



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

**UArctic Thematic Networks Program Team meeting  
Edmonton (UArctic council meeting)  
June 1st, 2008 at 12-14.00**

Attending: **Kari Laine**, Thematic Networks Program Chair/TN on Global Change  
**Kirsi Latola**, Thematic Networks Coordinator/TN on Global Change  
**Tor Gjertsen**, TN on Local and Regional Development  
**Loudmila Zamorschikova**, TN on World Images on Indigenous Peoples

**General discussion**

Team discussed about the “problem” with Thematic Networks meetings in the conjunction of UArctic council meeting. The problem being the fact that there is only one PT member who is also council representative (after new TNs were accepted there are now two council representatives who are also TN leaders), so TN PT members don't get easily travel funding from their home institutions. The PT meetings in Kilpisjärvi have been much more successful where almost all members have been present. One reason of course the fact that most of the members come from very short distance from Kilpisjärvi, but also the two days in one place gives a really good working environment.

Secondly the thematic networks partners are not usually the council representatives, what also makes their travel more difficult and has been sometimes seen in very low numbers of participants in the TN side meetings.

The low numbers of participants were also seen in some of the TN side meetings in Edmonton, and it was discussed that should we have them at all. TN on Arctic Medicine had no participants (one person had been there half hour early), TN on Social work had to be cancelled due to Asgeir's illness but only two people had signed for it. TN on Global Change had five participants, when TN on World Images on Indigenous peoples had 12 participants and TN on Local and Regional Development about the same.

One of the important points in having side meetings is to get local partners and new people in to the meetings. So depending on where UArctic council meetings are held and what is the local interest some TNs can have successful side meetings and some not. Therefore each TN should think carefully if they can have participants for the side meeting or would it be wiser to have the meeting in the conjunction of scientific conference on the field of TN's focus area.



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### **The name change of Thematic Network on Local and Regional Development**

Tor told about his side meeting where the idea of name change to "*Thematic Network on Northern Innovation and development*" was presented and accepted. The change of the name is based on the issue that network focuses on research and several other networks are starting to operate more in the local and community level. So changing the name from "TN on Local and Regional Development" to the "TN on Northern Innovations and Development" corresponds better to the network's goal and objectives.

This is the first time when Thematic Network is changing its name so Kirsi has asked advices from Lars Kullerud and Outi Snellman. And the procedure will be as follows (this will be used from now on in the similar cases):

1. Thematic Networks Program Team accepts the change
2. Thematic Networks coordinator makes a proposal to Pomot with rationale
3. After the Pomot has accepted the change (can be also done through email), the name change is final and the name is changed to the UArctic web site (by TN program coordinator) and to all other possible materials (by leader of TN).

### **Other news from thematic networks**

Tor told that the Master's program Local and Regional development is being enrolled again with the new name: "Northern Innovation and development". He also told that just before the council meeting Tor participated and gave a presentation in the "Canadian Arctic Summit" conference in Edmonton.

Loudmila has been working with research funding from Russian Academy and has applied more funding. But it has become more difficult. Loudmila's network interested a lot University of Alberta's Native Studies faculty and she was invited to a private ceremony.

UArctic Board of Governors visited University of Oulu and TN program office in Oulu in February 29<sup>th</sup> 2008. During that visit the UArctic's new strategy, the future role of TNs and what would be the criteria for new TNs were discussed. The link between education, research and knowledge sharing was presented and discussed – Kari showed the slide show prepared for Board meeting (enclosed). Team discussed that if/when Thematic Networks will be a core activity the office and networks should also get international funding. For some networks it is easy to get national funding but not international, which is actually what networks need. It was also discussed that TNs could jointly apply funding.

### **Quality control**

Quality control guidelines distributed before the meeting were discussed and revised (enclosed). The suggestions and changes were made to the document itself. Two major points were made: first when new TN's are proposed they should show that



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they have funding and work time allocated for their operation and sustainability in that way. Secondly, the closing down of networks was accidentally left out from the guidelines.

Kari told about the UArctic Academic Quality Committee meeting, which he attended before PT meeting. In that meeting he had presented the first draft of the quality control guidelines of Thematic Networks and based on that it was decided that Thematic Networks will make a proposal for next years council meeting. One of the most important sections in that proposal is the criteria for establishing new Thematic networks.

The revised version of Quality control guidelines is distributed with these minutes and the guidelines will be finalized in Kilpisjärvi in PT meeting in next January. Geir Gotaas, the chair of Academic Quality Control will join the meeting, which is important for the process.

### **Other issues**

Mona Johnson invited a representative of Thematic Networks PT to N2N PT meeting and Kari represented TNs in that meeting. At the same time Kirsi represented TNs in Graduate Area PT meeting, where she is a PT member.

In N2N PT the new strategy was discussed and how the mobility program could be used in Thematic Networks. It has been even suggested that all mobility should be linked to TNs, but TN PT members don't support the idea. What could be stated is that the students from TNs will get the priority, but in practice most of the students (or almost all) come outside the TNs. It was discussed that for international students it is important that they can take courses that are relevant for their studies. If student moves around within the research network (=Thematic network) the mobility can be much more beneficial that if he/she just goes somewhere with no particular goal or topics.