

**Working Group on Barents  
Forest Sector  
Chairmanship of Finland  
2021 - 2023**





REGION OF  
OPPORTUNITIES



2021-2023

# The Finnish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council



- The basic starting points for Finland's Presidency activities in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council will be Agenda 2030, the European Green Deal and the Barents Programme 2019–23.
- We will focus on the areas of **sustainable development** and **healthy environment, people-to-people contact** and **transport and logistics**.
- To achieve sustainable development we must ensure that the future of the Barents region is built on **economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability, and carbon neutrality**.
- In the people-to-people contacts, special focus will be on the **young people**, who hold the key to the future of the Barents region to maintain it lively and fostering.





# The Finnish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council



- The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Barents cooperation with the intention to celebrate it in the highest political level subjected to the circumstances.
- The Working Group on Barents Forest Sector was established in 2000.
- More information: <https://um.fi/barentsfi>



# Working Group on Barents Forest Sector – Finnish delegation



- Chair - Sanna Paanukoski, Ministerial adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Focal point - Pasi Poikonen, Group Manager, Research Scientist, Natural Resources Institute Finland Luke
- Member - Jyrki Haataja, Senior regional development specialist, Finnish Forest Centre

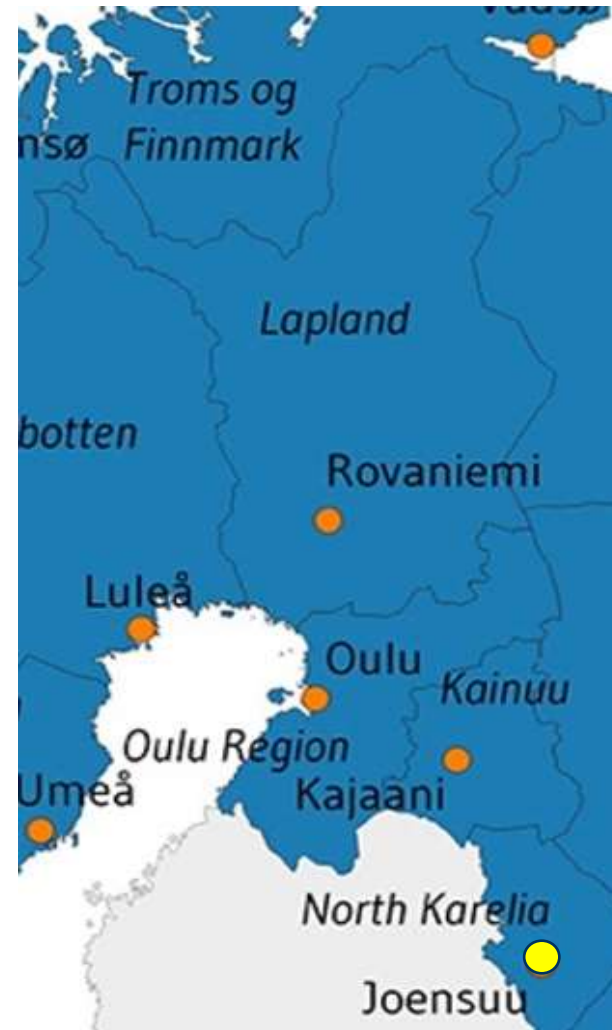
# The Priorities of the Working Group on Barents Forest Sector



- During Finnish chairmanship, the WG work is based on the current mandate.
- Finland will focus on the sustainable forest based bioeconomy in the Barents region.
- Forest-based new products are expected to replace non-renewables, and new nature-based services are being created. This will help us to identify potential challenges relating to the transition to a low-carbon society while maintaining healthy ecosystems.
- The Finnish Presidency will seek to engage with relevant organizations in the forestry sector and also with other Barents Working Groups.

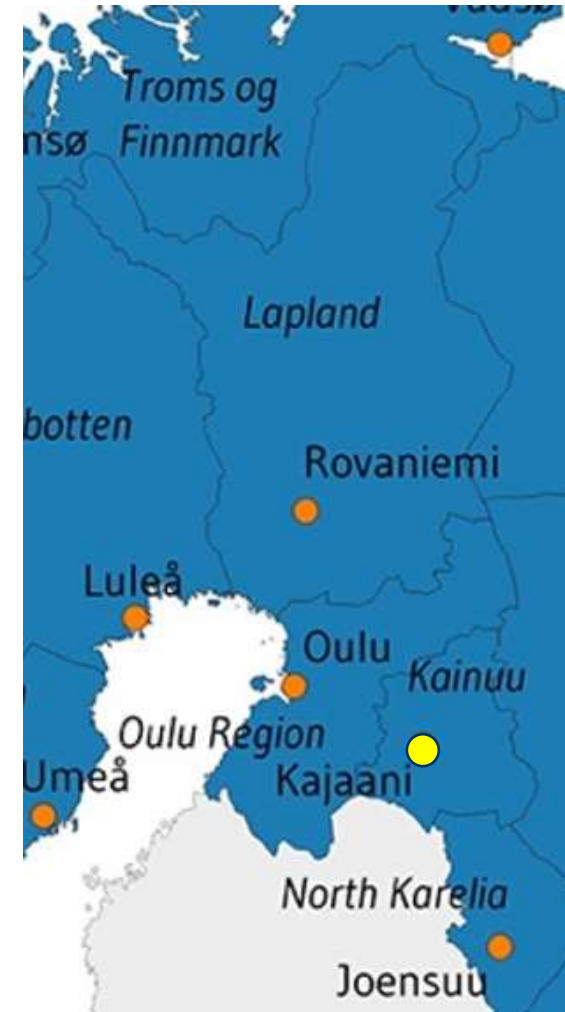
# WG Meeting 17.3.2022

- Place to be: **Joensuu, North Karelia**,  
(if possible due to the pandemic)
- Main topic of the meeting:  
**Climate Smart Forestry**



# WG Meeting autumn 2022

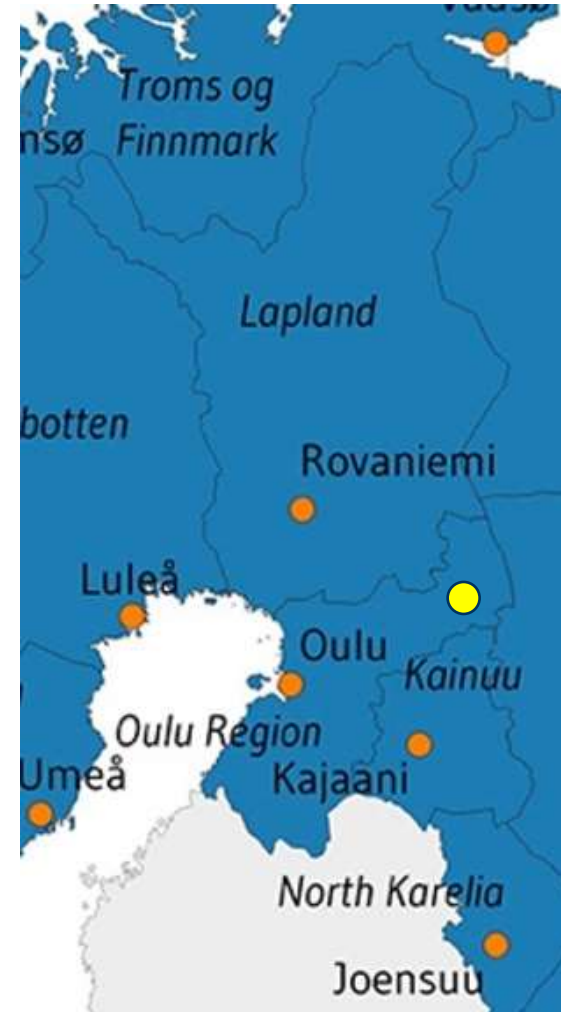
- Place to be: **Kajaani, Kainuu region** (Kajanaland)
- Main topic of the meeting:  
**Forestry in the northern regional economy**





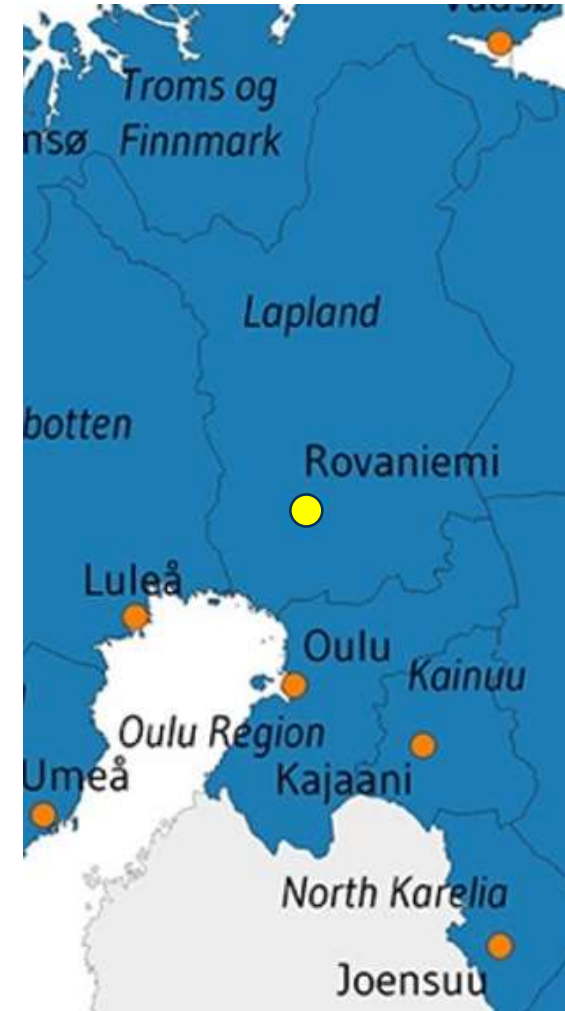
# WG Meeting spring 2023

- Place to be: **Kuusamo, Koillismaa region (North-Eastern Finland)**
- Main topic of the meeting: **Forestry and tourism**



# WG Meeting and Barents Forest Forum autumn 2023

- Place to be: **Rovaniemi, Lapland**
- **2-3 days**
- WG Meeting
- Barents Forest Forum including excursion
- Main topic of the Barents Forest Forum:  
**Sustainable development**
- Transition of WGBFS chairmanship from Finland to Russia.



# Developing the work of the WGBFS



- We have received financing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to **review the work of the WGBFS**.
- Natural Resources Institute Luke won the public tender competition and is responsible for the project with the help of Finnish Forest Center
- WGBFS will be closely informed and has possibility to express views on the content of BFF
- **The purpose of the review** is to examine how to develop the working group's work, what are our future priorities and working methods.
- The results are to help the whole working group in the future work.





**Thank you!**