Going global in the Arctic: cross-border connections in education and research

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Key Issues

Recent history of cross-border connections in the Circumpolar North

New challenges to transnational connections in education and research

The role and efforts of Arctic universities in making the Circumpolar North an international region

Recent History of Cross-Border Connections in the Circumpolar North

Present – Future

- ✓ The Age of the Arctic?
- ✓ Competition or cooperation?

2000 - present

- ✓ "Arctic Rush"
- ✓ "Melting relations"

Late 1990-s – 2000

- ✓ The Arctic Council
- ✓ Broad-based international cooperation

Late 1980-s – early 1990-s:

- ✓ Focus on the environmental issues
- ✓ Rovaniemi Agreement 1991

Successful Frameworks of Circumpolar Cooperation

NDI NORTHERN DIMENSION INSTITUTE

UArctic

Barents Euro-Arctic Council

- BEAC Working Group on Education and Research
- BEAC Working Group on Environment

Northern Dimension Institute

Four priority partnerships: Public Health; Culture; Environment; Transport and Logistics

University of the Arctic

- A cooperative network of Northern universities
- Thematic Research networks

The Arctic Rush – a Threat to Circumpolar Cooperation?

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Arctic: Fight for the Top of the World

New role of the Arctic in international relations:

- ✓ Potential melting of the Arctic ice
- ✓ Prolongation of ice-free seasons
- ✓ New routes and new resources open
- ✓ New claims on the Arctic ocean

Russian Arctic Strategy

"The Strategy for the Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and National Security up to 2020"

adopted and approved by President V. Putin on February 20, 2013.

Current Stage of Circumpolar Interconnectedness

State-to-State dialogue

- ✓ the competition of claims in the new Arctic geopolitical regime

Regional / Networking dialogue

- ✓ East-West cooperation between the Nordic countries and North-West Russia

NARFU in the Arctic Education and Research Arena

Education:

- ✓ Transnational education: Bachelor of Circumpolar studies;
- ✓ Academic mobility: 70% to Arctic countries
- ✓ Visiting lecturers

Research:

- ✓ 5 international network consortia
- ✓ University of the Arctic membership
- ✓ Arctic Floating University

Internationalization:

- ✓ Chairing the BEAC Working Group on Education and Research
- ✓ UArctic Research Office
- ✓ Youth Model Arctic Council

The Case of UArctic

Vision	An Empowered North – With Shared Voices
Mission	Empower the people of the Circumpolar North by providing unique educational and research opportunities through collaboration within a powerful network of members.
Membership:	130 member institutions in the eight Arctic countries and beyond
Thematic Networks:	foster issues-based cooperation within networks which are focused but flexible enough to respond quickly to topical Arctic issues.

Member institutions

NARFU as the Territory of Dialogue

- **September 2011** - II International Forum "Arctic - Territory of Dialogue”
- **November 2012** - International Conference "Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the Field of Education and Research as a Resource of Regional Development“
- **June 2013 -** Russian-Finnish Business Forum «Russian-Finnish Arctic Partnership»
- **June 2013** - The 7th UArctic Rectors' Forum
- **September 2013** International Conference "Space Technologies Application for Arctic Regions Development"

Upcoming events

- **August, 2014**: Arctic Floating University - International research expedition for young researchers from the Arctic countries *(under the auspices of the Arctic Council)*
- **September 2014**: International Conference “Ecological Condition of the Arctic Seas and Coastal Areas in the Context of Global Climate Change”

Conclusions

- The Arctic is a very challenging area that demands international cooperation for resolving ecological and economic problems of the whole world
- Despite the strong impact of geopolitical discourse on the international climate in the Arctic most institutions stick to the cooperation agenda
- Successful practices of Arctic cooperation in education and research are a means of making the coming “age of the Arctic” the age of international cooperation

Thank you!

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