

## **Preface**

This volume is produced as part of the research project – Human Security as a promotional tool for societal security in the Arctic: Addressing Multiple Vulnerability to its Population with Specific Reference to the Barents Region (HuSArctic). The project is funded by the Academy of Finland, and hosted at the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland. On March 25-28, 2017, under the auspices of the project, an international conference titled Human and Societal Security in the Circumpolar Arctic with specific focus on the Barents region: Environment, Sustainability and Development, was organized. The conference took place in three locations – Rovaniemi and Enontekiö (Finland), and Kautokeino (Norway). The conference brought together a group of international scholars from various disciplines, highlighting the significance of the Arctic to the global community. The four-day conference hosted approximately forty presentations and received over thirty research papers and excellent submissions focusing human and societal security from diverse disciplines, and applicable to mainly the Barents region. While all papers underwent an initial review, approximately only twenty were selected for further review under an external process. Out of these, fifteen were accepted for publication in the book entitled: Human and Societal Security in the Circumpolar Arctic Local and Indigenous Communities, published by Brill (2018). The remaining papers are published in the present volume entitled: Unconventional Aspects of Human Security in the Arctic – Cases from the Barents Region, as they present topical issues. This volume is presented as an outcome of the HuSArctic project, the focus of which was to elaborate on the multiple vulnerabilities and challenges facing the Arctic

population, with a specific reference to the Barents region from the viewpoint of human and societal security. The opinions expressed in the volume are of those of the individual authors of each chapter.

The first chapter analyses legal pluralism from a legal-philosophical viewpoint, focusing on Canada and Finnish Lapland – two jurisdictions with indigenous areas. The analysis of legal pluralism is explained through fundamental concerns in relation to indigenous peoples' rights, including land rights and rights to natural resource management. The author's arguments are based on relevant philosophical, cultural, and moral elements.

The second chapter sheds light on entrepreneurship in the Russian North, with special reference to risks and threats to small and mid-sized entrepreneurs. The author places a specific emphasis on the peripheral region, in particular the Komi region, of the Russian Barents. The Komi region has become increasingly isolated since the 1990s due to centralization, and currently faces a number of negative circumstances including a decrease in population, a low quality of human capital, and economic dependence. The author argues that this is due to unequal natural resource distributions, which negatively influence the socioeconomic status of the population. The author focuses their analysis on entrepreneurs and the survival of the region's small and mid-sized businesses.

The third chapter offers the importance of digitalisation and information sharing as part of the promotion of human capability, which broadly enhances human security. The authors elaborated on digitalisation and

information sharing by highlighting the actions taken by a Non-governmental organization (NGO), the Association for Social Affairs and Health in Northern Ostrobothnia, which is coordinating the Toimeksi 2.0 project. The project aims to create an online service for NGOs and citizens in order to activate citizens' participation in society. Thus, the authors discuss how citizens' empowerment for the enhancement of community welfare leads to the promotion of a transparent, effective, and efficient society.

The fourth chapter scrutinises problems of food security in the Arctic, taking the Komi Republic in Northern Russia as a case study. Here, the author highlights the importance of food self-sufficiency in both quantity and quality. The author argues that dynamism in agricultural production is a requirement for the promotion of self-sufficiency to promote fresh and quality food products.

These four chapters provide significant insights to human security, and elaborate on possible threats or methods of promoting human security in a regional context. Their contributions will certainly provide useful information for academics, legislators, policy makers, and practitioners seeking to further expand their knowledge of human security, and in particular to understand its manifestations in the local context of the Barents region.

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