Guidelines for applicants to the SIOS Core Data Curation Call

The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) is a regional observing system for long-term measurements in and around Svalbard, Norway, addressing Earth System Science (ESS) questions related to Global Change. Data and products describing the relevant processes are required to support the observing system. These data can be the result of long-term monitoring or ad hoc efforts focusing on process studies.

The SIOS Data Management System (SDMS) relies on the principles of distributed data management. Datasets that are relevant for SIOS, as well as their associated metadata, are managed by several physically distributed Data Centres. Each Data Centre has its own set of Data Management Facilities for ingestion of new data (and associated metadata), maintenance of the data sets (including metadata) and for data curation. SDMS integrates these contributing data centres to a federated entity enabling users to discover and access datasets. SDMS is relying on the interfaces of the contributing data centres for submission and long-term preservation of datasets.

SIOS has defined a set of data that are needed to optimise the common resources for answering identified key research questions in Earth System Science. These SIOS core data (SCD) are the foundation of the observational programme of SIOS, which provides the research community with systematic long-term observations, yet is flexible enough to integrate new methods and research questions. Sharing and updating of the core data is a continuous process in response to the needs of the scientific community. SIOS core data have to fulfil certain criteria of scientific requirements, data availability and members' commitment (https://sios-svalbard.org/sites/sios-svalbard.org/files/common/CoreData_Documentation.pdf)

The SIOS Core Data Curation Call supports the transformation of SIOS Core Data Candidate datasets into FAIR compliant data, also fulfilling the data accessibility requirements and thus reaching status as SIOS Core Data.

Call management

The SIOS Knowledge Centre manages the call and carries out the necessary administrative tasks, including:
- Preparing the call.
- Promoting the call and disseminating guidelines.
- Providing support and guidance for applicants during the application process.
- Organising the evaluation of applications.
- Communicating the decision of the selection panel.

The call text and accompanying documentation are developed with input from the SIOS Data Management System Working Group (SDMS WG).

SIOS-KC will run webinars for applicants during the period the call is open. These will be open to all interested parties and will include a general introduction to the data curation call, an explanation of the application form, and an opportunity to ask specific questions. Details of the dates and times of webinars will be posted on the SIOS website.

Application process

Proposals must be submitted electronically at SIOS web page (https://sios-svalbard.org/CoreData). All proposals must include an application form, a project description (not exceeding 2 pages), budget and CV of the leader attached.

Support types

The SIOS core data curation call supports two types of actions:

Making SIOS core data candidates accessible: checking data quality, describing metadata according to standards, converting data to a standard compliant format, listed in SDMS documentation, data through FAIR compliant web services (according to SDMS Interoperability Guidelines).

Establishing FAIR data sharing interface: To support data centres lacking FAIR compliant interfaces to data, a container based solution using Dockerised pyDAP to serve datasets in NetCDF-CF through OPeNDAP and HTTP will be supported. Other OPeNDAP servers may be considered for dockerisation.

Eligibility criteria

Full details of the eligibility criteria of the call be found in the call text for the SIOS Core Data Curation Call.

Guidance for writing a project proposal

The project proposal must not exceed 2 pages of minimum size 12 font and should include:
- Types and collection time of the core data candidates.
- Description of the data processing and planned results.
- Technical and administrative solutions for the establishing data sharing interface (if relevant).
- Description of the open repository where the data will be stored and how this complies with the SDMS Interoperability Guidelines.
- Linkages to the SDMS Interoperability Guidelines (https://github.com/SIOS-Svalbard/SDMSInteroperabilityGuidelines) and SIOS core data documentation https://sios-svalbard.org/CoreData.
- Budget and timeline.

Procedure for the proposal evaluation

SIOS-KC will carry out a pre-screening of proposals to ensure the eligibility criteria outlined in the call text are met. The review of proposals that meet the eligibility criteria will be evaluated with the support of SDMS WG. Based on the evaluation criteria outlined in the call text and this document, the selection panel will rank the proposals. The final decision will be made by the Board of Directors (BoD).

Funding details

Funds totalling at least 1.0 million NOK are available through this call (not including in-kind contributions).
One SIOS partner may apply in total for the maximum amount of 100 000 NOK.
Any exceeding amount spent on the contribution is counted as in-kind contribution to SIOS. The contribution can also be entirely in-kind if preferred.

What can be funded?
Applicants may request funding for salary for making SIOS core data candidates FAIR data. This includes making the data available via SDMS as SIOS core data according to the guidelines of this call and SIOS data policy.

The budget must include:
• The expected number of hours of writing time per contributing author.
• The cost per hour for each contributing author – this should be set to no more than 0,16% of annual salary.

Person hours may be included as billable costs or be provided as an in-kind contribution to SIOS. Please indicate the number of hours that will be in-kind in the budget. An example table is shown below.

	Total hours	In-kind hours	Billable hours	Cost per hour (NOK)	Total cost (NOK)
Person 1	40	40	0	X	X*0
Person 2	20	0	20	Y	Y*20
Total	60	40	60		C

For further guidance, contact the SIOS scientific and data officer
dariusz.ignatiuk@sios-svalbard.org

Conditions

Funding for Curation Call is granted on the understanding that it is used for the purpose stated in the proposal.

The application must comply with the institutional commitment of the applicant to the SIOS core data.

A technical and financial report has to be submitted together with the invoice for reimbursement of expenses.

Final payment from SIOS will only be released once all the datasets are available via the SIOS Data Management System.

GDPR

In order to be compliant with the EU's data privacy law, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), SIOS would like to inform you how we use your personal information. You find our GDPR policy here: https://sios-svalbard.org/sites/sios-svalbard.org/files/common/SIOSNotificationOnTheGDPR_newsletter.pdf.