



# ARKTISTEN ALUEIDEN PELASTUSTOIMINNAN SUORITUSKYVYTT: OSAAMISEN JA YHTEISTYÖN EDISTÄMINEN

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Pelastuspalveluseminaari

Saariselkä 26.10.2023



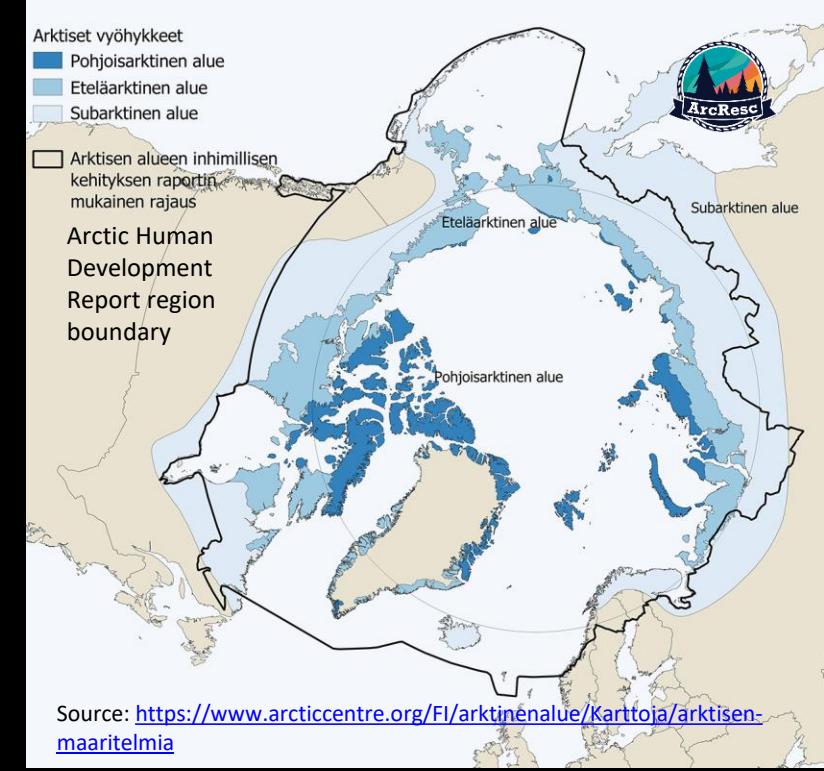
THE FINNISH ASSOCIATION  
OF FIRE OFFICERS



Ministry of the Interior  
Finland



Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland



Sources: Arktinen keskus, Lapin yliopisto.

Rajojen lähdö: Runfola D, Anderson A, Baier H, Crittenden M, Dowker E, Fuhrig S, et al. (2020) geoBoundaries: A global database of political administrative boundaries. PLoS ONE 15(4): e0231866.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231866>



# The Arctic Region



Source: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/arf/uschair/258202.htm>

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.  
August 21, 2015 - U1282 STATE (HII)



# Background

- More and severe disasters
  - Increased human activity
    - Industry
    - Complex technology
    - Nature resources
    - Tourism
  - Climate change related issues
- Sparsely populated, large rural areas
- Small fire/rescue resources



# The Aims of the Project



- Promote international cooperation in the field of rescue services in the Arctic Region
- Develop knowledge and performance of the rescue operations
- Establish a continual network between the arctic rescue service actors



# Main Themes



- ✓ Arctic environment and disaster scenarios in the arctic
- ✓ Actors operation models, capacities and equipment
- ✓ Climate change related issues
- ✓ Forest fires & wildfires
- ✓ Human rescue
- ✓ Indigenous people
- ✓ International and cross-border cooperation





# Project details

- Meetings, workshops & final seminar
  - Two years: 1/2022-12/2023
  - Project lead by the Finnish Association of Fire Officers
  - Management partners:
    - Ministry of the Interior Finland
    - Rescue Services of Lapland
    - Rescue Services of North Ostrobothnia
    - Kainuu Rescue Department
- Budget: **300 000 €** (IBA funding)  
funded by Ministry for Foreign affairs of Finland



# ArcResc Meetings



Yukon

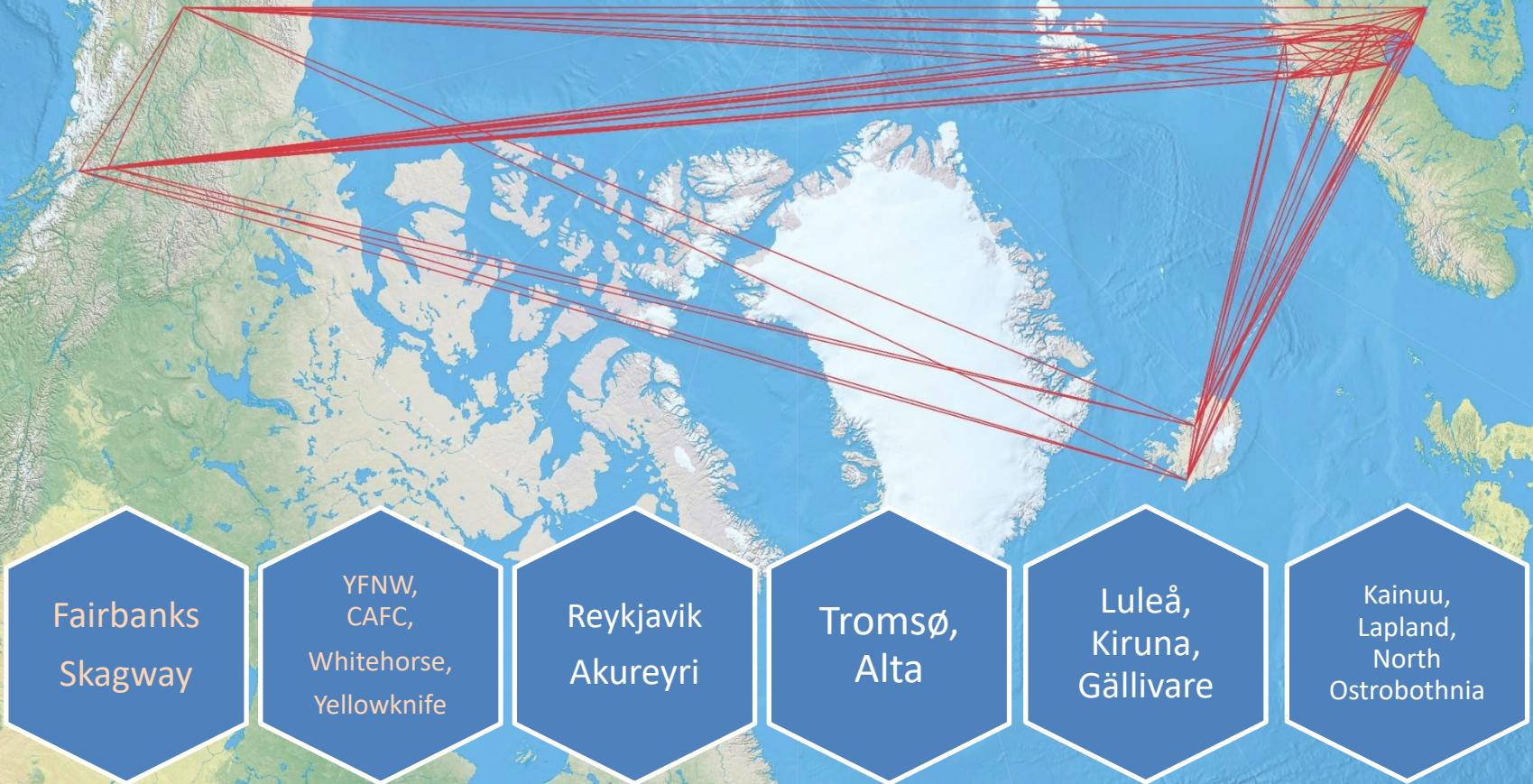
Iceland

Tromsø

Finland

Kiruna

# Networking



# Final Seminar - Rovaniemi



**Thursday  
28th  
September**

## FUTURE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES IN THE ARCTIC REGION

- Why the arctic is in the focus?
- The arctic environment
- Indigenous people
- The fire and rescue services future directions
- Challenges of the fire and rescue services in the Arctic
- Wildfires



# ARCRESC MEETING KIRUNA



# ARCRESC MEETING TROMSØ



# ARCRES MEETING YUKON



# ARCRES MEETING ICELAND



- Iceland is part of the Mid Atlantic Ridge, where it rises from sea. Western part is on the American plate and the Eastern part on the Euro-Asia plate.
- Iceland is also considered to be a hot spot, where high volcanic activity occurs due to a hot mantle plume. Magma rises from the mantle to the surface



# ARCRES MEETING FINLAND







# Operation environment

- Large areas and long distances
- Long and rough winter, season changes, (spring) breakup
- Ground frost/permafrost (thawing)
- Strong climate change impacts
- Partly old and poor infrastructure
- Telecommunication network dead zones, low data



# Societies



- Sparse population
- Urbanization
- Tourism, strong seasonality, fast development
- New activities/sports
- Helplessness, weak preparedness
- Visitors' expectations
- Industry, mines, new locations
- Technical development  
-> complexity & vulnerability





# Services

- Sparse population – thin population base
- Next station far
- Services disappeared
  - Fire and rescue service may be the last existing local (authority) service
- Local knowledge-changing environment
- Often fire and rescue services
  - Multiskill needs, training requirement, ageing, culture change, demanding jobs..
- Authorities cooperation emphasized



# Arctic cooperation



- Little international cooperation/no existing connections between fire & rescue services (operational level) in the Arctic
  - based mostly on personal contacts
- ArcResc – developed an actor network







# Contact

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