

**2nd Disaster Risk Reduction Conference Warsaw
October 15-15 2015**

**Adaptation to climate in change
two Russian cities – the case of
Arkhangelsk
and Saint Petersburg**

Jørn Holm-Hansen

**Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional
Research (NIBR)**



Huge problems due to water out of control (north), draught (south), forest fires, reduction of permafrost zones

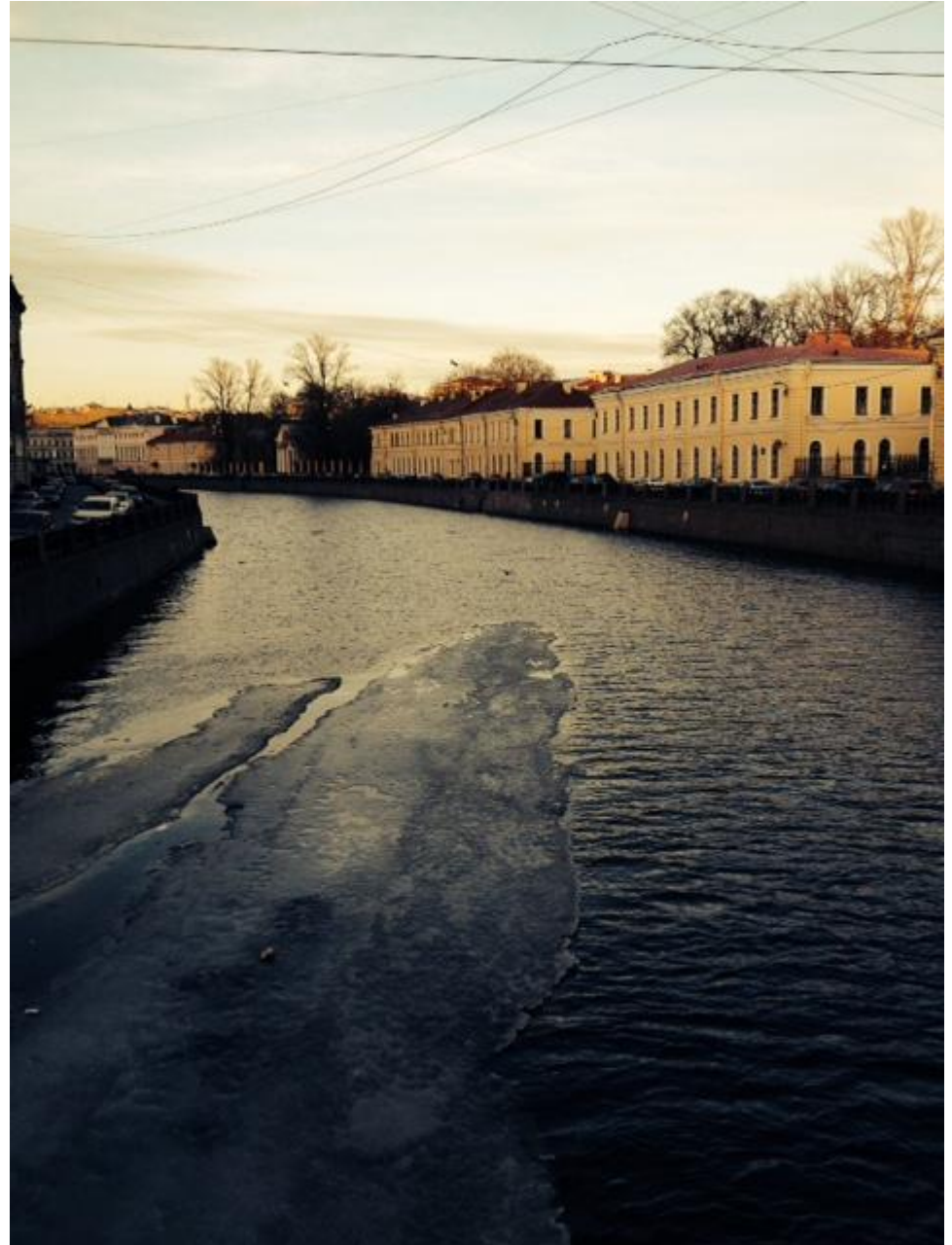


Needs for climate change adaptation

- 2012 was a record year for extreme weather
- Since 1996 increasing frequency of extreme weather situations
- Most of the disasters in Russia are technological incidents, like breakdowns in power supply systems
- 30 percent of disasters are natural disasters, like fires and floods



Forty Russian cities with more than 250.000 inhabitants are partly flooded on an annual basis



Case selection

Two delta cities selected as case sites

- Arkhangelsk because of potential problems and little in terms of formal institutionalisation of CCA as such
- Petersburg because of constant climate threat and the announcement of a Climate Strategy

- ❑ To what extent do local authorities, civil society and private interest coordinate to solve this complex problem – and how do different levels of the public authorities coordinate with each other?**
- ❑ How does international cooperation affect local climate change adaption?**
- ❑ Will we find patterns of organization that correspond to the notion of “network governance” as a tool to solve complex problems, e.g through affected parties a taking part in decision-making or delivery of adaptive measures?**

Formal institutions and legal framework

- The Climate Doctrine (just in time for the Copenhagen summit in 2009), stresses need to adapt, plus need to make political decisions; recommends local adaptation plans
- Two ministries institutionally responsible: Min for economic development (obliged to take climate change into its economic prognoses) and Ministry of Natural Resources
- Rosgidromet (data) and MChS (action)

Characteristics of the policy field (i)

- ❑ Not fully acknowledged as a policy field (effects of climate change handled by MChS, Vodokanal, water basin authorities separately)
- ❑ Referring to climate change is often a *faux pas* in Russia
- ❑ Emerging policy field in Russia? 'Translating' science
- ❑ Problem complex («wicked»)?
- ❑ Positive or zero sum?
- ❑ Affected: Mainly concentrated; perceived as future (?)

Characteristics of the policy field (ii)

- There is no formalised state/non-state arena or platform for CCA: Cooperation/network ad hoc, temporary, compartmentalised, not fixed in a public council or chamber
- But practices and institutions that potentially could be made part of climate change adaptation policies
- Urban planning no strong actor (vis-à-vis developers)
- Same for EIA
- To the extent civil society is involved ,no clear profile as to experts vs grassroots or types of organisations (trad. Environmentalists not prevalent)

Relevant networks (Arkhangelsk)

- Environmental network (authorities, polluters, small environmental groups and organisations), but no focus on CCA
- Flooding network, cross-sectoral
- Urban planning network, authorities and developers, at times local groups of residents, but no focus on CCA
- Climate and health network, temporal, foreign funding
- «Climate conference network», temporal foreign funded

Climate Adaption Strategy – Saint Petersburg

- To be launched autumn 2015
- Petersburg City Committee for Nature Usage, Environmental Protection and Safeguarding of Environmental Security
- In cooperation with project Climate Proof Living Environment (CliPLivE), co-funded by Russia (20%), Finland (20%), the EU (40%) and partner organizations (20%)

Unlike the other policy fields we have been studying in Russia (drug policies, immigration, ethnic conflict, child rights, environmental protection) climate change adaptation is characterised by its almost total lack of «network governance»

Thank you for the attention!

