

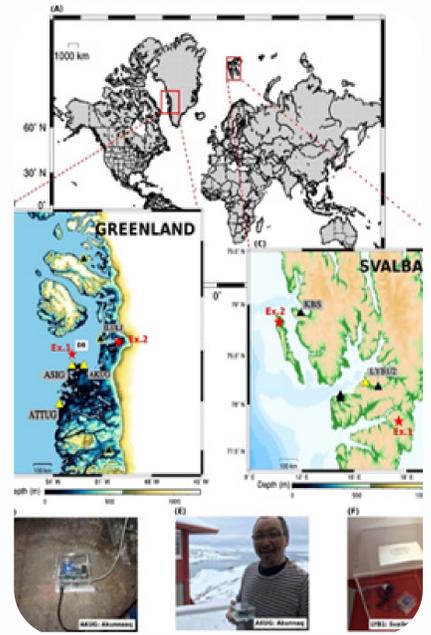
# Benefits of co-creation in planning for safety, equity and sustainability on Svalbard

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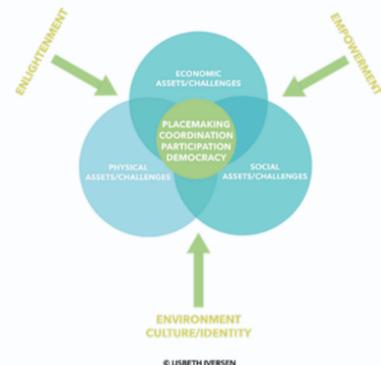
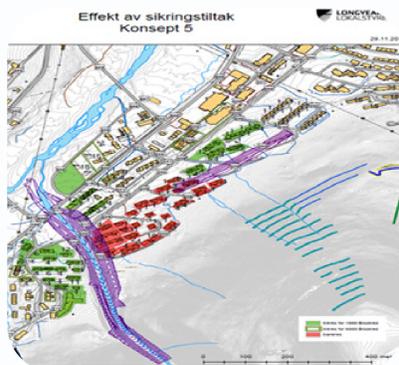
Planning for sustainable development, environmental monitoring and protection of cultural heritage and resources, as well as safety for all citizens, is challenging for local communities to manage, also in the Arctic. This is caused partly by climate change and more frequent extreme weather conditions and disasters. Changes in international relations, demography and economy, are also framing the context of planning and development. Svalbard is experiencing rapid climate change, flux in the population, and uncertainty connected to planning, housing and future jobs.

Linking top-down, governmental initiatives and plans with bottom-up approaches and planning initiatives from the community level, and knowledge from best practice from citizen science and community based monitoring programs (CBM), is not always easy. Co-creation and co-production of knowledge has been addressed over the recent years in public sector and public management. It has not been addressed in the same way connected to planning and coordination of research topics across actors and sectors. Co-creation in planning processes in the Arctic in general, and on Svalbard specifically could provide broad knowledge and help identifying gaps in data and research, required to make more sustainable decisions, enable environmental monitoring, flexibility, innovation as well as rapid and effective responses to sudden incidents.



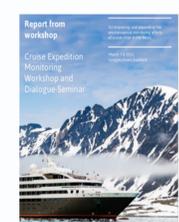
INTAROS T4.3 Pilot CBM networks Greenland & Svalbard. Improved detection and data support for understanding seismic events. With locals, fishermen and hunters. Led by GEUS and UiB

Longyearbyen  
Local Council meeting



A participatory and asset based community development approach needs to be built on trust and long term collaboration to strengthen the social capital among the actors. This provides benefits for society and all actors involved. It is important to establish networks and platforms for partnership, coordination and co-creation of knowledge. (UN Goal 17 and 17.17). One example is the Svalbard Social Science Initiative, SSSI, which is building bridges across social and natural science. Field work, workshops, cross institutional seminars and international research project like INTAROS and CAPARDUS have also provided important outcomes of methods and approaches connected to Citizen science and Community Based Monitoring, CBM. Creating engagement through a Penta helix-model and through Placemaking methods have been useful approaches in my ongoing research.

Based on the research and experience from the INTAROS and CAPARDUS projects, and an ongoing Public Sector Phd project at AHO, an attempt has been made to test and map methods and tools of co-creation connected to environmental monitoring, planning and urban development. Participatory planning processes, and co-creation of scientific knowledge and local knowledge, have provided a framework for more holistic and coordinated place leadership and sustainable management. For results and more reading:



Eicken et al, 2021

2.

3.

2. Dialogue/ workshop: cruise operators, scientists, decision-makers. Longyearbyen March 2019. Report available at: <http://www.intaros.eu/media/1635/2019-report-aeco-workshop-v4.pdf>

3. In May 2021, the book Community-Based Monitoring in the Arctic was published by University of Alaska Press (<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/C/bo70275667.html>)

