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Co-creating knowledge with the local community in Longyearbyen, Svalbard

Co-production of knowledge involves linking top-down, (non-) governmental programs with bottom-up initiatives at community level. This approach is necessary to build trust, develop a sustainable place-leadership and management, and to identify gaps in research needed for sustainable local planning and decision-making. Longyearbyen is one of the areas where INTAROS supports co-production of knowledge.

The Svalbard Social Science Initiative is a association of social science, humanities and arts-based researchers working with a wide range of issues on Svalbard. SSSI was established in 2019 with support from INTAROS. SSSI helps to coordinate research activities and communication with the local community in Longyearbyen. The SSSI website provides a venue for sharing research and publications as well as creating opportunities to coordinate with each other and local residents.

https://svalbardsocialscience.com/
E-mail: svalbardsocialscience@gmail.com

Figure 1. Figure 1. SSSI represented by Cecilie Vindal Ødegaaard, Zdenka Sokolickova, Lisbeth Iversen and Alexandra Meyer at the Local Council meeting in Longyearbyen, September 16 2019. Photo: Hilde Kristin Røsvik, Svalbardposten

After the Covid 19 lock-down in 2020, SSSI have collaborated with Store Norske, LPO architects and the Local Council on the establishment of Longyearbyen Community Dialogues.

The dialogue meetings started in June 2020 where important topics for the community are discussed. Open meetings have been organised in Longyearbyen Culture House. Other inhabitants and local actors can participate digitally and follow the dialogues through streaming, and they can comment and contribute. This is planned to be a monthly event.

Figure 2. From one of the Longyearbyen Community Dialogue meetings.

More information at https://svalbardsocialscience.com/longyearbyen-community-dialogue-about-tourism/

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