ELSA INSIGHTS

FROM THE NORDIC ARCTIC

These visual summaries present selected findings on cross-border cooperation, innovation learning, career guidance and competences for an Arctic Innovator. The findings will support the development of lifelong learning courses in the ELSA project.

Topics:

- CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION
- INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEARNING
- CAREER GUIDANCE IN THE ARCTIC PROJECT AREA
- BECOMING AN ARCTIC INNOVATOR



The visual summaries are based on surveys, interviews, desk studies and a workshop conducted by the project team

ELSA - Engaging Learning for Sustainable Arctic - project

Interreg Aurora

Co-funded by the European Union

OAMK Oulu University of Applied Sciences

Lapin yliopisto University of Lapland

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Sør-Varanger utvikling

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Four perspectives from the Nordic Arctic

EDUCATION AND CROSS-BORDER COMPETENCE

- Students need skills for working in international teams.
- Multidisciplinary and multicultural collaboration can drive innovation.
- Working together can help transform ideas into practical solutions.

ENTREPRENEURS' PERSPECTIVE

- Regulations and differences between national systems can create barriers to cooperation.
- Networks, trusted partners, local experience and language competence enable collaboration.
- Digital technology and knowledge sharing can create new ideas and business opportunities.

CROSS-BORDER ADVISORY SERVICES

- Support mobility between Finland, Sweden and Norway.
- Provide guidance on cross-border work, recruitment and entrepreneurship.
- Help individuals, employers and companies find relevant information and services.

THE ARCTIC CONTEXT

- Long distances and sparse population shape working and living in the Arctic.
- The Arctic location presents both challenges and opportunities.
- Arctic conditions can lead to innovative solutions and new ways of working.

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INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEARNING

Key approaches

LEARNING BY DOING

- Students can benefit from combining theoretical knowledge with project-based work, company assignments, hackathons and design sprints.
- Real-life cases connect learning and practice.

MULTIDISCPLINARY COLLABORATION

- Different fields bring new perspectives.
- Multicultural teams can support innovation.
- Collaboration can turn ideas into practical solutions.

COACHING-BASED TEACHING METHODS

- Dialogue, discussion-based learning, learning circles.
- Peer feedback and peer evaluation provide opportunities for reflection.
- Teachers guiding through questions rather than answers.
- Strengthens problem-solving skills and self-directedness.

BEST PRACTICES

- Design Thinking–based processes
- Experimentation culture and prototyping
- Pitching and peer feedback
- Startup hubs and open innovation spaces
- Real-life projects with companies
- Use of AI tools
- Recognition of students' strengths

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CAREER GUIDANCE IN THE ARCTIC PROJECT AREA

Key approaches

BEST PRACTICES

- Career guidance supports study progression, career orientation and transitions to working life.
- Guidance is provided through multiple channels, including digital services.
- Core themes: competence recognition, career exploration, decision-making.

REFLECTIVE METHODS

- Dialogue, peer reflection and interaction are essential in the guidance process.
- Strengths-based reflection supports self-awareness.
- Competence recognition helps learners identify and articulate skills.

Recognise strengths and explore opportunities

DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

- Entrepreneurship could be explored more clearly as a possible career path.
- Cross-border work opportunities and Arctic mobility need greater visibility.
- Digital tools should be combined with reflection and facilitated interaction.

COURSE DESIGN

- Include activities that support career reflection and planning.
- Help learners recognise strengths, competences and regional opportunities.
- Build awareness of entrepreneurship, support services and cross-border career paths.

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BECOMING AN ARCTIC INNOVATOR

SHARED COMPETENCES FOR ARCTIC INNOVATORS

- Networking
- International teamwork
- Multilingual competence
- Communication and pitching
- Technology and AI
- Resilience and flexibility
- Courage and creativity
- Openness and curiosity
- Lifelong learning
- Self-leadership and strengths

THREE PATHWAYS, DIFFERENT NEEDS

PEOPLE...



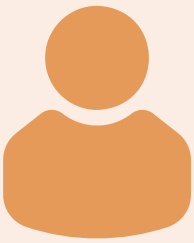
FINDING A JOB

Making their competences visible, building networks, and creating concrete connections to working life.



CHANGING CAREERS

Translating existing experience and skills to a new direction and building confidence in transition.



BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR

Exploring entrepreneurship step by step and turning ideas to business opportunities.

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