

# Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of Development of the Arctic

## Project

## Duration

Jan 2013 - Jun 2014

The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of development of the Arctic seeks to strengthen communication and outreach within the EU and between the EU and Arctic communities regarding the EU's contribution to addressing environmental and other issues raised by the rapid development of the Arctic region as a result of economic and climate change. The Preparatory Action project aims to bring together scientific knowledge and stakeholder perspectives, increase awareness about the changing Arctic, enhance understanding of the impacts of EU policies, and test the effectiveness and sustainability of the network and a European Union Arctic Information Centre (EUAIC).

The main objectives are to:

- Compile stakeholder knowledge and perspectives on scientific information about the development of the Arctic and increase awareness about the Arctic, the Arctic's changing political, economic, and environmental landscape, and the impact of EU policies. Impact assessment is used as a tool and channel to compile information for use by decision- and policy-makers.
- Test the effectiveness and sustainability of a network of leading communication and research centers as the basis of a possible future European Arctic Information Centre aimed at facilitating information exchange between the EU institutions, Arctic stakeholders, and the general public.

The project is carried out by a network of 19 leading Arctic research and communication centers and universities with extensive activities in and knowledge of the Arctic. Ecologic Institute leads a gap analysis in Work Package 1, analyzing the information needs of policy-makers, stakeholders, and the public by mapping out potential information providers and users, and by drafting recommendations and a communication plan. Ecologic Institute also contributes to the methodological framework for Work Package 2, assessing the impacts of development in the Arctic and of EU policies affecting the Arctic region and provide information on such impacts for use by policy-makers including the role of impact assessments, as well as to communication and outreach in Work Package 3.

## Funding

European Commission, Directorate-General Environment (DG Environment), International

## Partner

University of Lapland, Arctic Centre, Finland  
Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany  
University of Groningen, Arctic Centre, Netherlands  
Polish Academy of Science (PAN), Poland  
University Pierre and Marie Curie (UPMC), France  
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom  
National Research Council (CNR), Italy  
Arctic Portal, Iceland  
Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden  
European Science Foundation (ESF), France  
Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland  
International Polar Foundation, International  
Sámi Education Institute, Finland  
University of Oulu, Thule Institute, Finland  
University of Tromsø, Tromsø Centre for Remote Technology, Norway  
United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, Norway  
Ecorys, Netherlands  
FRAM - High North Research Centre for Climate and the Environment (Fram Centre), Norway  
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