



ACCESS
Arctic Climate Change
Economy and Society



Project no. 265863

ACCESS

Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society

Instrument: Collaborative Project
Thematic Priority: Ocean.2010-1 "Quantification of climate change impacts on economic sectors in the Arctic"

D3.55 – Yearly report on ethical issues

Due date of deliverable: **28/02/2015**

Actual submission date: **17/02/2015**

Start date of project: **March 1st, 2011**

Duration: **48 months**

Organisation name of lead contractor for this deliverable: **UoL**

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)		
Dissemination Level		
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)	

Contents

1.1. Research ethics within the ACCESS.....	3
1.2. Laboratory experiments.....	4
1.3. Anthropological research and fieldwork.....	5

1.1. Research ethics within the ACCESS

(September 2014 – February 2015)

Dr. Anna Stammler-Gossmann

Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland

The fundamental ethical principles reflected in the EU and internationally accepted guidelines have been continuously considered during the reporting period. Issue of the research ethics has become of particular importance in the final phase of the project concerned with data interpretation, integration of research results, dissemination and outreach activities. It was once again emphasized and considered in preparation of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples Workshop in Paris (July 2014), WP 3 (Fisheries) meeting in Stockholm (October 2014), stakeholder workshops in Rovaniemi (November 2014, February 2015), 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.

Dissemination of the project findings and outreach activities has been an important issue of the last project year. The Paris workshop provided a great opportunity for the ACCESS interdisciplinary research community and indigenous representatives to have a dialog, which highlighted the main concerns of indigenous peoples and identified the related research areas within the ACCESS project and for future impact studies (ACCESS Newsletter 10, 2014).

All ethical issues in the social science research were dealt in accordance to international documents of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth (ASA, 2011), of the American Anthropological Association (AAA, 2009), and of the International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA, 1998). This has involved the strict protection of personal and intimate data of the informants, the free prior informed consent for obtaining data, as well as for analysis, interpretation and dissemination.

The long-term involvement of local partners has been crucial for the anthropological research within the WP 3 (Fisheries, Arctic Centre/University of Lapland). Local observations during the project period and local knowledge have greatly contributed to the research results on socio-economic impact of ongoing and predicted environmental changes in the coastal areas of the Barents region. Three stakeholder workshops in Rovaniemi (February 2014, November 2014, February 2015) and exhibition based on fieldwork materials (February 2014 – May 2015) have addressed broad thematic issues on the multiple

meanings of the Arctic sea water in different social and economic settings on the local level and beyond the local frame (see section 1.3).

Mutual support, close cooperation between local communities and research has become a crucial condition for the anthropological research effectiveness and ‘repatriation’ of research results. Intensive collaboration with local representatives revealed on the one hand, specific local interest in the knowledge production and on the other hand possibilities of research to influence planning processes in the communities.

Implementation of the research ethics in the interaction with local partners has demonstrated that they have become a part of the dissemination process and in this way ‘emancipated’ from being ‘research objects’ to research partners and collaborators. The most important findings of this long-term intensive partnership will find an outcome in a joint book publication on Arctic fisheries, a project that integrates academic and local/indigenous knowledge.

In integrative project a partnership with project’s colleagues has been an important component of ethics. Preparation of the final synthesis report has involved an intensive cross-disciplinary team work and acknowledgment of the experiences of others as a valuable additional source to enrich the interpretation of findings. Respect for persons, social value and the rights 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.

1.2. Laboratory experiments

Activities of the WP 3.5 (Beijer Institute) included analysis of conducted laboratory experiments on ‘Behavioural response to abrupt changes in resource renewal rate’. As far as it is difficult to predict the exact nature of changes that may affect Arctic fisheries different scenarios were tested.

As it was previously reported, 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 and fieldwork

Ethics have been an integral part of the conducted empirical research within the activities of WP 3.4 (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland), where confidentiality, anonymity and protection of identity have been of highest priority. Collection of data on local knowledge about the experiencing environmental and social changes and their interpretation by fishing communities' members involved particular attentiveness to human dignity and cultural values.

Implementation of ethical guidelines, prolonged stay in remote Arctic settlements and intensive communications helped to build trust relations with local population and gain deep insights into communities' life. Moreover, residents greatly supported researcher during the fieldwork in remote northern regions in arranging transport in the no-public-transport areas, helping in establishing new contacts, providing access to fish processing plants, salmon and King Crab farms, hatcheries, commercial fishing trawlers, taking on board for commercial and subsistence fishing trips.

All local partners were informed with a great care about the purpose and content of the research during the conversations. Bringing the results of the conducted research to the community has been an important part of the anthropological research activities. Photo-, and video materials collected during fieldwork were processed, edited and brought back to the communities.

Part of the fieldwork material is represented at the on-going exhibition 'Barents stories: How do we see the sea?' in Rovaniemi (Arktikum Museum, February 2014 – May 2015). Three indigenous representatives from Northern Norway and Northern Russia, whose 'stories' are integrated into the exhibition, were invited for the opening ceremony and emphasised the importance of this kind of dissemination activities. This exhibition was also a part of the poster exhibition during the ACCESS GA in Villanova (February 2015, Spain) and will be possibly launched during the Barents Festival in Kirkenes in February 2016.

Three stakeholder workshops ‘Arctic Ocean and coastal communities: Changes, challenges and livelihoods’ (February 19-21, 2014), ‘Puzzling about sustainability in Arctic fisheries’ (November 11-12, 2014), ‘Arctic fish-fishers-fisheries: Scientific and local knowledge convergence’ (February 16-17, 2015) at the Arctic Centre in Rovaniemi (Finland) brought together indigenous and local representatives from the coastal communities, practitioners from subsistence and commercial fisheries, sea food and aquaculture sector in Norway, Russia, Iceland and researchers, who conducted their fieldwork in different fishing societies along the Arctic coast.



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 stakeholder workshops circulated on the Arctic Centre websites attracted the attention of some publisher houses that are interested in publishing the workshops materials. Bringing together the local experts and researchers in a joint publication will be a great result of collaborative project activities. The final stakeholder workshop in Rovaniemi discussed intensively the structure of the book that will have 15 contributions from anthropological and legal fields of science as well as ethnographic accounts from local

practitioners, who represent commercial, and subsistence fisheries, marine mammal hunting, aquaculture, land-based services for the fisheries sector, and tourism activities. Most of the authors already submitted their manuscripts. The book proposal will be submitted to Berghan Books.



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 also through the communication via email and telephone calls exchange. Following the requirement of the Bugoynes community Arctic Centre donated several books to the community's library. Reports on stakeholder workshops in Rovaniemi were sent to the Nenets Indigenous Association 'YASAVEY' (ACCESS partner). The research results on the socio-economic impact of climate change on the Barents coastal communities were also presented during the Association 20th anniversary celebration in Narian Mar (Nenets District, Russia, December 2014).