



- Norway:**
- NILU (Lead Partner)
  - University of Tromsø
  - Akvaplan-niva
  - NORUT
  - NRPA
  - County governor of Finnmark

- Finland:**
- University of Oulu
  - Finnish Meteorological Institute

- Russia**
- The Northwest Public Health Researcher Center
  - Murmansk County Birth Registry
  - Institute of the Industrial Ecology Problems of the North (INEP)

<http://kolarctic.nilu.no>

## Status flyer, October 2013

# Food and health security in the border region of Norway, Finland and Russia (KO467)

Although small, the border regions between Norway, Finland, and Russia are very important to local communities for both food availability and economic stability. A number of local industrial sources are present in this area and with planned increased activity. This has raised concerns from the local population regarding food safety and potential risks to health through consumption of food from this region.

The project is a collaboration between research institutes in the three countries and includes Sør-Varanger and Inari municipalities, and the cities and nearby districts of Nikel and Zapolyarny.

### Objective

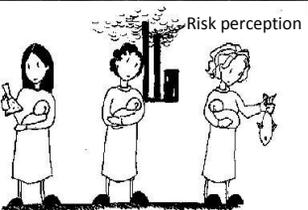
The objective of the project is to assess the impact of industrial pollution on food safety and human health in the populated Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian border region. The project will also get insight into people's risk perception due to pollution of their local environment through interviews and questionnaires.

### Ongoing activities

- The questionnaire for the food and health security perceptions survey are now sent out to people living in towns and communities in the border region of all three countries.

- Local food items such as fish, game, berries and mushrooms are now collected in all three countries and will be sent to laboratories for analysis of contaminants such as metals (Ni, Cu, Hg etc) and persistent organic pollutants like PCBs; DDTs and dioxins.

- Blood sampling of women in the Inari region and in the Nikel region will soon be initiated as part of national birth program in Finland and the Murmansk Birth registry, respectively. The sampling will be combined with interviews and questionnaires and later electronically connected to the birth registry main database and then analyzed. In Norway this is already completed through the MISA program at the University of Tromsø.



MISA, University of Tromsø

### We want to answer the following:

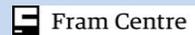
- Is the local food contaminated? – game, fish, berries
- If so - in what regions is this the case?
- To what extent do people actually eat this food?
- Who are they?
- Are people concerned about this, and has this influenced their use of local food?
- Social and physical aspects, using the nature

- What contaminants are people exposed to through local food?
- What is the levels of contaminants in people?
- Identify potential health effects for future studies

### Expected impact

- Communication and dissemination of information and results from the project to stakeholders, decision makers and the general public.
- Recommendations and joint actions towards future environmental and health projects, monitoring and regulations.

### Funding:



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The Northwest Public Health Researcher Center

Murmansk County Birth Registry