

МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО В БАРЕНЦЕВОМ ЕВРО-АРКТИЧЕСКОМ РЕГИОНЕ КАК ДРАЙВЕР ЭКОНОМИКИ В АРКТИКЕ

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Аннотация

На сегодняшний день в Баренцевом Евро-Арктическом регионе складывается достаточно эффективная система международного сотрудничества, с каждым новым этапом взаимодействия наполняясь новым содержанием: глубокой социально-экономической интеграцией, эффективным решением экономических задач, связанных с освоением и эксплуатацией богатейших арктических ресурсов, развитием инженерной, транспортной и социальной инфраструктуры. В связи с этим международное сотрудничество рассматривается в качестве драйвера, необходимого для увеличения масштабов научных исследований и инвестиций в регионе, эффективной разработки арктических ресурсов и управления ими, формирования жизнеспособной экономической системы в Арктике. Жизнеспособность арктической экономики в глобальном контексте состоит в возможности её адаптации к внешним вызовам, что обеспечивает реализацию потенциала арктических ресурсов и служит интересам в области национальной безопасности.

Ключевые слова

Международное сотрудничество в Баренцевом Евро-Арктическом регионе, арктическая экономика, экономическая деятельность в Арктике.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE BARENTS REGION AS A DRIVER AFFECTING ARCTIC ECONOMY

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Abstract

An effective system of international cooperation has been formed in the Barents region, and each new stage of such an interaction is being filled with new content: deep social and economic integration, effective tackling of economic challenges associated with the development and operation of the Arctic rich in resources, the development of engineering, transport and social infrastructure. In this regard, international cooperation is considered as a driver that is necessary to increase the scale of research and investment in the region, to foster understanding of the diversity of economic activities in the Arctic, to develop the effective management of Arctic resources, and to improve the economic system viability in the Arctic. The viability in the global context lies in its adaptation to external challenges, which ensures the realization of the Arctic resources potential and serves the interests in the field of national security.

Keywords

International cooperation in the Barents region, Arctic economy, economic activities in the Arctic.

Introduction

Nowadays a few issues of various kinds – international, legal, political, social and economic, environmental have accumulated around the Arctic.

The crucial issues facing the communities and individuals in the Barents region are non-military: climate change, globalization and integration into the global markets. These multifaceted issues are not confined within states' territorial borders but may apply at local, regional, or even global scales. The driving forces of this process are two phenomena: climate change and globalization. The phenomenon of globalization is viewed from the position of another contradictory

process – regionalization. The globalization of the Barents region space implies the transnationalization of the interests within economic and political interaction, and regionalization acts as a mean of reflecting the specific living conditions [1]. This once again proves that Barents region occupies a special geopolitical position in international cooperation, and within its framework the intensive interaction of territorial communities and regional institutions takes place.

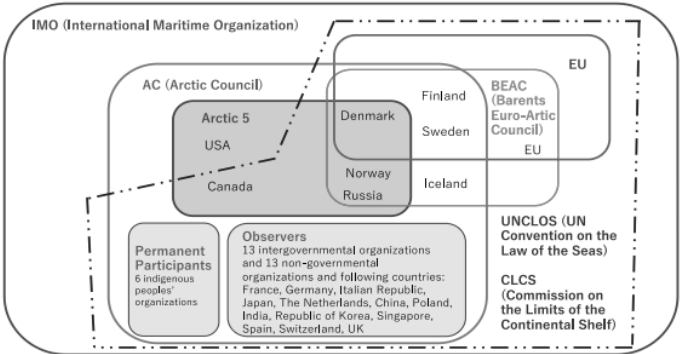


Figure 1 – Cooperation framework in the Arctic

It is likely that climate change forces the Barents region states to maintain stability in the region and form a regional level of security. Obviously, any emergency in the Arctic can have far-reaching consequences – not only environmental, but political, social and economic – redirecting the vector to international cooperation.

RUSSIA	NORWAY	FINLAND	SWEDEN
International Arctic cooperation, economic development, environmental protection, resource development	Political stability, international cooperation, to prioritize climate change and environmental policies, sustainable economic and social development in the region	Stability of the region, strategies for the climate change and environmental protection, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, promoting the EU's role in the Arctic	Strengthen the AC, develop the EU Arctic policy, to prioritize climate change and environmental policies, and promote economic development and close relations between the state and business communities

Table 1 – Cooperation priorities of BEAR countries in the Arctic

There are big gaps in knowledge about the Arctic economy, because it is so different from other regions of the world. As regional statistics are often not the most prioritized, it is sometimes a “treasure hunt” to find regional information. The gross domestic product (GDP), one of the main economic indicators, is regionalized by the national statistical offices, other regional statistics might be found, but not enough to get a complete picture of the livelihoods and living conditions in the Arctic [2].

Meanwhile, the existence of challenges sets common goals and new trends for Barents region countries. In this regard, cooperation is a basis for continuing dialogue and compromises on all disputed issues.

In the context of these trends, the processes taking place today in the circumpolar space of the Barents region are unique. On the one hand, a new regional identity is being developed – the perception of the modern Arctic as a single circumpolar macro-region with unique values, and on the other hand, economic activities are compounded by specific climatic conditions, geographic remoteness from innovation and industrial centers.

The purpose of the research

This research is aimed at giving circumpolar overview of international cooperation in the Barents region and its impact on global sustainability and economy in the Arctic in order to foster understanding of the diversity of economic activities in the Arctic.

Materials, methods and objects of the research

Mix method research has allowed us to identify certain approaches in the context of the international cooperation in the Barents region and its impact on global sustainability and economy in the Arctic.

The result of the research

When considering the drivers for the economic development of the Arctic, it is necessary to clarify the economic and political foundations of this activity, formulated in the context of the practice of international cooperation. We proceed from the assumption that there are three potential development approaches. The *first approach* is based on seeking new ways of exploitation of natural resources. At present, more and more emphasis is being placed on the application and widespread use of the most advanced scientific ideas and developments. However, the effective use of new technologies and new approaches in the development of more complex collaboration of the Arctic states involved.

The most important feature of the regulation system (or “resource regime”) is being adequate to the new conditions for the development of natural resources in the Arctic. The interaction of companies with different levels of competence and approaches to the development of natural resources allows not only to reduce individual risks, but also to ensure an effective exchange of experience and best practices.

The role and place of the Arctic economy is not only limited by meeting the needs for exploitation of natural resources, biological resources, as well as the resulting employment and tax revenues to the budgets of various levels. The Arctic in the modern economy plays the role of the “territory of the future”. This role presupposes following environmental decisions in conducting economic activities, preserving the living environment of the indigenous peoples of the North, broad cooperation and integration of all participants in economic processes.

The framework presented in the *second approach* – climate change approach calls for more efforts towards estimating the extent and range of economic impacts associated with Arctic change. The impacts of global climate change manifested in the Arctic region need to be translated into economic benefits and costs in order to engage with businesses and policymakers [3].

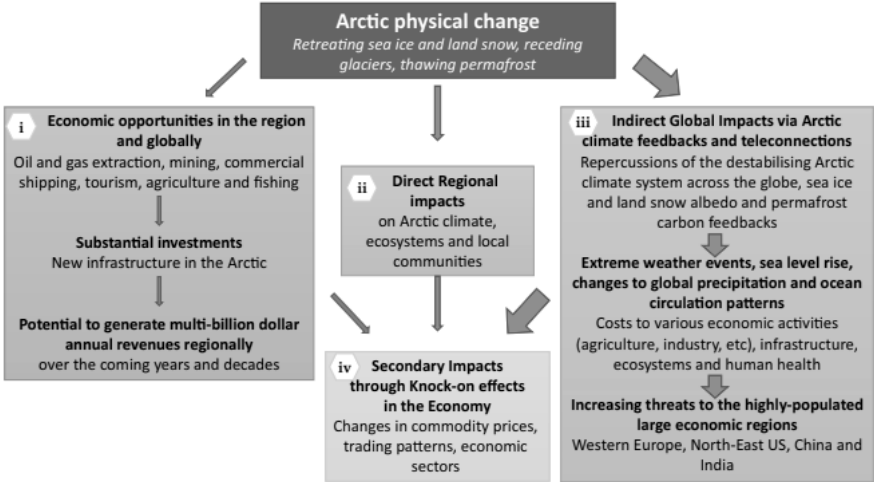


Figure 2 – Economic impacts from climate change

Climate change is accelerating, but changes to Arctic shipping, including any potential move to NSR, will likely be gradual rather than sudden. There is thus still time to inform and craft policies to manage future activities along the NSR, which has witnessed an increase in attention from policymakers and scientists in recent years [4].

Shipping via the NSR may deliver certain benefits to people living in communities along the route’s entrances in the Fram and Bering Straits, like new jobs and greater availability of imported goods. Yet the industry also threatens local residents’ socioeconomic, cultural, and spiritual well-being.

As more corporations with international influence opt out of the Arctic's maritime and extractive industries, their reluctance is likely to impact Arctic shipping's commercial viability and economic viability itself.

The *third approach* is non-Arctic approach based on scientific and economic engagement – the main instrument for legitimizing the presence of non-Arctic states in the Arctic.

As the scale of Barents cooperation and the ways science contributes to the development of the region have become more sophisticated, a deeper understanding of the cooperation specifics is required if states are to benefit from it. Determining the forms of science engagement of non-Arctic states is important, since it allows us to consider the potential for joint global management of the Arctic which could stabilize geopolitical processes in the region. In addition, the study of research activities in the Arctic of non-Arctic states in the future can help our country maintain a leading position in research in the region.

The main cooperation areas in science and technology of non-Arctic states in the region are: training programs for the indigenous peoples; international research network initiatives; research activities at the stations; expeditions on research vessels; organization of Arctic conferences; cooperation with Arctic universities.

Second, regional economic security is emerging as a priority for many non-Arctic countries, but it would be an incomplete statement to assume that said concerns only reflect a need for access to emerging Arctic “goods,” in the form of raw materials and sea lane access. German and Japanese approaches have especially reflected that concern. Yet, there is also the less-defined concern about being denied access, due either to the militarization of the region or to overt attempts at excluding non-Arctic actors from economic activities in the region. Thus, the question of “club goods” in the Arctic becomes paramount, which can be stated as, “despite a lack of Arctic geography, I wish to be perceived as an economic partner in the region as it continues to open” [5].

Conclusion

The future architecture of the Barents region will depend on how international institutions and countries with geopolitical interests in this region will show themselves.

In economic matters such as shipping and resource exploitation, geophysical conditions remain harsh and climate uncertainty plays a big role. The development

of oil and gas resources continues to have a major impact on new and existing projects in the Arctic.

The processes of globalization and the growing interest in Arctic issues are contributing to the involvement of an ever wider range of participants in the network of cooperation. Cross-border cooperation in Barents region is becoming more and more intensive, new development programs are actively operating and launching, aimed at forming and strengthening collaboration in the variety of areas with a variety of actor, both Arctic and non-Arctic.

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