



UARctic
Thematic Networks

Year In Review

Thematic Network on Working in the Arctic

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Key Developments in Working in the Arctic in 2025

The thematic network within the Arctic Occupational Safety and Health expert has been active with the Arktis network (HOD) project where we have performed stakeholder events on climate change and work in Finland, Norway and Sweden among industries with outdoor workers. The results indicate that weather changes are already affecting work across all sectors. The impacts are practical, immediate, and often safety related. The workers need concrete, localized, and practical support. This information will provide a solid background for future research on climate change and its effect on workers' health.

In the thematic network there are three active doctoral students focusing on working in the Arctic from different perspectives. Scientific peer-reviewed articles related to cold-risk management, health and experiences and measurements of cold exposure in occupational settings have been published.

The thematic network is responsible for the scientific session of the UARctic Congress 2026 in Faroe Islands in May 2026 entitled "Occupational Safety and Health in the Arctic: Building climate resilience for workers and communities (ID 20)". Scientists within this field have been invited to send abstracts for this session.



Collaborations enhanced by mobilities:

Collaboration with Arctic Graduate School (Rebecca Tapper) part of Arctic Centre at Umeå University.

Highlights of the Upcoming Activities

- Education: NIVA Education Course: Workers in the cold, Tromsø, Norway, 24-26 March 2026.
- Stakeholder events: Result dissemination to industries with outdoor workers in Finland, Sweden and Norway.
- UARctic Congress 2026: The session "Occupational Safety and Health in the Arctic: Building climate resilience for workers and communities" will be organized and results of collaborative studies will be presented.
- Research publications: Outputs from ongoing studies.
- Dissertation of one of our PhD Rebecca Tapper.
- Joint Projects: Collaborative research projects on working in the Arctic will be applied.

Publications:

Tapper R, Pettersson H, Stjernbrandt A, Ikäheimo TM, Wahlström J. (2025). Cold exposure among outdoor workers in the Arctic setting. *Int J Circumpolar Health*. 84(1):2561278. doi: 10.1080/22423982.2025.2561278. Epub 2025 Sep 23.

Tapper R, Pettersson H, Wahlström J, Ikäheimo TM, Nilsson T, Reiherth E, Stjernbrandt A. (2025). Risk Management of Working in Cold Environments: A Scoping Review, *Journal of Northern Studies*, 17(2), pp. 8-29. doi: 10.36368/jns.v17i2.1318.

Projects:

Arktis - Occupational Health and Safety of Arctic outdoor Workplaces in the changing climate (HOD)

ArctiHealth - Cold Exposure Risks (Arctic Graduate School and Region Västerbotten)

Arctic chemical preparedness and protection - Promoting preparedness for serious chemical threats and protecting rescuers in the Northern operating environment (Finnish Fire Protection Fund).

Trigger - SoluTions foR mltiGatinG climate-induced hEalth thREats (HEU).

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Finnish Institute of
Occupational Health



<https://www.uarctic.org/activities/thematic-networks/working-in-the-arctic/>

