

AURC brings together 15 Arctic towns and cities. Despite their diversity, Arctic local authorities face similar sustainable development challenges. Through AURC they work together in a structured action planning process to transfer knowledge and best practices – and find solutions.



**LOOKING FORWARD:
KEY STEPS IN 2025**

Arctic towns and cities are improving local plans, policies, partnerships and actions on a range of sustainable development topics, incorporating learning from the AURC network.

Key AURC topics in 2025 include sustainable economic development strategies as they relate to gender equality, entrepreneurship, youth leadership, immigration and community integration. A study visit explores solutions in Yellowknife, Canada, in March 2025, together with the Arctic Economic Council (AEC).

In June 2025, AURC towns and cities participate in the EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Forum in Kittilä, Finland.

Meanwhile, AURC continues to facilitate exchange and learning, providing informed steps towards better policy making and implementation.



We are delighted to share our experiences in green transition and liveable cities through AURC. It's invaluable to draw inspiration from each other's innovative solutions. Building collaborative platforms is crucial, and AURC exemplifies the support and success of such initiatives."

Carina Sammeli, Mayor of Luleå



WHAT IS ARCTIC URBAN REGIONAL COOPERATION?

Arctic Urban Regional Cooperation (AURC) is the first initiative of its kind enabling local authorities from Arctic countries to collaborate through peer-to-peer learning and sharing on sustainable urban and regional development challenges and solutions.

Launched by the European Union in January 2024, AURC supports 15 Arctic local authorities from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Iceland, Canada and the USA to exchange knowledge and experiences on the issues most important to them.

Let's keep in touch!

Find out about the EU's wide range of activities for and in the Arctic

Connect with us on social media:



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ARCTIC URBAN REGIONAL COOPERATION

YEAR ONE: INSPIRATION AND JOINT ACTION PLANNING



Celebrating more than a year of cooperation between Arctic towns and cities, working together on essential local issues



Funded by
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Thematic clusters focus on creating a more socially sustainable Arctic, inclusive economic development, and a green transition in the Arctic, as well as the transversal priorities of digital transition, and working towards more gender equality and meaningful social inclusion of youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and marginalised groups.

SOME OF THE KEY PRIORITIES TACKLED SO FAR:

ATTRACTING PEOPLE TO ARCTIC REGIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES

A top concern for AURC towns and cities is how to attract and retain people in Arctic regions and municipalities, focusing on talent and youth. The network started a direct collaboration with The Arctic Six, an alliance of Nordic universities, linking the green transition with employment opportunities to foster vibrant cities. Concrete actions include AURC being part of The Arctic Six extended task force mapping the role of cities in the green transition, and joint applications to Interreg addressing these topics.



SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE ARCTIC

AURC cities and towns identified the need to promote the Arctic as an attractive tourist destination; create certifications or standards for tourism suppliers; and encourage Indigenous Peoples' involvement in local tourism. As a result, AURC launched a cooperation with the Swedish Lapland Visitors Board to define joint action areas for sustainable Arctic tourism using the 'Care for the Arctic Toolbox' as model.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The AURC network has enabled the exchange of valuable best practices and methodologies for climate actions such as wildfire prevention and mitigation, enhancing community engagement and innovative solutions. It also sparked new bilateral exchanges with Yellowknife, Canada, and Fairbanks NSB, Alaska, USA, on Wildfire Fuel Mitigation and a FireSmart Programme to create fire resilient landscapes. Building on this, Luleå Municipality provided a training workshop on using *design thinking principles* as a method to engage citizens in climate resilience.



AN ACTIVE YEAR OF COOPERATION FOR AURC'S 15 TOWNS AND CITIES

The AURC network promotes cooperation among Arctic local and regional authorities, communities and organisations. Local authorities define development challenges and share practical solutions.



December 2023

Online technical session – Laying the foundations for cooperation
AURC towns and cities explore 'How can we learn from each other?'. For some, this is their first international exchange and learning programme

January 2024

Online technical session – Local sustainable development challenges. Tromsø prepares for European Youth Capital 2026
Climate change, tourism, housing and cultural preservation challenges, prioritising sustainability, inclusivity and collaboration

January 2024

Arctic Frontiers 2024, Tromsø – AURC officially launched in close collaboration with the Arctic Mayors' Forum (AMF)
Identifying sustainable urban and regional development priorities to work on together



May 2024

Workshop – Attracting People to the North, Brussels
Recruitment fairs, Housing, and Policies for attracting and retaining talent

May 2024

EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue, Brussels
AURC representatives feature in panels on youth engagement, indigenous and traditional knowledge, ecosystems, entrepreneurship and sustainability, research and resources



April 2024

Arctic Encounter, Anchorage, Alaska – AURC mayors meet EU policy-makers
Sustainable development challenges and plans for sharing practical solutions through AURC

March 2024

Online technical session – Attracting People to the North
How to tailor strategies to attract and retain skilled professionals, young graduates and students, women and other workers?

June 2024

Online technical session – Climate resilience
Climate and technical adaptation, Community resilience, preparedness and engagement. Inspiring examples from Whitehorse, Bodø and Umeå

September 2024

Study visit – Whitehorse, Yukon
Using natural assets in sustainable tourism; Climate challenges and community resiliency; Indigenous inclusion



October 2024

Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland
AURC Mayors and policy-makers speak in panel on EU Innovation and Sustainable Economic Development

December 2024

Study visit – Luleå and Oulu
Focusing on strategies for liveable cities, green transition, skills supply, sustainable and responsible tourism; Design thinking as a tool for citizen engagement; Leveraging culture and public events to transform cities into liveable and active spaces

