



ARCTIC FIVE ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2020

Peter Sköld, Umeå University
Arctic Five Secretary 2018-2020

The Arctic Five Activity Report 2016-2020 presents collaborative efforts during four years. It does not include all initiatives by the Thematic Areas or internally at the member universities.

2016

JOINT ARCTIC AGENDA ESTABLISHED

The Nordic Arctic collaboration Joint Arctic Agenda was established at a meeting in Oulu 8 September 2016, and an agreement was signed by the rectors of University of Oulu, the Arctic University of Norway – UIT, University of Lapland and Luleå University of technology.

2017

ARCTIC FIVE

At a meeting in Rovaniemi 15 November 2017, chaired by Rector Mauri Ylä-Kotola of Lapland University, Umeå University is included as a new member of the collaboration, and the new name Arctic Five is decided. The main objectives were formed including plans for joint degrees, voicing Northern Europe, the need for seed funding, bibliometrics, website, organization and rotation, and a thematic focus on mining, health, energy, indigenous issues, and regional development.

2018

CO-ORDINATION TEAM

At a meeting 18 March 2018 a steering committee met to discuss the future development of Arctic Five. Education was added as a new thematic area, and an organizational structure including a Science and Communication Secretariat, a Co-Ordination Team, an WPs for management and new initiatives. Engagement in Arctic Frontiers, the European Union, Barents cooperation, international funding, and thematic areas were discussed. The Co-Ordination Team has an online meeting 11 June, chaired by Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Umeå University, Dieter Müller. The discussion concludes that the existing funding is not fully used, and highlights the work with European Universities Initiative, organization and responsibilities, communication, and bibliometrics. An investigation on existing Arctic cooperation at the Arctic Five member universities is initiated. The Co-ordination Team meets 3 September in Oulu for a preparatory discussion before Rector's Council.

The Co-Ordination Team meets on 26 October 2018, and it is decided that Umeå University should have the responsibility for the Arctic Five Secretariat for two years, that Luleå University of Technology should chair Rector's Council for two years. The introduction of a vice-chair is discussed. The meeting also discusses the European Universities Initiative, new initiatives, and linking Journal of Northern Studies to Arctic Five. The Co-Ordination Team has a meeting 18 December 2018 to establish the Application Team, and to discuss the Concept paper for the European Arctic University presented by Harri Malinen at University of Lapland.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

The first call for European Universities Initiative is released by the Erasmus+ program, and Arctic Five initiates first discussions. An ad hoc expert group met 6 June 2018 to discuss strategies. In October 2018 the work has intensified, and the former director at the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat joins the team that now works with the application and that presents a Concept Note.

THEMATIC AREAS

A survey among the appointed Thematic Areas is distributed in April 2018. Some Thematic Areas are already very active. Proposals for inclusion in Arctic Five were put forward by the areas Innovation, Urbanization & Architecture, Gender, Security, and Tourism. The leaders of the Thematic Areas are formally appointed in December 2018.

RECTOR'S COUNCIL

On 4 September 2018 the rectors of the Arctic Five universities met in Oulu, hosted by rector Jouko Niinimäki. The meeting concluded that bibliometric analysis gave by hand that the internal Arctic Five cooperation was considerable reaching 6 % of co-authored publications. Furthermore, the rectors decided that each member university should allocate € 100,000 annually for five years.

APPLICATION TEAM

The work with the application for European Universities Initiative is formalized by establishing the Arctic Five Application Team at a meeting with the Co-Ordination Team 18 December 2018. The Application Team had a meeting already on 10 December 2018 where unique selling points, the establishment of a European network, and the engagement of International Offices at the member universities were discussed.

BIBLIOMETRICS

Arctic Five Bibliometrics 2008-2017 was presented 12 December 2018.

2019

ARCTIC FRONTIERS

Two sessions were organized for Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø by Arctic Five Innovation Network led by Jaako Simonen at University of Oulu.

APPLICATION TEAM

The Application Team intensified the work with the European Universities Initiative application, and organized a workshop in Tromsø 24-25 January 2019. A consultative meeting was arranged with Andrea Tilche, Director of the Environment Directorate of DG Research & Innovation. A new workshop is arranged at Umeå University 19-20 February 2019. When the information reached the Application Team at the meeting of 29 November that the Arctic Five application to the European Universities Initiative could not be fulfilled, new plans for cooperation development were immediately implemented.

On 13 December 2019 the Application Team organized an online meeting to start up new activities towards forthcoming EU calls, internally funded initiatives on a blended campus system, a 3-year plan and establishing a Student's Team.

LETTER TO COMMISSIONER MOEDAS

As a follow-up to the Second Arctic Ministerial Meeting in Berlin an Arctic Five letter, signed by the rector at the Arctic University of Norway – UIT, Anne Husebekk, to the member of the European Commission Carlos Moedas was sent on 28 February 2018 with an offer of full cooperation to the European Union. In his reply of 27 March 2018 Moedas included an invitation to Arctic Five to participate in the upcoming EU Arctic Consultation.

COMMUNICATION

Two contact persons from each member university were appointed in February 2018, and Luleå University of Technology presented a design for the Arctic Five website.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES INITIATIVE

The work with the European Universities Initiative application had a debacle in late February 2019, and failed to submit. The work to approach the up-coming call started immediately, and a workshop was organized by the Application Team in Umeå 23 September 2019. On 7 March 2019 an Arctic Five European Arctic University Concept Note was presented to Senior Advisor in Arctic Policy – European Commission, Jari Villén. The Application Team organized a workshop meeting in Umeå 2 October 2019, and the work with the application was again intensified. The Application Team organized a workshop in Brussels 6-8 November and participated in the European Universities Initiative Information Session arranged by the European Commission.

THEMATIC AREAS

The Thematic Areas continued their work with the formation of Art & Artists in the North, Arctic Inclusive education master study course, a NordPlus application for Arctic Teacher education for social justice and equality, and the Cross-border innovation cooperation. Thematic Areas reported their activities to Arctic Five in September 2019.

SMART CITIES

The Arctic Five NordForsk application Our smart city: a Nordic testbed for sustainable urban life and active ageing was led by David Chapman at Luleå University of Technology, and engaged 10 Nordic municipalities. It did, however, not receive funding.

SCIENCE TOUR

The Arctic Five Science Tour started with researchers from Umeå University visiting Luleå 9 May 2019 for a symposium on Building climate smart societies in the North. The event was also broadcasted online. The outreach activity continued with a symposium when Umeå University visited the Arctic University of Norway – UIT on 26-27 August 2019. A group representing Arts & Design at the University of Lapland visited Umeå University on 18 November and met with various research environments. All events were well attended and received.

CO-ORDINATION TEAM

The Co-Ordination Team had an online meeting 15 May 2019 reporting Arctic Five promotion at several top-level events; Barents Euro Arctic Council in Tromsø 3 April, Arctic Territory of Dialogue in St. Petersburg 9-10 April, Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Rovaniemi 6-7 May, and the upcoming Chinese-Nordic Arctic Research Conference in Umeå 9-11 May. The Co-Ordination Team had a meeting in Brussels 10 September 2019, where the European Universities Initiative was discussed together with EU Arctic Forum.

MOBILITY

Mervi Heikkinen at University of Oulu was PI for the application Virtual Human Resource Service for Early Access to Arctic Five Universities, Support for Mobility and Collaboration in the Arctic Region, submitted to Interreg Nord.

PROFILING ARCTIC FIVE IN BRUSSELS

9-10 September Arctic Five rectors participated in the Nordic Rector's Meeting in Brussels. Arctic Five Co-Ordination Team och several rectors presented Arctic Five to Jyrki Suominen and Attilio Gambardella at DG Research & Innovation at the European Commission. They instantly invited Arctic Five to present a position paper related to the upcoming research program Horizon Europe 2021-2027. The Arctic Five Position Paper was submitted 13 September. The Co-Ordination Team had meetings with Sophia Eriksson - Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+ - DG EAC, European Commission, Janne Hirvonen - First Secretary, COEST delegate (Arctic, Central Asia COSCE), Finnish Permanent Representation, and Jari Vilen, Senior Advisor for Arctic Policy, European Commission, lead author of the EU Strategic Note 'Walking on thin ice: a balanced Arctic strategy for the EU'.

LOGOTYPE

Luleå University of Technology produced an official Arctic Five logotype in September 2019.

HORIZON EUROPE

On 4 October 2019 Arctic Five submitted a contribution to the Horizon Europe Co-Design 2021-2027.

EU ARCTIC FORUM

3 October 2019 EU Arctic Forum with 700 participants from 30 countries was arranged in Umeå, and Arctic Five was promoted in presentations and media interviews. Back-to-back Barents Ministerial Meeting and EU Arctic Indigenous People's Dialogue were arranged.

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Formal agreements with associated partners in the European Arctic University consortium were signed in October 2019.

WINTER SCHOOL

Arctic Five PhD Winter School on Energy Transition in the North was arranged in Tromsø 11-15 November 2019.

FOLDER

An Arctic Five promotion folder was presented by Umeå University in November 2019.

RECTOR'S COUNCIL

Arctic Five Rector's Council met online on 3 December 2019. Highlighted items were the European Universities Initiative, the European Arctic University initiative, forthcoming EU calls, 3-year plan, and establishing an Arctic Five Student's Team.

2020

ARCTIC FRONTIERS

The Application Team organized the session The Arctic Five – Knowledge Production in the Arctic for the Arctic at Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø 29 January 2020.

APPLICATION TEAM

The Application Team had an online meeting 10 January 2020 where long-term plans, economy, Student's Team, Arctic Frontiers and planned a workshop during Arctic Frontiers. The workshop was organized 28-31 January, and for the first time students were represented. The meeting focused on the 3-year plan, the Strategic Plan, and Bylaws.

The Application had an online meeting 20 August 2020 where the Strategic Plan, Thematic Areas, Student's Team and the upcoming meeting of the Co-Ordination Team were highlighted. A following meeting on 15 September 2020 focused on the long-term development, EU Arctic Policy consultation, Student's Team, Thematic Areas and Bylaws.

ERASMUS+

As an associated partner in WP 7 Arctic Five joined the application UNIQUE (PI University of Applied Arts Vienna) submitted to the European Commission KA2 call for European Universities initiative.

CO-ORDINATION TEAM

The Co-Ordination had an online meeting 20 January 2020 where the 3-year plan, Student's Team and Thematic areas were discussed. The following online meeting 16 April highlighted the bylaws, 3-year plan and Thematic Areas. After summer the Co-Ordination Team met online 4 September to discuss long-term strategies, Thematic Areas, Student's Team and the EU Arctic Policy consultation. Dieter Müller at Umeå University presented a proposal for Arctic Five Chairs & Fellows. During September the draft bylaws was circulated among all members for comments. At a meeting 30 September the long-term strategies and the bylaws were discussed.

THEMATIC AREAS

The Thematic Areas reported their activities in March and September 2020. A proposal for new Thematic Area was received from Cross-Border Co-Operation Innovation Cooperation, led by Jaako Simonen at University of Oulu. On 14 September the Thematic Area leaders had an online meeting to evaluate and plan for future strategies.

STUDENT'S TEAM

Students from University of Lapland and the Arctic University of Norway – UIT participated in the Application Team workshop in Tromsø 28-31 January 2020. On 23 September 2020 the first online meeting with Arctic Five Student's Team was arranged, and students from all member universities participated. The meeting appointed Herman Siggerud of the Arctic University of Norway – UIT for chair and Eetu Leinonen of the University of Oulu for vice-chair, to represent the students at the upcoming Rector's Council.

RECTOR'S COUNCIL

The Rector's Council meeting was arranged 6 October 2020.