

The SvalGlac Newsletter 1

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1. Introduction

The *Newsletter* is planned to be a medium for distribution of information coming from Coordinators and Partners of the SvalGlac project. It will be issued 2-3 times per year as an internal bulletin of the project community. It will contain official messages and requests to Partners from the Coordinator's Secretariat, list of recent news related to the activity within the project and any other issues useful for the consortium members.

Thus, the Newsletter expect to be a tube of coordinators and also a platform of exchange of information between consortium members. It has also summarize important elements appeared on discussion forum of the project.

Information suppose to be presented in a chronological order. Project Secretariat and Coordinators will be responsible for edition and release of subsequent issues and distribution to only project consortium members and also available on the TU-Berlin knowledge base platform (see section 7).

Coordinator and Secretariat are kindly asking all members of the SvalGlac community for suggestions, critical remarks and support related to form and content of the Newsletter.

All colleagues involved in the project are kindly asked to contribute to edition of next number of the Newsletter planned to be released before the Gdynia Steering Committee Meeting in October and to subsequent numbers.

2. Start of field works

The first fieldwork of SvalGlac was opened by a Dutch-Estonian-Norwegian-Swedish expedition to Nordenskiöldbreen and Lomonosovfonna, 17-24 March 2010. Short report by Veijo Pohjola is presented on the SSF web page: <http://www.ssf.npolar.no/pages/news362.htm>. "Despite having temperatures below -20 C, the team managed to fulfill all the planned tasks, namely: to maintain a network of continuous GPS for measuring ice flow, and a weather station (real time data are stored and available at: http://www.phys.uu.nl/~wwwimau/research/ice_climate/aws/svalbard_data.html#nbreen), to carry out a better radar depth sounding of the glacier, and to take snow samples for climatic and environmental analysis. Preliminary data reveals that Nordenskiöldbreen has a maximum ice thickness over 600 m, and ice flow is ca 50 m per year".

Other SvalGlac-related fieldwork started soon after: Spanish-Russian on 28 March 2010 (based in Barentsburg) and the Polish on 31 March 2010 (based at the Polish Polar Station in Hornsund). As far as we know German expedition to Vestfonna and Norwegian field works on Austfonna were successfully completed in May 2010.

Marzena Kaczmarska suggests us to write reports for the Svalbard Science Forum about our campaigns. We thank Veijo Pohjola for short presentation of the SvalGlac project within his report.

3. ESF PolarCLIMATE Programme Reporting

National and European reporting system of the project within the ESF PolarCLIMATE Programme was discussed during the Kickoff Meeting in Obergurgl. Coordinator asked European Polar Board Office about the form, timing and the format of the project's common report. The following answer appeared on 10 May 2010.

“Dear Jacek Jania,

Sorry for my late reply. To answer your question, I would like to inform you that during the month of June 2010, an email will be sent to all project coordinators on the PolarCLIMATE project reporting requirements.

For your information, the one year reporting will consist in a 1-2 page document (to be produced at the beginning of 2011), and for this purpose, a template will be sent to the project coordinators during autumn 2010 to gather information on the different PolarCLIMATE projects.

We will keep you informed on the next steps shortly.

Best regards,

Barbara Weber”

4. KINNVIKA Project Workshop & SvalGlac Steering Committee Meeting

Following suggestion by Piotr Glowacki and discussion during the Kickoff Meeting in Obergurgl, the next SvalGlac Steering Committee Meeting is planned together with the final IPY KINNVIKA Project Workshop on 8-10 October 2010.

We are asking SC Members or their representatives to participate and register a.s.a.p. The first circular has been already distributed by Piotr Glowacki is reminded below.

Circular 1

Dear partners in Kinnvika and SvalGlac projects,

According to earlier information, workshop is planned at end of the Kinnvika project. National Representatives of the SvalGlac project SC are also invited to participate. The SvalGlac project is a continuation and extension of our research in Svalbard after the IPY campaign.

Workshop will be held in Gdynia Maritime University (Poland) in the period 8-10 October 2010. Guests from abroad will have meals and accommodation provided on board HORIZON II, which will be moored during that time in the harbor of Gdynia. The only thing that remains is to get to Gdynia by ferry, train or plane.

The meeting will start at 3:00 p.m. on 8th October and will end at 3:00 p.m. on 10th October. Those who plan to visit Gdansk and stay longer have to book a hotel on their own expense, because the ship will go to the sea to train students from 11th October.

Please register as soon as possible (no later than on 9 July 2010) – by email: glowacki@iqf.edu.pl

Registration should contain:

- 1. Name and surname*
- 2. Name of the institution and address*
- 3. Phone number and email*
- 4. Planned date of arrival and departure*
- 5. Title of a proposed oral presentation (max. 15 minutes) or a poster, related to our three years activity in the KINNVIKA project.*

The second circular with program and other details will be send to registered participants in the mid of July.

Piotr Glowacki

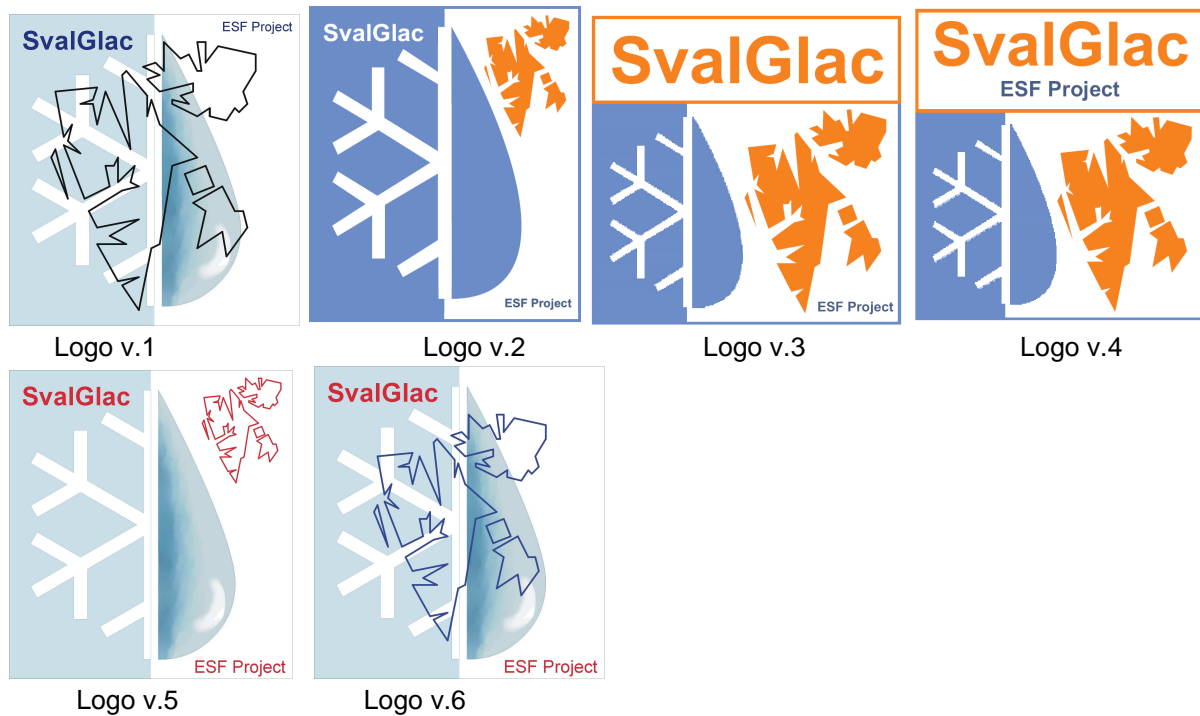
The date and time of the SvalGlac SC Meeting will be negotiated with organizers and the project partners before distribution of the second circular of the workshop in Gdynia.

5. SvalGlac Logo

A rough preliminary design of the project's logo was presented by Jacek Jania in Obergurgl during the KoM (it has been attached to the KoM Minutes). Its idea was generally accepted. It was professionally modified by Joanna Szafraniec (see below v.1) and altered recently (see v.5 and v.6). Other versions of the logo have been proposed recently by Javier Lapazaran and Francisco Navarro (see below v.2, v.3 and v.4).

We kindly ask Partners and Associate Partners to select the preferred version of the logo and inform the Coordination's Office (joannaewa.szafraniec@gmail.com) about their choice a.s.a.p.

The most popular version will become the official SvalGlac logo.



6. Web site structure and design

A preliminary version of the SvalGlac web site project has been prepared by Joanna Szafranec.

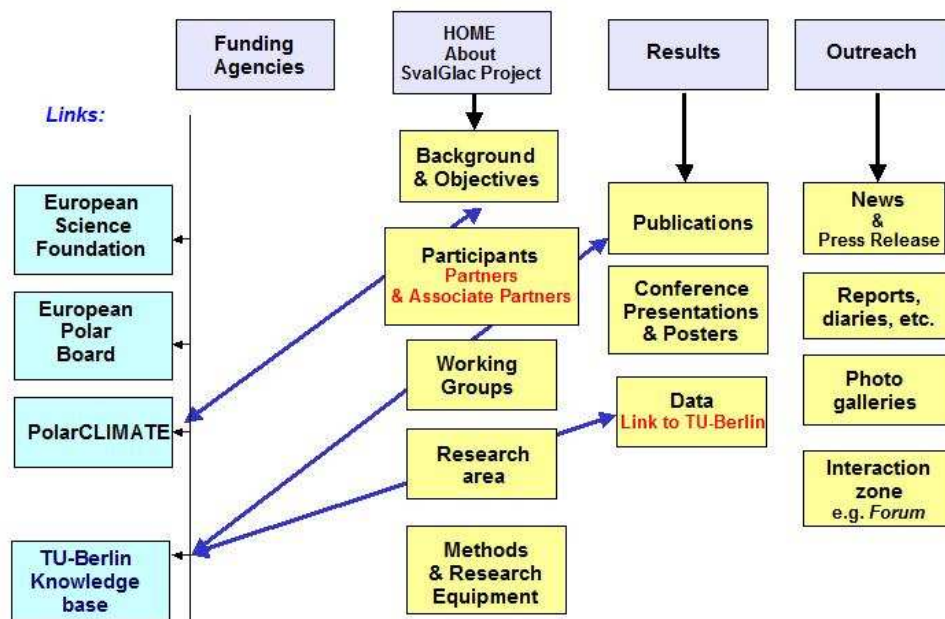
Two functions of the project home page is suggested:

- 1) External - with presentation of the project and its results to general public, media and decision makers. An education function should be also included.
- 2) Internal - with presentation of progress in research to facilitate reporting and planning.

The second one has to be linked to the data exchange function, etc. of the TU-Berlin knowledge base for project consortium members only.

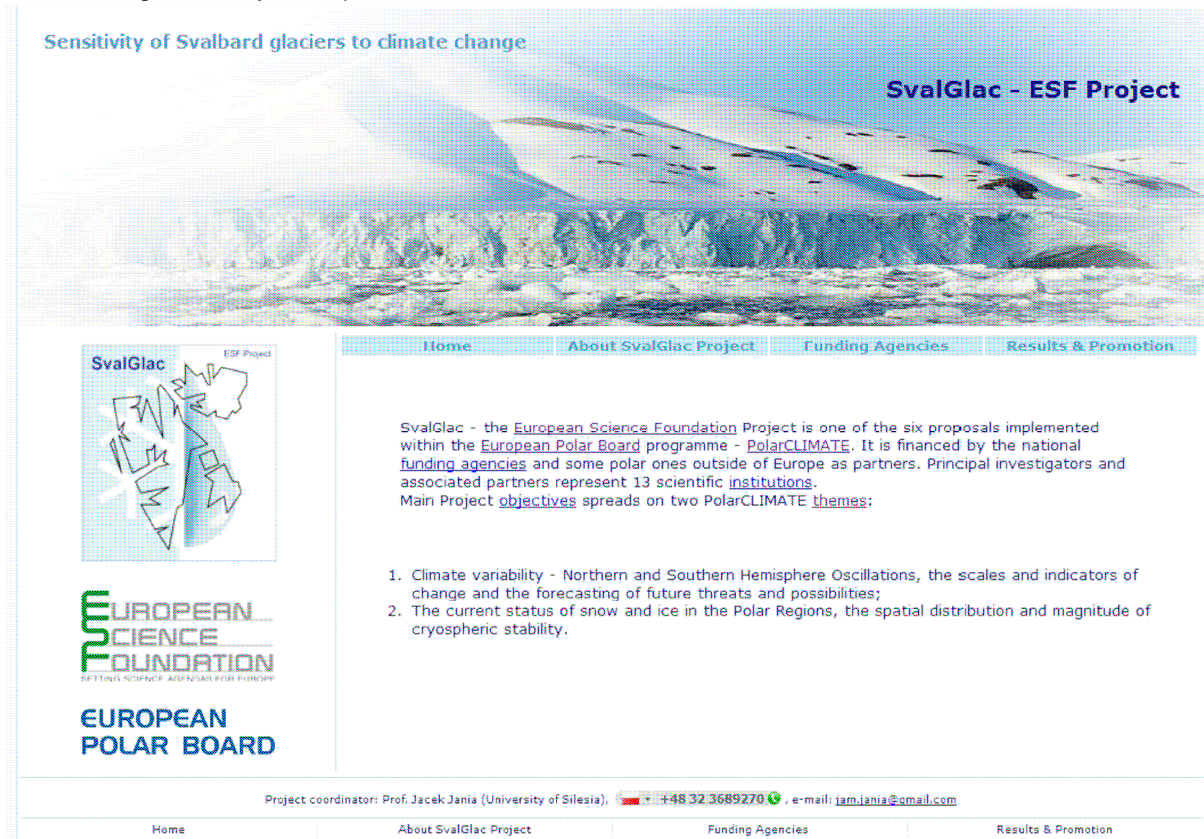
An interactive segment seems to be valuable for both functions (e.g. Forum).

A preliminary scheme of the web site components is presented below.



The main function of the web site has to be a “shop window” of the project to the external world. Comments and suggestions will be extremely valuable on this stage of preparations. The web site address will be distributed immediately after launching it.

An example of graphical design of the SvalGlac Home screen is presented below for comments. Text and logo are only examples for discussion.



7. TU-Berlin knowledge base open for SvalGlac as the data & info exchange platform

Thanks to courtesy of Dieter Scherer and the TU-Berlin climatological research group, the SvalGlac consortium members have now an access to their knowledge base. This excellent platform will be complementary to the SvalGlac web site as proposed in the section 6. We are remaining their e-mail below.

"Dear colleagues,

as discussed during the K.O. meeting in Obergurgl, we have set up a knowledge base for exchanging data, documents and other information for use within the SvalGlac project. Please go to www.klima.tu-berlin.de/KB-SvalGlac and click on "Get a user account"!

Please provide the required information, and then you will receive your account data within a few days latest.

After login for the first time you will see a navigation menu to the left and a list of objects (incl. tools for searching) to the right. You may first have a look on the list of registerd users. You will find your name on the list. Please complete your personal profile by clicking on your name (alternatively, you may directly use "My profile" on the navigation menu), and then on the "Edit profile" button. You should also change your password by clicking on the respective button.

The next step is to have a look on the list of groups. We have introduced three categories of groups, i.e., institutional, regional and thematic groups. You will find your institution and your country already in the list of groups, because this will have been done by ourselves when you register yourself.

Regional groups are organized by the region where you (resp. your institution) are involved in field research. Check the Nordaustlandet group to understand how it works. You are allowed to join any regional group that already exists, even if you are not carrying out field work in this region. If you do

not find a regional group reflecting your area you may create a new one. Please make it a visible and freely joinable group (as the example of Nordaustlandet demonstrates).

Accordingly, you will proceed with thematic groups. Look for the Atmospheric Modelling group as an example.

The major element of the knowledge base is the searchable list of objects. You may upload files or create links to web resources as new objects. You may add remarks to existing objects. In addition you may associate two objects using one of three given relations ("refers to", "belongs to", "new version of").

The knowledge base also includes a scientific literature reference system to share bibliographic information within the SvalGlac project. The more references you will put into the knowledge base the more knowledge we will have available as consortium.

Please familiarize yourself with the knowledge base. You may use the feedback button either for reporting errors or making suggestions for improvements. We will steadily optimize the knowledge base following your feedback as far as possible.

Best wishes

Dieter and Roman"

8. Establishing of the SvalGlac Coordination Secretariat

Agreement between The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), Poland and the University of Silesia on coverage of coordination costs for the SvalGlac project has been finally signed on 24 June 2010. It permitted establishing of the Coordination Secretariat at the Faculty of Earth Sciences, University of Silesia. The staff consists of two part time positions: Scientific Secretary and web page administrator.

Postal address:

SvalGlac Coordination Secretariat

Department of Geomorphology

Faculty of Earth Sciences

University of Silesia

ul. Bedzinska 60

41-200 Sosnowiec, Poland

Phone No.: +48-323689589 or +48-323689270

e-maill addresses: joannaewa.szafraniec@gmail.com and jam.jania@gmail.com.

9. Appointment of the SvalGlac Scientific Secretary

Dr. Joanna Szafraniec has been appointed as the SvalGlac Scientific Secretary (part time employment). She is also supervisor of the web page administrator.

Dr. Szafraniec is a post-doc at the Department of Geomorphology, University of Silesia.

Her field of research activity is focused on geomorphology of outwash plains in areas of contemporary glacierization and in Northern Poland, including hydro-glaciological processes forming marginal zones of glaciers in Svalbard.

10. Requests from Coordinator

Coordinator kindly ask Principal Investigators (Partners and Associated Partners) for:

- sending of the mailing list of co-workers involved in the project, including names, positions and affiliation of people (it will be useful also for the web site content);
- stimulation of activation of Working Groups by their leaders;
- start of building of a data base on pool of available instruments / equipment in particular research groups;
- presentation of plans of field activity fall 2010 and spring 2011;
- suggestions on the place of the SC meeting in the first quarter of 2011 (as a side meeting of the IASC NAG Workshop in Boulder, USA or somewhere in Europe);
- content of the Newsletter 2.

Please send these information to the SvalGlac Coordination Secretariat, a.s.a.p., but for sure before mid of July 2010.

11. Other issues

Recently, Professor Antoine Kies (Laboratory of Physical Radiations, University of Luxembourg) was asking Coordinator and the SvalGlac community for establishing of a formal cooperation. Antoine and his co-workers are experienced in studies of natural radioactive components in waters flowing from glaciers and stable isotopes in snow and water as well. They were working in Antarctica. In recent years they are studying glaciers in the Hornsund area together with the University of Silesia and the Institute of Geophysics PAS. Subglacial discharge component in waters flowing from land based glaciers has been studied by examination of chemical composition of water and radon content during melt season and in late winter periods. Results are useful and could be important for estimation of winter water discharge from underneath of Svalbard glaciers as a part of water / mass balance. Basing on their results an estimation of fresh water discharge from tidewater glaciers to the sea during winter might be done.

Coordinator is kindly asking PIs for opinion on an association of the Antoine's group to the SvalGlac project. Unanimous consent would be a background for formal request to the European Polar Board for extension of the consortium and for application of University of Luxembourg to its national research foundation for a proper grant.

We look forward very much for critical comments and suggestions on form and content of the Newsletter.

Coordinators and Secretariat are wishing all members of the SvalGlac consortium fruitful field research during summer and / or excellent holidays.

Jacek Jania and Joanna Szafranec
27 June 2010