



The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP) Annual Report 2021

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 November 2021, the Academy's board is as followed:

- Grete K. Hovelsrud (President, re-elected for the period 2021-2022 in December 2020)
- Bjørn Kaltenborn (Vice President, re-elected for the period 2021-2022 in December 2020)
- Gudmund Hernes (Board member, re-elected for the period 2021-2022 in December 2020)
- Gunnar Sand (Board member, was re-elected for the period 2021-2022 in December 2020)
- 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), 2021-2022)

The Board of Directors held five board meetings during 2021, four ordinary board meetings and one extraordinary board meeting. One case was processed by email circulation. A total of 53 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 in 2021:

1. Larry Mayer (University of New Hampshire, Centre for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, USA).
2. Yifan Li (Harbin Institute of Technology, China).
3. Elana Rowe (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway)
4. Rolf Skatteboe (KSAT, Tromsø, Norway).
5. Yury Sychev (Centre of Arctic and Climate Research, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia).
6. Camilla Svensen (Faculty of Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics. Department of Arctic and Marine Biologi, UiT, Norway).
7. Tore Furevik (Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center, Norway, and Geophysical Institute, UiB, Norway).
8. Joseph Henry LaCasce (Department of Geosciences, UiO, Norway).

As of 2021, the Academy has 173 individual members and one honorary member. The members work from 18 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 2021, 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 plans 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/>.

The Academy is pursuing its national and international cooperation in many ways. 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 and is an important contribution to operationalize the Norwegian Government’s Arctic Strategy. The Academy’s summer schools, and joint research and events, will be increasingly important for international collaboration in the future.

The Academy has since 2018 cooperated with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (KVA) and have established a joint planning committee which currently is planning for two symposiums with five main topics, held in Sweden (planned in 2021 but postponed to 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic) and in Norway (in 2022):

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.

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 Academy actively participates in a North Center Partnership, which with 19 institutional members prepares for and facilitates programs for «Arendalsuka.”

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. 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. See <https://polar-academy.com/summer-schools/summer-schools-2020-2022/>. The scheduled 2020 International Summer School was postponed to 2021 but cancelled again due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The three years' program is shifted accordingly and will take place in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The Academy also play an active role at Arctic Frontiers (AF) in Tromsø, Norway. Together with UiT The Arctic University of Norway, GRID-Arendal and the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Academy hosted a side event at AF 2020 on the same topic planned for the 2020 International Summer School, entitled «*The Global Arctic - Reaching out to the Third Pole*» with focus upon the Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalaya region.

The Academy is member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic), which gives the Academy 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.

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

The economic situation and property

In 2021, the Academy had an income of NOK 616,875 compared to NOK 700,000 in 2020. 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 66,875 in 2021 compared to NOK 00,00 in 2020. To alleviate the financial burdens caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board granted Better Moments AS free rent during the months of January to May, and half rent during the months of June and July. From August to December Better Moments AS paid full rent.

Financial income items amounted to NOK 00,00 in 2021.

Operational costs increased in 2021 to NOK 600,138 compared with NOK 513,560 in 2020. The largest expense items in 2021 were NOK 435,852 for salaries and social costs. Other operating expenses amounted to NOK 164,286 compared with NOK 91,072 in 2020.



The accounts for 2021 show an operating surplus of NOK 16,738 despite the Academy's decrease in total income for 2021. After financial adjustments, the annual result in 2021 show a surplus of NOK 16,738.

The Board sees a further strengthening of the capital base a priority task in the coming years. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of 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. Travel activities in 2021 have been minimal because of the covid-19 pandemic.



Longyearbyen, 10.03.2022

Grete K. Hovelsrud
President

Bjørn Kaltenborn
Vice President

Gunnar Sand
Board member

Gudmund Hernes
Board member

Hanne Sagen
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