



## AT A GLANCE

Environments connected to Arctic fjords are changing rapidly, with consequences for society. A warmer climate is an important driver of change, but other factors also play a major role, including pressures and opportunities from fishing, tourism, shipping, and changing socio-economic conditions. FACE-IT is an EU-funded research program about managing the consequences of these changes with focus on marine biodiversity and Arctic societies.

A major activity in FACE-IT is to learn together with local communities about the relationship between environmental changes and Arctic livelihoods in order to support management at the local and national levels. The overarching objective of FACE-IT is to enable adaptive co-management of social-ecological fjord systems.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Project coordinator

Kai Bischof  
[kbischof@uni-bremen.de](mailto:kbischof@uni-bremen.de)

### Research related to communities

#### Porsanger




Maiken Bjørkan  
[mbj@nforsk.no](mailto:mbj@nforsk.no)

#### Greenland

Naja Carina Steenholdt  
[ncs@hum.aau.dk](mailto:ncs@hum.aau.dk)  
Lill Rastad Bjørst  
[Rastad@hum.aau.dk](mailto:Rastad@hum.aau.dk)

#### Svalbard

Halvor Dannevig  
[hda@vestforsk.no](mailto:hda@vestforsk.no)  
Grete K. Hovelsrud  
[gho@nforsk.no](mailto:gho@nforsk.no)

-  **Twitter:** @FACEITArctic
-  **Facebook:** @FACEITArctic
-  **Instagram:** @face\_it\_arctic



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 869154

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Photo: Front: Porsangerfjorden. Photo: T. E. Mathisen, page 2: Svalbard. Photo: G. K. Hovelsrud, page 4: Ilulissat. Photo: A. Nilsson



# THE FUTURE OF ARCTIC COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

LEARNING TO MANAGE CHANGING FJORDS

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## FJORD ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The future of ecosystems in Arctic fjord is closely linked to sea ice and the glaciers that are connected to the fjord. When the climate gets warmer, the environment in the water of the fjords will change, which in turn affects animals and people who depend on marine life. A core task in FACE-IT is to study the potential impact of climate change on the marine food web, including species that are important for coastal livelihoods and Indigenous people, such as fish, crustaceans, seabirds, and sea-mammals

## LEARNING TOGETHER

The ambition of FACE-IT is that scientists and people in local communities work together to create knowledge for managing sustainable nature-based livelihoods and for adapting to the rapid changes in the Arctic.

The process of FACE-IT is designed as recurring interactions between local communities and the researchers in the project. Local activities includes site visits, interviews, and two workshops. The project also includes dialogues with policy makers at the local, national, and EU levels.

## NATURE-BASED TOURISM

Arctic fjords have become tourist attractions with growing number of visitors. FACE-IT will study how the increased tourism activities in the coastal zone interlink with environmental changes in ways that may affect biodiversity, including wildlife. The goal is to develop a framework for assessing the local sustainability of tourism activities.

**2021**

Scoping visits:  
Ilulissat, Svalbard,  
Porsanger

Project design  
EU funding  
Horizon 2020

**2022**

Local interviews and  
workshop to identify  
locally relevant drivers  
of change

Identify local  
stakeholders and  
concerns. Refine  
local project aim

Analysis of local  
input to develop  
a first outlook of  
different potential  
futures

Local interviews  
to refine narratives of  
potential futures

Analysis of local  
input together with  
insights from studies  
of changes in the  
environment and  
biodiversity

**2023**

Local workshop to  
assess management  
options

Synthesis of project  
insights locally and  
across field sites

**2024**

Outreach and closing  
policy dialogue  
meeting



## FOOD PROVISION & LIVELIHOODS

Local livelihoods often depend on biodiversity and ecosystems that provide households with food, income, and a connection with culture and the environment. Small-scale business development and entrepreneurship also play an important role in community wellbeing.

As part of the fieldwork in communities, FACE-IT will assess how ecosystem-based livelihoods, such as fisheries, may be affected by environmental, societal and resource management changes. We will pay special attention to the role of gender, age, and culture in livelihood activities. FACE-IT will also analyse how changes in human activities might affect the environment in Arctic fjords