



Open Call for Grants Applications

for

The Barents Financial Mechanism (BFM)

2026

Issued by: International Barents Secretariat (IBS).

Date of publication: January 14, 2026.

Application deadline: February 15, 2026.

1. Objective

The Barents Financial Mechanism (BFM) invites applications for project funding supporting sustainable cross-border cooperation in the Barents Region.

Projects funded under this call should:

- Strengthen cooperation among actors from the Barents Euro-Arctic Councils members: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and the EU.
- Promote sustainable development.
- Strive to enhance inclusion, equality, and resilience of the Youth, and Indigenous communities.
- Be relevant to the work of the Barents Cooperation Working Groups.

2. Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be legal entities, including:

- National, regional, or local public authorities.
- Educational and research institutions.
- Associations, NGOs, and non-profit organizations.

Barents Working Groups and the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) are also eligible when represented by a legal entity serving as lead partner/applicant.

3. Project Criteria

The following criteria shall be fulfilled to be eligible for funding:

- Alignment with objectives and priorities.
- Involvement of partners from at least three members of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark and the EU), including the lead partner. In exceptional cases two partners may be eligible.
- Strive to engage multiple actors.
- Demonstrate how the results are envisaged to be sustainable.

* Applications below NOK 250 000 with only two partners from the BEAC member states, with an additional partner from outside the formal Barents cooperation, can be accepted. In such cases the applicant must elaborate the reason.

4. Available Funding

- Total funding available: NOK 1 500 000.
- Maximum grant per project: NOK 400 000.
- Co-funding requirement: At least 10% of total project budget, can be in-kind contribution.
- Projects must take place during 2026.

Projects may start only after receiving a formal funding decision and signed agreement from the International Barents Secretariat (IBS).

5. Application and Evaluation

Applications must:

- Be written in preferably English, or any Scandinavian language using the BFM application form.
- Detailed budget in NOK must be provided in the BFM Excel Sheet.
- Clearly outline expected results and sustainability impacts.

Evaluation Process:

- The Selection Committee (SC) shall assess all eligible applications. Evaluation criteria include:
 - Relevance to the objectives and priorities of the call for grant.
 - Quality and feasibility of the proposal.
 - Sustainability potential.
 - Communication plan.
 - Sound financial management and cost-effectiveness.
 - Relevance to the Barents Cooperation.

Final decisions will be made by the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

6. Disbursement of Funds

- For grants less than NOK 100 000: 100% disbursed upon signing.
- For grants above NOK 100 000:
 - 80% upon signing.
 - 20% after final report approval.

All disbursements are made in NOK, and exchange rate risks are borne by the lead partner/applicant.

7. Reporting and Visibility

Recipients must submit:

- Final report using provided template.
- Financial report aligned with approved budget.
- The final report must be submitted by December 1, 2026, unless otherwise decided.

All publications and communication materials must acknowledge BFM support and display the BEAC logo.

8. Application Procedure

Application forms and guidance documents are available at: www.barents-council.org

Completed applications should be submitted electronically to:

bfm@barents-council.org

Deadline for submission: February 15, 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

9. Contact Information

International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

Wiulls gate 3, 9900 Kirkenes, Norway.

E-mail: info@barents-council.org

Website: www.barents-council.org