

## Global interest turns towards Arctic regions

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You are reading the first issue of Lumen, the online journal of Lapland University of Applied Sciences. Lumen is Latin and means light. It is also the SI derived unit of luminous flux. So, let the new Lumen bring light to the sometimes drab or even stale world of publication.

As the theme for the first issue, we have chosen the opportunities and operating culture of the Arctic region. Finland is an Arctic country and Lapland is the most Arctic region in Finland, where Arctic competence is part of everyday activities in all areas of life. People in Lapland know how to adapt to the surrounding fragile environment, and cooperation with three Arctic neighbours, as well as international tourism, culture and the export industry are part of day-to-day life.

Knowledge of the Arctic environment means that the people, machines, equipment, businesses, infrastructure and the whole society can work together in one of the world's most challenging operating environments. People must be able to act efficiently and safely. Machines, equipment and industrial plants must function in temperature variations of up to 80 degrees Celsius (–45–+35 °C), in snow, rain and wind, great humidity fluctuations and extreme light variations (from midnight sun to polar night). Long distances and sparse habitation are also typical of the Arctic region.

Lapland and the Arctic regions are at the centre of intense changes taking place due to climate change and the global interest in their strengths, especially in terms of nature and natural resources. Success and well-being in the Arctic environment requires multidisciplinary expertise and a solution-oriented and open operating culture. Community spirit and an open atmosphere, efficiency and hospitality are some of the local strengths. There is an increasing demand for the know-how, education, research and development produced in Lapland on account of the global interest that has turned towards the Arctic region.

In his column, Minister of Economic Affairs Olli Rehn examines the change in the Arctic region and the contribution higher education affords for understanding this change. According

to the Minister, Finland has underestimated her northern know-how for some time. Internationalisation and international networks strengthen, for their part, Arctic expertise.

Senior Teacher Esa Jauhola describes the views of students studying for a Master's degree regarding arcticity and how Lapland University of Applied Sciences can, in line with its strategy, contribute to arcticity and its management. The article highlights concrete development proposals made by students.

Soili Mäkimurto-Koivumaa, Senior Teacher, and Juha Kaarela, Lecturer, examine in their article an ecosystem of Arctic entrepreneurship. They consider how higher education can prepare students to think and act in an entrepreneurial-like manner more than before. As a solution, they propose an ecosystem of Arctic entrepreneurship that supports entrepreneur-like learning.

Kalle Santala, Project Coordinator, focuses in his article on the challenges of forestry know-how set by the Arctic environment. As a solution, he proposes the virtualisation of forestry education through game technology. Lapland University of Applied Sciences is building a functional virtual learning environment for the requirements of forestry education.

Project Coordinator Pasi Satokangas in turn focuses on snow as an essential element of Lapland and arcticity. Mr Satokangas voices justifiable concern about global warming and its impacts on tourism in Lapland.

Lecturer Juha Kaarela and Senior Teacher Outi Törmänen examine the development of alumni activities in degree programmes leading to a Master's degree from Lapland University of Applied Sciences. In their view, alumni activities can serve as a link between the university and the rest of society. Lapland University of Applied Sciences' first alumni event for Master's degree graduates received a warm and encouraging reception.

At the end of this journal, Lecturers Birgit Mylläri and Tarja Lipponen introduce a project concerning female entrepreneurs working in the well-being field. In the project, students at Lapland University of Applied Sciences will interview, as part of their theses, participating well-being entrepreneurs and civil servants from the municipalities.

I would like to thank the authors for their commendable articles and, especially, Communications Officer Heli Lohi. She has made an enormous effort to create this journal. At the same time, I wish this new publication channel every success.