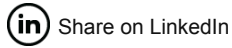


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What's new from the ArcticHubs

Dear reader,

Happy New Year!

ArcticHubs' 2023 was a year filled with noteworthy developments, exciting activities, and engaging moments. All of these have been meticulously documented on [our website](#) and shared with our ever-growing community on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) (Twitter). We have compiled these moments on the website to reflect on project key themes and milestones, marking our shared journey.

As we step into the New Year, we also approach the concluding phase of the ArcticHubs project, set to culminate at the end of July 2024.

This year promises to be filled with significant events and milestones, marking the final stretch of our rewarding collaborative journey. Many of our diverse partnership will converge on **one of the flagship events in the Arctic calendar 2024**, Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø at the end of January. In addition to the conference, the Norwegian Arctic city of Tromsø also hosts three of our consortium organisations (NORCE, NOFIMA, NINA). Therefore, straight after the conference our project will also seize the opportunity to further exchange experiences and share ideas built in utilizing participatory tools that have been shared with local communities around our European Arctic hub sites. In fact, this reflecting upon the co-creative engagements with local communities and stakeholders, is also at the heart of the theme to which we anchor our inputs at the annual Arctic Frontiers event.

In this newsletter, we will be telling you about:

- The dynamic interchange of approaches and feedback to engage the diverse range of stakeholders in the Westfjords, Iceland
- Our expanding suite of Explainer Videos
- Concluding Conference and Events

Additionally, we'll provide a sneak peek into some **upcoming events** you won't want to miss.



Westfjords – Futures in focus

As the early snows of winter were settling, ArcticHubs attention once more moved around to the remote yet dynamic **Westfjords hub in Iceland**. This sparsely populated corner of the Arctic perfectly reflects the **interplay and frictions across different livelihoods** and land/sea uses, that is the centre of the collaborative research being conducted throughout the project.

In such a complex and fluid setting, ArcticHubs has set out an ambitious and swirling interchange of research approaches that move back and forth between the researchers and stakeholder groups. Integral in this process, is the need for periods of reflection and feedback, particularly when many of the methods being used are not so familiar to the participants whose voices and perspectives are being shared. For example earlier rounds of the participatory mapping tool, [Maptionnaire](#), had been tested out in the Westfjords hub.

These found out that there were gaps in engagement with the tool from several categories, including the youth and from residents holding passports from other European countries.

Consequently, **the Icelandic research team has returned to the region** and reached out more directly with schools, community groups and municipal authorities, to explore alternative routes to

ensure such voices are accessed and that they too feel a part of the research. The settings in which the collaborations take place has also been observed to be significant. Hence some respondents are content to engage remotely through digital or online platforms. Whilst others find the combination of a new or different research method, that is presented without initial training or direct contact from a researcher or other community member, to be too much. Teasing out a response or a motivation to participate, seems to be still encouraged more by personal connections and face-to-face explanations. With that in mind, workshops were set up during the Autumn in the municipal and business centre of Patreksfjörður. Generously **hosted in the community centre by the Vesturbyggð municipality**, an enthusiastic gathering of locals came together.



The aim was to look more closely and evaluate **statements regarding the future development** in the region. Moving through them and ordering the different challenges, threats and opportunities being introduced and exploring how these are perceived locally. Such an approach that builds up an evaluation of opinions and perceptions, is known as [the Q-Method](#).

An initial survey using the method had taken place online. Although some responses came back, in the Westfjords it was felt that it would benefit from further support coming through **a direct presentation and encouragement from the Q-Method coordinating team** at ArcticHubs partner, BOKU in Vienna. Converging in snowy Patreksfjörður, the Icelandic research team was **joined by Isidora Dabić from BOKU**, to help reframe the approach and encourage further participation.

A broad spectrum of attendees were present included **representatives from the public sector, from the private sector** (encompassing aquaculture and tourism), and also, residents of foreign origin. It soon became apparent that there was real interest in the statements concerning development.

At the same time, it was clear that **more rapid progress could be made when a face-to-face setting was used** rather than relying on remote access electronically.

The presence of some participants who had taken part in earlier focus group meetings and interviews, emphasised that the flow across multiple phases or tools of research also benefits from **a sense of continuity**. Such connections, at different points in the research process, are helping to confirm to those participating that **their perspectives really are being listened to** and incorporated –

in this case as **the Westfjords hub moves to collectively build future scenarios** regarding the ways in which development in the region may look.

Discover Our ArcticHubs Project Explainer Videos



In this winter edition of our newsletter, we seize the opportunity to remind you of our **Explainer Videos developed as part of the ArcticHubs Project**. These videos offer an in-depth and engaging view of project activities. They also served the project as a communicative bridge, making complex concepts accessible to a broad and diverse audience, to local communities and general public.

So far, we have released **6 Explainer Videos** and video sliders, also available on the [YouTube channel](#) of our project's leading partner, LUKE.

We invite you to explore these videos through our website and YouTube to delve deeper into the world of ArcticHubs and discover how our work is shaping the future of the Arctic.

Watch all the videos [here](#).

ArcticHubs at ArcticSpirit Conference 2023



The ArcticHubs project had the privilege of actively participating in the inspiring **#ArcticSpirits** Conference at the end of 2023 in Rovaniemi, Finland.

Travelling up to the Rovaniemi by way of the wonderful night train, set the tone - providing the chance for a gradual reflection on the dynamism and change taking place in the high North.



Over **two days of thought-provoking discussions** and insightful exchanges, we delved into the multifaceted narratives shaping the Arctic's future. Our researchers brought to the conference the **perspectives of stakeholders and local communities from the various project hubs**, showcasing their visions for a thriving Arctic in the years to come.

The conference provided also an opportunity to build on the productive sharing and exchanges with our EU Horizon 2020 **sister projects JUSTNORTH** and **Charter-Arctic**.

Read more [here](#).

Last ArcticHubs General Assembly in Alagna Valsesia!



The ArcticHubs Consortium convened for its annual General Assembly in Alagna Valsesia, Italy, at the end of 2023. **Hosted by the University of Turin**, one of the key members of the project Consortium, this event held great significance as it focused on **Alagna Valsesia Valley**, a prime **learning case for the ArcticHubs** project.

This gathering served as a crucial milestone for the Consortium, uniting partner organizations and hub leaders from one of the project's learning case areas.

Professor **Marco Giardino** from the University of Turin elaborated on the geo-strategic dynamics of the Valsesia valley and its geopark. Professor **Riccardo Beltramo's** research group presented their remarkable work on the **Alagna Walsar Green Paradise project**, underscoring innovative approaches to smart tourism development in mountain villages. See how this is also documented also through their Instagram account [here](#).

Find [👉 here](#) the full article about the last Consortium meeting.





WHAT'S ON



SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS!

SPECIAL ISSUE ON SUSTAINABILITY
CHALLENGES IN THE ARCTIC:
EXPLORING LAND USE CHANGES
AND THEIR IMPACTS



ANNOUNCEMENT



ArcticHubs @ Arctic Frontiers 2024

The Arctic Frontiers 2024: Actions and Reactions conference will take place in **Tromsø, Norway**, and digitally **from January 29th - February 1st, 2024**.

Six aspects of the ArcticHubs research are woven into the Arctic Frontiers programme throughout the week.

Monday 29th January (16:30 – 18:00)

The inter-disciplinary poster session

Mehmet ERK: An introduction to the **ArcticHubs digital game as a serious game** tool – and the co-design process to embed ongoing research from one of our Swedish hub locations in the digital game.

Tuesday 30th January (08:00 – 09:30)

Empowering Arctic citizens for involvement in decision making (Pt.1)

Jerbelle ELOMINA: Exploring local people's perspectives on Arctic development using **Q-Method**
Helge FLICK: Experiences from applying the **DPSIR framework** in the Nordic Arctic

Tuesday 30th January (14:45 - 16:15)

Empowering Arctic citizens for involvement in decision making (Pt.2)

Seija TUULENTIE: Involving local communities in tourism planning – **Public Participation GIS** (PPGIS) as a tool for the tourist resorts in the Arctic

Wednesday 31st January (10:30 – 12:00)


Empowering Arctic citizens for involvement in decision making (Pt.3)

Rannveig ÓLAFSDÓTTIR: Arctic cruise tourism and **social licence to operate** (SLO)
Vigdís NYDAARD: SLO, a relevant concept for **cross-industry research?**



Conferences & Events


● Arctic Frontiers Conference

 29 --1 Feb 2024

✎ **ArcticHubs Frontiers 2024** will explore the latest developments in Arctic research and span the physical and social sciences, as well as technological developments and innovative methods. Click [here](#) to know more.

📍 Tromsø, Norway

● Arctic Circle Forum

 7-8 May 2024

✎ The 2024 Arctic Circle Berlin Forum will explore the role of Science, Climate, Policies and Europe in the future of the Arctic. The Berlin Forum will be hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and co-organized with the German Arctic Office at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research. Click [here](#) to know more and attend.

📍 Berlin, Germany

Readings for you

🔍 **Lean forestry – A paradigm shift from economies of scale to precise and sustainable use of ecosystem services in forests.**

✎ [Click here to read.](#)

Multiple-use forests and reindeer husbandry – Case of pendulous lichens in continuous cover forests 🔍

✎ [Click here to read.](#)

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