



POLAR CONNECT CASE

SIG Public Affairs for NRENs Workshop
27-28 January 2026
Berlin & online



AGENDA

01 What is Polar Connect?

02 Public Interest

03 Private Sector Interest

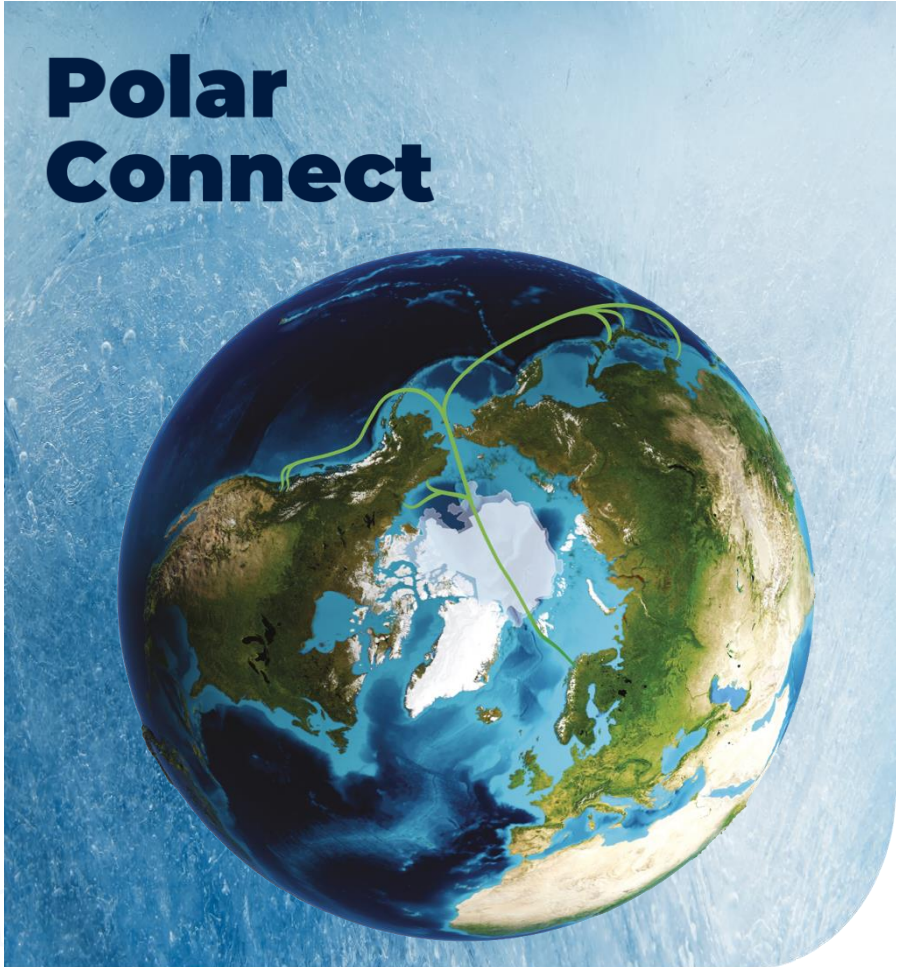
04 Policy Alignment

05 Q&A



WHAT IS POLAR CONNECT?

Polar Connect



- Polar Connect is the initiative to establish a submarine cable on the shortest possible route between Northern Europe and East Asia through the Arctic Ocean, with sensing solution for environmental monitoring in the Central Arctic Ocean.



WHO IS INVOLVED?

- NORDUnet and Nordic NRENs
- Swedish Polar Research Secretariat
- GlobalConnect
- GÉANT



ASSOCIATED PARTNER:





PUBLIC INTEREST

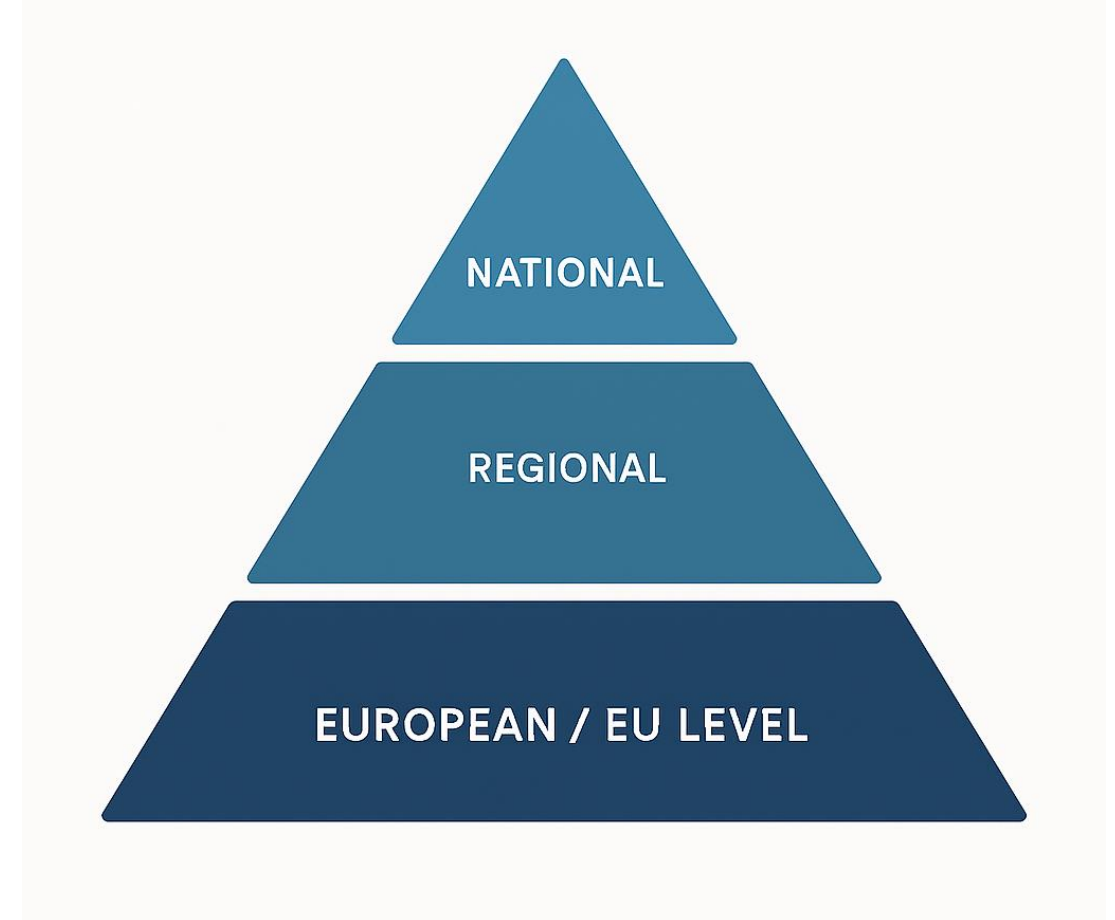




PUBLIC INTEREST


Coordinating public sector commitment across the Nordics, Europe and globally:

- Nordic country Ministries
- Member state representatives
- European Commission (DG CNECT, INTPA, DEFIS, EEAS)
- Regulators – (national and European)
- European and Global NRENs
- Global partners through national foreign services (i.e. Embassies)






HIGH RELEVANCE FOR THE EU

 **GÉANT**
@geant@mstdn.social

At the opening of Global Gateway Forum #GGF23, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen introduced the first digital Global Gateway project #Medusa, to be officially announced today and that will connect the North and South shores of the Mediterranean with a high-capacity fiber optic submarine cable system in support of #Research & #Education.

@EU_Commission @eib @geant

audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/vi...



27-01- ALT



Von der Leyen said part of the increased defence spending should be directed towards concrete **Arctic capabilities**, including **icebreakers** and specialised equipment designed to operate in extreme northern conditions. Icebreakers are traditionally civilian vessels, but they can support military operations by opening sea lanes.

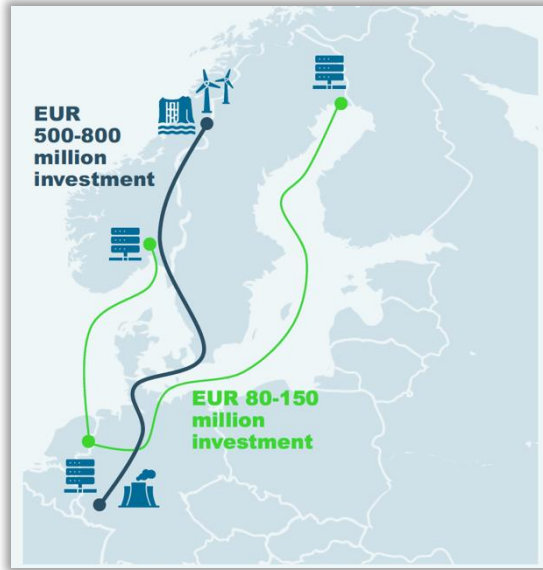


PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST





VALUE PROPOSITION FOR THE INDUSTRY



LOCAL EXCESS ENERGY – DUE TO LACK OF POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

MORE EFFICIENT AND CHEAPER TO MOVE DATA THAN ENERGY

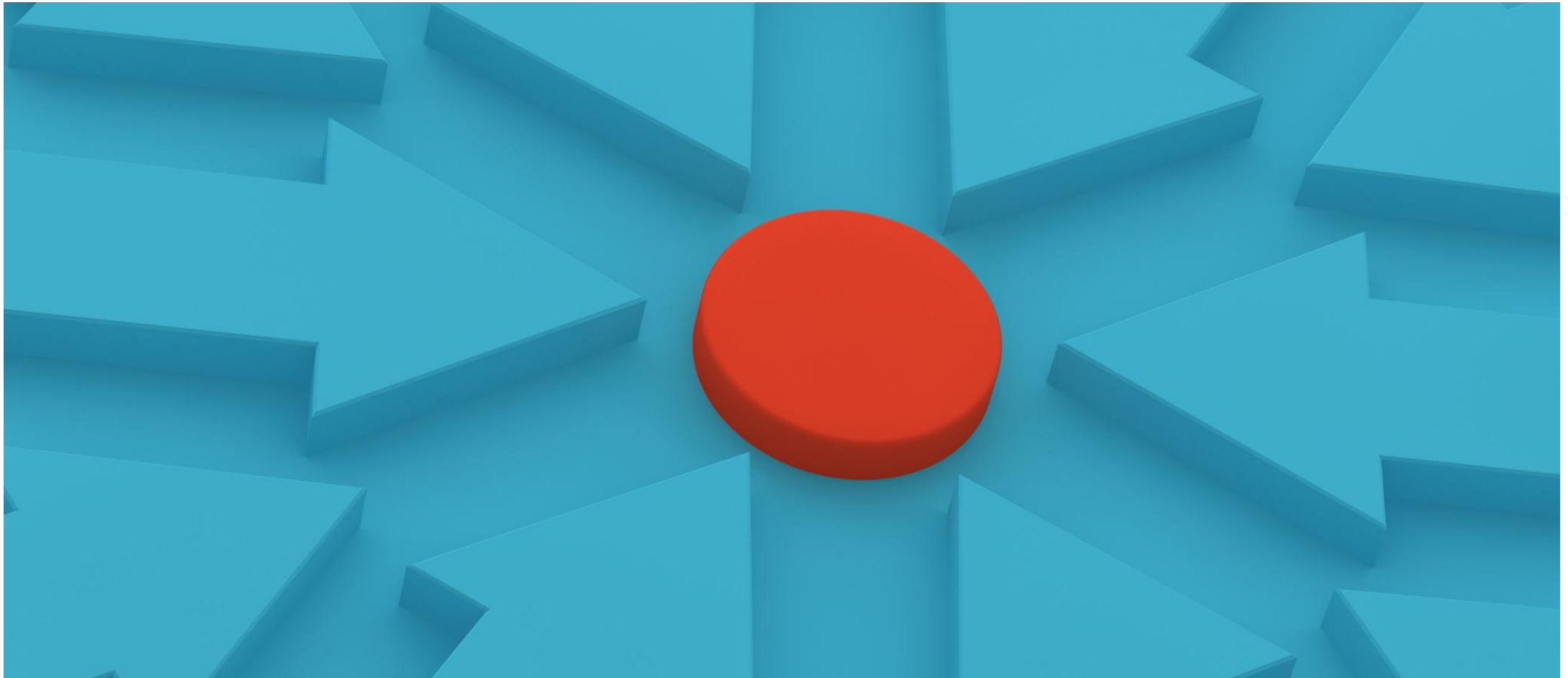
FREE COOLING AND REUSE OF EXCESSIVE HEAT

FUTURE SOLUTIONS FOR SUBMARINE FIBRE CABLES





POLICY REALM AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT





MEETING EU OBJECTIVES

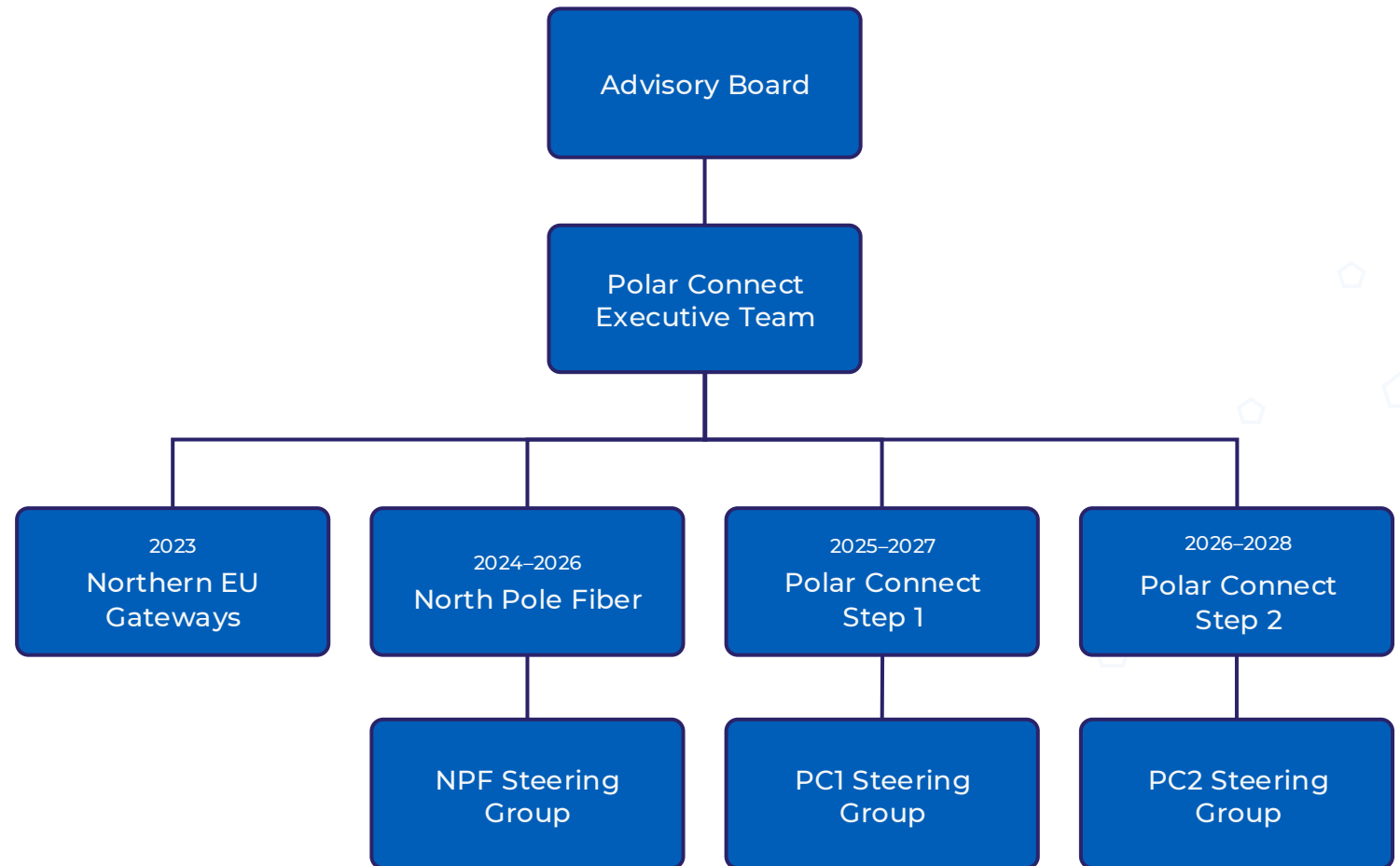
- Digital Sovereignty and Autonomy
- Strategic Resilience
- EU Arctic policy
- Research and Innovation
- Digital Partnerships (Japan, South Korea, Canada)
- EU Consultations
- UN Sustainable Development Goals





A PATH TO SUCCESS?

- Virtual teams
- Matrix of resources
- Support and commitment of management
- Closing the loop
- And always – **COLLABORATION!**





THANK YOU QUESTIONS?

To learn more about Polar Connect, please visit

www.polarconnect.net