



SIOS

Newsletter December 2017

First General Assembly of the SIOS consortium



SIOS

General Assembly

On **26 January 2018**, the first General Assembly of the SIOS consortium will mark the transition from the interim to the operational phase of SIOS.

A representative from leadership of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research will attend the meeting, sending out a clear message regarding SIOS's high importance in Norway.

10 years in the making and initially led by project-based initiatives, the SIOS consortium will finally become an established and independent entity. The international institutions signing the Memorandum of Understanding on 26 January will be the founding members.

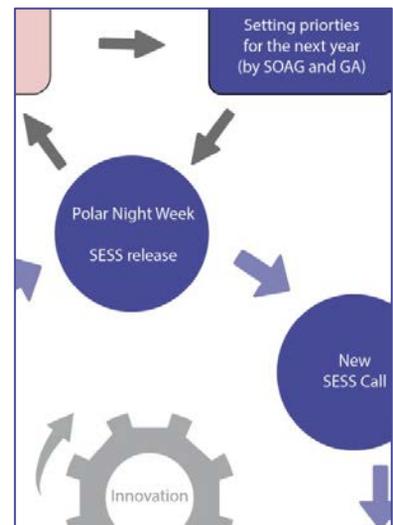
More institutions are already applying to become members. At its first meeting, the General Assembly will admit its new members. This will be the starting point of an engaging future for SIOS, and the consortium's commitment to long-term monitoring in Svalbard.

The current state of SIOS

The SIOS-KC has written a summary on the current state of SIOS. It gives an overview of SIOS's overarching goals, the different services that are offered, the organisational details, and the means by which we aim to achieve our goals. It also describes last year's achievements, and lists both duties of and benefits to SIOS members.

The document can be downloaded here:

<https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Documents#docOther>

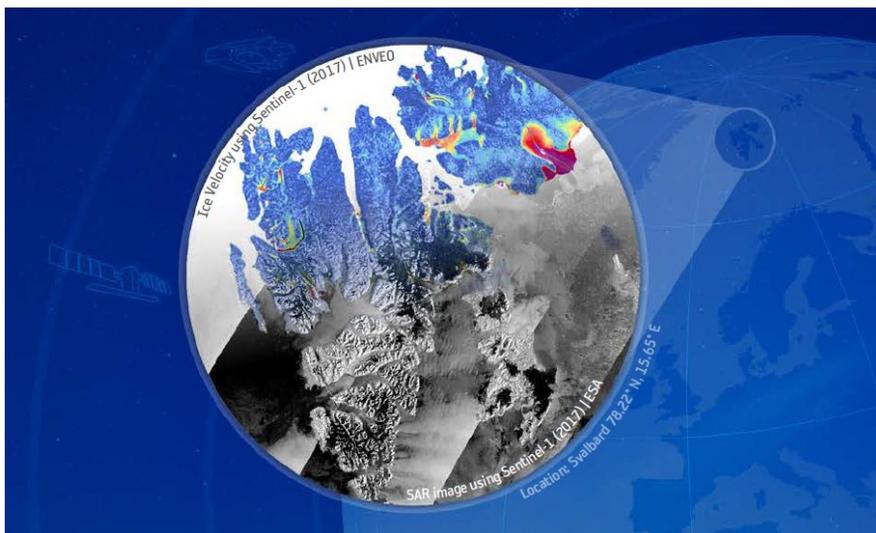


The European Space Agency (ESA) comes to Svalbard

This summer, UNIS will be hosting ESA's biennial remote sensing training course on the cryosphere from 11 - 16 June 2018. Bringing together some of the top experts in the field, this one-week course will create a unique learning experience for graduates, post-graduates, and young professionals working in Earth Observation (EO) with a focus on cryospheric sciences.

Course topics include monitoring snow, glaciers, sea ice and ice-ocean interactions with a thematic emphasis on Svalbard but put in the context of a changing global cryosphere.

The SIOS Remote Sensing Service has taken the lead to coordinate this event together with the UNIS Geophysics Department. In addition, SIOS will be providing IT support, helping UNIS set up computing exercises on a virtual machine so that participants may be able to use their own laptops in the practical training sessions.



This is a truly special opportunity to sign up for a course on remote sensing of the cryosphere in the heart of the Norwegian Arctic. All ESA courses are free of charge. Participants will need to cover their own travel and living expenses.

We would like to encourage those interested to visit the webpage <http://eoscience4society.esa.int/CTC18/> for more details.

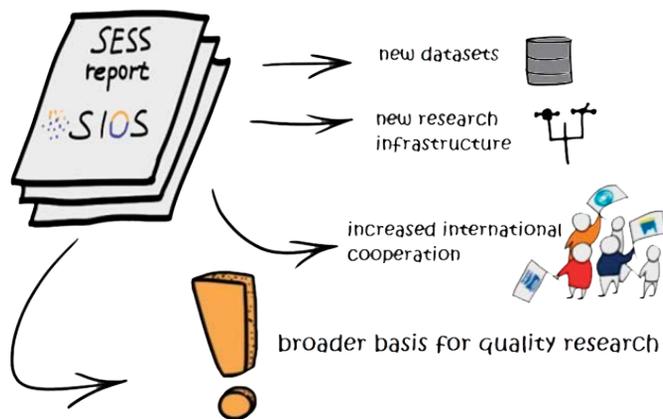
The application deadline is on 15 December 2017

First issue of the SESS report due in 2018

The **State of Environmental Science in Svalbard (SESS) report** is an annual report produced by SIOS. The report will summarise the state of current knowledge of key Earth System Science (ESS) parameters and analyse how these parameters influence one another.

The SESS report will outline the work that has been done in the previous year within the SIOS cooperation to optimise the observing system and recommend research priorities for the following year(s).

SIOS is due to publish the first SESS report in 2018.



Read more:

<https://www.sios-svalbard.org/SESSreport>

Pilot call received 19 applications

In August 2017 SIOS issued a pilot call with two categories:

- **Call for contributions to the first SESS report:** SIOS offered funding for those wishing to contribute to the first report. In total 13 SESS project proposals were submitted, of which 6 were accepted for funding.

Read more: <https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Issue1>

- **Call for access to research infrastructure:** SIOS was looking for projects that wanted access to SIOS research infrastructure, in line with the Access Policy. A total of 10 access applications were received, of which 5 will receive funding to conduct fieldwork in 2018.

Read more: <https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Access2018>

Pilot trainings courses held in 2017

2017 was the year for pilots in SIOS. In addition to the pilot call, two types of pilot training courses were offered from and for the SIOS community.



In the summer, a **workshop on Copernicus data for Ice and Snow** was well received by its 22 participants. The aim of the course was to provide researchers with the basic skills they need to discover and process Copernicus satellite data, using only open source software environments. The focus was on multispectral satellite data from the Copernicus satellites Sentinel-2 and -3.

Read more: https://www.sios-svalbard.org/News_20170918

In the autumn, SIOS ran **training sessions on data management** at three research workshops that were funded through the Strategic Grant Call by Svalbard Science Forum. The data management training session is the first part of the SIOS course portfolio, which is available for the SIOS community – please contact Information@sios-svalbard.org, for more information.

Read more: https://www.sios-svalbard.org/News_20171024

What's new on the SIOS web portal

- You can now read about the SIOS Science Wheel, showing the development of the State of Environmental Science in Svalbard (SESS) report and the access programme: <https://sios-svalbard.org/ScienceWheel>
- Successful applicants to the SIOS Pilot call for SESS and Access Projects can be found here:
 - <https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Issue1>
 - <https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Access2018>
- Download our posters at <https://sios-svalbard.org/Documents#Poster>
- We have established a feedback section under the menu item 'Support' (https://www.sios-svalbard.org/project/issues/sios_project), where you can send us bug reports, feature requests or support requests.
- The SIOS data access point https://sios-svalbard.org/metadata_search has started to ingest data. Soon all data from MET Norway's weather stations, as well as Russian and Polish weather data will be accessible through the portal.

