



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

UArctic Thematic Network Programme Team Meeting Arkhangelsk, Russia, Hotel Pur Navolik June 5, 2007 at 13.00-16.00

Minutes

Attending: Programme chair **Kari Laine**, UArctic Thematic Network Office
Programme coordinator **Kirsi Latola**, UArctic Thematic Network Office
Tor Gjertsen, Finnmark University College, TN on Local and Regional
Development in the North
Arja Rautio, Univ Oulu, TN on Arctic Medicine
Kristine Nystad, Sámi University College, TN the Verdde
Jan Henry Keskitalo, UArctic Board of Governors, Sámi University
College
Loudmila Zamorschikova, Sakha State University, TN on World
Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North

1. Update on Thematic Networks:

UArctic Indigenous Thematic Network on community based natural resource co-management (Kristine updated, Liv will be back at full time work in fall 07)

Students have finished their course in EIA and the plans are now going on for two seminars which could be held e.g. in Russia. The new course will start in 2009.

The network has started a co-operation with Statoil.

Thematic Network on Arctic Medicine

Building the Master's program on Circumpolar Health and Wellbeing is well under way. The program has applied the accreditation from Finnish Ministry of Education and other partners will do the same thing according to their national laws and time schedules. Nordplus renewed their funding for 2007 (20 000 euros), University of Oulu did that also earlier this year (also 20 000 euros). This funding is for meeting costs and curriculum development.

Network has contacted U of Tromsø, Centre for Sámi Health Studies on research co-operation, however they were not eager in starting the co-operation at least at this stage. The network wishes to have partners also from Iceland and a discussions with University of Alaska Fairbanks has been opened. That way the network would be really circumpolar.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Thematic Network the Verdde Program

Kristine is leaving her position at Sámi University College in next month, but we all hope that Kristine will continue with the Verdde program and in Thematic Networks Program Team.

Next fall there will be two incoming students and two outgoing students to Nunavut (subject: teacher training). Kristine has got an invitation to talk about the storytelling at Nunavut, the storytelling seminar is held every second year and next seminar is held at Nunavut.

Sámi University College had a guest lecturer on teacher training in minority languages. There is also a new book is coming up about the story telling in Sámi and Inuktitut.

At Sámi University College they are planning on becoming a University in the future. For that they need to have to have a PhD program.

Sámi University college has also a new rector.

TN on Local and Regional Development

Network is planning a new master's program with Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences and with city and area of Kemi-Tornio. Master's program will be based on case study. The planning is quite dependent on the funding, which they have applied from Nordic UArctic funding.

Borealis conference was a success and funding for that is secured (through sponsorship by local bank). There has been some discussion on whether the conference could be every second year national seminar and every second year international conference. This system has shown to be a good one at the University of Oulu, where Centre for Arctic Medicine, the host of TN on Arctic Medicine, holds every second year an international Kastelli Symposium and every second year a national seminar.

Finmark University College has new rector and with the priorities has changes at the University College. The Northern Study Program has been cancelled, which means that also the Advanced Emphasis on Management of Local and Regional Development is also at risk.

TN on Global Change in the Arctic

Academic Leads for new global change courses have been selected:

- Health, security and well-being in the North (Dr. Arja Rautio, Centre of Arctic Medicine, University of Oulu, Finland)
- Arctic Economies and Livelihoods in a Changing World (Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen, Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland)
- Institutional Dimensions of Global Change (Prof. Alf Håkan Hoel, University of Tromsø, Norway)



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

- Global Change Technology, methodology, and analysis (Dr. John Moore, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland)
- Adaptation to Global Change in the Arctic (Prof. Svein Mathiesen, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Norway).
- Foundations of Human Rights (?)

Academic leads are currently gathering their writer teams and having first meetings in August or fall. Kirsi will have a joint meeting with leads and chair Mark Nuttall and vice-chair Pierre-André Forest in early October (presumably in conjunction with joint meeting of IASC, AMAP, IHDP & LOICZ "Arctic Coastal Zones at Risk" in Tromsø in Oct 1-3).

The contract between the writers and University of Oulu representing UArctic is on process at U of Oulu. In any case the contract has to be made between the writer and U of Oulu because UArctic is not legal organization. Another issue is that U of Oulu is paying for writers.

In Monday June 4th, working group had a meeting at Arkhangelsk and a lot of discussion concentrated on practical issues: what would be the best practice in getting the new courses accepted in Universities, how the courses will fit in the study programs and how practicalities differ in different countries. The discussion and meeting was very useful for the work.

TN on World Images of Indigenous Peoples of the North

Three projects funded by Russian Academic Science are continuing: one about the Yakut language, one Yukagir language, and one Even language. A new partner Vivian Elias has joined the network; she is doing her Master's on multidisciplinary study on indigenous languages.

2. Quality control and quality in Thematic Networks

Discussion based on UArctic Academic Quality Committee report and note that quality is not seen in Thematic Networks annual report.

All agreed that quality control is important. However, academic quality is difficult issue because some are working with pure research and some in development with local communities on regional development. It was discussed a lot on what is quality in thematic networks? Networks are different, thus the quality is different in teaching, curriculum, research, mobility, regional development and Master's programs developed with local business and communities or with pure academics etc.

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 in fall-winter 2007 are the "oldest": The Verdde and Arctic Medicine.

Networks are learning from each others so that is very important issue.



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

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? And 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 and 2) report to be presented to the program team + Academic Quality committee chair Geir Gotaas. The evaluation will be done in next Program team meeting in Kilpisjärvi January 2008.

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. Working together also in this issue is the most important and best thing in Thematic Networks.

The basis for evaluation will be investigated from the ones that have been done at University of Oulu and other Finnish Universities and Finnish Ministry of Education. Kirsi will investigate that with Arja and send to team members a draft to be commented and accepted. One must remember that we have to also evaluate our evaluation system, does it work as it should be?

3. Information and co-operation between the networks and coordination office

Team discussed about the information channels in the program, and there is a clear need to get more information on what is going on and also for learning each others. Several networks are for instance developing Master's programs should it would be good to share best and also the bad practices.

One way of getting more information and increase the discussion among the networks is to open a forum for TN Program team at UArctic forums (closed forum only for PT members). Overall, changing emails, sending news items to website etc is encouraged.

4. Short summary on proposed Thematic Networks

There are three new Thematic Networks that will be proposed to council.

- Northern Governance, host University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Indigenous Arts and Crafts, host Sámi University College, Norway
- Arctic Learning Environment (ALE), host University of Lapland, Finland

5. Next meeting and closing

Next meeting will be in Kilpisjärvi Biological Station at the second week of January 2008.

Kirsi Latola, programme coordinator