



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



COOPERATION IS  
A CORNERSTONE  
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE  
CONTACT PEACEFUL REGIONAL  
COOPERATION

# **The Barents cooperation** – a success story for international collaboration in the Arctic

**Monday 27 January 2020 16.15-17.45, Clarion hotel The Edge**

**FOR A STRONG  
REGION**

# The Barents cooperation – a success story for international collaboration in the Arctic

Roundtable hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway & Arctic Frontiers

**Monday 27 January 2020 16.15-17.45,  
Clarion hotel The Edge, 1<sup>st</sup> floor 'Arbeidskontoret'**

Most of the people living in the Arctic live in the Barents region. The Barents cooperation is a cornerstone of peaceful regional cooperation involving nations, regions, communities and people in the most populated part of the Arctic.

## **Program**

**16.15-16.45 Session I** – the Barents way - dynamics between the national and the regional levels

The collaboration across borders in the Barents region is an outstanding example of what neighbours in the Arctic can achieve through practical cooperation and people-to-people contact. The Barents model is unique in its character as regions serve as the driving force. Norway and Västerbotten are currently chairs of the Barents Council and The Barents Regional Council, respectively. What are the visions for the time ahead? Both chairs have voiced emphasis on youth. How do politicians work with and for the young?

*Armchair conversation moderated by Aleksandra Seljeseth*

*Ms. Ine Eriksen Søreide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway,  
Chair Barents Euro Arctic Council*

*Ms. Magdalena Andersson, Governor of Västerbotten,  
Sweden, Chair Barents Regional Council*



**16.45-17.45 Session II – a resilient future for the people of the Arctic, the Barents model**

In this session, we address how the Barents countries continue cooperation on issues of crucial importance for the daily life of people living in the region, despite at times having serious disagreements on international and security policy issues. In what areas do we cooperate? What can the circumpolar Arctic family learn from the Barents cooperation?

*Armchair conversation moderated by  
Dr. Ingrid Agnete Medby, Senior Lecturer in Political  
Geography, Oxford Brookes University*

***Speakers:***

**Mr. Audun Halvorsen, State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway**

**Ms. Matilda Ernkrans, Minister of Higher education  
and research, Sweden**

**Mr. Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development  
Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Finland**

**Mr. Nikolay Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large,  
Senior Arctic Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia**

**Ms. Aili Keskitalo, President of the Sami Parliament of Norway**

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE  
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**KNOWLEDGE  
BARENTS**