

Barents Sports Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020



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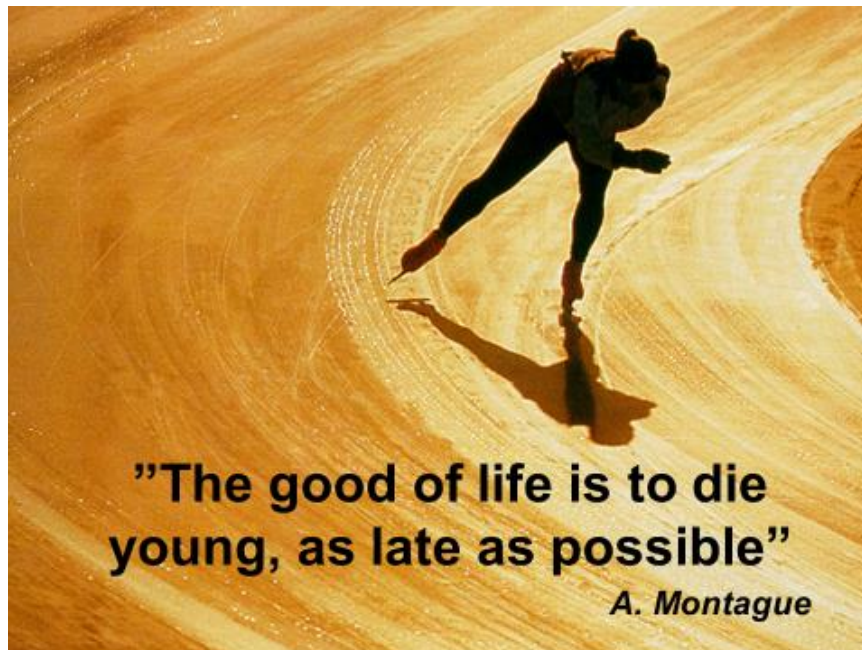
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1.0 Introduction

Barents Sports is a joint sport program between Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia in the Barents region.

1.1 The Barents Euro-Arctic Region – a short description

The Barents region;

Finland; the regions of Lappland (Lappi), North Bothnia (Pohjois-Pohjanmaa) and Kainuu

Norway; the regions of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark.

Sweden; the regions of North Bothnia (Norrbotten) and Northwest Bothnia (Västerbotten)

Russia; the regions of Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Karelia (and Nenets and the Komi Republic)

The Barents Euro-Arctic Region has a population of more than 6 million and consists of the northern areas of Finland, Sweden and Norway and North-Western Russia. The natural resources of the Barents region are extremely rich and varied. The most significant are the forests, fish, ore and petroleum resources. These natural resources are still mainly unexploited. With its surface area 1,6 million km², the region is larger than France, Spain and Portugal put together.

The Barents Region is in the Arctic and is characterized by a harsh climate, sparsely populated areas and long distances. The peoples of the various regions involved have maintained contact with each other for thousands of years through trade and cultural contact. In spite of differences in social and economic conditions, the participating regions face many common challenges, for example the fact that they are situated far away from both the capitals of their countries and the large markets, and that the business sector in the region is not very diversified, being mainly based on raw materials.

The Barents Cooperation was established in 1993, when the Kirkenes Declaration was signed by the foreign ministers of the participating countries and the European Commission. The cooperation is based on two pillars, the national, represented by the central government authorities in Moscow, Stockholm, Helsinki and Oslo, and the regional, represented by the county authorities. At the national level is the Barents Council, which consists of ministers, while at the regional level there is the Regional Council, where the members are the governors of the participating counties. The cooperation in sports dates much further back than 1993, and this is dealt with in the next chapter.

1.2 Historical background of the cooperation in sports

The cooperation among people in the Barents Region goes far back in history. With the long distances and poor communications to the southern and more central parts of the respective countries, it felt natural for the sports organizations to build cooperation across the borders in the north.

At a meeting of "Felleskomiteen" for the Nordic sports organizations in 1950, they agreed on a sports cooperation in the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden, until 1997 named the Calotte cooperation of sports.

In 1960 a bilateral agreement was signed by the Sports Committee of Murmansk Oblast and Øst-Finnmark (later Finnmark Idrettskrets). There are also bilateral agreement between sports organizations in Finland, Russia and Sweden.

Shortly after the Kirkenes Declaration had been signed in 1993, the sports organization started to work on a strategic plan

for a sport cooperation in the region with Russia as full member. At the Calotte Conference in 1997 the name was formally changed to Barents Cooperation.

The contact between athletes, trainers and leaders has led to;

- Barents Games – summer and winter
- Barents matches
- camps for youth
- seminars for leaders and trainers
- exchange of trainers
- bilateral cooperation between sports clubs

2.0 Objectives and focus areas

“Develop friendship through sports in the Barents Region”

2.1 Main objective

To develop the co-operation in sports to become an even better tool for

- organize Barents games – summer and winter
- developing the quality of sports in the region
- increasing the exchange of athletes, trainers, leaders and referees
- building tolerance and cultural understanding among the inhabitants of the region (people-to-people cooperation)

2.2 Target group

Our main target group is young people between 15 and 25 years of age.

2.3 Focus areas

2.3.1 Sports related activities

- Competitions
 - Barents games – summer and winter
 - Barents matches. It should be a goal that each sport organize Barents Matches the year between Barents Games. The sport organize and finance this themselves.

- Youth activities
 - Seminars
 - Camps
 - Group exchanges

- Parasport

2.3.2 Development, information and promotion

- Involve a larger variety of sports in the cooperation
- Strengthen the contact with formal bodies in the Barents Cooperation (Regional Council, Regional Committee, Youth Council, Barents Secretariat)
- Strengthen the involvements of national sports bodies
- Strengthen the contact with regional authorities
- Promote Barents Sports to be discussed at international meetings/conferences
- Develop a common web platform in English
- Strengthen the visual profile of Barents Sports
- Strengthen the contact with areas of the Barents region that are presently not much involved in the Barents Sports cooperation
- Cooperate with the Anti-doping organization

2.3.3 Finance

- Secure that all partners in the Sports Cooperation have approximately the same economic platform through close contact with national and regional authorities, national sports confederation and other financial sources.

- Secure the economic platform for Barents Sports by strengthen our ability to make use of external financial resources (sponsorship).

- Secure financial support for the international coordinator position.

2.4 Barents Sport Committee (BSC)

Study the possibilities for BSC to become an independent and legal entity both economic and organizationally.

3. Organization and administration

3.1 Barents Conference every 4 years

- Representatives from Kalottidrotten in Finland, Idrettens Barentsutvalg Norway, Sports Committee of Murmansk Oblast, Norrbottens Idrottsförbund, Sweden.
- 7 official representatives with voting rights from each country
 - (If more counties/districts in Russia and Sweden are involved in the future cooperation, they should discuss the establishment of coordinating bodies as in Finland and Norway)
- Representatives from all special sports involved in the cooperation
- Representatives from national sports confederations and from Barents authorities (e.g. Barents Regional Council/Barents Regional Committee)
- Representation from the age group 15-25 should be secured

3.2 Barents Sport Committee (BSC)

- 2 representative(s) from each nation
- International coordinator is secretary

BSC is responsible for the coordination of the ongoing cooperation and reports to the Barents Conference.

3.3 Administrative resources

- International coordinator in 80 % position
- All 4 nations should contribute
- Plan and organize Barents Sports Strategic Plan 2016 -2020

Addresses

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