

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 delivered positive results on specific topics, ranging from the environment and climate to social conditions and economic development. The Nordic Arctic Programme for 2025–2027 marks the tenth in this 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 the 2025-2027 programme is to **enhance resilience and contribute to strong civil societies** across 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 more important than ever and remains a strategic priority for the Nordic Council of Ministers.

As the international rule of law and multilateral co-operation come under increasing pressure, these developments impact 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. Strengthening resilience is essential to ensure stability, prosperity, and long-term progress in the Arctic.



Photo: Aningaaq Rosing Carlsen - Visit Greenland

Objectives 2025–2027

The 2025–2027 programme seeks to **foster resilient and robust civil societies through Nordic co-operation and partnerships in the Arctic**. This foundation aligns closely with the Nordic Council of Ministers' strategic Vision 2030 of a socially sustainable, green and competitive Nordic Region. The programme is structured around 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 promote people-to-people co-operation among 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 Arctic communities.
- Support Arctic 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 improvements to physical and digital infrastructure.



Photo: Norris Niman -
Visit Greenland

Objective 3: Climate and environmental resilience

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

- Develop reliable green energy solutions for local communities and business development in the Arctic.
- Enhance biodiversity and promote a sustainable use of wildlife and marine areas.
- Increase 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: Aningaaq Rosing Carlsen - Visit Greenland

Funding opportunities

Two key initiatives will engage relevant stakeholders in developing projects and delivering outcomes aligned with the 2025–2027 programme objectives:

1. Annual **open calls** inviting applications from relevant stakeholders seeking funding for projects aligned with the programme objectives.
2. **Strategic priorities** defined by the Nordic Advisory Committee for the Arctic on behalf of the Nordic governments or by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Criteria

The overarching aim of the programme is to foster a socially, economically, and climate-resilient Arctic region. When evaluating applications, consideration will be given to whether the project:

- Generates knowledge, outcomes and partnerships that lead to innovative approaches towards a sustainable and resilient Nordic-Arctic region.
- Supports local co-operation across the Arctic.
- Delivers results that advance one or more of the three primary objectives and nine sub-objectives.
- Includes project partners from at least three Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Greenland, the Faroe Islands or Åland), which may be complemented by project partners from one or more non-Nordic countries such as the USA or Canada

- Respects the rights, knowledge and perspectives of indigenous and local peoples in accordance with international ethical standards and best practices.
- Effectively communicates and publicises project results through e.g. reports, articles, 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) serves as an advisory body to the Nordic Council of Ministers on the programme. The annual open call is administered by the Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA) and Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland). Strategic priorities for the programme are coordinated by the Nordic Council of Ministers' international team.

For further information about the programme, please contact the Secretariat's international team and relevant advisers.

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.

The Nordic Council of Ministers

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