



ACCESS
Arctic Climate Change
Economy and Society



Project no. 265863

ACCESS

Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society

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D3.54 – Yearly report on ethical issues

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PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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1.1. Research ethics within the ACCESS (March 2014 – September 2014)

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The fundamental ethical principles reflected in the EU and international documents have been continuously considered during the reporting period. Issue of the research ethics has been once again emphasized and discussed at the General Assembly in Cambridge (March 2014), WP workshops, in circulating a 'Do not forget research ethics' letter summarising the issues of ethical standards. It has been contributed to maintaining of culture in the research community that is aware of and recognises the central place of ethics in good research practice.

In integrative project a partnership with project's colleagues has been an important component of ethics. Work conducted during the joint events of this year (WP workshops, seminars) and intensive synthesis work have reflected an efficient team work and acknowledgment of the experiences of others as a valuable additional source to enrich the interpretation of findings. Respect for persons, scientific validity, social value, the rights and interests of research participants have been overarching ethical principles of the performed research activities.

The research ethics monitoring activities were accomplished by the WP leaders' reports about the relevance of ethical issues for their research conducting undertakings. According to these reports for the climate modelling, ice service activities as well as for data management none of the WP 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 have been involved in experiments or handling of personal data and potentially sensitive data. Scientific evaluation of socio-economic studies and data collection in WP 3 did not involve any sensitive topics such as political, legal or sexual behaviour, experience with violence, religious conviction, criminal justice, biomedical research related to human beings, genetics or financial issues.

1.2. Laboratory experiments

WP 3 (task 3.5, Beijer Institute, Sweden) has continued with the experiments 'Behavioural response to abrupt changes in resource renewal rate' to study how people, for example fishermen, may react to changes in the resources renewal rate. As far as it is difficult to predict the exact nature of changes that may affect Arctic fisheries different scenarios were tested. The experiments were conducted in small groups of three or four people, who 'collectively harvest a renewable resource within undefined period'. The resource dynamics may or may not entail a threshold (resource renewal rate has a threshold below which the resource grows significantly less). Experimental subjects were divided into different treatments, where the level of uncertainty was varied. The results obtained during the experiment will be compared with the survey data from Arctic fishers.

Voluntary participants were mostly students recruited through advertisements at bus stops, in the university building and during some teaching classes. The groups were informed about the purpose of the experiment and the anonymity of experimental data analysis and data protection. Each participant filled in a consent form prior to participation.

1.3. Anthropological research

Ethics have been an integral part of the conducted empirical research within the activities of WP 3 (task 3.4, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland), where confidentiality, anonymity and protection of identity have been of highest priority. The study of the reported period has been focused on the practical involvement of people in their environment, who negotiate changes as a mode of engagement with seawater and fishery.

Collection of data on local knowledge about the experiencing environmental and social changes and their interpretation by community members involved particular attentiveness to human dignity and cultural values. All local partners were informed with a great care about the purpose and content of the research during the conversations. Video recordings made during the fieldwork on Norwegian aquaculture are in the editing process and the draft was presented during the General Assembly in Barcelona in 2013. The draft was also screened at the Barents Institute in Kirkenes in 2014. It was also positively received by the local community member, who made it possible via local connections to organise a participant observation of the veterinary inspection at a salmon farm in Northern Norway. Once the documentary film editing process will be completed (November 2014), it will be send to the farm manager for approval before getting public. In case if the farm staff would like to be acknowledged in the film credits not anonymously as it is by now, their names be will be edited in the credit part.

Bringing the results of the conducted research to the community has been an important part of the anthropological research activities. 'Arctic Ocean and coastal communities' workshop (February 19-21, 2014) at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi (Finland) organized by Dr. Anna Stammler-Gossmann brought together indigenous representatives from the coastal communities, practitioners from the commercial fishery and aquaculture sector of the Northern Norway, Northern Russia and researchers, who conducted their fieldwork in different fishing societies along the Arctic coast (report D6-254 UoL).



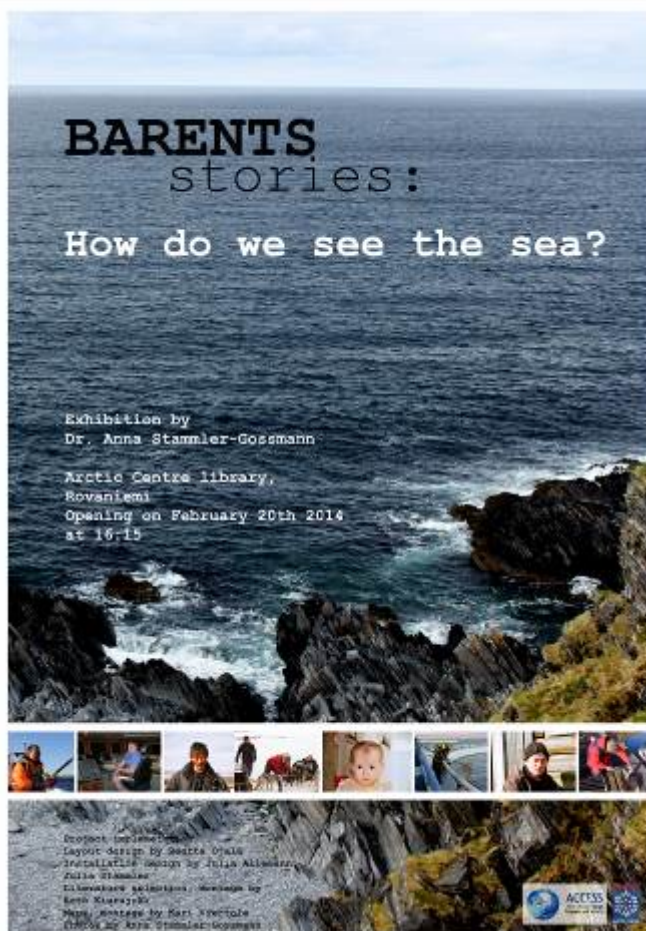
Local community partner from the Coastal Sami fishers (Norway) reports about relations between mining sector and fjord fishing (Stakeholders workshop in Rovaniemi)

Information on the stakeholders' workshop circulated on the Arctic Centre websites attracted the attention of some publisher houses that would be interested in publishing the workshop materials. Bringing together the local experts and researchers in a joint publication would be a great result of collaborative project activities.

Anthropological materials collected during expeditions in the High Arctic by Anna Stammner-Gossmann have been represented at the exhibition 'Barents Stories – How Do We See the Sea?' (Rovaniemi, Arktikum, February 2014 – January 2015). Three of the local indigenous communities' partners from Norway and Russia, whose 'stories' are represented, were invited for the exhibition opening ceremony and evaluated it very positively. They express a wish to organise the presentation of the exhibition materials in their communities. The vice president of the Indigenous Association 'YASAVEY' visited the exhibition later and invited to participate at the Association anniversary events in December 2014 in Narian Mar.



Exhibition opening reception, Rovaniemi, Finland, February 2014



Exhibition poster



Part of the exhibition

Contact with the local communities involved into research has been permanently kept through the communication via email and telephone calls exchange. Following the requirement of the Bugoyes community Arctic Centre donated several books to the community's library. Report on stakeholders' workshop in Rovaniemi was send to the Nenets Indigenous Association 'YASAVEY'. The research results on the socio-economic impact of climate change on the Barents coastal communities will be represented during the Association anniversary celebration in Narian Mar (Nenets District, Russia).