# Arctic research coordination and logistics in Denmark and Greenland in 2016-17

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Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education

# Themes

1. Coordination of Danish arctic research
2. New Danish arctic research and education strategy
3. Research hub in Greenland
4. Logistics coordination in Greenland – ISAAFFIK
5. Larger logistics operations – a few highlights
   - Coordinated use of helicopter at Station Nord
   - East Greenland Ice-core Project – establishment of trenches



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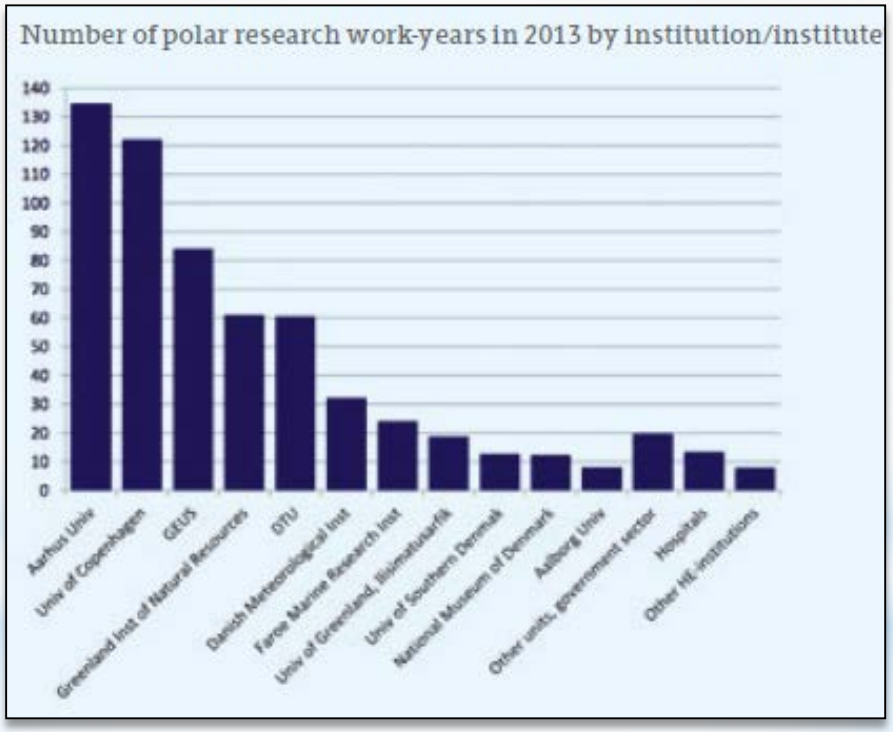
# 1. Coordination of Danish arctic research

**Operators:**
Mainly the universities and research institutes in Denmark and Greenland.
Total number of work-years: 611 (2013)

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# 1. Coordination of Danish arctic research

**Funding:**
Universities (mainly wages)
Different public and private sources, incl. Ministry of Higher Education and Science, Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate, Ministry of Environment and Food, Villum Foundation, A. P. Møller Foundation, Aage V. Jensen Charity Foundation

**Total spending:** 723 mio. DKK (c. 100. mio EURO)
**Public funding:** 79%
**Part of total governmental R&D expenditure:** 3.8%
**Universities:** 38% of budget covered by universities

*Al numbers based on 2013 statistics*

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# 1. Coordination of Danish/Greenlandic arctic research

**Operators:** Most Danish arctic research is carried out by universities and research institutes in Denmark and Greenland.

**Coordination:** Coordination between universities and relevant ministries takes place in Forum for Arctic Research with (i) representatives from all universities and research institutes with arctic research in Denmark and Greenland, (ii) the Ministry of Higher Education and Science and (iii) the Ministry of Defence. The Greenland Government, The Government of the Faroe Islands and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are observers.

Coordination between scientists takes place on annual meetings – the so-called 'Hindsgavl Meetings'

**Logistics coordination:** Through a cross-institutional committee and the homepage ISAAFFIK.

**International coordination:** By representatives appointed by Ministry of Higher education and Science.



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# 1. Coordination of Danish/Greenlandic arctic research

**Danish arctic research strategy – in general:**

- Denmark has no strategical arctic research programme.
- Money for arctic research is in general applied for in free competition with all other research areas.
- There are a few governmental funding opportunities specifically for more application oriented arctic research, mainly relating to environmental issues.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Science has a strategical focus on development of research and education in the Greenland society.
- In general, and compared with other arctic countries, Denmark does not have much focus on stragical arctic research as a geopolitical tool.

# 2. New Danish arctic research and education strategy

**Title:** Strategy for Research and Education Concerning the Arctic.
**Published by:** The Ministry of Higher Education and Science.
**Main conclusions:**
The Ministry of Higher Education and Science will:

- strengthen its effort in arctic research, education and innovation.
- in cooperation with the Greenland Government look at the possibilities for establishing an international research hub in Greenland.
- make an effort to improve the abilities for Greenland students to finish an education in Denmark.
- further develop the ISAAFFIK portal (a webbased coordination tool for arctic scientists).
- explore the opportunities to render arctic data more visible and accessible to researchers on a national as well as on a global level .
- focus on effectively following up on the Arctic Council's agreement on scientific cooperation.
- assume a more coordinating and strategic role in international arctic research.
- Initiate a process of charting arctic interests in strategic countries in which innovation centres have been established.

**Download:** http://ufm.dk/en/publications/2016/strategy-for-research-and-education-concerning-the-arctic

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# 3. Research hub in Greenland

- Development of an international research hub in Greenland was first suggested in a foreign policy report published in 2016.
- The foreign policy report was not specific about the form of such an international research hub.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Science has therefore in cooperation with the Greenland Government initiated a process for defining the form of such a research hub.
- This work will be coordinated with Danish and Greenlandic research institutions.

# 4. Logistics coordination in Greenland – ISAAFFIK

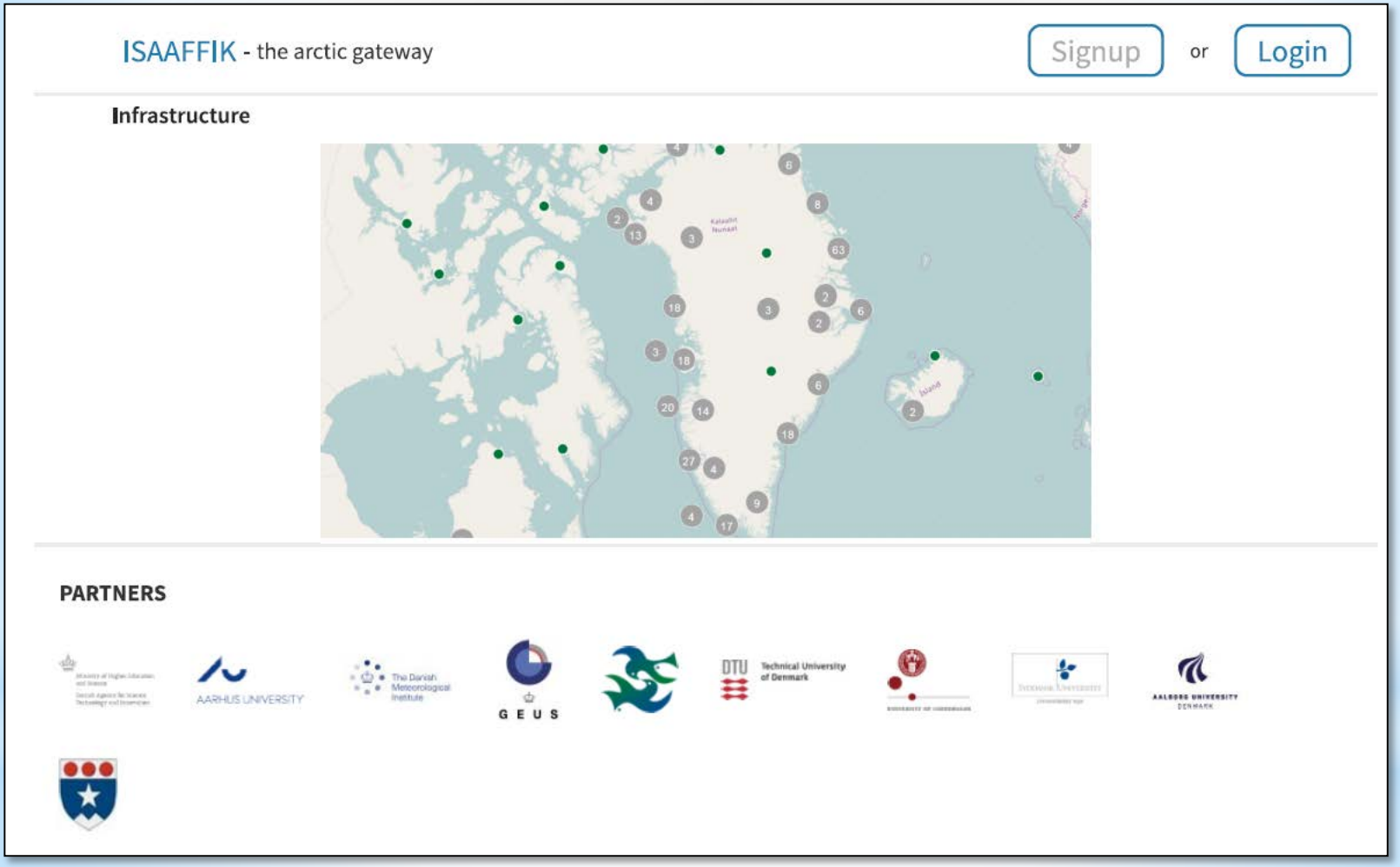
**ISAAFFIK:** ‘Isaaffik’ means ‘Gateway’ in Greenlandic
**Purpose:** A website developed to support arctic research and collaboration between researchers.

A registered user with a personal profile at ISAAFFIK is eligible to announce expeditions, events and activities, participate in informal discussions and piggyback on activities of fellow users.

As important tools, ISAAFFIK currently includes:
- An interactive map of research infrastructure in Greenland
- A tool for coordination of logistics operations in Greenland
- A directory of all registered users including contact details
- A news function
- Different discussion fora
- Event calendars
- A directory of university courses of arctic relevance

**Address:** www.isaaffik.org

# 4. Logistics coordination in Greenland – ISAAFFIK



# 4. Logistics coordination in Greenland – ISAAFFIK

ISAAFFIK - the arctic gateway

Signup or Login

**Infrastructure**

Travel start date | Travel end date

Organisation | Status

Type of transport | Travel area

Enter search

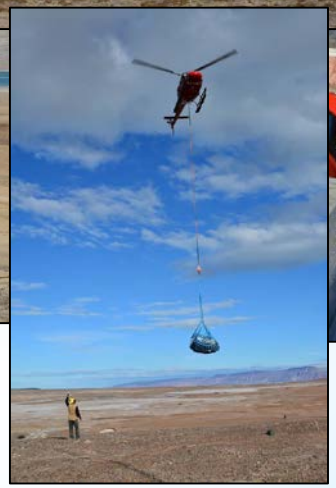
Search

| Itinerary | Travel area | Type of transport | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| NE Greenland / Station Nord | North-East Greenland | Military fixed-wing aircraft | Open |
| NW Greenland KNUD-CLASS | North-West Greenland | Naval ship | Open |
| NE Greenland KNUD-CLASS | North-East Greenland | Naval ship | Open |

# 5. Larger logistics operations – a few highlights

**Coordinated use of helicopter at Station Nord:**

1. Coordinated through ISAAFFIK
2. Positioning accomplished through private funding
3. Shared use for c. three weeks
4. Total of 11 projects
5. Operation coordinated by Aarhus University
6. Similar plans for 2017



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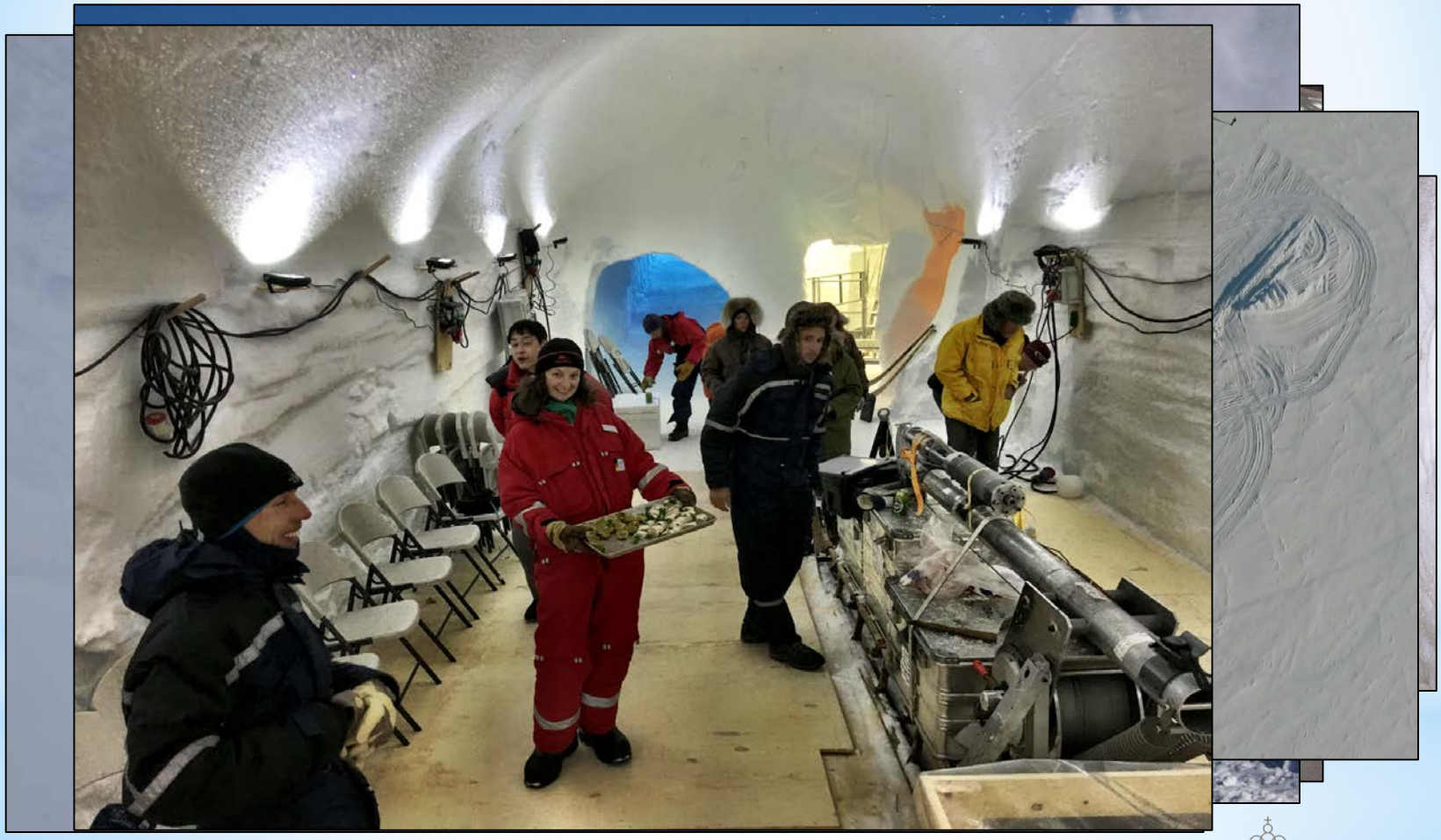
# 5. Larger logistics operations – a few highlights

## East Greenland Ice-core Project – establishment of trenches:



# Thank you

*Arctic research coordination and logistics in Denmark and Greenland in 2016-17*
Forum of Arctic Research Operators, Prague, 1 April 2017

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