



Press Release

Scientists take 'blue-action' to help society cope with the impacts of dramatic Arctic climate changes

Potsdam, December 1, 2016. While the Arctic faces rapid warming and less sea ice currently covers the Arctic Ocean than ever before at this time of the year, an international partnership launches a major project to improve our detailed understanding of the processes and impacts of this changing climate and to construct better long-term forecast systems for the increasingly extreme weather of the Arctic and the wider northern hemisphere.

Blue-Action is a four-year research and innovations project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme with €7.5 million investment. It brings together 116 experts from 40 organisations in 17 countries on three continents working in academia, local authorities and maritime industries.

Pooling their expertise, skills, approaches and networks, the partners aim to improve how we describe, model and predict the weather and climate on seasonal to decadal time scales in the Arctic and over the northern hemisphere. This information will allow communities and businesses in Eurasia and North America to develop and plan their activities better.

"We will deliver this by synthesizing observations, assessing model performance, conducting coordinated multi-model sensitivity experiments, reducing and evaluating the uncertainty in prediction systems and developing new initialization techniques" explains Dr Daniela Matei from the Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, one of two coordinators of the project.

"Working directly with local communities, businesses operating in the Arctic and industrial organisations, *Blue-Action* will demonstrate new opportunities for growth through tailored climate services. These will give users the information they need to live and work safely and successfully in the rapidly changing regions in and surrounding the Arctic" says project coordinator Dr Steffen M Olsen from the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen.

"We are starting today to reach out to the many communities and businesses in the far north to work with us to guide our research direction and to co-develop adaptation mechanisms that will allow them to not only sustain but to boost their performance," says Steffen Olsen.



“We will collaborate with other modelling and observational climate projects funded within the JPI-Climate Belmont-Forum, EU-H2020 frameworks to maximise the synergy and efficiency of our research efforts,” adds Dr Matei.

The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) contributes a case study on international cooperation and sustainability concerns in relation to oil and gas development in the Russian Arctic. Together with partners from the Institute for World Economy and International Relations in Moscow and Foresight Intelligence in Berlin, IASS will organise three Scenario Workshops to bring together stake- and rightsholders from Russia and Europe for a scenario exercise.

While the project begins its work on 1st December 2016, the *Blue-Action* kick-off meeting will be held 18-20 January 2017 at the Max Planck Society’s Harnack-Haus in Berlin.

Media contacts

Euan Paterson, Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), Blue-Action media officer

M: +44 7768 507 342 E: Euan.Paterson@sams.ac.uk

Dr Anuschka Miller; E: Anuschka.Miller@sams.ac.uk; M: +44 7786 327780

For further information, please contact:

Eva Söderman

Head of Press & Communications

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V.

Berliner Straße 130, 14467 Potsdam

Tel. +49 (0)331 288 22-340/341

Fax +49 (0)331 288 22-310

E-Mail eva.soederman@iass-potsdam.de / bianca.schroeder@iass-potsdam.de

www.iass-potsdam.de

Funded by the ministries of research of the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Brandenburg, the **Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)** aims to identify and promote development pathways for a global transformation towards a sustainable society. The IASS employs a transdisciplinary approach that encourages dialogue to understand sustainability issues and generate potential solutions in cooperation with partners from the sciences, politics, the economy, and civil society. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the institute. Its central research topics include the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation.