



# EUROPE'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD: A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE ARCTIC

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The EU is making a strategic choice in its **Northern Neighbourhood**: building a stronger and more structured cooperation with like-minded countries, economies and peoples living in the Arctic.

The Northern Neighbourhood will:

- provide a political framework for cooperation;
- enable the EU and partners to jointly develop and finance projects on shared priorities.



**500 000**

EU citizens live  
in the Arctic



**€1 BILLION**

in cohesion funding  
for 2021–2027

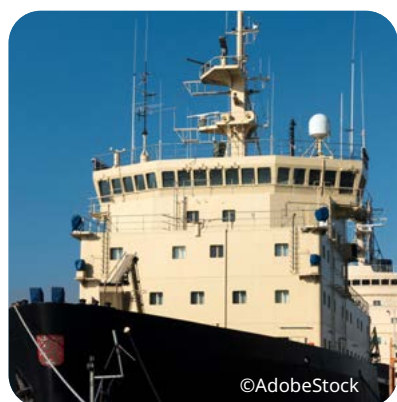


**€100 MILLION**

For polar research and  
innovation projects annually



## SECURE, PEACEFUL, AND RESILIENT ARCTIC



**Maritime Security Hub:** Developed together with EU Member States and partners, it will integrate data from EU and national sources, improving monitoring of maritime infrastructure, shadow fleet, illegal fishing, pollution and search-and-rescue operations.

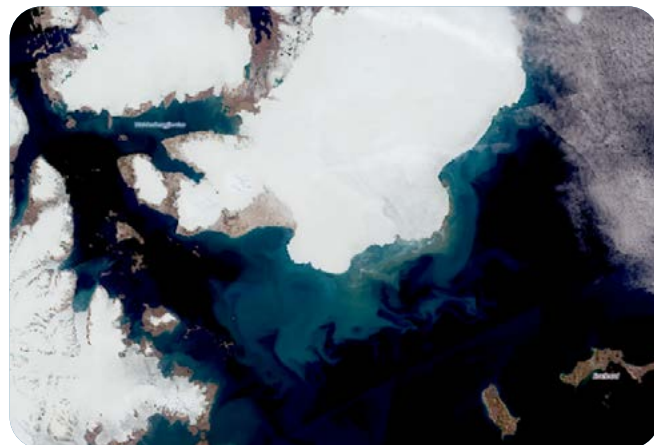
**Expanding European icebreaker capacity:** Mapping industrial capabilities and Arctic operational needs, strengthening technological leadership, and developing joint procurement and resource-sharing to enhance the availability of advanced icebreakers across Europe.



## CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ARCTIC

**OceanEye:** Brings together EU Member States and partners, including Canada and Norway, to collect and share ocean data, improving climate prediction, maritime safety and security, and European competitiveness.

**Destination Earth:** The EU's flagship digital twin of the planet, will combine Copernicus data, supercomputing and AI-based prediction, strengthening our ability to anticipate extreme weather and cascading disasters such as coastal flooding.



Ice melting in the Svalbard Archipelago (18 August 2026)



## PROSPEROUS AND ECONOMICALLY SECURE ARCTIC



**Pan-Arctic Cable:** The EU will support secure, resilient submarine cable connectivity linking Greenland directly to Europe, with potential future extensions towards Canada and Japan, building on existing EU investments and international digital partnerships.

**IRIS<sup>2</sup> Arctic Connectivity:** Developed by the EU, it will provide secure satellite connectivity for government communications, with additional satellites planned to expand coverage across the Arctic to reach remote communities.

**EU Polar Research Hub:** It will better connect research, observation and scientific infrastructure, improve access to research resources and strengthen coordination with stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples. This will support better informed decisions and scientific innovation.



## AN ARCTIC THAT WORKS FOR ITS PEOPLE

**Education and youth support:** Strengthening Erasmus+ opportunities for Arctic young people through exchanges and skills development. The EU will also continue regular Arctic Youth Policy Dialogues and establish a Youth Sounding Board in Greenland.

**Building resilient international dialogue and governance for Arctic engagement:** Led by the Arctic Mayors' Forum, this new initiative will bring together 22 Arctic towns and cities to address shared challenges, strengthen regional cooperation and promote sustainable development, with plans to expand membership over four years.



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