

## ICARP III Activity - Reporting Template



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| <b>Title of activity</b><br>APECS – ICARP III Survey: Arctic Early Career Researchers Support and Training Assessment  |                                    |                        |
| <b>Type of activity</b><br>Survey - report   | <b>Date</b><br>February - May 2015 | <b>Place</b><br>Online |
| <b>Main organizer(s) (name and/or organization) and additional partners</b><br>Sanna Majaneva, University of Helsinki<br>Gerlis Fugmann Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) / UiT The Arctic University of Norway   |                                    |                        |
| <b>Abstract<sup>1</sup></b><br>The <a href="#">Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)</a> lead by the <a href="#">International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)</a> is currently identifying the most important Arctic research needs for the next decade as well as providing a roadmap for Arctic research priorities and partnerships. Fostering and supporting early career researchers, as the next generation to shape the future of Arctic research, providing opportunities and training to prepare them for a successful career is of vital importance. As part of ICARP III, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) assessed whether current funding, support, and training for early career researchers involved in Arctic research have helped foster their careers, in order to provide recommendations on how to better support them in the future. For the purpose of the project, a survey was sent out to the APECS membership. At the time of reporting the survey was still open and 61 responses had been collected so far. Survey participants were predominantly female, at the PhD student or postdoc level (67.2%) and came from 19 different countries: 59% from Europe and Russia and 37.7% from North America. Only 12 % had a background in social sciences, the rest mostly involved in Geological and Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences / Biomedical Sciences and Ocean and Marine Sciences. Of the early career researchers that filled out the survey, 77% were able to access funding during the Master / PhD or PostDoc time and 83.6% accessed training programmes other than those being offered by their university. Of those that filled out the survey, staying in academia (73%) and doing relevant research (83%) was among their most important career goals. The biggest challenges to fulfilling their career goals seen by survey participants were finding funding (93.4%), limited available positions (90.2%) and getting permanent positions (91.8%) as well as work-life balance (73.7%). Results of the survey will be presented at the APECS Workshop on "Goals of the ICARP III – the future of Arctic research from the perspective of early career researchers", and to the ICARP III partners at the Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 in Toyama, Japan. |                                    |                        |
| <b>Main contributions to ICARP III<sup>2</sup> in terms of the ICARP III priorities<sup>3</sup></b><br>Recommendations to help to form new standards for supporting the next generation of   |                                    |                        |

<sup>1</sup> Provide a short summary of the activity

<sup>2</sup> List a few key statements (findings, priorities, recommendations) that you would like to see reflected in the overarching ICARP III products

<sup>3</sup> ICARP III priorities:

- identify Arctic science priorities for the next decade
- coordinate various Arctic research agendas
- inform policy makers, people who live in or near the Arctic and the global community
- build constructive relationships between producers and users of knowledge

Arctic researchers based on the preliminary results of the APECS ECR survey

- Develop of one central website / database / listserv for all information on Arctic research funding opportunities (including deadlines) as well as training programs (e.g. for workshops, field schools). In addition a better sharing of information about existing and new opportunities (including the use of social media).
- Create more training opportunities for early career researchers (e.g. especially in-person training through field schools, workshops and the strengthening of the activities of graduate schools)
- Create more funding opportunities specifically targeted to early career researchers e.g. more ECR research grants (e.g. for pilot studies) in Arctic Research so they can start applying for their own projects and build their CV.
- Foster networking opportunities to create future collaborations.
- To increase mentoring and support for early career researchers (e.g. from supervisor and others).
- Inform early career researchers about a greater diversity in future career opportunities through e.g. more information about non-academic career opportunities and working with potential employers (e.g. companies). Not to portray science as the only potential career path for graduates.
- To find better work-life balance solutions and better hiring policies and opportunities for women in science.
- Invest into creation of more permanent positions and longer-term funding opportunities.
- Involve ECR in international research communities and to be part of research teams, projects and organizations.