



UARctic
Thematic Networks

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Arctic Safety and Security

NATALIA ANDREASSEN

July 2026

Advancing Arctic Emergency Preparedness

We spent the past months strengthening Arctic resilience by advancing multidisciplinary research on emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. We shared new knowledge widely through workshops, seminars, conference contributions, and public reports, while also enhancing cross-sector coordination through preparedness exercises with industry and societal partners. In the year ahead, we will expand these collaborative efforts and intensify research to address emerging risks in the Arctic. We hope to have an impact on more resilient Arctic communities by strengthening competence in emergency preparedness, collaboration, situational awareness, role clarity, and the principles of total defense.

Ongoing Projects

- ATOMEX: Collaboration Complexity in Nuclear Emergency Preparedness in the Maritime Arctic, funded by Research Council of Norway
- PrepChild: Centre for Children and Youth, and Social Preparedness, funded by the Research Council of Norway
- Pre-project Research infrastructure for technology-supported crisis management, funded by the Research Council of Norway
- Student Barents Rescue Exercise: Wildland Fires, funded by UARctic
- CLEAR: Crisis Leadership in the Arctic Response, funded by UARctic
- NORDPLUS Intensive Course on Security Risk Management, funded by EU Nordplus
- The Student Arctic Cooperation, funded by Barents Euro-Arctic Council
- TalentNorth, funded by Interreg Aurora

Impact of the activities

In 2025 our TN contributed to the Program and Scientific committees at the Arctic Emergency Management Conference 18-20 March, 2025.

This resulted in publications of three reports published by EPPR working group of the Arctic Council:

- Andreassen, N., Elvegård, R. & Bjerkemo, O.K. (2025). Arctic Emergency Management Conference Summary Report 2025.
- Austerheim, H., Ikonen, E., Elvegård, R., & Andreassen, N. (2025). Arctic Health Preparedness Conference Report.
- Andreassen, N., Elvegård, R. & Bjerkemo, O.K. (2025). Arctic Emergency Management Conference Evaluation Report 2025.



Key Activities in 2025 and 2026

- Arctic Emergency Management Conference under the Norway's Chairship, 2023-2025
- Workshop "Future steps in the Student Barents Rescue consortium, UARctic project", June 2025
- Presentations at the International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics, July 2025
- Presentations at the European Safety and Reliability (ESREL) Conference, July 2025
- Summer master course "Digitalizing Public Emergency Communication", August 2025
- Seminar "Navigating through pandemics", August 2025
- Exercise Coastal Preparedness for emergency responders, October 2025
- Panel discussion at the Arctic Circle Assembly "Arctic Emergency Management: Insights for Moving Forward", Iceland, October 2025
- Exercise Vestfjord: Municipal crisis management, November 2025
- Seminar "Risk and robustness in public procurements", November 2025
- Conference Maritime Education Forum, November 2025
- Workshop "Arena for Arctic Maritime Partnership", December 2025
- Presentations at the Arctic Frontiers: Turn of the Tide, February 2026
- Course "Wildland Fires in the Arctic", February 2026
- Student Arctic Collaboration Exercise 2026, February 2026
- North-to-North student exchange, from Nord university to University in Nuuk
- Student mobility, from Mid Sweden University to Lapland University of Applied Sciences
- Panel discussion and side-event at the High North Dialogue Conference, Norway, April 2026
- Three workshops in the UARctic- CLEAR project "Crisis Leadership in the Arctic Response": in Copenhagen August 2025, Bodø January 2026 and Rovaniemi May 2026
- Presentations at the International CBRNE Conference, France, May 2026
- Two sessions at the UARctic Congress 2026, Faroe Islands, May 2026

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<https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/arctic-safety-and-security/>

