



Our journey across the planet, from North to South, continues: happy holidays!

[Giuliana Panieri](#)

Dear colleagues,

we are closing an intense year, rich in scientific activities, expeditions, collaborations, and new milestones for our Institute. I would like to sincerely thank you for the commitment and professionalism you demonstrate every day: it is thanks to your contribution that ISP continues to strengthen its role in the national and international landscape of polar research.

For me, it has also been a demanding year of transition. Moving from the Norwegian system to the Italian one required adaptation, careful listening, and a great deal of energy. But your collaboration and your trust are making it possible to build a more integrated, transparent, collaborative way of working, oriented toward achieving our shared goals.

We are also working to “put our house in order”: improving our spaces, enhancing our laboratories, and making the Institute’s facilities more functional and welcoming. We aim to strengthen our administrative staff so that scientific and project activities can be supported even more

effectively. A special thought goes to our young researchers: I hope they will soon find a stable position within our Institute or elsewhere, grow professionally, and enrich their journey with new skills and experiences.

At the same time, we are consolidating our presence in major international scientific and political platforms. We have strengthened our role within the Arctic Council, we are actively involved in strategic programmes such as Antarctica InSync, and we are already looking with a long-term perspective toward the future of IPY5, where we can take a leading role, bringing Italian science to the forefront of the global challenges facing the poles.

In 2026, we will continue to reinforce our presence in major international scientific programmes, think boldly, and explore new directions for our Institute, while maintaining a professional, inclusive, and supportive working environment. Our scientific work in the Arctic, Antarctic, and the Third Pole continues with ambition, a strong sense of responsibility, and an increasingly shared vision.

To all of you and your families, I warmly wish a peaceful holiday season filled with moments to enjoy with the people you care about.

Giuliana

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[Nicoletta Ademollo](#)



Picture 1. Official logo of the International Polar Year 2032–2033

The Fifth International Polar Year (IPY5), scheduled for 2032–33, represents a unique opportunity to relaunch global scientific cooperation in the polar regions—key areas for understanding the dynamics of climate, biodiversity and human societies in a rapidly changing world. In this context, the Institute of Polar Sciences of the National Research Council of

Italy (CNR-ISP) has established a dedicated Working Group (ISP-IPY Working Group) to coordinate participation in international initiatives related to IPY5 and to strengthen the Institute's role in interdisciplinary polar research.



**toward the
Fifth
International
Polar Year
(2032-2033)**

The group was created with the mission of promoting scientific excellence, integration across disciplines, and ethical and inclusive collaboration, in line with the fundamental principles of IPY5: open science, sustainability, equity and respect for the traditional knowledge of Indigenous communities. Its objective is to ensure that Italian polar research contributes significantly to global knowledge, to the development of evidence-based environmental policies, and to the training of new generations of researchers.

The CNR-ISP Working Group for IPY5 is organized into several thematic areas:

- Scientific research and transdisciplinary integration, with a focus on climate, the cryosphere, ecosystems and polar communities;
- International collaboration and networking, to develop joint projects, strategic agreements and multilateral synergies;
- Equity, diversity and engagement of Indigenous populations, to guarantee ethical and inclusive practices;
- Data management, open science and policy, adopting the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) and CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles;

- Communication, education and outreach, to strengthen scientific dissemination, training, and mobility opportunities for young researchers.

The group is well represented by both early-career scientists and senior researchers, covering the various disciplines of ISP, ensuring the strategic alignment of ISP activities with the international priorities of IPY5. An external Advisory Board will provide independent support and specialized expertise, fostering connections with global networks and international scientific bodies.

IPY5 is not only a scientific event but also a global movement aimed at renewing collective commitment to the understanding and protection of the poles—sentinel regions of planetary change. Through its Working Group, CNR-ISP positions itself as a key actor in coordinating Italian expertise, promoting collaborative research and contributing to a shared vision for a sustainable future in polar regions.

As one of the guiding principles of IPY5 states: ***“The polar regions are a common heritage of humanity. Their understanding and protection require the cooperation of all.”***

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Working Group (DEI)

[Fabiana Corami](#)

Diversity, inclusion, equity, and well-being for every worker can never be taken for granted; indeed, they must be implemented and consolidated. Social health, or the well-being of all workers, must go hand in hand with respect for every job role and adequate and efficient communication flows. It is indeed through respect that an environment is created in which every

person feels represented (diversity = individual differences), feels they have a voice (equity = equal rights), and feels they can grow (valuing their work and contribution = inclusion). Respect is crucial to creating a healthy, safe, and productive work environment, free from gossip, discrimination, and harassment.

The D(iversity) E(quity) I(nclusion) Working Group aims to promote an inclusive, fair, respectful, and wellness-oriented work environment, in line with the mission of ISP and Cnr.

One of the first objectives the DEI Working Group has set is to draft a code of conduct for all the institute's workers, which could also be helpful for field workers (e.g., campaigns in the Arctic, Antarctica, etc.). Other important objectives include mapping the climate and needs of all workers, both permanent and short-term; organizing seminars and meetings, inviting nationally and internationally recognized experts; and offering awareness-raising modules (including online), such as those on diversity and implicit biases.

To implement and consolidate more fluid and effective communication (e.g., by improving follow-up after institute meetings), the DEI Working Group wants to actively collaborate with other institute working groups, such as the Communication Working Group. Creating a calendar of events (International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Pride Month, etc.) will also be a useful tool for raising employees' awareness of these issues.

The DEI Working Group aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for foreign staff, including through small actions (e.g., linking to visa requirements or to information on finding accommodation), to promote internationalization and build a network of new connections for the institute, while collaborating with the International Affairs Working Group.



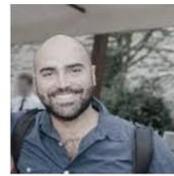
Alice Cavaliere



Fabiana Corami



Giulio Cozzi



Federico Dallo



Sabina Di Franco



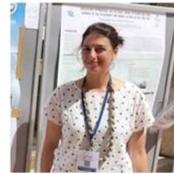
Elena Gregoris



Paolo Plini



Beatrice Rosso



Elisa Scalabrin



Massimiliano Vardè

Meet the Team

Currently, the DEI Working Group consists of Fabiana Corami, Beatrice Rosso, Elisa Scalabrin, Elena Gregoris, Federico Dallo, Giulio Cozzi (Venice office), Alice Cavaliere (Bologna office), Sabina Di Franco and Paolo Plini (Rome office), and Massimiliano Vardè (Venice and Messina offices). To participate or for further information, please write to this email address: isp-gdl_dibe@isp.cnr.it.

NEWS FROM DIRIGIBILE ITALIA



[Mauro Mazzola](#)

The 2025 research season at the Dirigibile Italia Arctic Station proved to be particularly intense and indicative of the central role that this infrastructure plays within the international polar research community.

Field activities began as early as February and reached full pace with the arrival of the Arctic spring, involving Italian and international research groups working on key topics such as atmosphere, cryosphere, hydrology, biogeochemistry, extreme ecosystems, and pollutant monitoring. Throughout the summer, the station hosted a wide range of multidisciplinary projects—from marine biology to geophysics to terrestrial ecology—with missions dedicated to studying fin whales, biogeochemical cycles, water–soil interactions, Arctic vegetation changes, marine microbiomes, and polar lake dynamics. With the conclusion of the main missions and the final instrument checks scheduled between September and October, the 2025 season can be considered complete, while continuous monitoring activities by on-site personnel remain ongoing. The evaluation of activity proposals for 2026 is currently underway and will define the scientific priorities for the coming year.

A significant development in 2025 was the expansion of operational support from the Alpine School of the Guardia di Finanza ([SAGF](#)) to include the spring glacier campaigns. This followed a new training session organized by CNR-ISP at the Passo Rolle barracks, bringing together numerous

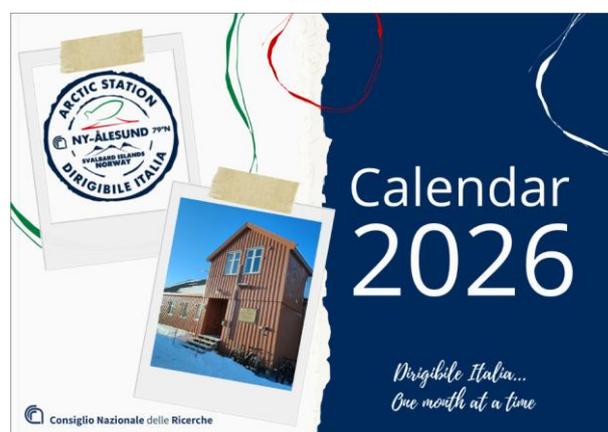
researchers and technicians involved in Arctic missions.

In June, the station also welcomed an important institutional visit from the National Research Council (CNR), which helped highlight the scientific and strategic value of the Italian presence in Ny-Ålesund and strengthen collaborations with Norwegian partners.

Overall, this year the station hosted 33 scientific campaigns, amounting to more than 800 researcher-days, plus nearly an additional 500 days of support personnel (station leaders and SAGF staff).

This year also saw the launch of the station's official [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#) profiles, created to share the daily work of our researchers. Follow us there as well as on [Facebook](#).

To conclude, we wish you happy holidays and invite you to download the Dirigibile Italia 2026 Calendar—alongside the ISP calendar, of course!



NEWS from ANTARCTICA



41st Italian Antarctic Research Expedition: our colleagues operating at the core of the White Continent



During the PNRA XLI expedition, the activities of the Holistic project (PI Dr. Salzano, CNR-IIA) focus on the supraglacial lakes of the Nansen Ice Sheet (NIS), key elements for understanding ice dynamics and climate interactions. **Nicoletta Ademollo** will take part in the mission to carry out in-situ measurements and collect snow, ice, and water samples. These activities aim to investigate biogeochemical cycles and the dynamics of priority and emerging organic micropollutants in the NIS system.



As part of the PNRA PASSPORT project (PI Dr. Scalabrin, CNR-ISP) at Dome C, **Andrei Munteanu** has started sampling surface snow and snow profiles to study the distribution of microplastics and associated organic contaminants. The study covers both background areas (south) and downwind areas (north of Concordia Station) up to 25 km, to assess long-range transport and local impact. On-site pre-treatment includes filtration for microplastics and microbiological analyses, as well as SPE concentration for target contaminants (PFAS, PBDE, PEDC) and untargeted screening. All samples, including aliquots for TOC and isotope analysis, will be sent to Italy for detailed instrumental examination.



As part of the PNRA STORAGE project (PI Dr. Gabriella Caruso), an expedition is scheduled for February–March 2026 to Deception and Livingston Islands in the Antarctic Peninsula, supported logistically by the Comité Polar Español. During the mission, ISP researchers **Francesco Smedile** and **Maurizio Azzaro** will recover PVC panels that were placed in the sea in February 2025 to study microbial colonization.



At the Little Dome C site, the fifth and final drilling campaign of the European project Beyond EPICA – Oldest Ice is currently underway. **Chiara Venier** (Project Manager) is finally on site, engaged in Dielectric Properties (DEP) analyses performed on ice core samples, as well as in core logging operations—both carried out at $-50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The latter include the recording, documentation, preparation, and preservation of bedrock samples and duplicate ice cores retrieved from the deepest layers. These procedures are essential to ensure the integrity and traceability of the samples in view of subsequent scientific analyses.



Patrizia Giordano is involved in the PNRA–PACE project, coordinated by the University of Naples Federico II in collaboration with CNR–ISP, Anton Dohrn Zoological Station, and the University of Parthenope. The project investigates the interactions among microbial, phytoplankton, and zooplankton communities and the physical and biogeochemical processes occurring in the waters of Terra Nova Bay, a highly productive area characterized by platelet ice and intense blooms. The activities include the sampling of seawater and sea ice, and, for the first time, the deployment of a mooring through an ice borehole. The mooring, anchored at a depth of 196 m, is equipped with instruments distributed along the water column and will operate autonomously for two months, recording oceanographic parameters and collecting samples of phytoplankton, zooplankton, and suspended particulate matter.



The SAMEECA-2022 project, coordinated by Mauro Mazzola of CNR-ISP in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry of the University of Florence and the Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), aims to characterize atmospheric aerosol and assess its impact on the radiative budget at the Korean Jang Bogo Station (JBS) in Antarctica.

During the XLI Antarctic Campaign, the Italian personnel involved in the project (**Maurizio Busetto, CNR-ISAC**) carried out a technical visit to JBS to verify the proper functioning of the instruments and ensure the continuity of the planned measurements.



Even the most remote areas of the planet are not immune to human impact. The growing presence of humans in Antarctica, once considered a pristine natural laboratory, is leaving measurable traces in the environment, including in the snow. The research project SPREAD, granted by the Programma Nazionale di Ricerche in Antartide (PNRA) and coordinated by Angelina Lo Giudice (CNR-ISP), investigates the link between anthropogenic pollution and the emergence of antibiotic resistance in polar regions. Polar ecosystems are highly sensitive indicators of global change. In this context, snow acts as both a climate archive and an environmental “catalyst,” trapping contaminants such as microplastics and pharmaceutical residues. The project involves year-long snow sampling around Concordia Station at Dome C, with summer field activities carried out **Andrea Brongo and Elena Pulidori from the University of Pisa**. Samples will be analyzed to assess contamination levels and the antibiotic resistome, providing insights into the health of polar ecosystems and resistance development in extreme environments.

Christmas & New Year Wishes





UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

- Transnational Access Call to Core Repositories. The EU funded project POLARIN invites the scientific community to submit proposals to access core repositories, contributing to addressing key research priorities <https://eu-polarin.eu/core-repositories-access-call-2025/>
- UArctic Congress 2026: abstract submission deadline extended. The UArctic Congress 2026 will take place in the Faroe Islands from 26 to 29 May 2026, bringing together the international community engaged in Arctic research and cooperation. The deadline for submitting abstract proposals has been extended to 15 January 2026, giving researchers additional time to contribute to the scientific programme. <https://www.uarcticcongress.fo/programme/call-for-abstract-proposals>
- SCAR Conference: call for abstracts now open. The call for abstracts for the upcoming SCAR Conference is now open, featuring a particularly rich programme with 50 parallel sessions. The deadline for abstract submissions is 28 February 2026. The EU Polar Cluster will host a dedicated session titled “Insights on Coordination of Antarctic and Southern Ocean Science: A Perspective from the EU Polar Cluster”, focusing on coordination efforts in Antarctic and Southern Ocean research. <https://scar2026.org/abstracts>
- ASSW 2026: registration open, full programme published and travel grants for early career researchers! Registration is now officially open for the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2026, which will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, from 25 March to 1 April 2026. The event, organised by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), will be held in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and online participation. <https://mailchi.mp/a0318f17405c/assw-2026-registration-open-full-programme-published-and-ecrs-travel-awards?e=3987873151>

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- In April 2026, ISP will host in Bologna a series of key international meetings, starting with the INTERACT Station Manager Forum (20 April). This will be followed by the 3rd POLARIN General Assembly and project retreat, held in person in Bologna from 21 to 23 April 2026. All events are by invitation, with further details and logistics to be shared in due course. <https://www.interactassociation.org/news/save-the-date-interact-general-assembly-and-station-manager-forum-2026>
- 6th ESP Europe Conference: focus on ecosystem services. The 6th Ecosystem Services Partnership – Europe Conference will be held in Prague from 18 to 22 May 2026, under the theme “Advancing ecosystem services knowledge for achieving a nature- and people-positive Europe”. Among the scheduled sessions, Rositsa Yaneva from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is organising the session “Ecosystem services in polar, boreal, and alpine regions: advancing knowledge for shared futures”, dedicated to ecosystem services in polar, boreal, and alpine regions. <https://www.espconference.org/europe2026/sessions-overview>
- EU environmental policy: [Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme](#) published. The Horizon Europe 2026–2027 Work Programme has now been published, outlining the European Union’s funding priorities for the coming years. In addition, the [EU Arctic Forum, the Indigenous Peoples’ Dialogue, and the Arctic Youth Dialogue](#) will take place in Brussels from 1 to 3 September 2026, strengthening dialogue among institutions, Indigenous communities, and young people on Arctic issues.
- The 2026 calendars of the [Institute of Polar Sciences](#) and [Dirigibile Italia](#) are officially out: a new year takes shape through iconic images. **Discover them now.**



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