

Ref.#: Hu\_28  
thgi@rcn.no

## ABSTRACT

### **Added value through cooperation. The role of Svalbard Science Forum and the Research in Svalbard database**

Thorbjørn Gilberg<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Svalbard Science Forum (SSF), Svalbard Science Forum (SSF), Norway,*

More than 200 institutions were active in projects on Svalbard in 2014. Approx. 1 000 scientists from more than 30 different nations conducted research in the archipelago. There are occasions of research groups in Svalbard working separately on similar topics in the same locations without cooperating or even being aware of each other. It is clear that given the number of scientists from various institutions and disciplines working in such a relative small region, effective mechanisms for research coordination can create benefits for all. Better coordination of logistics and fieldwork, increased data sharing and the use of new technology are all factors, which can contribute to releasing scientific results more efficiently and can also lead to decreasing the environmental impact of our research.

The Svalbard Science Forum (SSF) is a part of the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and promotes coordination and collaborative efforts in research activities in Svalbard. This includes managing the "Research in Svalbard" (RiS) database which contains information on more than 2000 Svalbard-based projects. RiS is a valuable source for information on previous, current and future research activities in the region. You might be able to find a potential partner for your project or your project might be "head hunted" to collaborate with another!

The SSF also organizes workshops and administers strategic funding schemes. These aim to facilitate for more cooperation between the research bases and individual researchers. The funding also promotes coordination of activities to reduce the environmental footprint of the research activities. This funding scheme is open for applications from all scientists and students active in Svalbard provided the research is in active cooperation with Norwegian institutions.