

Arctic Centre

University of Lapland

EU Arctic Information Centre

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www.arcticcentre.org

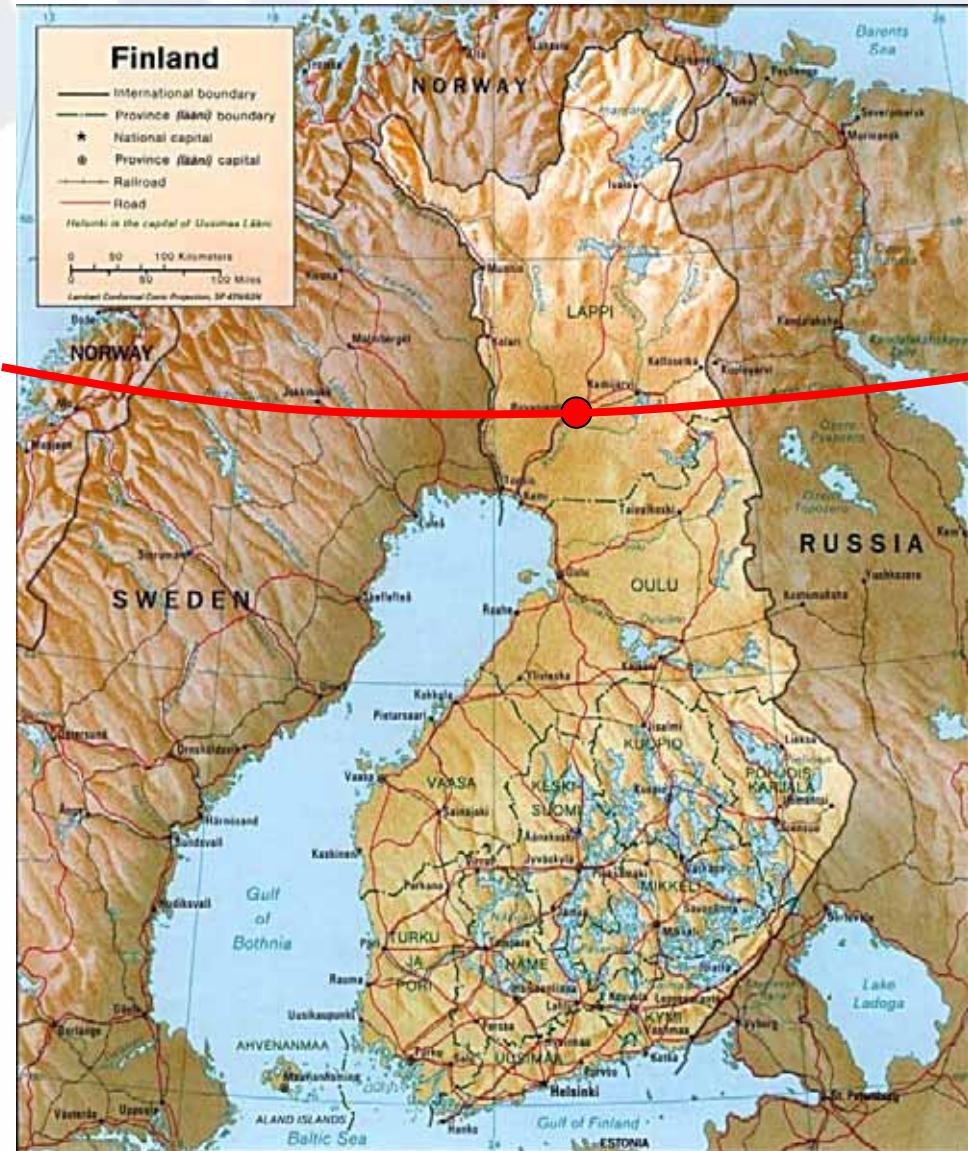
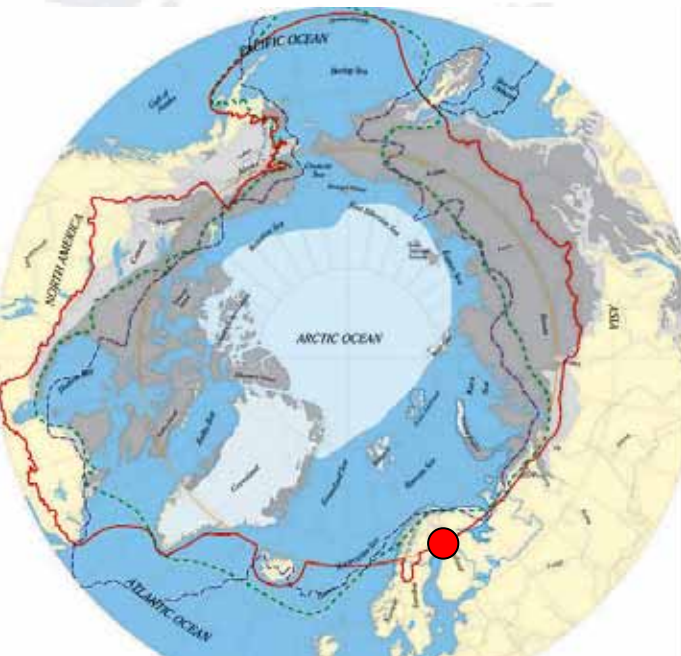


"Arctic Finland"

Lapland Province

- ~ 100 000 km²
 - 30 % from Finland's land area

- ~ 180 000 people
 - 5 % of the Arctic population
 - Saami 8000



University of Lapland



- The northernmost University in the EU
- Faculties: Art and Design, Education, Law, Social Sciences
- UArctic international secretariat
- 4000 students, 650 staff
- Budget 60 m€

Arctic Centre

of the University of Lapland

Arctic multidisciplinary research,
outreach and communication

Annual budget 4 m€
40 % external funding

Staff of 50

10 nationalities



Global and climate change

- Research Group: Research Professor Bruce Forbes

- Land-use change and “greening” in Northern Russia
- Glaciology, palaeoclimate and sea level rise
- Impacts of
 - tourism on landscapes in Lapland
 - climate change on reindeer pastures and economics
 - forest fragmentation on biodiversity



Sustainable Development

- Research Group: Research Professor Monica Tennberg



- Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Sami culture
 - Traditional ecological knowledge and biodiversity
 - Traditional ecological knowledge and climate change
- Human mobility and settlements, human-environment relations, and reindeer pastoralism in West Siberia
- Climate change and adaptation governance in the Arctic
- Political economy in the Barents region

Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law

Research Professor, Director Timo Koivurova

- Arctic Governance systems and Climate Change (Arctic Treaty)
- Indigenous property systems
- Environmental rights of Arctic indigenous peoples
- Land Use Rights (and fishing rights) in Saami homeland region



Arctic Education Arctic Graduate School ARKTIS



Theme:

'Social and Environmental Impacts of Modernization and Global Change in the Arctic'.

25 researchers as PhD students



Arctic Studies Program (ASP)

- Offered for the University of Arctic



Arctic Centre Scientific Advisory Board



- **Dr. Karl Erb, Director, Chairman, Head of Polar Programs, US National Science Foundation, USA**
 - **Dr. Elena Andreeva, Leading Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences**
 - **Dr. Frank Burnet, Professor, Science Communication Unit, Bristol University, UK**
 - **Ms. Liisa Holmberg, Rector, Sámi Education Institute in Inari, Finland**
- **Dr. Grete Hovelsrud, Senior Researcher, Center for International Climate and Environmental, Norway**
 - **Dr. David Leary, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Australia**
- **Ms. Annika Lindblom, Senior Adviser for sustainable development, Ministry of the Environment of Finland**
 - **Dr. Peter Prokosch, Managing Director, UNEP Grid Arendal, Norway**
 - **Dr. Philip A. Wokey, Professor, University of Stirling, UK**

Science Communications

Head of Science Communications Markku Heikkilä

- Popularized information for
 - decision makers, interested public, students, schools, media, etc.
- Outreach and information service websites
 - www.arcticfinland.fi
 - www.barentsinfo.org
 - www.beac.st
- Public lectures, conferences



Arctic Centre Library

- For scientists and wide public
- Tens of thousands of books and journal volumes about the Arctic and the North
- Polar Library Colloquy



Arctic Centre Science Centre Exhibition

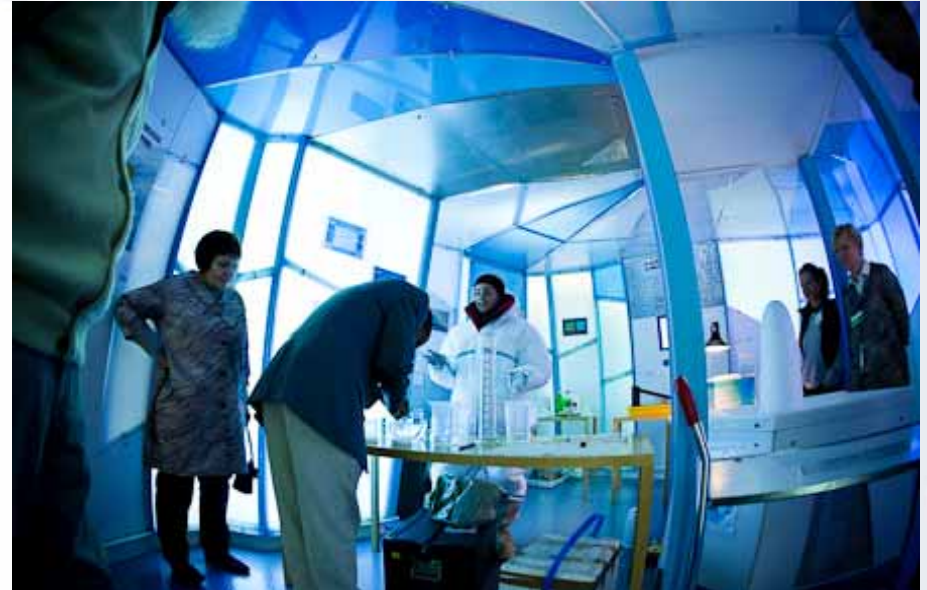
Chief Executive Producer Nicolas Gunsley

Mission:

- **Popularization** of science through exhibitions
- **Raising** interest for arctic research
- 80 000 visitors per year
60% foreigners, mostly from Europe

Projects:

- **I do**
 - 7FTP: European action to communicate on climate change
- **Natural Europe**
 - 7FTP: Natural History & Environmental Cultural Heritage in European Digital Libraries for Education.



“The Arctic in Change” permanent exhibition is a journey through the Arctic world today.

Member of **ECSITE**: European Network of Science Centres



EU Arctic initiative

European Commission, Arctic Communication,
November 2008:

"Possibilities for creating a European Arctic Information Centre will be explored"

The Council of the European Union, conclusions on Arctic issues, December 2009:

"Invites the Commission together with Member States to examine merits of establishing an information centre on Arctic issues in the EU"



Initiatives by Finland

The Arctic Centre

- The EU Arctic Information Centre
= a network based on the existing Arctic knowledge capacities of the Europe
- Headquarters at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi

Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Stubb:

- The new Arctic Strategy of Finland supports the EU Arctic Information Centre



- 11/2008 EU Commission: Arctic Communique
- 9/2009 Initiative by the Arctic Centre - Discussions with Univ. of Tromsø
- 12/2009 EU Council: Arctic Conclusions
- 3/2010 EU Parliament Arctic Discussion
- 3/2010 Group of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU Member States and High Representative Ashton 3/2010
- 6/2010 Finnish Arctic Strategy
- 9/2010 Declaration of the Arctic Parliamentarians Conference, Brussels
- 11/2010 Answer given by High Representative/Vice President Ashton on behalf of the Commission to the question for written answer of Vice Chair of the EU Parliament Wallis
- 12/2010 Comments by MEPs on the on a Sustainable EU Policy for the High North by the EU Parliament.
- vote on 7.12 and plenary 17.1.

Discussions about the Initiative of the EU Arctic Information Centre

- Since 1/2010
- Arctic Centre, Tromsø University and High North Cluster, European Environment Agency, Arctic Portal, Ecologic Institute, International Polar Foundation, Saami Education Centre, UArctic Thematic Networksand a number of others



Network model

- Based on existing institutions, infrastructures and ongoing activities
- Managed from the hub at the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, while also having a permanent presence in Brussels.
- Network of about 5-6 nodes in Europe. Nodes create networks around the tasks that they are responsible of – thus the organization is “a network of networks”



Objectives

The main objectives are

- to identify and make available information about existing and planned European activities in the Arctic or of relevance for the Arctic and to provide easy access to it.
- to communicate and provide information to the European citizens, private sector, EU institutions and its member states about the status and trends in the Arctic and facilitate Arctic dialogues and sustainable development strategies.
- to enhance the European Arctic information channels and networks between EU institutions, scientific experts, decision-makers, stakeholders, NGOs, Arctic local and indigenous peoples.



Potential Audiences and Clients

- Decision and policy makers
- EU publics and Northern communities
- Experts and industry
- NGOs and international organizations
- Media



Examples of potential tools

Tools

Student and Pupils networks

Information service

Science Centre Exhibitions

EU Arctic
Information
Centre

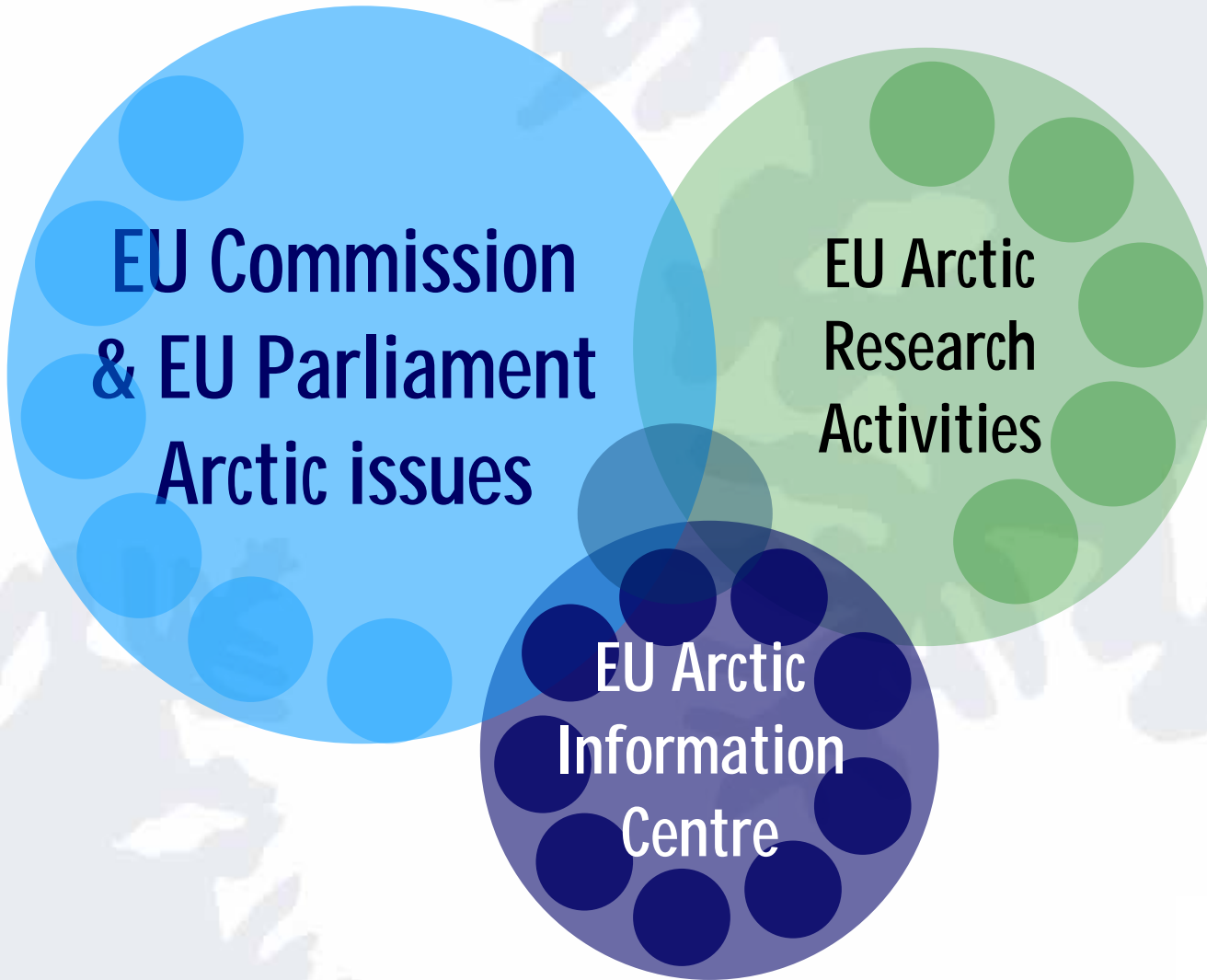
Indigenous People
Dialogues

Impact Assessments Information

Weather, Satellite and
Environment Safety Service

Discussion Forums

Possible structure of EU Arctic co-ordination



Comments by MEPs on the Sustainable EU Policy for the High North by the EU Parliament

- Is of the opinion that the EU should develop further its capacities and calls on the Commission to explore and report on the establishment as well as on the continuation of EU activities in the Arctic such as a circumpolar joint multilateral research funding programme providing for easier and less bureaucratic cooperation and joint projects of the research community;
- requests the Commission to explore as a key priority the establishment of an EU Arctic Information Centre as a joint, networked undertaking, and that the EU Arctic Information Centre, taking into account suitable proposals;
- notes the proposal of the University of Lapland;
- expects that such a center should be capable both of organising permanent EU outreach to the major actors on the Arctic, as well as of channelling information and services on the Arctic towards the EU's Institutions and stakeholders;



Next steps

- Open meeting: Tromsø 25 January, 2011 – Arctic Frontiers Conference, side event – networking
- Development of the plan of the EU Arctic Information Centre
 - International preparatory group
- Meeting of a group of Foreign Ministers of EU, March, Lapland, Finland
- EU Commission Report on Arctic activities, summer 2011
- Establishment of the EU Arctic Information Centre - ?



Thank you!

More information

www.arcticcentre.org

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