Barents Euro-Arctic Region

- Northern Finland, Norway and Sweden and North-West Russia
- Area of 1.75 million km² (approx. the size of Western Europe)
- About 5.3 million inhabitants
Challenges and opportunities

- Vast distances
- Vulnerable environment and ecosystems
- Negative demographic development
- Rich on natural resources
- High on regional innovation scoreboard
- Strong cooperation between academia and industry
- Unique technical solutions developed for ice and cold climate
The Barents Cooperation

• Established in 1993 in Kirkenes

• Members – Norway, Finland, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, the EU, and 14 regions

• Objective – promote peace and sustainable regional development through cross-border cooperation and people-to-people contacts

• Unique cooperation with stakeholders on national, regional and local levels

• Unique advisory role for indigenous peoples (Sami, Nenets, Veps) in all areas of cooperation
Swedish Chairmanship Priorities

• “Regional Sustainable Development for the Future”
• Based on Agenda 2030 and SDG
• Environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development
• Youth
• Increased visibility
Swedish Chairmanship Priorities

Environmental Dimension
- Elimination of environmental “hot spots”
- Implementation of BEAC Action Plan on Climate Change
- Conservation and sustainable use of wetlands
- Perseveration of biodiversity and ecosystems

Social Dimension
- Youth engagement
- Promote Barents identity
- Strengthen academic cooperation and mobility
- Cooperation Programme on Health and Social Issues

Economic Dimension
- Revised Joint Barents Transport Plan
- Barents Forest Forum
- Sustainable tourism
- Strengthening bioeconomy

Visibility
- Elaborate communication strategy
- Enhance visibility on social media
Accomplishments so far

• A well-received “Youth Perspective for the Future” conference organised in Luleå in April 2018, in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the cooperation

• Reduction of a number of environmental “hot spots”. Regional climate strategies are up and running

• Communication Strategy adopted in June 2018

• Outreach activities, e.g. Barents seminar held in Brussels in June 2018

• A search and rescue event week will be held in Kiruna in September

• A revision of the Joint Barents Transport Plan under way focused on improving east-west cross-border transport. Aim to have a priority list ready and to convene a Transport Ministerial meeting in September

• Barents Forest Forum will be held in Umeå in October

• Youth-oriented recommendations will be presented at the ministerial meeting to be held in parallel with the EU Arctic Forum, in Umeå on 3 October.

• Second Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation will be awarded at the Council meeting
Thank you!

Website
www.barentscooperation.org

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