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Adapting to new realities: Renewable energies and a low carbon future for the Russian Arctic in the aftermath of COVID-19

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EUGEO 2021

8TH EUGEO CONGRESS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE
June 28 – July 1, 2021 | Prague, Czechia

Book of Abstracts



FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Charles University





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Introduction

Dear colleagues,

The Faculty of Science of Charles University and the Czech Geographical Society in cooperation with the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe (EUGEO) organized the 8th EUGEO Congress on the Geography of Europe, which was held in Prague from June 28 to July 1, 2021.

The congress continued the tradition of the EUGEO biannual congresses, bringing together geographers from all over the world. The main topic of the congress, Sustainable geographies in the heart of Europe, referred to the passion geographers have for the exploration of the world that surrounds us. Understanding complexity and fragility of geographical environment as well as of the own discipline has been an essential part of many geographical efforts. The congress welcomed all geographers, physical and human alike, and also a number of interested scholars from related disciplines.

Zdeněk Kučera

Chair of the organizing committee

Tadeusz Siwek

Chair of the scientific committee

Pavel Chromý

President of the Czech Geographical Society



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Dana Fialová (Vice-chair of the organizing committee, Vice-president of the Czech Geographical Society; Charles University, Faculty of Science, Prague)

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Michal Vančura (Chair of the South Bohemian Section of the Czech Geographical Society; University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Education)

Kamil Zágoršek (Chair of the Liberec Section of the Czech Geographical Society; Technical University of Liberec, Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education)



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Scientific Committee

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Pavel Chromý (President of the Czech Geographical Society / Charles University, Faculty of Science, Prague)

Vít Vilímek (Chair of the National Geographical Committee / Charles University, Faculty of Science, Prague)

Jaromír Kolečka (Member of the National Geographical Committee / Masaryk University, Faculty of Education, Brno)

Asya Bogoeva (Association of Professional Geographers and Regionalists, Bulgaria)

Thomas Borén (The Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography)

Konrad Czapiewski (Polish Geographical Society)

Elena Dell'Agnese (Italian Geographical Society)

Rubén C. Lois González (Association of Spanish Geographers)

Marina Frolova (Association of Spanish Geographers)

Francisco Klauser (Swiss Association of Geography)

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Leo J. Paul (Royal Dutch Geographical Society)

Ana Pejdo (Croatian Geographical Society)

Maria Pigaki (Hellenic Geographical Society)

Jean-Robert Pitte (Société de Géographie Française)

Kathy Reilly (Geographical Society of Ireland)

Marin Rusev (Association of Professional Geographers and Regionalists, Bulgaria)

Joe Smith (Royal Geographical Society)

Massimiliano Tabusi (Italian Association of Geographers)



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Ladislav Tolmáči (Slovak Geographical Society)

Manuel Valenzuela (Real Sociedad Geográfica)

Christian Vandermotten (Royal Belgian Society of Geography)



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Towards a Human Security System in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation

Organizers:

Alexander Sergunin (*International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia*)

The **main research objective** of this session is to discuss the ways and means of creating a human security system in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation (AZRF). This is especially important in the view of several recent Russia's strategic documents on the AZRF development adopted by the President and Parliament in 2020.

Along with the above general goal, there are a number of specific research objectives:

- To explore an emerging Russian discourse on human security and its relationships with other security-related concepts – national security, soft security, societal security, personal security, sustainable development, etc. Major Russian social science paradigms' interpretations of the human security concept will be analyzed. The panelists will discuss whether and how the human security concept is applicable to the Russian Arctic, and why it can be helpful for developing a sustainable development strategy for this macro-region. These issues will be examined in a joint paper by professors Maria Lagutina and Valery Konyshov, Faculty of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, Russia.
- To examine whether the human security concept is embedded in the AZRF federal, regional and municipal documents, such as programs and plans of socioeconomic and environmental development, or not? It is also important to discuss what should be done to improve the strategic planning process in the AZRF? This problematique will be covered by Prof. Alexander Sergunin, Faculty of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University.
- To develop an AZRF environmental security index in order to rate Russian Arctic regions on its basis. In their joint paper, Dr. Nikolai Bobylev (Institute of Earth Sciences, St. Petersburg State University) and Prof. Sebastien Gadal (Aix Marseille Université, Aix en Provence, France) suggest their own methodology for constructing this rating. The ecological block of indicators includes three groups of parameters: impact on atmospheric air and water environment and waste management. The ecological-economic block of indicators includes characteristics, such as the expenditures on environmental protection and investments in this area per capita. The socio-ecological block includes two main parameters: the comfort of living in Arctic cities (index of the quality of the urban environment; share of the population with high and very high levels of pollution; provision of the population with clean drinking water) and the state of urban infrastructure (degradation of the infrastructure in areas, such as water supply, sewerage, waste collection and disposal, pollution control activities, and the degree of housing improvement).

Keywords: Russia, Arctic, human security, sustainable development, strategic planning

ID: 8

Planning for human security strategy in the Russian Arctic urban centers: challenges and opportunities

Alexander Sergunin



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ID: 16

Environmental security via sustainable development goals: Localization in the Arctic Region

Nikolai Bobylev, Sebastien Gadal

ID: 336

Human perception and environmental risk index modelling with GIS in Yakutsk urban region (North-Eastern Siberia)

Sébastien Gadal, Moisei Zakharov, Jurate Kamicaityte

ID: 396

Adapting to new realities: Renewable energies and a low carbon future for the Russian Arctic in the aftermath of COVID-19

Valentina Ignatyeva, Sebastien Gadal



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ID: 396

Session: Towards a Human Security System in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation

Adapting to new realities: Renewable energies and a low carbon future for the Russian Arctic in the aftermath of COVID-19

Valentina Ignatyeva (CNRS, ESPACE UMR 7300, Aix-Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence, France), **Sebastien Gadal** (CNRS, ESPACE UMR 7300, Aix-Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence, France)

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented changes to the global economy and has thoroughly shaken the energy industry. The recent collapse of oil prices has underlined the fragility of the fossil fuel sector and has emphasized the importance of economic and fuel diversification. Considering the overwhelming role that fossil fuels and fossil fuel-driven industries play in Russia's economy, particularly their prevalence in the Russian Arctic region, this sectoral shock should come as a wake-up call for the country to reconsider its strategy and the role that decarbonization and renewable energies need to play in it.

The long-term sustainability of the economic development of the Arctic regions will be influenced by global environmental and climate regulation, as well as the ongoing transformation of energy markets. More robust incorporation of RES would not only provide a more sustainable route for the economic development of the region, but it would also deliver significant health benefits for local populations and regional flora and fauna. This becomes especially important as studies have been showing a correlation between poor environmental factors and viral susceptibility.

As more and more of Russia's economic partners are stepping on the path of carbon neutrality and increasing their goals to reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency measures and integration of green energy sources, Russia should strongly consider embracing these global trends and begin incorporating the necessary policy changes in order to stay relevant and competitive in the long-term. Now is the perfect time to adopt the necessary incentives and prioritize resilient investments to begin changing the country's economic structure to help drive the country towards overcoming future economic and climate challenges and turn some of these potential challenges into growth opportunities.

Keywords: energy security, Arctic, Russia, sustainability, covid-19