

Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS)

Organizational Summary

1. Mission and Goals

APECS is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, educators and others with interests in Polar and Alpine Regions and the wider cryosphere. Our aims are to stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, and develop effective future leaders in polar research, education and outreach. We seek to achieve these aims by:

- Facilitating international and interdisciplinary networking to share ideas and experiences and to develop new research directions and collaborations;
- Providing opportunities for professional career development; and
- Promoting education and outreach as an integral component of polar research and to stimulate future generations of polar researchers.

Details available online at <http://apecs.is/who-we-are.html>

2. Current and past activities

APECS is running numerous projects and initiatives in the field of polar research, career development, education and outreach:

Running the internet portal: **www.apecs.is**

- [Polar jobs postings](#)
- [Events postings](#) (e.g. polar-related conferences, workshops, field schools, and etc.)
- News: [APECS](#), [Partner](#) and [Polar News](#) and quarterly [Newsletter](#)
- Information on [membership](#), [mission](#), [goals](#), structure and regulative documents, publications, videos of the APECS
- [graduate programmes database](#), [funding resources database](#), [polar outreach catalogue](#), [webinar database](#),
- information on [APECS event highlights](#) and [longer-term projects](#)
- information on [education and outreach activities](#) (e.g. [International Polar Weeks](#), [Antarctica Days](#))
- other [career development information and resources](#) for early career researchers (e.g. [tips for conference](#), [polar acronyms](#))
- research related information on e.g. [polar research areas](#), [virtual poster archive](#), [academic journals](#),
- [polar outreach resources](#)

Projects, activities and programmes:

Online Career development resources and activities for polar early career researchers:

- [Research and Career Development Webinars](#)
- online workshops and conferences (e.g. [APECS Svalbard Workshop](#), [APECS Online conferences](#))
- [Virtual poster sessions](#)
- [Mentorship program](#)

Working with international partners in international polar science:

- Lobbying the interests of polar early career professionals
- Involvement of early career researchers in the activities of partner organizations
- involvement of partner organisations in activities of APECS
- Representation of the polar early career scientists community at large conferences (e.g. Arctic Frontiers, AGU, ASSW, SCAR OSC)

[In-person Events:](#)

- Career development workshops and mentor panels at conferences
- Organisation and co-organisation of international forums and summits for young researchers

Education and Outreach activities initiatives:

- organizing [International Polar Weeks](#) twice a year
- participating in [Antarctica Days](#) on 1 December
- [“FrostBytes - Soundbytes of Cools Research”](#) - Project
- leading and participating in the development of polar outreach resources (e.g. [Polar Research Book](#), [Polar Outreach Catalogue](#) as part of the IPY Education and Outreach Lessons assessment)

Conducting own research projects (e.g. the APECS Nordic [“Bridging Early Career Researchers and Indigenous Peoples in Nordic Countries”](#) project and the ICARP III - APECS-CLiC [“Where are they now project”](#)) or partnering and contributing in those in a major role (e.g. [IPY Education and Outreach Assessment](#))

Supporting the activities and project ideas of the APECS Committees and Working Groups:

- of the [Executive Committee](#) for larger new APECS initiatives and directions of the organisation
- of the [Council](#) and its committees
 - [Education and Outreach Committee](#) (Communicating polar research; Working with schools, teachers, policy-makers, general public and media)
 - [Research Activities Committee](#) (Latest technologies, methods, findings and research highlights in polar science)

- [Membership and Involvement Committee](#) (Communication with national committees, membership engagement, mentorship programme)
- of the [APECS national committees](#)
- of [APECS Working Groups](#)

3. Organizational structure

APECS organizational structure consist of:

1) Open Council

- Members self-nominated or nominated by organizations and approved by the Executive Committee
- Contributes to the implementation of APECS activities
- Links APECS to current research activities, polar research communities, and international science groups

2) Executive Committee

- Annually elected by the open Council
- Manages the organization and approves major decisions

3) International Directorate

- The physical secretariat of APECS (currently hosted in Tromsø, Norway)
- Serves as the main point of contact and central coordinator for APECS activities, day-to-day operations, finances and institutional memory

4) National committees

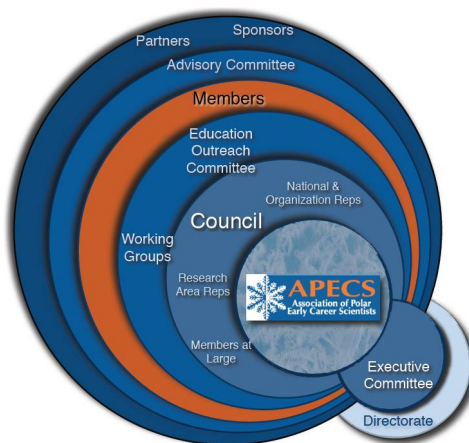
- national-level organizations (relationship with the international umbrella organisation APECS regulated via Memorandums of Understanding or Letters of Agreement)

5) Working groups and Committees

- Project initiation and management (open for everyone)

4) Advisory committee

- Senior-level polar researchers and administrators
- Provides ongoing advice and support to the organisation



Schematic organizational structure of the APECS

4. Current sponsors and partners

- [APECS International Directorate](#) is sponsored by the Research Council of Norway, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and the Norwegian Polar Institute
- Various organizations and institutes provide funding to APECS projects, initiatives and events. They include currently (in alphabetical order): Arctic Frontiers, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Nordic Council of Ministers, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR),
- APECS is officially a partner (with and without MoU) with a number of organizations, with whom we are working together to shape the future of polar research (in alphabetical order): American Geophysical Union (AGU), Arctic Frontiers, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) (without MoU), Arctic Portal, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Project, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), Foundation for Good Governance of International Spaces (Our Spaces) (without MoU), High North Academy (HNA), International Antarctic Institute (IAI), International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA), International Glaciological Society (IGS), International Permafrost Association (IPA), Polar Educators International (PEI), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the University of Arctic (UArctic)
- APECS works together with several organizations formed to help early career scientists and professionals (in alphabetical order): ArcticNet Student Association (ASA), Permafrost Young Researcher Network (PYRN), Young Earth Scientists (YES) Network, Young Earth System Scientists (YESS)

Further information on APECS partners and sponsors can be found at <http://apecs.is/who-we-are/partners-and-sponsors.html>