

# Chapter 16

## Subnational Tier of Arctic Governance



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### 16.1 Introduction

In the post-Cold War era, subnational actors in the Arctic-regions, members of federations (in Canada, Russia and the United States), autonomies, administrative units, cities, and municipalities—are actively changing their roles in both policy-making and regional governance. They do not hesitate to build horizontal, non-hierarchical ties with foreign counterparts that have the same legal and political status. The external activities of subnational actors (often called paradiplomacy), which are a concomitant of the process of regionalization/localization, have become typical for many countries of the world, including the Arctic nations. Many Arctic regions and municipalities consider the active development of international contacts not only as an efficient instrument for problem-solving but also for building sustainable development strategies. These actors believe that even their marginal location can be an additional resource or competitive advantage in their development strategies; with international cooperation they can transform themselves from *terra incognita* into attractive places for investment, serving adjacent sea routes, tourism, cultural events, and so on.

Thus, my main purpose is to examine how the Arctic subnational actors affect regional policy-making and governance systems. To attack this research problem, I asked the following questions: Why do subnational actors actively develop their paradiplomacies? What are the most popular capacity-building strategies and functional areas of networking/cooperation? What kind of an institutional framework

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