



Julia Kinnanen

Children's Music Camp is filled with voices and sounds.

Sounds like **BARENTS**

PLAYING THE KANTELE – a traditional Finnish musical instrument – and making sounds from nature. These are some of the activities that took place last summer at the Children's Music Camp in Saariselkä, Finland.

The camp was arranged by The Sound of Barents project, which aims to strengthen the cultural cooperation between the churches in the Barents region.

"It's hard for me to pick the most memorable thing from the camp, but welcoming the children from the Orthodox Church for the first time and learning

more about their music was a privilege", says Aron Tideström, project manager at Sensus, Sweden.

The ecumenical project develops events for children, young people, choirs and professional musicians. It has also created Barents Boys Choir in cooperation with Arts Promotion Centre Oulu.

"We build networks and exchange knowledge and practices."

The Sound of Barents is financed by the European Union Kolarctic programme and is part of an umbrella project, New Horizons.

Challenges of & LAND USE & INDUSTRY

WHAT ARE WE really talking about when we talk about the Arctic region? The northern areas are not one, and different regions are definitely not the same.

The programme Arctic Sustainable Development (2014–2018) places a focus on what can be seen as the European Arctic mainland, defined as the northernmost parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland and thus covering the North Calotte as well as much of the Barents Region.

“We want to study land use and industry in this region in the past and in the present as well as elucidate the framework for future governance of the region”, says Professor Carina Keskitalo, scientific coordinator of the programme at Umeå University.

The research focuses on seven different sectors and the interaction between them. These sectors are mining, forestry, oil and gas exploration, fishing, reindeer husbandry, tourism and municipal planning.

The programme aims to provide a nuanced picture of governance challenges at local, subnational and broader levels in northernmost Europe. This way researchers hope to support governance to make informed decisions related to sustainable development in the area. The programme is financed by Mistra, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, which has provided 30 million Swedish crowns, with co-financing from the participating organisations.

How safe is LOCAL FOOD?

MANY PEOPLE in the North eat a lot of local food, like berries, meat and fish, which are often considered pure and healthy choices. But how pure are they?

The Norwegian Institute for Air Research is leading a project which assesses the impact of industrial pollution on food safety and human health. The study is being carried out in the populated Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian border region. Through interviews and questionnaires the project will also get insights into

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people's perception of the risk from pollution of their local environment.

The study will provide a good basis for local and cross-border strategies to reduce potential risks. Data on contaminant levels in locally harvested food and in humans can be integrated with monitoring of key human health endpoints in the future. The project is funded by the European Union Kolarctic programme.