fiftyone

INFORMATION ABOUT 51 KOLARCTIC ENPI CBC PROJECTS

Kolarctic
ENPI CBC | CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Kolarctic salmon

Modern research combined with traditional knowledge regarding coastal salmon fisheries | P. 16

Northern Beauty

The thriving art scene in the High North | P. 28

New Horizons

The largest cultural project ever in the history of the Barents cooperation | P. 48

»It's all about crossing borders. Everywhere.«

This Programme is funded by the EU, Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden

FIFTYONE: Produced by Kolarctic ENPI CBC programme in cooperation with Yours communication, Luleå Sweden.
TEXT: Written by Maija Myllylä and Vanessa Cicero, Yours. **COVER PHOTO:** Connecting Young Barents
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THE KOLARCTIC ENPI CBC PROGRAMME

Kolarctic ENPI CBC is a financing instrument for cross-border projects in the Cap of the North and Northwest Russia. Something that, in other words, will function as a flexible tool for public and private organisations that are willing to implement development projects across the borders between Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The range of the projects and project organisers is large, which makes it possible to create and maintain cross-border partnerships, exchange ideas and develop them in a broader context between sectors. The programme has been assessed by experts and agreed upon by consensus between politicians and officials from the various regions and participating countries. The programme has created new partnerships, both at regional and national levels, which has resulted in a better exchange of knowledge and expertise. It has also created new ideas, working methods and networks, which in turn helps to create stability in the Barents Region.

The programme has resulted in better cultural understanding, and tolerance for different lifestyles and ways of working together. Examples of valuable results are that young people participating in the project have opened their eyes and realised that young people across borders are just like them. The languages are different, but with the motivation to understand and communicate with their neighbours anything is possible. The purpose of cross-border partnerships between regions and countries is to enhance and maintain the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. When people learn about other people's way of life, exchange experiences, plan the future together and carry out joint projects, they create goals that they can work on together. When we learn about other cultures, we also learn about our own identity, and that also makes the region rich and varied.

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INFORMATION ABOUT 51 KOLARCTIC ENPI CBC PROJECTS

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Making reality of dreams and visions requires both work, networking and education. Three key pillars that form the foundation of the project known as Practice Future.

Practice Future is a cross-border innovation project in the Barents Region that brings together education with industry. The project is aimed at business students as well as non-business students, and has attracted curious students from universities in three different countries. The project also involves teachers from different subject areas and universities. In order to deliver as much expertise as possible the teachers utilise different study methods and standards for higher education. Practice Future is an experiment in several layers regarding distance learning and intercultural communication in cooperation with public institutions such as municipalities and local business organisations. The viewpoint for the experiment is the assumption that it is necessary to leave the classroom to experience the challenges that one faces in the work place. Especially in areas such as innovation and entrepreneurship.

"The project is based on a simple arrangement, a network for open innovation that consists of students who are motivated in competing to design the best business solutions for international and local pilot companies. Simply put, to go from idea to action", says project manager Peter Fischer.

The project's background stems from the growth problems experienced by many small and medium enterprises in the Barents Region. This is due to limited resources for international marketing and research regarding innovative business models, products and services. One solution to overcome this obstacle would be a more open approach to innovation. Rural depopulation and the lack of skilled cross-border labour represents a further major challenge for development in the region.

"The need to strengthen entrepreneurship as a key driver for regional development showed that the overall problem was the lack of higher education in the area of entrepreneurship and innovation. Apart from small local businesses in the region, the target groups of the Practice Future project consisted of entrepreneurial students and academic and administrative staff at the university as well as local intermediaries", says Peter Fischer.

Each semester, the international teams of students have worked on assignments for their respective pilot companies. At first they work online for a period, and then the businesses get together for a week-long workshop. These seminars have served as a platform for the evaluation and gradual improvement of the functions and methods for entrepreneurial training.

The project is based on a simple arrangement, a network for open innovation that consists of students who are motivated in competing to design the best business solutions for international and local pilot companies. Simply put, to go from idea to action « PETER FISCHER

Students had to deal with a variety of assignments that were requested by the companies.

"The specific objective of the project is to develop relevant business ideas and business models for small and medium-sized local companies that have limited resources for marketing and research."

A further aim is to integrate local entrepreneurs, representatives of business organisations and municipalities in the network.

The project has helped participants to build individual cross-border networks and has encouraged young people to stay in the region. Many students also showed improved communication and creative skills, and an awareness of how to make it as an entrepreneur. The work has also led to a broader integration of entrepreneurship education, and in accordance with various national education systems, case studies have become part of the curriculum. Thanks to the international form of the project, students have learned to work and cope in a multicultural environment, and to solve problems along the way. As the saying goes, practice makes perfect.

PRACTICE FUTURE

Lead partner: Finnmark University College, Norway
Partners: Murmansk Humanities Institute, Russia | Murmansk State Technical University | Petrozavodsk State University | Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Total budget: 838 581 €
Priority: Economical and social development

RAISING COMPETENCE ACROSS BORDERS

An unmatched combination has generated a better attitude and increased students' interest. The project, Barents Logistics 2, has, in other words, succeeded – increased competence is a fact.

The project involved a total of 600 participants from various fields, as well as four international conferences and seminars of different types. Barents Logistics 2 is a project developed with the aim of improving skills in terms of effective planning and management of production and transport logistics. This is to help stimulate trade and exchange in the Barents Region. The project has mainly targeted students in international logistics, managers for logistics of companies, regional authorities and development organisations.

"It's been a really fun project that has culminated in a collaboration, which was not at all expected", says Anders Segerstedt from Luleå University of Technology.

Company representatives and students from Finland and Sweden have participated in study trips to the Murmansk region to visit local businesses. Staff from a logistics company in the Murmansk region have in turn visited Oulu and Kemi in Finland, and the Luleå region to map out their business.

"We saw that there was a need to organise the exchange of experiences. It has certainly facilitated cross-border business", says Anders Segerstedt.

Anders Segerstedt says that study trips to Murmansk were organised twice with visits to port operations as well as transport and storage companies. A milestone in the project was to widen the knowledge of the Barents business among students, and the interest from their side has definitely increased.

The project has resulted in three doctoral studies, one at Luleå University of Technology and two at the universities in Oulu, Finland.

Developing and broadening education and research has undoubtedly increased the understanding of efforts needed to find business opportunities in the area of logistics.

BARENTS LOGISTICS 2

Lead partner: University of Oulu | Oulu Business School, Finland
Partners: Luleå University of Technology, Sweden | Autonomous non-commercial organization "Arctic Centre for Training of Oil and Gas Specialists", Russia | Non-commercial partnership "Education, Innovation, and Scientific-Research Union Socium+" | Association of Suppliers for Oil and Gas Industry "Murmanshelf" | The Ministry of Economic Development of the Murmansk region | Port of Kemi, Finland | Port of Oulu Public Utility
Total budget: 1 723 277 €
Priority: Economic and social development

KEEPING CRAFTSMANSHIP ALIVE IS AN ART

From handicrafts to building technology. The project known as Crossover Crafts is all about developing creative venues for traditional live handicrafts. Much of what we made in earlier times is of better quality than today's designs. In order to allow previous knowledge to find its way into society once again we therefore need creative meeting places. It is also valuable to more effectively help individuals build identities and create the future. The Crossover Craft project recreates, maintains, communicates and documents traditional craftsmanship and guarantees future knowledge and traditions. The project has worked towards a broad audience, and lets museums and historical cultural festivals serve as a centre for the development of traditional methods and techniques.

CROSSOVER CRAFTS – ARTISANS WITHOUT BORDERS

Lead partner: Midt-Troms Museum, Norway
Partners: Ájtte, Swedish Mountain and Sámi Museum and Arkhangelsk Museum of Regional Lore, Russia. In addition there are 15 different associates involved in the project.
Total budget: 1 215 983 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

BCBU+

Development of international multidisciplinary Master's degree programs.

Lead partner: University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: Pomor State University, Russia | Arkhangelsk State Technical University | Karelian State Pedagogical Academy | Murmansk State Technical University | Murmansk State Pedagogical University | Northern State Medical University | Petrozavodsk State University | University of Oulu, Finland | Narvik University College, Norway | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
Total budget: 944 576 €
Priority: Economic and social development

NORTHERN CROSS-BORDER CULTURAL EXPERTS

Deepening the expertise and interest of teachers and students in the culture of the neighboring country.

Lead partner: Calotte Area Learning Centre, Finland
Partners: Moscow Academy of Entrepreneurship Murmansk Branch, Russia | Murmansk Industrial College | Sámi Education Institute, Finland | Sodankylä Institute | Inari municipality
Total budget: 555 436 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

A MORE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE

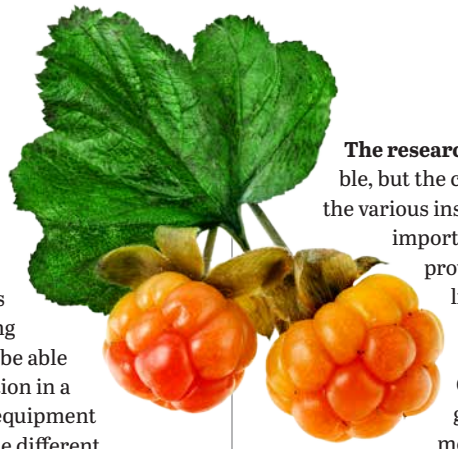
The social and economic development of Teriberka is about helping the village in the efforts to develop better living conditions and to increase economic growth. Teriberka is a rural locality in the Murmansk region of Russia where the goal is to strengthen the overall cooperation between the Finnmark and Murmansk regions, as well as to facilitate cross-border business. The project has been partly focused on the development of the fisheries sector in Teriberka and the establishment of new small and medium enterprises based on local labour and opportunities. It has also put effort into municipal cooperation on issues such as agriculture and waste management. The project has resulted in the re-establishment of coastal fisheries in Teriberka and increased growth in the local small business sector creating new jobs for residents as well as people outside the municipality. It has also meant increased efficiency regarding cross-border agricultural activities and the better living conditions for the residents in the area can be clearly seen.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TERIBERKA

Lead partner: Autonomous Non-Commercial Organization "Murmansk Regional Small & Medium Business Support Agency, Russia
Partners: Finnmark fylkeskommune, Norway | Administration of Teriberka municipality, Russia | Association of Coastal Fishermen and farmers of Murmansk | Shtokman Development AG | Kola Municipality
Total budget: 1 129 240 €
Priority: Economic and social development

RADIATION SAFETY IN NUMBERS

There are many potential sources of radioactive contamination in the Euro-Arctic Region. Contributors include nuclear power plants, storage of nuclear waste and contamination spread by ocean currents. Radiation does not stop at national borders, it can travel long distances in the atmosphere and oceans. These factors are among the main reasons that the national organizations responsible for radiation protection must collaborate in emergency preparations.



There is also demand for up-to-date information regarding radioactivity and the associated risks. In the event of an emergency in the Barents Sea region, all parties, including neighbouring countries, must be able to share the available information in a consistent manner. Different equipment and data systems might provide different results regarding danger levels.

The Collaboration Network on Euro Arctic Environmental Radiation Protection and Research (CEEPRA) was established to respond to these issues.

The work was very practical. Project associates collected samples from Finnish Lapland, Finnmark, Troms and the Kola Peninsula as well as from the Barents Sea. The results provided information regarding the occurrence of radioactive material in the Arctic environment and food chain. There was special focus placed on analysing natural products widely used by the population, such as berries, mushrooms, fish and reindeer meat.

The project also studied long-term effects of potential nuclear accidents on the region's indigenous population, reindeer husbandry, tourism and other industries.

The research results have proven valuable, but the contacts established between the various institutions may be even more important. The CEEPRA project provided ways to strengthen links between the Finnish and Norwegian partners with partners from Russia. Common strategies for emergency situations and routine monitoring were developed. Cross-border cooperation in radiation preparedness makes everyone safer.

CEEPRA

Collaboration Network on EuroArctic Environmental Radiation Protection and Research.

Lead partner: Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Finland
Partners: Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia | Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority / Environmental Unit, Norway | Finnish Meteorological Institute, Arctic Reseach Center/Sodankylä, Finland | Pöyry Finland Oy
Total budget: 987 069 €
Priority: Common challenges

BUSINESS WIZARDS OF THE FUTURE

Young Innovative Entrepreneurs project in the Barents region created a support system for aspiring young business people. The goal was to make it more attractive for young entrepreneurs to stay and do business as well as to initiate projects in the Barents region.

National borders are no hindrance to the young people of today. Innovative ideas are international. The YIP project, managed by the Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences, facilitated cross border contacts by organizing business camps and workshops. Business contacts were maintained and new contacts established using social media.

The young entrepreneurs have vowed to continue cooperation in order to reach the next level of entrepreneurship. They strive to work towards a vigorous Barents Region in which young entrepreneurs see more possibilities than obstacles.

YIE – YOUNG INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS

Lead partner: Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Partners: Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Norway | Education, Innovation, and Scientific-Research Union Socium+, Russia | Murmansk State Humanities University, Russia | Murmansk State Technical University, Russia | Murmansk Humanities Institute, Russia | The North Chamber of Commerce and Industry | Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Länsipohjan yrittäjät ry, Finland | Association of Higher Education in Eastern Norrbotten, Sweden
Total budget: 1 365 939 €
Priority: Economic and social development

ON COMMON GROUND

Geotourism was one of the fields of development in the ABCG Heritage project. The project's partners developed environmental education materials and sustainable recreational use of nature in tourism under the main themes of the project: Arctic biology, cultural heritage and geology. The activities were located along the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, which is the chain of nature protection areas along the national borders between Russia and Norway and Russia and Finland.

The project produced study materials for school students and information for people working in education and in tourism as well as for local decision makers. Geological and cultural heritage sites in the project region were surveyed, and new networks were developed across the borders.

ABCG HERITAGE

Arctic Biological, Cultural and Geological heritage.

Lead partner: Metsähallitus (Lapin luontopalvelut), Finland
Partners: Geological Survey of Finland, Northern Finland Office, Finland | Centre for Economic Development Transport and the Environment | Geological Institute of the Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia | Lapland State Natural Biosphere Reserve, Russia | State Nature Reserve Pasvik, Russia | Office of the County Governor of Finnmark, Norway | Finnmark county authority | Bioforsk Soil and Environment Svanhovd | Nordland Research Institute
Total budget: 1 820 229 €
Priority: Common challenges

4
COUNTRIES

51
APPROVED PROJECTS

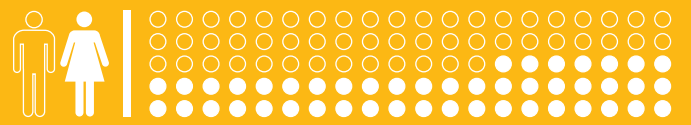
12
REGIONS

RUSSIA

NORWAY

FINLAND

SWEDEN



TOTALLY

33 420

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

48
STANDARD PROJECTS

3 100
YOUNGSTERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

801
ENTERPRISES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

150 Km
of riverwater has been researched e.g. for Heavy metals As, Pb, Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Ni, Zn, Ba, and BCP, and the status of River Pearl Mussel

1 500 000 Km
of sea has been researched e.g. its radio-ecological status, harmful substances such as oil spill, and the status of migrating Atlantic Salmon

1.049.682 km²
732 200 km² (Russia)
204 437 km² (Norrbotten, Lapland)
112 945 km² (Northern Norway)

REINDEER HIDE – QUALITY HIGH

Better quality raw reindeer hides for processing and reduced proportion of wasted hides.

Lead partner: Lapin Nahka Oy, Finland
Partners: ALEX Co. Ltd, Arkhangelsk, Russia | Autonomous Non-Profit Organisation Information-Research Centre Yasavey Manzara, Nenets AO, Russia
Total budget: 387 520 €
Priority: Economic and social development

POLAR WIND

Developing the energy supply system of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug by transferring from fossil fuels to alternative local energy sources.

Lead partner: North-Western United Power Generating Company, Russia
Partners: Construction, Housing and Communal Services Department of Nenets AO, Russia | Non-profit Partnership "North-West Funding Service", Russia | Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland
Total budget: 2 300 000 €
Priority: Large scale project

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE AUTO-MOBILE BORDER CROSSING POINT BORISOGLEBSK

Lead partner: Federal Agency for the Development of the State Border facilities of the Russian Federation
Partners: Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics / Nordic Investment Bank, Finland | The Federal State Public Institution Rosgranstroy, Russia
Total budget: 27 280 000 €
Priority: Large scale project

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD KANDALAKSHA-ALAKURTTI-SALLA CHECKPOINT

Reconstructing the highway linking Kandalaksha and Alakurtti to the Salla border checkpoint and the EU.

Lead partner: State Regional Official Establishement for Management of Roads of the Murmansk region, Murmanskavtodor, Russia
Partners: Murmansk Centre of Project Management, Russia | Salla municipality, Finland | Lapland's Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
Total budget: 2 228 440 €
Priority: Large scale project

MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN NEED

Current and planned offshore activities in the Barents region makes the need for innovation vital. Ideas that help to monitor the coastal environment and develop new technologies to combat pollution are sorely needed.

The CETIA project was launched in the Barents region with the hope of combining scientific knowledge and methods regarding the protection of the environment. The aim was to let innovation and expertise help to deal with the challenges of offshore development in the sensitive marine environment of the Arctic. It is also a known fact that technological innovation regarding oil spills has been low priority in recent decades, something CETIA is striving to change. The project resulted in an integrated approach, with specific work packages on environmental science, technology, innovation and education. Special focus was directed to oil discharge, monitoring of coastal environments as well as safety training and education on environmental issues. It also concerned bioremediation, a process of using biological organisms to solve environmental problems.

"Work has been both challenging and rewarding. In a project involving nine partners and eight assignments, there has been a need for a high degree of coordination between the partners and funding, particularly regarding the reporting procedure. On the other hand, the project has helped to identify a number of common research interests and capabilities between partners who have previously had limited cooperation", says project manager Are Sydnes.

The industrial development occurring in the Arctic shows that there is need of a major knowledge bank regarding how to tackle environmental problems, and there are also the means to apply interdisciplinary approaches to the issue.

"Overall, the results have been very positive. Most of the data resulted in scientific work at or beyond the expected levels, and the possibilities for further cooperation have been identified by the partners. In short, a platform for future projects has been created", says Are Sydnes.

CETIA

Coastal Environment, technology and innovation in the Arctic.

Lead partner: University of Tromsø, Norway
Partners: Murmansk State Technical University, Russia | Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the Kola Science Center | Murmansk State Humanities University | Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography | Arkhangelsk State Technical University | Institute of Industrial Ecology Problems in the North | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
Total budget: 1 916 268 €
Priority: Common challenges

TRILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE ATLANTIC SALMON

The Kolarctic Salmon project (2011–2013) was established to combine modern scientific research with traditional knowledge regarding coastal salmon fisheries. The goal was to create better methods for implementing future sustainable management of the joint Atlantic salmon stocks in the Barents region.

"**The project constellation** was unique. We had representatives from management as well as researchers from various disciplines representing all three involved countries (Norway-Russia-Finland), and fishermen from both the White Sea and northern Norway, all working together for the same goals", says project coordinator Tiia Kalske from the Office of the Finnmark County Governor.

Researchers visited over 200 rivers to collect samples of juvenile fish. Some 90 fishermen collected samples of adult salmon from coastal waters.

"Without the local fishermen we could never have compiled the basic data we now have. Many of them have fished the waters since their early teens, they know where the fish will be."

The geographical area of the project is enormous, stretching from the Lofoten in the west to Pechora River in the east. The amount of data collected is unprecedented.

"Our geneticists say that in regards to both geographical area and number of samples, this is the most comprehensive genetic study of salmon conducted so far."

Managing a project in three countries is no easy task. But Tiia Kalske feels that the work ran surprisingly smoothly.

"The researchers were enthusiastic; their goal was to produce reliable scientific results. Of course there are always differences in working cultures, but everything went fine because everyone shared a common purpose."

KOLARCTIC SALMON

Trilateral cooperation on our common resource; The Atlantic salmon in the Barents region.

Lead partner: Office of the Finnmark County Governor, Norway
Partners: Institute of Marine Research Department, Norway | Norwegian Institute of Nature Research / Dept. of Arctic Ecology | The Knipovitch Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Russia | University of Turku / The Kevo research station, Finland | Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute / River Teno Fisheries Research Station
Total budget: 3 092 729 0 €
Priority: Common challenges

One of the aims of the project was to ascertain the migratory patterns of different salmon stocks regarding time and space along the coastal lines of the Barents and White Seas.

"The question is important for management of salmon stocks, because almost 200 stocks migrate simultaneously in the outer coastal areas. Managing fisheries of these mixed stocks pose a real challenge for the authorities in charge."

The researchers mapped the genetic structure of the salmon in the project area. They also provided an overview of the salmon resources in terms of salmon catches. The results are available for the relevant authorities in each country when they discuss future salmon management.

"It is important to have scientifically sound and jointly aggregated data. Project results, for example show that the number of Russian salmon caught in the coastal fisheries off Norway are geographically more limited than earlier assumed", Tiia Kalske explains.

Farmed salmon that escape from cage environments can threaten the diversity of the wild salmon in the Kolarctic area. During the project it was possible to study the numbers and proportions of escaped salmon in the different parts of the North-Norwegian coast. The impact of climate change, i.e. sea temperatures on some salmon stocks was also studied. In all, over 20 scientific reports were produced.

"Our project was a great one because we had a real challenge to solve, and with the help of Kolarctic ENPI CBC funding we were able to do so. We are looking forward to the new Kolarctic CBC programme period, because we are ready to prepare an even more extensive project", Tiia Kalske says.

"We hope that we can continue to cooperate with at least parts of the consortium we built, and in a new project to look deeper into the traditional knowledge of salmon and local socio-economy."

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE MINE CLOSURE

Abandoned mines can pose great environmental hazards. These problems can be prevented by proper planning, and that requires accurate, detailed information regarding the mine and its surroundings.

The ENVIMINE project has created an updated database of mine sites and developed multilateral cooperation between different environmental management organizations in Finland, Russia and Sweden. The organizations exchanged joint experiences and scientific knowledge using the best available technology.

The project focused on two closed mines - the Laver mine that produced iron sulphide ore in Norrbotten and the Umbozero mine with loparite ore and rare metals in Murmansk region. The still operating Kemi chrome mine in Western Lapland was also studied as part of the project. The surrounding soil, surficial deposits, ground water and surface water were studied, as well as the tailings and waste rock areas looking for potential releases to the environment. The project drafted recommendations for remedial plans of the closed mines including environmental monitoring.

ENVIMINE

Lead partner: Geological Survey of Finland, Northern Finland office, Finland
Partners: Mining Institute of the Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
Total budget: 628 586 €
Priority: Common challenges

PRESSING FORWARD

Journalists working in the Kolarctic region have a long history of cooperation in the Barents Press network, but changing times call for new initiatives. The Barents Mediasphere project carried out a survey to find out if journalists working in Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish and Russian Barents regions were interested in cross-border issues. As it turned out, indeed, they were!

To strengthen the flow of information across borders, Barents Mediasphere arranged training courses and informational briefings for media professionals. For the first time, the project brought together editors-in-chief from all four Barents countries to share best practices and to learn how neighbours have solved the challenges brought forth by the transformation of the media market. Personal contacts on the editorial management level are necessary, and the editors are planning to continue their meetings.

Journalists coming from outside the region can now find invaluable practical information in the Barents Media Guide at www.barentsinfo.org/guide.

BARENTS MEDIASPHERE

Lead partner: Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company "Murman", Russia | The Norwegian Barents Secretariat, represented by BarentsObserver, Norway
Total budget: 899 730 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

NEW WINDS BLOWING ON THE TUNDRA

The Nenets Autonomous Okrug is a vast and sparsely populated area. For energy supply the region is dependent on fuel oil brought in from other regions. The project, Polar Renewables: Independent Energy Supply – POLARIS, focused on increasing the use of renewable energy sources in the region, especially wind energy.

Substituting diesel fuel with an alternative energy resource also reduces the risks of soil and water contamination.

Polar Renewables has raised public awareness regarding renewable energy issues. The knowledge and technologies related to wind energy, and its use in harsh climates, has also improved.

POLARIS

Polar Renewables: Independent Energy Supply – POLARIS.

Lead partner: Autonomous non-commercial organization "Nenets Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Production Center", Nenets Autonomous district, Russia
Partners: Northwest United Power Generating Company, Narjan-Mar Branch, Russia | FCG Finnish Consulting Group Oy, Finland
Total budget: 3 072 989 €
Priority: Economic and social development

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN BARENTS TOURISM (BART)

Cross-border cooperation of tourism stakeholders in the Barents region.

Lead partner: Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Partners: Murmansk State Pedagogical University, Russia | Murmansk State Technical University | Ministry of Economic Development of Murmansk Region | Monchegorsk Town Authorities | Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sport and Tourism of Arkhangelsk Region | Northern (Arctic) Federal University | Arkhangelsk Regional Non-Governmental Fund of Public Initiatives "Perspektiva" | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden | Barents Institute, Norway | University of Lapland, Finland | Regional Council of Lapland | Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences | Perspektiva, Arkhangelsk, Russia
Total budget: 921 524 €
Priority: Economic and social development

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY FORCES FOR NATURE

Timothy, fescue, bilberry and angelica. These have been the main focus of the project designed to cherish our sustainable natural resources.

In the Kolarctic region there is a very limited availability of crop plants adapted to the specific growing conditions of the north. Plant material suited for southern latitudes does not grow well in northern climates. This is definitely a limiting factor for fodder crops.

"Knowledge of cultivation, genetic diversity and production technology are necessary to allow a wider use of these resources. The project will increase the utilisation of existing natural resources in the Barents Region and create new opportunities for natural products in the region by making more natural resources available to producers and consumers", says project manager Eivind Uleberg.

The project Eivind Uleberg is talking about is called, Development and cultivation of local plant resources in the Barents Region, and has involved partners from Norway, Finland and Russia. The goal of the project was to increase the production of food and other products based on sustainable natural resources in the Barents Region.

"We wanted to preserve and use genetically adapted plant resources for agricultural production in the North. In addition, the project has focused on stronger cooperation and social development between research institutions in the field of northern agriculture."

The project has had two main focus areas. Partly a development of seed stocks of local grass varieties, timothy and fescue from northern Russia, where the goal was to get the varieties approved to qualify on the official list of Russian seed varieties.

The hope was to develop models and methods for the production of seeds for Russian farmers. The other main element of the project has focused on the cultivation and production of bilberries and angelica, where the methods of cultivation and semi-cultivation of the natural stocks have been researched.

"The work has delivered better results than expected, we have achieved what we planned. The level of cooperation between the parties has been different in the two separate parts of the project. Work on seed production has involved all parties and required cooperation at all phases. Work with bilberries and angelica has been carried out in Norway and Finland, but all parties have participated in the planning and implementation of the operations", says Eivind Uleberg.

DEVELOPMENT AND CULTIVATION OF LOCAL PLANT RESOURCES IN THE BARENTS REGION

Lead partner: Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research
Partners: Branch of State Research Institution "State Research Center of the Russian Federation" | MTT Agrifood Research Finland
Total budget: 1 024 992 €
Priority: Economic and social development

SEEING THE POSSIBILITIES

To create conditions for improving the quality of life and to promote community integration. That was the case with Limited Abilities – Unlimited Potential.

The project caters to people with various disabilities, as well as the elderly. Organisations and authorities working with people with disabilities were also included in the target group for the project. By offering equal opportunities to education, culture, vocational guidance, employment, sports and health promotion programs the prospect was to improve the lives and social situation of the target group. In order to achieve the objectives, a number of activities were organised. Among these were training on personal computers for the blind, handicrafts, health and wellness, musical instrument lessons, dance training and much more. This has been very important for the participants.

A number of concerts and performances have also taken place during the project. The event entitled "The dark café" was arranged. This allowed people without eyesight problems to experience what it is like not to be able to see. Participants were given blindfolds and spent an entire evening together in total darkness. During the evening there were also several musical numbers performed by people with some form of disability.

Something else that has elicited much laughter and smiling faces are the dance courses that lasted throughout the project, and that have been very important for the health of people with disabilities.

"In a gym we held lessons in classical ballroom dancing for the blind, where they had the opportunity to learn to dance the waltz, tango, and rock and roll. In addition to straight posture and coordination training it has resulted in much better self-confidence", says project manager Irina Ushakova.

Other main activities focused on the development of services for the disabled, and the exchange of knowledge, skills and training methods. Partners from Sweden, Russia and Finland took up joint plans to influence society and to change negative attitudes against the integration of the disabled.

LIMITED ABILITIES – UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

Lead partner: The Regional Public Organization of the Disabled "Nadezhda", Arkhangelsk, Russia
Partners: Svefi Academy, Sweden | Peräpohjolan opisto, Finland | The Murmansk State Regional Special Library for the Blind, Russia
Total budget: 711 171 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

BARENTS CULTURAL CO-PRODUCTION NETWORK

Activating and seeking models for long-term cultural cooperation across the borders.

Lead partner: Norrbotten Regional Museum, Norrbotten County Council, Sweden
Partners: Arts Council of Lapland, Finland | Aine Art Museum | Department of Culture in the Regional Government of Murmansk region, Russia
Total budget: 171 645 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

THE BARENTS FREEWAY

Lead partner: Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finland
Partners: County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden | Troms County Council, Norway | Finnmark County Council | Nordland County Council | Regional Council of Lapland, Finland | Murmansk Regional Ministry of Transport and Communication, Russia | Murmansk Avtodor | Transport Agency of the Arkhangelsk region | Arkhangelsk Avtodor
Total budget: 1 400 000 €
Priority: Common challenges

AGROPARK ALAKURTTI – THE MODEL OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Sustainable social and economic development of Alakurtti achieved through cross-border cooperation with Finland and Sweden.

Lead partner: Murmansk Regional Small and Medium Business Support Agency, Russia
Partners: Salla municipality, Finland | Proagria Lappi | Rural business Development Ltd, Sweden | Committee of agribusiness and food market in the Murmansk region, Russia | Administration of Kandalaksha district municipality | Village settlement Alakurtti of Kandalaksha district | State regional agricultural enterprise "Tuloma" | State Department of Employment Service of Murmansk region | Department of Agribusiness and veterinary of Nenets AO
Total budget: 2 798 928 €
Priority: Economic and social development

BARENTS LOW VOLUME ROAD MANAGEMENT

Testing and establishing new solutions for maintenance of low traffic volume roads.

Lead partner: AvtoDor Consulting Ltd, Russia
Partners: State organization "Arkhangelskavtodor", Russia | State organisation "Murmanskavtodor" | Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finland
Total budget: 399 567 €
Priority: Economic and social development

BUSINESS BEYOND BORDERS

Joining forces is always a good way of becoming stronger in the face of tough international competition. Salla Gate – Business and Tourism Partnership, brought together the East Lapland municipalities in Finland, and the Kandalaksha, Tersky and Kovdor districts and cities of Apatity and Kirovsk on the Russian side of the border. All partners hoped to speed up and encourage economic activity in their respective areas.

The focus of the project was on two key industries: tourism and supporting services for mining. The project built a support network to help the companies in the partnership area to participate in mega projects in the Barents region, particularly in the mining sector.

In the tourism industry, cooperation was fostered by solid investments and by improving know-how and joint marketing of tourism services in the project areas.

SALLA GATE

Business and Tourism Partnership.

Lead partner: The Local Federation of East Lapland, Finland
Partners: Kirovsk town, Russia | Kandalaksha district municipality | Kovdor district | Apatity town | Terskiy district | Kemijärvi Development Ltd, Finland
Total budget: 2 979 670 €
Priority: Economic and social development

INDIGENOUS TOURISM IN NENETS

The Nenets word "néda" means "a path", for the migration of reindeer to new pastures. The Kolarctic ENPI CBC project is the first that involved the indigenous population of the Nenets Autonomous District. The overall goal was to establish a path that led to ethnic, ethical and ecologically sustainable tourism.

Tourism is still a new industry in the Nenets region, unlike Finnish Lapland where tourism has been an important part of the economy for decades. The Sami Education Institute in Inari established the NEDA project with the Yasavey Manzara Information Center to create, develop and market culture and package tour services designed from the region's indigenous population's own perspective.

During the project various schools, as well as present and future entrepreneurs, visited tour operators, developed tourist packages and built networks to create unique, authentic cultural experiences for travellers.

NEDA

Culture Tourism Project of the Indigenous Peoples of the North.

Lead partner: The Sami Education Institute, Finland
Partners: Yasavey Manzara NGO Information and Research Center, Russia | The Department of Culture of Nenets Autonomous District | The Department of Indigenous People in Nenets Autonomous District | NaryanMar Social Humanitarian College | Inari Event Lapland, Finland
Total budget: 682 503 €
Priority: Economic and social development

HIGH QUALITY WHEN BLURRING THE LINES

Similarities conquer differences. ConEct was inspired by a dream of a better cooperation across borders. This project sends young students directly into working life.

The purpose was to increase knowledge and understanding of respective career development systems, compare them and jointly plan and further develop vocational education. Also to bring education closer, reduce barriers and facilitate flexibility for students and workers in the Barents Region.

"We wanted to improve the quality and quantity of students and experts who move across borders by developing and testing such a system in practice, and by establishing an active and committed network", says project manager Pia Nikkinen, in charge of the project.

Another important goal of the project is to establish, strengthen and develop cross-border networks and business relationships among small and medium enterprises in the Barents Region. Small and medium-sized enterprises are involved in all project activities such as partner meetings and expert visits to schools. They share the goal of improving cooperation between career development programs and working life.

"The companies can offer students tailored education while training skilled labour based on their own needs and the profession", says Pia Nikkinen.

Language and cultural training has also been given high priority with the goal of improving language and cultural knowledge skills of students and experts alike.

"At this stage of the project, we have found that the most effective ways to increase motivation and interest in language learning and sustainable cooperation across borders is to have personal experiences and encounters face to face", says Pia Nikkinen.

On May 26, 2012, the project began at Björknäs High School in Boden, Sweden. Since that time much has happened. Students have practiced languages with each other in Murmansk, Kautokeino, Rovaniemi and Boden. A fantastic solution for the exchange of experiences.

"We have shown what Boden has to offer, and have spread the news about the Swedish school system. Students have spent some time at the school but they have also travelled with other Swedish pupils to their internships where they have performed the same tasks as the employees of the company", says Kari Kenttämaa, project manager for Sweden.

He describes how they mainly focused on building technology education.

It is important that students not only get to see the cultural, but also technical differences between countries. We have also placed great emphasis on highlighting the girls at internships. In percentage, there are smaller numbers of girls participating in the vocational training available. We want that to change.

The main priority for the ConEct project is to focus on economic and social development. Young graduates are trained to meet the requirements of working life, which helps the work force throughout the program area.

"It should be easier to work across borders. When we sent the students to Murmansk for a two week internship, they did not really understand the reason at first, but later on they questioned why they had to return home. This is proof of the ConEct project's success", says Kari Kenttämaa.

CONECT – ECONOMICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Lead partner: Lapland Vocational College, Finland
Partners: Björknäs High School, Sweden | Utbildning Nord | Wesab AB | BPAB | Murmansk Building College, Russia | Rosarktikstroj | Building Company VEK | Samisk Videregående Skole og Reindriftskole, Norway | ADC – Arctic Drilling Company, Finland | Betroc Oy | Napapiirin Betoni Oy
Total budget: 2 055 101 €
Priority: Economic and social development

ABCG heritage

OLAVI KOROLAINEN The Gap, 1970.

CREATIVE COOPERATION IN VISUAL ARTS

Murmansk may not be Paris, and Luleå is certainly not New York. But to the surprise of some people there is a thriving art scene in the high north. The history of the area's visual arts offers plenty of intriguing tales.

Working so far away from the national capitals, and the so called elite of the art world, is not necessarily a disadvantage. Many times it can create unique opportunities for visual artists and other professionals in the field of art. When colleagues are few and far between, it is natural to look for contacts and relationships beyond local borders.

The remote location and the unique Arctic landscapes have influenced the artists and it shows in their work. The styles are diverse. Half a century ago landscape paintings of the area often depicted barren northern nature or mountain and sea views. Russian artists also painted built-up urban landscapes. However, in the 1970s, Scandinavian artists were began to use more abstract expression.

"There was a lot of exhibition activity in the mid-1970s, but the exhibitions were mainly local or national", explains Tuija Hautala-Hirvioja, professor of art history at the University of Lapland. "Town twinning, art clubs and Calotte exhibitions helped to establish links between the artists working in the North Calotte area. Networking across national boundaries, Sámi artists also organized themselves in the 1970s. In the 1980s artist cooperation increased, art clubs were bustling with activity and the number of skilled artists grew. When the official Barents cooperation began in 1993, the regional collaboration in the field of arts had already started to dwindle."

The project, known as Northern Beauty, The Barents Visual Arts in the 1970s and the 1980s received funding by the Kolarctic ENPI CBC programme to establish cooperation between arts and cultural institutions across the Barents region. The cooperation network in the project included the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Lapland as the lead partner, the Regional Office of the Arts Promotion Centre in Lapland and the Kemi Art Museum, the Art Gallery in Luleå, the Sami Center for Contemporary Art in Karasjok and the Murmansk Regional Art Museum.

There has not been a written, thoroughly researched common history of visual arts in the North. The search for Northern Beauty carried out pioneering work and wrote the partly forgotten history of cultural contacts in the Northern Calotte area. The results can be seen in a beautiful book that is available to the public on the project website.

The project brought together researchers and art historians, and also art museums and other visual arts institutions. They took on the task of studying visual art in the region and organized a Barents-wide exhibition tour on the basis of the art historical research carried out during the project. In 2014, the exhibition "Northern Beauty – Barents Visual Arts in the 1970s and the 1980s" visited the Kemi Art Museum, the Art Gallery in Luleå, the Sami Center for Contemporary Art in Karasjok and the Murmansk Regional Art Museum and delighted the audiences.

During the project, a network was formed, which promises fruitful cooperation between arts institutions in the Barents region.

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1/ ANATOLY A. SERGIENKO The Songs of Northern Coast, 1975–1976. **2/ VASILI G. BARANOV** Reidar Särestöniemi Portrait, 1969. **3/ EERO KUMPULA** Suvanto Village, 1972. **4/ ALVAR JANSSON** Hunter on the Mountain, 1985.

THE NORTHERN BEAUTY: BARENTS VISUAL ARTS IN 1970–1980

Lead partner: Faculty of Art and Design, University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: Kemi art museum, Finland | Arts council of Lapland | Murmansk art museum, Russia | Konsthallen Luleå, Sweden | Sami Daiddaguovddas/ Sami Artists Center, Norway
Total budget: 617 498 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE JOURNAL FOR THE BARENTS REGION

The project "Barents Journal" saw the birth of the first academic journal concentrating on the Barents region. The project debates aspects affecting regional development, and popularizes research results by sharing topical scientific news.

The Barents Studies Journal is directed at researchers and students, as well as the man on the street. A popularized supplement issue, published in the autumn of 2014, provided many colourful stories about everyday life and research in the Barents Region.

The purpose of the project, led by the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, was to expand the understanding of the Barents Region in a global, social, political and economic context, and to increase international awareness of the region. The editorship circulated between the project partner institutes and that helped to strengthen research cooperation. The Barents Studies journal will continue to be published as an electronic open access journal. www.barentsinfo.org/barentsstudies/English

THE BARENTS JOURNAL

Lead partner: Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: Luzin Institute for Economic Studies of Kola Science Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences | Barents Institute at the University of Tromsø, Tromsö, Norway
Total budget: 393 733 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK IN THE BARENTS REGION

Lead partner: Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Northern Norway
Partners: Government of the Arkhangelsk region, Russia | Government of the Murmansk region | Government of the Republic of Karelia | University of Oulu, Finland | Region Västerbotten, Sweden
Total budget: 1 801 323 €
Priority: Common challenges

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO LIVE

The main purpose of CYAR (Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents Region 2012–2015) is to contribute to sustainable social and economic development in the Barents region by improving living conditions for children and young people in risk groups. Project activities are aimed at the development of health care, social skills training for children and young people, prevention of juvenile delinquency, rehabilitating young offenders, strengthening of parental resources and monitoring of children's rights. The project involves a large exchange of information and experience between the parties, and competence building in the partner regions. The work has resulted in specialists receiving the necessary training to meet the needs of the target groups by conducting education, careful follow-up and research.

KEEPING THE HEAT IN

Heating homes and public buildings using less energy would help meet future demands and mitigate climate change. The project ENERU, Efficient Energy Management in the Barents Region, developed cooperation in the field of energy efficiency. Research, education, business and local administration was represented by project partners from Russia, Finland and Sweden. The project analysed the potential for efficient energy management in Kandalaksha and Kirovsk, and conducted audits to find out what was required to improve energy efficiency in buildings, including improved insulation, replacement of old heating systems etc.

A plan for efficient energy management was prepared by the Russian participants. Energy service companies, including Finnish and Swedish companies that are planning to enter the Russian market, can utilise the data. Cooperation by participating schools will continue, and energy efficiency will be included in their curricula.

ENERU

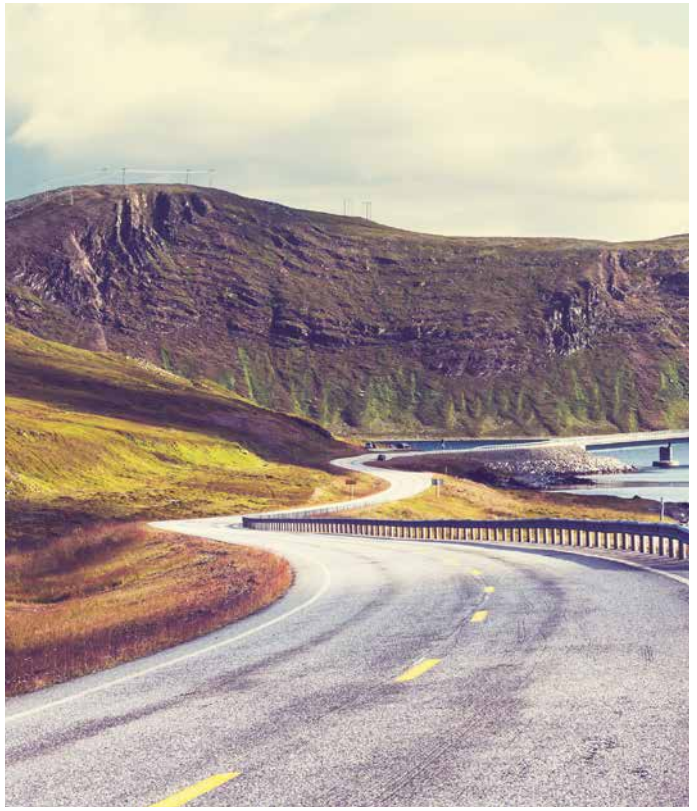
Efficient Energy Management in Barents region.

Lead partner: Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Partners: Lin Micropolis Oy, Finland | Bionova Ltd | Kemi-Tornionlaakso Municipal Education and Training Consortium Lappia | Piteå municipality, Sweden | Bothnian Arc ekonomisk förening | The Union of the Cities of the South of Kola Peninsula, Russia
Total budget: : 944 324 €
Priority: Economic and social development

SAFER ROADS FOR USERS

The main purpose is to eliminate the problems resulting from poorly maintained roads, and the differences between the countries regarding accident risks for road users in the EU and the Barents Region.

Lead partner: ADC Ltd (ООО AvtoDor Consulting), Russia
Partners: Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, Finland | Salla municipality | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden | Murmansk Regional Road Administration Murmanskavtodor", Russia | Arkhangelsk Regional Road Administration "Arkhangelskavtodor" | Murmansk City Administration | Non-commercial organization "Project Management Center" / ANO "PMC"
Total budget: 1 800 000 €
Priority: Common challenges



RUSSIAN-SWEDISH COUNCIL FOR THE SME

The project creates optimal conditions for increased cross-border cooperation between Swedish and Russian small and middlesize enterprises in the Barents Region.

Lead partner: Företagarna Norrbotten Service AB, Sweden
Partners: North Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Russia
Total budget: 660 249 €
Priority: Economic and social development

A SCHOOL FOR ALL – DEVELOPMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Inclusion in schools and teacher education, focusing on learners who are vulnerable to exclusion.

Lead partner: University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: Northern Arctic Federal University, Russia | Murmansk State Humanities University | Ministry of Science and Education in Arkhangelsk Region | Murmansk Regional State Educational Institution of Additional Vocational Education "Murmansk Regional In-Service Training Institute for Education and Culture" | Ministry of Education and Science
Total budget: 1 097 063 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

NORTHERN CROSS-BORDER CULTURAL EXPERTS

Deepening the expertise and interest of teachers and students in the culture of the neighboring country.

Lead partner: Calotte Area Learning Centre, Inari, Finland
Partners: Moscow Academy of Entrepreneurship Murmansk Branch, Russia | Murmansk Industrial College | Sámi Education Institute, Finland | Sodankylä Institute | Municipality of Inari
Total budget: 555 436 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

HEALTH IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

It is a fact that today's youth are a huge presence on the digital playing field. These young people are also at a time in life that is emotional – mentally, physically and is filled with social challenges. This makes it important for health information to migrate from the traditional platforms out on to the web.

It has been shown that young people feel that the community's social and health care is too formal and not as flexible as they would like. This leads in turn to young people looking to the Internet for health related information. The project known as, ArctiChildren InNet has therefore been developing a model for e-health directed towards school age people. The project aims at tackling the common challenges for young people's physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual health and well-being. It is also about security and cultural identity that works with the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the Barents Region.

"As adults, parents and social and health care practitioners, we must recognise the Internet as a new arena for discussing health issues with today's young people. The Internet provides innovative possibilities to provide e-health services to the community in general. It's also a tool for practitioners in the social and health care areas, providing a way for them to develop methods for health promotion," says project manager Eiri Sohlman.

Procedures for e-health in schools have been developed through cross-border cooperation between pupils, parents, teachers, experts in social and health care as well as researchers in the ArctiChildren network. The fundamental question is how to find the best solutions and methods of using social media for health issue communication. The project, ArctiChildren InNet, makes it easy for students because they are active participants in the project, along with other project stakeholders and organisations.

"Interaction within social media makes it possible to share information. This means that young people can create new knowledge to promote their own health by involving the positive qualities like participation and social community", says Eiri Sohlman.

The project has resulted in a developed model for e-health. It has created a framework for a cooperative project to achieve an empowering school e-health/e-learning model. A study was conducted to assess the actual IT usage, attitudes and needs, to develop the school's e-health. During the project an IT environment has also been built up where a dialogue with new initiatives and approaches will be implemented on three levels, in the classroom, between expert and student, and between home and school.

ARCTICHILDREN INNET

Empowering School e-Health Model in the Barents region.

Lead partner: Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Partners: Murmansk State Humanities University, Russia | Northern (Arctic) Federal University | Murmansk Gymnasia #5 | Lovozero secondary boarding-school of secondary (complete) education | Kandalaksha Secondary School#19 | Luleå University of Technology, Sweden | Kalix municipality | Luleå municipality | Finnmark University College, Norway | Alta municipality | Vadsø municipality | Sør-Varanger municipality | University of Lapland, Finland | Inari Municipality | Salla Municipality | City of Kemi | Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences
Total budget: 1 379 000 €
Priority: Common challenges

PLAYING FOR FUN MAKES EVERYONE A WINNER

Playing sports is fun, but it is important to have other people to play and compete with. Long distances make it difficult to meet other sports enthusiasts. In sparsely populated areas tennis courts, skating rinks and swimming halls can also be few and far between.

Sport enthusiasts from Eastern Lapland and Southern Kola teamed up to overcome these obstacles with the Kolarctic Sports and Recreational Activities project. During a three year period, sport clubs exchanged coaching know-how, renovated sports facilities, bought training equipment and painted new course markings. However, the most important achievement was the friendships created during the project.

"The best result is that we were able to introduce active members of sports associations to each other, and help them learn from each other", says project manager Sonja Aatsinki.

The best result is that we were able to introduce active members of sports associations to each other and help them learn from each other

« SONJA AATSINKI

The available sports facilities in the project partner towns of Kemijärvi, Salla, Kandalaksha, Kirovsk and Polyarnye Zori differ from each other. The aim of the project was to allow people to make use of all the sports venues in the region, regardless of national borders. A portion of the project funding was allocated to improve sport venues to make them more attractive and better fit to cater for the increasing number of users. The project partners also cooperated in marketing the region as a sport tourism destination.

During the project the neighbors participated in various activities from swimming and basketball to floorball and Yukigassen, the Japanese snowball fighting competition, in total almost 50 different events. Even downhill skiers and other athletes trained and competed in the neighboring countries.

Over 1,800 people took part in the project activities, half of them children and teenagers. The fact that so many young people participated shows that there was a need for such a project.

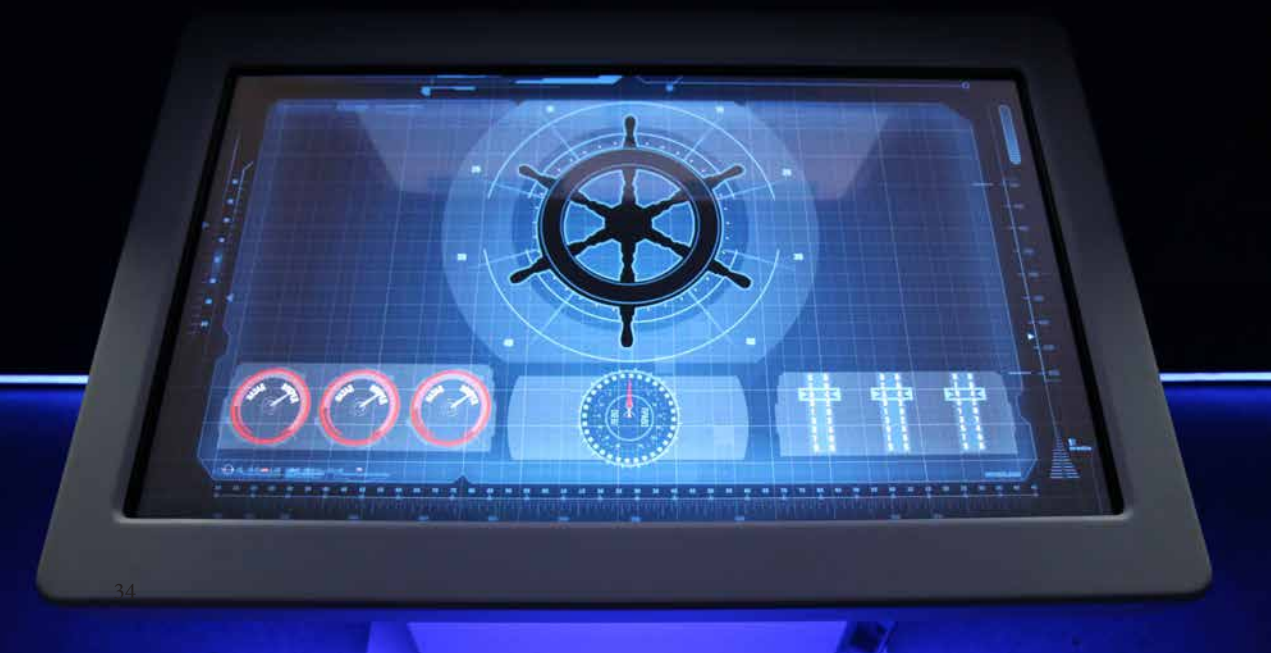
"I think the most natural way of cooperating is to get young people from different countries to play and train together. And fortunately the collaboration still continues - a team of young basketball players just came over from Kandalaksha for a training camp and tournament", Sonja Aatsinki concludes.

KOLARCTIC SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Lead partner: Kemijärvi Town, Finland
Partners: Kandalaksha Town, Russia | Polarnye Zori Town | Kirovsk Town | Municipality of Salla, Finland
Total budget: 929 032 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

BREAKING RECORDS IN SCIENCE EXHIBITION

The first nuclear-powered surface ship in the world was the Icebreaker Lenin. After three decades on the harsh Arctic Ocean she was finally moored in Murmansk, and is now the first science centre specializing in the technology and history of icebreaking. The Arctic Expo Centre on the Icebreaker Lenin is a ground-breaking cooperative project in science communications.



The Kolarctic project was led by the Arktikum Science Museum's Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland, which was also responsible for producing the exhibition. The Polaria Exhibitions Centre in Tromsø and the Atomflot in Murmansk Russia also provided their expertise. Together they planned and implemented a modern exhibition with four main themes. The first theme presents the Icebreaker Lenin and its impressive history. The second deals with various icebreaking technologies while the third presents the Arctic Ocean and its biodiversity. The final theme presents the Russian fleet of nuclear icebreakers.

All three partner expo centres get identical exhibition elements that help them share important and up-to-date Arctic issues such as the effects of climate change or the future role of the Arctic with the visitors in the different countries. The project also provided a unique opportunity to develop joint educational activities.

Arctic Expo Centre – Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker Lenin was the first cooperative project of its kind for the partners, even though they had all had contact before. Joint efforts are always a learning experience, and it's not always smooth sailing.

"The most difficult thing with the project was for us to understand how the hierarchical management structure and the business culture functions in Russia. A good piece of advice is that you should always talk to the person highest in the management hierarchy to get his or her approval", says chief executive producer Nicholas Gunslay of the Arctic Centre.

"A good translator or Russian speaking person is always of great value", says project manager Ari Laakso.

But a little patience goes a long way. As the work progresses and people get to know each other, ice starts breaking and things get easier.

"The best thing to happen during the project was when the people that had been negative towards the construction of any exhibition on board the Icebreaker Lenin gradually approved of the project", says Ari Laakso.

The Kolarctic ENPI CBC funding filled the gap of a missing exhibition centre in Russia related to Arctic science communication. The partners are proud of this concrete example of cross border cooperation in the Barents region.

"With the project, we have strengthened the profile of the Icebreaker Lenin as the main tourist attraction in Murmansk. Now the visitors can learn more about the history of the Lenin, about the extraordinary achievements of icebreaking technology in the Russian Arctic and also about the changing Arctic marine environment."

For visitors to Murmansk, the ship is a must see, and the exhibition is fun and interesting. Some visitors might even find themselves sitting in the same spot where Nikita Khrushchev or Fidel Castro once sat.

ARCTIC EXPO CENTRE – NUCLEAR POWERED ICEBREAKER LENIN

Lead partner: Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: FSUE Atomflot, Russia | Polaria Tromsø, Norway
Total budget: 1 177 478 €

MEETING ACROSS BORDERS

The project known as KITENPI aims to create better opportunities for skill enhancement from universities to IT companies in northern Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. The project had a specific goal, "Establishment of a Joint Kolarctic pool of ICT jobs and competence", which usually is achieved through the results described further below.

The work was conducted widely with universities in the form of cooperation regarding training and post graduate programs. Studios were established at all five locations for effective e-meetings, and networks were created to promote collaboration in recruitment and cross-border innovation activities.

Among the overall goals of the Kolarctic project and the involved partners, has been to increase collaboration between the Academy and the ICT industry. When it comes to improving the competitiveness of the ICT industry, we have seen that cross-border contacts have intensified between small and medium-sized companies in the Nordic countries. The universities have become more internationalised and bilateral cooperation has developed significantly. There is also the ambition of joining existing partnerships with the Barents Cross-Border University.

A sustainable event concept and networking with stakeholders in Norway known as "Barents IT" has been created.

KITENPI

Kolarctic IT Education, Networking, Partnership and Innovation.

Lead partner: Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
Partners: InternetBay AB, Sweden | Luleå Näringsliv AB | Informations-Teknik i Norrbotten AB | Saint Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics, Russia | Arkhangelsk State Technical University | Pomor State University | RUSSOFT Association I Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Norwegian Centre for Integrated Care and Telemedicine, Norway | University Hospital of North Norway
Total budget: 1 379 000 €
Priority: Economic and social development

PLANT LIFE IN A UNIQUE CLIMATE

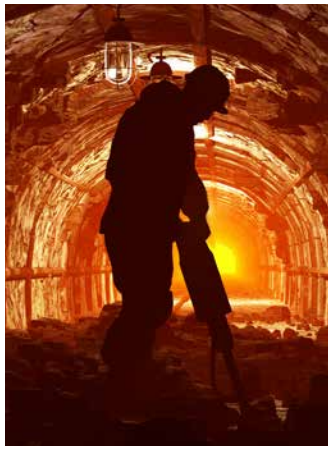
The project Arctic Agriculture aims to improve the competitiveness of agriculture in the North. Accomplishing this requires finding the strengths in the region that create business opportunities for Arctic agriculture based on special plants. The Arctic conditions, short growing season, long hours of daylight, poor soil and large temperature differences during day and night, can cause a difference in the quality of the plants, which is highly valued. The project examines the effects of the local climate on five selected plant species that have commercial potential beyond the conventional food industry. Samples of the same origin were grown during two seasons at five different research stations in Norway, Finland and Russia. During the project the plants were monitored and compared regarding phonology, morphology and chemical properties.

The goal is to increase competence in specific plant production and create new production lines to complement the traditional basic agriculture of the region. The project will also help to increase information about the effects of climate change on plants in the North.

FINDING THE REGIONAL STRENGTHS TO CREATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ARCTIC AGRICULTURE BASED ON SPECIAL PLANTS

Lead partner: MTT Agrifood Research, Finland
Partners: Norweigian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research (Bioforsk) | Russian Academy of Science Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden and Institute (PAGBI) | N.I Vavilov All-Russian Crop Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Agriculture Sciences
Total budget: 470 002 €
Priority: Economic and social development

A HAZARDOUS OCCUPATION MADE SAFER



Working as a miner still carries the risk of various health problems. Dust, toxic gases, noise and vibration as well as miscellaneous other hazards lurk. Mine work in the harsh conditions of the Barents region brings extra challenges.

The Mine Health project was established to address these risks. The Umeå University Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine along with research institutes from Russia, Finland and Norway, studied the unique working environment of miners in the Barents region with the goal of promoting the well-being and health of the area's mine workers.

The project increased knowledge regarding how to cope with the environment and prepared tools aimed at reducing risks. Mine Health also highlighted the interdependence between the mining sector and the local societies.

Miners, mining companies, researchers and health service providers now know more about strain and recovery as well as clothing and ergonomics. Training materials prepared during the project will help achieve safer working practices.

MINE HEALTH

Sustainability of miners' wellbeing, health and work ability in the Barents region.

Lead partner: Umeå University, Sweden
Partners: Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Finnish Institute of Occupational Health | University Hospital of North Norway, Tromsø, Norway | Norut Alta AS | SINTEF Nord AS | Northwest Public Health Research Center (NWPHRC), Russia
Total budget: 2 979 670 €
Priority: Common challenges

MUSSELS MEASURE POLLUTION LEVELS

The climate change affects the vast Barents region in various ways. In the northernmost regions, the changes are expected to be bigger – more rain and more flooding. Temperatures are rising especially during the winter. Trilateral cooperation on Environmental Challenges in the Joint Border Area (TEC) is a project that developed assessment tools for detecting the effects of climate change and of harmful substances and water regulation in the Finnish, Norwegian and Russian border region.

The tools are assessment systems based on environmental monitoring and meteorological, hydrological and ecological models. But some of the tools can also be of natural origin. The project recommended using pearl mussels as indicators in pollution control especially in the salmon and trout rivers in the common border areas.

Environmental cross-border cooperation requires common practices for evaluating the state of the environment. The Nordic countries and Russia use different classification systems and the project gave recommendations for using the most reliable classifications, limit values and standards, which are best suitable for the northern regions.

TEC

Trilateral cooperation on Environmental Challenges in the Joint Border Area (TEC).

Lead partner: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland, Finland
Partners: Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Oulu office, Finland | Institute of the Industrial Ecology Problems of the North of Kola Science Centre (INEP), Russia | Murmansk Administration for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (MAHEM), Russia | The State Nature Reserve "Pasvik"/Pasvik Zapovednik | Office of the County Governor of Norway | Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) | Akvaplan-niva AS (APN)
Total budget: 1 499 998 €
Priority: Common challenges

SUSTAINABLY WARM ENVIRONMENTALLY COOL

> *"We did a lot of research, and two master theses were written on the project. Research work is an outcome in itself, and most importantly, we all learned a lot"*
>
> « PROFESSOR BJØRN R. SØRENSEN

People living in the Kolarctic region are experts on cold climate, but still have a lot to learn about saving valuable energy. The magic words are "energy efficiency". Investments need to be made to make energy installations and infrastructure fit for the future, but minimizing energy waste will save money in the long run.

Several Kolarctic ENPI CBC projects focused on ways of helping the region become more energy efficient. At the same time they wanted to contribute to the economic development in the region through cooperation within the energy field.

The main focus of the project, Sustainable buildings in the High North, was on the energy efficient renovation of current buildings, especially multistorey buildings in Russia and other countries. The project also studied building regulations and energy efficiency measures, because of the need to harmonize standards and regulations across borders.

The project partners were the educational and research institutions: Narvik University College, University of Nordland, Umeå University, Murmansk State Technical University and the Oulu University of Applied Sciences.

"We did a lot of research, and two master dissertations were written on the project. Research work is an outcome in itself, and most importantly, we all learned a lot", says project leader, Professor Bjørn R. Sørensen of the Narvik University College.

"Our project included many partners, and in the beginning it was difficult to get everyone to understand what their task would be. Luckily we were able to work things out, and we established very good working relationships. We also had excellent cooperation with the Russian authorities."

While this project promoted business opportunities in the fields of the building technology industry, another project – Use of Heat Pump Promotion in the Barents Region (HePuPro) – focused on increasing energy savings.

Energy production is still highly dependent on fossil fuels. Using energy from the air, water and

USE OF HEAT PUMP PROMOTION IN THE BARENTS REGION (HEPUPRO)

Lead partner: Lapland University of Applied Sciences
Partners: Narvik University College, Norway | The Murmansk Agency for Energy Efficiency, Russia
Total budget: 717 572 €
Priority: Economic and social development

We coordinated the work and created synergies between the projects and were able to organize events at the same time for both projects.

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ground, heat pumps can significantly decrease the electricity consumption for heating. On the market, there are a lot of different types of heat pumps, which use different techniques.

The HePuPro project was started to combine the growing demand for heat pumps in Russia with the research and development expertise at Narvik, while independent testing was conducted at the heat pumps testing facility in Rovaniemi. Participants were The Lapland University of Applied Sciences, along with the Narvik University College and the Murmansk Agency for Energy Efficiency.

A comparative study of the heat pump market potential in the Barents region was carried out, which provided information for the various authorities. Both projects, Heat Pump Promotion in Barents Region and Sustainable buildings in the High North, worked together closely.

"We coordinated the work and created synergies between the projects and were able to organize events at the same time for both projects. The Murmansk Energy Efficiency Festival in February 2015 was a real success and a new conference is planned for next year. We all benefit from sharing best practices with our neighbours across the borders", says Bjørn R. Sørensen, and concludes:

"We are already preparing a new project based on what we have learned. The buildings are run differently in Russia than in the Nordic countries, so our next field of cooperation will be property management."

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS FOR THE HIGH NORTH – CROSS BORDER RESEARCH AND TRADE FACILITATION

Lead partner: Narvik University College, Norway
Partners: Umeå University, Sweden | Murmansk State Technical University, Russia | University of Nordland, Norway | Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Total budget: 995 299 €
Priority: Economic and social development

EXCHANGE TO WHET THE APPETITE

Co-TOUR is an EU project conducted between northern Sweden, northern Finland and north-western Russia that aims to develop and strengthen the tourism industry in and between the different areas. To achieve this goal, small and medium-sized destinations, tourist attractions and hotels have been helped to become more visible, competitive and internationally attractive for each other's markets.

The target groups have benefited from each other's knowledge and have been given the opportunity to improve, develop and adapt their offering to each market accordingly. The project has provided new and important knowledge to the involved parties, which has enabled them to adapt to the other countries' tourism markets. Target groups now have greater opportunities to reach out to an international market that offers higher quality products. Valuable new contacts have been established between the partners, tour operators, incoming companies and companies that did not know of each other or have not worked together in the past.

CO-TOUR

Cooperation and Development of tourism business between SME's Barents.

Lead partner: Svefi Academy, Sweden
Partners: MIPKI (Inter-Industrial Institute for Staff Development and Information), Russia | Municipality of Ustainskiy District of the Arkhangelsk Region | Municipality of Gatchina District I Association The Hotels Club and Hotel School I State Historic and Architectiral Museum Solovky | The Tourism Association of Murmansk Golfstream | Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland | Visit Gellivare Lapland, Sweden | Haparanda Stad | Piteå Presenterar | Kiruna Lappland Turistbyrå | Boden Turism | Heart of Lapland
Total budget: 993 375 €
Priority: Economic and social development

SOCIAL LICENCE FOR MINING

In several locations in the Barents region, new mines are opening and old mines are expanding or reopening. At the same time, people worry about the preservation of the unique and sensitive Arctic nature. The life-cycle of mines and their impact on sustainable development is yet another concern.

To be able to collaborate with the local inhabitants, mining companies must be aware and understand the norms of the community. Today mining companies pay more and more attention to the approval by local communities – it is called "the social license to operate".

The project – Sustainable Mining, local communities and environmental regulation in Kolarctic area (SUMILCERE) – was created to provide social, legal and scientific tools and recommendations for both the mining industry and policy makers. The output helps mining companies, as well as the local inhabitants, administrations and businesses, to organise their interaction during the entire life-cycle of a mine.

SUMILCERE

Sustainable Mining, local communities and envioronmental regulation in Kolarctic area.

Lead partner: University of Lapland, Finland
Partners: Luleå University of Technology, Sweden | Northern Research Institute, Tromsø, Norway | Institute of the Industrial Ecology Problems of the North of the Kola Science Center, Russia
Total budget: 1 093 704 €
Priority: Economic and social development

ON THE ROAD TO LIVING INDEPENDENT

Kristina, 17, wants to go to higher education; Katya, 16, does not like her current field of study – she would like to become a car mechanic rather than a pastry chef.

Kristina, Katya, Kolya and Andrey are four teenagers, ages 16 and 17, who have a lot in common. They are young, full of life and share big dreams for the future.

Kristina aims to pursue higher education, while Katya likes assembly kits and wants to become a car mechanic. Kolya is learning to drive road construction equipment, and dreams of playing in the World Cup someday. Andrey is interested in people and communication, and studies English after school.

They also have something else in common; they are all placed in alternative care.

Transition from childhood to adulthood can be challenging for any teen, let alone for young people living in alternative care situations. They may struggle to secure housing and employment, or to continue their education, without having families to turn to for help.

The project "Support for leaving care" in the Murmansk region and Lapland, plans a support system to assist young people who are in alternative care and are moving on towards adulthood and independence.

The project was carried out in SOS Children's Villages in Lapland and in Kandalaksha. Within the framework of the project, an SOS youth facility was opened in Murmansk to provide housing for young people while starting their vocational training. Here they learn to cook, do laundry and to keep their rooms clean. They are also responsible for their schoolwork, but the facility provides them with support, advice, comfort and practical help.

Professional caregivers were trained in several seminars, including vocational guidance, cultural and creative activities during a week long summer camp for youngsters living in SOS villages in Ylitornio and in Kandalaksha. The youngsters receives training on how to protect their rights and enhance their social skills.

"When my caregivers asked me about my dreams, I said that I did not really have any. They made me sit down beside them and we started dreaming", says Kristina.

With the "Support for leaving care" programme her dreams may very well become real one day.

SUPPORT FOR LEAVING CARE IN MURMANSK REGION AND IN LAPLAND

Lead partner: Non-governmental educational institution "Childrens Village – SOS Kandalaksha, Russia
Partners: Non-governmental educational institution of adults training "Childrens Placement Support Center", Russia | Lapland SOS Childrens Village, Finland
Total budget: 864 721 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

DATABASE THAT REDUCES ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

When an oil spill erupts there may be changes in the oil's physical and chemical properties, which in turn affects how the emission behaves. This affects humans as well as the environment.

The project "Enhancement of Oil Spill Response System by Establishing Oil Database" has placed focus on developing a database regarding the properties of oil transported through the Northern seas along the coast of Russia and Norway.

"We have tested 12 different samples of oil and have also studied its interaction with two dispersants, to see if they are effective and under what conditions. Towards the end of the project we also participated in the international event, Barents Rescue Exercise, which takes place annually. The database and relevant software was utilised to arrive at the appropriate method for oil recovery", says project manager Daria Izmailova.

She says that the project has been demanding, but the team has relied on its expertise, advice and experience, which has been of great assistance.

"It was an invaluable experience for all parties involved and the results have been very rewarding", she says.

Having the data concerning the oil properties contained in a database is positive from several viewpoints. Laboratory data makes it possible to more accurately predict the behaviour of oil at sea, under varying weather conditions. It also provides the opportunity to choose the most effective counter measures, such as mechanical recovery or the use of dispersants. The laboratory data bank will help to optimise the interactive mechanism between the international response teams at regional and cross-border oil spills. The project has helped to significantly reduce the risk of accidents, and thus potential threats to the environment, as well as traditional life-sustaining activities in our region.

"We have succeeded in creating a mechanism for effective coordination between international agencies operating in the event of acute discharges of Russian oil in Northern waters. This using the help of a prognosis for oil behaviour, which has been made possible thanks to laboratory studies", says Daria Izmailova.

ENHANCEMENT OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYSTEM BY ESTABLISHING OIL DATABASE

Lead partner: The FBI State Regional Center for Standardization, Metrology and Testing in the Murmansk Region, Russia
Partners: The Norwegian Coastal Administration | The Federal State Budget Institution Maritime Rescue Service - Northern Branch Office, Russia | Limited Liability Company Storvik Consult, Russia | Murmansk Administration for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring | University of Oulu/Centre of Northern Environmental Technology, Finland
Total budget: 1 004 211 €
Priority: Common challenges

YOUNG DESIGNERS CREATE FRIENDSHIP

People, especially young people, are central when it comes to the project known as Connecting Young Barents (CYB). A project that has created an arena for musicians and photographers.

A meeting place where they can express themselves and create art while staying in the Barents Region and not moving to central cities. CYB has brought together young people through music festivals, photo exhibitions and meetings for youth leaders.

"Working together with everyone involved has been absolutely fantastic. I have experience of working on different projects, but I can say without hesitation that this is my favourite project. Everyone became more than just colleagues, they became friends. And it's always nice to work with young people", says project manager Irina Ivanova.

When CYB started, the aim was to create a popular network where young people could contribute to the cultural scene. Something that would hopefully encourage them to remain in the region.

"This is an important project because it creates an arena for development. It helps the musicians and photographers to get the tools they need to fulfil themselves where they live and work, and make them aware of all the opportunities that are available here, and what makes life in the Barents Region interesting. This project is, first and foremost, about friendships and making new friends, but it is also about communicating", says Irina Ivanova.

Irina says that the biggest challenges have been linked to the various systems available in each respective country. In Norway, Finland and Sweden, for example, the youth centres allow access to free rehearsal rooms, which means that they have the opportunity to start playing music at an early age. Young people do not have that opportunity in Russia, which means that they become active at a later age.

"We managed to solve that by trying to make groups where participants were as close in age as possible. On the whole, the project has been very successful. We have implemented all the planned activities, and the young people have become very close to each other. As one project participant said, "Inari in Finland is cold but warm."

CONNECTING YOUNG BARENTS

Lead partner: Non-commercial partnership "Education, Innovation and Scientific Research Union Socium+", Russia
Partners: Municipality of Inari / Department of Education, Culture and Youth Work, Finland | City of Tornio / youth department | Murmansk regional youth fund "Youth House", Russia | Municipality of Alta / department "Huset", Norway
Total budget: 704 561 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

EXTERNAL INFLUENCE ON THE INSIDE

When the air we breathe and the food we eat is contaminated by industrial emissions it is time to act. Therefore, a project was started that, in various ways, has examined risks and analysed future prospects.

There are clear indications that people in some parts of the border region between Norway, Finland and Russia are affected by industrial pollution. Partly, it is about polluted air but also regards potentially contaminated, locally produced food from nature. Therefore, a project like, "Food and Health Security in the Norwegian, Russian, and Finnish border regions: linking local industries", is important, as food and health issues are thoroughly investigated.

"We have also seen that the concentrations of certain metals in locally produced food from nature is higher in this region due to industrial emissions, and some of the levels can be harmful", says project manager Sofie Eldbjørg Heimstad.

During the project, various activities were conducted. Facts and knowledge were gathered on the status of pollution in the area, which resulted in reports. There were also questionnaires and interviews in local communities in Sør Varanger (Norway), Enare (Sweden) and Pechenga (Murmansk), where residents discussed their risk perception and how they use and treat nature and locally harvested food. In the same area, extensive sampling was carried out on the local foods like berries, mushrooms, fish and game.

"In retrospect, we have analysed toxic metals and organic contaminants in these samples. We have also gone through birth records and collected blood samples from mothers", says Sofie Eldbjørg Heimstad.

There are some key issues that have arisen from the project:

- Is the local food contaminated?
- If so - in which regions?
- To what extent do people consume this food?
- Are people concerned about it, and has it affected their use of local food?
- What are the social and physical aspects?

> *The results show that berries, mushrooms and fish close to Nikel (Murmansk) and the Jarfjord area Sør Varanger (Norway), have higher concentrations of metals than other areas of the border region.* « SOFIE ELDBJØRG HEIMSTAD.

The project has been successful, but participants have also encountered some challenges during the work process. For example, it has been difficult to obtain a sufficient number of volunteer residents from local communities to respond to questionnaires and interviews. A number of analyses have been delayed, and obtaining medical records from health care authorities has not been easy. The project is still not fully completed, and more analytical data is expected. Some results are however clear, and they confirm the previously reported data regarding air, moss and freshwater.

"The results show that berries, mushrooms and fish close to Nikel (Murmansk) and the Jarfjord area Sør Varanger (Norway), have higher concentrations of metals than other areas of the border region. Metal analyses of moose and reindeer show low levels and can be compared with previous studies in Norway, Finland and Sweden", says Sofie Eldbjørg Heimstad.

Dioxin levels in some fish show levels close to the maximum limit set by the EU. Dioxin levels in reindeer are higher than previous data from Norway and Finland, but probably not a risk for human consumption. The analysis of radionuclide reveals safe levels below the maximum limit for berries, mushrooms, fish, moose and reindeer.

FOOD AND HEALTH SECURITY IN THE NORWEGIAN, RUSSIAN AND THE FINNISH BORDER REGION: LINKING LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Lead partner: Norwegian Institute of Air Research (NILU)
Partners: Akvaplan-niva AS, Norway | Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority | Northern Research Institute | University of Tromsø | The County Governor of Finnmark | Northern and Environmental issues / Thule Institute / University of Oulu | Finnish Meteorological Institute | Murmansk County Birth Registry, Russia | Institute for Ecological Problems / Kola Science Center | The North West Public Health Research Center
Total budget: 789 186 €
Priority: Common challenges

WITH A BRIGHT HORIZON IN SIGHT

The New Horizon project is the largest and most comprehensive cultural project ever undertaken in the history of the Barents cooperation. It consists of five sub-projects – where the real and exciting work was carried out.

It's about strengthening contacts between people. It's also about identity building and intensifying cultural cross border cooperation between northwest Russia and the northern regions of Scandinavia. The New Horizon project also aims to strengthen entrepreneurship and to develop joint cultural and artistic co-production.

"The project was preceded by a pilot project in 2010–2011, which brought together cultural participants from Sweden, Finland and Russia for idea seminars to discuss possible collaborative projects", says project manager Tomas Lind.

From the pilot project three project ideas were conceived. X-border is an extension of the Luleå biennial to include Rovaniemi in Finland and Severomorsk in Russia. Sound of the Barents deals with church and choral music for young people while Museums and Heritage is a collaboration and knowledge exchange between museums of archaeology and museum education.

"Based on the possibilities of EU funding, it was considered most appropriate that these projects would be included under a joint "umbrella project."

It was also based on the desirability of extending the project to other partners in the Barents region, and therefore the idea of a joint project entitled, New Horizons.

To the above three ideas two more were added. Young Entrepreneurs for Culture and Creative Sector, a training program for young cultural players, and the Barents Forum, two conferences on cooperation and culture development.

"With the New Horizon program, we wanted to revive cultural cooperation in the Barents region, improve the cultural living conditions in our region and increase our regional attractiveness. The project also accounts for the challenges we face in terms of depopulation, the relocation of young women and more. Increased cooperation, increasing contacts and direct human-to-human exchange is important in order to prevent tensions and conflicts", says Tomas Lind.

It's about everything from solving problems to lifting ideas. Not only in Luleå but throughout the entire Barents Region.

« DAN LESTANDER

The project has managed to reach the overall objectives and revitalised cultural cooperation and has secured long-term opportunities for continued cooperation after the project period.

A project that was a particularly big hit was X-border. The exhibition enjoyed great success in Luleå, Rovaniemi and Severomorsk. X-border is about stimulating people, fantasies and communities through art.

"It's about everything from solving problems to lifting ideas. Not only in Luleå but throughout the entire Barents Region. We need more creativity in companies and municipalities. Society is changing and creativity makes one better equipped to create a change that leads forward", says Dan Lestander, project manager for the X-Border Art Biennial in Luleå.

He believes that in many countries there are similar issues and problems that are met by a completely different audience, should these be included into an art biennial like the one in Luleå.

"The audience can give their evaluations and thus drive development further. It's great."

The project has expressed itself in different ways. In addition to a collaboration with Kulturens hus (culture house), Konsthallen (art hall) and Norrbottens Museum in Luleå, an entire parking area has been painted in different colours. This art installation has received a huge positive response, and many have seen the X-Border project as a having a "wow" factor.

"It's really great, but at the same time it is a bit frightening that this is not expected of us, and that it instead rather surprises the audience. Since the project took place simultaneously in Rovaniemi and Severomorsk we found ways to communicate with each other over time, including using video links. It has been incredibly fun to take part in so many exciting meetings. Simply put, we have worked with new techniques that span borders." —|

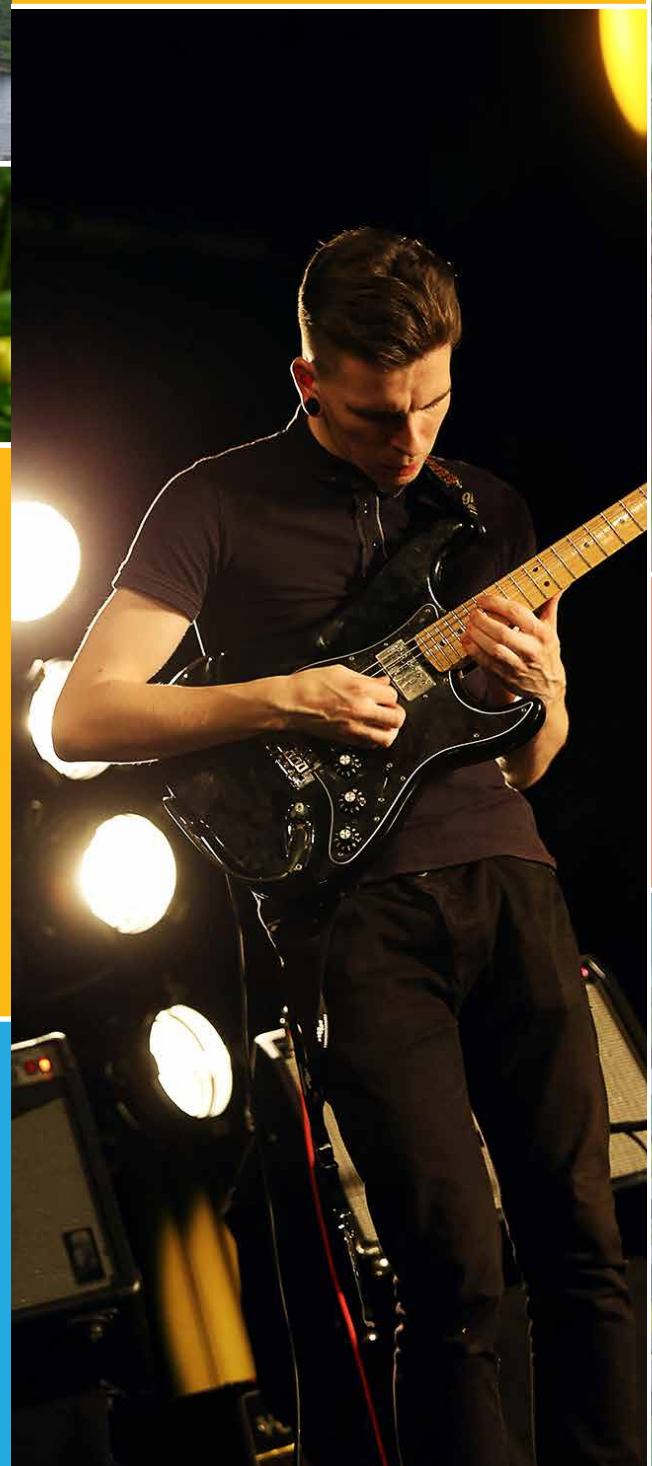
NEW HORIZONS

Lead partner: Norrbotten County Council, Sweden
Partners: The Committee on Culture and Arts of the Murmansk Region, Russia | Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Karelia | Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Arkhangelsk region | Centre of Socio-cultural technologies Severomorsk | Evangelical Lutheran Church in Murmansk | Arts Council of Lapland, Finland | Arts Council of Oulu | University of Lapland | The Provincial museum of Lapland | Pudasjärven seurakunta | Tornion seurakunta | Pellon seurakunta | Oulu Parish Union | Oulun hiippakunta | Inarin seurakunta | Region Västerbotten, Sweden | Sensus Norra Norrland | Haparanda Församling | Luleå Stift | Kilen Art Group | Norrbotten Regional Museum | Västerbotten Regional Museum | Nordland County Council / Culture and Environmental Affairs, Norway | Troms County Council / Dept. of Culture and Sports Affairs | Finnmark County Council
Total budget: 3 154 885 €
Priority: People to people cooperation and identity building

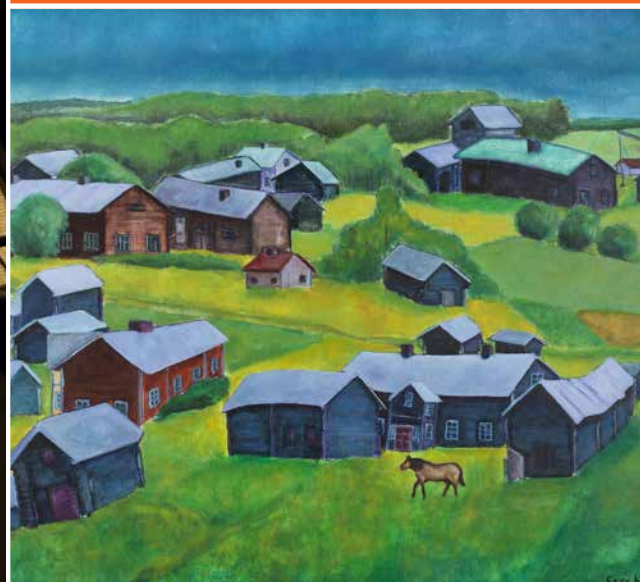
"With the New Horizon program, we wanted to revive cultural cooperation in the Barents region
NEW HORIZONS

"This is an important project because it creates an arena for development.
CONECTING YOUNG BARENTS

"Overall, the results have been very positive. Most of the data resulted in scientific work at or beyond the expected levels, and the possibilities for further cooperation have been identified by the partners. In short, a platform for future projects has been created" CETIA



"The researchers were enthusiastic; their goal was to produce reliable scientific results. Of course there are always differences in working cultures, but everything went fine because everyone shared a common purpose." KOLARCTIC SALMON



"Working with Kolarctic ENPI CBC has been rewarding and eye-opening. It has involved several deep explorations into many different areas. Thanks to these development projects, exchanges of expertise, experiences and ideas have crisscrossed regionally and nationally. Examples of concrete results include: the construction of a major road between Salla in Finland and Kandalaksha in Russia, an exhibition centre of the nuclear-powered icebreaker, Lenin, created in Murmansk, a youth facility was renovated and established in Murmansk, and people with disabilities have been rehabilitated in Arkhangelsk. Cross-border cooperation at its best." KATJA SUKUVAARA, HEAD OF PROGRAMME

"At this stage of the project, we have found that the most effective ways to increase motivation and interest in language learning and sustainable cooperation across borders is to have personal experiences and encounters face to face" CONECT

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

On the programme website, you will find all the projects that have been carried out during the programming period. You will also find all the regularly updated information on future programming periods, dates and other details. Feel free to contact us with your questions or queries.

www.kolarcticenpi.info

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ENPI CBC | CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION