Polar Consortium will send a team to Disko to initiate discussions of a potential future Polish platform for cooperation and science projects.

Guidelines are urgently needed for the International Polar Year (IPY) to clarify expectations for science projects.

FARO should collect linkages to local rules and guidelines on equity and equal engagement and make these available on the FARO website.

Scientists often find it difficult to know where to start, but infrastructures should help guide the scientists. While research stations can help guide scientists in the local context, vessels pose a greater challenge because of the geographical coverage of their operations and the often governmental handling of ship activity permissions.

Convincing funding forums to allow more time between call openings and deadlines to foster Indigenous and local leadership and participation is crucial. EU funding, for example, is planned years in advance and deals with more than just polar science and may therefore not include or be relevant to Indigenous and local knowledge cooperation. Targeted funding for working with local communities is necessary, but administrative changes are maybe unlikely due to the small proportion of polar calls compared to overall EU research funding.

The Arctic Science Funders Forum could play a role in advocating for more time for polar research projects applications that involve Indigenous and local communities. From a natural science perspective, social sciences are better equipped to handle the complexities of working with local communities, so a need for capacity building of the science community could also be essential.

b. Satellite infrastructure for communication

No time for this discussion. Postponed to next meeting.

## 6. Conclusion of Open Meeting

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**Internal business (closed session)**

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- Reminder to all NPOCs to attend closed sessions at future meetings, as strong representation is essential during the closed sessions to enable eligible voting and shape future FARO activities.

## 7. FARO 5-Year Strategic Plan

The FARO Excom discussed and prioritized the actions to implement the FARO Strategy 2024-2028. Following activities was prioritised:

### Priority 1: Knowledge Sharing:

- Annual General Assemblies with National Points of Contact (NPOCs) presenting infrastructure updates (ongoing).
- Updated FARO website and released quarterly newsletters (ongoing).

### Best Practices & Technology:

- Collection and sharing of best practice documents (ongoing).
- Formation of thematic Working Groups (e.g., risk management, sustainable energy, new technologies) (tbd).

### Priority 2 Networking & Policy Influence:

- Host annual infrastructure/science seminar at Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) March 28, 2025 (ongoing).
- Ensured FARO's involvement in ICARP processes RPT 7 – Infrastructure (ongoing).
- IPY (ongoing)
- How do we engage to train next generation? (tbd)

### Priority 3 Facilitation access & Infrastructure Linkage:

- Maintaining an up-to-date Arctic research infrastructure overview (ongoing).
- Promote infrastructure at international science conferences (ongoing).
- Supporting SAON/POAwg's Registry of Polar Observing Networks (ROPON) (ongoing).
- Promoting logistics-sharing platforms like Isaaffik and ARMAP (ongoing).
- Coordinating annual social media updates on infrastructure and ship plans (ongoing).

All actions above presented is something we can do within the existing FARO secretariat budget for 2025.

The FARO secretariat will update the list of best practice documents , but will need input and help from NPOC's to ensure we have the best possible coverage and regional representation. This is especially important for the recommended overview of existing national rules and guidelines for equity and equal engagement of Indigenous and local communities

- NPOC's – please respond to request from the secretariat to allow us to provide access to all relevant information related infrastructure operation and logistics .

Working groups will be discussed later this meeting.

Input for the action point “train the next generation”. There are no specific action suggestions at this time, so NPOCs are encouraged to provide their input. Suggestions from NPOC's:

- FARO members are encouraged to consider how to include the next generation in infrastructure operations.
- It was suggested to invite APECS members to the FARO meetings, with travel funding included.
- NPOCs could appoint a deputy NPOC from the younger generation to learn from the current NPOCs.
- FARO could promote the inclusion of Early Career Researchers (ECR) in field teams. In Spanish projects, it is necessary to include ECRs. National requirements for involving ECRs in research could be clarified.

Other comments:

- FARO could join the subteam for the funding team in ICARP. The Arctic Funders Forum (AFF) will reach out to FARO and send a questionnaire to its members.
  - Remote access to infrastructure is identified as a missing component in many infrastructures, and this should be discussed with NPOCs at the next meeting.
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- All NPOCs: Please promote FARO at every opportunity and during travels. The FARO Secretariat is happy to send FARO brochures for distribution

## **8. Identification of Thematic FARO working groups – NPOC's**

Suggestion from FARO secretariat: FARO will establish one or more Working Groups (WGs) to explore and share new technological advances relevant to infrastructure management and operation.

These WGs will facilitate knowledge exchange through thematic discussions, emails, social media, and the FARO website. The FARO ExCom and Secretariat will assist in forming WGs based on themes selected by the FARO community.

Suggested Themes for WGs:

- Risk management
- Sustainable energy
- Green technologies
- Safety communication

- Autonomous systems

WG members are elected among NPOCs, with a WG lead chosen by the group. WGs are supported by the FARO Secretariat. Each WG decides on its activities and meeting frequency.

### **Discussion and inputs from NPOC's**

- Consider what document/product aligns with the strategy, briefly describe purpose and background information and then create a WG based on that. For example collect material about the indigenous guidelines and find a way to communicate the information.
- Start with a maximum of 2 WGs to learn how they function.
- Tap into existing work instead of doing it ourselves where possible. Follow COMNAP's strategy and use expert groups for overlapping strategy actions, e.g., green/sustainable infrastructure. Could lead us better towards IPY. COMNAP also use experts groups – many overlap with FARO strategy actions.
- Contacting and visiting COMNAP for information exchange.
- IASC have a committee for indigenous communities that we could involve in matters related to Indigenous Peoples.
- Engage FARO in ICARP IV and IPY, and use the report and recommendations for planning WGs and their priorities.
- NPOCs should decide on themes; if not, ExCom can make the selection.
- Choose a manageable topic, useful to the operators in the Arctic, and ensure participants have time for WG work; consider evaluating programs.
- Safety communication , optimal use of resources, sharing contingency plans, harassment could be potential topics.

### **Volunteer Engagement:**

- Ask NPOCs what they can volunteer for, then decide on the topic with the most volunteers.
  - INTERACT has previously worked with APECS, benefitting from their extensive network of volunteers (paying for a APECS coordinator). This could be explored further by ExCom to ensure ECR involvement and practical work in WGs.
  - NPOCs could delegate to national experts to get the right expertise for WGs.
- ExCom will start working on forming WGs based on the discussion.

## **9. Administrative business: Dirk Mengedoht, FARO Chair (15 minutes)**

- i. FARO 2024 finance report

Our income in 2024 was €27,012 with 18 member countries having paid the annual fee. The expenditure was €25,247. All the budgeted salary for 2024 of €12,588 was used by the FARO secretariat. The balance of the year is €1,764, with €58,641 carried over to 2025.

FARO 2024 finance report was approved.

ii. FARO 2025 budget

Expected income in 2025 (19 member payments): €28,500

The total budgeted expenses (€31,580) exceed the expected income for 2025 (€28,500).

Suggestion: Additional funding may be required for the new Working Groups (WGs). The Secretariat suggest that FARO can allocate a maximum of €1,000 for each WG and up to maximum €5,000 for each WG involving external experts or creating a product. This allocation will be decided by the ExCom, and the budget was adopted.

- i. Election of two ExCom members for the period 2025-2028. Current ExCom members can be found here: <https://faro-arctic.org/national-representatives>.

Members with terms expiring:

Danièle Rod (2022-2025), Switzerland

Daan Blok (2022-2025), The Netherlands

The Secretariat received two nominations: Dariusz Ignatiuk, Poland and Teresa Cabrita, Portugal. The ExCom requires a minimum of three members but has no maximum limit. The Chair suggests extending the ExCom to include the two additional nominees, as having more members is not problematic given that not all members always participate and we move into a period of increasing FARO activities.

If Daan and Daniele remain, it would be beneficial to keep them in the ExCom. Both are willing to continue in the ExCom.

Welcome to Dariusz and Teresa!

ii. Who is involved in IPY ?

FARO can be represented by others than the FARO Chair. The ExCom will consider this, at upcoming ExCom meetings. Participation in national committees is critical and important work, in addition to international efforts, so important for NPOCS to consider representation here.

FARO will write to NPOCs to get an overview of who is already involved in the IPY process and ExCom will discuss how FARO could best be represented in the process.

- iii. FARO Social Media Strategy
  - No comments. Postpone to an excom meeting to decide on this.
  
- iv. Next FARO Annual Meeting during ASSW 2026 in Aarhus, Denmark from 27 March - 2 April 2026
  
- v. Any other business

**10. Wrap up: Dirk Mengedoht**

Remember the FARO session on how to coordinate infrastructure availability and science priorities in the ICARP IV process, Friday 28 March 2025.