The Challenges of Estonian Polar Expeditions for Schoolchildren

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Polar quiz – Polar expedition



ESTONIAN POLAR CLUB

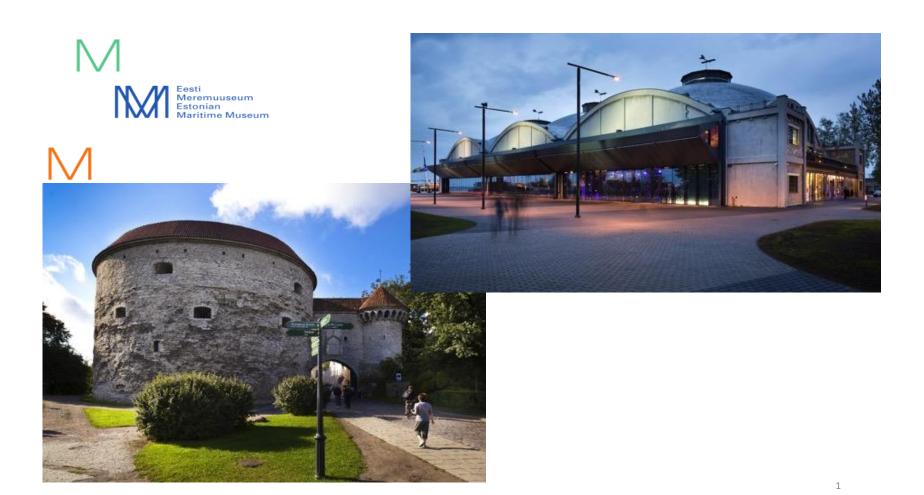
- Joins people with a common interest in the Arctic and Antarctic who have participated in polar research or related activities
- Operates by Estonian Maritime Museum since 1.12.1984
- Objectives: introducing and popularizing polar issues, assisting museum in storing the polar history



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



Seaplane Harbour



21st 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 arose 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: scolarships 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 Nansenś 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

2nd 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