

The Arctic Law Thematic Network – “The Ice Law Project (ILP)” workshop, 8th April 2017:

The first workshop of the Law Group “The Ice Law Project (ILP)” was held on 8th April 2017 at the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi). The workshop explored the ways in which laws and regulations currently guide human behavior in icy environments. The issue was considered with reference to international law, but also with reference to domestic and sub-national legal systems, such as those of Greenland self-government in Denmark or Nunavut in Canada. Long-standing practices in the Baltic Sea for managing frozen marine environments were also highlighted in this workshop.

Topics presented in the workshop include:

- After The Thaw: Ice Retreat and the Emerging Regulation of Newly Exposed Marine Areas
- When the Ice melts: Will increased shipping bring the Northern Sea Route and Northwest Passage disputes to a head, or force their resolution
- Human dimension of the polar code
- Comprehension of the LOSC Article 234 in the Changing Arctic Environmental Conditions
- Reflection on Ice and the law of the sea
- Arctic Fisheries in the Context of Climate Change
- A narrative on the Rockot satellite launcher with the elements of indigenous people, super powers, and health

Although this workshop focused on sea ice, it is expected that participants will begin to draw examples from, and explore implications for other natural environments that face similar challenges (e.g. snow-covered land, river deltas, etc.). We hope that these practical studies on functions of law in icy environments will give the Law subproject and the ILP a baseline of current practices which will guide further research.