Evaluation of EU policy responses to cross-border impacts originating in the Arctic, towards advancing adaptation to climate change.

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“The range of simulated polar warming in the Arctic is from 1.5 to 4.5 times the global mean warming.” (Holland and Bitz, 2003)

“During the last 43 years the Arctic has been warming nearly four times faster than the globe”. (Rantanen et al. 2022)

☞ The magnitude of Arctic warming emphasize the need for actions towards adaptation to climate change in the Arctic
Arctic warming is responsible for multiple impacts on the cryosphere, ecosystems and societies in the Arctic.

What are the cross-border impacts resulting from Arctic warming and how do they affect Europe?
What EU policies are involved in responding to the cross border risks? What is the role of policy coherence in adapting to the risks?
Initial conclusions on the evaluation of EU policies using coherence

At the objectives level, EU policies concerning the Arctic seem coherent with each other, with a focus on European adaptation.

But:

- Potential incoherence with the policies of individual Arctic states.
- The integration of indigenous knowledge and the involvement of indigenous people in adaptation policymaking is fundamental but only emerging.
- Non-climatic drivers can hinder adaptation as shown by the war in Ukraine: “The expected economic implications for Russia as a result of the war in Ukraine and the imposed international sanctions have added massive uncertainty with regard to adaptation. Long-term policy development and implementation of adaptation policies is likely to be pushed down the list of priorities, in favour of short-term measures to sustain economic activity.” (Moe et al. 2023)
- Long-term adaptation plans are yet to be developed. In the face of fundamental uncertainties, they need to be flexible and adaptive.
Thank you for your attention!