



Communication with national and regional policymakers in the Arctic: Experience for future two-way sharing processes in science communication

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Alaska Centre for Climate Assessment and Policy;
City & Borough of Juneau;
Municipality of Anchorage



Environment and Climate Change Canada;
The Government of Yukon;
The Government of Northwest Territories;
The Government of Nunavut;
The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador;
Municipality of Yellowknife, NWT



Ministry for Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy and Environment;
Avannaata Municipality



Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources;
The Environment Agency of Iceland;
Westfjords Regional Development Office;
Municipality of Akureyri;
Municipality of Dalvík;
Municipality of Siglufjörður,
Municipality of Reykjavík (Greater Reykjavík Area)



Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
Norwegian Centre for Climate Services
Troms and Finnmark County;
Tromsø Municipality;
Harstad Municipality;
Tana Municipality;
Vardø Municipality

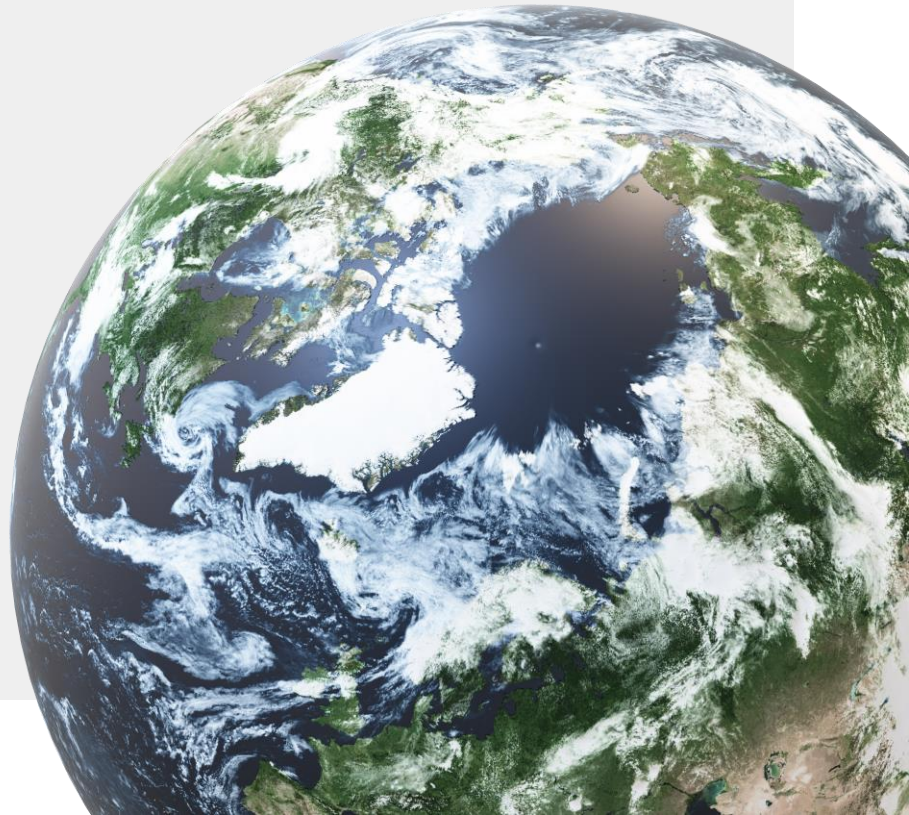


County Administrative Board of Norrbotten;
Luleå Municipality



Regional Council of Lapland;
Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment;
Kuusamo Municipality
Kemi Municipality

Communication with regional and local decision-makers was carried out in the form of **in-depth semi-structured interviews**, within the framework of Arctic PASSION's WP7.



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How can scientists help policymakers? What can they do in order to make policymaking at the subnational level more efficient?





“First of all, to present data and findings, and tell us how do you “predict the future” and what are the possible solutions in existing issues.”

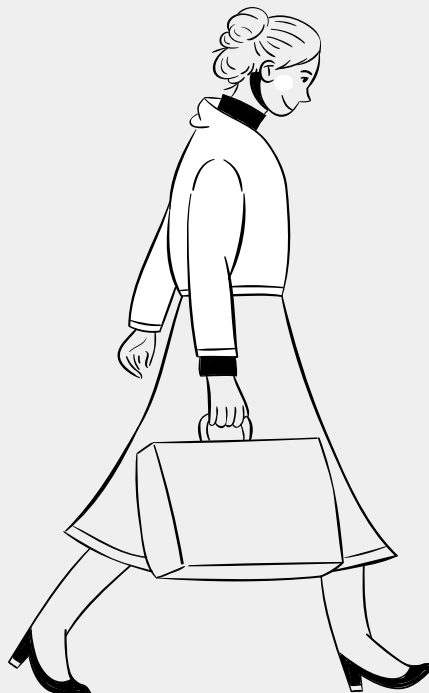
“I think that you need to invite yourself to places to talk.”

Category 1 – Mayors





“I think the best thing that science can do for policymakers is to make complicated issues simpler, so we can take it and make decisions.”



“The information we receiving in the scientific reports from scientists is too complicated. And we appear in the situation where we don't understand what does it mean and what do they want to say.”

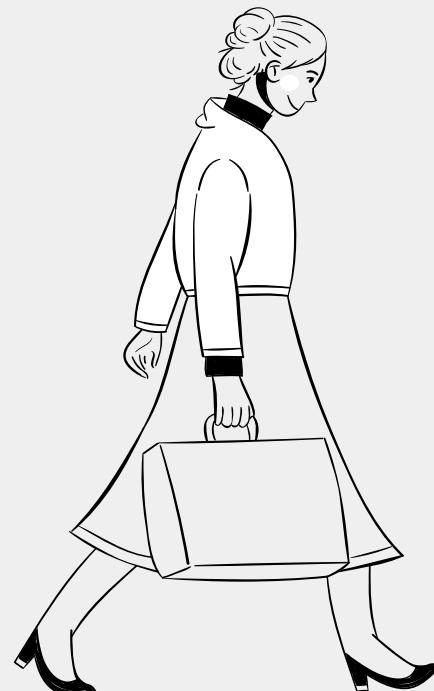
Category 1 – Mayors





“Scientist should look more into areas that can be more important for local communities.”

“We are facing a lack of careful consideration by scientists of what is important for us to know. Sometimes we get a lot of data, but we don’t understand why this data is important.”



Category 1 – Mayors





Category 2 - Scientists



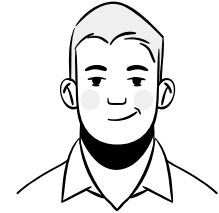
“Scientists should define who policymakers are and whether they are interested in data sets generated on their territory.”



“We need common solutions. Instead of the jungle of information where each institution produces their own tools and data, we need to have an integrated system and develop common solutions for all.”



“And scientists should have an interest in questions that are curious for decision-makers, connect with them to identify such questions and work more together.”



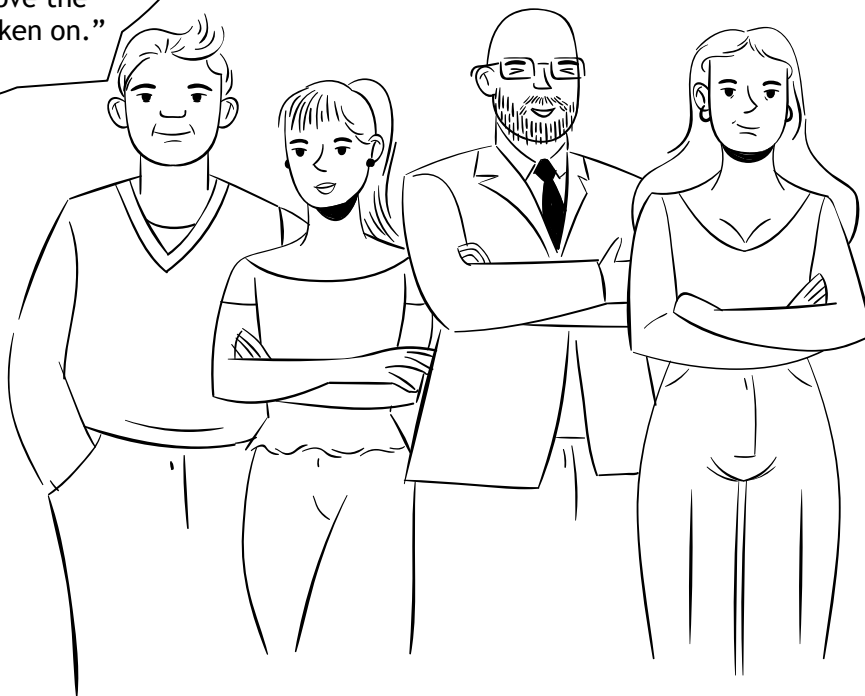
“If you (scientists) want to commit to something, and to understand something, you have to really boil information for policymakers down to something very small, plain and concrete ”





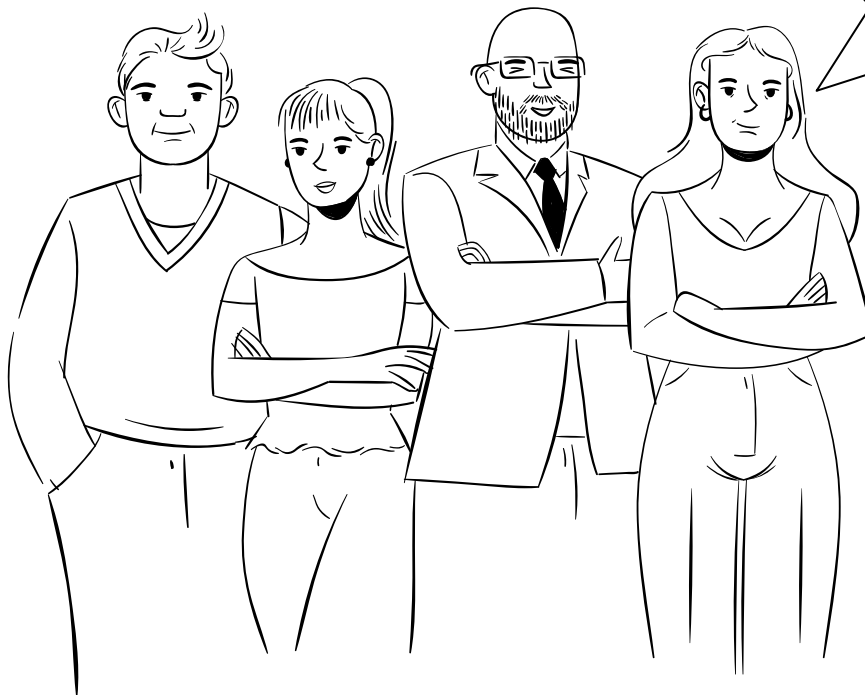
“The governments receive advice and recommendations based on the latest knowledge from scientists and local communities. Collaborations and co-production of knowledge are areas that can be further explored in the future to improve the foundation that decisions are taken on.”

Category 3 - Politicians





Category 3 - Politicians



“Independent scientists have an important role in providing common grounds that can build a bridge on how science sees the solution.”





Category 3 - Politicians





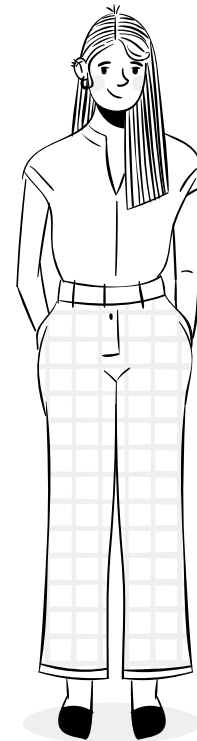
Category 3 - Politicians

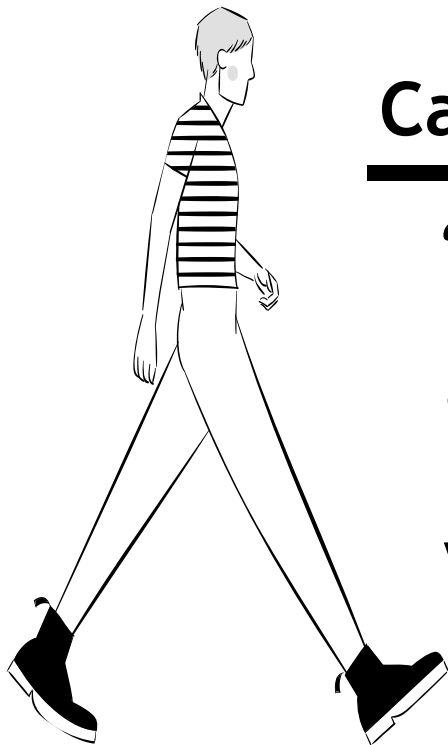




Category 4 - Advisors

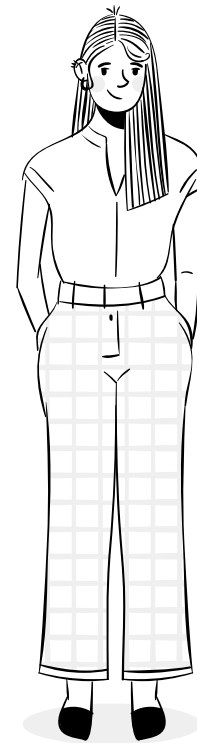
“Include more community perspectives on science. I think that having those communities’ concerns and opinions mixed in with scientific data would help to put a human face on scientific reviews and would really help to develop political opinions and policies.”





Category 4 - Advisors

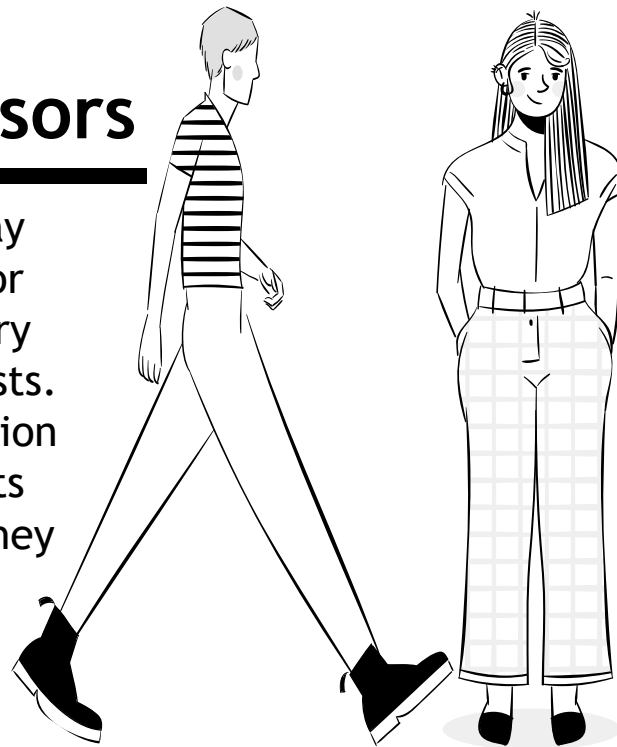
“Scientists could help us to fill knowledge gaps or, at least help us to understand what knowledge gaps we have.”





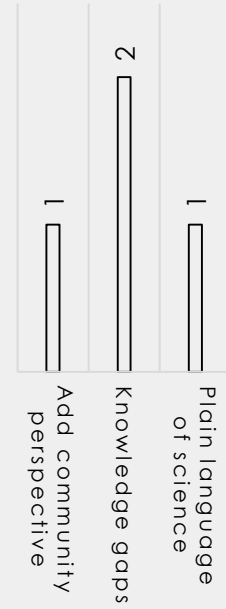
Category 4 - Advisors

“Present findings in a way that is understandable for all: policymakers, ordinary residents and even scientists. And to create communication venues between scientists and policymakers where they can meet and discuss findings in the most understandable way.”





Advisors

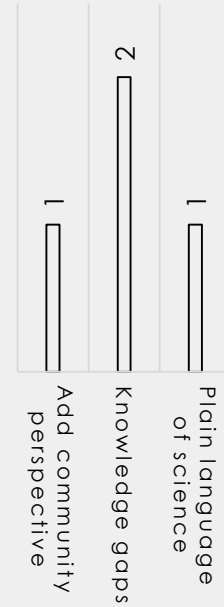




Politicians

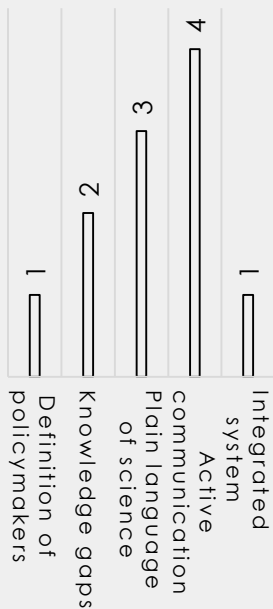


Advisors





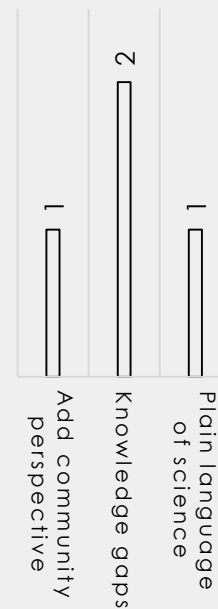
Scientists



Politicians



Advisors

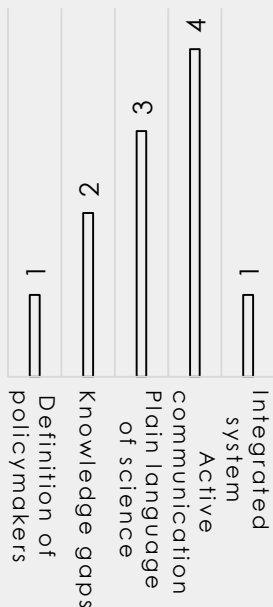




Mayors



Scientists



Politicians

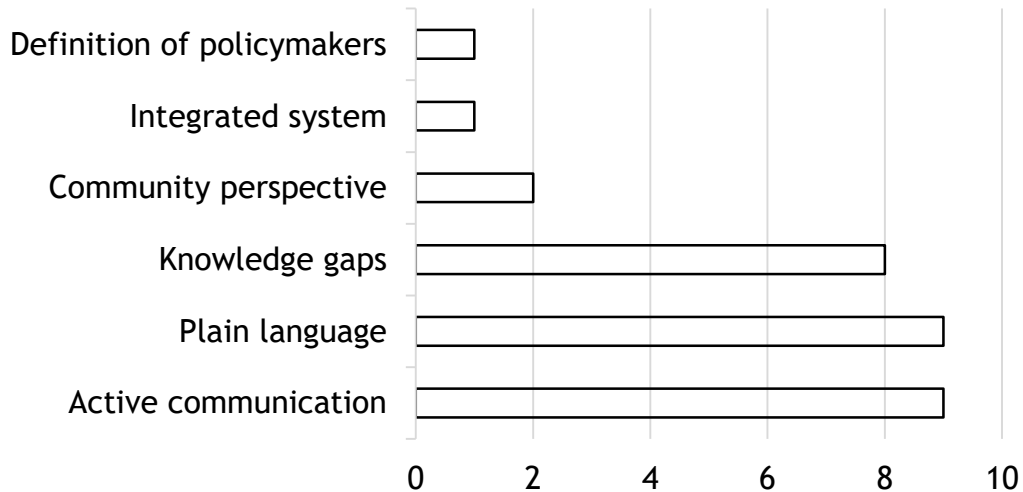


Advisors





RECOMMENDATIONS



Be active! Do not hesitate to reach out.
Public servants are not angry.

Commit as a mediator between
science and policymaking. Construct
plain knowledge exchange.

Do not underestimate
local level.

Two-way knowledge exchange can be
aimed at identification of knowledge gaps
of a particular society.





THANK YOU

Do you have any questions?
Do not hesitate to ask:
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