



## Introducing JUSTNORTH: An EU Horizon 2020 Project

### JUSTNORTH by the numbers

- €5.99 million in funding from EU Horizon 2020
- Project dates: 2020-2023
- 18 consortium members from Europe and US
- 45 researchers
- 18 case studies

### The 18 case studies include:

- Opportunities for sustainable mobility and addressing transport poverty in Iceland
- Communities, globalisation and marine tourism in Northern Iceland
- Polar tourism, cruise ships and northern communities: Competing interests and resource use
- Mining in the Finnish Arctic
- Arctic SAR
- Stranded assets
- Indigenous Livelihoods and Industrialisation

Rapid and significant Arctic climate change has sparked a new wave of economic speculation. Global investors are pinning their hopes on new resources and transportation corridors. Yet local communities, already dealing with the effects of climate change, are concerned that such projects could simply repeat past cycles of northern extraction. Historically, resources and revenues have flowed south while residents have received little in return save for polluted lands and abandoned infrastructure.

If done right, however, there is a chance for Arctic development to be sustainable and equitable.

At present, decisions on economic development tend to be made according to utilitarian ethical principles. Profit and technical feasibility determine a project rather than its ethical implications and impacts on local residents.

JUSTNORTH seeks to build a framework for sustainable development in the Arctic. Researchers are exploring the multiple value systems that converge when specific development projects are proposed in order to identify common core values that can create linkages rather than barriers between competing ethical and value systems.

### JUSTNORTH themes

- Justice and Ethics Framework
- Justice in Transitions
- Justice in Distribution and Scale
- Justice in Governance and Participation
- JUSTscore negotiation
- Legal and Regulatory Policy Pathways

# Why is justice a crucial element of Arctic development?

Fossil fuel extraction around the world is driving rapid climate change with devastating impacts on the Arctic region. To achieve ethically, sustainable, and economically viable economic development in the region, it is crucial that it be decoupled from fossil fuel extraction.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals set important guidelines for economic development, many of which are applicable in the Arctic – including ensuring access to reliable and clean energy. These goals, however, are defined at a global scale. If development in the Arctic is carried out in ways that local communities do not perceive as ethical and just, then development will be unsustainable.

Debates over economic development in Arctic communities – many of which are remote, inaccessible, and distant from the urban cores of the global economy – often centre on how to generate the biggest returns. National governments typically prefer encouraging large extractive projects and international shipping corridors over local, small-scale enterprises that utilize renewable resources, trade locally-produced goods, and provide social services.

Resources and revenues from externally oriented and financed projects tend to end up in southern capitals rather than local pockets. Participation in governance and policy-making therefore plays a role in determining more ethical and just development. Building mechanisms and systems to ensure timely, inclusive and equitable participation in development decisions is a step towards this goal.



*Goliat arriving in Hammerfest, Norway (Photo: RFD)*

## JUSTNORTH: Goals & Ambitions

- Co-develop a negotiation tool to account for diverse perspectives in economic development projects and create the potential for achieving sustainable outcomes premised on actor-specific values
- Offer legal and regulatory mechanisms that respond to the concept of ethics and justice, and guide EU policies closer to sustainability
- Present recommendations for the EU Integrated Arctic Policy, including legal and regulatory pathways for creating the conditions for sustainable development based on co-produced knowledge
- Produce a documentary following the research project



*Arctic midnight sun (Photo: CW-D)*



[@JUSTNORTH\\_EU](https://twitter.com/JUSTNORTH_EU)

[JUSTNORTHEU](https://www.facebook.com/JUSTNORTHEU)

[JUSTNORTH](https://www.linkedin.com/company/justnorth)

[@JUSTNORTH\\_EU](https://www.instagram.com/justnorth_eu)

Or visit our Website: [WWW.JUSTNORTH.EU](http://WWW.JUSTNORTH.EU)



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