

# ICARP III Activity - Reporting Template



<b>Title of activity</b> Where Are They Now?		
<b>Type of activity</b> Report	<b>Date</b> Sept 2014 – August 2015	<b>Place</b> Tromsø, Norway and online
<b>Main organizer(s) (name and/or organization) and additional partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanna Majaneva, University of Helsinki</li> <li>• Jenny Baeseman, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)</li> <li>• Gerlis Fugmann, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, APECS</li> <li>• Maja Lisowska, Polish Centre for Polar Research and the Polish Polar Consortium</li> <li>• Christie Logvinova, Clark University</li> <li>• Gwen Hamon, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)</li> </ul> Additional partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)</li> </ul>		
<b>Abstract</b> To help maintain the continuum of knowledge in polar sciences that was established during the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) and the International Polar Year (IPY), it is of great importance to continue to support the next generation of researchers. Many organizations are working on initiatives that allow early career Arctic researchers to discuss their ideas, work together, and exchange information with an international and renowned group of Arctic scientists. Yet, the evaluation of how effective these initiatives are is still lacking. To aid in assessing how past support has influenced early career Arctic researchers and potentially enhanced future opportunities, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientist (APECS), the Climate and Cryosphere Project (CliC) and International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) are working together to use IASC funding of early career researchers as a case study to assess the value of travel support for early career researchers. As a contribution to ICARP III, the “Where are they now?” Project investigated the subsequent career paths of early career researchers that received travel funding from IASC since the start of the most recent IPY (2007-2008) until 2013. IASC provided travel support for 287 early career researchers during this time. A survey was sent to each of these researchers and 132 people responded, a 45.9 % response rate. In addition, another survey, with 11% response rate, was sent to 206 early career Arctic researcher who had applied IASC travel support to participate in IPY 2010 conference in Norway, but had not been awarded (=control group). Results from the surveys indicate that 85% of these researchers are still active in Arctic work. The results indicate that travel support was beneficial to both the research and careers of the early career scientists responding, and especially beneficial if there was responsibility (session chair, reporter etc.) attached to the travel support. Responses from survey participants provided details on the specific impacts of travel support to various meetings and included suggestions on how funds could be better used in the future. Results will help form new standards for supporting the next generation of Arctic researchers.		
<b>Main contributions to ICARP III in terms of the ICARP III priorities</b>  Why should preparation and retention of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) be a priority for Arctic science for the coming decade?  85 % of ECRs who were funded by IASC to attend in international Arctic conference(s) since the most recent IPY are still involved and working with the Arctic issues either in academia, policy, education and outreach or management etc.  These ECRs acknowledge the impact of their conference attendance on their career and recognize the benefits of being exposed to international conference(s) and research projects at an early stage.  Being able to network with senior researchers and fellow ECRs had the highest impact on career development and opportunities arising for ECRs. IASC travel support was especially beneficial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if there was responsibility (session chair, reporter etc.) attached to the travel support,</li> <li>• if ECR was involved in IASC activities before the event,</li> <li>• if there was preparation for the event and follow-up work after the meeting.</li> </ul> 15 % of ECRs who were funded by IASC to attend/participate in international Arctic conference(s) are not working on Arctic issues anymore. However, it is important to stress that these former ECRs still have a strong		

interest in Arctic issues and still care about supporting the Arctic community and its work. Also, they were exposed to and received higher degrees and education related to Arctic issues. Therefore, they have strong knowledge of polar science and by sharing it they improve public understanding and knowledge on Arctic issues which are key aspects of public education and awareness raising.

Preparation and retention of ECRs, a priority for Arctic science for the coming decade, is achievable by:

- Investing on existing and new funding opportunities, specifically targeted as travel support to ECRs
- Fostering more training opportunities for ECRs, especially in-person training through responsibility (session chair, reporter etc.) attached to the travel support
- Increasing mentoring and supporting preparation for the event and follow-up work
- Involving ECRs in international research communities and to be part of research teams, projects and organizations.