

UArctic Annual Activity Report 2024



Annual Activity Report 2024

In 2024, UArctic increased efforts to broaden outreach and engagement, create new collaboration opportunities, and devise long-term plans and strategies.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly **the Arctic Congress Bodø 2024** which took place in Bodø, Norway from May 29 to June 3. The memorable event combined the UArctic Congress 2024, the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) XI, and High North Dialogue 2024. The event brought together over 1200+ participants from 41 countries, with over 900 program items taking place across 15 stages around the city. The sessions attracted significant participation from UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes, UArctic Chairs, and researchers from our member institutions. The Arctic Congress was hosted by Nord University and the Nordland Research Institute, in partnership with UArctic, the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) and High North Dialogue.

To facilitate **early-career participation** at the Arctic Congress, UArctic was able to provide scholarships for students from member institutions and for northern Indigenous students from Arctic countries to join the event. In total, 48 Master and PhD students received a grant from UArctic, thanks to support from Global Affairs Canada through the Global Arctic Leadership Initiative.

Concluding the Arctic Congress, **the UArctic Assembly** convened on June 2–3. This became the largest UArctic members' meeting to date with participation from nearly 70 member institutions. In addition to making key decisions on e.g. membership, Thematic Networks, and finances, the Assembly discussed the development needs arising from the 2022-2023 UArctic External Evaluation. [Read a full summary of the Assembly decisions](#)

During their meeting, the Assembly welcomed **sixteen new members** to the network, five from Arctic and eleven from non-Arctic countries: Collège Nordique; Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning; Department of Geosciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU); Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS); Oslo School of Architecture and Design; Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies; Royal College of Art; Scotland's Rural College; University of Hull; University of Liverpool; University of Stirling; University of Westminster; Xiamen University; International Centre for Polar Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University; Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI); and Polar and Marine Research Institute, Jimei University.

The Assembly approved the provisional establishment of two **new Thematic Networks**: Nordic Snow Network (NordSnowNet), and Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and

Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas (RAMWA). Five Thematic Networks that had provisional status from 2023 were also given final approval: Arctic Cultures and History; Blue Economy and the Arctic; Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle (COIL@UArctic); High Latitude Dust; and Microtomography of Arctic Marine Organisms.

As the highest decision-making body of UArctic, the Assembly also voted on **Board membership** for 2024–2027. Barbara Will from Dartmouth College was elected as a new member, and the terms of Tore Furevik, Johanna Ikäheimo, Pat Pitney, and Anne Husebekk were renewed. Linda Lyberth Kristiansen from Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland was elected to the Board as the incoming student representative.

In addition to the Assembly, three other UArctic meetings took place in conjunction with the Arctic Congress. **The Rectors Meeting** brought together UArctic member institution leadership, high-level representatives from Arctic states as well as indigenous people's organizations to discuss collaboration among academic institutions. **UArctic Chairs** met to plan future activities and talk about the development of philanthropic funding and other forms of support for their work. In addition, **UArctic Thematic Networks and Institutes leadership** convened for their annual meeting to discuss Arctic research planning processes in the Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) and the Fifth International Polar Year (IPY) 2023–33, as well as to learn about recent developments in UArctic relevant to their work.

The UArctic Board held three meetings: online in March, and in person in Luleå, Sweden in April and in Labrador, Canada in November. Key issues on the meeting agendas included the UArctic budget and annual financial reports, national and philanthropic fundraising, development of large projects, and the 2022–2023 UArctic External Evaluation. The Board also approved the appointment of eleven new UArctic Chairs, three new members to the UArctic Academic Advisory Board (Mimir), three new Indigenous Fellows, and five UArctic x Lloyd's Register Foundation (LRF) Research Fellows.

As a new focus area, the Board initiated the development of **strategic clusters** for UArctic and steps for implementing a framework that supports and advances these goals. Examples of 2024 activities that align with the priorities include opening the call for UArctic x Lloyd's Register Foundation Research Fellowships (Ocean/Maritime priority); Arena for the gap analysis of the existing Arctic Science Co-Operations (AASCO) project meeting in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week (Climate priority); and the development of the climateinterventions.org website with its knowledge base of potential climate solutions (Climate priority). The Board also endorsed a new development project and study on

UArctic's long-term impact, with the aim to better assess, demonstrate and communicate the growing impact of the network's activities.

A new UArctic publication ***Arctic Research Trends: External Funding 2016–2022*** was released in April. Building on earlier reports from 2016 and 2017, it affirms the significance of the United States as a major Arctic research nation, and also shows that institutions affiliated with UArctic are important players in Arctic research.

To strengthen member engagement and outreach, two new **UArctic Regional Centres** were established in 2024. In June, the Arctic Six network (then Arctic Five) became the Regional Centre in the Nordic Arctic, and in October, UArctic Regional Centre Continental Europe was established under the leadership of Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. The current and planned UArctic Regional Centres also had their first face-to-face meeting in Reykjavík in October to exchange experiences and share updates.

During **Climate Week NYC** in September, UArctic partnered with Dartmouth College and the Finnish Consulate in New York to host an event that focused on climate tipping points and their relation to the Arctic. The two panel discussions were attended by over 70 people including NATO leadership, delegates from Arctic Indigenous groups and the UN, Dartmouth alumni, and other Arctic-based representatives. Over the course of the year, UArctic also had a visible presence through speakers and promotional booths at **key Arctic conferences** such as the Arctic Science Summit Week in Edinburgh, Scotland; the Arctic Encounter Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska; and the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, Iceland.

At the Arctic Circle Assembly, the fourth **Frederik Paulsen Arctic Academic Action Award** was awarded to Alexander Tøsdal Tveit, Lisa Y. Stein, and Fang Qian. Their BIOSINK project aims to utilize Arctic atmospheric methane-oxidizing bacteria to create biofilters that convert low-concentration methane emissions into biomass, thus helping combat climate change. The award is a joint initiative between UArctic and the Arctic Circle.

Bringing an eventful year to a close, in December UArctic announced a new leadership position of the **Executive Vice-President**. Starting in April 2025, Jouko Niinimäki will join UArctic's senior leadership team to serve as the President's deputy, overseeing all academic affairs and advancing UArctic's mission of fostering education, research, and innovation in the Arctic region. Jouko Niinimäki has been a member on the UArctic Board for three terms where he has also served as a Vice-Chair.



UArctic membership

199
Members
(139 Arctic, 60 Non-Arctic)
(142 Higher Education, 57 Other)

2.3m
Students

454k
Staff



Distribution of members

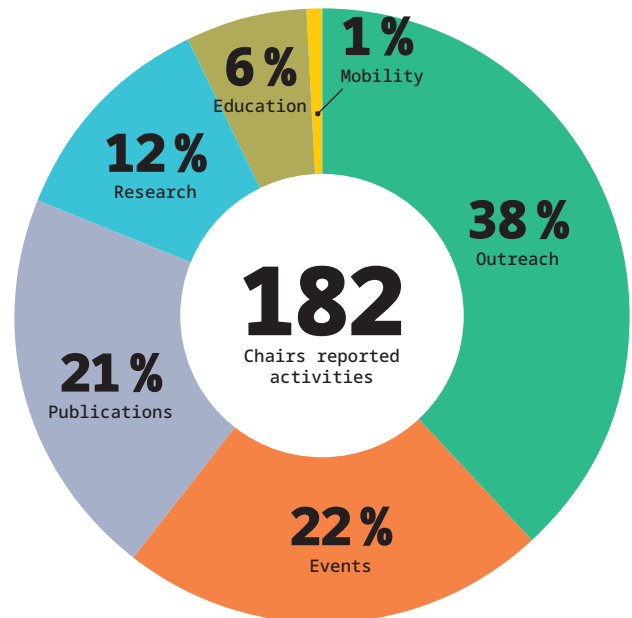
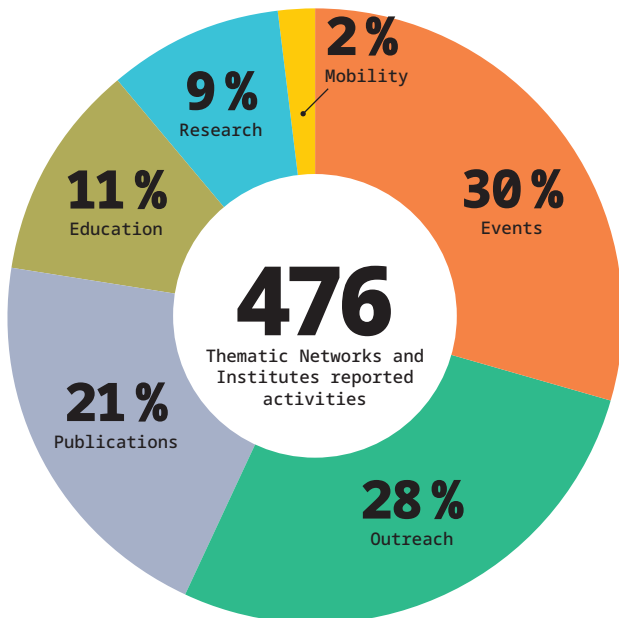
45 Canada	14 Kingdom of Denmark	7 Sweden
18 Finland	19 Norway	26 USA
10 Iceland	55 Russia (Paused)	60 Non-Arctic (Asia 25, Europe 34, Oceania 1)



Regional Centres

3
UArctic Regional Centre in the Nordic Arctic / Arctic Six
UArctic Regional Centre in Scotland / Scottish Arctic Network (ScAN)
UArctic Regional Centre Continental Europe

Reported activities



- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| climate | Indigenous | change | knowledge | research | sustainability | identity |
| decolonization | art | education | community | tourism | biodiversity | green |
| decision-making | archives | development | local | health | nuclear | law |
| travel | colonialism | management | energy | sustainable | preparedness | rights |



Online presence

185k

Website visitors

15k

Social media followers

494k

Page views

1.9k

Newsletter subscribers

639

News stories



Thematic Networks and Institutes

64

Thematic Networks and Institutes

129

Participating member institutions

1115

Participating individuals



Government-funded projects

3

Kingdom of Denmark (total of €212,000)

14

Norway (total of €200,000)

15

Canada (total of €305,000)



Chairs and Fellows

25

Chairs (6 in Mimir)

3

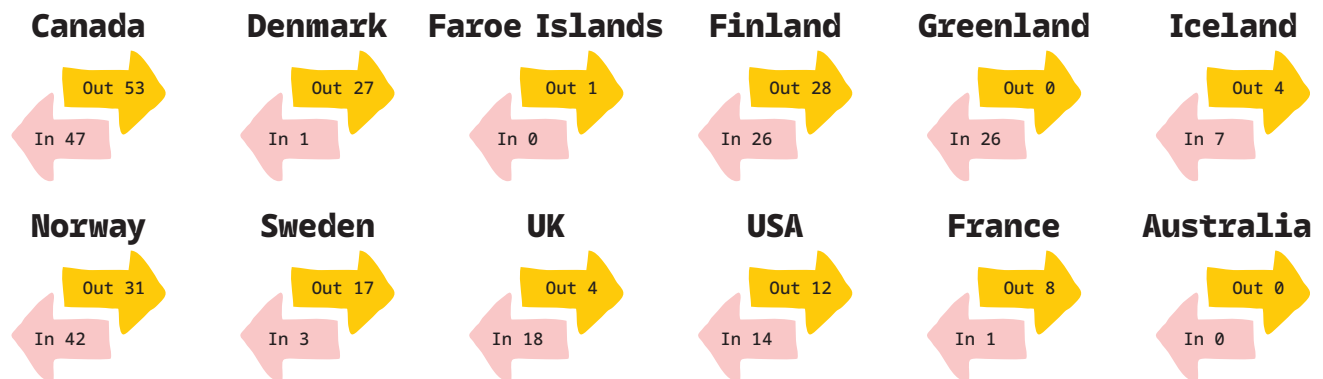
Indigenous Fellows

5

UArctic x LRF Research Fellows

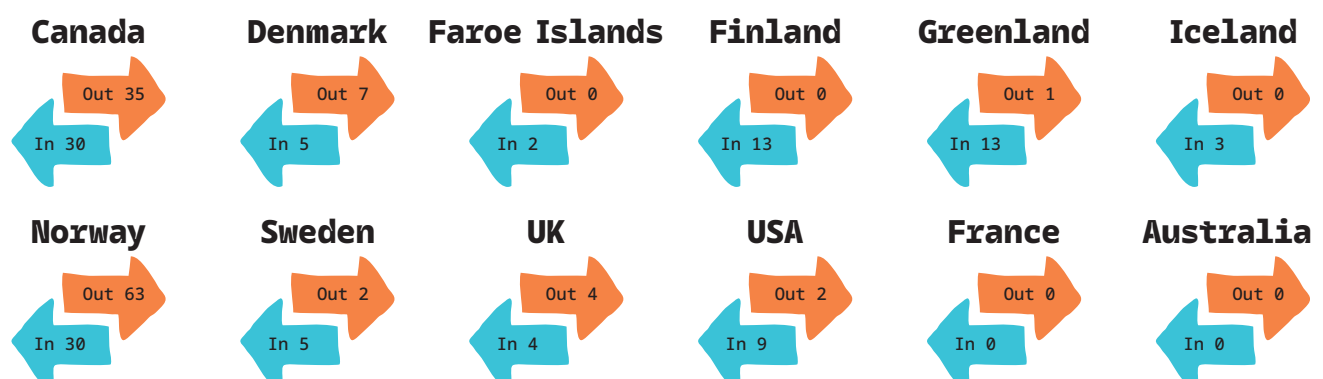
north2north student mobility in 2024

Total: **185**



north2north staff mobility in 2024

Total: **114**



UArctic ry

- Unrestricted
- Restricted

~ 1,5 M €

Funds managed and controlled by UArctic Association. These restricted and unrestricted funds form our annual budget and consist of membership fees, donations, and external project funding.

UArctic earmarked resources

UArctic support agreements with members

Government support to UArctic

~ 5,5 M €

Resources provided towards UArctic by member institutions or national governments, managed through agreements which define how they are to be used. Support from members includes hosting of UArctic positions and coordination functions at member institutions that make our work possible: Vice-Presidents and offices, Thematic Network and Institute leads, Chairs, Fellows, and Regional Centres. Support from national governments enables and boosts core activities like student and staff mobility, research collaboration, and networking.

Reported UArctic related activities

~ 6,5 M €

Funds spent on activities linked to UArctic which take place at and in collaboration between our member institutions, with an estimated value based on annual reporting. These activities are the big deliverable, the bulk of what happens in the network: Thematic Networks' and Institutes' work, Chairs' and Fellows' activities, external projects linked to UArctic, education and research endorsed by UArctic, and courses, programs and research linked to UArctic.

All Arctic research and education

??? M €

Activities linked to UArctic but not reported to us as well as Arctic education and research not linked to UArctic. We know that almost all higher education activities in and about the Arctic happen through UArctic members. Half of Arctic research is published by UArctic members, with the other half coming primarily through government agencies. Therefore, we can say that our members are the major players on Arctic knowledge in academia.

The monetary value could be estimated using the Arctic publication intensity (proportion of all published science) of UArctic members as proxy for the fraction of total budget relevant to the Arctic.

UArctic membership 2024

CANADA

- Algoma University
- Arctic Athabaskan Council
- Arctic Institute of North America
- Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
- Aurora College
- Coast Mountain College
- College Nordique
- Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- Dechinta Bush University Centre for Research and Learning
- Global Health, McMaster University
- Gwich'in Council International
- Keyano College
- Lakehead University
- Makivvik Corporation
- McGill University
- Memorial University of Newfoundland
- Mount Royal University
- Nipissing University
- Northlands College
- Nunavut Arctic College
- Nunavut Sivuniksavut
- Ontario Tech University
- Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR)
- Polar Libraries Colloquy
- Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre
- Royal Military College of Canada
- Royal Roads University
- Saint Mary's University
- Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- SmartICE
- TELUS World of Science - Edmonton
- Trent University
- Université de Sherbrooke
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Université du Québec à Rimouski
- Université Laval
- University College of the North
- University of Alberta
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of Prince Edward Island
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Toronto
- Vancouver Island University
- Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute
- Yukon University

DENMARK

- Aalborg University
- Aarhus University
- Department of Management, Society and Communication - Copenhagen Business School
- Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
- Nordisk Fond for Miljø og Udvikling
- Roskilde University
- Technical University of Denmark
- University College Copenhagen
- University of Copenhagen
- University of Southern Denmark

FAROE ISLANDS

- University of the Faroe Islands

GREENLAND

- Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
- Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland
- Perorsaannermik Ilinniartik / College of Social Education

FINLAND

- Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
- Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
- Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Kajaani University of Applied Sciences
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences
- LAB University of Applied Sciences
- Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Laurea University of Applied Sciences
- Oulu University of Applied Sciences Sámi Education Institute
- Savonia University of Applied Sciences
- Tampere University
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Helsinki
- University of Jyväskylä
- University of Lapland
- University of Oulu
- University of Turku

ICELAND

- Agricultural University of Iceland
- Arctic Portal
- Bifröst University
- Hólar University
- Iceland University of the Arts
- Reykjavik University
- Stefansson Arctic Institute
- University Centre of the Westfjords
- University of Akureyri
- University of Iceland

NORWAY

- Department of Geosciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- Faculty of Science and Technology - University of Stavanger
- GRID-Arendal
- International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- International Sámi Film Institute
- Kings Bay AS
- Molde University College
- Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center
- Nord University
- Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- Oslo School of Architecture and Design
- Sámi High School and Reindeer Husbandry School
- Sámi University of Applied Sciences
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- University Centre in Svalbard
- University of Agder
- University of Bergen
- University of Oslo

SWEDEN

- KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Luleå University of Technology
- Lund University
- Mid Sweden University
- Stockholm University
- Umeå University
- World Maritime University

UNITED STATES

- Alaska Pacific University
- Aleut International Association
- Anchorage Museum
- Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School
- Arctic Research Consortium of the United States
- ARCTICenter - University of Northern Iowa
- Battelle Memorial Institute
- Climate Change Institute - University of Maine
- Cold Climate Housing Research Center
- Dartmouth College
- Ilisagvik College
- Institute of the North
- Scandinavian Seminar Group
- Science Diplomacy Center
- The Yellow Tulip Project
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alaska Southeast
- University of Colorado
- University of New England
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Dakota
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Washington
- Wilson Center - Polar Institute

NON-ARCTIC: ASIA

- Arctic Studies Center - Liaocheng University
- Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences
- Dalian Maritime University
- First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
- Fudan University
- Harbin Engineering University
- Harbin Institute of Technology
- Hokkaido University
- Indian Maritime University
- International Centre for Polar Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University
- Jilin University
- Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
- Korea Maritime Institute
- Korea Polar Research Institute
- Mongolian National University of Education
- National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research
- National Marine Environmental Forecasting Center
- Ocean University of China
- Polar and Marine Research Institute, Jimei University
- Rashtriya Raksha University
- Second Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources
- Southern University of Science and Technology - Department of Ocean Science and Engineering
- Wuhan University
- Xiamen University

NON-ARCTIC: EUROPE

- Aix-Marseille Université
- Alfred Wegener Institut
- Arctic Basecamp Foundation
- Arctic Centre - University of Groningen
- Austrian Polar Research Institute
- Centre for Polar Ecology - University of South Bohemia
- Durham University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow School of Art
- Halpin Research Centre
- Heriot-Watt University
- International Polar Foundation
- Italian Society for International Organization
- Leeds Beckett University
- Network of Arctic Researchers, Ireland (NARI)
- Oxford University Polar Forum
- Robert Gordon University
- Royal College of Art
- Scotland's Rural College
- Scott Polar Research Institute
- Trinity Centre for the Environment
- Université de Bretagne Occidentale
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Dundee
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Hull
- University of Liverpool
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
- University of Westminster

NON-ARCTIC: OCEANIA

- University of Tasmania

UArctic Thematic Networks 2024

- Ageing and Gender in the Arctic
- Arctic and Northern Governance
- Arctic Boreal Hub
- Arctic Cultures and History (ARCH)
- Arctic Economic Science
- Arctic Extractive Industries
- Arctic Geology
- Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic
- Arctic Indigenous Film
- Arctic Law
- Arctic Marine Biodiversity
- Arctic Migration
- Arctic Plastic Pollution
- Arctic Safety and Security
- Arctic Space Hub
- Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design (ASAD)
- Arctic Sustainable Resources and Social Responsibility
- Arctic Telecommunications and Networking
- Arctic Transport and Logistics
- Arctic Urban Planning and Design
- Arctic WASH
- Arthropods of the Tundra / NeAT
- BEBO - for the Future of Reindeer Husbandry
- Blue Economy and the Arctic (BlueArctic)
- Children of the Arctic
- Circular Economy
- Circumpolar Archives, Folklore and Ethnography (CAFE)
- Climate Justice in the Arctic
- Collaborative Online International Learning and Biodiversity Education across the Arctic Circle (COIL@UArctic)
- Collaborative Resource Management
- Communicating Arctic Research
- Critical Arctic Studies
- Decolonization of Arctic Library and Archives Metadata (DALAM)
- Digital North: Three-Dimensional Technologies and Arctic Education
- Disasters and Natural Hazards
- EALÁT Institute
- Frozen Arctic Conservation
- Gender in the Arctic Knowledge Production
- Geopolitics and Security
- Health and Well-being in the Arctic
- Herbivory
- High Latitude Dust

- Institute for Arctic Policy
- Local-Scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience
- Læra Institute for Circumpolar Studies
- Managing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the North
- Model Arctic Council
- Nordic Snow Network (NordSnowNet)
- Northern and Arctic Island Studies Research
- Northern Food Security
- Northern Nursing Education
- Northern Research Forum
- Northern Tourism
- Ocean Food Systems
- Permafrost
- POPs and Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Asian Arctic
- Renewable Energy
- Research Analytics and Bibliometrics
- Science Diplomacy
- Smart Societies in the High North (SmartNorth)
- Social Work
- Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas (RAMWA)
- Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education
- UArctic World Ensemble
- Verdde Indigenous Education
- Working in the Arctic