



Lead Author e-mail: [yzaika@inbox.ru](mailto:yzaika@inbox.ru)

**Title:** *Regional Sustainability in Arctic Monocities (Kirovsk, Russia): Myth or Truth?*

**Yuliya Zaika<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*The Khibiny educational and scientific station of the Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University*

Khibiny Mountains (Kirovsk city) is the area of Russian Arctic with heavily industrialized and densely populated territories. The region provides significant proportion of areas used for economic purposes and recreation and thus considered to be a model region to implement approaches of sustainable development strategy in the light of global changes.

From the year of its foundation Kirovsk city has been developing as a monocity. Over 40% of Russian cities are considered to be monocities and the most part of them has a depressive and unclear future. The Arctic territory of Russia is traditionally occupied by monocities with depressive scenarios of development. This fact makes a sustainable development of Arctic cities a challenge. Due to the increasing industry and touristic activity, Kirovsk is now considered as a perspective arctic monocity. However, the consequences of any changes are not yet fully investigated. Changes in climate may become a major factor in accelerating or influencing social and economic changes and they should be observed in order to understand how these changes impact the overall capacity of people to adapt to contemporary and possible climate changes. The balance between economic and scientific approaches to the concept of sustainable development should be explicitly defined and followed to make regional sustainability become a truth.