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Title: *Boundary activities for knowledge based sustainability in the Arctic - preparations for the EU Arctic Information Centre*

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The European Union's Arctic approach is structured in the documents of the Commission (2008, 2012), the Council (2009) and, the Parliament (2011) and they highlight the importance of engagement, collaboration and need for knowledge for decisions regarding the Arctic. To establish a true application of information and knowledge for sustainable development in the Arctic, identify and accumulate relevant high quality scientific information and stakeholders' knowledge in applicable formats the Commission is implementing a Preparatory Action for strategic impact assessment of development of the Arctic. At the same time the feasibility of the EU Arctic Information Centre as boundary organization is tested. The proposed network-based structure of cooperation and main components of the Preparatory Action are designed to contribute to the development of EU policies for the Arctic region and therefore to support decision-making processes both within the EU and regionally. Aiming at increasing awareness about the Arctic and its changing political, economic and environmental landscape, and the impact of EU policies, the project is organized within four Work Packages: WP 1. EU Arctic Information Centre Feasibility Study, WP 2. Impact Assessment Process, WP 3. Outreach & Communication, WP 4. Project Management. The action will produce a complex set of deliverables such as Arctic Initiatives Compendium and a related Gap Analysis, EU Arctic Impact Assessment and Recommendation Reports based on stakeholder consultations Impact Assessment in Policy-making Report as well as publicity activities. By comprehending the impact of the EU policies on the future of the Arctic region and participating in the multidimensional dialogue and information exchange between the EU and civil society the Preparatory Action is seen as a concrete and needed step by the European Commission towards increasing awareness, understanding and knowledge about the Arctic.