



Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of development of the Arctic

- **EU Arctic Information Centre initiative**
- **Strategic Assessment of the Development of the Arctic**



Initiative on the EU Arctic Information Centre

- The proposal followed from the first Arctic statements of the European Union (Commission 2008, the Council 2009) highlighting the importance for sustainable development of the Arctic regions
- The basic idea of the initiative is to enhance use of information regarding the Arctic by improving
 - Access
 - Outreach and communication
 - Dialogues
 - Requested information materials

The vision is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Arctic

- Two-way communication
- Popularization and translation
- Mediation, facilitation, moderation

Inputs from EUAIC for NSPAs:

- Securing EU presence in the Arctic in the long-term, building on current rise in interest in the region
- EUAIC through partners in the region can promote regional sensitivity
- Creating another channel of influence on EU policy-makers apart from regional representations – and strongly intertwined with science
 - Complementing but not overlapping the responsibilities and tasks of regional offices
 - Providing both EU and NSPAs with relevant research-based information
- Importance of the component of stakeholder consultations

Preparatory Action

Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of the Development of the Arctic

- Case study
- December 2012 – June/September 2014
- Both analysis of EUAIC feasibility and delivering concrete products for the European Commission
- Impact Assessment - to integrate scientific and local information for decision makers
- Useful information - for policy development for the EU







Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of development of the Arctic

The EU in the Arctic, The Arctic in the EU



CAWI



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The project was comprised of 4 Work Packages

- WP 1 - EU Arctic Information Centre Feasibility Study
- WP 2 - Impact Assessment Process
- WP 3 - Outreach & Communication
- WP 4 - Project Management

Work Package 1

EU Arctic Information Centre (EUAIC) Feasibility Study

- Test the effectiveness of a network in communication tasks
- Assess the feasibility of establishing an EU Arctic Information Centre

WP 1 identifies

- Potential providers and users of Arctic information in the EU and in the rest of the Arctic
- Needs of the general public regarding information on the Arctic
- Gaps in the existing provision of information



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Reports

WP 1:

- **European Arctic Initiatives Compendium**
- **Gap Analysis Report**
- **Network Feasibility Analysis**

WP 2:

- **Impact Assessment Methodology Report**
- **Fact sheets (political, economic, environment)**
- **Strategic Assessment of Development of the Arctic (based on stakeholder consultations)**
- **Assessments in Policy-Making: Case Studies from the Arctic Council**

28 February 2014



Strategic Environmental Impact
Assessment of development of the Arctic

NETWORK FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS



European
Commission

Preparatory Action project: Strategic Environmental
Impact Assessment of development of the Arctic
(Service contract 191 105/2012/637465/SER/EI)

WP 1 EU Arctic Information Centre Feasibility Study



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European Arctic Initiatives Compendium





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GAP ANALYSIS REPORT



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ASSESSMENTS IN POLICY-MAKING: CASE STUDIES FROM THE ARCTIC COUNCIL



Preparatory Action project: Strategic Environmental
Impact Assessment of development of the Arctic
(Service contract 191 105/2012/637465-SER/EO)

WP 2 Impact Assessment



Strategic Environmental Impact
Assessment of development of the Arctic

September 2014

Strategic Assessment of Development of the Arctic

Assessment conducted for the
European Union

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Next steps:

- **The Commission is now looking into the Network Feasibility Analysis and other reports**
- **Near future will tell...**

Strategic Assessment of Development of the Arctic

Assessment conducted for the
European Union

Strategic Assessment of Development of the Arctic

- Objective:
 - Capturing the Arctic trends and developments
 - Assessing implications of changes and developments in the Arctic and on the EU
 - Assessing the role of the EU policies for these developments
 - Identifying recommendations for the EU
- Basically: Assessing the EU – Arctic nexus



- AHDR boundary of the Arctic
- September Median line sea-ice extend 1981-2010
- Area covered by ice in September 2013
- European Arctic as defined in the SADA



Seven assessment themes

- Climate Change in the Arctic
- Changes in Arctic Maritime Transport
- Changing Nature of Arctic Fisheries
- Developing Oil and Gas Resources in Arctic Waters
- Mining in the European Arctic
- Increasing Land-Use Pressures in the European Arctic
- Social and Cultural Changes in the European Arctic

SADA was founded on stakeholder engagement



Why to engage stakeholders in SADA?

- **Stakeholders as a source of information**
 - To challenge expert understanding
 - To identify critical issues that need to be taken into account in decision-making
 - To expose the assessment experts (and the policy-makers) to diversity of views and values
- **Stakeholders as those who give direction to assessment work**
 - To propose ideas for recommendations for EU policy-makers
- **Assessment as a space for dialogue**
 - Various groups of stakeholders enter into dialogue
 - Also dialogue between stakeholders and policy-makers
- **Enhancing understanding of EU's role in the region**

Factsheets



- Still available at www.arcticinfo.eu

Mapping and identifying stakeholders

- Over 1200 individual stakeholders identified on the basis of assessment themes

Structured thematic workshops

- Rovaniemi, Oct 2013 and Tromsø, Jan 2014
- Focused on initiating discussion and acquiring collective inputs, common understandings

Online questionnaire

- October 2013 – February 2014
- Open questions >> looking for insights and ideas rather than for quantifiable data
- Focused on individual inputs



0 Strategic Environmental Issues
Department of Management of the Future

Assignment: 30 minutes

- Select the 3 issues from the list that you think are most important, rank them 1 to 3
- Split up in groups
- Discuss in your group what issues are missing and add them to the board
- Select in your group the 3 most important issues

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Chosen key „thematic“ findings

- **Climate Change:** In the Northern Fennoscandia, changes in snow cover, lake and river ice conditions are the most pronounced, rather than sea ice loss. There is increased need for adaptation actions.
- **Arctic maritime transport** remains dominated by internal and destination traffic, highly interlinked with extraction of Arctic resources. This is likely to be the case also in the next decades.
- **Fisheries**, a vital economic activity in the Arctic, are characterized by fluctuations and uncertainties that may be exacerbated by climate change.
- **Oil and Gas:** In the recent decade, the actual developments in offshore hydrocarbon exploitation have been slow and limited throughout the Arctic, with great differences between regions.
- **Socio-cultural development** in the North is characterized by tension between innovative and growing Arctic cities and thinning-out rural areas, experiencing demographic challenges.

Chosen key messages (Balanced message!)

- **The main drivers** for the economic and social developments are the demand for Arctic resources and other factors associated with and exacerbated by globalization.
- Even if the **climate change** has profound impacts on Arctic biodiversity, landscape and livelihoods, it is not the main driver for most of today's industrial, economic and social developments. Its role as a driving force may increase in the future.
- **Current economic and social developments** are moderate and future expectations of Arctic actors and researchers are in general modest.

Suggestions for the EU policy-making

- The EU is encouraged to continue and strengthen investing in knowledge and better understanding of Arctic change.
- Diversity within the Arctic region needs to be taken into account.
- Cooperation with Arctic partners remains a key priority, despite challenges.

Many messages and recommendations are aligned with the goals of NSPAs or are clearly relevant for northern regions

We have highlighted:

- Complex demographic trends in Fennoscandia
- Gender and age imbalances
- Urbanization and thinning-out of rural areas
- On-going dependence on primary sector and public transfers (and support for regions from central budgets)
- Increasing complexity of governance, including various participatory mechanisms
- Increasing tensions connected with accumulation of activities affecting land use

**And we proposed some
recommendations, basing on
interaction with stakeholders**

**That included NSPAs' offices in
Brussels as well as in the regions, for
whose help and input we are most
grateful!**


**The EU should pay special attention to
the European Arctic.**



The EU should support regional and local climate change adaptation.



EU needs to boost investments in intra-regional accessibility and connectivity



**Support entrepreneurship and
innovation with special sensitivity to
indigenous youth and gender issues.**



The EU should consider the special needs of Arctic cities in relevant EU policies and programmes.



Including social impact assessments into EU's environmental impact assessment framework.

From SADA perspective, the EU Arctic policy:

- Would emphasize more EU's role in the European Arctic and focus EU attention on the Europe's NSPAs.
- Be more specific in terms of issues such as climate change adaptation, human development, cross-border cooperation, intra-regional connectivity
- Stronger attention to and more focused support for human, social and economic development in the region taking into account regional characteristics.
- Take greater account of northernmost regions when impacts of EU policies designed for the whole-EU constituency are discussed.
- There would be better coordination of various EU activities in the region
- Better understanding of region's specifics in Brussels



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Thank you!

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SADA Report

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