

# SLiCA

Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic



Birger Poppel



***Living Conditions and Perceived Quality of Life among Indigenous Peoples***  
***- Ethical challenges in research capacity building***

SLiCA, a Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic;  
Inuit, Sámi and the Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka

Presentation to PhD Summer School:  
Ethics and local Research capacity building

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# Emerging Research Questions

- based on findings in 1994-Living conditions study  
(Statistics Greenland)

- Why do people, if they are able to move, prefer living in places where living conditions measured by conventional indicators are poorer?
- If staying in more remote areas and in harsh climates is a consequence of a choice, which are the main reasons/ priorities - and how do we measure them?

SLiCA is an interdisciplinary and international research project (founded in 1997/1998)

## Major objectives:

- To develop a new research design for measuring **living conditions** and **individual well-being** among Inuit and Sami peoples in the **Arctic** and the indigenous peoples of Chukotka and the Kola Peninsula reflecting the welfare priorities of the **indigenous peoples**,
- To conduct a representative survey of living conditions among and in **partnership** with the indigenous peoples
- To provide an improved **basis for decision making**

# Why focus on 'living conditions'?

- Living conditions are **resources** (material and non-material) that people can use in different arenas;
- The ultimate reason to research into living conditions is to learn about **individual well being** expressed as '**satisfaction with life**'.



# Defining well-being

# The concept of well-being (I)

- Individual well-being is an inclusive concept, which covers all aspects of living as experienced by individuals, and includes the person's subjective evaluation of his/hers objective resources.

It therefore covers both the material satisfaction of vital needs and aspects of life such as personal development, being in control of one's own life and destiny, and a balanced ecosystem.

The individual experiences are however closely related to the collective well-being of social groups, communities and nations (Andersen et al. 2002)

# The concept of well-being (II)

- The concept of well-being is a complex one including **physical, mental, emotional** and **spiritual aspects**.
- The complex interrelation between physical, mental/intellectual, spiritual, and emotional facets of wellbeing is a theme **explored by many Indigenous cultures**.

For example, many Aboriginal societies use the “**Medicine Wheel**”, a symbol of holistic healing that embodies these four elements of “whole health”.





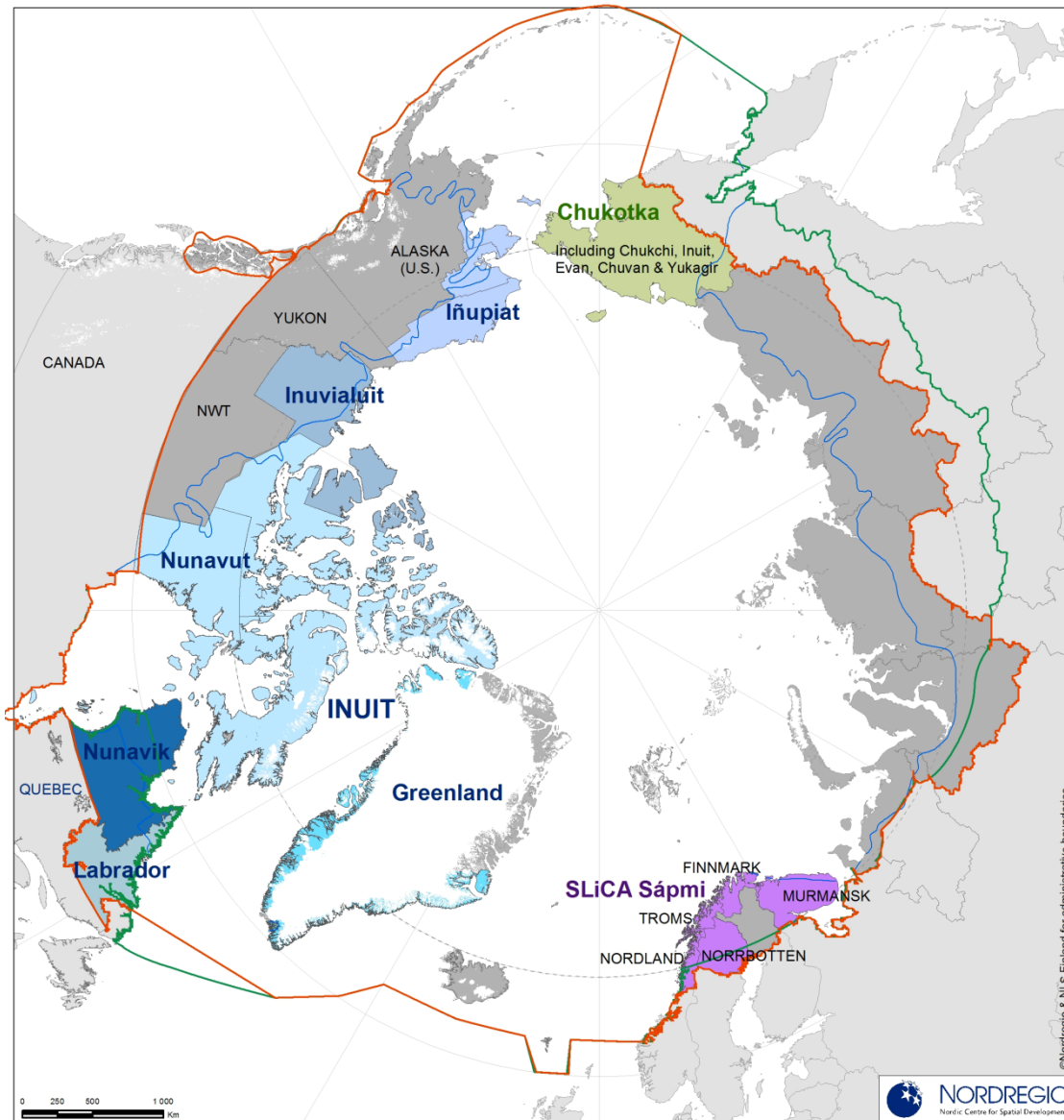
# ETHICAL GUIDELINES

# Ethical guidelines applied (for countries/regions/disciplines)

- [Ethical Principles](http://iassa.org/about-iassa/research-principles) of International Arctic Social Sciences Association, IASSA. <http://iassa.org/about-iassa/research-principles> \*
- US National Science Foundation Office of Polar Projects (NSF-OPP) \* [“Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic”](http://www.nsf.gov/geo/plr/arctic/conduct.jsp)  
<http://www.nsf.gov/geo/plr/arctic/conduct.jsp>
- Canadian [“Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North.”](http://acuns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/EthicsEnglishmarch2003.pdf)  
<http://acuns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/EthicsEnglishmarch2003.pdf> \*
- [“Helsinki Declaration”](http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/). <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/> \*
- IPY (International Polar Year) – ethical principles \*
- [http://www.ipy.org/index.php?/ipy/detail/ethical\\_principles\\_for\\_the\\_conduct\\_of\\_ipy\\_2007\\_2008\\_research/](http://www.ipy.org/index.php?/ipy/detail/ethical_principles_for_the_conduct_of_ipy_2007_2008_research/)
- Alaska Native Knowledge Network (ANKN) guidelines [“Alaska Federation of Natives Guidelines for Research.”](http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/IKS/afnguide.html) <http://www.ankn.uaf.edu/IKS/afnguide.html>



WHERE ?



©Nordregio & NLS Finland for administrative boundaries

### Definitions of the Arctic & the SLiCA Survey Regions

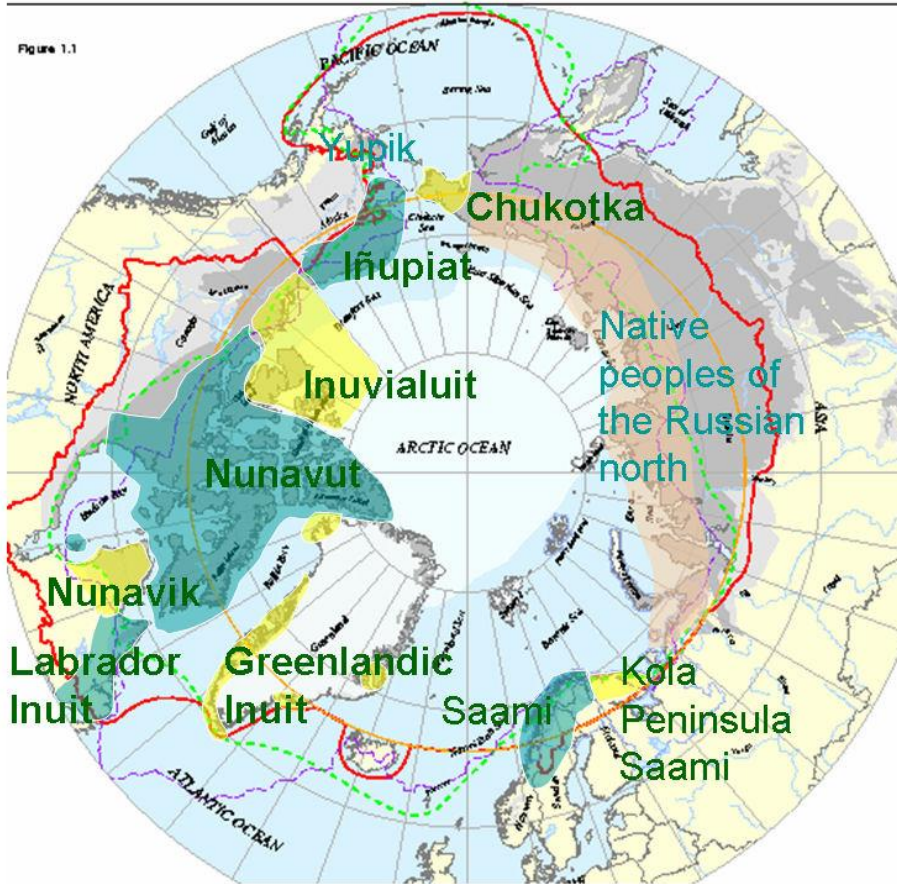
- Arctic circle
- Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- Treeline
  
- National/ regional boundary

**SLiCA** = Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

**Arctic region defined as in AHDR:** Alaska (US); CA - Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik (Quebec), Labrador; Greenland; Iceland; the Faroe Islands; NO - Nordland, Troms, Finnmark; SE - Norrbotten; FI - Lappi; RUS - Murmansk, Nenets, Vorkuta (Komi), Yamalo-Nenets, Norilsk & Igarka (Krasnoyarsky Krai), Taimyr, Sakha (13 northernmost subregions), Chukotka

# SLiCA Analysis Regions

Figure 1.1



- Western Chukotka
- Anadyr
- Central
- Eastern
- Bering Straits
- NANA
- North Slope
- Inuvialuit
- Nunavik
- Nunavut
- Labrador
- Nordgrønland
- Midtgrønland
- Sydgrønland
- Diskobugten
- Østgrønland



WHO ?

Developing **partnerships**

Nuuk, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998

**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE 1998  
PROPOSAL FROM THE GREENLANDIC DELEGATION (29)**

**INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE SUPPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT:  
SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE ARCTIC: INUIT, SAAMI,  
AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CHUKOTKA**

**WHEREAS**, the indigenous peoples of the Arctic share a number of economic, cultural, spiritual and technological conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, rapid social change characterises all indigenous peoples of the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to document and compare the present state of living conditions and the development among the indigenous peoples of the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for indicators on living conditions among indigenous peoples in the Arctic that more accurately reflect their resources, needs, and priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that there be local participation in the research process to ensure

- The inclusion of indigenous principles and values; and
- That indigenous peoples and their representative bodies have knowledge of and a vested interest in participating in this study to the greatest extent possible;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the ICC supports the research project being implemented by an international project team under the guidance of Statistics Greenland: *Survey of Living Conditions in The Arctic: Inuit, Saami, and The Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka*, which will address these issues in partnership and collaboration with local and regional organisations in each country where research is conducted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the ICC works with RAIPON and the Saami Council to assist the project team to carry out the proposed research; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the ICC works with the project team to:

1. Approach national and international agencies to acquire funds needed to carry out this important research project; and
2. Seek endorsement of the proposed research programme by Arctic Council ministers at their meeting in Canada in September 1998; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the ICC ensures that the results of the research are used for the benefit of the indigenous peoples.



# Developing **partnerships**

- Collaborating with the national and international **organizations of the indigenous peoples** (ICC, RAIPON & Sami Council);
- Establishing **management boards and steering committees reflecting the partnerships** to identify and develop relevant living conditions, analysis themes and to review analysis results;
- Including **indigenous scholars and students** in the project;

# Alaska/USA - partnerships

- In March 1998, including Alaska in SLiCA was agreed upon by Inupiat representatives from:
  - Arctic Slope Native Association
  - Maniilaq,
  - Kawerak
  - North Slope Borough
  - NANA Inc.
  - Northwest Arctic Borough.
- The representatives of the Inupiat established the ***Alaska Native Management Board*** that had the final say with regard to the contents of the Alaskan questionnaire and procedures ensuring that the survey benefitted the Inupiat – including access and right to comment research reports prior to publication.
- SLiCA/Alaska is based at ISER, UAA.

April 1<sup>st</sup> , 1999

**ALASKA NATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD SUPPORTS RESEARCH PROJECT:  
EFFECTS OF RAPID GLOBAL CHANGES ON LIVING CONDITIONS  
AMONG ARCTIC NATIVE PEOPLES**

**WHEREAS**, the indigenous peoples of the Arctic share a number of economic, cultural, spiritual and environmental conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, rapid change characterises all indigenous peoples of the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to document and compare the present state of living conditions and the development among the indigenous peoples of the Arctic; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that there be local participation in the research process to ensure

- The inclusion of indigenous principles and values; and
- That indigenous peoples and their representative bodies have knowledge of and a vested interest in participating in this study to the greatest extent possible; and

**WHEREAS**, we have formed the Alaska Native Management Board to oversee the project;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Native organizations represented on the Alaska Native Management Board, support the research project being implemented by an international project team under the guidance of Statistics Greenland: *Survey of Living Conditions in The Arctic: Inuit, Iñupiat, Yupik, Saami, and The Indigenous Peoples of Chukotka*, which will address these issues in partnership and collaboration with local and regional organisations in each country where research is conducted; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the organizations represented on the Alaska Native Management Board will work with the University of Alaska, Institute of Social and Economic Research and the international team to carry out the proposed research to benefit Native people.

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arctic Slope Native Association

\_\_\_\_\_  
North Slope Borough

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maniilaq, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Northwest Arctic Borough

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kawerak, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alaska Native Science Commission

# Canada – partnerships

- Steering committee including representatives from the four regional Inuit organisations:
  - Labrador Inuit Association, LIA
  - Makivik Corporation
  - Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, NTI
  - Inuit Regional Corporation
- And a representative from
  - Inuit Taperiit Kanatami, ITK
- Joint steering committee application to SSHRC, the grant funded among others steering committee meetings.
- SLiCA/Canada is based at Université Laval and was conducted in collaboration with Statistics Canada.

# Norway - partnerships

- The Norwegian research team included Sami as well as non-Sami researchers and both the Centre for Sami Research at the University of Tromsø and the Nordic Sami Institute (now: Sami University College).
- Collaboration with the Norwegian Sami parliament was established.
- SLiCA/Norway is based at Centre for Sami Health Research, University of Tromsø.

# Sweden - partnerships

- The Swedish research team included Sami as well as non-Sami researchers. The project was supported by the Nordic Sami Institute (now: Sami University College) and the Sami Council.
- The organisations representing the Swedish Sami formed an advisory board to the SLiCA research team. The tasks of the advisory board included technical and practical advice as well as reviewing and commenting among others the questionnaire.
- SLiCA/Sweden was based in a collaboration between the University of Uppsala and CEIFO, University of Stockholm.

# Chukotka/Russian Federation- partnerships

- A Russian research team and a regional task force was established.
- The SLiCA survey was conducted in a partnership with RAIPON (the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North).
- SLiCA/Chukotka was based in a collaboration between the research team and RAIPON.

# The Kola Peninsula/Russian Federation-partnerships

- The Kola Peninsula research team included Sami as well as non-Sami researchers. The research team collaborated with the Chukotkan regional task force.
- The SLiCA survey was conducted in partnership with the Association of Kola Sami and was supported by RAIPON (the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North).
- SLiCA/Chukotka was based in the Barents Centre of Social Research.



# Finland - partnerships

- SLiCA was supported by the Association of the Finnish Sami since 1998.
- SLiCA Finland was based at Arctic Centre, University of Lapland.
- Due to lack of funding the SLiCA survey was not conducted among the Finnish Sami.

# The Greenland SLiCA advisory board (I)

- The board was **advisory** and a forum for discussion of:
  - identification of **living conditions dimensions**
  - **welfare priorities** among Greenlanders
  - the development of **living conditions indicators**
  - **questionnaire** development
  - the **research findings**
- The board consisted of a number of insightful individuals knowledgeable of Greenlandic culture and history

# The Greenland SLiCA advisory board (II)

- Poul Bisgaard, MD, former consultant psychiatric, DIH
- Bendt Frederiksen, hunter and former member of Parliament (Kullorsuaq)
- Elias Larsen, Royal Greenland board member and consultant (Sulisa, Maniitsoq)
- Agnethe Nielsen, former Mayor and member of Parliament (Narsaq)
- Paneeraq Noahsen, Nuuk municipality (Youth Council)
- Carl Christian Olsen (Puju), MA, ICC board member, Head of Oqasileriffik, Language secretariat, (Nuuk)
- H.C. Petersen, MA (Denmark)
- Usarqak Qujakitsoq, hunter, chairman Hingitaq 53, former member of Parliament and ICC board member (Qaanaaq)
- Paneeraq Siegstad, student (theology), board member DKIK (Denmark)

# The Greenland SLiCA-research team (I)

- The Greenland research team has the overall **responsibility for the development of Greenland contribution to the international research design.**
- The Greenland research team will/have access to **conduct analyses and write articles** etc.

# The Greenland SLiCA-research team

## (II)

- Thomas Andersen, MA Political Science, Project leader, Statistics Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland
- Peter Bjerregaard, MD, professor, Arctic Medicine, Danish Institute of Public Health, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Mads Fægteborg, MA Eskimology, consultant, København, Denmark
- Ole Hertz, MA Eskimology, consultant, Bornholm, Denmark
- Mogens Holm, Ph.d., Roskilde University Center, Denmark
- Jette Jensen, M.Econ., consultant, Statistics Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland
- Carl Christian Olsen (Puju), MA, ICC board member, Head of Oqasileriffik, Language secretariat, (Nuuk)
- Birgit Kleist Petersen, assistant professor, Ph.d.-student., Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, Greenland
- Robert Petersen, PhD, professor emeritus, Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, Greenland
- Birger Poppel, M.Econ., Chief Statistician, Statistics Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland
- Mariekathrine Poppel, MSc. Public Administration, Nuuk Greenland
- Jette Rygaard, adjunkt, Ph.d.-studerende, Ilisimatusarfik, Nuuk, Greenland
- Ole Tonsgaard, M.Econ. Associate Professor, Institute of Political Science, University of Århus, Denmark
- Karla Jessen Williamson, Director, Arctic Institute of North America, AINA, University of Calgary, Canada

# Developing partnerships



SLiCA team – Ilulissat, Greenland



Birger Poppel

SLiCA team – Anadyr, Chukotka



# Developing partnerships

- With universities, research institutions and e.g. Statistics Canada;
- With public authorities;
- With funding institutions;
- With Arctic Council: SLiCA is an Arctic Council endorsed project under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group, SDWG. Participating in SAO and SDWG meetings implied ongoing discussions with state and indigenous peoples representatives.

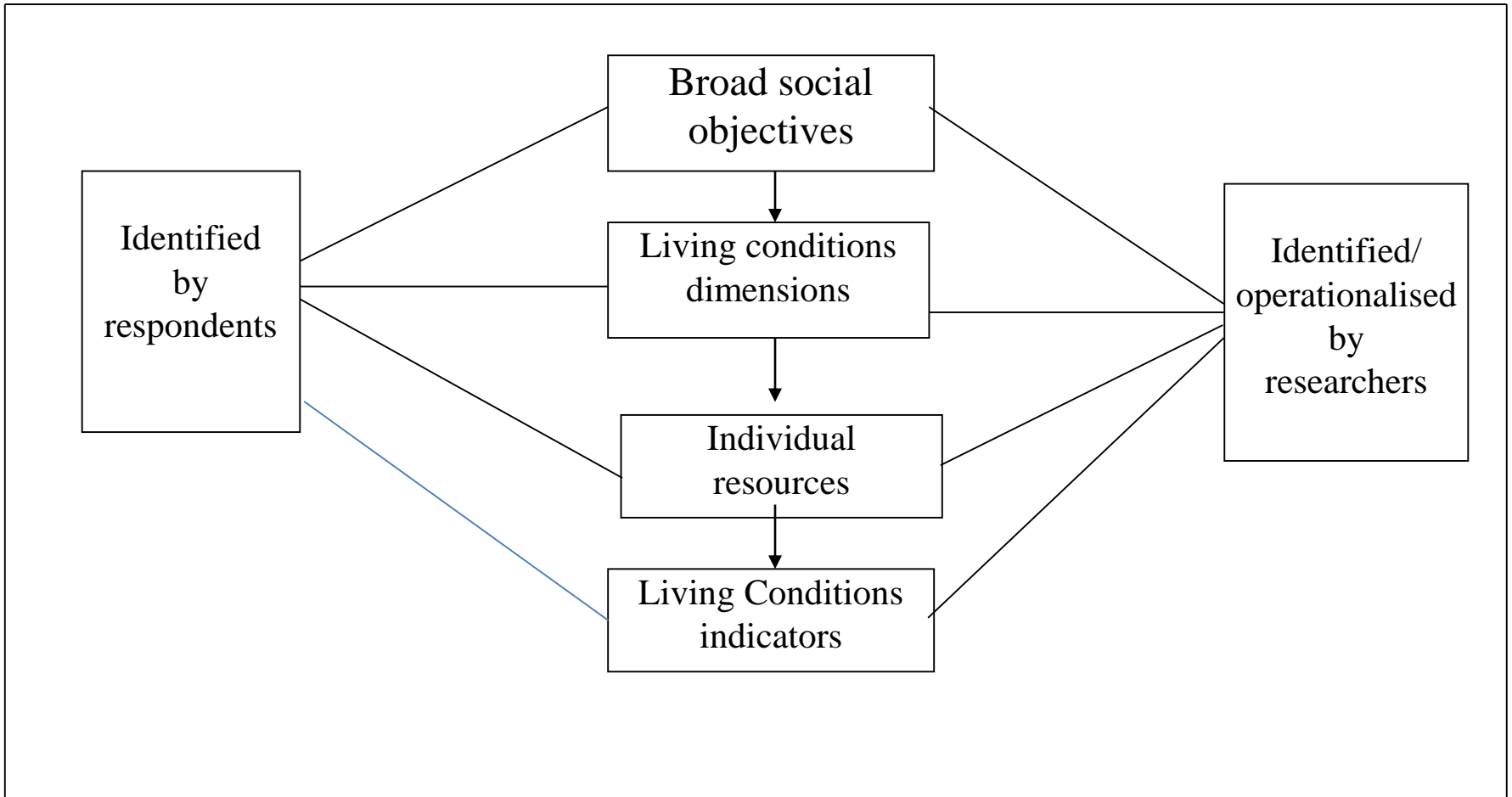


HOW ?

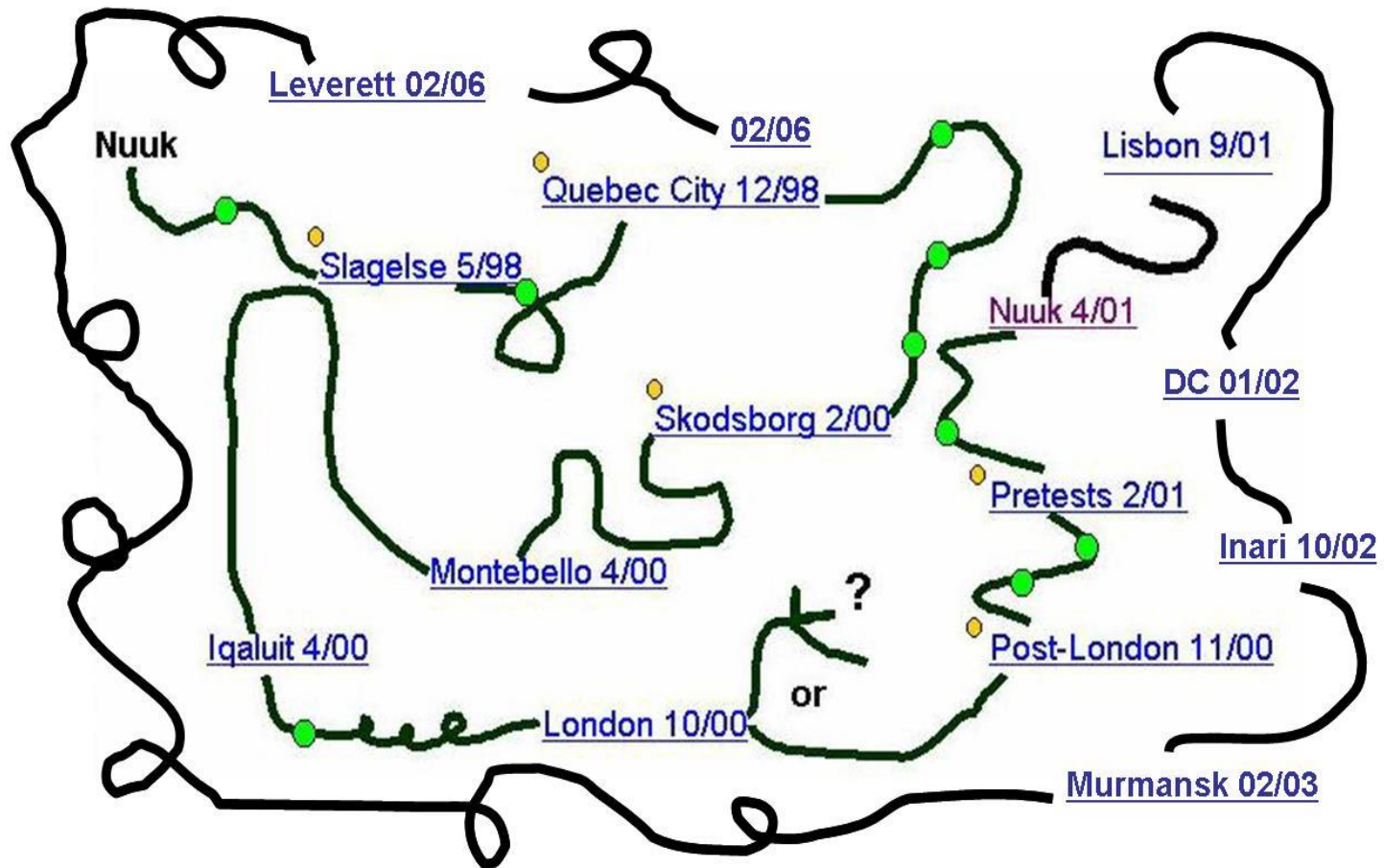
Developing **the core questionnaire**



## *The process of defining indicators of living conditions*



# The route SLiCA travelled: from research question to analysis





WHAT ?

Both conventional and new indicators

# What was new in SLiCA?

We asked about traditional indicators (housing, income etc.) to learn about living standards but we also – and not least - asked about:

- Perceptions – e.g. perceived problems
- Priorities of the individuals
- Satisfaction with different conditions

Thus we tried to measure what is ‘hard-to-quantify’ but is important to people and what people themselves are the closest to inform about.



# THE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Living Conditions Dimensions

- Communication and Technology
- Community Viability
- Discrimination
- Education
- Employment/Harvest
- Environment/Resource management
- Family relations and social networks
- Health (Q:49 & Tables:151)
- Household economy
- Housing
- Identity management
- Justice/Safety
- Language
- Mobility
- Political resources
- Religion/spirituality
- Work/Leisure

# The international core questionnaire

## - sections

- **A:** Family relationships
- **B:** Background
- **C:** Productive activities in the market as well as the informal sector
- **D:** Health (physical and mental)  
(partly by self administered questionnaire)
- **E:** Housing conditions and living standard
- **F:** Activities (leisure time, voluntary work, political activities and political attitudes)
- **G:** Inuit/Saami values, religion and spirituality
- **H:** The local community and the environment

# The SLiCA questionnaire in figures

- 17 living conditions dimensions
- Questions clustered in 8 main sections
- Operationalised into ca. 200 questions – of which 60 are **open-/half open-ended** questions (some **quantitative** – some **qualitative**)
- 950 variables resulting from the questions
- Furthermore so far more than 1,000 **analytical variables** have been created (e.g indices, special categorisations, clustering and break downs of data)
- All Alaskan, Greenlandic and Chukotkan data are stored in an SPSS data base. So are the Swedish and the Norwegian data. Canadian data have been processed by and are stored at StatCan.



# Questionable questions

- Two examples:
- Height and weight to calculate BMI
- Satisfaction with sex life

# The interview:

- Face-to-face in the principal language of the respondent **(NB: East Greenland)**
- 90 minutes on average



## Information to respondents:

- TV-spots
- Distributed information and telephone contact
- Brochure
- Oral information prior to the interview: about the background for the survey and information about the respondents rights – including the choice not to participate in the interview



# THE INTERVIEWERS/INTERVIEWERTRAINING

Birger Poppel

# SLiCA interviewers (I)

- National interview coordinators based in Nuuk travelled to the survey regions, trained local coordinators and participated in the training of the local interviewers (several hundred local interviewers were trained and participated in the survey).

# SLiCA interviewers – training (I)

- The training of interviewers focused on:
  - Ethical guidelines / code of conduct for interviewers
  - The rights of the respondents (confidentiality and ensuring anonymity of the respondent)
  - Handling different situations
  - Background and objectives of SLiCA
  - Thorough reading of the questionnaire
  - Training interview techniques
  - At the end of the training sessions interviewers signed an ‘agreement of confidentiality’. This agreement was presented to all respondents during the introduction.

## Den grønlandske levevilkårsundersøgelse

SLiCA 2003 – 2006

### Tavshedserklæring

Jeg erklærer herved på tro og love, at jeg ikke på nogen måde vil videregive personlige oplysninger om interviewpersoner eller deres familier/husstande, jeg som interviewer kommer i besiddelse af i forbindelse med interviewing for den grønlandske levevilkårsundersøgelse.

Navn: \_\_\_\_\_

## SLiCA: population and sample

Indigenous settlement region	Indigenous peoples in the survey	Total number of adults in population	Sample size	Response rate	Respondents
Northern Alaska	Iñupiat; Yupiit	11.000	800	84%	650
Chjukotka	Inuit; Chuckchi; Evan; Chuvan; Yukagir	14.000	600	85%	500
Canada	Inuit	22.000	5.650	83%	4.700
Greenland	Inuit	36.000	1.450**	83%	1.050
Inuit homelands/ regions		83.000	8.500	83%	6.900
Sweden	Sami	..			200
Noway	Sami	..	800	56%	450
Kola Peninsula	Sami	..			300
Sapmí		50.000***	...	...	950
All survey regions					7.850
Note:					

\* Rounded (to nearest '50/100')

\*\* In Greenland also the non-indigenous population was part the survey

\*\*\* Estimate for Nordic same incl. Finland excl. Kola Peninsula (AMAP, 1998)



# SLiCA results in figures (I)

- **8.000 personal interviews** based on questionnaires with 200 questions (resulting in 3.800 variables)
- a database(s) containing 3200 interviews (the rest are at Statistics Canada)
- almost 600 tables covering a variety of aspects for Inuit was released in 2007. These tables will be updated with results from the Sami part of SLiCA.
- More than **100 researchers and indigenous experts**, roughly **200 interviewers** as well as organizations at local, regional, national and international (ICC; Sami Council and RAIPON) level participated

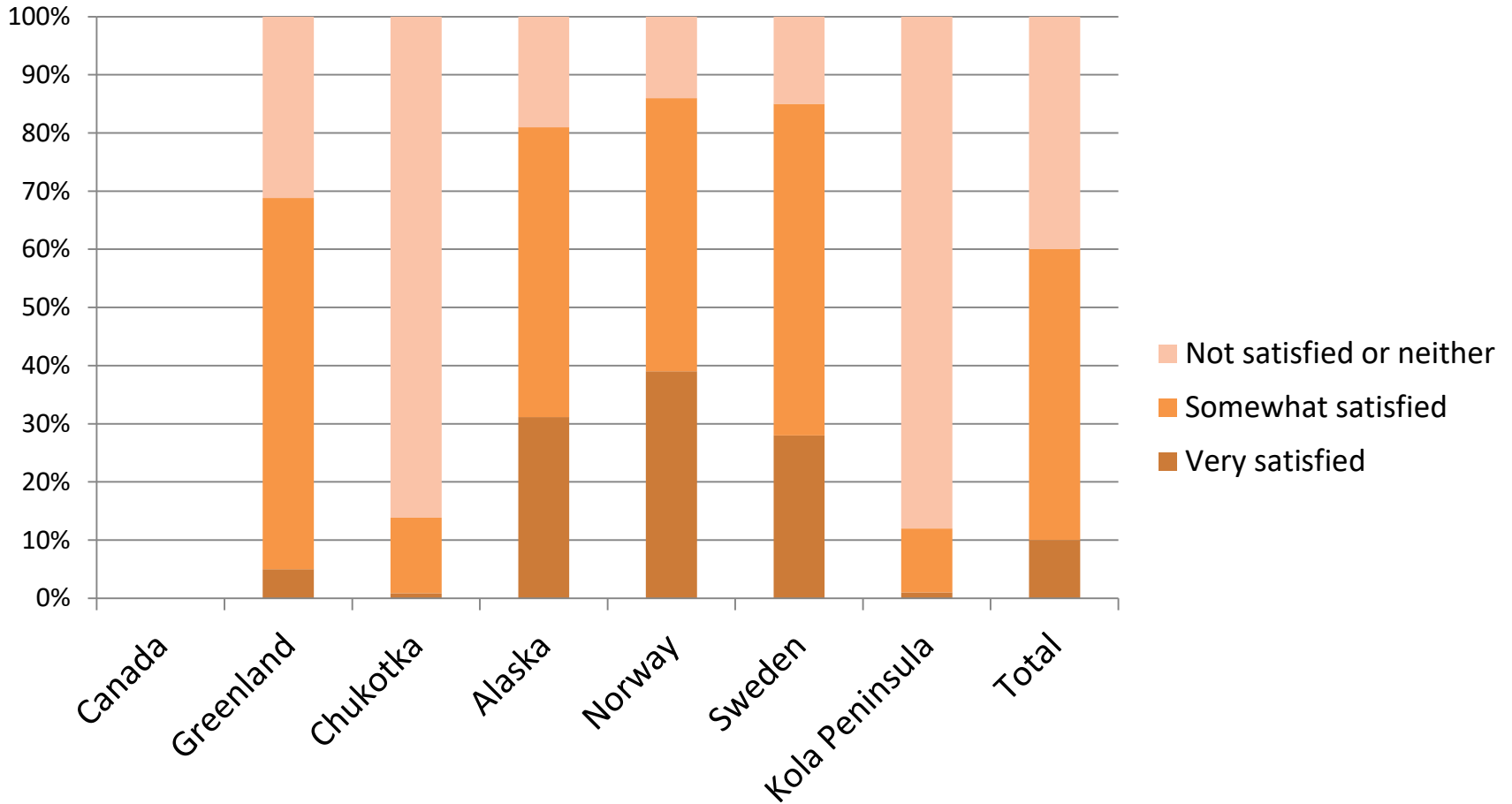
# SLiCA results in figures (II)

- **Five PhD dissertations** have been based on SLiCA
- **One anthology** and **60 peer reviewed articles** + an unknown number of interviews and outreach articles
- Conference participation with SLiCA based articles in some **50+ conferences/seminars**
- Contributions to other initiatives: ECONOR I and II; POENOR; AHDR II, ASI I and II, ArcticStat
- ... and the total costs? Roughly **USD 8 million**
- Further documentation to be found on our website:  
[www.arcticlivingconditions.org](http://www.arcticlivingconditions.org)

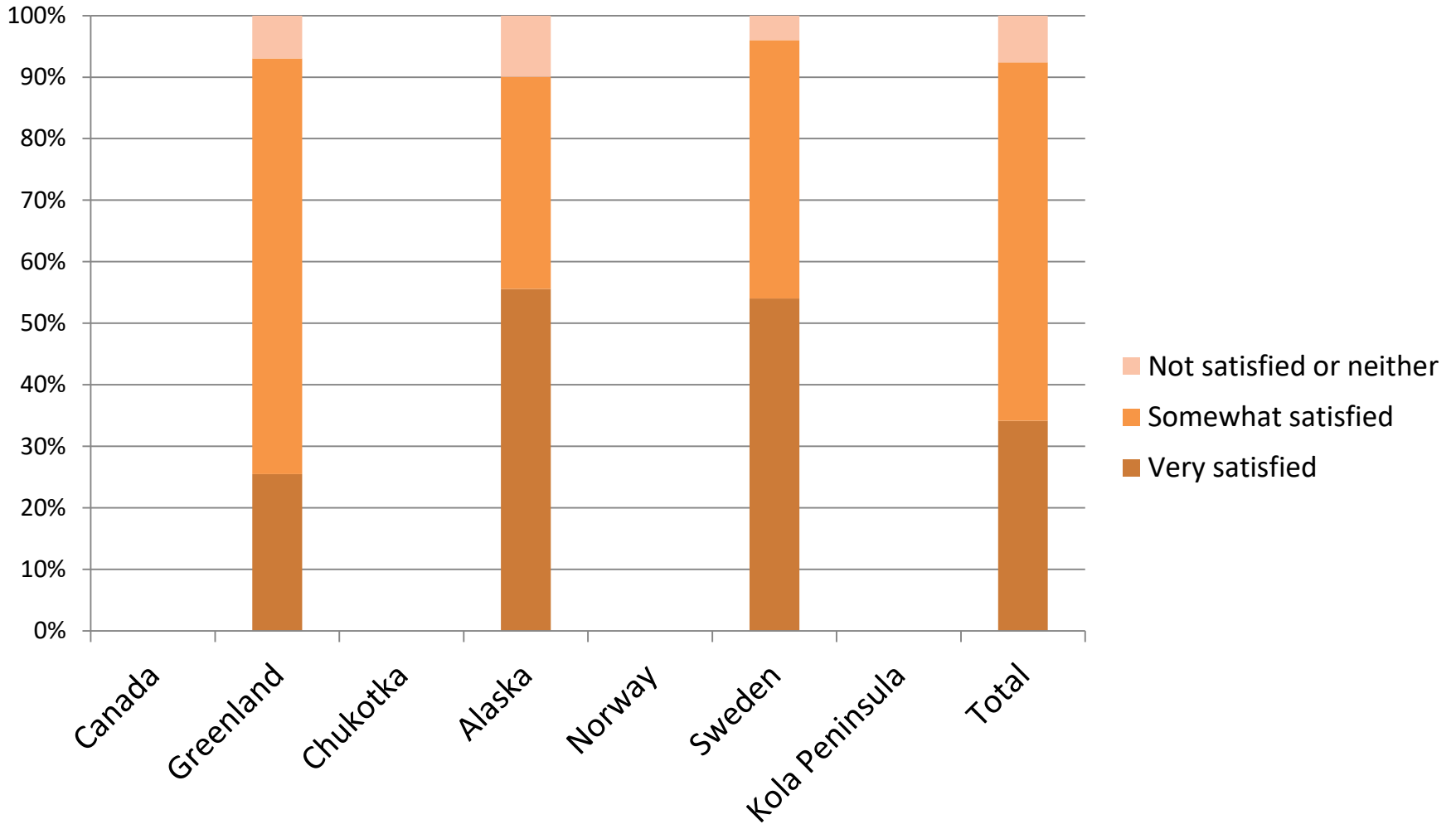


Individual well-being measured by  
satisfaction with life ...

# Satisfaction with Quality of Life in this Community by Country



# Satisfaction with Life as a whole by Country



# Relative Importance of explanators of 'satisfaction with life as a whole'

**Job opportunities**

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**Amount fish and game available  
locally**

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**Combination of production activities**

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**Influence over natural resources &  
environment**

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**Job Satisfaction**

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# Acknowledgements

## SLiCA team:

- Jack and Marg Kruse (who build and organised the database); Larissa Abruítina; Hugh Beach; Ann Ragnhild Broderstad; Gerard Duhaime; Marita Melhus; MarieKathrine Poppel; Ed Ward; Kate Turcotte
- Our indigenous partners: ICC, Sami Council and RAIPON as well as our focus group members
- Statistics Canada
- AND ... ..

# Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic, SLiCA

- *Supported by:*
  - *Inuit Circumpolar Conference, ICC*
  - *Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, RAIPON*
  - *Sámi Council*
- *Adopted as an Arctic Council project under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group, SDWG at the Ministerial meeting in Barrow, October 2000. Included in the Sustainable Development Action Plan, SDAP 2004-06 & 2006-08.*
- *Funded by:*  
***Nordic Council of Ministers, NMR, The Greenland Home Rule Government, The Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland, KVUG, The Barents Secretariat, Nordic Arctic Research Programme, NARP, Danish Research Council for the Social Sciences, SSF, Swedish Research Council for the Social Sciences, Ministry of the interior – Dept. of municipalities, Norway, The Joint Committee on Research Councils for Nordic Countries, NOSS, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, SSHRC, National Science Foundation, NSF, Statistics Canada.***
- *International coordinator: Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland:*  
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*Project Chief Birger Poppel:* [bipo@ilisimatusarfik.gl](mailto:bipo@ilisimatusarfik.gl)  
*Program Director Jack Kruse:* [afjack@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afjack@uaa.alaska.edu)





# Qujanaq! Thanks for your attention



Birger Poppel