



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS
ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the Working Group: **Steering Committee for BEATA**

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: **Russia 2015-2017 / Sweden 2017-2019**

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

- increasing traffic safety, introducing traffic accident emergency system on the Barents cross-border corridors, including integration of ERA-GLONASS and E-Call systems;
- development of transport education for the companies operating in the Arctic;
- connecting Barents WGs on Transport and Tourism;
- further developing and updating the Joint Barents Transport Plan, started during the Norwegian and Finnish chairmanships.

The Swedish Chairmanship has the following goals:

- Continue developing the cooperation with the countries and stakeholders concerned.
- Seek greater coordination and synergy between BEATA and Barents Regional Council and Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL).
- Promote transport policy objectives and strive for innovative, sustainable and efficient transport solutions in the region.
- Showcase Swedish solutions and innovations.
- Promote strategic and flexible planning of cross-border infrastructure measures and a well-functioning exchange of information on planned measures with countries concerned.
- Help reduce obstacles to transport flows in the region by highlighting challenges and changing experiences.
- Update and develop the draft Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP) in order to finalize at the end of the Swedish chairmanship (see below).

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

Several video meetings in the beginning of the year with the aim to update and further develop the Joint Barents Transport Plan.

A physical meeting in St. Petersburg 30 May. The development of passenger transportation in the Region in cooperation with the tourism sector was discussed.

First video meeting under the Swedish chairmanship 13 November. It was agreed to hold a physical meeting in Skellefteå 12-14 March 2018 coordinated with the meeting of the Regional WG, who are preparing a Kolarctic CBC funded project.

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

Transport Conference in St. Petersburg in the end of May.

Transport Week in Moscow in the beginning of December.

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

29 September a delegation from MinTrans participated in the opening of new Road E105 between Murmansk and Kirkenes. First part of the opening ceremony was held in Norway (a new tunnel and a new bridge). Second part was held in Pechenga district (a new 16 km part of the Road E105 near border crossing point Borisoglebsk). The Norwegian State Secretary noted the high quality and importance of the new road as a good result of Barents cooperation. The new road cuts travel time and costs and increases traffic safety and makes travelling between two countries more comfortable.

Decision on establishing a Working Group for elaborating the draft Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP). The Working Group will be led by the Swedish Transport Administration. The aim is to elaborate further on the draft JBTP in order to prepare discussions in BEATA with the aim of taking a decision late 2019. First meeting in February 2018.

5. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

6. Other