



Science-Policy discussion panel. What can the Arctic learn from the European Union's Resilience Strategy?

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The EU started to develop its resilience concept since 2013 by adopting Council Conclusions on an EU Approach to Resilience, followed up by the Action Plan for Resilience in Crisis Prone Countries for 2013–2020. These documents recognized the need to prioritize a number of elements in the EU's policy cycle: risk assessment, risk reduction, prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and swift response to and recovery from crises. The 2014 EU Resilience Compendium illustrated with concrete examples how the resilience approach can be translated into reality.

In June 2016, Brussels officially presented the “EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy”. Resilience was defined as “the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, cope, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks such as violence, conflict, drought and other natural disasters without compromising long-term development”.

Following the EU, the Arctic Council (AC) started to develop its resilience concept by releasing an Arctic Resilience Report (ARR) in November 2016. It examined a number of “regime shifts”, or large, abrupt changes in social-ecological systems, and evaluated characteristics of resilient Arctic communities. The AC acknowledged resilience as its priority and the Arctic Resilience Action Framework (ARAF) was adopted in the 2017 Fairbanks Ministerial Declaration.

Similar to the EU interpretation of this concept, the ARAF defines resilience as the ability of a system to bounce back and thrive during and after disturbances and shocks. It emphasizes the importance of considering linked social-ecological systems when developing strategies for resilience in the Arctic, where social and ecological systems are tightly linked.

The panel will be an opportunity to assess collective progress towards the ARAF priorities, identify emerging priorities, exchange information, and showcase best practices (first and foremost the EU ones). The panel will be organized around four ARAF overarching priorities:

- 1) Analyzing and Understanding Risk and Resilience in the Arctic
- 2) Building Resilience and Adaptation Capacity
- 3) Implementing Resilience with Policy, Planning and Cooperation
- 4) Encouraging Investment to Reduce Risk and Build Resilience

Specific EU-Russia cooperation programs, such as the Northern Dimension partnerships and European Neighborhood Instrument cross-border cooperation programs will be examined through the prism of the EU resilience practices. Special attention will be given to the discussion of existing and potential indexes of sustainable development of the Arctic regions, cities and companies operating in the region.