



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

UArctic Thematic Network Programme Team Meeting

Kilpisjärvi Biological Station,
December 13-15, 2006

Minutes

Attending: **Kari Laine**, Programme chair, UArctic Thematic Network office
Kirsi Latola, Programme coordinator, UArctic Thematic Network Office/TN on Global Change in the Arctic
Jan Henry Keskitalo, UArctic Board of Governors, Sámi University College
Olavi Junttila, Univ Tromsø, TN on Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use
Arja Rautio, Univ Oulu, TN on Arctic Medicine
Kristine Nystad, Sámi University College, Verddet
Claudia Fedorova, Sakha State University, TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North
Asgeir Solstad, Bodø University College, TN on Social Work
Torbjorn Schei, Finnmark University College, TN on Local and Regional Development in the North

Thursday December 14th, 2006

1. Presentations of the Thematic Networks

What was done in 2006 and what will be done in the next year

TN on Social work:

In 2006 established Social work concentrates on education and research co-operation:

Education:

-International course in comparative social policy, (Bachelor level) first week was held in November 2006 in Archangel

(<http://www.hibo.no/index.php?ID=2664&lang=eng&displayitem=1517&module=news>), and second week will be in Bodø in March 2007 (computers in Archangel are not sufficient for on-line courses). All together 15 students from Norway and Russian are taken the course. The funding for the course is secured.

-Youth in the Barents region, youth and identity is the topic on other bachelor course which is being developed.

Research co-operation:

In the Data collection project the network will concentrate in youth. The contact persons in partner organisations and researchers create data collections on what kind of thoughts youth have on their future – what are their expectations?



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

In planning stage:

- Idea of master's program on social work, which will be done by putting together the existing courses in the partner organisations and at least make modules or courses at Masters level. Focus must be in social work in rural areas in circumpolar area, having a special emphasis on cultural aspects. In order to get things going, TN needs funding for the meeting.

For the workshops in 2006 and developing the network they had funding.

TN on Arctic Agriculture and Nature Use:

Background: University of Tromsø got funding for bachelor and masters program for this area. And that was a starting point for the network, which was established in 2005. However, not much in concrete has been done: a lot of emails have been sent between University of Tromsø, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, University of Akureyri, Iceland (agriculture) and University of Fairbanks, Alaska, but no meetings have been arranged because of lack of funding. Partners are typical University researchers so the form is in PhD level and Masters and Bachelor level is difficult to get to this network. Collaborations, such as student exchange, are based on bilateral agreements.

The focus of the TN should be in Masters and PhD education, they already have a Master program on agriculture and land use (Arctic Natural Resource Management and Agriculture), which is part of TN, additionally University of Tromsø has a lot a Master's programs that can be utilised as UArctic Masters' programs.

The next steps:

- University of Saskatchewan is organising next fall (early august) a PhD course in overwintering, frost hardiness etc. The course will be part of the network and in addition to the course TN will have the first network meeting at the same time.
- There is a hope for getting more funding, since Norwegian government has/will give more funding to UArctic
- TN would like to involve Russian university.

Circumpolar Agricultural Association (<http://www.svs.is/caa/>) could be a good link for getting more partners. But CAA has is now more or less sleeping, their latest meeting was held in Umeå in 2004.

TN on Local and Regional Development:

Education is main activity and network has established a Advanced emphasis course on Management of Local and Regional Development starts in January 2007 (<http://www.hifm.no/index.php?ID=1670&lang=eng>). In addition to that the focus has been in getting started since this is one of the TNs that were established in 2006.

The next steps:

- Borealis conference in March (<http://www.hifm.no/borealis>), in the conjunction there will be also a annual meeting of the network



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

- Web pages are also under development. Kirsi reminded that in the UArctic website all TNs have already websites (<http://www.uarctic.org/compactArticles.aspx?m=56>)
- Research will be part of the network and Tor has been in contact with universities in Canada and also in Finland and in Russia.
- TN will write a strategy together with Sami University College, Kautokeino
- International master's program will be developed in the future.

TN on Arctic Medicine

Main focus in the network is with Master's programme in Circumpolar Health and Wellbeing (MCH) (<http://arctichealth oulu.fi/suomi/maisterikoulu.html>). MCH is an international programme, established and managed in collaboration by the CirNet network universities:

- University of Oulu, Finland (network coordinator)
- Center for Health Education, Greenland
- Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
- Northern State Medical University, Russia
- Pomor State University, Russia
- University of Lapland, Finland
- University of Manitoba, Canada
- NORUT Social Science Research Ltd., Norway
- Finnish Society for Arctic Health and Biology (ATBY)
- Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine (NSAM)

CirNet is very closely working with Finnish-Russian Barents Cross-Border University's (CBU) Master's Programme on Comparative social work (<http://bcbu oulu.fi/>). The dialogue was also opened for the co-operation with Bodo Univ College and CBU.

Sanna Sorppanen, who has been working as CirNet coordinator has started in a new position and Kirsi Latola is taking over the coordination of this planning stage.

Last year TN talked about the Sámi book "When the child is sick" project, now the book is ready and will be published at the Sámi National Day in Inari.

University of Tromsø has Research Center for Sami Health, located in Karasjok. So it was suggested that they could be connected since Sámi is very important and traditional knowledge should not be forgotten (of note they have been contacted earlier, however because they don't give any education their role is a bit question mark).

University of Alaska Fairbanks has done a research program on related to CirNet topic, so they could be also contacted.

In addition to CirNet, Centre of Arctic Medicine (CAM) has research program, The Graduate School of Circumpolar Wellbeing, Health and Adaptation and CAM also represents the University of Oulu in the International Association of Circumpolar Health Publishers that publishes the International Journal of Circumpolar Health.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

TN on World Image of the Indigenous Peoples of the North

Aim: joint research of world image of indigenous peoples of the Arctic, through creating associative dictionaries of the indigenous languages across circumpolar North. This TN was established in 2006.

History:

Since 2000 Sakha State University (SSU) has been involved in research of indigenous languages within the area of psycholinguistics and theory of communication. The research has also resulted in number of published articles. The main partner of the SSU is the Institute of Linguistics of Russian Academy of Sciences.

Funding so far:

- Russian Humanities Research Foundation: Cultural characteristics of Sakha language consciousness: 2005-06.
Free associative experiment was held among Sakha speakers.
- Russian Humanities Research Foundation: research of the Yukagir language consciousness: 2006-07. The project is conducted by the SSU Northern Languages Department and the Indigenous Northern Minority People Institute.
- The application has been submitted to Russian Humanities Research Foundation to get funds to start the research of the cultural characteristics of the Even language consciousness.

The next steps:

- Are now looking for partners, problem is that they don't have real international partners, there are interest from Canada (Athabasca and Fairbanks) and Kristine Nystad from Sámi University College is helping in establishing the contacts in Kautokeino. Umeå University has promised to seek for partners in Sámi languages.
- For getting new partners, TN could put a news item to UArctic web site, or a call for finding partners
- First network meeting will be held in the conjunction with the UArctic council meeting in Archangel in June 4-8, probably on Monday June 4th.
- In the future the study programs would be good, so far Sakha does not have two level system. It would be good to include students from Sakha Univ from different departments.

Verddet

Power point presentation enclosed.

Sámi University College is working on new masters degrees (See item 3 UArctic graduate area and Thematic Networks). In exchange N2N program is the main way of funding.

Kristine visited Yakuts in fall 2006, a news from the visit will be published in the website.

The Next steps:

- Yukon College has invited them to visit
- Student and staff visits are coming from Yakuts to Kautokeino, problem with funding – how to finance it?



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management

Power point presentation enclosed

New study program started this year (EIA-course), with 14 students from Russia. Course is taught in Russian language (with translators).

ITN opening seminar was in October 5th and new seminar will be right before Indigenous IPY launch (14-16 Feb, 2007).

TN on Global Change in the Arctic

Biggest goal is in Global Change Curriculum development for the use of all UArctic member Universities and Colleges. The work was started with the web survey and questionnaire on the existing Global Change courses in UArctic member organisations. Heli Kinnunen was hired for going through all websites and curriculums and making questionnaire which was sent to all members. The questionnaire was needed since not all organisations had their courses listed in the web. Additionally there were 23 Russian member organisations, which did not have any English web sites or web sites at all. Therefore a Russian speaking student Olga Haurinen was hired to contact Russian members in Russian and for translating the questionnaire for Russian. As a result we found over 600 Global change courses, the courses were classified and analysed and presented in the Workshop held in May 29-31, 2006 in Rovaniemi, Finland. Based on the web survey, the participants (23 from Canada, USA, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia) developed five course outlines to fill the gaps in the current global change curriculum. The course outlines are:

1. Health, security and well-being
2. Economics and sustainable livelihoods
3. Institutional barriers and global change and Human rights and global change
4. Technology, methodology, application
5. Adaptation and mitigation

The course outlines are currently being developed more deeply and a call for finding the writers was arranged in December 2006. After that the Steering Committee will make decisions on course writers/planners and final content of the courses in Kautokeino workshop in February 2007. Each course will be at Master's level, the width for each course is 6 ECTS. The pilot on-line delivery of the courses will start in the fall 2008.

2. Proposed Networks

The list of ideas/proposed new TNs:

- TN Ecotourisms – Sustainable tourism, this has been in the agenda for a while and now Outi Snellman is working to get it real.
- TN on Northern Governance by Greg Poelzer at University of Saskatchewan, Canada (host). There was a worry of overlapping with the TN hosted by Finnmark Univ College, TN on Local and regional Development. Kirsi has been in contact with Greg and he says that there is no overlapping.
- TN on duodji, applied art and art hosted by Sámi University College (Gunvor Guttorm)



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

-Chris Southcott presented an idea on TN on Community development in Ofelas meeting in Abisko, however Kirsi has heard nothing since then.

-Arctic Learning Environment (ALE) program could be changed to a Thematic Network, since it operates more like a network than a program.

Program team discussed the missing areas, what kind of TNs we are missing and what should be developed. Here are some ideas:

- Arctic technology, technology in cold environment (CBU clean production), ISCORD conference in Tampere. There will be a session on education on technology, Svalbard has a program on arctic technology (UNIS), so they should be contacted. Also Narvik, Fairbanks, Murmansk could be partners. In the ISCORD meeting a grounds for the network could be built. The lead is something that hasn't been looked for, it should be outside Norway and Finland.
- We are missing Greenland, which is white spot, Faculty in Greenland on social work could be contacted by Asgeir
- What fields are missing? Technology, arts, economy, law, these are very traditional disciplines, we need to have another way of looking and look for the multidisciplinary fields with human dimension. Circumpolarity is one major field – cross borders –so it is important for instance to include law to all work and not build a group of law people, just an example.
- An idea was presented that we could ask to have a breakout session in the council meeting for missing topics/missing thematic networks

However, we have now eight Thematic Networks and some members of TN Program Team feel that we have to put limit somewhere (some say that 10 is max). And instead of establishing more and more TNs we should work together and join our forces for existing TNs and their goals, for instance master's programs that are being developed or are in the "wish list" of many TNs.

3. UArctic graduate area and Thematic Networks

The role of TNs in graduate area development

The relationship between Thematic Networks and graduate area is already there, since many TNs are currently planning/will do planning on Master's programs or courses:

- CirNet – Network for Master's Programme in Circumpolar Health and Well-being (MCH), TN on Arctic Medicine. Discussion on the international program started in 2004, first network meeting was held in May 2005. Schedule:
 1. CirNet network: development of the MCH programme (2005-2008)
 2. First MCH intake and MCH pilot (2008-2010)
 3. MCH as a permanent programme (2010-)

CirNet and the MCH have also been involved in planning the Finnish-Russian Barents Cross-Borden University initiative, as the MCH will be connected to a master programme in Comparative Social Work, offered within FRB-CBU.

- Master's programs on social work, TN on Social Work. This is on planning stage. The international program could be build by putting together the existing courses in the partner organisations. They might start by making at least modules or courses at Masters Level. Focus is on social work in rural areas in circumpolar area. Since there is obvious link with the master programme in Comparative Social Work, offered within FRB-CBU it



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

was suggested that TN on Social Work contacts the people who are involved with FRB-CBU.

- In University of Tromsø they already have Master's programs that can be linked to TN on Agriculture and Land use such as Master program on Agriculture and land use. TN is organising in fall 2007 (early august) a PhD course on over wintering (frost hardiness etc) at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
- Master's program on Sami language training, Verrdet. Sámi Univ College has applied for this master's program and is working on it. They have wishes also for Master's program on Sámi handicraft/decorative art training. These Master's programs are national.
- Global Change Master's courses, TN on Global Change. The course outlines have been developed and currently they are looking for writers/planners. International on-line courses will start as pilot in fall 2008. Course outlines are:
 - Adaptation to Global Change in the Arctic
 - Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World
 - Foundations of Human Rights Global Environment Change
 - Global Change Technology, methodology, and analysis
 - Health, security and wellbeing in the North
 - Institutional Dimensions of Global Change
- TN on Local and Regional Development has plans to develop in the future an international master's program.

And there is more to come, since at least one of the TNs that will be established in 2007 is planning the Joint Masters courses (Masters of Northern Governance). It was said that in the first phase the master's should be connected to thematic networks – the building of such program is easier inside the TN, but when the courses/program are delivered they will be open for everyone.

Discussion on topics

Program team did a bit brainstorming on what topics are missing from Thematic Networks and planned Master's Programs. And the main observation was that instead of looking for traditional disciplines like technology, the UArctic has a possibility and maybe even responsibility to deal with the issues that are not traditionally dealt at Higher Education Organizations. For instance traditional knowledge/silent knowledge and multidisciplinary view on how to manage the change (global, climate...). For instance what skills, practical knowledge (traditional knowledge) we need to manage the change? What are the institutional barriers?

However, can we really make decision on topics before we know what Master's already exists?

What could be the UArctic graduate area?

The big questions are: What is the purpose with the Masters? What afterwards? What is competence? What are the job opportunities? A Master's programs should be specified and work also as a way to PhD studies. We should also make sure that students have job opportunities after finishing the UArctic Master's.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Some of the advanced emphasis courses are steps to masters and there seem to be a need for Master's programs or courses. The Master's programs and courses listed above have not been tested yet with the students, so we don't really know what works really well and what is missing.

The research should be connected to teaching, this is an issue that at least University of Oulu has now putted into the its strategy for next years and should be a common practice in all graduate education. This links the graduate area also to Thematic Networks.

What we need is more cooperation between institutes and more student and teacher exchange. And one way of doing it is to give a "UARctic label" to existing programs, like to MCH. There are most certainly Master's programs among UArctic member organizations that can be labeled as UArctic Master's programs and/or they are courses than can be taken from different HE organizations and build a Master's jointly with several Universities. This is the model that is used at MCH, which will also –if needed – develop some new courses (at least TN Global Change course Health, Security and Wellbeing will be one of the introductory on-line courses at MCH). In MCH each participating HE organization gives degree to its own students. This solves also the problem that UArctic doesn't give degrees and the practical problem with joint degrees. UArctic can also start with making modules/separate courses like in TN Global Change, the courses will be electives so the basic courses come from students' own university and the degree is given from their own university.

The international Master's program (build jointly with couple HE organizations) will give students wider perspective than national programs. However, if the topic and content is on circumpolar issues the national program could be also relevant. And in order to keep the quality high, there should a committee who accepts/decides on what Master's programs are getting UArctic label, which also means that only few Master's programs are accepted. We need to make UArctic rules and have quality control in three levels: at universities, at UArctic level, and at program level. One important issue is also the election of students, how it is done and by whom?

We also have to keep in mind that different countries and HE organizations have different practices, different rules on e.g. accepting the credits. And Bologna Process is still going on in some countries so we need follow that carefully, because systems change and can do that very fast.

Program team agreed that there is no point in making a Master's program on general Arctic issues such as Master's of Circumpolar Studies, since Master's needs to be on specific topic. The good question to be asked is what is important for the North? What we need is to look at best practices and also to the next practice and gather knowledge on what Master's programs already exists. That should be the starting point for the whole area. First thing to do it to make guidelines, requirements on masters program (for the council?), and then send a survey.

However, PT was very unanimous: UArctic gives a good platform for master programs and courses.

4. Funding:

-TN office did not received funding for 2007 from Finnish Ministry of Education. New application will be presented for the year 2008-2010. However at this point, this means that less funding is available for the TN office.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

-TN on global change has applied and received funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers (500 000DKK for 2006, 400 000DKK for 2007)

-Norwegian Parliament has given more funding for UArctic and that might be also helpful for Norwegian TNs, so each one should check that possibility out.

5. Program Team composition in the future

In the Ofelas meeting in Abisko it was discussed that if and when the number of Thematic Networks is high (more than 10) is it wise to have all TN leaders in the Program Team resulting in a very big PT meetings. PT discussed about this and the whole team said that it is important that all leaders are members of program team, because when look it at scientific way it has been good to have different people from different disciplines and different backgrounds.

6. Next meeting

-In Arkhangelsk in the council meeting 5.6.06 at 13.00-16.00. The meeting place will be informed later (UArctic secretariat will take care of that), Kirsi will send the invitations to the meeting, PT members should register themselves to the council meeting (information comes later).

-PT also discussed about the PT meetings in Kilpisjärvi in December, Kirsi was a bit worried about the funding with more members coming in, but the time and the place is something unique so PT decided to continue this tradition if it is financially possible.