



Adopted by the WGC December, 2022

Barents scholarship for cultural cooperation Guidelines ("Friends of the Presidency" format)

On 9th of March Finland, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the European Union issued a **common statement** in which they condemned in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprecedented military aggression against Ukraine.

It was also decided that in light of Russia's blatant violation of international law, breach of rules-based multilateralism and the principles and objectives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council activities involving Russia in the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation will be suspended.

Following discussions in the Working Group on Culture (WGC) in "Friends of the Presidency" format together with friends of the Future Presidency of North Karelia (without Russia) it was agreed that Finland, Norway and Sweden will prepare nomination and awarding of the Barents scholarship for cultural cooperation in 2023 in friends format.

Barents cooperation objectives

The principles and objectives of the Barents cooperation are aiming at promoting stability, well-being and sustainable development in the Barents region. Barents cultural cooperation shall seek to increase awareness of the significance and potential of human, natural and cultural resources as well as the attractiveness of the Barents region.

The WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format, according to its Guidelines for the Working Group on Culture (WGC) 2023-2026 ("Friends of the Presidency" format) and strategy for 2019 – 2023, aims at promoting dialogue and cooperation in the Barents region. Furthermore, the WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format shall help establish prerequisites for practical cultural cooperation by creating meeting places and encouraging multicultural dialogue, exchange and cooperation, thus contributing to diverse and innovative arts and culture and encouraging artistic and culture development in the region.

1. Barents scholarship objectives

In line with the Barents cooperation objectives, the Friends of the Presidency of Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC) in collaboration with WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format

awards Barents scholarships to recognize and encourage artistic excellence and cooperation across borders and to support common arenas and meeting places for artistic and cultural development in the region.

2. Barents Scholarship funding

Finland, Norway and Sweden contribute to, funding and award of Barents scholarships on equal terms.

3. Provisions

Scholarships are awarded to professional artists and artistic associations within the cultural field in the Barents region.

Scholarships are awarded every second year, once per WGC presidency.

All scholarships can be awarded within the same identified and specifically chosen cultural fields including multidisciplinary initiatives and with the view to cover the whole cultural field over a certain time.

Awarding scholarships shall be based on an overall assessment of:

- Experience and ambitions: Experience with cultural cooperation across borders in the Barents Region and ambitions for further development of projects.
- Artistic quality in previous work.
- Barents affiliation: The recipient must be a resident and work within the Barents Region.

4. Nomination and selection procedures

Finland, Norway and Sweden will each select one candidate from each of the Regions under the Barents Cooperation to be presented as candidates for the final selection by WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format.

Selection procedures for Regional candidates are determined by each country.

The WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format makes the assessment of the candidates and the final selection of scholarships among the Regional candidates. Three scholarships are awarded, one for each country in the Barents cooperation.

Selection of the candidates and scholarship recipients shall be based on an open and democratic process, in accordance to the criteria, determined in section 3.

The scholarship recipients are announced publicly and awarded at an appropriate event by the BEAC chairs in the format of the Friends of the Presidency. The date for the event and the host are to be decided by BEAC chairs in the format of the Friends of the Presidency, after consultations with the WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format.

5. The Scholarship

The Barents scholarship amounts to 10 000€ per country – a total of three scholarships. The Award ceremony in the Barents Region will be organized by the appointed host in cooperation with the WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format. The venue for the event is chosen by the host.

The three scholarship recipients are invited to take part in the event. The event shall seek to spread information about cultural cooperation in the Barents region and to encourage and inspire artists and cultural institutions to engage into further Barents cooperation projects in the future. The Barents cooperation partners will provide financial support to cover travel expenses and accommodations for the recipients from respective countries.

6. Conditions

The funds awarded must be used in accordance with the scope and purpose defined by the WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format when awarding the scholarship. The recipients shall deliver a brief report in format chosen by the recipient on how the scholarship has been used. The documentation shall be submitted to the WGC in "Friends of the Presidency" format electronically using a report form issued by the group. The information may be published on the BEAC web sites.