



Stockholm 16 February 2018

## Invitation to celebrate 25 years of Barents cooperation in Luleå, Sweden, 17–18 April 2018

This year, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) marks 25 years of fruitful collaboration. To commemorate this special occasion, the Swedish Chairmanship of the BEAC has the pleasure of inviting you to a conference titled *25 years of Barents Cooperation – Youth perspective for the future*, to be held in Luleå, Sweden, on 17–18 April 2018.

The Swedish Chairmanship programme is based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, respect for human rights and gender equality. In each of these areas, the emphasis is on practical project-oriented cooperation and enhancing people-to-people contacts, with a special focus on the younger generation. We believe it is vital to listen to young people and to encourage them to play an active part in the development of our societies and the future of the Barents region.

The overall objective of the conference is to put the youth perspective at the centre of discussions, build on previous achievements of our cooperation and explore the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. By bringing together local, national and regional perspectives, and engagement from various stakeholders, we hope to stimulate a creative debate.

Regional sustainable development, including the three dimensions – social, environmental and economic, will be discussed further at the parallel lunch break-out sessions. A draft programme and practical information about the conference are enclosed. For more information on the Swedish Chairmanship priorities, please visit <http://www.regeringen.se/4a9eca/contentassets/292df30a916040fc95af93fe59cc75da/ordforandeskapsprogram.pdf>.

The conference conclusions will be taken forward and discussed in the Barents Euro-Arctic Working Groups and further developed into recommendations. The Swedish Chairmanship will inter alia based on these recommendations define future strategic priorities to be presented at the Ministerial meeting in the second half of 2019.

We look forward to welcoming you to Luleå, to engaging in fruitful discussions and exchanging experiences and insights with dedicated people in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.



Anna Ekström, Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training

## **25 years of Barents cooperation, Luleå, Sweden, 17–18 April 2018**

### **Practical information**

The conference will take place at Kulturens hus, Skeppsbrogatan 17, Luleå.

The conference working language will English.

Participants are kindly asked to confirm their attendance **by 9 March at the latest**, by completing the registration form on

<http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/About/International-Barents-Secretariat/registration>

### **Accommodation**

Clarion Hotel Sense, Skeppsbrogatan 34, has been chosen as the conference hotel and is situated close to the conference venue. Rates range from SEK 1065 to SEK 1214 per night including breakfast and taxes.

Hotel reservations at the above hotel must be made **by 16 March at the latest**, either by email [cl.sense@choice.se](mailto:cl.sense@choice.se) or phone +46 920 450 450. The group reservation code is **12363**.

### **Travel costs**

Participants are required to pay their own travel expenses.

### **Registration in Luleå, information desk, meals**

A registration desk will be located at the conference hotel and an information desk will be in place at the conference venue. Meals are provided by the organiser.

If you have any questions, please address them to [ibs@barentscooperation.org](mailto:ibs@barentscooperation.org)