

Creation and members of APECS-France

APECS-France was created as a national committee in June 2013, and is registered as a non-profit organisation since January 2014. The board (*bureau*) is composed of four members: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The APECS-France e-mailing list france@apecs.is provided by APECS counts over 150 French and/or French-based members of APECS. APECS-France members study and work in various fields: biology, physics, social sciences... 15 of these are particularly active, organized in working groups responsible for one task or event. APECS-France is proudly supported by Claude Lorius, a very famous French glaciologist.

Communication

- Towards our members: APECS-France communicates with its members through emails to the france@apecs.is e-mailing list and using a Facebook private group (*APECS-France, groupe de discussion*).
- Towards the general public and partners: APECS-France uses a public Facebook page (*APECS-France*) and a website, which still needs improvement, to communicate. An activity report for the year 2014 was edited and is distributed among potential partners. We participate to national and international conferences like CNFRA 2014, SCAR meeting, EGU 2015...

Educational activities

- The French Polar Week, twice a year, during a week

More than 3000 children participated over the 5 last editions. As for the International Polar Week, schools can attend webinars, interact with researchers all week long through emails, and participate to a common educational and artistic activity.

- The Antarctica Day, each 1st December

In collaboration with the foundation "Our Spaces", French school children are encouraged to imagine a flag for Antarctica. The drawings are then sent to the French station Dumont d'Urville. Students are provided with a certificate and pictures taken on the station.

- Expedition follow-up during 3 months, September-December 2014

Last autumn, a young polar oceanographer participated in an expedition in the Southern Ocean. This was the opportunity to set up a new education and outreach project called "Zoé en Expé". Using different media (webinars, blog, newsletter, educational resources, artistic activities, analysis of real data...), about 800 children, aged 6 to 12, and from 40 schools, were actively involved in the project.

- Les Savanturiers des Glaces, January-June 2015

In collaboration with Wild-Touch and the "Centre de Recherches Interdisciplinaires" (CRI), 11 young polar researchers are currently mentoring 11 classes to set up a research project about Polar Regions.

Supporting early-career polar scientists

- Enhance interactions between young and confirmed researchers :In November 2014, we participated to the organization of the ISTAS workshop, in Brest (France). We were in charge of organizing an icebreaker event, which was set up as a speed meeting.
- Meeting other young polar researchers from APECS-France :For this purpose, a Facebook private group was set up as a platform for planning informal social meetings and exchanging professional information. APECS-France website will also be used to communicate events and job opportunities.