



SCANNET – A circumarctic network of terrestrial infrastructures

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World attention is now focussed on the Arctic because of rapid climate change and the resulting impacts and opportunities. However, the Arctic is vast and sparsely populated so its observing capacity is low. Underestimates of some unexpectedly rapid environmental changes in the Arctic emphasise the need for better observation and prediction while future mitigation and adaptation strategies will require improved monitoring to assess their successes and weaknesses. SCANNET is an expanding circumarctic network of 33 field sites situated in wide environmental and land use envelopes of diverse northern landscapes. It supports most EU projects with a northern terrestrial focus and is recognised by new research and observation initiatives as a major building block for future activities in the circumpolar North. Consequently, SCANNET seeks to develop its potential to meet this challenge and also to provide legacy from short term activities such as those in IPY by transferring project-developed measurement into long-term monitoring, and by combining research with monitoring and modelling to predict future environmental changes and their impacts. It wishes to upgrade and intensify its monitoring activities and provide more accessible metadata while developing partnerships with the research community to address key environmental questions formulated by international assessments of current and past research in the Arctic. It also seeks to bring stakeholders together with researchers and the observation community to facilitate the development of adaptation strategies.