

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS BY THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS AND REGIONS

1) WORKING GROUPS¹

1) Main financing sources in use

- EU funding programmes (Kolarctic ENPI CBC, Karelia ENPI CBC, Interreg North)
- national funding
- Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- Russian regional funds
- NEFCO, EBRD
- University funding

2) Main challenges

- bureaucratic application procedures
- lack of skilled employees to work on project applications and project implementation
- ENPI programme areas do not coincide with Barents working groups' regions of operation
- insecure national funding, therefore strategic planning and continuity of work suffer
- lack of strong lead-partners

3) Proposals/Possibilities for the future

- establishing a funding programme where all the four Barents countries are eligible to get financing
- more user-friendly information for applicants would enable better use of the existing financial instruments
- small project financing/seed money facility complimentary to the existing EU funding programmes
- establishing a joint BEAC Fund
- establishing a Barents region investment fund
- decision making process should be on the regional level
- lobbying Barents interests on the EU level

¹ Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Barents Regional Council and Joint Barents Euro-Arctic Council – Barents Regional Council Working Groups

2) REGIONS²

1) Main financing sources in use

- EU funding programmes (Kolarctic ENPI CBC, Karelia ENPI CBC, Interreg North)
- national funding
- Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Northern Dimension Partnerships
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- regional budget money
- NEFCO, EBRD

2) Main challenges

- unflexibility of the EU programmes and a complex application procedure
- lack of national funding
- decisions are made outside the regions
- how to find ways to finance Russian participation (Russia as a non-EU country)
- how to build networks among regional level actors

3) Proposals/Possibilities for the future

- financial assistance in the preparation of feasibility studies
- a funding pool for Barents cooperation with national contribution from the member states
- Kolarctic CBC to include seed money for smaller projects
- a special Barents cooperation programme with EU financing

² Representatives of the Barents Regional Committee: in Finland: Kainuu, Lapland and Oulu Region, in Norway: Finnmark, Nordland and Troms, in Russia: Arkhangelsk, Karelia, Komi, Murmansk and Nenets, in Sweden: Norrbotten and Västerbotten.