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Presented by: Bulgaria, Belgium,  
Brazil, Chile,  
COMNAP, Czechia,  
Finland, IAATO, India,  
Italy, Korea (ROK),  
Malaysia, Poland,  
Portugal, Romania,  
SCAR, South Africa,  
Spain, United Kingdom,  
United States

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## **Sixth report of the Intersessional Contact Group on Education and Outreach**



## Sixth report of the Intersessional Contact Group on Education and Outreach

Working Paper submitted by Bulgaria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, COMNAP, Czech Republic, Finland, IAATO, India, Italy, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, SCAR, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA

### Summary

At ATCM XLIV (2022) in Berlin, Parties decided to continue the work of the Intersessional Contact Group (ICG) on Education and Outreach, following a number of terms of reference related to education and outreach. This paper aims to provide a summary on the discussions within the ICG and recommends considerations by the ATCM of the outcomes of the intersessional work. Overall, there were three topics discussed (education and outreach activities, exchange information on equity, diversity and inclusion, and on review ICG work and future developments), with 26 posts (from October 2022 up to 28 March 2023) from 20 Parties, Observers and Experts comprising 619 views within the forum.

### Background

The ICG on Education and Outreach was established during ATCM XXXVIII (2015) in Sofia, Bulgaria, following a very successful workshop in which ninety-seven participants from thirty-seven Parties, Observers and Experts took part. During ATCM XXXIX (2016) in Santiago, Chile, Bulgaria introduced WP 24 *First Report on the Intersessional Contact Group on Education and Outreach*, jointly prepared with Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Portugal, and the United Kingdom. The ATCM recognised the contribution of Parties and the usefulness of the ICG's work. Parties were advised to continue to use and promote the forum on Education and Outreach to share information on education and outreach activities and events with each other. Information about education and outreach activities from an Antarctic Treaty perspective remains within the Multi-Year Strategic Work Plan of the ATCM as well as within the CEP Work Plan.

As stated in the Final Report of ATCM XLIV (2022) in Berlin, Germany, paragraphs 173–174, the Meeting agreed its support for continued use of the ATCM forum on education and outreach issues and approved continuing the ICG on Education and Outreach for another intersessional period, with the following terms of reference:

- Fostering collaboration at both the national and international level, on education and outreach;
- Identifying key international activities/events related to education and outreach for possible engagement by the Antarctic Treaty Parties;
- Sharing results of education and outreach initiatives that demonstrate the work of Antarctic Treaty Parties in managing the Antarctic Treaty area;
- Emphasizing ongoing environmental protection initiatives that have been informed by scientific observations and results, in order to reinforce the importance of the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection;

- Promoting related education and outreach activities by Experts and Observers, and encouraging cooperation with these groups;
- Sharing best practices and encouraging, enhancing and promoting diversity and inclusion across the global Antarctic community, including among scientists, logisticians, policymakers and all others engaged in Antarctic matters, in order to lower any barriers to the engagement of all the talents needed to tackle the challenges of the future of Antarctica;
- Encouraging Parties to provide the Secretariat with link(s) to their web page(s) with educational and outreach resources (the Secretariat will include these links in its “Educational Resources” section of the Secretariat webpage); and
- Inviting Parties, Observers and Experts to review, during the intersessional period at the ATCM Education and Outreach Forum, the work carried out by the ICG and discuss its future development.

### ***Method of Operation***

The ICG operates using the online ATCM Discussion Forum, under the topic ‘ICG on Education and Outreach’. The discussion is open to all Parties, Observers and Experts, of which, 20 Parties, Observers and Experts (up to 28 of March 2023) have participated in the forum. The ICG began work in October 2022.

### ***Discussions***

There were 26 posts with 563 views (up to 28 of March 2023). There were three topics within the forum: 1- Education and outreach activities carried out by Parties, Observers and Experts; 2– Exchange request of information on examples on education of equity, diversity, and inclusion from Antarctic Programs and 3- Feedback request on the work carried out by the ICG and discuss its future development. It can be noted that posts included relevant links to obtain further information on their activities.

#### Topic 1: Education and outreach activities carried out by Parties, Observers and Experts

A total of 16 Parties (Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, India, Italy, Korea (ROK), Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, South Africa and USA), two Observers (SCAR and COMNAP), and one Expert (IAATO) reported their activities on education and outreach. Reports noted activities such as lectures/lessons/seminars in schools/Universities/other public areas, webinars to Antarctic stations/research ships while in the Antarctic, science/film festivals, online competitions, polar science/art camps/training courses, outreach information on biosecurity protocols, outreach ceremonies, national science conferences/symposiums, events celebrating national contributions to Antarctic exploration, development of educational materials (including translation of materials from English language into native language; incorporation of Antarctic themes into national school curriculums), citizen science activities, books (including the Polar Resource book with Polar Educators International (PEI), Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)), exhibitions; TV/radio/newspaper interviews/documentaries/video animations/programs linked to media; social media (e.g. blogs, Youtube channels, Facebook pages, Instagram), international activities (e.g. Polar WEEKS, in cooperation with the APECS and PEI, Antarctica Day celebrations, International Antarctic Ambassador Day, European Researchers’ Night activities, outreach via research journals, international exhibitions). The large number of institutions and participants involved in these activities is noteworthy.

Topic 2: Exchange request of information on examples on education of equity, diversity, and inclusion from Antarctic Programs

Two Parties (Portugal and Spain) and one Observer (SCAR) contributed to this topic. Parties expressed their national contributions on increasing the awareness on equity, diversity and inclusion within their national programs as well as efforts to fight discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. Activities included a special session in the national training programme (focusing on its basic concepts, public policies and prevention on these topics) and addition of equity, diversity and inclusion as elements within national program practises (e.g. inclusive logistical support for all researchers, evaluation of equity/diversity/inclusion data of the polar community, surveys to identify potential issues, mechanisms to promote best practices in terms of codes of conduct. More cooperation with other polar organizations on these topics are planned in the near future. SCAR has an EDI Action Group (EDI AG) which works on topics such as code of conduct, surveying diversity across the community and SCAR's capacity building activities (e.g. celebrated Polar Pride Day, Women in Polar Science initiative) and COMNAP has a representative on that EDI AG.

Topic 3: Feedback request on the work carried out by the ICG and discuss its future development

Two Parties (Belgium and Portugal) and one Observer (SCAR) contributed to this topic expressing their support for the continuation of the ICG on Education and Outreach for exchange of information with the ATCM and CEP, the need to promote a higher level of cooperation between Parties, Observers and Experts on education and outreach related to the Antarctic Treaty, evaluate mechanisms to work together with various stakeholders in obtaining the scientific facts/knowledge (SCAR Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET), in engaging the young generations of scientists (with APECS) and in reviewing the most important Antarctic topics for education and outreach, carry out national/international education/outreach activities and identify future topics that will need to be addressed educationally to connect with Educators Worldwide (with the PEI)). Finally, given the first ATCM Workshop on Education and Outreach was held eight years ago (Bulgaria, 2015), there is support for a second Workshop on Education and Outreach in order to reflect on the accomplishments achieved, to identify gaps and needs, and to plan future actions.

## **Recommendations**

The ICG recommends that the ATCM:

- Recognise the usefulness of the Forum on Education and Outreach and support the work of the ICG during one more intersessional period;
- Promote the usage of the Forum to provide information of Parties' activities related to education and outreach and facilitate experts within their delegations to access the Forum;
- Supports Parties, Observers and Experts to engage in key international activities/events related to education and outreach, including those focused on equity, diversity and inclusion;
- Encourages Parties to continue to promote not only Antarctica and Antarctic research through their Education and Outreach activities, but the Antarctic Treaty and the Environmental Protocol in themselves;
- Discuss the possibility to organise and plan for the second Workshop on Education and Outreach.