

**SWISS POLAR
INSTITUTE**



Country update Switzerland

21 March 2024 – Edinburgh - FARO



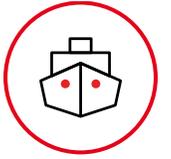
General updates from SPI

2023:

- ✓ Strategic plan and funding request 2025-2028 submitted – under review
- ✓ Inauguration of new offices in Sion - Valais, incl. polar library – visitor offices available 😊
- ✓ 21 new projects with Arctic fieldwork component funded
- ✓ GreenFjord Flagship programme programme: 955 field days and collaborations with Greenland, USA, France, Germany, Japan, Australia, South Africa

2024:

- ✓ Calls for projects for early career projects and polar scientist-artist tandems currently under review
- ✓ Collaboration workshops with TARA polar station, AWI, ...
- ✓ Strategic coordination with Swiss polar community for all multilateral initiatives: ICARP, IPY, Antarctic InSync, ...



Overview plans for vessels and overall Arctic logistics

SHIP CHARACTERISTICS

- Owner: Forel Heritage Association
- Length: 28,6 m
- Width: 8,5 m
- Draught: 1.50 – 3.50 m
- Berths: 12
- Autonomy: 10'000 nautical miles

FOREL EQUIPMENT

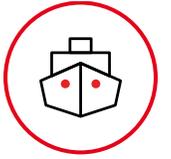
- Laboratories (clean, wet and dry), winch, internet access, etc.
- CTD, Rosette, Ferrybox, weather station, MQ, Filtration hoods, etc.

EXPEDITION 2024

Greenland: Greenfjord + Ulaval (Qc, Canada)

Contact : stephane.aebischer@forel-heritage.org www.forel-heritage.org/en





Logistics service – a pilot for a non-operator organisation

- Create an open **service and knowledge hub** to accompany projects building on existing knowledge and experience in SPI team
- Generate critical mass that benefits the scientific community
- Build upon existing (medical) services and courses
- Focus on **areas of common interests and added-value to the community:**
 - Create a network of reliable contractors and partners (e.g. shipping for samples, field material, ..)
 - Pool resources for strategic assets through joint purchases, pro-deals, stock of shared use material (field material, VHF, ...)
 - Advice on critical processes: insurances, permits, ...
- Opportunity to have an impact, also towards a «greener» polar science
- Hiring a dedicated person to build upon SPI experience



«Green» transition

- Priority of SPI for **period 2025-2028**
- Measures implemented since 2018, notably carbon compensation as eligible cost for projects
- **Community survey in autumn 2023** showed CO2 impact as a priority and difficulty for scientists to assess their own impact
- **Measures under consideration for implementation from 2024:**
 - Take a wide view of environmental impact and sustainability (CO2 emissions but not only)
 - Modify evaluation to include the notion of «scientific value for impact»
 - Redefine eligible costs to include sampling for other projects or data acquisition through (local) collaboration
 - Move away from carbon compensation to creation of own fund to be used towards funding of «clean polar tech» projects
 - Evaluate feasibility of ambitious «Tech for polar science» projects with engineering community
 - Include environmental sustainability in international and strategic collaborations
 - Reinforce internal culture of environmental sustainability

Thank you