



The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP) Annual Report 2022

The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP) was founded in Oslo on March 27th, 2008. NVP is a non-profit foundation with the following missions:

- Promote research and education in polar areas.
- Stimulate national and international cooperation and interdisciplinary polar research.
- Contribute to communicating the knowledge of polar regions and the people that live there to national and international governing bodies, industry and the public.
- Contribute to the understanding of environmental and climate changes and human activities that affect and are affected by these.
- Promote sustainable development on Svalbard and in northern regions.
- Contribute to the development of expertise at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and the polar scientific community in general.

NVP is an international Academy under Norwegian leadership for some of the world's leading polar scientists. The Academy functions as a contact organization for research and higher education, between international scientific institutions and organisations in the Arctic and in Antarctica. The Academy's emphasis on interdisciplinary research and teaching complements the activities of other universities and research institutions that traditionally have a disciplinary profile.

Norway's H.M. King Harald is the Academy's patron.

Board of Directors and employees

After the election in December 2022, the Academy's board is as followed:

- Grete K. Hovelsrud (President, re-elected for the period 2023-2024 in December 2022)
- Bjørn Kaltenborn (Vice President, re-elected for the period 2023-2024 in December 2022)
- Gudmund Hernes (Board member, re-elected for the period 2023-2024 in December 2022)
- Gunnar Sand (Board member, was re-elected for the period 2023-2024 in December 2022)
- Hanne Sagen (Board member, elected as new board member for the period 2022-2023 in December 2021)
- Jøran I. Moen (*ex officio* Board member on behalf of The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), 2023-2024)

The Board of Directors held four ordinary board meetings during 2022. A total of 58 items were officially discussed.

Management and operation of the Academy is carried out by an Office Manager with office at UNIS in Longyearbyen, Svalbard and by a Secretary General in Oslo. The Secretary General works in a 20% position and the Office Manager in a 40% position. The supervision and management of the property



Isdammen 1 located in Longyearbyen, currently leased to the company Better Moments AS, is under the responsibility of the Office Manager.

The administration, remuneration and other social costs related to the Office Manager and the Secretary General are invoiced and paid by UNIS. The costs related to office, administration, accounting and purchases are covered by UNIS. Because UNIS is a company owned by Norway's Ministry of Education and Research, the Government's regulations and control for corruption and procurement applies for the operations of UNIS and therefore also for NVP. NVP's accounts are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers AS (PWC) and the reports are sent to The Brønnøysund Register Centre, a government body under the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, that consists of several different national computerized registers.

Academy members

The Academy's members can nominate new individual members. The nominations are evaluated by the Academy's New Members Committee that prepares and presents recommendations to the Board. The following individual member nominations were approved by the Board and presented to the Annual Meeting 15 December 2022:

1. Muthalagu Ravichandran (Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences, India).
2. Katrin Vorkamp (Aarhus University, Department of Environmental Science, Denmark).
3. Li-Qi Chen (People's Republic of China, Ministry of Natural Resources, China).
4. Helene Reinertsen Langehaug (Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Norway).
5. Richard Alan John Davy (Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Norway).
6. Elin Dareljus (University of Bergen, Geophysical Institute, Norway).
7. Elena Dybtsyna (Nord University, Business School and High North Center for Business and Governance, Norway).

As of 2022, the Academy has 177 individual members and one honorary member. The members work from 19 different countries and several members are foreign nationals. The Norwegian membership base covers all of Norway, including Svalbard.

The Academy has five institutional members, who contributes to the Academy's profile and that work priorities are relevant and user oriented. As of 2022, the institutional members are: The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT), Nord University, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and NORSAR.

Contact with the members are maintained with the use of the Academy's website (<http://www.polar-academy.com/>) with regular updates, via a newsletter sent to all members on a regular basis and through social media channels such as Facebook.

Academic activities



A new strategy for 2021 – 2025 was approved by the Academy's Board on April 23, 2021. The Academy's Statutes and the Strategy 2021-2025 emphasize, among others, sustainable development in Svalbard and in the Arctic, to contribute to competence building at UNIS and other universities and extensive cooperation with Norwegian and foreign institutions. The strategy 2021-2025 has the following mission:

“To promote polar research and communicate its relevance to policy, management, and society.”

The strategy highlights four Action Areas:

1. Advance polar research and communicate its relevance to policy, management, and society., which include:
 - Organize the summer school program according to the 2021-2023 Global Arctic Strategy (Arctic-Antarctic-Himalayas) and its successor.
 - Create an annual science-policy-science cycle.
 - Amplify key messages from others, contribute to public debates adding policy and societal relevance where appropriate.
 - Respond quickly when something new happens (e.g., an urgent management issue, or major new scientific discovery), for example through an abbreviated version of the annual science-policy-science cycle.
 - Establish the Academy as an independent think tank on polar issues.

Other Action areas are:

2. Broaden our membership base
3. Strengthen our economic base
4. Cooperate in Networks

The Board has created an annual work plan (implementation plan) and will appoint Academy members as leaders of the activities in each Action Area, involving other individual and institutional members to the extent possible.

With an international membership that encompasses virtually all scientific disciplines and with considerable expertise and experience, our Academy has a unique opportunity to stimulate interdisciplinary research and education and to contribute with assessments and with cooperation across different areas of interest and national borders. The Academy's multi- and interdisciplinary approach adds important perspectives to activities at universities and research institutions in Norway and abroad. The increasing international interest for the Arctic and Antarctica sets NVP and the academic community up against demanding challenges but also represent many opportunities. The consequences of climate change are particularly evident in the Arctic. Overall temperature increase is particularly pronounced in the Arctic and in recent years we have witnessed significant changes and reductions in glaciers and in sea ice distribution and volume. Seized as an opportunity, plans are being made for expansion of economic activities such as shipping, fisheries, petroleum extraction and deep-



sea mining. Changes in ice cover and distribution will also have consequences for national and international management regimes. This is embedded in *“The Global Arctic”: A Strategic Vision for the Norwegian Academy for Polar Research*”, which has been the base for the International Summer Schools as a flagship activity of the Academy for the years to come. See <http://polar-academy.com/2019/06/the-global-arctic-a-strategic-vision/>.

In cooperation with our members, with research institutions and business, the Academy is in a position to make important contributions to Norwegian national and international strategic ambitions to develop of knowledge and management opportunities in and for the polar regions.

Together with our institutional members and with local institutions in Longyearbyen, the Academy continues with its pursuance of cooperation with the private sector.

A Collaboration Agreement between our Academy and the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) signed in 2016 ensured active Russian participation at the Academy’s summer school in Longyearbyen in 2017. The Norwegian-Russian cooperation is currently on hold due to the conflicts created by the war in Ukraine.

The Academy has since 2018 cooperated with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) and have established a joint planning committee for two symposiums with five main topics. The first symposium was held in Sweden 8–9 November 2022, while the committee is currently planning for the second symposium in Oslo, Norway, to be held 23–24 March 2023.

The five main symposium topics are as follows:

1. Conditions for livelihoods, health, and ecosystems.
2. Forecasting the changing ice, ocean and weather conditions.
3. Impacts of climate change - effects and actions.
4. Access to infrastructure and data for Arctic research.
5. Defense and geopolitics.

NVP participated in Arendalsuka 2022 in partnership with «Nordområdepartnerskapet» (the Northern Area Partnership) with 23 member institutions and with the Parliament’s delegation for Arctic Parliamentary Cooperation as secretariat. The Northern Area Partnership rented a big saami “lavvo” on a mountain top close to the city center for Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 August 2022. The “lavvo” could accommodate more than 100 participants and was rigged with cameras and screens with possibilities to stream the events. The “Lavvo” was set up and operated by the International Reindeer Center in Kautokeino.

NVP led the session “Diplomatiske unntak I Arktis” (Diplomatic exceptions in the Arctic) and we gave a presentation about science diplomacy exemplified the preparations and negotiations prior to the multilateral Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears of 1973. The Academy’s president led the session «Folk i nord: en smakebit på det spennende livet». (People of the North – a taste of the exciting



life.) The concept of all sessions was "the good campfire conversation". The "lavvo" attracted several ministers and politicians and other stakeholders who participated in interesting debates.

The Northern Area Partnership is currently preparing for the 2023 programme in Arendal. It will continue to use the "lavvo" for its events.

In association with NVP's annual meeting in Bergen, Norway, the Academy, in collaboration with Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC), hosted a seminar entitled The Changing Arctic. Lectures included Climate Research Activities at the Nansen Center and Observing the High Arctic environment presented by NERSC, Studying Climate Change Impacts on Arctic People: Co-production of knowledge presented by NVP, Deep Sea Research in the Arctic and Earthquake observation in the Arctic presented by the University of Bergen. And also a presentation of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) presented by UiT / The Arctic University of Norway. The seminar was well attended and triggered interesting discussions.

A program committee established by the Board has been planning the Academy's international summer schools in Svalbard for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, and is currently planning the summer school of 2023. The over-arching theme for the summer schools is *"The Global Arctic – Reaching out to the Third Pole: The role of climate change, geopolitics and resource availability for global sustainability."* Main objectives are to address the need to understand the principal linkages and similarities between the three poles (Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalayas) in terms of resource reservoirs, laboratories for learning to cope with change, and how to design effective multi-disciplinary research targeting critical factors for sustainable development. The focus of the 2023 summer school will be upon the Arctic and the Himalayas. The Academy's summer schools, and joint research and events emerging from that, will be increasingly important for international collaboration in the future. See <https://polar-academy.com/summer-schools/summer-schools-2020-2022/>.

The Academy is member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic), which gives us access to a major network with opportunities to develop and to contribute to educational programs and research projects in cooperation with "like minded" institutions. UArctic has encouraged collaboration between our summer schools in Svalbard and similar summer schools in Greenland and Alaska. NVP has been commissioned by the UArctic to carry out a study to document the past and present state of formal and informal actors and influences in Arctic science and research, in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples organizations and the International Arctic Social Science Association. Output is to be a detailed plan of how to conduct an "Arctic Research and its Actors. A power and impact study." NVP has asked the Fridtjof Nansen Institute to take the main responsibility for the writing of a report with a plan with the aim to present it for discussions at Arendalsuka in 2023.

The Academy is associated with the "Joint North Atlantic-Arctic Ocean Science Programme Initiative (B2B)". B2B is evolving within the scientific community to innovatively transform international scientific research and related education programs in an era with new challenges for science in the 21st century.



The economic situation and property

In 2022, the Academy had an income of NOK 687 825 compared to NOK 616 875 in 2021. NOK 550,000 of the income was paid by the institutional members with contributions of NOK 150,000 from UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Nord University, The University of Bergen, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and contributions of NOK 100,000 from NORSAR.

Rental income from the property Isdammen 1 amounted to NOK 1370825 in 2022 compared to NOK 66 875 in 2021.

Financial income items amounted to NOK 00,00 in 2022.

Operational costs decreased in 2022 to NOK 572 323 compared with NOK 600 138 in 2021. The largest expense items in 2022 was NOK 472 859 for salaries and social costs. Other operating expenses amounted to NOK 99 464 compared with NOK 164 286 in 2021.

The accounts for 2022 show an operating surplus of NOK 115 502, which are mainly due to the summer school having lower expenses than expected.

The Board sees a further strengthening of the capital base a priority task in the coming years. The accounts have been prepared based on continued operations.

Impact on the external environment

The Academy's activities do not have a significant impact on the external environment but have a small climate footprint because of travel activities and consumption of office supplies.



Longyearbyen, 09.03.2023

Grete K. Hovelsrud
President

Bjørn Kaltenborn
Vice President

Gunnar Sand
Board member

Gudmund Hernes
Board member

Hanne Sagen
Board member

Jøran I. Moen
Board member