



3rd Meeting of the Assembly of UArctic / Portland, ME, USA / June 2022

Agenda item: 9.3

Proposal – Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2021

Proposal: The Executive Committee (Toyon) proposes that the Assembly make the following decision to support the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and to approve the granting of full network status to the:

- ***Thematic Network on Arctic Indigenous Film***, hosted by the International Sámi Film Institute, Norway
- ***Thematic Network on Arctic Space Hub***, hosted by the Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory, University of Oulu, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Arctic Urban Planning and Design***, hosted by UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Norway
- ***Thematic Network on Bioregional Planning for Resilient Rural Communities***, hosted by the University of New England, USA
- ***Thematic Network on Children of the Arctic***, hosted by the Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland, Greenland
- ***Thematic Network on Circular Economy***, hosted by Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- ***Thematic Network on Critical Arctic Studies***, hosted by the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

References: [UARctic Constitution](#) / Article 3 – The Assembly of UArctic

[Guidelines for establishing new Thematic Networks \(2022\)](#)

Background:

UARctic Thematic Networks are independent and thematically focused networks of experts in specific areas of northern relevance. A Thematic Network may focus its activities on one or several of the following: research cooperation, knowledge sharing, curriculum development, or forming the basis for larger project development. Thematic Networks consist of individual experts from at least three UArctic member institutions, if possible from all three major northern regions (North America, northern Europe, and Russia). In addition, a Thematic Network may have members from non-UArctic member institutions, but representatives from UArctic member institutions shall have majority in any internal decision-making structure.

The Thematic Networks guidelines state that any individual expert(s) at UArctic member institution(s) can propose to UArctic, the establishment of a new Thematic Network. The lead is responsible for submitting a proposal to the UArctic Thematic Network Coordination Office, along with a support letter signed by the head of the host institution. Proposals for new Thematic Networks must include details on the focus, goals, membership, planned activities, and structure of the network.

Approval process:

In May 2019, the Assembly of UArctic voted to accept seven new Thematic Networks, with provisional status given for a period of one year. According to the *Guidelines for establishment of new Thematic Networks*, if a provisional Thematic Network can show that activities have been planned and/or initiated, then the endorsement as a fully operational network could be formalised.

This proposal for final endorsement to grant full network status was prepared by UArctic's Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and is based on an assessment of progress made by each provisional Thematic Network (see individual activity reports below).

Subsequent to the granting of full network status by the Assembly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UArctic and the lead institution of each Thematic Network must be signed within six months of the granting decision.

Provisional Thematic Networks:

Of the seven new Thematic Networks approved by UArctic members in May 2021, each network has shown that activities were planned and/or initiated during the provisional period.

Note: The title of each network is hyperlinked to the network's own UArctic webpage, and an activity report from each network is also provided below:

1. [**Thematic Network on Arctic Indigenous Film**](#)
Hosted by: International Sámi Film Institute, Norway
Lead: Anne-Lajla Utsi
Report: [TN on Arctic Indigenous Film](#)
2. [**Thematic Network on Arctic Space Hub**](#)
Hosted by: Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory, University of Oulu, Finland
Lead: Eija Tanskanen
Report: [TN on Arctic Space Hub](#)
3. [**Thematic Network on Arctic Urban Planning and Design**](#)
Hosted by: UiT The Arctic University of Norway
Lead: Rajnish Kaur Calay
Report: [TN on Arctic Urban Planning and Design](#)
4. [**Thematic Network on Bioregional Planning for Resilient Rural Communities**](#)
Hosted by: University of New England, USA
Lead: Holly Parker
Report: [TN on Bioregional Planning Resilient Rural Communities](#)
5. [**Thematic Network on Children of the Arctic**](#)
Hosted by: Ilisimatusarfik / University of Greenland
Lead: Peter Berliner
Report: [TN on Children in the Arctic](#)



6. **[Thematic Network on Circular Economy](#)**

Hosted by: Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Lead: Sanna Tyni

Report: [TN on Circular Economy](#)

7. **[Thematic Network on Critical Arctic Studies](#)**

Hosted by: Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

Lead: Monica Tennberg

Presentation: [TN on Critical Arctic Studies](#)