

Project information

Project title

Case Orrefjell

Year

2016

Project leader

Louise Kiel Jensen

Geographical localization of the research project in decimal degrees (max 5 per project, ex. 70,662°N and 23,707°E)

68.893085°N 018.099117°E

Participants

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Flagship
Hazardous Substances
Funding Source

600 knok from the Fram Centre.

High in-kind contributions

Summary of Results

Case Orrefjell is planned as a two year project, and this report summarizes year one.

WP1: Activity concentrations and transfer to biota

In September 2016, NMBU, NGU and NRPA scientists were on fieldwork to the area. On the first day, the students at Sjøvegan High School were introduced to the project through a lecture. The students were divided into 3 groups and each group participated in the fieldwork. Here they got an introduction to radon measurements, the geology of the area and biota and soil sampling procedures.

During the fieldwork, nine stations were sampled. The main compartments of interest were soil, berries, foraging plants and earthworms. The samples and data are now being analysed for NORM and other relevant elements at NGU and NRPA.

WP 2: Mapping the radon concentrations in the Salangen Valley

In May, 2016 we initiated outdoor measurements of the Øvre Salangen valley, with two control stations in Sjøvegan. This will inform us if there are areas with higher risk of radon gasses. In addition, point measurements was made during the field campaign under WP1.

In October 2016, when the ordinary radon measurement season started, alpha track detector was distributed to all the students in “our” class and to all households in the Øvre Salangen valley. These should be deployed for 2 months before returned to NRPA for analysis.

WP 3: The impact of knowledge about uranium in Orrefjell on inhabitants’ habits and awareness

NORUT and NRPA have developed a questionnaire to survey inhabitants’ knowledge, awareness and concern related to radon in Salangen. Students have been introduced to the questionnaire and should advocate to responders. The students distribute the web-based questionnaire to acquaintances and family over 16 years of age. In collaboration with the local web-based Salangen Nyheter, which informs the community about the project, the link to the questionnaire will be posted and inhabitants encouraged to reply. The questionnaire is also distributed via Facebook to people in Salangen 16 years and above.

Salangen Nyheter also made a video-interview with three of the students. This interview is further broadcasted on Framsenderet.no.

Highlights:

- the inter-disciplinary corporation is beneficial and the local anchoring of the project, achieved by including a high school class and their very engaged teachers, have provided a special dynamic to the project which is not normally seen.

For the Management

WP3 in this project are concerning the awareness of the public and the questionnaire is designed so the results may be compared to the results from national surveys on the same topics.

When completed, the results will be used by NRPA and will be communicated to the local authorities in Sjøvegan.

Published Results/Planned Publications

The project is planned as a two year project and no data have been published yet.

Communicated Results

The project was presented by a video interview and a written interview in the local news channel in Sjøvegan, Salangen Nyheter.

A post on Framsenteret.no was further produced based on a video interview and a web based news update on Salangen Nyheter

Interdisciplinary Cooperation

The project is highly inter-disciplinary as both natural and social scientists are involved in the project. This approach has broadened the project and is possible because the project is limited in geography and not research discipline.

Budget in accordance to results

The budget reflects the strong anchoring of this project in the institutions due to large in-kind contributions, but additional funding was needed to facilitate a stronger cooperation.

Could results from the project be subject for any commercial utilization

No

Conclusions

As the project is ongoing, no conclusions have been reached so far. However, the experiences during the first year are that the inter-disciplinary corporation is beneficial and the local anchoring of the project, achieved by including a high school class and their very engaged teachers, have provided a special dynamic to the project which is not normally seen.