

# The Challenges of Estonian Polar Expeditions for Schoolchildren

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# Polar quiz – Polar expedition

A photograph of a person skiing on a snowy slope. The background is a large, blue-tinted ice wall with numerous long, thin icicles hanging from it. The scene is set in a polar region.

**POLAARVIKTORIINIL!**  
**PARIMATELE AUHINNAKS EKSPEDITSIOON ARKTIKASSE!**

# ESTONIAN POLAR CLUB

- Joins people with a common interest in the Arctic and Antarctic who have participated in polar research or related activities
- Operates by Estonian Maritime Museum since 1.12.1984
- Objectives: introducing and popularizing polar issues, assisting museum in storing the polar history



# Estonian Maritime Museum

- was founded in 1935
- since 1981 its main exhibition is located in the medieval cannon tower called Fat Margaret
- In May 2012 the second exposition was opened at the Seaplane Harbour
- The museum harbour and marina, the most honorable is steam icebreaker Suur Tõll (1914)

# Fat Margaret and Seaplane Harbour

M

Eesti  
Meremuuseum  
Estonian  
Maritime Museum

M



# Seaplane Harbour



M



# 21<sup>st</sup> century

- Global climate changes
- Most clearly seen in the environment of Arctic and Antarctic
- The need for researchers, professional and passionate, who will notice and understand
- How to arise these subjects to the sphere of interest of the young generation, how to influence their choice for future career



# Estonian Polar club activities for the young people

- Ordinary activities: lectures, polar forums, programmes during the polar exhibitions, films etc.
- Polar Foundation: scholarships for students to support researching the polar regions (for very few)
- How to involve more persons and how to get them more interested in polar questions?

# Quiz?

- Most wider involvement (as many pupils as possible) – **Web-based quiz**
- How to find the biggest attention – the most remarkable prizes for the winners:  
**participation in the real polar expedition**  
together with the Estonian researches!

# 2017 web-based quiz

The Estonian Polar Club together with Polar Foundation , Maritime museum and the Society of Tallinn teachers of Geography organized:

- - web-based quiz (40 multiple choice questions), participated 258 schoolchildren from all the parts of Estonia)
- - the best 34 were invited to the next round

# Final choice

- They had to show their interest writing an essay after Fridtjof Nansen's quote "*The difficult is what takes a little time. The impossible is what takes a little longer.*"
- The final quiz at the maritime museum, work with the popular science text about Antarctica and group work with the map.

# Five winners



# Polar expedition to Arctic

North-western part of Finland, [Kilpisjärvi polarstation \(Helsinki University\)](#), July 2017

- Three Estonian researchers
- Programm (limnology, geology), finances (Estonian Research Council etc.)
- Results: more educated young people with polar knowledge, their names mentioned in scientific article, one girl continues to study at the University in Spitzbergen

# Kilpisjärvi polarstation





# Polar quiz 2019/2020

MORE PERSONAL APPROACH, ENCOURAGING THEIR INTERESTS:

- Web-based quiz with additional task - if you will be among the winners, on which polar subject you would like to specialize
- Before the 2nd tour – make a short video (max 2 min), introduce yourself and your idea

# Next steps

2<sup>nd</sup> tour 28.01.20 at the Maritime museum:

- Quiz, no group tasks any more, work with EU texts about climate policy
- Polar expedition to Arctic (more cooperation with Finland, Norway, Sweden)

Finances:

Support from EU Commission

Support from the project ANTARCTICA 200

# Winners together with jury 28.01.20



# Estonian expedition to celebrate 200 years from the discovery



# Next time to Antarctica?

Polar quiz and expedition for schoolchildren 2019/20 is part of the project Antarctica 200:

- Estonian Maritime museum and Thetis Expeditions organized a sailing trip from Kronstadt to Antarctica 11.07.19-28.01.20 on the [s/y Admiral Bellingshausen](#)
- [28.01.20 celebrations at the same time: in Antarctica and Estonia](#) – 5 winners chosen to the polar expedition for schoolchildren