Nordic WG – on Arctic Sustainable Regional Development

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NORDIC WORKING GROUP on SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORDIC ARCTIC 2013-2016

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The Arctic WG`s Mission:

• To initiate a thematic broad and profound study of the future development in the Arctic, in the form of scenarios.

• To bring the Nordic Council of Ministers' Arctic Co-operation Programme further by collecting, processing and analysing existing information, evaluate different assumptions for future development in the area, and draw perspective rich scenarios.

• To contribute to the further development of the political debate, and provide the scientific knowledge with more weight and a more holistic character.
Arctic development by the people in the Arctic
Overview

• **Purpose**

• **Approach**
  – Foresight
  – Support
  – Workshops
  – External projects
  – Dissemination

• **Future**
  – Output
  – Foresight
  – Perspectives
Our work is based on

Existing knowledge and updated background reports on important Arctic development issues, such as:
- Demography
- Business potentials and development
- Youth perspectives

Foresight analysis in three stages:
I) Local
II) Regional/national
III) West-Nordic and North Calotte
Foresight Analysis 1

Comparison, Generalisation, Dissemination

Regional
Involvement of Regional governments, Municipal governments, and community stakeholders

National
Involvement of National authorities, Regional governments, Municipal governments, and community stakeholders

Local
Involvement of community stakeholders

Realisation

Realism

Visions

Documentation

Nordregio
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
Regional development in the Arctic
The Arctic is a varied region of opportunities and challenges
Snapshots of some preliminary RESULTS
I Business development, II Education and Skills, III Infrastructure and IV Culture and society
Results I Business development

- Quite high % of primary industry, but differences between regions (inland-cost and town-periphery). Low business diversity, lack of investments and skilled employment, and need for "up-skilling" local businesses

- Give the regional level responsibility and mandate to develop their region, also by increased cooperation with neighbouring countries regions.
- Develop models/tools to promote i.e. cross border business cluster cooperation;
- Develop unique Arctic R&D and skills in areas with particular potentials – ie energy, bluegreen resources and ice tech – to develop the regions (and the countries).
Results II Education and skills

- Skilled workforce is a critical factor for Arctic economic development and competitiveness.
- Education and vocal training is core, lifelong learning is a must.

- Education (system and "content") adjusted to the regional needs.
- Regional authorities must be in charge of education, local knowledge management, entrepreneurship and skill development in the Nordic Arctic regions (cross border/Nordic Pilot project?)
- Introduce a cross border perspective in educational supervision by including information about educational opportunities in neighbouring countries.
Results III Infrastructure

- Infrastructure is key for "everything": connections to markets, business development, R&D, education, social life, commuting, energy supplies and local society attractiveness

- Develop joint Nordic Arctic infrastructure priorities-> Nordic Arctic transport and/ or ict-strategy?
- Enhance cross boarder connections (east /west), and improve main infrastructure for flights, trains, roads, and broadband
- New partnerships and business models for concrete infrastructure solutions
Results IV Culture and societies

• *Culture and social activities are essential and the "glue" in local societies.*

• Political engagement and measures to stimulate regional and local pride, identity and community
• Facilitate participation of the young people in local and regional development initiatives
• Strengthen the collective picture of the Nordic Arctic area as a region with great potentials and common traits, cooperating on common opportunities and supporting each other.
Results V Demography

• Outmigration, ageing and deficit in women is a challenge for main parts of the Nordic Arctic regions.

• New economic opportunities in Arctic should include women's interests and opportunities in relation to e.g. entrepreneurship, fisheries, bluegreen economy etc.

• Service provision and accessibility of services by support from modern technology

• Integrate new immigrants faster into the society,

• Good conditions for distance-working
Did the (foresight) project have any surprises?

It has been a surprise to see how little “Arctic development” is a concern of the man in the street in the North Calotte area. People do not feel it has anything to do with them. Yet, at the same time, it’s true that we actually are in the midst of large-scale Arctic development, and any decision concerning it will have some effect on the people of this area.

It has also been rather surprising to witness how different countries approach Arctic development issues differently.

Nordregio News
#2.16 Community involvement in the Nordic Arctic
Development in the Arctic concerns international, national and regional policy.

- Sustainable Arctic policies for developing societies and businesses in the North
- Shared Nordic, national, regional and local responsibility – system and tools
- Enhanced coordination of sector policies and international regional collaboration
- Potentials in cross border joint development and knowledge sharing
Thank you for your attention!