Assessing the Role of Tourism for Sustainable Development in the Arctic

Ass. Professor Albina Pashkevich

School of Technology and Business Studies

Dalarna University

MISTRA
STIFTELSEN FÖR MILJÖSTRATEGISK FORSKNING

UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

HÖGSKOLAN DALARNA

Background

- Growing interest in tourism across the Arctic (both Polar Regions) since mid-1990s
- Natural resource peripheries (no refined products, limited multiplier effects)
- Path dependence and “lock-in” effects as major constrains
- Nature protection as major tourism asset → National parks as attractions?
- From periphery to global playground?

Study area

- Ykon, Canada
- Sub-Arctic Sweden (Northern Dalarna, Jämtland, Västerbotten, Norrbotten)
- North-West Russia, Nenets autonomous okrug

Research questions

- How tourism is perceived as a possibility or problem?
- Institutional and political conditions framing tourism development
- How tourism stakeholders adapt to global changes in environment and industry?
- Development alternatives for the future?

Methodology

- Tourism is seen as innovation framed by regional and sectoral innovation systems
- Its development is embedded in a net of institutions, regulations, practices, cultural values and traditions
- We use **Arctic Tourism Innovation Systems approach (ATIS)**
- Allows to identify success in reaching goals, identify and discuss system failures

Methodology

Identifying system failures

1) traditional market failures,
2) capabilities,
3) networks,
4) institutions,
5) regulative frameworks
6) governance and policies

Three case studies/topics

- Study areas share common problems
- ATIS can fail regarding different aspects

1) Climate change role is highlighted

2) Indigenous people → alternative livelihood or a threat? Marginal position towards decision making

3) Protected areas: areas of conflicts or as asset for tourism development?

Findings/outreach

- Exchanging and discussing ideas and recommendations with stakeholders
- Creating scenarios for the future development of tourism in selected areas
- Creation of scientific/educational platform for Arctic tourism research