

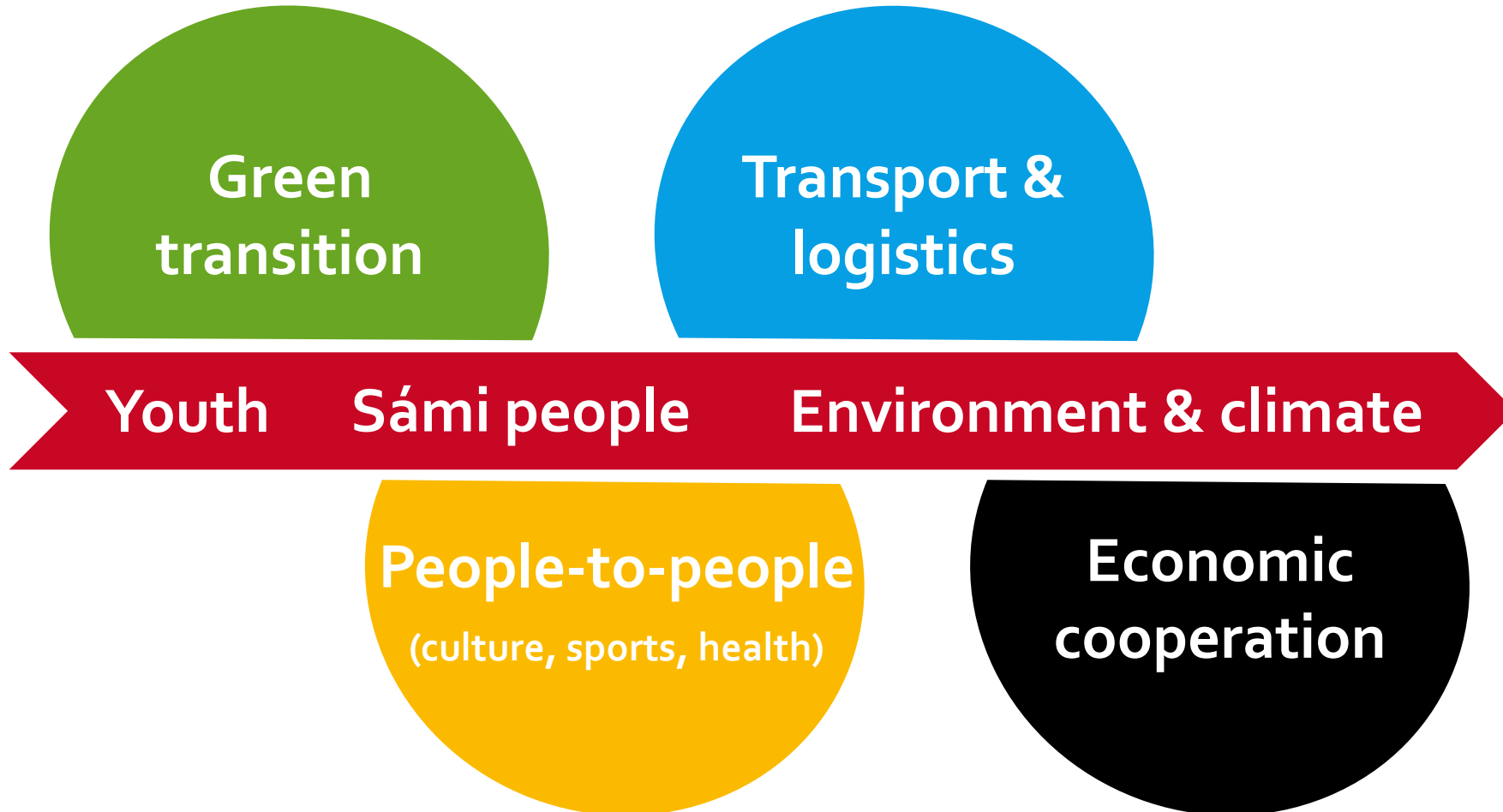
North Karelia's Presidency of the Barents Regional Council

2023-2025



Regional Council of
NORTH KARELIA

Priorities for 2023-2025



*Green transition**

Objectives and activities:

The supply of skilled labour has enlarged

- Promotion of training, continuing education, lifelong learning, student exchange

Labour-based immigration has increased

- Joint marketing of the Nordic lifestyle, joint international recruitment campaigns, promotion integration

Planning and permitting processes have been speeded up and simplified

- Cooperation and learning between regions on best practices in regional land use planning (webinars, seminars, site visits)

(* based on the defined bottlenecks and recommendations of the study "Setting steps for accelerating the green transition in the Northern region" for regions and municipalities)



An aerial photograph showing a residential area with several multi-story apartment buildings and smaller houses. In the foreground, a large roundabout is visible with a white truck with 'DB SCHENKER' on its trailer driving around it. The scene is surrounded by green trees and a clear sky.

*Transport & logistics**

Objectives and activities:

The railway infrastructure to and across the Barents region has developed

- Surveys for improving and expanding the railway infrastructure in the Barents region. Joint interest supervision

The condition of roads, including the lower road network and cross-border roads, has improved

- Interest supervision, cooperation between national and regional transport authorities

Air connections have developed in the Barents region

- Studies on potential flight routes in the Barents region and joint lobbying, studies on electric flying

*Concrete analyses and policy recommendations to be done in the joint Interreg Aurora transport project "New North" 2023-2026

People-to-people

(Culture, sports, health)

Objectives and activities:

Cultural exchange between the Barents regions has deepened

- Promote closer coordination between the northern regional cultural organizations

Networking and mobility of cultural actors have enlarged

- Promote artist mobility by exploring synergies with residency actors and networks

Barents youth sports exchange has increased

- Support to the Barents summer and winter games in 2024-2025
- Studying possibilities for North Karelia's membership in Barents Sports (Barents Games)

Youth's physical and mental health is improved

- Activities on improving accessibility of mental health services and preventing social exclusion and discrimination





Economic cooperation

Objectives and activities:

Economic and business cooperation has deepened and established as part of Barents cooperation

- Joint planning with working groups; joint seminars, participation in trade fairs, business events etc.

Knowledge of the strong economic sectors and export and import markets in the Barents regions has improved

- A webinar series in which each region presents its own business sectors and cooperation wishes

Cross-cutting themes

Youth

Comprising young people and including their viewpoints in all regional cooperation is vital for the development and sustainability of the Barents region.

Sámi People

The involvement of the Sámi people in planning and implementing activities of North Karelia's presidency programme is vital and ensured.

Environment & climate

Unique and vulnerable nature, climate change and loss of biodiversity are considered in all fields of cooperation.





Outlines of the North Karelia presidency 10/2023-10/2025

Main tasks:

- Secure the continuation of Barents cooperation at the regional level
- Organise two bigger events/year
- Coordinate and support sectoral working groups
- Organise meetings of Barents Regional Council and Regional Committee
- Cooperate closely with the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), the International Barents Secretariat (IBS) and Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Coordinate activities with NSPA network, Nordic Council of Ministers, North Calotte Council and other northern forums

Upcoming activities spring 2024

- BRC online meeting, 4 April
- RC online meetings
- Barents events on 28 May, North Karelia
 - Business opportunities in the Barents region -seminar on 28 May, Joensuu
- Further planning of BRC presidency activities
- Participation in working group and CSO meetings





Regional Council of
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Thank you!

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