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**Title:** *Social Sciences in the Program of Polish Research in the High North*

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Growing global interest in the High North, and especially in the Arctic, brings the demand for new data, knowledge and information which are indispensable for a thorough understanding of mutual interactions between various systems and a full comprehension of the current and potential future changes.

Political dialogue alone, though of essential nature, is no longer sufficient. The subject matter as well as the temperature of these discussions clearly point to the need of facilitating the coordination of international actions required to solve the problems appearing in the High North.

Since Poland for decades has participated in the polar research in the broadly understood field of natural science, it is of utmost importance that the study spectrum be expanded by social science. In my mind, only the combinations of the two sciences (natural and social) mutually complementing each other might provide a fuller and more universal picture of the current and predicted situations in the High North.

Hence the priority list of research fields in Polar research of Poland has been broadened by the following disciplines: international relations, international economic relations, international law, political science, economic geography, and security issues. In the theoretical scheme, the research focuses on the political science and international law perspectives. Specialized areas, on the other hand, include the following:

- Studies on the security issues in the High North;
- Studies on the development of the High North region;
- The European Union policies towards the Arctic;
- Polish polar policies - from scientific and scholarly cooperation to public diplomacy;
- Social, cultural, and economic transformations among the indigenous communities;
- The significance of the Russian Federation in the area of the High North.



The presented directions define fundamental research areas within the field of international relations as regards Polar Regions. They have been singled out on the basis of their scope and subject matter of the analyses, reflecting simultaneously the hierarchy of the importance of separate issues.

They point out the research directions and allow for establishing several more detailed research problems. Both the themes presented in the first two points and the proposed thematic studies closely correspond to the scope of research conducted in the field of polar social sciences in the world.