

Dear reader,

As the autumn forests verge of their explosive grand finale of yellows and reds, our researchers at Mistra Arctic are sharpening their pencils in preparation for writing the book *“Institutional change or inertia? Understanding societal change and vulnerability in Northern Europe in the context of climate change”*. This will summarize their findings from research conducted as part of Mistra Arctic. The book will explain how society deals with the challenges it faces from global warming: what is easy to change and where is inertia a factor? In October, the researchers meet in Stockholm to write and discuss the form and content of the book’s chapters, and then some of them will continue on a field trip to Murmansk.

Proposals from stakeholders inform the research

As with the previous field trips to Storuman, Pajala, Kirkenes and Ylläs, the stakeholders in Murmansk will have the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on what questions they would most like researchers to answer based on their perspective. These suggestions are taken very seriously. In August the Board of Mistra Arctic allocated extra funds to researchers wanting to delve deeper into questions that have been received through this dialogue between researchers and stakeholders. Here are some examples:

Lobbying in the mining industry

In response to suggestions from stakeholders in Storuman and Pajala, Niklas Eklund will conduct an interview study with representatives of the mining industry and other regional interests in Sweden on how often and in what way they use lobbying to achieve their goals. The exact budget is still to be determined, but funds have been reserved.

Urban structures and gender

Gender is an issue that many stakeholders bring up as an important perspective when forming the sustainable society of the future. Ekaterina Kalemeneva is extending her participation in the project to better describe how the Soviet Union attempted to respond to this and other societal visions as it developed its industrial communities in the north in the late twentieth century. Granted funding: SEK 25,000.

What happens when the ore runs out?

Stakeholders in Kirkenes raised the issue of what happens after mining ends. A better understanding is needed about what choices are available for achieving a sustainable society when a mine closes. In response to this, Jan Kunnas and Dag Avango are expanding their field work in Norrbotten County on how mines and other abandoned industrial sites can be viewed as a type of cultural heritage. Are tourist mines a way to increase the mining industry's long-term contribution to communities, or are they just an excuse to avoid having to clean up after themselves? Granted funding: SEK 21,000.

The needs of visitors for pristine views

Non-local tourists and tourist industry and outdoor companies, holiday home owners and others often feel a part of and affected by the decisions that can threaten access to pristine forests, waters and mountains. This became apparent at a stakeholder meeting in Ylläs. Lovisa Solbär will hire a Finnish-English professional translator to translate quotes from interviews when publishing the findings from her field work in northern Finland. The exact budget is still to be determined, but funds have been reserved.

When the oil industry competes with fishing

Northern Norway is seeing competing interests in water and land use. Financially strong contractors paint positive scenarios about the future. Commentary in newspapers offers a contrasting position. Both sides often point to global economy, whether justified or not. Urban Wråkberg will be analysing and illustrating the dilemma this flow of information can cause for local people and for municipalities. The exact budget is still to be determined, but funds have been reserved.

Popular science book

Many stakeholders have asked for clear and understandable summaries of Mistra Arctic's research. To address this, Lize-Marie van der Watt is writing a 15-20-page summary of the most important findings and which is aimed squarely at laymen. The book will be written in English, but may also be partly or completely translated into Swedish. Granted funding: SEK 57,723.

The next meeting in Murmansk

The last stakeholder meeting will be with representatives from various sectors in society in the Murmansk region. They will be meeting with a group of ten researchers from Mistra Arctic on 20 October. Their questions and opinions will also be important for Mistra Arctic's researchers.

Lena Maria Nilsson

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