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PROGRAMS OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE ARCTIC

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Thematic Network (TN) of Health and Well-being in the Arctic is one of the University of Arctic's TNs. It covers educational programs of joint international Master's (2 years' program) and PhD's level and research projects. The TN was established at 2005 and its mission is to improve the sustainable development of health and well-being in circumpolar regions by promoting research projects on health, organizing research training and distributing scientific information. The main task of the network is to increase the quantity and quality of scientific research carried out in the circumpolar area through the development of a graduate school and international Master's and PhD programs for Circumpolar Health and Well-being. The host of the network is Thule Institute, Centre for Arctic Medicine at the University of Oulu, Finland. At the moment there are more than 20 universities and research institutes as partners of TN.

The Master's program of Health and well-being in the circumpolar area is led by University of Oulu. The first set of students started 2009 and four of the graduated have continued to the PhD program. Program is based on current needs and priorities in higher education on circumpolar region, it has been circulated jointly with seven universities and research centers. The program focuses on health and wellbeing of the residents of the circumpolar region, health culture and the delivery of health care and wellbeing services in the North areas, from the multidisciplinary view.

The TN has arranged ten multidisciplinary summer and winter schools in the connection of the conferences and in close collaboration with several research societies, doctoral programs and health networks. The last summer school was in Anchorage in August 2014. The next important task for the TN is to start the exchange program for students and teachers and finish the curriculum development for PhD studies. The focus areas of the research activities are indigenous health and wellbeing (Sami, Inuit, First Nations), environmental health, climate change and adaptation.