



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

Danish funding - case statement

The University of the Arctic extends its immense gratitude for the strong support received from the government of Denmark since 2010. This support has resulted in a strengthened core administration that has, in turn, leveraged improvements in overall UArctic education, research and outreach activities that are estimated at over four million euros. UArctic has focussed these investments in developing common support infrastructure for other UArctic programs. For example, the UArctic Catalogue is an integral tool for the GoNorth program in promoting northern higher education institutions as destinations of study, as well as helping students within the UArctic network identify exchange destinations through the north2north mobility program.

Likewise, the capacity offered by the new UArctic Finance Office at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has made UArctic finance and activity reporting more consistent and transparent, which demonstrates our value to current and potential funders, as well as our stakeholders. This information is vital for the Board of Governors in securing continued support for key programs such as Circumpolar Studies.

It should be noted that the UArctic administration continues to be a small and efficient structure, distributed across the Arctic region and hosted by different members of the network. The additional investments in network administration build on the strong commitment of these members, but also free up member resources to focus on academic program delivery and development. The strong growth in the number of Thematic Networks, and the extent of their activities and outputs is testament to the success of this approach.

As UArctic moves forward in developing its next Strategic Plan 2020, which maps out our direction for the years to come, it is clear that there is still a critical need for consistent, sustained support of our core infrastructure. We are well placed to take advantage of funding programs at the national and regional levels, where education and research activities fit within existing frameworks and priorities. Support for administrative capacity continues to be a challenge.

Listed below is a short summary of the types of activity that have resulted from the government of Denmark's support of UArctic.

- **UArctic Finance Office:** provides budgeting and reporting capacity that allows more effective planning and supports greater fund-raising efforts. (for example the UArctic Fund at the University of Lapland resulted in an endowment of €1.2)
- **UArctic Research Office:** to facilitate the expansion of joint northern-focused research among the faculty of the member institutions. Also, UArctic aims to strengthen its role in Arctic science policy together with other key Arctic science organizations such as IASSA and IASC. This expansion of capacity among our Russian members has leveraged increased investment and participation by Russian higher education institutions, particularly in Thematic Networks with a research focus.

- **UArctic Information Service and Catalogue:** provides outlets for UArctic members and programs to promote their activities and share their experiences. UArctic Catalogue is a service for potential students as well as a marketing tool for members, offering access to all northern-themed courses and programs across the network. (resulted in complimentary funding from Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The Danish funding has also enabled UArctic to sustain and improve its Shared Voices annual print Magazine as well as develop the general news service about higher education in the Circumpolar North.
- **Vice-President Indigenous.** Jan Henry Keskitalo, provides greater leadership and responsibility to UArctic's commitment to increasing the relevance of northern education to indigenous peoples and developing new knowledge paradigms in higher education. The base salary for this position is secured from Norwegian UArctic funding, but the additional Danish support facilitates the functioning of the Indigenous Peoples Committee that works with the Vice-President.
- Increased support for networking among UArctic's **Thematic Networks**, including the organization of annual meetings between the coordinators of these networks. Through these networks, member institutions take the lead in developing research, educational and capacity-building initiatives. The networks emerge from partnerships among faculty members and students, gathering resources to focus on topics of regional importance, facilitating exchange and collaboration, and catalyzing innovative educational approaches. In 2012, UArctic already has 25 active networks with dozens of members engaged in a variety of activities. Overall Thematic Network activity currently accounts for around a quarter of the UArctic budget with funding of approximately €1m. In the period since the Danish funding began, the following networks have commenced:
 - Environmental Impact Assessment of Industry Contaminated Areas
 - Arctic Coastal and Marine Issues
 - Arctic Law
 - Arctic Sustainable Arts & Design
 - Managing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the North
 - Environmental Training and Education for Sustainable Development of the Arctic (NETESDA)
 - Communicating Arctic Research
 - Geology of the Arctic
 - Polar Ice Climate and Land
 - Arctic Extractive Industries
- **Member engagement support.** Assists indigenous, Russian and other smaller institutional member representatives to participate in UArctic meetings.

University of the Arctic – General Information

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of northern universities, colleges and other organizations dedicated to education, research and the promotion of indigenous and local capacities and sustainable development in the circumpolar North. With 145 member institutions and organizations spanning 24 time zones in the eight Arctic countries and beyond, UArctic is the North's only truly circumpolar higher education institution and one of the world's largest education and research networks. This membership includes five Danish institutions as well as Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland) and the University of the Faroe Islands. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to

provide post-secondary education relevant and accessible to students and communities of the North.

UArctic works in partnership with indigenous peoples, recognizing their integral role in northern education, training, knowledge generation and transfer, and seeks to engage their perspectives and participation in all of its activities. UArctic develops initiatives in partnership with indigenous peoples and other northern communities that are responsive to their needs and support their aspirations and educational requirements.

Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. UArctic seeks to promote excellence in knowledge generation and knowledge application in areas relevant to the North. UArctic's efforts have been recognized by the Arctic Council its members as the leading regional partner for education and scientific outreach.

UArctic education is circumpolar, holistic, and diverse in nature and draws on our combined members' strengths to address the unique challenges of the region.

- UArctic promotes a northern circumpolar voice in the globalizing world that reflects a shared regional identity across all eight Arctic states and among all northern peoples and cultures.
- UArctic promotes a holistic understanding among different learning systems, bringing together perspectives from the arts and both social and natural sciences with traditional and Indigenous knowledge to foster a focus on issues and needs. This approach is intended to yield greater and more relevant knowledge application than a classical disciplinary approach.

UArctic promotes cultural diversity, language plurality, and gender equality while highlighting the partnership among the region's indigenous peoples and other northerners. UArctic promotes cooperation in a context in which recognized degrees are granted by the member institutions. In 2011, we marked the 10th anniversary of the network. In just ten years, UArctic grew from a small group of dedicated institutions with a will to collaborate into an institutionalized network with 16 offices distributed throughout the circumpolar North and a wide range of activities ranging from coordinating its own mobility program to systematic work on influencing global higher education policy.