



# JUSTNORTH

## Newsletter

### The Impact of the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine on the JUSTNORTH Research Project

by Charlotte Gehrke

Science collaboration and science diplomacy have played an instrumental part in shaping the circumpolar region into the Arctic as we know it today. In the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine, individuals and institutions were forced to reconsider their relationship with Russia, a central partner in Arctic science cooperation and one of the eight Arctic states. In the first days and weeks following the invasion, numerous Arctic science organizations publicly condemned Russia's actions, and the Arctic Council paused "all official meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies until further notice."

But how has the war impacted the JUSTNORTH project? According to Roman Sidortsov, JUSTNORTH's project co-coordinator and Work Package 2 co-leader, "our project largely has avoided the fallout of that senseless aggression." Yet, the invasion still "provided an additional layer of difficulty" on top of the COVID-19 pandemic. While COVID forced researchers to rely on remote data collection in Russia in the first place, some fallout could nonetheless not be prevented. One case study, Case Study 18 on *Empowering Equitable and Robust Indigenous Economy through Indigenous Entrepreneurship in the Swedish and Russian Arctic* led by Dr. Ildikó Asztalos Morell (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) and Dr. Elena Bogdanova (Northern Arctic Federal University), was particularly affected by the invasion. Already struggling with fieldwork amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the case study lost its Russian partner.

"We didn't have any real say when the EU Commission decided to terminate our Russian partner," commented Corine Wood-Donnelly, the project's Scientific Coordinator, but the project's collaboration with Northern Arctic Federal University became both politically and ethically untenable when the university's rector published a letter supporting the invasion of Ukraine. "Before this decision, we were in a difficult spot, being contractually tied to a Russian partner through the EU, while national governments in Sweden, Norway and Finland had mandated that all cooperation should be ended", says Wood-Donnelly.

**"It was a bit surreal to talk about justice and fairness, and even human flourishing when the [Ukrainian] towns and villages were pulverized in the most senseless manner."**

"For me, it was quite shocking, then I realized that there's pretty much nothing you can do with this now," explained the case study's work package leader (WP4) Tanja Joonas. Regarding the European Union's decision to cut ties with Russian partners, Joonas stated, "I don't think we had any choices but to follow the order." Timo Koivurova, member of JUSTNORTH's scientific advisory board, noted that such swift responses to the conflict's impact on science collaboration and diplomacy from the EU...

(continued on page 6)





Photo credit: Corine Wood-Donnelly

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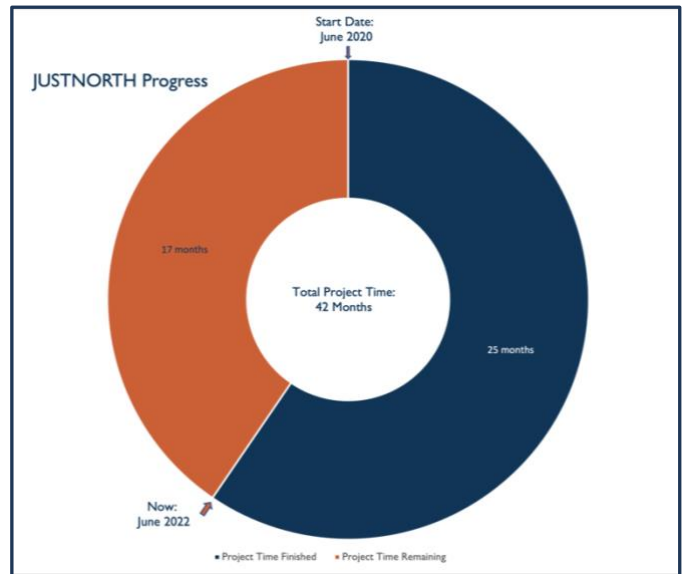
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**Update on Project Progress**

*How long will JUSTNORTH be running?*

JUSTNORTH is a 3.5 year (or 42 month) research and innovation action. The project started in June 2020 and plans to finish in November 2023. As of June 2022, the project is over halfway through its working time.

This means that the project team is now working hard to analyse the data collected in the field.



Soon you will see more project results published and available on the project website.

**General Assembly Report**

Over 2-4 June, JUSTNORTH held its second annual General Assembly in Wageningen, the Netherlands.

The hybrid event was attended by representatives from Uppsala University, University of Sussex, University of Lapland, Cardiff University, Universidad Complutense Madrid, Universidad Autonoma Barcelona, Wageningen University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Nord University, Vestlandsforskning, Adrian Fisk and the Stefansson Arctic Institute.

During this event, the project's Steering Committee, Stakeholder Board and Scientific Experts Advisory Board met to discuss project events and progress.





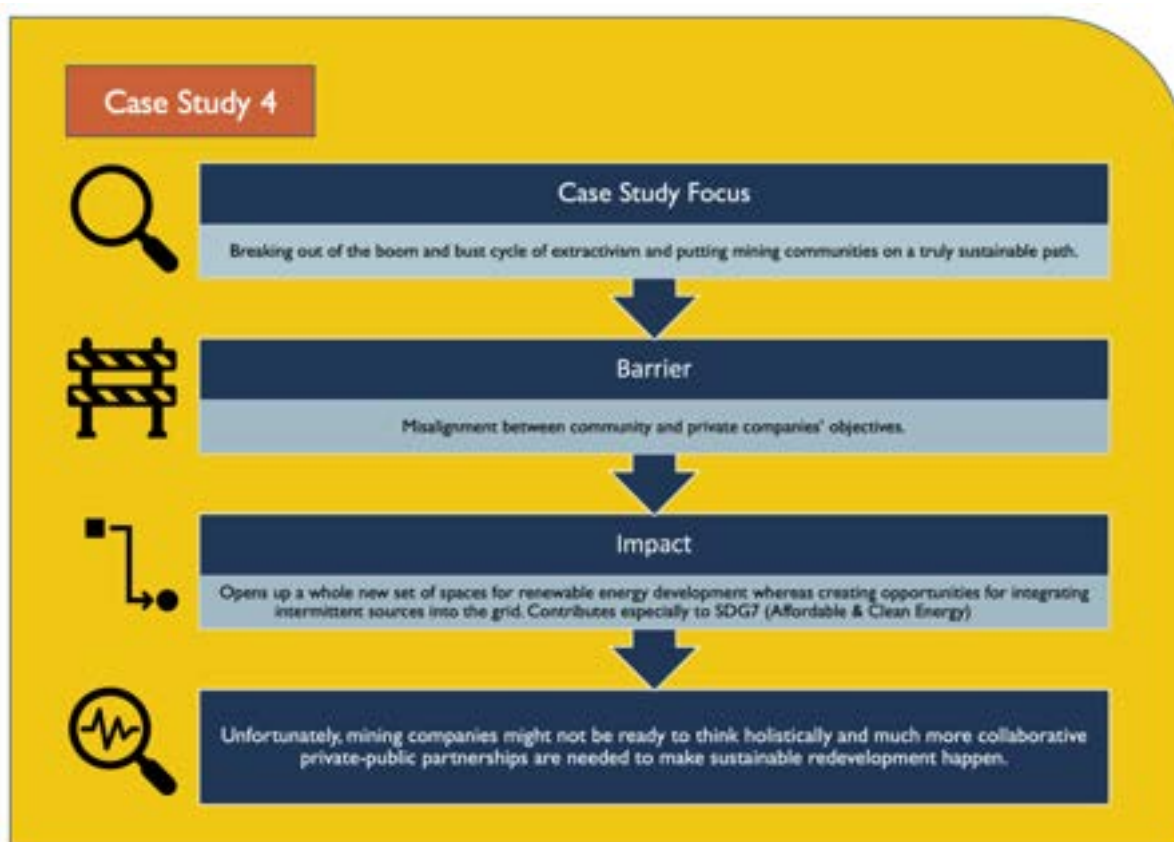
# 'HOT TAKES'

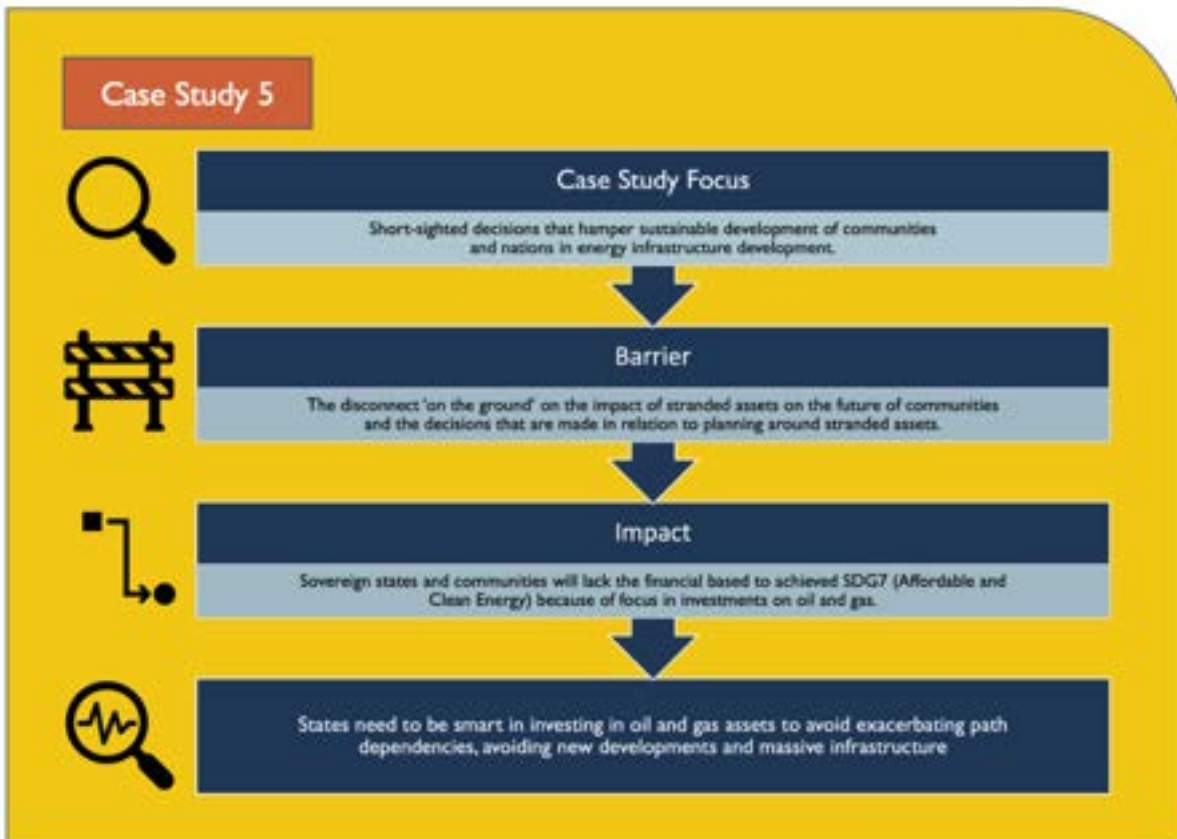
from the Case Studies

Photo Credit: Paul Upham

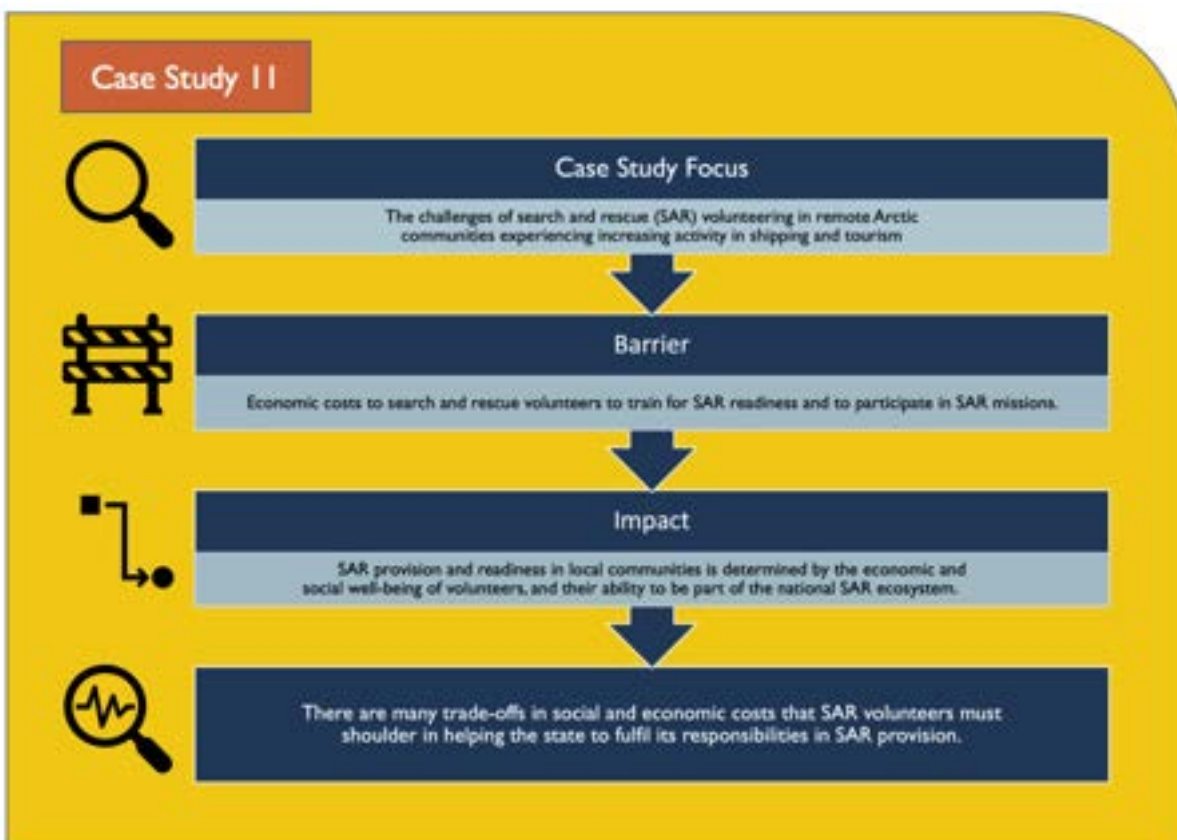
The expression *hot takes* usually refers to a superficial and quickly produced piece of writing, used to stimulate discussion. Several JUSTNORTH Case Studies have prepared some thoughts emerging from their *almost* two years of scientifically rigorous research --which cannot be described as 'superficial'. But the results below are definitely 'hot off the press' summaries of some of the research findings-- which have just been finalised in recent weeks. So, we're calling this section 'hot takes' because the content is brief, fresh and an invitation to stimulate discussion about *just* sustainability in Arctic economic development.

## On Justice in Transition





**On Justice in Scale & Distribution**



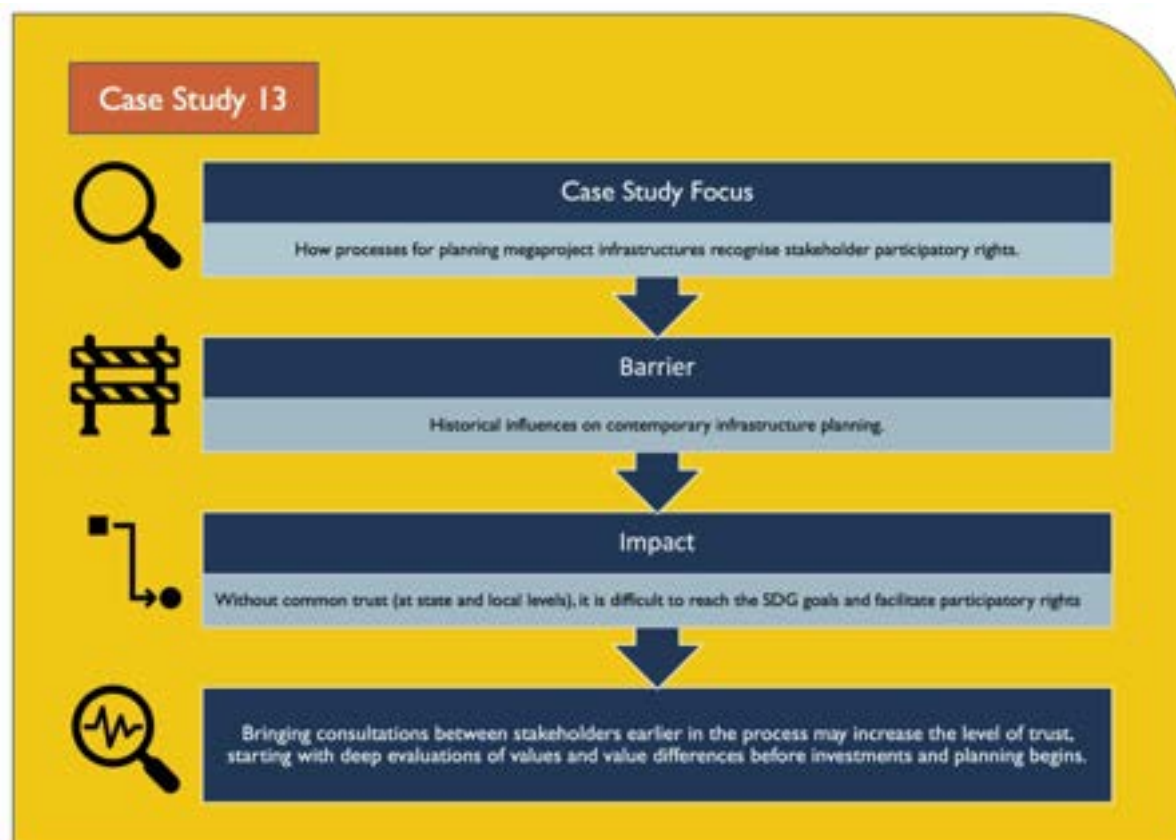
This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 869327.







**On Justice in Participation and Governance**



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 869327.



*Continued... The Impact of the 2022 Russian Invasion of Ukraine on the JUSTNORTH Research Project...*

and other institutions and funding bodies are essential to ensure that research projects like JUSTNORTH can continue their work. "Otherwise, the projects are starting to fall apart," says Koivurova.

In addition to these institutional responses to the crisis, researchers also emphasized how the invasion impacted their interactions with individual Russian researchers, with many explaining that "basically, there hasn't been any communication" as communication channels would likely be monitored. Members of the JUSTNORTH consortium also noted the emotional toll and even cognitive dissonance they felt while working on the research project in the immediate aftermath of the invasion. After Sidortsov participated in an EU periodic review session of the research project during the first 48 hours of the invasion, he observed that "it was a bit surreal to talk about justice and fairness, and even human flourishing when the

[Ukrainian] towns and villages were pulverized in the most senseless manner."

Many affiliated with the JUSTNORTH project voiced skepticism that scientific collaboration with the project's Russian research partner would resume before its conclusion in 2023. Scholars, however, struck a more hopeful tone when it came to future collaborations with individual Russian researchers, with Joona stressing that "they are important partners for us." Sidortsov agreed, stating, "I hope to collaborate again with individual researchers ... the world needs a different Russia, and to create a different Russia we need people, like the people we used to collaborate [with] in JUSTNORTH."

*Thank you to Adam Stepien, Corine Wood-Donnelly, Roman Sidortsov, Tanja Joona, and Timo Koivurova for contributing to this piece.*

## Upcoming Events

### Announcing the JUSTNORTH Conference

The 2022 project conference will be hosted by the Stefansson Arctic Institute. The event will be held in Akureyri and Husavik in Iceland over 10-12 October. This is just before the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik. The Case Study teams will be sharing the findings of their research on stakeholder values in economic development. The team developing JUSTscore (our negotiation tool) and the team working on JUSTNORTH policy and regulatory frameworks will have co-production events. To find out more contact Sveinbjörg Smáradóttir at <[sveinbjorg@unak.is](mailto:sveinbjorg@unak.is)>.



*Photo Credit: Mia Landauer*

### Arctic Circle Conference 2022

Are you going to the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik? Be sure to look for our panel "*Just, Equitable, and Sustainable Development in the Arctic: Lessons from JUSTNORTH*" in the conference programme.

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## JUSTNORTH Research Results

Read these recent scientific publications from the project team in the papers below

### 1) Which states will lead a just transition for the Arctic? A DeePeR analysis of global data on Arctic states and formal observer states

Darren McCauley, Kerry A. Pettigrew, Mia M. Bennett, Iain Todd, Corine Wood-Donnelly

*Global Environmental Change, Volume 73, 2022*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2022.102480>

#Justtransition #Climateleadership #Arcticgeopolitics  
#Environmentaljustice #Energytransition

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### 2) Digital bricolage: Infrastructuring lower carbon digital space via Nordic datacentre development

Paul Upham, Benjamin Sovacool, Chukwuka Monyei,

*Political Geography, Volume 96, 2022*

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2022.102617>

#datacentres #finance #planning #spatialjustice  
#infrastructuredevelopment

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### 3) Where is justice in geography? A review of justice theorizing in the discipline

Stephen Przybylinski

*Geography Compass, Volume 16, No 3, 2022*

<https://doi.org/10.1111/gec3.12615>

#geographicesofjustice #injustice #justice  
#justicetheorizing

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Check out the JUSTNORTH project website for other research results at [www.JUSTNORTH.eu](http://www.JUSTNORTH.eu)



Photo Credit: Tanja Joona



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