

Photo: Elena Haapaniemi



Our Barents – Our Future

BEAC CSO meeting Oslo, 7-8 December 2011

*Priorities of Norrbotten's BRC chairmanship and
the implementation of the regional chairmanship program*



/ Norrbotten's Barents Secretariat /

Norrbotten's Chairmanship Program

*"Towards a civil, economical and environmental well-being in Barents
- securing a sustainable use of human and natural resources"*

3 FOCUS AREAS :

- Continue positioning the Barents region as the key provider of raw materials and advanced technologies within the EU
- Strengthen the role of youth in Barents cooperation
- Promote the region as widely as possible – "Barents branding"

Chairmanship priorities

- An emphasis on the younger generation
- Sustainable and eco-efficient management of natural resources
- Transport and infrastructure development
- Scientific and technological cooperation
- Environmental challenges
- Economic cooperation
- Cultural cooperation and creative industries
- Indigenous peoples
- Information and promotion



February 2012, Kirkenes, Norway

- Regional Committee meeting (7 Feb)

In parallel with :

- NEEBOR (*the Network of Eastern External Border Regions*) European Border Dialogues (6-7 Feb)
- Barents Spektakel (8-12 Feb)
- The Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Environment and Business (9 Feb)
- The 2nd Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress (10 Feb)

June 2012, Haparanda, Sweden

- Regional Council & Committee meeting
- BEAC / BRC working groups meetings
- Synergies BRC – Interreg Days
- Youth workshop within the framework of **”Barents Reunion 2012”**



Youth workshop : "Our Barents – Our Future. A New Agenda for Barents Cooperation"

- Workshop within the framework of the Barents Reunion 2012
- Representatives from Sweden, Norway, Russia and Finland (max. 10 per country)
- Age group between 17 and 25 y.o.
- Working language – English
- Two-fold objective :
 - Dissemination and promotion of Barents cooperation among youth and
 - Initiating the dialogue with the representatives of the younger generation as to their vision of the present and the future of the Barents region ("**Barents 2020**")

Round table "Barents 2020", October 2012 Luleå, Sweden

- Target group :
 - Decision-makers, civil servants, industry representatives, academic circles, prominent public figures, etc. in Norrbotten
- Objective :
 - Initiate the discussion with the regional and local key-players about the present and the future of the Barents region and Barents cooperation model

Barents region as the key provider of natural resources and advanced technologies

- Continued support of the so-called "SusMin initiative" in close cooperation with Luleå University of Technology
- Capacity building of the joint working group on education and research
- Continued cooperation and eventual joint initiatives with North Sweden and EU Arctic Forum



Barents Environmental Forum Luleå, August – September 2012

- Two main topics :
 - Clean technologies and
 - Sustainable cities
- Activities :
 - Exhibition
 - A series of workshops
 - Studiebesök
- Target groups :
 - National, regional and local decision-makers and civil servants
 - Relevant companies and industries
 - Academic circles



Dissemination and promotion

- The County Administrative Board of Norrbotten has developed a whole range of new dissemination material :
 - Leaflet "Barents cooperation at a glance" (eng/rus/swe/french)
 - Leaflet " FAQ about Barents" (swe)
 - Barents regions calender 2012
 - Updated PP presentation about Barents cooperation
- Objective for 2013 - promotional TV/radio spots (with the financial support of EU – North Sweden ?)

Barents Regional Council & Committee – Rules and Regulations

- November 2011 - first draft prepared by the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten
- December 2011 – January 2012 – circulation of the draft among BRC members
- February 2012 – Regional Committee agrees on the draft
- June 2012 – Regional Council adopts the document

2 BRC *ad hoc* working groups

- An *ad hoc* wg to evaluate the existing regional cooperation model and formulate proposals with a view to increase its efficiency
- An *ad hoc* wg to draft the new Barents Regional Program for the period 2014-20xx

