



The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP) Annual Report 2017

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

- Promote research and education in Polar Regions.
- Stimulate national and international cooperation and multi-disciplinary polar research.
- Contribute to scientific knowledge about the Polar Regions and their inhabitants and outreach to national and international decision makers, business and the public.
- Contribute to the understanding of environment- and climate changes and human activities that are affected and are impacted by these.
- Encourage sustainable development on Svalbard and in the Northern regions.
- Contribute to increase the competence at the University Centre in Svalbard and in the polar research 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 in the Arctic and Antarctic and between foreign academies and international scientific organisations. The Academy's emphasis of interdisciplinary research and teaching complement the activities of other universities and research institutions that traditionally have a disciplinary character.

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

Board of Directors and employees

The Academy's board is integrated as follows after the election in 2017:

- Anton G. Kjelaas (President) (2017-2018)
- Grete Hovelsrud (Vice - president) (2016-2018)
- Gudmund Hernes (board member 2016-2018)
- Gunnar Sand (board member 2016-2018)
- Pål Brekke (board member 2017-2019)
- Harald Ellingsen (board member from UNIS, 2016-2018)

The Board had four meetings during 2017.

The management and operation of the Academy are carried out by an office Manager with office at UNIS and by the Secretary General in Oslo. The supervision of the property Isdammen 1, currently leased to the company Better Moments in Longyearbyen, is under the responsibility of the office manager.



The Academy has no formal employees however, the administration, remuneration and other social costs related to the office manager and the Secretary General are paid and invoiced by UNIS. The Secretary General's position is paid in a 20% position and the office manager in a 40% position. The costs related to office, administration, accounting and purchases are covered by UNIS. Being UNIS a company owned by the 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 and these reports are sent to The Brønnøysund Register Centre.

Academy members.

The nominations for new members are evaluated by a committee that prepares a case for the Board with the approved recommendations. The following members were accepted by the academy in 2017:

- Boetius, Antje
- Borch, Odd Jarl
- Bourmistrov, Anatoli
- Fer, Ilker
- Kramvig, Britt
- Laberg, Jan Sverre
- Lovecraft, Amy Lauren
- Lynch, Amanda
- Nilsson, Annika
- Poppel, Birger
- Sagen, Hanne
- Schomacker, Anders
- Tennberg, Monica

The Academy has 148 members and three honorary members. Several members are foreign nationals from around 19 different countries. The Norwegian membership covers all Norway, including Svalbard. The Academy has eight institutional members which contributes to make the Academy's profile socially relevant and user oriented.

The contact with the members has been strengthened with the use of a new digital platform for the Academy: a new website with regular updates, published in May 2017, the site is integrated with social media channels such as Facebook and LinkedIn, and a newsletter that is sent to all academy members once a month with news linked to the website.

Academic Activities

The Academy's Statutes and the Strategy 2015-2020 emphasize sustainable development in Svalbard and in the Arctic, contribute to competence building at UNIS and other universities



and extensive cooperation with Norwegian and foreign institutions. The strategy 2015-2020 has the following mission: *«The Norwegian Scientific Academy for Polar Research (NVP), founded in March 2008, is the world's only scientific academy devoted to polar research, education and development. NVP has a bipolar perspective (Arctic and Antarctic), is interdisciplinary in approach, international in effort, collaborative in solution, knowledge based in contribution, and independent in work...»*

With an international membership that encompasses virtually all disciplines and with considerable expertise and experience have academy 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 fills the activities at the Universities and other research institutions in Norway and abroad that traditionally has a disciplinary character. The increasing internationally interest for the Arctic and Antarctic sets NVP and the academic community against special challenges but also many opportunities. The consequences of climate change are particularly evident in the Arctic. In recent years, we have witnessed significant changes and reductions in Arctic 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 new situation represents challenges for scientists, managers and policy makers and for the private sector. More and better communication between different parts is required, and the best way forward needs to be further developed for sound management and sustainable use of the Arctic oceans' vast renewable and non-renewable resources. The NVP acknowledgment of this is stated in our strategy 2015-2020. In cooperation with our members, with research institutions and business, the Academy can make important contributions to realize the North-region strategy's ambitions to place Norway as an international leader in terms of developing knowledge of, for and in the Arctic.

The Academy organises regular symposia and/or seminars in conjunction with the annual meetings where interdisciplinary topics are emphasized. During the annual meeting in Trondheim in November 2017 was organized a seminar in cooperation with NTNU and Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences. Researchers and project managers with leading national and international roles held lectures on current topics related to research and field work in the Arctic Ocean.

The academy is member of the University of the Arctic, which gives us access to a big network with opportunities to develop an education offer and research projects in cooperation with "like minded" institutions.



NVP's Summer Schools in Svalbard.

Since 2011, has NVP organized four international summer schools in cooperation with The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and the Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC) for young researchers integrated by PhD candidates and Post Docs. The Summer Schools have an inter- and multidisciplinary approach with focus to Sommerskolene er tverrfaglige med fokus on current and interdisciplinary challenges in the polar areas. In addition to the support and cooperation of the already named partners, NVP has received financial support from the Foreign Affairs ministry in 2013, The University of the Arctic in 2015 and the Norwegian Research Council in 2017.

In 2017, the Summer School with title: «*The Arctic Ocean and the marginal Ice Zone (MIZ)*» was organised in cooperation with and with financial support from NVP, Nansen Scientific Society, and the Norwegian Research Council. The Summer School also received “in kind” support for lectures, travel expenses, accommodation from the following partners (in alphabetical order): Akvaplan-niva AS, Canadian International Arctic Centre, European University at St. Petersburg, Fridtjof Nansen Institutt, NERSC, Nord-Universitetet, Norsk Polarinstitutt, Russian Geographical Society (RGS), Russian State Hydrometeorological University, UiT-Norges Arktiske Universitet, University of Connecticut og UNIS.

The summer school was announced widely through different channels which included: the websites from the following organizations: NVP, UNIS, University of the Arctic - UARCTIC, APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) and the Russian Geographical Society; use of the social media channels from these institutions was also included in the dissemination. By the established deadline the academy received 62 applications. After the respective evaluation of credentials both committees (NVP and UNIS) agreed on 26 students that were offered participation and a waiting list with 4 candidates was prepared. After the deadline for confirmation of participation and waiting list invitations; 23 students confirmed participation in the Summer School. The Summer School took place in Longyearbyen between July 31st and August 06th, using classrooms and locations provided by UNIS and NVP.

Under the week of activities, 23 students (4 master students, 14 PhD candidates and 5 PostDoc) from 12 different countries. All the week of activities represented a 55 hours course – lectures, student group work and interactive sessions in preparations of a peer review an interdisciplinary scientific article. The 23 lecture presentations were given by 13 lecturers during seven thematic sessions related to the Arctic Ocean and the Marginal Ice Zone (MIZ). Two of these lectures were open for the students and employees at UNIS and for the local population in Longyearbyen. Four lectures were held together with students from the UNIS course AGF-219: Shipping in the Arctic.



NVP used the same format to evaluate the course that UNIS uses to evaluate its regular courses. The evaluation report for the summer school 2017 gave very good results and feedback from the participants.

The participants have written a report based on the Summer School main topic with Tourism as a study case. The report has been published at the Academies website and constitutes the base for one or several articles.

During the Svalbard Science Conference in November 2017, the academy participated with a poster: *“Interdisciplinary education and research in Svalbard”* which presented the Summer schools and its results since 2011.

Economy situation and property

The Academy had an total income of NOK 1.190.517. Of this amount, NOK 1.050.000, is paid by the institutional members with contributions of NOK 150.000 from the University of Bergen, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Nord University, NTNU and UNIS and contributions of NOK 100.000 from Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center (NERSC), the Norwegian Shipowners Association and NORSAR. Rental income from the property Isdammen 1 amounts to NOK 122,400. Other income of NOK 16,500 is related to dividends from the insurance provider, various refunds and sales of chairs. Financial Income items amounts to NOK 1,617.

Operational costs increased in 2017 to NOK 1,264,085 compared with NOK 866,439 in 2016. The largest expense items were NOK 634,642 in salaries and social costs. Other operating expenses amounted to NOK 629,444 compared with NOK 272,822 in 2016. The accounts show an operational deficit for 2017 of NOK 75,185 against a profit of NOK 35,561 in 2016. Deviations from the budget and deficit are explained by adjustments related to UNIS's institutional membership and registration of rent and upgrades of the building Isdammen 1. After financial adjustments, the annual result in 2017 shows a deficit of NOK 73,568

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

Environment.

The Foundation's activities do not pollute the external environment.



Anton G. Kjelaas

Grete Hovelsrud

Gudmund Hernes

Gunnar Sand

Pål Brekke

Harald Ellingsen