

Project information

Project title

Contaminants, environmentally healthy food and local societies

Year

2012/2013

Project leader

Marit Aure, NORUT

Participants

- Marit Aure, NORUT

Flagship

Hazardous substances, Theme: Human health and society

Funding Source

Fram Centre

Summary of Results

- Pilot study/survey on knowledge and perceptions on hazardous substances in local food, and how it links to nature use including recreation, and how it affects local politicians and bureaucrats on industrial and environmental policies.
- Funding of Kolarctic project with Russian and Finnish partners on "Contaminants, food security in border region"
- Workshops/meetings held to link with International polar year project GAPS (<http://www.ipygaps.org/>), and to develop survey utilizing work done in GAPS.

Published Results/Planned Publications

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Communicated Results

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Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The cooperation between different social science disciplines (sociology, political science, economics, economic geography), as well as their cooperation with chemistry and medicine, made the project possible.

Budget in accordance to results

The funding from FRAM has been vital to get the cooperation between natural and social science established, and to get the Kolarctic funding. Without the FRAM funding the project would probably not have started up.

Could results from the project be subject for any commercial utilization

No

Conclusions

The project (Flagship and Kolarctic project taken together) will give new and better knowledge on the indirect effects of contamination on health and well-being, in addition to the direct somatic medical health effects. This will include contaminants' effects on recreational and traditional use of nature, and people's sense of security. Also the possible effect on jobs and income through affecting industrial policies and industrial development will be included. A better understanding of what affects people's knowledge on local contaminants and their health effects, and their perceptions on this, may help researchers, public authorities and others to better communicate risks associated with contaminants.

The pilot survey forms the basis for surveys in Russia and Finland, and hopefully also in other places/contexts in addition to the Kolarctic project.