



## UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

### UArctic Thematic Network Programme Team Meeting Kilpisjärvi Biological Station, Finland December 18-20, 2005

#### Minutes

Attending: **Lars Kullerud**, UArctic  
**Outi Snellman**, UArctic  
Programme chair **Kari Laine**, UArctic Thematic Network Office  
Programme coordinator **Kirsi Latola**, UArctic Thematic Network Office  
**Mette Svenning**, Univ Tromsø, TN on Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use  
**Vera Hausner**, Univ Tromsø, TN on Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use  
**Liv Østmo**, Sámi University College, UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on community based natural resource co-management  
**Bård Berg**, Univ Tromsø, UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on community based natural resource co-management  
**Arja Rautio**, Univ Oulu, TN on Arctic Medicine  
**Kristine Nystad**, Sámi University College, TN the Verdde

#### 1. Presentations of the Thematic Networks

Presentations of networks (one page each) are found at the end of minutes.

#### 2. Thematic Network terms of reference

##### What is Thematic Network (TN) ?

Current model of Thematic Network is very free. Each TN should make its own terms of reference, including a decision on who can join etc.

TN can be active forever or it can be a process: it works for a while (for instance five years) and dies after the goal has been achieved. TN is based on institutions and people, and it should be open for all UArctic members. UArctic should benefit from the network, home institutions should benefit, people as individuals should benefit from the network. Students are important. And for making mobility to work we need networks; researchers and teachers.

In the case of knowledge sharing the issue on who has the right to share indigenous knowledge and a need for ethical guidelines (property rights and knowledge) for all indigenous knowledge was raised. These guidelines are needed for those networks who work with indigenous people. The issue is wide and needs to be talked in wider community such as in Council meeting. It is suggested that since Liv has already written the guidelines, she should send them to TN office who gives the guidelines to all TN that involve indigenous people (after the discussion and acceptance in the council meeting if needed).

##### TN office

TN office calls up a programme team meetings which will be held yearly. Programme team meetings once a year are needed because it is the place to discuss about possible overlapping, how TN are running, how the programme is running etc. Meeting is also a good place to get ideas from other networks: the sharing of good practice.

The programme team meeting could be held at the same time every year, maybe even at the same place at Kilpisjärvi. We could make it a tradition to have a relaxing meeting before Christmas at the very peaceful Kilpisjärvi. On the other hand, the active Thematic Networks



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might interest also other arctic community, so the meeting could be held at the same time with arctic summit week for instance. That would of course make the meeting much more formal.

TN office reports to council yearly, these reports are based on the reports written by the Thematic Networks themselves (in January).

### Yearly reporting

Reports include 1) what the network has done during the past year and 2) what the network will do during the next year.

Reporting of the past activities includes first the *basic information*:

- name of the Thematic Network and contact person(s) including email and postal address, telephone and fax numbers
- members (names and contact persons including email and postal address)
- when the network was established?
- what kind of meetings the network has held? Names of participants and the meeting agenda should be attached.

Second part contains the *special information* related to the goals of the network. This part of the report has the following questions which the network can answer if it relates to their goal:

- *mobility and education*. This part contains detailed information about students, teachers and elders who have taken part to the exchange programme including names, home and guest institutes, duration of their visits and the proportion of the student and staff present at the institute. What kind of education is involved (bachelor, masters and/or PhD programmes?).
- *research activities*. This part contains detailed information about the research projects conducted in the network including names and contact information of the projects leaders, participants, students involved, list of published papers (if needed).
- *knowledge sharing*. What kind of effort has been made for knowledge sharing (leaflets, books, public occasions etc)? How the local people and communities have been involved with the network?
- *other information*. Free word: what ever the network wants to present.

Plan of action for the next year is written in a free form representing the main activities planned for the next year.

### Establishment of the new Thematic Network

Guidelines form a base for the establishment of the new network. If the proposed network fulfils all the required facts mentioned in the guidelines, it fulfils also the criteria of being a UArctic Thematic Network.

### What kind of assistance, support etc. networks need from the TN office?

PR work is currently the one of the most important duties for the TN office. Brochure will be made and news and features on the both TN office and networks will be published on the UArctic website and newsletter.

When networks are working the office should know how they are doing and if there are special issues to deal with, the office informs the whole UArctic community. Therefore the coordinator should be in contact with all networks on the regular basis.

Office should do some fund-raising so that the networks could get some seed money for starting up and holding the first meetings etc.



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### 3. Proposed networks

*Thematic network in Social Work*, host organisation is Bodø University College (Ståle Sårheim). First meeting is held in Bodø in January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and bigger network conference will be held in June (after the Council meeting). "The aim of the thematic network project is to initiate and strengthen the co-operation between institutions running social work education and research in the Circumpolar North. Such a network gives opportunities for improving educational programmes as to exchange of students and the exchange of experience of social work in a northern context, what social work in indigenous communities imply, comparative research projects etc. We will do an initial mapping of institutions offering social work programmes and invite for a broad circumpolar cooperation." A sum of 100 000 NKR has been made available for the project while the Bodø University college supports the project with in kind work estimated to about 50 000 NKR.

*Thematic Network in Global Change in the Arctic*, the TN office applied funding for the network from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The network has partners in 20 organisations over the Circumpolar area, including Robert Corell the chair of ACIA. The goal of the project is to strengthen the Higher Education delivery in all areas related to Global Change in the Arctic, both when it comes to physical processes, environmental change, as well as knowledge on impacts, adaptation to change, and cultural consequences. Further, the project aims at increasing the capacity of northern Universities, other Higher Education institutions, and Indigenous Peoples to participate in the knowledge generation and knowledge transfer on global change in the Arctic.

The project goals will be implemented by building up a UArctic Thematic network on Global Change in the Arctic with a strong Nordic input. The network will:

- identify and make public (through UArctic's Online Course Catalogue) a catalogue of existing climate change, impacts, and adaptation education courses in UArctic's member institutions,
- identify gaps in current education opportunities, and initiate 2 to 3 new courses in areas where the gaps are the largest,
- coordinate and promote cooperation among the institutions that do research and education in the area of Global Change in the Arctic,
- promote joint or shared education programs among network partners,
- ensure that northern institutions can give quality higher education in the area of Global Change in the Arctic during the International Polar Year (IPY).
- plan for future activities for UArctic Thematic network on Global Change in the Arctic including plans for future research needs and cooperation,
- plan for northern research in relation to possible continuation of ACIA including Nordic context

*Thematic Network in Cold Climate Technology* has been in discussions for long time. So far nobody hasn't take the lead, but it has been stated in many places that this could be an idea of TN.

*Thematic Network in Arctic Sustainable Tourism* has also been suggested for many years ago. Only organised activity so far has been a project called Smart, which was a circumpolar programme (Interreg funding) involving almost all arctic countries (not Norway). Project finished in November 2005 and the coordination was at Kemi-Tornio Polytechnic in Finland.

*Thematic Network in Northern cultures, languages and identity*. Russia would like to have international co-operation in languages because they are loosing their indigenous languages. University of Helsinki (Juha Pentikäinen) would be on lead (writing a proposal for TN). This network is being processed at the moment.



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*Thematic Network in Clean production.* This would be a technical network based on Clean Production Master programme, which starts during this year with Finnish money. However much further discussion is needed before this can be enhanced to the Thematic Network.

*Thematic Network in Regional Planning,* host organisation is Finnmark University College at Alta (Tor Gjertsen). Network will have research co-operation in economy, social economy, business development of the small northern communities.

*Thematic Network in indigenous history* was an idea presented by Bård.

### **4. Web pages**

UArctic website is going to be changed during the spring 2006. At the new pages each programme will have new pages which they can edit by themselves. The TN office produces the material for the TN programme pages, UArctic the layout.

Each network will have their own homepage which will be linked to TN programme pages. At their homepage the networks can add links to anywhere they want to. At the TN programme pages there will be at least pages for news, guidelines, establishing the new networks, reporting etc. Every news goes also into the UArctic front page.

### **5. Council meeting**

Next Council meeting will be held in Bodø in June 2006. The meeting starts in Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>, so reporting needs to be ready before hand. Formal council meeting starts on Wed June 14<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesday there is possible time for the programme meetings if those are needed. In the meeting there should be breakout sessions for new networks (established ones).

Reports on programmes should be ready on February. So networks should write their reports in January on what they have done in 2005. In the UArctic report there will be feature on one active Thematic Network, a good example about the network. This hasn't been decided yet, so TN office is open for suggestions.

### **6. Other issues**

UArctic has applied IPY funding for TNs.



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### Thematic Network The Verdde Programme

- Sámi University College (Sámi allaskuvla, SA), Kristine Nystad, (Kristine.Nystad@samiskhs.no)
- Nunavut Arctic College (climate change), Mark Clendenning
- Trying to get University of Greenland in to the network: meeting is in process. They are re-organising the teacher programme in Greenland at the moment and that's why the co-operation hasn't happen yet. The co-operation will be in teacher training.
- Yokon College: students are going for journalist training to Yokon in spring 2006. Subject for co-cooperation will be media. The co-operation will be in student exchange
- Yakutz is also planned, visit is planned spring 2006. Sámi University College has agreement with State agriculture in Yakutz. Subject is in reindeer husbandry. The co-operation will be in student exchange.

Main goal is in indigenous teacher training and student, teacher and elders exchange and in some ways also a capacity building.

#### **Strategies for 2006-**

##### Co-operation between Sámi University College (SA) and Nunavut Arctic College (NAC)

- April 2006  
Students and staff from NAC visiting SA for 2 weeks (7 students and 3 staff members)
- Fall 2006  
Staff exchange. Research and english training for 3-4 months.
- Spring 2008  
Students and staff visit Nunavut for 1 month.  
Subjects: storytelling, climate change, teaching materials, management of indigenous higher educational institutions

##### Planned co-operation between Sámi University College (SA) and Greenland

- visit to Greenland during the spring 2006  
Subject: Duodji/ art + fine art

##### Planned co-operation between Sámi University College (SA) and Yokon

- February- March 2006  
Student visits to Yokon (students in SA Journalism Training)
- SA will cooperate with native broadcasting station in Yokon  
Subject: media a

##### Planned co-operation between Sámi University College (SA) and Yakkut State Agricultural Academy (YSAA)

- Visit to Yakutz during the spring 2006
- SA have an agreement with State Agriculture Academy (YSAA).  
Subject: reindeerhusbandry

-Exchange is not only from/to Sámi University College, but mobility can also happen between other partners.

-North to North programme supports the exchange programme. Some countries allow the exchange money also for staff some don't (only for students). Norway and Sweden money can also be used for staff, and probably also in Finland, Canada has a problem for that.



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### **UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on community based natural resource co-management (ITN)**

- Sami University College, Liv Østmo (liv.ostmo@samiskhs.no) (Sámi university college will join together Nordic Sámi institute (research institute) in January 2006 )
- University of Tromsø, Bård A. Berg (baberg@sv.uit.no)
- RAIPON (Russian organisation, umbrella organisation, main office in Moscow)
- Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga' (Aboriginal institution in northern British Columbia Canada)
- Indigenous experts
- ITN will also cooperate with the Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples Issues.

**Main goal** is to develop an UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network (ITN) on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management.

#### **Sub-goals:**

- Increase the articulation and sharing of indigenous knowledge and scholarship in natural resource management
- Increase capacity-building for indigenous communities in natural resource co-management areas
- One important issue is to develop guidelines for indigenous knowledge.
- UArctic ITN on community-based natural resource co-management is an independent and thematically focused network of indigenous organizations and institutions, and experts in community-based indigenous resource co-management.
- ITN will focus on the following activities: research cooperation, knowledge sharing, curriculum development, and a joint education program in natural resource management.
- ITN operates with a minimal set of required reporting and other formal linkages to UArctic. ITN will form its own individual operation and organisation guidelines.
- ITN shall serve as a gateway to expertise for other UArctic programs as needed.

#### **Strategies for 2006-**

1. Competition will be held to choose a name of indigenous origin (during the spring 2006). TN office will put an advertisement on that also to UArctic website
2. Website will be developed under UArctic (and TN pages) for furthering discussion and work of the ITN.
3. Email will be used for communications and meetings.
4. They will host an annual meeting that includes seminars on topics relevant to ITN.
5. Online seminars will be conducted on issues related to Natural Resource Co-Management.
6. Established UArctic program framework will be used for networking
7. Linkages with the other UArctic Thematic Networks will be developed
8. Sámi University College and core working group will lead the information collection and dissemination, database development, implementation of educational and research programs, activity coordination, and the working relationships with UArctic and the Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples Issues.



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## UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Medicine

- University of Oulu, Arja Rautio (arja.rautio@oulu.fi)
- University of Greenland, Gert Mulvad (gm@gh.gl)

### Background

The establishment of the TN on Arctic Medicine was discussed in the UArctic Council meeting in Oulu in spring 2005 in a panel Health and wellbeing in the North. Later in the council meeting it was decided to build up a thematic network on arctic medicine.

The base is good because of graduate school **The Graduate School of Circumpolar Wellbeing, Health and Adaptation** is a multidisciplinary scientific community with the main task to offer the doctoral students scientific education and to support and guide their professional development. It also practices basic research and applied research with an emphasis on the viewpoint of wellbeing and health in the North. University of Oulu and Arctic Medicine publishes also the Journal of Circumpolar health.

In addition to graduate school **research programme in arctic medicine** and a new **Master programme**, which will start in spring form a good base for the network. Co-operation is currently runned with research groups connected with the graduate school and research programme (i.a. Univ Tromsø, partners in Russia and Canada and also in AMAP). However, it is likely that network expands since a new international programme starts in next October. For the future there is also the Cross-border programme under the development as well two proposals for IPY has been submitted.

### Strategies for 2006-

1. Third conference in Circumpolar health and wellbeing (organised every second year) will be held in Oulu in November 2006.
2. Translating medical books in Sámi, those books what we have in pharmacists for all people like "what happens when your child gets sick?" Book programme is part of the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim's 125 year celebration. In Norway similar books have already been translated in Sámi, but not in Finland.



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## **UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use**

- University of Tromsø, Olavi Junttila, Vera Hausner (vera.hausner@ib.uit.no)
- University of Saskatchewan, (Olavi's agreement)
- University of Alaska Fairbanks, (Vera's agreement)
- University of Umeå

### **Background**

Nordic co-operation was already talked in Tromsø in 2002, later UArctic came in on the discussions. In 2004 the rector at University Tromsø found money for arctic agriculture, which started as a master programme, later it was then expanded as TN.

Currently the situation is unclear. Olavi Junttila leads the PhD network (and conferences), Vera Hausner is leading Master programme (education), but their organisation is open (no coordinator). In the Masters programmes, new programmes on reindeer, goats and sheeps, plant production, natural resource management and fresh water management have started and a new agreement will be signed with Russian University.

Vera Hausner and Mette Svenning who participated the TN Programme Team Meeting at Kilpisjärvi stated that Thematic network is still not functioning at Tromsø.