



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

UArctic Thematic Networks Program Team Meeting Kilpisjärvi Biological Station, January 9-11, 2008

Attending: **Kari Laine**, Program chair, UArctic Thematic Network office
Kirsi Latola, Program coordinator, UArctic Thematic Network Office/TN on Global Change in the Arctic
Lars Kullerud, President, UArctic
Outi Snellman, Director Administration, UArctic
Jan Henry Keskitalo, UArctic Board of Governors, Sámi University College
Arja Rautio, Univ Oulu, TN on Arctic Medicine
Jan-Idar Solbakken, Sámi University College, UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management
Gunvor Guttorm, Sámi University College, TN on Indigenous Arts and Crafts
Lyudmila Zamorshikova, Sakha State University, TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North
Tor Gjertsen, Finnmark University College, TN on Local and Regional Development in the North
Lena Susanne Gaup Sámi University College, Verdde
Anatoli Bourmistrov, Bodø University College, proposed TN on Energy Management
Pierre-André Forest, Program Coordinator UArctic Graduate Area

Asgeir Solstad, Bodø University College, TN on Social Work and
Greg Poelzer, University of Saskatchewan, TN on Northern Governance regretted that they were not able to participate due to other commitments.

Minutes

Presentations of the Thematic Networks

TN in Global Change/Kirsi Latola

The network had a joint working group meeting of Advanced emphasis on Arctic climate change and Thematic Network on Global Change held in Kautokeino, Norway in February 16-18, 2007 which led into nominations of Academic Leads for each course. All invited leads except Prof. Oran Young for course "Foundations of Human Rights" (too many duties and too little time) accepted the invitation. The course "Foundations of Human Rights" is very important topic so its contents should be included to all other courses.

Each Academic Lead has gathered his/her curriculum development teams and all teams had their first meeting during the late summer – winter 2007.

Academic Leads and their members are:

Health, Security and Wellbeing in the North

- * Arja Rautio, Centre for Arctic Medicine, U of Oulu, Academic Lead
- * Gert Mulvad, Health Research Board Greenland
- * Andrey Soloviev, Northern State Medical University, Russia
- * Vappu Sunnari, U of Oulu/Luleå Technical University, Finland/Sweden



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World

- * Joan Nymand Larsen, Academic Lead (Iceland)
- * Lee Huskey (Alaska)
- * Gerard Duhaime (Canada)
- * Gorm Winther (Denmark)

Adaptation to Global Change in the Arctic

- * Svein Mathiesen, Academic Lead, Norway
- * Robert Corell
- * Eirik Reinert
- * Grete Hovelsrud
- * Kirsiti Strøm Bull
- * Nancy Maynard
- * Gary Cofinas
- * Anatoli Bourmistrov
- * Jim McCarthy
- * Vladmir Ethylene
- * Ole Henrik Magga
- * Nicholas Tyler
- * Bruce Forbes
- * Nils Oskal
- * Rana Koukkanen

Global Change Technology, methodology, and analysis (field course)

- * John Moore, Academic Lead, Finland
- * Richard Boone, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA

Institutional Dimensions of Global Change

- * Alf-Håkon Hoel, Academic Lead, Dept of Political Science, University of Tromsø
- * Sigve Leland, Dept of Political Science, University of Tromsø
- * Olav Schram Stokke, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Oslo

In Tromsø in October 07 in the joint meeting of Academic Leads and TN in Global Change Steering committee chair Prof Mark Nuttall, vice-chair Pierre-André Forest and coordinator Kirsi Latola all course outlines will be discussed in order to avoid the overlapping and for producing an curriculum which form a complete course package on Global Change in the Arctic. The courses can also be taken one by one.

The developed courses can also be part in Master's programs developed by TN in Global Change partners. This will be the case at least for the course "Health, Security and Wellbeing in the North" which will be one of the on-line courses in Master's Programme in Circumpolar Health and Wellbeing (MCH) coordinated by Centre for Arctic Medicine at University of Oulu. MCH first intake will be in April 2008 and the program begins in fall 2008.

Plans for 2008:

The first courses (Health, Security and Wellbeing, Institutional Dimensions and Arctic Economies and Livelihoods) will delivered in fall 2008. In February 4-5, 2008 curriculum teams and steering committee will have a joint workshop at Roskilde, Denmark.

TN in Global Change is also looking for the future activities and one project that it's coordinator Kirsi Latola and Academic Lead John Moore are taking part is EU's Northern Periphery program project called "Climate Change - Adapting to The Impacts, by Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions". The project is a three year project (2008 – 2011) and has it launch



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

meeting in May 14-15th, 2008. The total budget is over two million euros, which will be used in five work packages. TN in Global Change is a partner in two packages: "Regional Climate Change and Scenarios" (John Moore) and "Establish a Northern Periphery Community Climate Change Adaptation Information, Training, and Advice Service" (Kirsi Latola)

TN Arctic Medicine/Arja Rautio

Network has continued to develop the Master's Program in Circumpolar Health and Wellbeing, which is ready to be launched. In addition to Master's program, network has active research co-operation and The PhD School of Circumpolar Wellbeing, Health and Adaptation.

Network is a member (through Arja) in Arctic council's AMAP and SDWG working groups.

UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on Community-based Natural Resource Co-management/Jan-Idar Solbakken

Impact assessment course was held last year with 17 Russian students (17) and the evaluations and reports have been made. The students spoke only Russian, so the course was held in Russian. In the future new courses will be developed but probably smaller ones held in Sámi. This year they will have small course which has modules developed specially for need, such as reindeer herders in Sweden

Network has new partners (Sami council and UNEP and other organizations like Statoil) and is working for co-operation with Russians and North America.

TN Indigenous arts and crafts/Gunvor

Network was established in June 2007 so first 6 months have been used for building the co-operation and network itself. And good co-operation have been built with Universities in Yakutsk, University of Manitoba, Kanada and Educational Center at Jokkmokk. University of Lapland (prof. Kristiina Hänninen) and Educational Center of Sámi Area in Inari have been interested.

Focus of the network is in clothing- there is lot of reindeer skin/leather to use and has been used but climate change has made thick leather clothes needles. Network will also do research, particularly interesting topic are cradles. The network will have exchange between teachers and lecturers; there are some common issues with Yakutsk that can't be found in books, so communication is needed in Arctic culture and arts.

A new Bachelors program in duodji has started in last fall at Sámi University College and a lot of help is needed from other Arctic institutions for teachers exchange and thus for knowledge sharing.

Plans for future:

Network is applying money for big kick off conference to be held next year. Another goal is to get more partners during this year.

TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North /Loudmila Zamorshikova

Two projects on the research of the world image of the Yukagirs (years 2006-2007), of the Evens (2007-2008) supported by the Russian Humanities Research Foundation.were realized. Another project on the research of the Evenki world image has been submitted to the Russian Humanities Research Foundation for the years 2008-2009. Two field works in the areas where the Yukagirs and the Evens live were organized. During the field work a free associative



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

experiment was held in which the native speakers were interviewed. The list of the words – stimuli was borrowed from the project of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the research of the Slavonic world image. The list was enlarged by the words which reflect the key notions of the Northern culture. These words denote such concepts as landscape, natural phenomena, traditional economic and social structure (hunting, traditional beliefs and knowledge, holidays and ceremonies).

Network had The international conference “Philology and Intercultural Communication in contemporary time” in September 2007. About 200 researchers from Russia and abroad took part in the conference.

Plans for 2008:

Network is working on the project proposal to European Commission TACIS program “Investing in Peoples – Access to Local Culture, Protection and Promotion of Cultural Diversity”.

Activities planning:

1. To develop the Advanced Emphasis course on the languages and culture of the peoples of the North on the results of the research. The course will focus not only on the peoples living on the territory of the North of Yakutia, their culture and languages, but also their world images, which make the Northern culture in general rich and distinctive.
2. To make a field trips to the areas where the Evenki people live.
3. To organize network meetings and seminars for new participants on the methods of psycholinguistic analysis.

Local and Regional Development/Tor Gjertsen

Main content of the network:

- Stimulate student and teacher exchange
- Development of joint course and study programmes (Applied master in Regional Innovation and Development in the North)
- International cooperation in R&D
- Network web-page
- Data base on Regional Innovation Development
- The International Borealis Conference on sustainable development in the North
- Local and regional development workshops
- The Gargia Conference on Regional Development (national conference)

Network activities in 2007:

- Make the network operational
- Establish a common data base of study and research projects and programmes relevant for local and regional development
- Internationalize our effort of creating an applied masters degree in Regional Development (in cooperation with other UArctic member institutions)
- Organizing The Borealis Conference 2007: Building Capacity for Sustainable Places in the Circumpolar North
- Organize the first workshop in the network in relation to the Borealis Conference 2007
- Expand and strengthen international cooperation (Kajaani U. Consortium, Pomor State U., Murmansk Institute of Humanities, etc.)

Plans for the 2008:

In 2008 network will have a joint workshop in April in Vuokatti, Finland, where co-operation will be discussed further. The future plan also includes a joint Master's program with Bodo University College, University of Saskatchewan and Pomor State University.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Their own website will be launched as soon as it's ready.

Verdde/Lena Susanne Gaup

Mai-Britt Henriksen (pro-rector) has been working as contact person since Kristine Nystad left the network.

EXCHANGES 2007 IN THE VERDDE PROGRAM

Teachers exchange between Sakha State University, the department of Northern Philology. Ekatarina Khmeleva came to the SUC to teach in a subject in Sámi Traditional and Applied Arts. "Álgoálbmot duodji ja dáidda diehtu"- Indigenous Knowledge of Handicraft and Art, 1 week spring 2007.

August 2007- 7 teachers from the Teachers Retraining Institute, Yakutia visited the SUC for a 6 day long seminar/ exchange. The teachers were interested in especially the Sámi language teaching at the SUC, and wanted to learn how the indigenous language teaching is done in Sápmi at the teachers training programme at the SUC, but also at the child care centres, primary and secondary schools. SUC arranged a program for them with both lectures and visits to different Sámi institutions like the Sámi Parliaments administration where they make books for schools in Sámi language.

In October 2007 the Minister of Education of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Feodosia Gabysheva together with Natalia Sitnikova visited the International Centre of Reindeer Husbandry in Kautokeino. She visited the Sámi University College, where she had a general presentation of the SUC, and a meeting with prorector Marit Breie Henriksen and former prorector Kristine Nystad. Kristine Nystad presented the Verdde Thematic Network for the minister, and told her about the future cooperation plans with educational institutions of Sakha, within the Verdde program. The minister was very interested in the network, and positive to the cooperation.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The teachers from Yakutia Teachers Retraining Institute shared their knowledge and experiences with students at the teachers training programme at the SUC. They made a presentation about the nomadic school on the tundra in their area, where they also showed a film. They told about the educational system in the Republic of Sakha. Discussions continue when the teachers visited the various Sámi institutions and the Sámi institutions were informed about the situation in Sakha.

The Yakutian teachers visited the summer pasture area at a siida of Lákkonjárga reindeer district. They also visited local shops to buy equipment for reindeer herding, and skin sewing needles that you cannot buy in Russia. There was also a dinner in a traditional lávvu with sharing of culture, singing and story telling.

Plans for 2008:

Student exchange planned and worked with for two specific students:

- One student from the teachers education at the SUC is going on a student exchange to Nunavut Arctic College, where she is going to do her teachers practice training in Nunavut approximately for 6 weeks the spring semester of 2008.
- One student is coming from the Sakha State University for an exchange in Duodji (Sámi Traditional and Applied Arts), approximately one month the spring semester of 2008.
- Both students have received scholarship from the North 2 North program.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Planned exchanges in the future:

- Between SA and Nunavut Arctic College/ Ilisimatusarfik- Greenland
- There is planned to arrange a storytelling seminar in 2008 similar to the one that was arranged the winter of 2006.
- The participants of this seminar would be students and teachers from the SUC, and visiting guest from Canada and Greenland, elders, teachers and students
- There is being planned a educational program for international students in English- this enables us to admit more exchange students to the SUC. Verdde started as pilot and could/should be expanded into a joint study program.

Program team discussed about the Arctic Agriculture TN that has been very inactive and doesn't hand in the reports or take part to program team meetings. And it was decided that Kirsi first contacts Olavi Junntila at University of Tromsø and sees how he responds. There is a need for TN in Agriculture/Natural sciences so one option is to find a need host for the network.

After that discussion an idea was presented to the PT: in TNs website there could be one page for "proposed and pending networks". Everyone though it was good, so Kirsi will do that.

Kari asked from Lars, Outi and Jan-Henry's opinion on what they have heard and the response was really positive. Thematic Networks are something that it's not bilater but more.

It was pointed out that Thematic Networks program has been success without the internal UArctic funding which shows that there is something really good in the concept that works well. And it is now the goal for UArctic to find the ways to keep the program going on and find some funding for that.

TNs are very enthusiastic – how to get that same enthusiasm into the council meetings so that the members would find them interesting?

New Thematic Networks under development

TN in Arctic Science and Engineering

(co-lead University of Anchorage Alaska and Luleå Technical University).

The idea of this network has been going on for several years and when ISCORD 2007 conference was planned it was decided to have an session on education that would also include the presentations on UArctic and Thematic Networks Program. Outi and Kirsi took part to that session an as an outcome the idea of new Thematic Network on "Arctic technology" was developed. Currently the network is planning their first joint meeting.

Thematic Network for Digital and Media Arts

(University of Lapland and University of Manitoba)

The proposed Thematic Network for Digital and Media Arts will explore and develop collaborative frameworks that engage the peoples and geography of the Arctic Region through Digital and Media-based creative and interactive projects. Initiated by Tomi Knuttila (University of Lapland) and Herbert Enns (University of Manitoba Experimental Media Centre), the Digital and Media Arts Thematic Network seeks to give creative and artistic voice to northern artists and creators, as inspired by perceptions and conditions unique to the north, with emphasis on



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

social and climatic change, constructions of power and authority, new techniques for exploring oral and visual history. The network will advance access to cutting edge media technologies and infrastructure. Topics may include the following:

- Examining New Media in everyday life, and creating media (art) with the locals.

(See the Nunavut Animation Lab as an excellent example <<http://www.nfb.ca/press-room/communiquer.php?id=17978>>

- Developing Multi-sensorial New Media Art and Visualization Tools that deal with Nordic / Arctic issues [political or participatory] – to allow people see (and hear) the global warming, and, more precisely, to create their own 'visual music' based on the scientific research data related to global warming;

- Mobile Computing;

- Interactive data visualization as a platform for bringing scientific and political observations together with cultural and artistic inputs;

- Arctic Intelligence Matrix (AIM), a web-based northern Knowledge Transfer Network for access and distribution of Digital and Media works, and for building a Social Network;

- Examining linguistics and multi-lingual strategies to explore how the spatial sensibilities of the northern peoples are embedded in language, and how they relate to a distinct way of 'seeing' the land. What is interesting about the language is that it is symbol based, and suggestive of new kinds of graphical user interface;

[See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inuit_language> for a brief survey of northern languages.]

[At <<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/esb.htm>>, you can find the Inuktitut version of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.]

- Physical Computing (architecture, space, spatial computing, the body);

Primary Project Collaborators:

- University of Lapland Faculty of Art and Design
- University of Manitoba Experimental Media Centre (EMC)
- Icelandic Academy of the Arts, Reykjavik < <http://www.lhi.is/>

Secondary Project Collaborators:

- Smolny Institute, St Petersburg <http://www.smolny.org/>
- Finnmark University College, Alta <http://www.hifm.no/index.php?lang=eng>
- Ontario College of Art and Design, Toronto
- Banff New Media Institute <http://www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi/>
- MIT Fablab Norway <http://www.fablab.no/>

TN in journalism

(Oulu University of Applied Sciences)

The initiator of this network is a journalist Markku Heikkilä for Kaleva Newspaper (published at Oulu, Finland) who has noticed many times during the past years that there is lack of journalist focusing on Arctic issues. And in order to be able to educate these kind of journalist there should be places for student's practicum (field placements) in the Arctic institutions and organizations. An idea is also to establish a web based newspaper.

Currently network is looking for partners and the idea will be also presented in Barents Press conference at Haaparanta, Sweden in spring 2008.

TN in Energy in New Time

(Bodø University College and University of Alberta)



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

The idea on establishing Thematic network on energy management and sustainable energy game independently from Bodø University College and University of Alberta. And because energy is one of the hot topics which will in Arctic focus in coming years, Anatoli Bourmistrov from Bodø University College was asked to join the meeting and an phone meeting was also arranged with Andy Greenshaw from University of Alberta (initiators of two separate networks). And after the discussion in program team and phone meeting a one joint TN in Energy in New Time was decided to be established.

TN indigenous PhD network/Indigenous Knowledge Systems

(Jan-Henry Keskitalo and Ray Barnard, UAF)

The idea of this potential network is to open and increase international co-operation in indigenous PhD studies. There is a need to establish indigenous courses also for students who are not indigenous. So this relates also to an issue that was discussed in Arkhangelsk council meeting: indigenous issues should be present in all activities and this also links to new graduate area.

One question is though that should it be a PhD network or a thematic Network – this will be further discussed with Ray Barnard, Jan-Henry and Kirsi.

TN in polar tourism

(Finnmark University College)

Finnmark University College got Norwegian UArctic funding for developing this network so Kirsi will check how that money has been used and if they will be established in the council meeting in Edmonton.

UArctic strategy and Thematic Networks program

Lars presented a possible new UArctic strategy proposed by the Board of Governors. What Board proposed is that Thematic Networks will be the core activity (not a program any more) and other programs as tools for networks. This proposal relates to other issues brought up by board such as UArctic should increase the contact to Arctic Council and IASC has expressed an interest for co-operation with UArctic (IASC would be responsible for science – UArctic for education).

If TN will be the core activity, there are several questions to be answer (taken from Lars's presentation):

Issues / Challenges:

- TN freedom and UArctic control; how to keep the enthusiasm
- Quality assurance mechanism
- Reporting matrix: TN - Programs– Members
- Split or Lump
- Types of TN's;
 - Shared activity (verdde) for some purpose
 - Issue based (energy, identity, governance, global change ..)
 - Methodology, Profession, disciplinary (ALE, social work, crafts, journalism ..)
- Who take initiative to close a TN
- TN's and programs – role of programs vs a TN
- Program activities outside current networks ?



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

- Where to meet .. Council or elsewhere; how to ensure UArctic internal understanding and identity in TN's

Program team discussed a lot about these issues and new questions were asked:

- What is the added value?
- Who are the customers?
- Looking from students' point of view –can they find education/courses they want/need to take if none of TN includes all levels from BCS, AE to graduate?

It was discussed that best thing to do is to leave BCS as it is, since BCS is a basic Bachelor studies that has been/is working outside the Thematic Networks. Thematic networks are concentrating to the education that is taken after BSC, such as advanced emphasis, Master's and PhD programs/courses.

- What about members?

TNs are/should be (?) issue based (conducting also research) and other programs are on administrative side, if UArctic Board has decided that UArctic should be issue based then this is ok. We should also keep in our minds that TNs can change within the time, as an example Verdde started as pilot exchange program but can stop that and begin to develop an indigenous courses etc.

It was also discussed that it's better to keep separate TNs (question of split or lump?) even if the individual TNs has closed focus areas or the actions are similar. The main point is still in co-operation between TNs –the same issue that has been previously discussed in PT meeting.

Quality control in Thematic Networks

The discussion continued from the decisions made in last PT meeting in Arkhangelsk:

"In order to do quality control in Thematic Networks it was decided to

- *add an item on quality to annual report*
- *start the evaluation of networks after they have been in operation at least for two years. The first networks to be evaluated are the "oldest": The Verdde and Arctic Medicine.*

UArctic Academic Quality Committee will develop templates on quality reporting for each program and that will be used also in Thematic Networks annual report.

The Program team stated that most important questions are:

- *What has TN done for the quality?*
- *How TN defines the quality on its own terms, what it is in your network?*

Evaluation of Thematic networks will have two parts:

1) Self-evaluation

2) Report to be presented to the program team. The evaluation will be done in Program team meeting.

If network is not good enough it will not be dismissed but using best practices and knowledge and help from others the networks quality will be raised."



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

The Program team discussed about the guidelines for evaluation reports and how often and how the evaluation should be done. Program team was happy to have Lars, Outi and Jan-Henry present and giving a lot of valuable comments also for this issue.

What is the purpose of the evaluation? The quality control should have respect and have relevance. What is the additional value in doing quality control? It's important to show politicians and funding agencies that UArctic has quality systems and that it carries out evaluation and quality insurance system.

How the impact of TN should/could be evaluated? Are we changing the institutions, world etc? Are Arctic institutions getting better some how?

What is the added value of UArctic? If the new strategy is accepted and TNs become a core activity we might need to establish some kind of accreditation when new ones are established. All UArctic activities have to respect, reflect and have relevance to cultural and ethnic people – has to be built in to all activities and report that. So actually there should be general guidelines for UArctic and not just TNs.

How often evaluated?

It was agreed that we should build in the quality mechanism, but that should not be too heavy: simple yearly self-evaluation should be included to the annual report and every five years there should be deeper evaluation which could be done by outsider (if external evaluation will be used: who does it? Who pays?).

The external evaluations are important and should be also seen as a way to learn from each others and bench mark. The deeper every five-year evaluation could be done at program level and the yearly self-evaluations are done by each network. However one point in having deeper evaluation of each TNs every five year is to have a quality check up – live or die.

Guidelines for self-evaluation and for report, what are the issues that should be included?

- What TN has done for the quality?
- What it means for your network?
- Education
 - In this section we should move away from “traditional” university quality systems and trust on the fact that each university/University college has its own quality controls. SO it was agreed that in yearly report it is asked how and when evaluation on study programs etc are done and if needed evaluation reports could be attached to annual report.
 - What is the added value? How to measure that?
 - Why this course is good/relevant for UArctic?
 - Indigenous perspective
- Research and development part / capacity building
 - Joint research grants and positions, success rate? Also international funding
 - Joint number of PhD students, joint post docs? –indication on how good an active research group does and how they educate young researchers
 - Joint publications?
 - national and international co-operation in operational level
 - research exchange/visits to other groups
 - Why is this research relevant to Arctic?



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

It is important that the co-operation between the TNs shows in evaluations and also the international nature of the networks. It is important to have high quality research TN based on several groups in different countries.

There is no point in measuring the quality of research because it depends on international standards.

- "Other activities"
 - Knowledge sharing – how to measure that?
Knowledge sharing gives additional value and should be included to the evaluation. How you use the gained knowledge?
 - Capacity and competent building - how to measure capacity building in many levels- how to measure capacity building in UArctic
 - Connection to the local, regional (in UArctic sense this is international), national and international communities/stake holders?

Summa summarum: Kirsi writes the first draft on guidelines and will distribute those to PT. Hopefully the final guidelines could be accepted in program team meeting in Edmonton in June 2008.

The current report guidelines will be used until the new role of Thematic Networks is accepted.