



For the second time, the Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation will be awarded to professional artists and artistic associations within the cultural field in the Barents region. On 3 October 2019 in Umeå, Västerbotten, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council will award four scholarships in order to recognise and encourage artistic excellence and cooperation across borders.

The Joint Working Group on Culture of the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation now has the pleasure to reveal the scholarship recipients for 2019.

The Finnish scholarship recipient is the cultural magazine **Kaltio**, based in Oulu, and championing culture and the arts in Northern Finland for over 70 years. Kaltio's focus has expanded from the preservation of cultural history of Northern Finland to cover culture and arts in the whole of Northern Scandinavia and the Barents area, especially the cultural cooperation with Northwest Russia.

The Norwegian scholarship recipient is the saxophonist **Ola Asdahl Rokkones**, Tromsø, an experienced and competent musician, whose projects and work are strongly characterised by a northern dimension. Rokkones has a broad experience when it comes to cooperation across the borders in the North, and he focuses on the whole of the Barents region.

Ilia Kuzubov is the name of the scholarship recipient from the Russian Federation. He is an experienced manager in the area of culture and arts, promoting the modern and traditional art of Northern Russia. He works actively with the purpose to strengthen the cultural relations in the Barents region. His "Taibola" festival movement is one of the region's cultural flagships.

The embroidery group **FIMBRIA** is the Swedish scholarship recipient. It is a group of artists and craftswomen, highly educated in textile arts, graphic design and stage design, using embroidery as a common expression. With experience sharing and exhibitions, they make embroidery more visible for the public and tie the regions of the Barents closer to each other.

*The Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation, amounting to 10 000 euros, was established by the Ministers of Culture of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council in 2016. The first scholarships were awarded in Arkhangelsk in 2017 to the photographer **Jaakko Heikkilä** (Finland), travelling theatre **Samovarteateret** (Norway), poet and writer **Mona Mörtlund** (Sweden) and **Ethno-Cultural Initiatives Support and Development Fund in the Republic of Karelia** (Russia) for their impact and exceptional work across the borders in the field of the arts. For more information about the recipients and the Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation, please visit:*

www.barentscooperation.org/en/Barents-Regional-Council/Barents-Success-Stories/cultural-cooperation