

For its natural resources and significant strategic position, the Arctic region is becoming the subject of research projects more and more often than before not only for the countries reaching this area but also for the neighbouring ones these days – including the projects of the European Union, too. As a result of the reasons already mentioned above, this region has also been in the centre of attention of the countries participating in the Nordic Council since 1996 – these are the following: Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland.

The Nordic Council is an institutional form of long-standing collaboration of the Nordic countries, which mainly for the geopolitical reasons has never included the foreign policies. Due to the disintegration of the bipolar organization in the 1990s, the possibilities to coordinate these policies for these states have in this respect appeared much more frequently. From the geopolitical point of view, the Nordic Council forms quite an inconsistent group of states. Norway and Iceland are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, while Finland and Sweden have been incorporated into European structures in 1995. Denmark is then the only country that is part of both organizations. The author of this thesis will focus on the influence of the various modes of geopolitical inclusion on the possibilities of Nordic cooperation in terms of national security and foreign relations. The secondary goal of the thesis is to determine whether the currently ongoing changes in the Arctic region could potentially become a catalyst of such cooperation.