



UARctic Strategic Plan 2030

Preface: Why the Arctic Matters

The Arctic is where we see the strongest impacts of the climate change today. While the Arctic has just a fraction of a percent of the world's population, it contributes nearly 20% of many globally important resources such as minerals, energy, fish, freshwater, and the most pristine nature, which illustrates its interdependence with the rest of the globe. The Arctic is a vital region for the world, and UARctic has a key role in ensuring that those outside the region understand northern realities.

The Arctic region shares many common features, but is also one of great diversity. The peoples of the Arctic include both the region's original inhabitants – northern Indigenous peoples – as well as non-indigenous northerners. Subsistence activities are widely practiced across the North, as are a wide range of other economic activities from resource extraction to high-tech research and development. Political divisions have also created varied socio-cultural histories and institutions. These are differences that we celebrate together, recognizing that we all have common aspirations, and that our diversity is a strength in meeting any challenges we face.

As an institution focusing on education and research, UARctic is about the connections between the region's peoples, communities, and institutions, and also about the “empty space” in between them. Across the Arctic, we face many of the same challenges and opportunities, including issues of access to relevant and quality higher education, skilled specialist labour, food security, and key services such as health care, transportation, communications, sustainable energy, and sanitation. Southern solutions are often ill-suited to the northern experience. UARctic works for the people in the Arctic; that they have a central role in defining the future of the region, and have sufficient knowledge and capacity to do so.

While there are many definitions of the Arctic, within UARctic the terms ‘North’ and ‘the Arctic’ are used as general terms referring to the same northern circumpolar region and its regional identity. When specificity is necessary, we use the Arctic region as defined by the Arctic Council, the organization from which we were born. Whether an activity, institution or initiative is northern or Arctic is more often about attitude than latitude of the location.

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Who We Are

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education and research in and about the North. UArctic builds and strengthens collective resources and infrastructures that enable member institutions to better serve their constituents and their regions. Through cooperation in education, research, and outreach we enhance human capacity in the North, promote viable communities and sustainable economies, and forge global partnerships.

Created through the Arctic Council, UArctic is committed to upholding its principles of sustainable development as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. UArctic is constituted as an international association based in Finland.

Vision

A strong, engaged, informed, and dynamic North, creating better lives and environments for all northerners.

Mission

UArctic develops knowledge to address local and global challenges of relevance to Arctic peoples and societies by providing unique educational, research, and innovation opportunities through collaboration within a powerful network of member institutions.

Motto

With Shared Voices

Values

1. **Circumpolar**
UArctic promotes northern voices and a circumpolar world view.
2. **Inclusive**
UArctic embraces and respects cultural diversity, language plurality, and gender equality.
3. **Respectful**
UArctic promotes relationships of respect, trust, and partnership, and embraces the perspectives and knowledge of northern Indigenous peoples.
4. **Collaborative**
UArctic is committed to supporting participatory approaches to the production and sharing of knowledge.
5. **Open**
UArctic is a university network without walls, committed to reducing all barriers to cooperation across borders, cultures, and academic systems, embracing transparency and openness.
6. **Influential**
UArctic provides decision-makers with knowledge-based advice that supports sustainable development in the Arctic.

Impactⁱ

To reach our Vision of “*A strong, engaged, informed and dynamic North, creating better lives and environments for all northerners,*” it is important that northerners themselves have the keys to determine their own futures and implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a way that serves both the North and the world.

UArctic Impact	UN Sustainable Development Goals	
1 Bring northern voices and knowledge to the global stage, increasing understanding and respect towards the region		Working together for the Goals
2 Increase human competence and capacity in the North		Economy
3 Improve lives and communities for all northerners		Society
4 Create a healthy environment that serves the North and the world over generations		Biosphere

UArctic Goals

The following Goals enable UArctic to implement our Mission:

1. Education

UArctic enhances and promotes unique and relevant educational opportunities for northerners through academic collaboration and exchange.

2. Knowledge

UArctic builds, shares, and applies knowledge through member contributions and collaboration, in research and science as well as Indigenous and traditional knowledge.

3. Members

UArctic aims at a growing and dynamic membership of higher education institutions and other relevant organizations.

4. Relevance

UArctic strengthens our recognition as a regionally and globally leading organization representing circumpolar higher education.

5. Resources

UArctic secures funding and other resources to effectively strengthen capacity and capabilities for the Arctic.

To reach these goals, UArctic is guided by our Values and Motto.

How UArctic Operates – Organizational Principles

UArctic implements our activities using the following basic principles:

- UArctic activities are carried out by the collaborative work of our members.
- UArctic fosters flexible and innovative frameworks that support cooperation between members, furthering our goals.
- UArctic is a learning organization that brings together the shared knowledge, diversity, and experience of our membership.
- UArctic is a driver of internationalization and partnerships for higher education and research.
- UArctic recognizes our specific commitment towards northern Indigenous peoples, and respect for their cultures, languages, traditional knowledge, and world views.
- UArctic brings the voices and knowledge of our members to the global stage.
- UArctic supports knowledge-based decision-making at all levels, including key regional partners such as the Arctic Council, and the private sector.
- UArctic secures funding, maintains an efficient and distributed administration, and reports reliably on our activities.
- UArctic operates through trusted partnerships with other regional and global actors.
- UArctic is committed to minimizing the environmental impact of our operations while finding innovative ways to bring northerners together.

ⁱ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-news/2017-02-28-contributions-to-agenda-2030.html>