



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES

The Barents Programme on New Technology and Methods in Health Care in sparsely populated areas -

E - Health Conference, 8 December , 2020

Dr.Zaza Tsereteli, MD, MPH – Senior Advisor
Ministry of Health and Care Services, Norway

Programme Coordinator

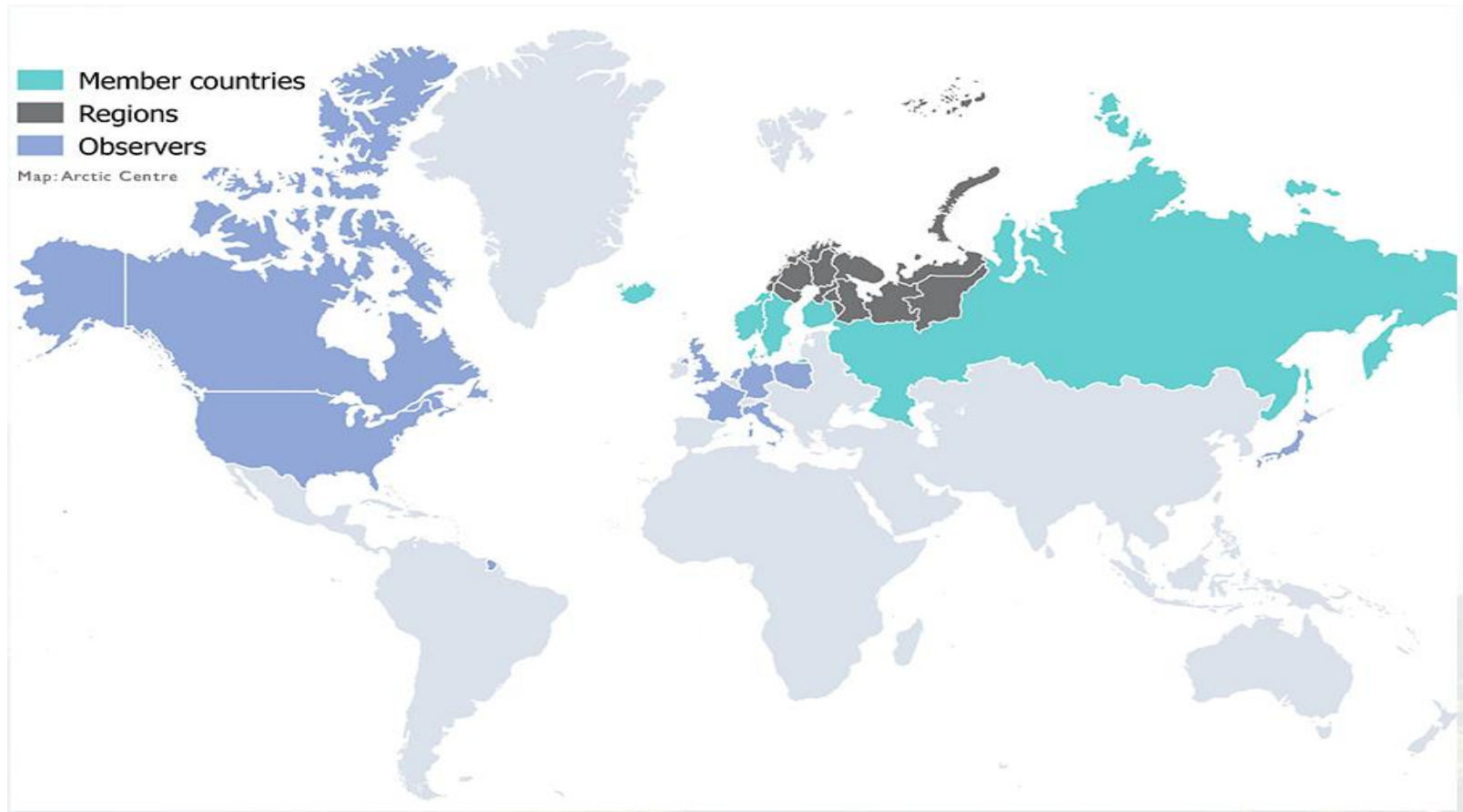
The Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)

- The BEAC meets at Foreign Ministers' level in the chairmanship country at the end of each BEAC chairmanship term. Between the ministerial meetings, the Committee of Senior Officials organizes the work of BEAC.

The chairmanship rotates every second year between Norway, Finland, Russia and Sweden.

- Norway took over the BEAC Chairmanship from Sweden at the 17th BEAC Ministerial Session in Umeå, Sweden, on October 3, 2019.

MEMBERS OF THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL



The Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS)

- The Working Group for Health and Related Social Issues provides a political structure for health and social cooperation, in which representatives of the national and regional health authorities of the Barents countries meet twice a year to discuss relevant issues.
- Sweden holds the chairmanship of the JWGHS together with the Republic of Karelia for the period 2020-2021.
- The first Barents Health Ministers' Meeting took place in Oslo 12 November 2019.

PRIORITY AREA 2020 - 2023

- Prevention and control of communicable diseases^[L]_[SEP]
- Improved health and increased access to health care in sparsely populated areas
- Improved environment for growth and development of children and youth
- Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

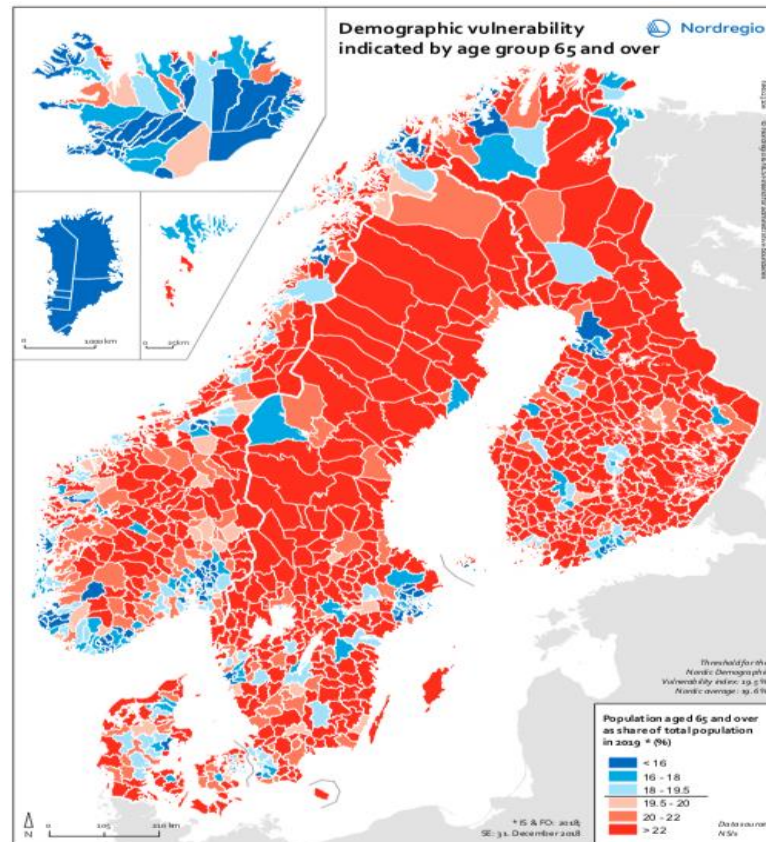
- Respect for human rights and gender equality
- Sustainable development through an Agenda 2030 perspective
- The 'Health and Well-being in All Policies' approach
- Inclusion and involvement of vulnerable groups in all actions of relevance and acknowledgment of the Special needs of indigenous people whenever relevant.
- Effective coordination and public health aspects
- Interdisciplinary methods and participatory approaches^[L]_[SEP]
- Promotion of innovative approaches and technologies

The development of the Barents Programme on *New Technology and Methods in Health Care in sparsely populated areas* was commissioned by the Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS) and adopted in 2019 together with the 6th Framework Programme in Health and Related Social Issues in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2020- 2023.

Reasons to propose the programme

Despite the differences between those regions, the key themes in health care in sparsely populated areas are more or less the same for those regions. Access to the health care facilities is the primary issue. Even in countries where the majority of the population lives in rural areas, the resources are concentrated in the cities. They all have difficulties with transport and communication, and they all face the challenge of shortages of doctors and other health professionals in sparsely populated areas.

Demographic vulnerability index indicated by the 65+ age group.



Source: Nordregio. Working Paper 2019:1, ISBN: 978-91-87295-73-7

Programme Aim

A) Collecting and exchanging information and knowledge on best practices of cost-effective solutions to meet unmet health care needs in rural areas,

B) Sharing of models (modules) for introduction of health information technology (HIT) in different fields of the health and care systems, including exchanging personnel training and education

Programme Objectives

- Improved capacities of facilities and institutions to implement innovative eHealth solutions the application of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to the health sector
- Mapping and identification best practices and innovative eHealth solutions which can be transferred further developed and integrated into a health care system in the partner regions
- Increased cooperation between the countries of the Barents Region in the field of Health care in *sparse populated areas*

Progamme activities (currently in development)

- Training and education of health staff in the knowledge, use, and application of digital health (including provider-patient relations)
- Training for patients
- Documenting and sharing best practices, via reports or seminars
- Developing models (modules) for the introduction of HIT in different fields of the Health and Care systems

Organization of the work of the programme

A steering committee (SC) consisting of representatives from the Barents countries and regions is established to ensure the necessary coordination and exchange of information. The SC reports to the JWGHS.

SC Chair person – Oddvar Larsen (Northern Norway Health Authority)

SC Vice-Chair person – Aniskova Inga, Deputy Minister of Health, Murmansk Region

- **Thank you for your attention**

- **E-mail: zaza.tsereteli@hod.dep.no**