



Key Challenge 9: Arctic Scientific Research and Traditional Knowledge

*Toward Just, Ethical and
Sustainable Arctic Economies,
Environments and Societies*



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KEY CHALLENGES IN SERIES

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KEY CHALLENGES SERIES AUTHORS

Contributor	Affiliation	Role
Elena Conde	UCM	Lead Author
Valentin Clavé-Mercier	UCM	Lead Author
Belén Requena	UCM	Lead Author
Adam Stepien	LAY	Contributing Author
Tanja Joonas	LAY	Contributing Author
Corine Wood-Donnelly	NU	Contributing Author
Tor Gustav Sigeman	NU	Contributing Author
Roman Sidortsov	UOS	Contributing Author
Hannes Hansen-Magnusson	CU	Contributing Author
Catherine Chambers	SVS	Contributing Author

Just and sustainable Arctic decision-making processes need to be built on predictions and projections of Arctic climate and socio-ecological systems. Such a comprehensive knowledge of the region is key for devising paths towards economic, cultural and social prosperity. In such a changing and challenging region, getting as full as possible a picture of both the natural and social forces at play and their current and projected evolution is often what makes the difference between good and bad decisions. Arctic research is thus crucial and should be strengthened. Among other projects, JUSTNORTH constitutes a first step but more are needed to complement, deepen and broaden its results. Given the presence of Indigenous peoples in the region,

traditional forms of knowledge are of special relevance. Efforts should be made to integrate both Western forms of knowledge, research outcomes and Indigenous ones into a common approach to knowledge production. Otherwise, a disregard of Indigenous knowledge may represent a barrier to the effective participation of Indigenous peoples in Arctic governance (see Key Challenge 8). EU funding efforts towards Arctic research would allow an improvement in the quality and relevance of produced knowledge, especially in terms of technologies and innovations targeted at Arctic communities and societies' needs.

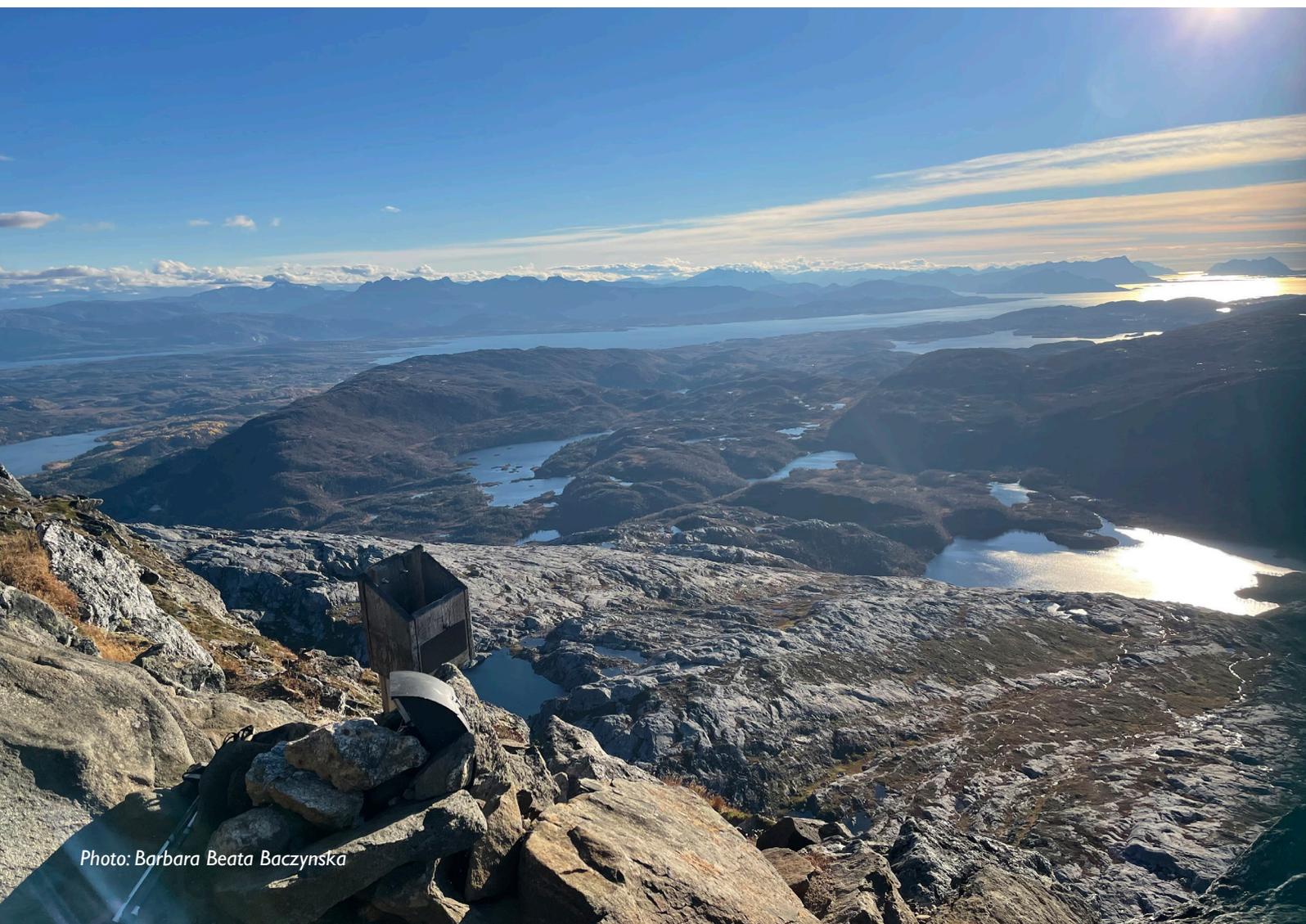


Photo: Barbara Beata Baczynska

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1

Continue in EU efforts to fund research on the Arctic region in order to inform a more sustainable decision-making process concerning the region

R2

Ensure and strengthen the active participation of Indigenous peoples in research in a way that is appropriate and governed by them

Risks, Challenges and Barriers to Implementation and Effectiveness

Adequate consideration of traditional forms of knowledge if Indigenous peoples are to be equally and justly participating in decision-making processes. Existing prejudice towards traditional knowledge and reconciliation with Western form constitute challenges (R1; R2).

Opportunities and Facilitators for Implementation and Effectiveness

A better understanding of Arctic social, economic and environmental dynamics would provide better motivation and knowledge to achieve sustainability in the region (and, by extension, globally) (R1).

Horizon Europe represents an already existing important potential source of funding for scientific research. Therefore, cost increases beyond the projected budget would not be significant (R1; R2).

The EU, by providing funding along with the correspondent requirements for its allocation, has the potential to shape the modalities, guiding principles, direction and culture of Arctic research. This influence could be used to foster a more sustainable, inclusive, and participative Arctic research (R1; R2).

The EU involvement in international forums on Arctic research – such as the Arctic Science Ministerial, the Arctic Science Funders' Forum, or the Arctic Council's working groups – represent already existing spaces where to influence the Arctic research agenda (R1).

A strong and self-determined Indigenous knowledge production will facilitate its amplification and its active integration into policy making and legal frameworks (R2).

These policy orientations and recommendations would lead to improvement in regard to the following justice considerations:

- Recognition justice in the Arctic would be enhanced through the recognition of the value of traditional knowledge and the development of an organisational culture supporting this recognition, both in the specific research field and in the policy and civil service sphere.
- In terms of restorative justice, the active participation of Indigenous peoples in Arctic research would represent a reversal of the marginalisation of Indigenous knowledge systems resulting from colonial processes. This could constitute a path for reconciliation and for cooperation between two knowledge systems towards an improved approach to knowledge production in the Arctic region.
- Overall, a stronger Arctic research supported by the EU would enable a more detailed understanding of the region environmental and social dynamics, thus contributing to the identification of areas of concern or successful initiatives in the pursuit of the various forms of justice.





Integrated Arctic Policy Analysis Report and Recommendations - Key Challenges



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Adrian Fisk



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WWW.JUSTNORTH.EU



@JUSTNORTH_EU



JUSTNORTHEU



JUSTNORTH@ires.uu.se



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