



**The Arctic and Nordic
Countries in the World of Economy and Politics**

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**THE HIGH NORTH AS AN AREA OF THE NORDIC
STATES COOPERATION²**

Current international order influences the Nordic states more than ever before. Similarly, development and evolution of the international community naturally impacts their cooperation in the field of politics, economy³ as well as relations with so-called “close and far away foreign countries.” The structure itself and the enlargement of the European Union opened new horizon for cooperation and introduced new issues to the daily agenda⁴. The diversified activity of the Nordic countries, answering the needs of current issues and facing challenges, is characterized by a great variety and broad spectrum of interest⁵. The activities include cooperation with other regional organizations and programs created by the European Union or engaging it, exchange of viewpoints and coordination of efforts to meet the special challenges of the current time. One of these is certainly the High North, the region of true opportunities but also a possible source of conflicts and problems beyond the borders of the region itself. Although the main

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² All the Nordic countries are members of the Arctic Council, together with Canada, Russia, and USA. The Nordic Council of Ministers has had observer status in the Arctic Council since the establishment of the organization in 1996; more on the subject in: The International Nordic Region. The international co-operation of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen 2013.

³ See: Total Economy Database, January 2008, The Conference Board and Groningen Growth and Development Centre, www.conference-board.org/economics, (Downloaded: April 08, 2008).

⁴ See: I. RunarEðvarðsson, Demographic Changes, Labor Migration and EU-Enlargement – Relevance for the Nordic regions, Nordregio: Stockholm 2007.

⁵ See: Ch. Ketels, Global pressure – Nordic Solutions? The Nordic Globalization Barometer 2008, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen 2008.

role in the region is still played by the states, and especially the traditional world powers, but gradually more importance is assigned to the point of view of local and regional authorities as well as NGOs promoting environment protection and advocating for the rights of the indigenous peoples. Moreover, there are issues regarding commercial undertakings of big energy companies, ownership, the problems of fisheries, and the interests of shipping companies and tourism industry. In a foreseeable future, the complexity of all those relations and interactions between all the mentioned actors will undoubtedly shape the geopolitics in the High North.

The presence of oil and natural gas deposits in the region diametrically changes the perception of the area the more so as currently energy resources begin to define the potential and power of a given country, from which it is only but a step to the temptation of using them as instruments of realizing the policy of a given state.

Such a situation is quite novel and it poses new problems for the Nordic states. One of the most urgent ones to be faced is undoubtedly the energy security of the Nordic countries, which is directly connected with, among others, deposits of carbohydrates⁶. Some of the Nordic states cannot even dream today about energy self-sufficiency as they simply do not have the sufficient resources. But they are capable of increasing their independence by strengthening their cooperation with the partner countries of the region, constructing nuclear power plants, and implementing wider use of renewable resources. Such actions, however, tend to be extremely expensive. In order to improve their energy security, they can diversify the type of used fuels, varying the sources of their supplies (different geographical locations, countries, and companies) as well as technologies employed in energy industry. One should also keep in mind that three out of the five Nordic countries are members of the European Union. Norway and Iceland, on the other hand, are connected with it through membership in the European Economic Area and they are also bound by the agreements resulting from the forms and principles of the Nordic cooperation⁷.

Norway, being one of the biggest suppliers of energy for the EU, does not share the concern characterizing European discussions on the security of energy supply. The directive on the security of natural gas supply has not been included in the agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). However, Norway as a member of the EEA is at the same time bound by the EU regulations concerning the internal energy market. Market cooperation may with time become a much more important instrument in the coordination of the European strategy on the security of supplies (be it only because contracts in the energy market are drawn up by private enterprises) than today's directives in this field. Therefore, a development of the European strategy on the security of energy supply will have impact on the Norwegian energy policy. Norway in this respect is considered to be

⁶ More on the subject in: R.M. Czarny, *Dylematy energetyczne państw regionu nordyckiego*, Kielce 2009, pp. 127-168.

⁷ See: B. Piotrowski, *Integracja Skandynawii. Od Rady Nordyckiej do wspólnoty europejskiej*, Poznań 2006.

a strategic partner, indispensable to secure diversification of resources for the continent. “Both sides hold the same position as regards the need of strengthening the cooperation in energy efficiency and security of energy supplies, including the exploration and exploitation activities in the Arctic region”⁸.

In a more general sense, it appears that the most important opportunities for the European countries in the High North resulting from climate changes are as follows:

- much easier access to deposits of energy resources;
- greater possibility of exploiting mineral resources, metal ores and development of logging industry; new opportunities for sheep husbandry and agriculture;
- possibility of regular navigation on the Northern Sea Route throughout most of the year;
- development of the Arctic’s infrastructure to improve the standard of living there and to support economic development;
- development of tourism and its infrastructure;
- development of international cooperation through already existing international institutions.

On the other hand, the biggest threats may include:

- degradation of the natural environment resulting from the increased presence of people in the region;
- serious risk posed to the unique ecosystem of the Arctic;
- increased risk of disasters, e.g. oil spills;
- exposing the indigenous peoples strongly connected to the natural environment to adverse phenomena of changes in their environment, which may result in disappearance of their unique cultures and social pathologies;
- increased political tension between states of the region and within them, as a result of potential conflicts over natural resources and environment pollution.

The opportunities and threats are often interweaved and frequently emerge at the same time. In addition, the growing global interest in the Arctic region, forced the Nordic states to prepare and develop strategies concerning the High North for the years to come. Some of them are listed below:

- A Parliamentary Resolution on Iceland's Arctic Policy⁹,
- Sweden’s strategy for the Arctic region¹⁰,
- The Norwegian Government’s High North Strategy¹¹ and the High North. Visions and Strategies¹²,

⁸ K. Dośpiał-Borysiak, *Państwa nordyckie a Unia Europejska*, Warszawa 2007, p. 107.

⁹ <http://eng.utanrikisraduneyti.is/news-and-publications/nr/6275>, (Downloaded: April 20, 2012).

¹⁰ Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Arctic Secretariat, Stockholm 2011.

¹¹ Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo 2007.

¹² Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo 2011.

- Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands: Kingdom of Denmark Strategy for the Arctic 2011–2020¹³,
- Finland's Strategy for the Arctic Region¹⁴.

Through the listed planned actions, it might be possible to maximize the opportunities and limit the threats.

A large part of the land and especially the sea waters of the Norden states lie in the Arctic region. No wonder then that the states much engage in the problems of this unique area which is particularly sensitive to changes¹⁵. The Nordic countries have been cooperating to ensure a higher standard of living for the people inhabiting the northern areas and in particular to improve the opportunities for a social and cultural development of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic. The Norden¹⁶ states also have worked together to preserve the unique and much vulnerable Arctic nature. They have attempted to ensure exploitation of the natural resources of the region in a way that preserves the biological diversity of that part of the world¹⁷.

Currently, it appears that the development of the Nordic cooperation concentrates on the opportunities and challenges brought by globalization among which the most prominent seem to be: energy, environment protection, and the climate. All those are clearly reflected in the actions and initiatives undertaken by the Nordic Council of Ministers. One of the main themes is openness towards neighbors, and those linked to the High North in particular. Nordic cooperation is characterized by attention paid to the conditions of life in the Arctic and shared approach towards the economy of the northern areas, which can be illustrated, for example, by the assistance extended to reindeer husbandry. The cooperation results in advancing our knowledge, based on research, on environments threats, heavy metals and climate changes in the region¹⁸. The Nordic support for the Arctic University improves educational opportunities for the representatives of the indigenous peoples. Since the Nordic Council of Ministers advocates transparency and cooperation, it is able to employ important instruments in their activity and has significant resources at its disposal. On an annual basis, many Nordic organizations and associations support the Arctic cooperation¹⁹.

¹³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen 2011.

¹⁴ Prime Minister's Office Publications, Helsinki, 8/2010.

¹⁵ More on the subject in: Nordic workshop on action related to Short-lived Climate Forcers Organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers Climate and Air Quality Group, Hans SkotteMøller (editor), Nordic Council of Ministers 2013, TemaNord 2012:567; also available at: www.norden.org/en/publications.

¹⁶ More on the subject also in: R. M. Czarny, *Dylematy energetyczne... op.cit.*

¹⁷ Sustainable Development in the Arctic, The Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation Programme 2012–2014, Copenhagen 2012.

¹⁸ *The Arctic needs climate first aid!* Norden - the Top of Europe, Mar 27, 2012, www.norden.org (Downloaded: April 19, 2012).

¹⁹ More on the subject in: *Economic value of Nordic ecosystems assessed*, Feb 05, 2013, <http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/economic-value-of-nordic-ecosystems-assessed>, (Downloaded: February 14, 2013).

It can be said that the entire cooperation in the Arctic is run both on a parliamentary and governmental level. Nordic legislators discuss Arctic problems in the Arctic Council. In addition, parliamentary cooperation concerning the Arctic and the Barents Region is realized through standing Arctic committees of parliamentarians (SCPAR)²⁰. Every other year, they organize Arctic conferences of parliamentarians. Parliamentarians from the seven Arctic countries and representatives of the European parliament are members of the Committee. The intergovernmental cooperation is realized through the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Arctic Council, and the cooperation with the European Union.

The Nordic Council is a regional forum for consultations of the Nordic parliaments, created in 1952. Today, it includes legislators from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and delegates of the parliaments of the autonomous territories: the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and the Åland Islands²¹. Closely related to it, although completely autonomous in its decisions, is the Nordic Council of Ministers established in 1977 and focused on intergovernmental cooperation²².

The High North issues are a major part of the program of this organization due to the geographical, historical, and economic connections linking its members with the Arctic. The first cohesive joint project concerning protection of the environment and cultural heritage of Greenland, Iceland, and Svalbard was established in 1999²³. The very same year, under the patronage of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Nordic Arctic Research Programme (NARP) was launched to promote cooperation of research centers acting in the Arctic and to sponsor new scientific projects in three thematic areas: “natural processes on land, sea and in the atmosphere,” “biological diversity and environmental threats in the Arctic,” and “conditions of life of the Arctic’s inhabitants.” The NARP, operating until do 2003, included 63 scientific projects and cost 31 million Danish crowns²⁴. A little earlier, i.e. in 1996, the Arctic Cooperation Programme under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers was launched. The Program’s objectives were defined as follows:

- improving the quality of life of the region’s inhabitants, with special emphasis on the situation of Saami and Inuit, as well as the region’s infrastructure;
- maintaining and preserving environmental integrity and promoting sustainable and responsible management of the natural resources;

²⁰ The Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region. The latest meeting of the Committee took place in Murmansk on September 19, 2013; see: <http://www.arcticparl.org/>

²¹ *About the Nordic Council*, <http://www.norden.org/en/nordic-council/the-nordic-council>. (Downloaded: May 10, 2012).

²² *The Nordic Council of Ministers* <http://www.norden.org/en/nordic-council-of-ministers/the-nordic-council-of-ministers>. (Downloaded: May 10, 2012).

²³ *Nordic Action Plan to Protect the Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage of the Arctic - Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard*, <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publikationer/1999-029>. (Downloaded: May 10, 2012).

²⁴ K. Strand, *Rapid changes in the Arctic. Results book of the Nordic Arctic Research Programme (NARP)*, TemaNord 2006:568, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen 2006, pp. 9-10.

- joint efforts to limit pollution of land and seas;
- developing methods of cooperation among the Arctic countries²⁵.

On June 12, 2002, the Program was extended for the period of 2003 to 2005 to continue the cooperation, and three major priority issues were identified: the indigenous peoples, development of prosperity, and sustainable development²⁶. In addition, six thematic sections on which the cooperation should focus were approved:

- social welfare, including health issues and equality of genders, particularly amongst the indigenous peoples of the Arctic;
- integration of children and young people into the society;
- development of industry and entrepreneurship with the emphasis on supporting economic development in sparsely populated areas, as well as development of infrastructure and communication systems;
- sustainable exploitation of natural resources;
- environment and power industry;
- culture, education, and training²⁷.

In that period, the process of climate change intensified in the Arctic, especially in the first decade of the 21st century. In the years 2003–2004, the results from research programs financed by the NARP were gradually published. They showed clear impact of climate change on the natural and social environment of the Arctic²⁸. The growing awareness of new challenges made the Nordic Council of Ministers to adapt the Program to tackle the new climate and social conditions. On December 4, 2009, the Program's new version was accepted to cover the years 2009–2011. The main objectives were defined as follows:

- enlarging the body of knowledge on and the efforts to combat climate change, environment pollution and their impacts on humans and animals;
- improving the quality of life for the Arctic's inhabitants, and the indigenous peoples in particular;
- promoting social and cultural development of the Arctic's population;
- contributing to maintaining the Arctic's environmental integrity and promoting sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources²⁹.

For the first time ever, and as a top priority, the issue of climate change was mentioned, which proved to be later the main challenge for the policy of the Nordic Council of Ministers for the Arctic. It is definitely a new theme in the Program which could be attributed to the release of the IPCC report in 2007,

²⁵ *New Arctic Cooperation Programme*, ANP 2002:424, Nordic Council of Ministers 2002, p. 1 <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publikationer/2002-424>, (Downloaded: May 10, 2012).

²⁶ *Ibidem*, pp. 2-3.

²⁷ O.S. Stokke, *Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation 2003-2005: An evaluation*, ANP 2007:714, Nordic Council of Ministers, Copenhagen 2007, p. 21.

²⁸ *NARP Highlights – Contributions of the Nordic Arctic Research Programme*, Nordic Arctic Research Programme, Oulu 2005.

²⁹ *The Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation Programme 2009-2011*, 2009:491, <http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publikationer/2009-491>, (Downloaded: May 10, 2012).

publication by NARP the research data, and gradually more obvious change in the climate of the Arctic.

The latest document of the Nordic Council of Ministers regarding the policy towards the Arctic is so far “Sustainable Development in the Arctic. The Nordic Council of Minister’s Co-operation Programme 2012 – 2014,” published on March 5, 2012. It is a continuation of the policy announced in the report of 2009, although as its priority it lists particular care of the people inhabiting the region, which is in accord with the prevalent attitude in the Scandinavian countries of perceiving social welfare and that of individuals as superior overall. The document, in addition, defines five spheres of cooperation:

- Population: the Program is to promote sustainable development through finding answers to the challenges posed by urbanization and demographic changes. It is also of utmost importance to secure social cohesion, to battle problems resulting from integration issues, to improve living conditions through public health programs, to fight contagious diseases, and to secure healthy foods. As in every new edition of the Arctic Cooperation Programme, special care is devoted to the indigenous peoples, their living circumstances and their adaptation to the new conditions caused by climate change and globalization;
- Environment and nature: the main objective is to protect the unique nature of the Arctic and its biodiversity;
- Climate: the Program shall support the initiatives combating climate changes in the Arctic and dissemination of knowledge about its causes. It is also important to create local and regional adaptation strategies and promoting them;
- Sustainable development of companies: the Arctic Cooperation Programme shall support development of businesses based on sustainable exploitation of the resources, and of innovative approach, particularly in the field of renewable energy resources, infrastructure, information technology, and communication systems. It is also significant to support the relation between business and the society based on Corporate Social Responsibility;
- Education and training programs: the Program shall support initiatives leading to improve the level of education and the qualifications of Arctic’s inhabitants, and will support organizations dealing with these issues in the region. Special care shall be given to the indigenous peoples and the young people to make them aware of the challenges and opportunities resulting from globalization and climate change, and means of assisting the Arctic’s inhabitants in developing a sustainable society will be provided³⁰.

The document is a continuation of a constant engagement of the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers in developing scientific research and

³⁰ *Sustainable Development in the Arctic. The Nordic Council of Minister’s Co-operation Programme 2012 – 2014*, 2012:403 (<http://www.norden.org/en/publications/publikationer/2012-403>), (Downloaded: September 1, 2012).

social initiatives in the High North, mindful of the role and significance of the natural environment. It should be noted, however, that these are initiatives which relate almost exclusively to the Nordic part of the Arctic, and it is there that they significantly improve the state of the environment and the socio-economic wellbeing of the Arctic's societies.

The Nordic Council, or rather the Nordic Council of Ministers, since the latter is much more active in the region, as an institution acting on behalf and for the good of the Nordic sub-region, is particularly devoted to Arctic issues. In its policy, it attempts to address also climate changes through, among other, financing research programs concerning these issues in the High North, and by promoting a sustainable economic and social development. It is so characteristic that a human dimension is always at the fore of all the problems discussed. With a typical Nordic sensitivity towards and care for societal wellbeing, the Nordic Council supports development of communities and attempts to assist them in benefitting from the climate change as much as possible. Particular emphasis is put on the indigenous peoples, the Innuït and Saami, as they and their lifestyles are most exposed to the threats.

Nordic cooperation on the Arctic is certainly of a broad spectrum and it encompasses many areas, including among others: the environment³¹, health, energy supply³², culture, education, IT, scientific research, and the economic development. In addition, the Nordic Council of Ministers applies the Arctic Cooperation Programme when working with the states of the Arctic Council, the EU³³, and through its activities within the Barents-Euro-Arctic-Council³⁴ (*Barentsrådet*). The council has its own detailed program, strategies and achievements concerning the Arctic. It also has its own committee of experts for the Arctic which develops directives regarding the scope, implementation and continuation of the Arctic activities. The main responsibility for the coordination of actions lies with the ministers for Nordic cooperation. However, in order to launch the undertaking and initiatives concerning activities in the Arctic, they must be first approved by the council of specialized ministries within the frame of the Nordic Council of Ministers³⁵.

The strong commitment of the states to the Arctic matters is considered natural. Their initiatives are prepared mostly by the Cooperation Programme for the Arctic (of the Nordic Council of Ministers) which develops projects and actions³⁶. In this unique and vulnerable region, the Nordic states have not only obvious interests but also a long history of solving problems together. Denmark,

³¹ *New report maps Nordic climate emissions*, Feb 04, 2013, www.norden.org (Downloaded: February 14, 2013).

³² In other words: energy security.

³³ The Nordic Council: *The EU should set more ambitious climate targets before 2030*, Jul 03, 2013, <http://www.norden.org/en/news-and-events/news/the-nordic-council-the-eu-should-set-more-ambitious-climate-targets-before-2030>, (Downloaded: July 03, 2013).

³⁴ More on the subject at: <http://www.beac.st/in-English/Barents-Euro-Arctic-Council>.

³⁵ For example, the Nordic Council of Ministers for Environment, *Nordiskaministerrådetför miljö* (MR-M), where Nordic cooperation on environment protection is realized.

³⁶ More on the subject at: <http://www.norden.org/arktis/sk/samarbeidsprogram.as>.

Iceland, Norway, and the Faroe Islands reached an agreement (in 2006) on the matter of a disputed area in the North Atlantic, southeast of Spitsbergen. “The point was that in accordance with the Convention on the Law of the Sea, all four could make legitimate claims to it, but they finally reached an agreement”³⁷. Norway and Denmark signed a historic agreement on the maritime delimitation of the shelf and sea zones (encompassing the area of 150 000 km²) between Greenland and Spitsbergen³⁸ (the division was made in accordance with the principle of so-called Median Line, the very same one advocated by Norway in its negotiations with Russia on the delimitation of disputed zones in the Barents Sea). The agreement does not include the issue of authority over the shelf and the sea.

It does not mean, however, that the traditional activity of the “Norden” was brought about by the new context of international relations only, or that it is only a result of rich history, or realization of the need for joint actions to meet the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization processes. That region, with its distinct Nordic specificity, will most probably continue its cooperation to a large degree motivated by and based on its own internal tradition, cohesion and experience. Flexibility and ability of adapting actions to the new needs will remain its strong point. Hence it is hardly surprising that the Nordic states, with their typical pragmatic approach, voice their concern about the developments in the High North. For them this area, and the Arctic in particular, is a sub-region determining social and economic developments, and in which serious and very evident ecological challenges are to be met. For obvious reasons, a special role has been assumed by Norway and Denmark, although all Nordic states are in favor of engaging the EU and NATO in the matters of the High North. Naturally, they are of the opinion that those two organizations are capable of strengthening their own position vis-à-vis the other players, and above all towards the Russian Federation and the USA.

Hence the Nordic cooperation on the Arctic is needed both in the context of the EU, as well as the regional and global dimensions. Even if there are differences among the Nordic states as regards the region, when the EU is considering what actions should be undertaken in the Arctic, naturally the Norden countries ought to play the leading role³⁹. Moreover, a double membership of some countries, both of NATO and the EU, should secure the compliance of the strategic actions with the interests and needs of the Nordic states. The environmental developments in the Arctic have significant impact on the Nordic states. Therefore, in practice this group of countries ought to be entrusted with and responsible for implementing the Union projects in the region. These countries should attempt, if not exert pressure on the EU, to introduce in the region very strict environmental norms on research and exploitation of natural resources. Their well-known reputation in standards of

³⁷ G. Herrmann, *op.cit.*: see also: *Topmode på Grønland om Arktis, norden*, <http://www.norden.org/webb/news>, May 28, 2008.

³⁸ See: *Aftenposten*, February 21, 2007.

³⁹ Compare: J. Kääpylä, H. Mikkola, *The Global Arctic: The Growing Arctic Interests of Russia, China, the United States and the European Union*; published August 13, 2013. http://www.fiia.fi/en/publication/347/the_global_arctic/. (Downloaded: September 01, 2013).

environment protection ought to allow for developing very detailed solutions for the European Union.

In addition, the Arctic Cooperation Programme of the Nordic countries is complemented with their cooperation with Russia which is a neighbor in the same geographical zone. Generally speaking, due to stable, constant and pragmatic relations of the Nordic states with Russia, it is often advocated that these countries should be assigned a leading role in developing the EU strategy towards Russia. An obvious question suggests itself here: Is that strategy clear enough? It is a legitimate question in the situation when Russia does not even try to hide the possibility and its desire to use energy as a political tool to instigate divisions in Europe.

It appears that the role to be played by the Nordic countries within the Union towards Russia can be defined as a task to depoliticize (as much as possible) the relations and direct them towards a pragmatic cooperation focused on problem solving. Only Nordic countries have tried regional and trans-border cooperation with Russia, which differentiates them from other states in the Union. Therefore, the Nordic countries keep lobbying in the EU for a new approach towards developing relations with Russia. This approach would discard the notion of a mutually agreed upon grand strategy for cooperation, advocating for basic cooperation and reducing individual barriers to cooperation as they emerge. For years, such a regular cooperation has built trust and mutual respect on the political level, in business and in a civic society, all of which seems to be particularly significant in long-term Norden – Russia, or EU – Russia relations.

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Abstract

The positive developments in the High North are of critical importance not only to the development of the Nordic States (mainly Norway) or Russia but also other countries with interests in this region.

In foreseeable future, the entire range of interactions between all the actors and their complexity will have decisive impact on geopolitics in the High North. Hence the degree of interest and involvement of *Norden* states in the High North is fully understandable. It would seem that the Nordic states, due to their rich experience and high competence of their agencies, are specially positioned to assume a leadership role in scientific research and development of this part of the world. Therefore, much attention should be paid to their key policy objectives presented in visions and strategies concerning the High North. According to the Norwegians, they are as follows: "to safeguard peace and stability and provide predictability; - to ensure an integrated, ecosystem-based management regime that safeguards biodiversity and provides a basis for sustainable use of resources; - to strengthen international cooperation and the international legal order; - to strengthen the basis for employment, value creation and welfare throughout the country by means of a regional and national effort in cooperation with partners from other countries and relevant indigenous groups"⁴⁰.

Daleka Północ jako obszar współpracy państw nordyckich

Pozytywny rozwój na Północy ma istotne znaczenie nie tylko dla rozwoju krajów nordyckich (głównie Norwegii) czy Rosji, ale i pozostałych krajów mających interesy dotyczące tego rejonu.

W dającej się przewidzieć przyszłości złożoność wzajemnych oddziaływań między wszystkimi wspomnianymi aktorami będzie miała decydujący wpływ na geopolitykę Dalekiej Północy. Stąd oczywistym jest stopień zainteresowania i zaangażowania państw *Norden* na Dalekiej Północy. Wydaje się, że państwa nordyckie z racji swych bogatych doświadczeń i kompetencji służb, są szczególnie predestynowane do pełnienia przewodniej roli w zakresie badań i wiedzy na temat rozwoju tej części świata. Stąd takiej wagi nabierają kluczowe cele polityki zawarte w ich wizjach i strategiach dotyczących *High North*, a które Norwegowie określają następująco: „zabezpieczenie pokoju i stabilności, oraz zapewnienie przewidywalności; zapewnienie zintegrowanego systemu zarządzania w oparciu o ekologię, który zabezpieczy różnorodność biologiczną i stanie się podstawą dla zrównoważonego wykorzystania bogactw naturalnych; wzmacnianie współpracy międzynarodowej i międzynarodowego porządku prawnego; umocnienie podstaw zatrudnienia, tworzenia wartości oraz dobrobytu w całym kraju poprzez wysiłki regionalne i ogólnokrajowe we współpracy z partnerami z zagranicy oraz grupami ludności tubylczej, których to dotyczy”⁴¹.

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⁴⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁴¹ Norway. *The High North Visions and Strategies*, MFA, Oslo 2011.