



UArctic Assembly Meeting / Inari, Finland / June 2025

Agenda item: 11.3

Proposal – Endorsement of provisional Thematic Networks 2024

Proposal: The Executive Committee (Toyon) proposes that the Assembly makes the following decision:

Assembly supports the assessment of provisional networks by the UArctic Thematic Networks Coordination Office, and to approve the granting of full thematic network status to the:

- ***Thematic Network on Nordic Snow Network, NordSnowNet, hosted by Finnish Meteorological Institute, Department of Space and Earth Observation, Helsinki, Finland***
- ***Thematic Network on Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas, RAMWA, hosted Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Norway***

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

[Guidelines for establishing new Thematic Networks \(2024\)](#)

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 and should have partners from different regions for including diversity of its members. 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 June 2024, the Assembly of UArctic voted to accept five 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 two new Thematic Networks approved by UArctic members in June 2024, both networks have shown that activities were planned and initiated during the provisional period.

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

1. **[Thematic Network on Nordic Snow Network, NordSnowNet](#)**

Hosted by: [Finnish Meteorological Institute](#), Finland

Lead: Ali Nadir Arslan

Report: [Activity report](#)

2. **[Thematic Network on Sustainable Strategies for Waste Removal and Restoration of Arctic Mine Waste Areas, RAMWA](#)**

Hosted by: [Norwegian University of Life Sciences \(NMBU\)](#), Norway

Lead: Roland Kallenborn

Report: [Activity report](#)