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**Nordic Arctic cooperation in ageing:**

**Policy analysis of age-inclusive outdoor spaces**

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In the last decade, several various policy strategies have been adopted in response to population ageing in the Arctic. Governmental actions have yet to be evaluated in terms of their efficacy. By making an overview of specified policy actions, we define successes and failures on the way to building thriving age-inclusive communities in the Nordic region of the Arctic.

### ***Aim***

The aim of this presentation is to show the results how we identified and compared the policies of four Nordic countries on age-inclusive outdoor spaces through analyzing central government white papers concerning the older adult population from the four countries: Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland.

An analysis of such policy documents provided insights into the predominant understandings of older adults and ageing. Moreover, an analysis of such documents may identify ‘silences’ or ‘blind spots’ in the national policies, especially regarding its northernmost and rural Arctic territories.

## ***Results***

Results demonstrate how the older adult populations in the Nordic regions of the Arctic, especially in the rural areas, and their access to outdoor spaces and specific challenges were addressed in the studied policy documents.

We found that with little exceptions, the older adult population of the rural Arctic is strikingly absent in the included Nordic nation-wide governmental papers. Moreover, access to outdoor spaces is mentioned in general terms, and specific challenges of the rural Arctic context, such as the harsh climate, long and dark winters, and long geographical distances are not addressed. The noticed silences might be the result of ‘urban-rural’, ‘south-north’, ‘indoor-outdoor’ and ‘generalisation’ biases.