

# Chairmanship Priorities of Arkhangelsk Region Government 2013-2015

1. Industrial development and creation of areas attractive in terms of living and business development in the Barents region. Cooperation on issues relating to fostering business and providing sustainable development of small and medium-sized enterprises.
2. Development of multimodal transport and port infrastructure in the Barents region. Creating conditions for expansion of cargo shipping and passenger traffic. Cooperation on solving cross-border mobility issues, advancement of communication systems during joint rescue operations in the Barents region.
3. Implementation of technological innovations in the sphere of renewable energy resources, heat power engineering, energy efficiency, housing construction and advanced management experience in public utilities sector.
4. Creation of hi-tech knowledge-intensive cluster in the Barents region, providing qualified human resources and gradual transition to the common labour market.
5. Integration of environmental-related activities into every sphere of the Barents cooperation. Complex solutions for ecological issues and preservation of unique nature of the Northern territories.
6. Enhancement of youth competence and business potential in tourism and introduction of the Arctic technologies in the Barents region.
7. Cross-border cooperation on public health development, improvement of the quality of life in the Barents region.
8. Cross-border projects in the sphere of culture and sports, preservation of cultural heritage, identity and traditions of people of the Northern regions.



**Igor Orlov,**  
Governor  
of Arkhangelsk  
Region

**The Barents Euro-Arctic Council is an authoritative inter-governmental organization that addresses changing society situations on a timely basis and influences the development of the Northern regions in a positive manner.**

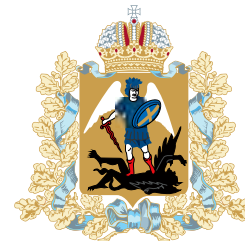
Today Arkhangelsk Region Government undertakes the regional chairmanship from the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten. I strongly believe this honorary mission in synergy with the national chairmanship of Finland in the BEAC will make it possible to strengthen existing mutually beneficial partnership and widen fields of work and ways of cooperation. At the beginning of the third decade of the Barents cooperation in our new status all our hopes and aspirations are directed at keeping and maintaining all the positive tendencies and achievements.

Becoming the Chairman of the Barents Regional Council, Arkhangelsk Region Government hopes that mutual actions on sustainable development of the Barents region, with an emphasis on innovations and industrial development, and creation of areas attractive in terms of living and business development will be supported. We intend to discuss and adjust our plans in a way that allows cross-border projects and joint programs to be implemented in the most effective way. We find it vital to encourage regular collaboration of experts and BEAC working groups.

Geographical position and rich natural resources of the Barents Region give the Northern regions unlimited possibilities and significant advantages. Traditional lifestyle of the Northern people, their courage and persistence in developing the North, common spiritual and cultural values, accrued experience of good neighbourhood relations and trust become essential conditions for successful interregional cooperation beyond borders.

By mobilizing our own resources and attracting other investments we should create conditions for high efficiency of their implementation. We would like to continue cooperation in the sphere of youth entrepreneurship support and step-by-step development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Setting out priorities for the regional chairmanship in the Barents region for the upcoming two years Arkhangelsk Region Government expresses willingness to collaborate on the following issues: development of the Arctic technologies, transport and port infrastructure, cross-border mobility, communication means, integration of environmental-related activities into every sphere of the Barents cooperation, creation of hi-tech knowledge-intensive cluster in the Barents region, staff training; implementation of technological innovations in the sphere of heat power engineering, renewable energy resources, construction and public utilities sector; development of youth business potential in tourism; cross-border cooperation on public health, social security, culture and sport.

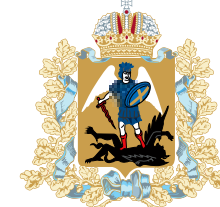
Regional cooperation holds much potential for strengthening the Barents region status worldwide. Taking over the honorary chairmanship status, Arkhangelsk Region Government hopes to have fruitful collaboration between all the levels and working groups of the Barents cooperation within the framework of mutually approved strategic and regional programs and projects.



**Administration of Arkhangelsk Region Governor  
and Arkhangelsk Region Government**

**Department of International Relations  
and State Protocol**

Troitsky av. 49,  
163004, Arkhangelsk, Russia  
Tel: +78182 288174; +78182 288399  
Fax: +78182 288565  
E-mail: [interdep@dvinland.ru](mailto:interdep@dvinland.ru)  
Internet: [www.dvinland.ru](http://www.dvinland.ru)



**Barents Region:  
Economic Challenges –  
Joint Solutions**

**Arkhangelsk Region Government  
Chairmanship Program 2013-2015  
in Barents Regional Council  
and Regional Committee**



# Chairmanship Program of Arkhangelsk Region Government 2013-2015

## 1. Industrial development and creation of areas attractive in terms of living and business development in the Barents region. Cooperation on issues relating to fostering business and providing sustainable development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In the main directions of the Barents cooperation we can state real significant progress that regions and people benefit from. New quality of the Barents cooperation should first and foremost be based on creating prerequisites for economic activities in those Northern regions that are hard to reach, but are rich in natural resources.

Growing interest of European institutions and business society to the Barents region shows necessity to create most favourable outer conditions and coordination of priorities, mutual information exchange on legislation and other practices. In this respect it seems expedient to hold joint business missions and presentations of the best goods manufactured in the Barents countries and regions.

Arkhangelsk Region Government sets the proposal to widen the use of state-private partnership to accelerate modernization and innovation process in the Barents region as one of the chairmanship priorities.

Small and medium-sized enterprises represent one of the main economic resources providing population's employment and incomes and filling local budgets. Thus it is of high importance to develop industrial spheres, innovation enterprises, farming and experience exchange in the sphere of social entrepreneurship. While holding the regional chairmanship Arkhangelsk Region Government would like to initiate and support development of optimal partnership models and forms.

International experts rank high huge potential and wide possibilities of the Barents region. Some of the industrial spheres and projects are bound to experience a breakthrough. High level of trust between the Barents region partners should be aimed at capital flow in the infrastructure, education and research guaranteeing further improvement of the quality of life for people of the Barents region.

## 2. Development of multimodal transport and port infrastructure in the Barents region. Creating conditions for expansion of cargo shipping and passenger traffic. Cooperation on solving cross-border mobility issues, advancement of communication systems during joint rescue operations in the Barents region.

To strengthen the strategic role of the Barents region and promote regional interests we suggest focusing our joint activities and resources on increasing the number of international highways and railroads in the «west-east» direction, developing flight connection between the large centers of the Barents region. There is a necessity to enhance transport infrastructure of the Barents region to fully satisfy the needs of people and to go along with increasing business activity in the north of Europe. One of our tasks is to create an interregional airline with Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions, Komi and Karelia republics, and Nenets Autonomous District engaged.

With perspectives of joint exploitation of northern deposits, advantages of the Arctic transportation hub and shipping in the Northern Sea Route in mind it is highly relevant to develop the northern ports infrastructure, to design financially stable and investment-attractive joint projects on the basis of state-private partnership.

The «Belkomur» railway line is a high-priority project for both Arkhangelsk Region and its neighbour areas. Each of the



Russian regions crossed by the railway is to benefit from its exploitation and acquire access to natural and mineral resources in the surrounding area.

Within two upcoming years of our regional chairmanship we find it crucial to cooperate on development of cross-border mobility and communication systems during joint rescue operations in the Barents region.

## 3. Implementation of technological innovations in the sphere of renewable energy resources, heat power engineering, energy efficiency, housing construction and advanced management experience in public utilities sector.

In the next two years we are looking forward to cooperate and support creating the most favourable conditions for development of manufacturing and innovative companies aimed at commercialization of R&D production, ideas, models and technologies. Positive experience of our Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian partners in development of industrial parks and infrastructure to support SMEs would be still very useful for the Northern Russian regions. Research and educational institutions of the Barents region should become a strategic center uniting science, industry, SMEs and state and municipal authorities.

The key indicator for regional economy is the state of the construction and public utilities sectors. Arkhangelsk Region Government means to devote more attention to issues of attracting financing for renewable energy projects. We also believe that it is vital to implement joint projects on study and introduction of cutting-edge practices of apartment buildings management. Cutting on energy resources consumption by means of advanced technologies would significantly improve ecological situation and quality of life for people of the Barents region.

## 4. Creation of hi-tech knowledge-intensive cluster in the Barents region, providing qualified human resources and gradual transition to the common labour market.

Science, education and development of modern knowledge-intensive technologies will always outline the perspectives and

future for the Barents region. In the process of implementing large-scale projects on the Arctic development we should concentrate on the system of training qualified specialists, conducting research and developing innovative technologies for public and commercial contracts. Today the Northern (Arctic) Federal University and other large higher institutions of the Barents region are integral part of implementing the regional employment programs and developing strategic projects on creation of industrial territorial clusters. Within industrial works on the continental shelf we would like to foster cooperation programs between universities and state and private resource corporations.

To realize research and innovation potential in reformation of industrial and social development of the Barents region to the full extent it is necessary to join forces and aim at development of new manufacturing directions, creation of favourable conditions for innovation activity and common labor market, enhancement of quality and competitiveness of unemployed population.

## 5. Integration of environmental-related activities into every sphere of the Barents cooperation. Complex solutions for ecological issues and preservation of unique nature of the Northern territories.

The Barents region possesses unique ecosystems and rich biological diversity. In the upcoming years integration of environmental-related activities into every sphere of the Barents cooperation should become a priority which demands everyday attention and engagement.

Regional cooperation should play an important role in development of solutions and actions for strengthening ecological sustainability of the Northern regions. Priority spheres are preservation of unique nature of northern forests and the Arctic territories, implementation of projects aimed at recovery of polluted areas, mitigation of negative effect in the remaining «hot spots», improvement of hard domestic wastes disposal and dumping.

As the chair of the Barents Regional Council, Arkhangelsk Region Government would like to continue cooperation on

creation of the network of specially protected natural sites. In our view, such a network is the only way to provide sustainable industrial development of the Barents region, to preserve favourable environment for present and future generations.

Practical measures for that include data systematization and creation of a database on pollution sources, existing and potential threats; activities on recultivation, control and monitoring of polluted areas; broadening the programs enhancing ecological knowledge of population.

## 6. Enhancement of youth competence and business potential in tourism and introduction of the Arctic technologies in the Barents region.

With resource, industrial and scientific advancement perspectives in mind, the key task for the Barents regional cooperation is to create the most favourable conditions for grant and resource support of youth initiatives and programs aimed at youth business promotion, especially in tourism. Keeping to these fields of work, it would be possible to mitigate negative demographic tendencies and outbalance labor market of the Barents region in the nearest future.

Travelling has always been one of the brightest impressions. Interest to the northern nature, culture and identity of the northern people is constantly growing. Speed and travel comfort level, depth and brightness of impressions created by northern hospitality influence people's satisfaction with vacations and their desire to come back to the Barents region. Today tourism should be looked upon as a catalyst element for solving a whole set of socioeconomic issues.

During the regional chairmanship Arkhangelsk Region Government will be actively involved in tackling the issues of developing the sea cruise and industrial tourism. First of all, it means developing port and maintenance infrastructure to admit sea vessels. An additional stimulus would be introduction of 72-hour visa-free regime for foreign passengers of cruise liners sailing in the Russian part of the Barents region.

## 7. Cross-border cooperation on public health development, improvement of the quality of life in the Barents region.

Disease prevention and promotion of healthy lifestyle play a core role in maintaining population's health for public health and social systems of the Barents region. Level of responsibility that the government has for its citizens can also be defined by the quality of support measures, especially for socially vulnerable population categories – parents and children with disabilities, large families and senior people. Therefore Arkhangelsk Region Government will favour cross-border projects aimed at improvement of public health system in the Barents region.

## 8. Cross-border projects in the sphere of culture and sports, preservation of cultural heritage, identity and traditions of people of the Northern regions.

Socio-cultural situation in the region is greatly defined by the level of cultural treasures' accessibility for people. Cultural and sport resources of the Barents region, youth initiatives and projects should become additional stimuli for development. Thus organization of regional joint sport events for teams representing the Barents countries should be encouraged.

The International Northern Yacht Festival taking place in July-August 2014 will contribute to advancement of socio-political, business, cultural and sport cooperation between the countries of the Barents region. The Festival will be held under the auspices of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for Tourism and the Russian Geographical Society. The yacht rally route will cover sea routes of Norway and Russia. We hope that each partner region, young people and sportsmen of the Barents region will take part in this large and bright event of the upcoming year.