

A Resilient Arctic

Nordic Arctic Programme 2025–2027



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Purpose and background

The Arctic makes up a significant part of the Nordic Region. Since 1996, a series of Nordic-Arctic co-operation programmes has yielded positive results on specific topics, ranging from the environment and climate to social conditions and economic development. The new programme for 2025–2027 is the tenth in the series. To commemorate its 30th anniversary in 2026, the programme will pay special attention to Nordic achievements in the Arctic over the past three decades.

The primary objective of this programme is to **bolster resilience and contribute to strong civil societies** in the Arctic. With geopolitical tensions, war in Europe and the mounting challenges posed by global changes to the environment and climate, cross-border co-operation is in high demand and a priority for the Nordic Council of Ministers.

As the international rule of law and multilateralism are under increasing pressure, these changes affect everybody in the Nordic Region as well as co-operation and living conditions in the Arctic. While sustainable development in the Arctic remains a primary objective, sustainability also encompasses resilience in the face of global tensions and changes. Resilience is essential to strengthen stability, prosperity, and progress in the Arctic.



Photo: Aningaag Rosing Carlsen - Visit Greenland

Objectives 2025–2027

The 2025–2027 programme aims to **foster resilient and robust civil societies through Nordic co-operation and partnerships in the Arctic**, a foundation that is linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' strategic Vision 2030 of a socially sustainable, green and competitive Nordic Region. The programme has three primary objectives and nine sub-objectives.

Objective 1: Social resilience

Contribute to attractive and socially viable multi-generational local Arctic communities by supporting initiatives that:

- foster dialogue between citizens and decision-makers and generate people-to-people co-operation between local civil societies, including indigenous peoples, children and young people across the Arctic.
- enhance physical and mental health, social cohesion, and access to welfare services in the Arctic.
- support Arctic local communities by emphasising the importance of culture, equality and inclusion.

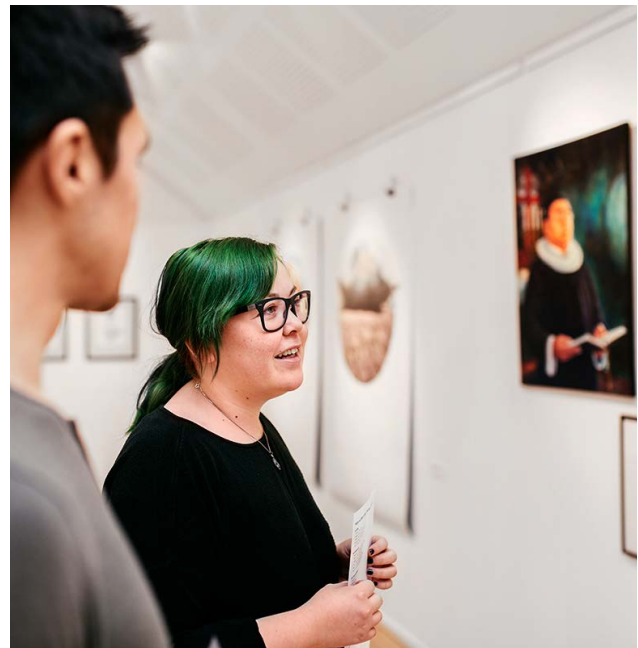


Photo: Rebecca Gustafsson - Visit Greenland

Objective 2: Economic resilience

Develop local Arctic business opportunities and sustainable economic growth by backing initiatives that:

- cultivate the skills and workforce of the future with an emphasis on talent development, skills enhancement, education and training.
- promote innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on topics such as self-sufficiency, tourism, food production, local food culture and food security.
- support and strengthen connectivity throughout the Arctic, including better physical and digital infrastructure.



Photo: Norris Niman -
Visit Greenland

Objective 3: Climate and environmental resilience

Promote a green transition towards a sustainable, circular and bio-based economy by supporting initiatives that:

- develop stable green energy solutions for local communities and business development in the Arctic.
- enhance biodiversity and promote a sustainable use of wildlife and marine areas.
- enhance awareness of the impacts of climate and environmental change on nature, infrastructure and living conditions in the Arctic.

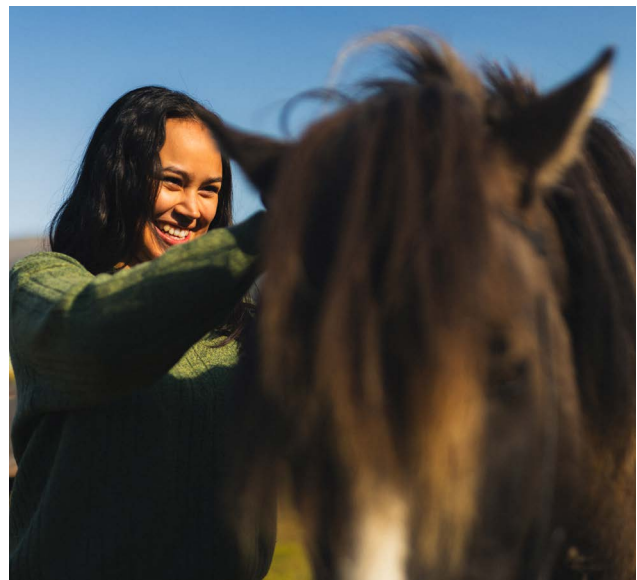


Photo: Magnus B Trolle -
Visit Greenland



Photo: Aningaag Rosing Carlsen - Visit Greenland

Funding opportunities

Two initiatives will engage relevant stakeholders in developing projects and generating results that support the objectives of the 2025–2027 programme:

1. annual **open calls** aimed at relevant applicants seeking funding for projects that align with the programme objectives.
2. **strategic priorities** stipulated by the Nordic Advisory Committee for the Arctic (NRKA) on behalf of the Nordic governments or by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Criteria

In general, the main aim of the programme is to foster a socially, economically, and climate-resilient Arctic region. When evaluating applications, the focus will be on whether the project:

- generates knowledge, outcomes and partnerships that lead to innovative approaches to the goal of a sustainable and resilient Nordic-Arctic region.
- supports local co-operation across the Arctic.
- produces results that help achieve one or more of the three objectives and nine sub-objectives.
- includes partners from at least three Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Greenland, the Faroe Islands or Åland) – these may be supplemented by participants from one or more non-Nordic countries, e.g. the USA or Canada.

- respects the rights, knowledge and perspectives of indigenous and local people as per international ethical standards and best practices.
- communicates and publicises project results through e.g. articles, books, documentaries, blogs, social media posts, lectures, events or podcasts.



Photo: Visit Greenland

Organisation and administration

Arctic co-operation and the Nordic Arctic Programme 2025–2027 fall under the remit of the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation (MR-SAM) and the Nordic Committee for Co-operation (NSK).

The Nordic Advisory Committee for the Arctic (NRKA) acts as advisory body to the Nordic Council of Ministers for the programme. The programme's annual open call is administered by the Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA) and Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland). The Nordic Council of Ministers' international team coordinates the programmes strategic priorities.

Please contact the Secretariat's international team and relevant advisers for further information about the programme.

About this publication

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Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, economics and culture and plays an important role in European and international forums. The Nordic community strives for a strong Nordic Region in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation promotes regional interests and values in a global world. The values shared by the Nordic countries help make the region one of the most innovative and competitive in the world.

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