



The Arctic: Europe's Strategic Neighbourhood

Lisa Van Well & Johanna Roto

ENECON – ESPON

Climate Change in Northern Territories

22 August 2013, Akureyri, Iceland



ITAN and the Arctic

ESPON ITAN: Integrated Territorial Analysis of the Neighbourhood

ITAN objectives :

- Presenting a comprehensive view of the European Neighbour regions (ENRs);
- Assessing the regional integration between the ESPON space and the neighbouring regions through a territorial analysis;
- Building the first stage of a coherent database, compliant with the ESPON database;
- Making recommendations in order to reduce risks and foster opportunities



ITAN and the Neighbourhoods

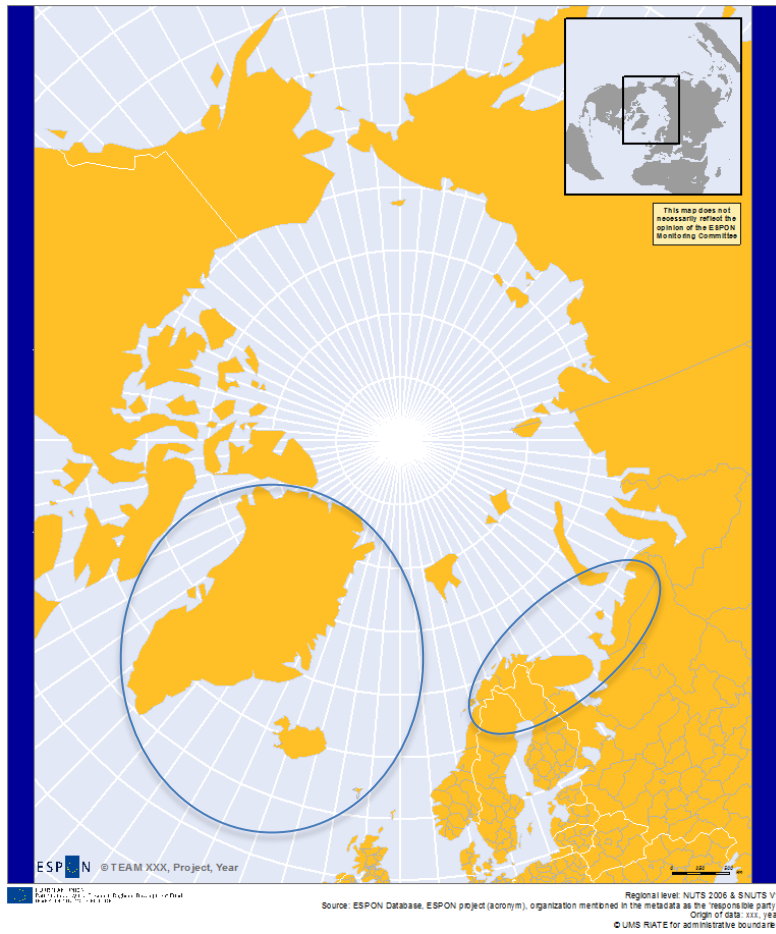
Four main Neighbourhoods: Northern, Eastern, South eastern, Southern

ESPON ITAN Hypotheses:

- The Neighbourhoods represent **opportunities** for Europe rather than threats
- Europe and the European Neighbour Regions could be seen as **one region** in light of **functional integration**



The Arctic Region and ITAN



- 'ITAN Arctic' as a case study in the project
 - Zooming-in for Barents region & West Norden
 - General trends for Circumpolar Arctic
- Historical links with the Nordic countries
- Arctic territorial governance situation
- The Arctic as Europe's strategic neighbourhood!



Case Study Questions:

- In what sense can the spatial structure of the Arctic area be understood as "**one region**"?
- What are the common **links and flows** between the Arctic and Europe?
- Why is the Arctic **important** for Europe? Why is Europe important for the Arctic?
- What are the drivers of **integration** in the Arctic itself and with the rest of Europe?
- What are the **territorial potentials for cooperation**? How has **climate change** changed these potentials or pre-conditions?



Methods/Structure

- 1) Mapping the territorial structure of the Arctic Region (ITAN database)
- 2) Understanding the role of territorial capital, natural resources and the effects of climate change on them...(literature review)
- 3) Mapping the existing flows of goods, people and their potentials (ITAN database)
- 4) Forms of intergovernmental and territorial cooperation (internet survey)



1. Territorial Structure

Focus on quantitative evidence – statistics (ITAN database)

TERRITORY: Main focus on 'S-NUTS' regions – How does the administrative division looks like, how have it developed and what are the regional statuses and development trends

TIME: State of the region in 2010 – and development trends during last 5, 10 to 20 years

THEME: Demography, labour markets and economy as main themes, environment, accessibility and 'regional specialities' also included

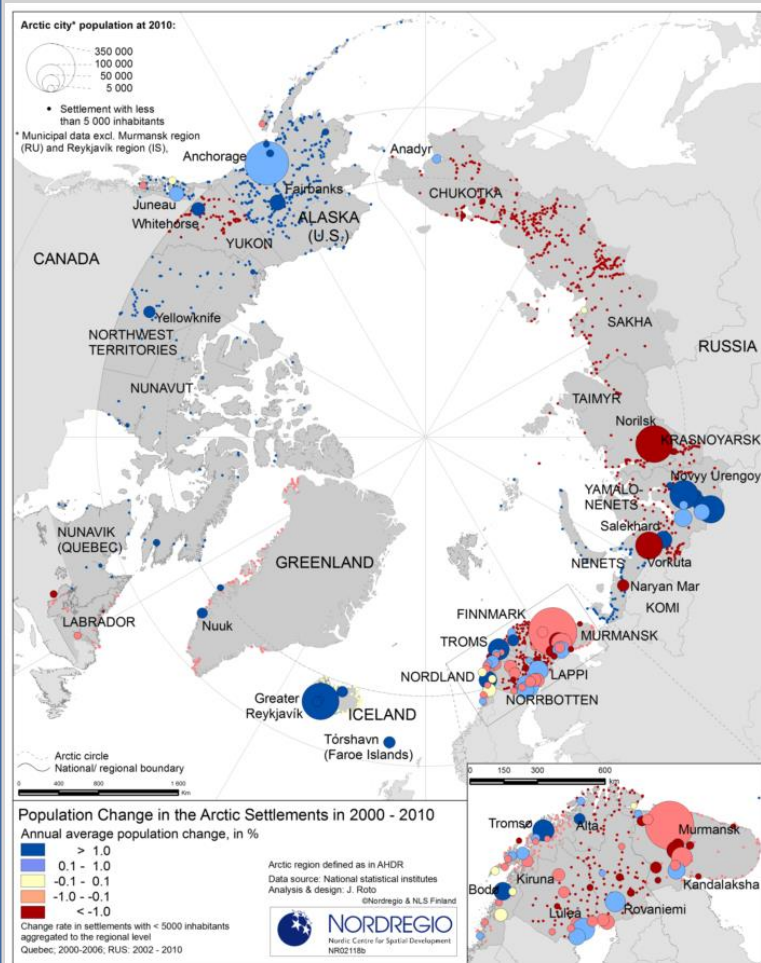


1. Territorial structure – Harsh Climate

Setting pre-conditions for human habitats and economic activities



1. Territorial structure – Sparse population



Some 4 million people live in the Circumpolar Arctic – and over 40% of them in the Barents Region

In all the Arctic Countries the Northernmost regions are the sparsest populated ones

The population in the region is anyhow very concentrated – nearly 80% of population lives on urban environments

1. Territorial structure – Gender Disparities

In education (up) - Graduates from the University in Greenland 2011 (Picture: Leiff Josefsen)



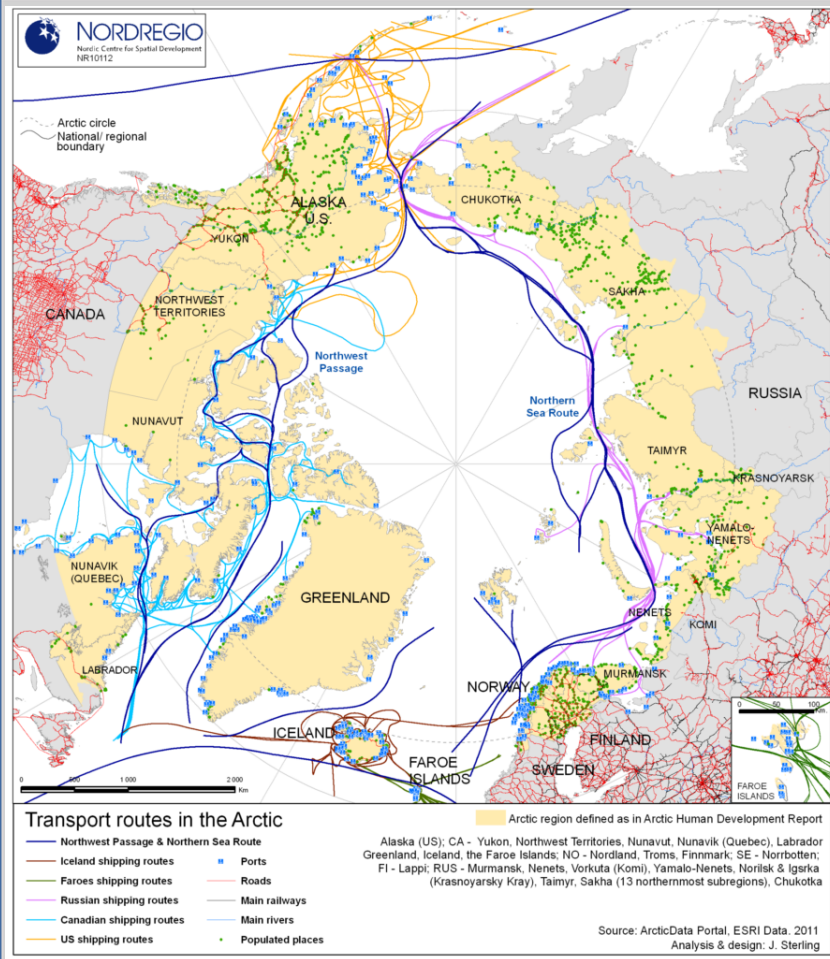
In politics (down) – Municipal government 2013 in Qaasuitsup Kommunia (one of the 4 municipalities in Greenland) (Picture: Municipality home page)



But as such – general lack of young females



1. Territorial structure – Accessibility?



- Long distances between the settlements
- From well-functioning transport infrastructure...
 - To isolated settlements with no road connections or regular ferry or plane...
 - And the challenge of winter conditions



1. Territorial structure – Employment



Service sector is the dominant branch of employment as such – but

Role of traditional livelihoods (hunting, fishing, herding) is of importance – especially mentally and culturally



Large scale resource harvestment (minerals, oil, gas)

Up: Drying seal meat at the roof in Western Greenland

Down: Nickel smelter in the Kola Peninsula

Pictures: Johanna Roto



2. Territorial Capital – working definition

“Territorial capital refers to the **stock of assets** which form the basis for endogenous development in each city and region, as well as to the **institutions, modes of decision-making and professional skills** to make best use of those assets.” (OECD 2001:13)

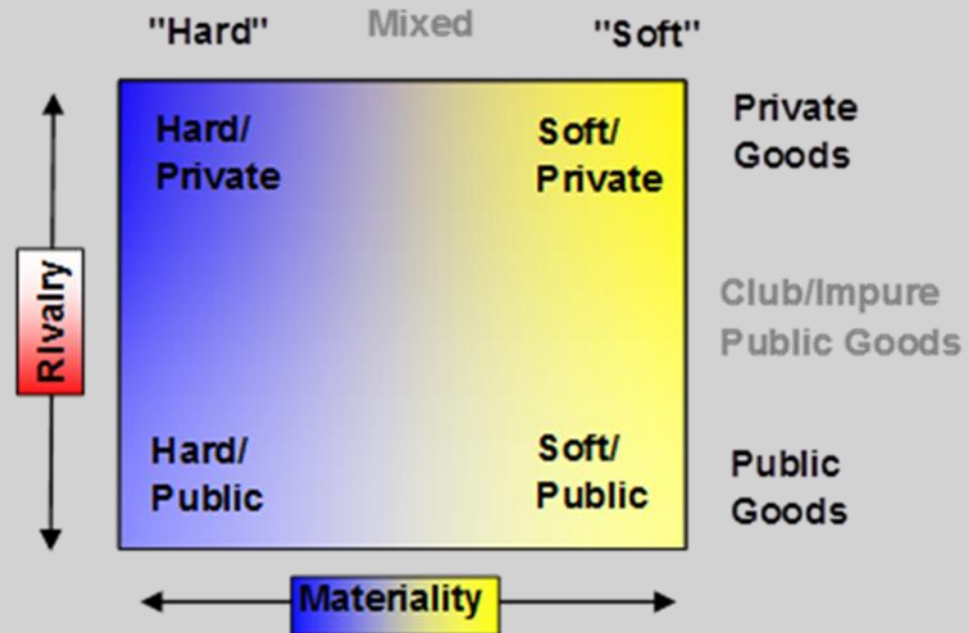
Includes: geographic location, size, climate, natural resources, quality of life, agglomeration economies, “something in the air”...



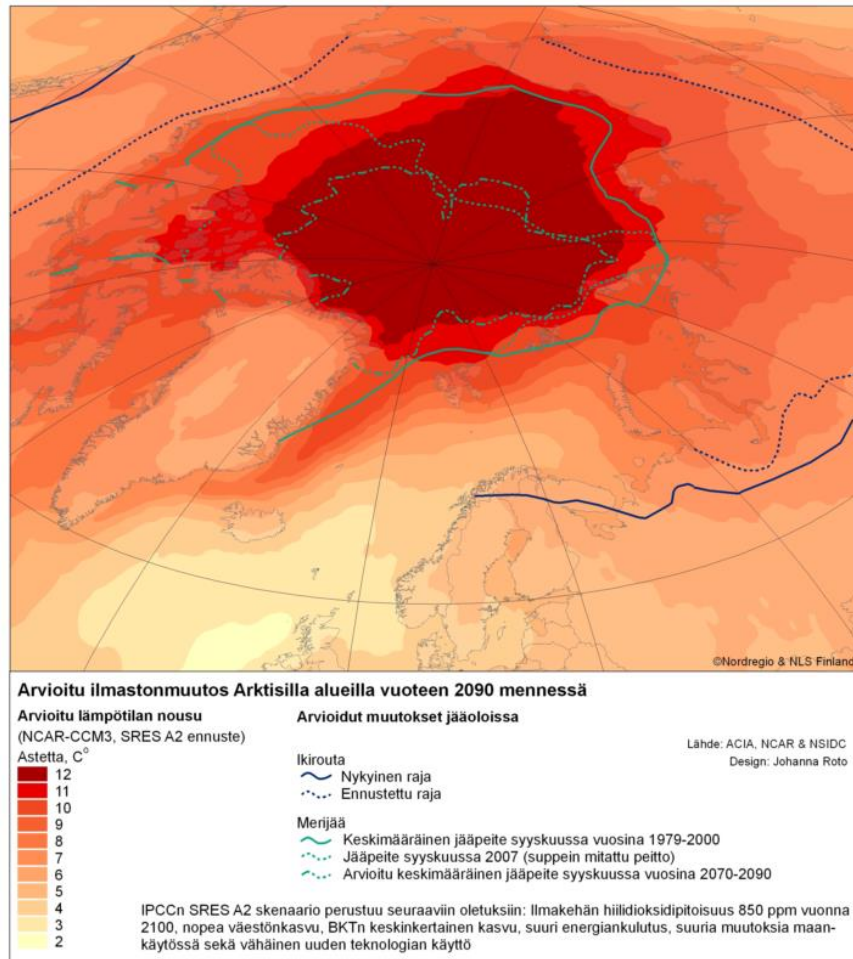
2. Territorial Capital – many types

The material and immaterial aspects of territorial capital (ESPON EDORA)

In the Arctic we see some rivalry over goods that are both public & private -> 'club goods'



2. Territorial Capital – Climate change



Impacts on accessibility?

Red colours : Estimated increase in temperature up to 2090, in C°



Permafrost (recent)

Estimated permafrost, 2090



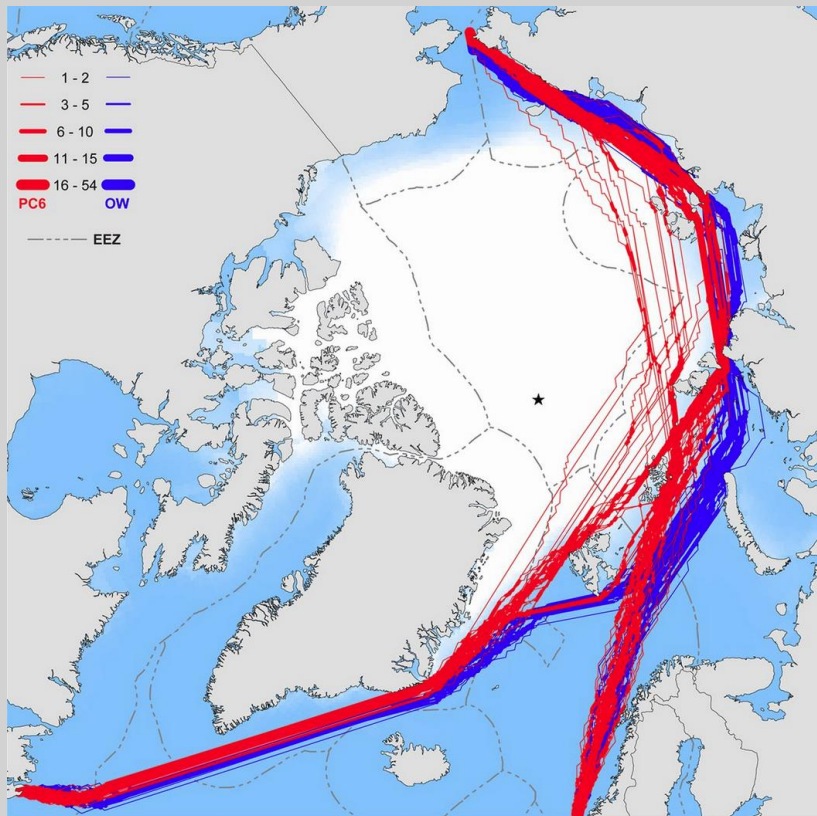
Average sea ice in September 1979-2000

Sea Ice in September 2007 (second lowest ever)

Estimated average sea ice in September 2070-2090



2. Territorial Capital– New shipping lines?



New Trans-Arctic shipping routes navigable by midcentury? (Picture)

Transport volumes in the North-East Passage multiplied during the latest years -> In 2012 46 vessels sailed the whole route, compared to 34 in 2011 and only four in 2010.

- 2013: The Northern Sea Route Administration has so far received 89 applications to use the Northern Sea Route (NSR). 54 vessels have so far been given permission to sail

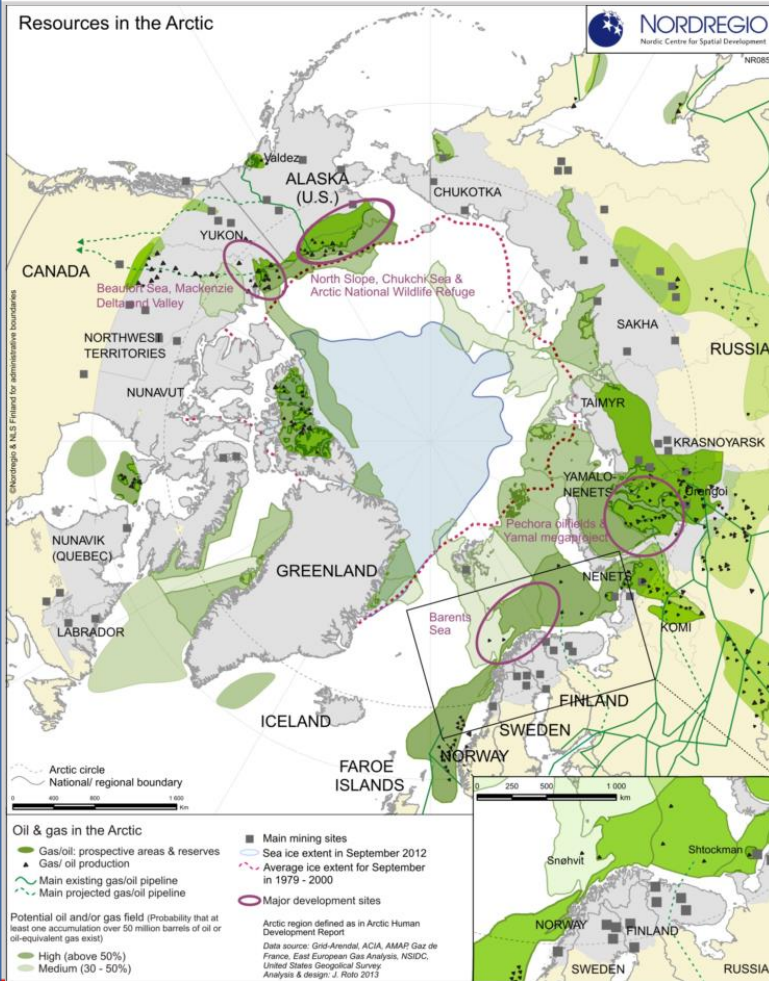
-> estimate for 2020 is 20 mill t. of cargo
16 (1.4 in 2012)

Source:

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/13/E1191/F1.expansion.html>



2. Territorial Capital – Minerals, oil & gas



Oil & gas

- Many prospective areas and reserves
 - But challenges in accessibility
- Production (so far) mainly on land and in Norwegian Sea

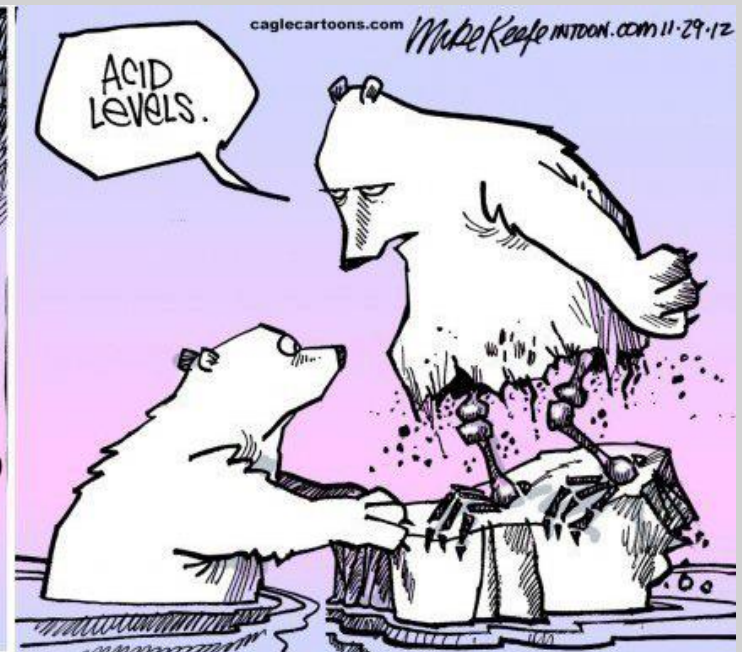
Main mining sites

Impacts & dependency of the global market prices

2. Territorial Capital – Security concerns

Environmental security:

Agreement on cooperation on marine oil pollution, preparedness and response in the Arctic – Adopted in Arctic Council's meeting in Kiruna May 2013



3. Flows

Still awaiting data!

Discussion of how existing flows of people and goods take advantage of the territorial capital/natural resources



4. Arctic Cooperation

- Territorial cooperation itself represents a type of “Territorial Capital”?
- Climate change / exposure to new resources / greater accessibility / changing territorial preconditions ...leading to increased forms of governance (scope and intensity): Are they ‘talking cooperation but preparing for conflict (Huebert 2010)
- Arctic cooperation is contributing to greater integration and defining the “neighbourhood” with important links for the rest of Europe



Kolarctic ENPI 2007-2013
Northern Periphery 2000-2006, 2007-2013 -> Northern Periphery
and the Arctic 2014-2020

NCM Cross-border programme- Nordic Arctic Cooperation (NORA)
NCM Cross-border programme- Nordkalotträdet

Northern Dimension
Environmental Partnership
Transport and Logistics

Arctic Council
Barents-Euroarctic Council (BEAC)



Tentative conclusions

Is the Arctic neighbourhood a threat or potential?

-> Both

Can the arctic region & europe be seen as 'one region'?

-> functional opportunities but distinct from many aspects of Europe / Arctic

Thank You

Lisa.van.well@nordregio.se

Johanna.roto@nordregio.se

