



BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL

BARENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mandate for Regional Working Group on Investments and Economic Cooperation (RWGIEC) 2018-2019

1. Objective

The objective of the Regional Working Group on Investment and Economic Cooperation (RWIEC) is to promote sustainable and long term economic development in the Barents Region.

2. Priority areas of cooperation

Between 2016 and June 2018 the RWIEC has been inactive. Therefore, the priorities are to:

- re-establish the RWIEC.
- review members and ensure recruitment of new members.
- facilitate meetings.
- conduct workshop on mandate.
- revise the mandate according to workshop conclusions.
- implement and work accordingly to the mandate and the Barents Program 2019-2023, adopted on 24th May 2018, in particular regarding the prioritized area “International competitiveness and business development”.

Based on the workshop conclusions, the RWIEC aims to:

- encourage increased cross-border cooperation by acting as a source of information and network provider for the private and public sector in the Barents Region, by for example:

- collaboration with existing business clusters, chamber of commerce's, etc.
- promote sustainable economic activity and facilitate interaction between economic operators in the Barents region, by for example:
 - participate at relevant conferences and/or seminars to promote the ongoing business activities, including potential areas of development such as bioeconomy, blue-economy and the renewable energy sector.
 - seek to influence the development of significant infrastructure projects related to the Northern Sea Route and Arctic Railway, such as the need for maritime hubs, cargo ports etc.
 - contribute to existing and future cross-border business projects, like the *Barents Network Event* hosted by North Karelia in Joensuu.
- increase interaction with other national and regional working groups, by for example:
 - explore ways of working closer with the Working Group on Economic Cooperation, including aligning mandates and facilitating joint or adjacent meetings.
 - include representatives from the Joint Working Group on Youth to all meetings and events.
- apply for funding to organize study tours for specific industries if feasible.

3. Method of work

The RWIEC has meet once during 2018 and will meet twice in 2019.

Each member shall present the current situation in their region regarding economics, development and investments. The content should be included in the annual report to the International Barents Secretariat, provided by the Chair of the RWIEC.

4. Decision-making

The RWIEC has a consensus-based decision-making process.

5. Language

The working language of the RWIEC is English.

6. Membership

The regional authorities have the right to decide on the appointment of the members. Appointed working group members should be experienced in their field. In case of change of members, the institution in question has the responsibility to appoint a new member and communicate about the change to the International Barents Secretariat (IBS). The main principle is that each state/region can have one member. Members of the working groups are expected to actively participate in the work of their group.

7. Chairmanship

During the Barents Regional Committee meeting in Rovaniemi the 23rd of May 2018, Mrs. Jenny Mikkelsen Spring was appointed as new Chair.

Normally the working group Chair cover a period of two years. Because of low activity in the RWGIEC the past years, and lack of Chair in 2017 and partly in 2018, Mrs. Spring will be the acting Chair until the rotation of the Regional Chairmanship to Sweden, which will take place in October 2019.

8. Financing

Finnmark County Administration has financed the first meeting held in 2018 and will finance two meetings in 2019.

Each member region is responsible for financing the travel and accommodation of their own delegate.

9. Communication

Regarding public communication, the RWIEC should aim at utilizing the communication opportunities provided by the International Barents Secretariat. The RWIEC should maintain an open and inviting communication policy, informing both the relevant national groups as well as the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials and Finnmark County Administration on the activities of the group.

10. Reporting

Reporting of the activities of the RWIEC should be done on a yearly basis using the reporting template provided by the International Barents Secretariat. The report is the responsibility of the Chair of the RWIEC. If the report is due during the shift in Chairmanships, the former and new Chair should coordinate the report jointly.

11. Duration

The mandate is valid after approval by members, further until rotation of the Regional Chairmanship in October 2019.

12. Amendment and review

The RWIEC should review its mandate at least once in every Regional Chairmanship period and make needed amendments.

13. Other

Gender equality should be considered in the activities of the RWIEC.

This mandate has been approved and accepted by below members the 14th of December 2018.

Jenny Mikkelsen Spring, Chair	Aleksey Prosuzhyhk
Elena Tihonova	Mari Möttönen
Ivan Kuliavtsev	Arja Nevalainen