



Call for proposals to contribute to the SESS report 2020

Call opens: 3 March 2020

Proposal Deadline: 3 April 2020, 16:00 CEST

Total funds available: at least 2.4 million NOK

SIOS seeks proposals for chapters that highlight the state of environmental science in Svalbard and contribute to the development of the Earth Observing System in and around Svalbard.

Background for this call

The [Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System](#) (SIOS) is a regional observational system for long-term measurements in and around Svalbard, addressing Earth System Science (ESS) questions related to Global Change. The upgraded observing system and research facilities offered by SIOS build on the extensive observation capacity and diverse world class research infrastructure provided by many nations already established in Svalbard. This includes a substantial capability for utilising remote sensing resources to complement ground-based observations. From this foundation, SIOS envisions a significant contribution to the systematic development of new methods and design for the implementation of observational networks in Arctic environments.

SIOS publishes the annual [State of Environmental Science in Svalbard \(SESS\) report](#). The SESS report:

- is established as an authoritative source of information about the state of the environment in and around Svalbard;
- is an important tool to convey knowledge to stakeholders and the public;
- addresses the scientific community, as well as stakeholders and the public. This format ensures that there is synergy between the scientific investigations and the knowledge needed by society to sustainably develop and safeguard the Arctic environment;
- is the main driving force for the science-based development of the observing system and contributing to the report is an opportunity for research groups to actively influence the prioritisation within SIOS.



The report summarises the state of current knowledge of key Earth System Science parameters and analyses how these parameters influence one another. It combines the long-term monitoring data that form the core of the observing system with new, innovative monitoring and research. In addition to evaluating the state of current knowledge, the SESS report highlights questions that remain unanswered and recommends solutions in terms of research infrastructure improvements and research priorities.

It is an arena for open sharing of ideas and discussions on which measures should be taken to enable scientists to provide observations needed to gain a holistic view of the Earth System of Svalbard and the Arctic in general.

Contributions to the SESS report are written by international and, preferably, multidisciplinary teams under the lead of researchers from SIOS member institutions. All chapters are peer-reviewed and subject to final approval by an editorial board. The editorial board consists of two senior researchers, one early career researcher and two representatives of the SIOS Knowledge Centre.

The third SESS report will be published in January 2021.

Who can apply?

Researchers from [SIOS member or observer institutions](#) may apply provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined below.

Purpose of this call

SIOS is looking for contributions to chapters for the next SESS report. Contributions can be in the form of

- a review of existing knowledge in a specific field of Earth System Science in Svalbard or the connections between several fields,
- a data summary (long-term data series or new data), or
- a report card (update of data from earlier SESS chapters).

All contributions will be peer-reviewed before publication. For more details, see document '[SESSreport2020: Instructions for author.pdf](#)'.

SIOS seeks proposals that utilise available data and describe important parts of and processes in the Svalbard Earth system. Prioritisation is given to proposals that:

- integrate several spheres and/or elaborate a cross-cutting perspective on various disciplines;
- describe feedback processes;
- include modelling;
- address long-term data (SIOS core data candidates);
- bring together the majority of research groups within a specific subject in Svalbard;
- develop data series derived from SIOS access projects into core data candidates;
- put the Svalbard Earth System in a pan-Arctic perspective.

Applications on all topics within Earth System Science are welcome.

Contributions within the following themes are especially encouraged in this years' call:

- Meteorology for whole Svalbard, incl. hydrological aspects
- Ecosystem response to environmental changes (e.g. carbon cycle, invasive species, food webs)
- Glacier dynamics (changes in mass and volume; novel field techniques)
- Historic and emerging pollutants, incl. microplastics
- Coastal processes
- Fjord systems and water around Svalbard, incl. fjord and sea ice, in a changing climate
- Integration of ocean observatories in Svalbard waters

General eligibility criteria

All chapter proposals must:

- include the application form, an itemised budget, a project description (not exceeding 2 pages), and a max 2-page CV of the PI;
- have partners from at least **three different nations** and **two SIOS member institutions**;
- have a Principle Investigator (PI) from a member or observer institution;
- be accepted by the institution of the PI.

Other requirements

Authors of the SESS report 2020:

- must submit their contributions by 15 September 2020 and shall follow the timeline for the SESS report published at https://www.sios-svalbard.org/SESS_Issue3;
- must adhere to the [instructions for authors 2020](#);
- must adhere to the [SIOS data policy](#). Relevant data or information about data must be submitted to the SIOS Data Management System through the [‘metadata collection form’](#) or [SIOS partner data repositories](#) preferably before the release of the report;
- are expected to take part in a common SESS report contributors’ workshop (at least one per contribution) in the beginning of June 2020 (place to be determined, remote access possible). Travel support for up to two participants will be available;
- are expected to attend, with at least one person per contribution, and deliver a short presentation at the SESS report release during the Polar Night Week in Longyearbyen (11 January 2021). Travel support for up to two participants will be available.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals for contributions to the SESS report 2020 are:

- Scientific excellence
- Relevance to SIOS
- Innovation

Details on the evaluation process and criteria may be found in the document [‘SESSreport2020 Guidelines for applicants’](#).

Funding details

Funds totalling at least 2.4 million NOK are available through this call (not including in-kind contributions).



Accepted contributions are funded with up to

- 240 000 NOK (reviews and data summaries)
- 50 000 NOK (report cards)

Any exceeding amount spent on the contribution is counted as in-kind contribution to SIOS. **The contribution can also be entirely provided by in-kind contribution.**

What can be funded?

Applicants may request funding for salary for data analysis and writing, making data used in the contribution FAIR, a workshop between authors, and support for developing procedures, protocols and harmonisation.

Application details

- The deadline for this call is 3 April 2020, 16:00 CEST. A decision is expected by early May 2020.
- You find more details in the document '[SESSreport2020 Guidelines for applicants](#)'.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically at https://sios-svalbard.org/SESS_ApplicationForm_2020.
- **Contact:** SIOS information officer Christiane Hübner (<https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Staff#InformationOfficer>)

Relevant documents

All relevant information, documents and web forms can be found on the web page for the SESS report 2020: https://sios-svalbard.org/SESS_Issue3.