

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR INNOVATIVE, SMART AND SUSTAINABLE BARENTS REGION

«For more than twenty years of its existence, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council has become an effective and relevant regional cooperation mechanism. BEAC's activities is, without an exaggeration, a history of success. We have managed to create a zone of confidence and stability in the Northern Europe, which is based on the principles of indivisible and comprehensive security and is not affected by fluctuations of political environment. The Council is a true idea generator and can take credit for many effective projects in all spheres of the region's life.

Needless to say, facilitating sustainable socio-economic development and improving the life quality of people living here remain BEAC's most important goal. This can only be achieved by joining efforts, sharing experience, knowledge and advanced technologies. In this regard, we believe that broad international cooperation at high latitudes has no alternative.»



Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Russian Federation  
Sergey Lavrov  
(Oulu, 14 October 2015)



## RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BEAC

For years of its existence the Barents Euro-Arctic Council has developed into an effective intergovernmental cooperation structure covering all important spheres of life. The main objective of the Russian Chairmanship is to promote sustainable social and economic development of the Barents region, build modern infrastructure, enhance the region's competitiveness and investment attractiveness while making a rational use of its scientific, innovative and resource capabilities, complying with environmental standards and taking into account the interests of the indigenous peoples.



## THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP: TRUST, TRANSPARENCY, TRADITION

### Trust

The Russian Chairmanship aims at preserving the Barents region as a unique area of trust and stability based on the principles of good neighbourhood, mutually beneficial partnership, indivisible and inclusive security.

### Transparency

Russia considers openness and striving for cooperation as well as transparency of project activities as necessary preconditions for success of the BEAC.

### Tradition

The Russian Chairmanship aims at effective continuity of the Council's activities, preservation of cooperation traditions, further development of multilateral cooperation for the benefit of the Barents region's population, including indigenous peoples.

## PRIORITIES OF THE RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BEAC INCLUDE TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM

### Transport and logistics

- Development of effective, safe and sustainable cross-border transport and logistics networks. All-regional approach to planning and implementation of transport initiatives
- Adoption of the Joint Barents Transport Plan which implies establishment of 12 cross-border corridors covering 3 means of transport: motor, railway and sea links
- Development of the East-West air connection network
- Development of ferry connections in the region
- Making use of commercial advantages of the Northern Sea Route

### Culture and tourism

- Enhancement of cultural and creative industries as a tool for dynamic social and economic development of the Barents region
- Promotion of cultural diversity, exchanges and multicultural dialogue with a view to increase people-to-people contacts. Preserving of cultural and ethno cultural heritage of the Barents region
- Development of the concept of the Barents identity
- Elaboration of a format and nominating procedures for the Barents award (scholarship) in culture
- Establishment of favourable conditions for ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable tourism in the Barents region. Intensifying of cooperation between tourism industries, promotion of the Barents tourism potential at the international market

### Environment and climate

- Further elimination of environmental «hot spots» in the Barents region
- Cooperation in water resources preservation, clean production and ecologically sustainable consumption, along with ecological education and exchange of the best environmental practices
- Implementation of phase II of the Barents Protected Area Network project (BPAN)
- Further implementation of the BEAC Climate Change Action Plan

### Other important spheres of cooperation

The Russian Chairmanship will also pay attention to trade, economic and business relations, development of forest sector, implementation of projects in the field of energy, healthcare, social services, education and scientific research, intensification of contacts between youth, emergency and rescue cooperation, revitalization of customs services' interaction.

The task to promote cooperation regarding Barents indigenous peoples, provide them with proper living and working conditions, including their traditional activities will also be in the focus of the Russian Chairmanship. Active participation of indigenous peoples in issues concerning their interests at all levels of Barents cooperation will be encouraged.