



2018 Council Breakout Sessions (Topics and Chairs)

Breakout Session period: Monday September 3rd / 16:00 - 17:30.

As part of the Council meeting program, Council Breakout Sessions consist of parallel round-table discussions on topics important to UArctic's development. During the Monday morning Council meeting sessions, participants will have the opportunity to sign-up to one of these five breakout sessions.

Session 1: UArctic and the Arctic Council: the Congress

Chair: **Brian Rogers**, UArctic Board member (2009-18) and Board chair (2013-18)

Room: To be announced

Description: UArctic was born out of the context of the Arctic Council and has been an observer of the Arctic Council since 2002. The Council decided in 2016 in St Petersburg to align the themes of our future congress with the priorities and themes of the Arctic Council. This year the Congress focus is on the priorities of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

The next one would be organized in Iceland, and would follow Icelandic priorities and UArctic hopefully will be able to work together with the Arctic Council on setting as an Observer in setting those priorities. Is this a good model? Do we cover all UArctic activities? Is there a particular message that we need to give to the governments of the Arctic Council through the Congress? Are we leaving anyone behind?

Session 2: Member engagement in UArctic educational activities

Co-chairs: **Michael Castellini**, UArctic Vice-President Academic
Marie-Sylvestre Olesen, Arctic Coordinator, VP Academic Office

Room: To be announced

Description: Given that one of UArctic's main goals is to help promote educational opportunities and exchange of ideas in the circumpolar north, then why is it that only a few members take part in UArctic's academic programs?

What can be done to help more institutions engage in these programs?
What are the challenges?

Session 3: **Arctic Skills and Training**

Co-chairs: *Liisa Holmberg*, Chair of the Council of UArctic
Mikhail Jurevich Prisyajny, UArctic Board member

Room: To be announced

Description: UArctic seeks to increase the involvement of vocational training organisations and schools in the Arctic. Vocational education and working life respectively takes place in cold Arctic climates, and such conditions require special expertise from teachers and from organisations. Indigenous communities also need more support in order to keep their traditional livelihoods and languages alive. Vocational schools are very important bridges between traditions and modern life in the Arctic. Some tailored vocational programs exist, but more are needed if we are to adapt to rapid changing conditions. This includes adaptation to climate change in professional skills, which is an extremely challenging task to carry out.

Session 4: **Strengthening collaborations between networking organizations**

Chair: *Marina Kalinina*, UArctic Vice-President Interregional Cooperation

Room: To be announced

Description: In the last few years, the role of networks and consortia contributing to the international and multi-disciplinary cooperation in Arctic research, education and outreach has been continuously increasing. Such networks and consortia raise awareness of common challenges the local communities in the North face and seek solutions through a permanent dialogue between academic community and decision-makers.

The session will debate on how the networking organizations such as UArctic, NAREC (The National Arctic Research and Educational Consortium, Russia), the Northern Dimension Institute and working groups of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, can better cooperate, and what kind of external communication strategy may provide a unique platform for synergy.

Session 5: Sustainability for UArctic - Fundraising Program Development

Chair: *Sheila Downer*, UArctic Vice-President Finance, Development & Engagement

Room: IT 113

Description: Fundraising is a strategic function of UArctic for generating revenues to meet growing opportunities for partnerships, programming and projects related to Arctic education and research.

UArctic's holistic approach for fundraising activity builds on an engaged member network and aims to make the most of the diversity of members, programs and partners to ensure there is awareness and input across the organization.

This session will provide an overview of UArctic's initiative for fundraising development with [Grenzebach Glier and Associates](#) / GG+A. The firm (GG+A) is currently conducting a review of UArctic's fundraising operations and guiding the development of a coordinated strategy for future fundraising. The session will include representatives from GG+A for a Q&A with member representatives and provides an opportunity for input from Council members to highlight priority opportunities and issues related to support and sustainability of network growth, expanded cooperation and programming.
