



Call for proposals to contribute to the SESS report 2024

Call opens: 5 December 2023

Proposal Deadline: 17 January 2024, 16:00 CET

Total funds available: 2 million NOK

SIOS invites proposals for new and update 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

SIOS publishes the annual State of Environmental Science in Svalbard (SESS) report.

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 representatives of the SIOS Knowledge Centre.

Read more about the purpose of the SESS report [HERE](#).

Who can apply?

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

Update chapters: The applicant must be an author (both lead authors and co-authors) of a chapter in previous SESS reports.

Purpose of this call

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

- review chapter: a description of the state of existing knowledge in a specific field of Earth System Science in Svalbard (typically not included in previous SESS reports) or the connections between several fields;
- chapter on trends and processes: an analysis of data on a specific topic in Earth System Science in Svalbard focusing on trends, changes, and processes;
- update chapter: a brief update of a chapter published in a previous SESS report.

All contributions will be peer-reviewed before publication and consist of three parts - a science chapter, a popular science summary, and FAQ. For more details, see the document 'Instructions for authors – SESS report 2024' on the [webpage for the SESS report 2024](#).

Review and analysis of trends and processes chapters:

SIOS invites 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;
- address long-term data (SIOS core data candidates);
- focus on quality and harmonisation of observations;
- describe feedback processes;
- include modelling;
- bring together active research groups within a specific subject in Svalbard;
- develop data series derived from SIOS access or optimisation projects into SIOS Core Data (Candidates);
- present and discuss aspects of the Svalbard Earth System in a pan-Arctic perspective.

Applications on all topics within Earth System Science are welcome.

Update chapters:

SIOS invites contributions that

- update previously described data, i.e. present unpublished data that contribute to SIOS core data and/or complement earlier SESS reports.
- update information about the state of specific research fields described in previous SESS chapters, i.e. present new interpretations of data, new insights and/or new developments in the field;
- merge and refine previous recommendations in the light of new data, interpretation of data, new insights, or the implementation of previous recommendations.

General eligibility criteria

All proposals for a contribution to the SESS report 2024 must:

- include the application form, and an itemised budget;
- Review and analysis of trends and processes chapters must in addition include a project description (not exceeding 2 pages), and a 1-page CV of the Principle Investigator;
- have partners from at least **three different nations** and **two SIOS member institutions**;
- have a Principle Investigator from a member institution;
- be accepted by the institution of the Principle Investigator.

Other requirements

Authors of contributions to the SESS report 2024:

- must submit their contributions by 15 August 2024 and shall follow the timeline for the SESS report published on the [webpage for the SESS report 2024](#);
- must adhere to the instructions for authors 2024 (document on the [webpage for the SESS report 2024](#));
- must adhere to the [SIOS data policy](#). Relevant data or information about data must be submitted to the SIOS Data Management System (see guidelines for applicants 2024 for details);

- are expected to take part in a common SESS report contributors' online workshop (at least one per contribution) in spring 2024.
- 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 (January 2025). Travel support for one participant will be available (up to 6 000 NOK).

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals for contributions to the SESS report 2024 are:

- Compliance with eligibility criteria
- **Scientific excellence:** Proposals must demonstrate that the proposed contribution will be of a high scientific standard and that the topic(s) addressed are scientifically valid and important.
- **Relevance to SIOS:** Proposals must be consistent with the goals of SIOS to optimise the observing system and promote advancement in Arctic Earth system science. Proposals that can clearly demonstrate a benefit to the observing system in line with SIOS goals will be prioritised. Such benefits may include making new observational data available as SIOS Core Data (Candidates), analysis or integration of existing Core Data, creating new data products that are made available to other researchers, better utilising existing research infrastructure, enhancing cooperation between research groups within the same field over entire Svalbard, and developing cross-disciplinary cooperation.
Update chapters: Proposals must provide a clear development of knowledge since previous report.
- **Innovation:** Proposals that promote or enhance innovative techniques and methodologies for reducing the environmental impact of research and monitoring are welcome. Innovation with regards to making data useful and available to researchers also from other disciplines is also highly valued.

Details on the evaluation process may be found in the document 'Guidelines for applicants' on the [webpage for the SESS report 2024](#).

Funding details

We strongly encourage full in-kind contributions. In any case, it is expected that the authors/institutions give a substantial in-kind contribution.

Funds totalling at 2 million NOK are available through this call (not including in-kind contributions).

Accepted contributions can be funded with up to

- 200 000 NOK (reviews and analysis of trends and processes)
- 70 000 NOK (update chapters)

Any exceeding amount spent on the contribution is counted as in-kind contribution to SIOS.

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.

Note that SIOS does not fund institutional overheads. Institutional overheads will be considered as in-kind contributions.

Application details

- The deadline for this call is 17 January 2024, 16:00 CET. Decision of accepted proposals and funding will be communicated by mid-February 2024.
- Proposals must be submitted electronically.
- Please find all relevant documents and the application forms on the web page for the SESS report 2024: https://sios-svalbard.org/SESS_Issue7.
- Contact: SIOS information officer Christiane Hübner (<https://www.sios-svalbard.org/Staff#InformationOfficer>)

Note: To be able to publish a SESS report, we need a minimum of four approved chapters. If we receive too few high-quality proposals, we reserve the right to cancel this years' SESS report.