

# Northern LTSER platform

Coordinator: Thule Institute, University of Oulu



## What is going on:

- **Long-term research and monitoring "as usual" on the sites (research stations)**
- **Research support for researchers of the consortium**
  - Thule grants for researchers using LTSER-data of the research stations
  - Coordination actions: meetings, project planning services etc.
- **Infrastructure building to LTSER-platforms**
  - Data rescue of old research projects
  - Digitizing old land-use data (aerial photographs e.g.)
  - Instrumentation & automation of ecosystem monitoring
- **Development of socio-economic indicators to LTSER-platforms**
  - Monitoring system of tourism in Kuusamo & Kilpisjärvi municipalities

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## We have succeeded in:

- University of OULU commitment to the development of FinLTSER/LIFE WATCH infrastructure
  - Included to University of OULU research strategy
  - Instrumentation funding from University of OULU infrastructure programme 2008-2010 ~ 300 000 € to Oulanka Research Station
- Collaboration between northern research stations (KILPISJÄRVI, KOLARI, VÄRRIÖ, KEVO, OULANKA) has increased
- Supporting projects
  - Kilpisjärvi LTSER (ERDF-project)  
<http://www.helsinki.fi/kilpis/tutkimus/ltser.htm>
  - INTERACT infrastructure & transnational access project (7FP) SCANNET & FinLTSER <http://www.eu-interact.org/>
  - More projects under evaluation process



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## Challenges:

In national level:

- Preliminary process/preparatory phase has taken too long - > researchers interest has been decreased
- Unbalance between expectations and concrete steps forward
- Confusion about the LTER organisation: infrastructure or collaborational study designs ("real research"), the ratio of data management to research
- Uncertain national science policy: role of LYNEX, foreseen reform in the national environmental monitoring etc.
- Need of national guidelines to harmonize practices and roles in management and long-term monitoring instrumentation

In consortium level:

- Long-term financing?
- Lack of eScience experience and culture (especially senior researchers are conservative)
- Joint strategic research agenda - consortium cohesion

