



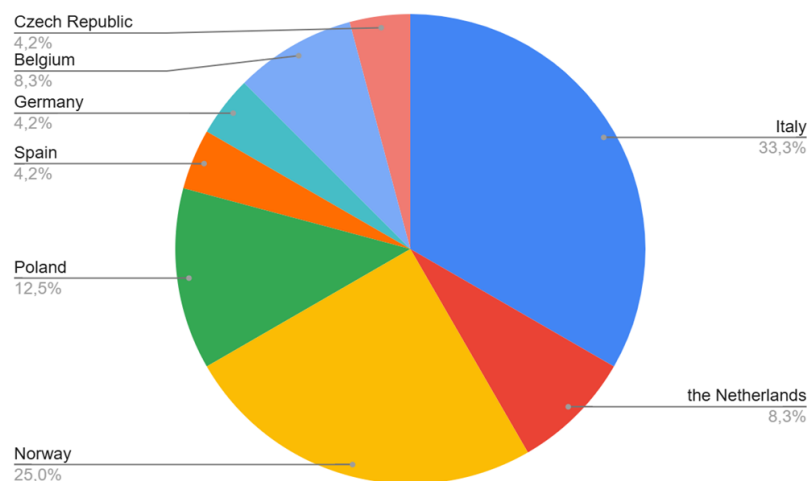
# Ny-Ålesund Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship meeting

27<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Quality Hotel Expo, Oslo, Norway

## REPORT

### PARTICIPANTS

The Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship mailing list currently includes more than 250 registered contacts, reflecting a broad and growing interest in the initiative. Of these, 24 participants attended the meeting in person on 27 October in Oslo, while approximately 15 additional contacts reached out to request to be kept informed about future flagship activities. Among the 24 in-person participants, 13 had not previously taken part in any flagship activities, indicating a strong influx of new members. The geographical distribution of participants was well balanced and included several European countries. Overall, the meeting demonstrated strong international participation and successfully engaged both established and new members of the flagship community, contributing positively to its visibility and outreach.



The meeting opened with a moment of remembrance in honour of the former Chair, Angela Augusti, who recently passed away. Participants acknowledged her significant contributions, leadership, and lasting impact on the Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship, expressing appreciation for her commitment and dedication to the community.

Following this tribute, *Christina A. Pedersen* and *Fieke Rader* presented an overview of monitoring activities in Ny-Ålesund. Their contribution outlined the current monitoring framework, recent activities, and key challenges and opportunities related to long-term observations in the area. A new tool, aiming to improve the access to information on the data collected in Ny-Ålesund was presented. New tool can be consulted here:



## FLAGSHIP STRUCTURE

The discussion then moved to the current structure and recent activities of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship. In preparation for the meeting, the leaders of the previously established working groups (WG1 Animal Adaptation, WG2 Vegetation Dynamics, WG3 Soil Processes and Communities, WG4 Carbon and Nutrient Fluxes, WG5 Freshwater Systems, and WG6 Sensitivity of Ecosystems and Integration) had been contacted to assess their status. All working groups were confirmed to be inactive. It was therefore agreed that the former working group structure would be replaced by *Bottom-up science initiatives*, aimed at bringing people together to jointly develop scientific ideas and activities. The Flagship web site will be updated accordingly. The guidelines and google form for proposing and developing these bottom-up initiatives are currently being developed and will be proposed to the participants in the separate communication. After discussion on the structure, participants reflected on outcomes from previous meetings, considering lessons learned and identifying areas for improved coordination and engagement.

During the meeting, *Angelina Lo Giudice* was designated as Chair of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship, with *Olga Gravichkova* appointed as Co-Chair.

## PERSPECTIVE PAPER

A dedicated session was devoted to the perspective paper discussed and drafted during two previous 2023 Flagship meetings (in České Budějovice and Oslo) by *a core group of participants*. The initial draft was briefly introduced, extending an invitation to contribute to all interested participants. Participants discussed its overall structure, identified missing content, and suggested ways to strengthen the narrative and scientific focus. The exchange provided valuable input for further development of the manuscript. The manuscript will be revised using integrated approaches, including biological, physical–chemical, spatial and temporal, and societal integration. The focus will be on linking ecosystems across Svalbard, the Arctic, and the Antarctic, with a forward-looking and predictive perspective. Particular emphasis will be placed on nutrient fluxes under climate change, including implications for food webs and biodiversity. **The revision process is currently in progress and is expected to be shared with the involved participants by mid-February. A dedicated online meeting will be organized with the paper's core group.**

## TOWARDS IPY5

*Radovan Krejci* guided a brainstorming session aimed at generating ideas and identifying key scientific priorities for the IPY5. The discussion focused on fostering new collaborative initiatives, aligning flagship activities with IPY-5 objectives, and highlighting areas where long-term observations and integrated approaches could have the greatest scientific impact.

## SHORT FIVE-MINUTE TALKS

Short five-minute talks showcased ongoing projects and long-term observations, allowing participants to share concise updates and highlight the importance of sustained monitoring efforts across different sites and disciplines.

## FUTURE PLANNING AND STRATEGY

The meeting concluded with a session on future planning and strategy. Participants discussed priorities for the coming period, potential collaborative initiatives, and approaches to strengthening the flagship's impact, coordination, and long-term sustainability. Networking opportunities were also addressed, including the possibility to apply to two dedicated funding programs in 2026: the Svalbard Strategic Grant and the IASC Working Group Proposals (presented by Mariasilvia Giamberini).

In particular, the deadline for the IASC Working Group Proposals is approaching, and the application process is considered challenging. Instead, the upcoming Svalbard Strategic Grant could support a networking project, facilitating joint field activities, engagement of early-career researchers, and the organization of pre-proposal workshops. *A Norwegian institute must be involved in the leadership.* The call will open soon (approx. end of January) and is expected to close around March 2026. **Please, contact us if you have ideas or wish to contribute as PI from Norwegian site.**

Finally, although not discussed during the meeting, the flagship could also consider contributing to the SESS Report, with the call opening on 15 December 2025 and the deadline for proposal submission on 4 February 2026 at 16:00 CET. **Please, contact us if you have ideas or wish to contribute.**

## NEXT STEPS IN SUMMARY

We encourage participants and colleagues to get involved in the upcoming activities of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Flagship. Possible avenues include:

- Contributing to the **bottom-up science initiatives**, proposing collaborative projects and research ideas (*coming soon*).
- **Revision of the perspective paper**, which is currently in progress and expected to be shared with the paper's core group by mid February.
- Joining **networking projects** under the upcoming **Svalbard Strategic Grant**, facilitating joint field activities, early-career researcher engagement, and pre-proposal workshops. A Norwegian institute must be involved in the leadership; please contact us if you have ideas or wish to contribute.
- Contributing to the **SESS Report**, with the call opening on 15 December 2025 and the submission deadline on 4 February 2026 at 16:00 CET.