

## Barents cooperation: An inspiration for the Eurasian project

### Баренцево сотрудничество: вдохновение для евразийского проекта

Key words: Governance; Infrastructure; Cooperation; Cross-border; Development; Economy

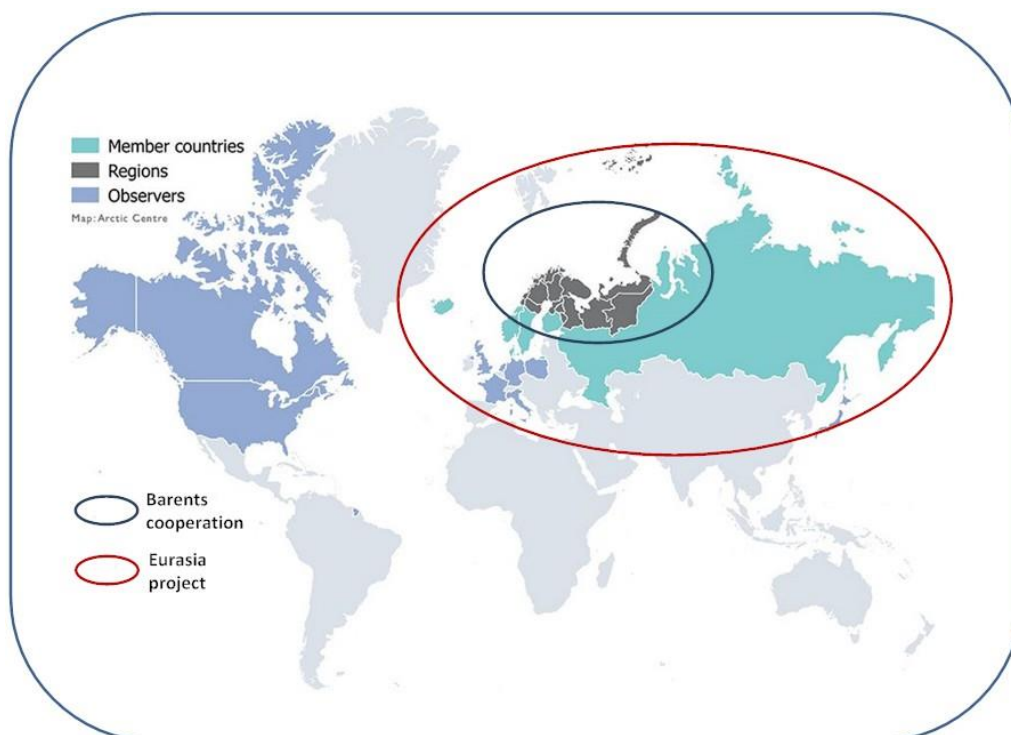
#### Background:

The Barents cooperation stands as a model of successful economic, cultural and other in recent times. Despite tensions between Western countries and the Russian Federation, dialogue in this area has been maintained and supported by different involved stakeholders.

Under the sponsorship of several cooperation mechanism (i.e. Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Arctic Council, bilateral agreements and so on), the growing dynamics in this area led to significant improvement in term of business development and infrastructures. In this whole framework, cross-bordering cooperation appears to be key factor for this march of progress in the region for 25 years.

Furthermore, the Barents region may be described as a space for innovation in term of social and economic change as well as for implementing new technologies.

As a result, the Barents cooperation may loom as a positive example for digging further this dynamics toward the more ambitious economic project in Eurasia.



**Approach:**

Firstly, to understand the dynamics in the Barents region, a compelling review of cooperation framework has been proceeded through formal agreements, organized meetings, and stakeholders' statements.

Secondly, it runs through realities of this cooperation via infrastructure development, growing business opportunities and human interaction in the area. According to both national and local policy shaping and governance, the Barents region is boosted through concrete business projects on various business segments including energy, fisheries and tourism.

Based on an interdisciplinary approach, the Barents cooperation encompasses various dynamics in term of human geography, economics, legal issues and governance. As for now, this research intends to grasp a new stage of prospective.

**Conclusions:**

The main idea of this research is to demonstrate how the Barents region overlaps complex issues but succeeded somehow to figure out and maintain positive dynamics linking various human communities.

As underlined Professor Michael Byers, the post-Crimean world did not cut off all sphere of cooperation between Russia and Western countries (Byers, 2017). Somehow, some of these cooperation demonstrate their resilience and the willingness of involved stakeholders to maintain them flourishing. In the case of the Barents region, local stakeholders pursue a political project started 25 years ago and shows concrete results. Infrastructures related to transportation (like bridge or airport) are more than symbol and pictures, these physical structures allow new long-term economic and social perspectives in the Arctic region.

Besides, it aims to expose in a systemic analysis the uniqueness of the region regarding the cooperation framework and the positive outcomes provided by these specific features. However, the Barents region may rise as a stunning example in which Russia encounters a resilient and efficient model for its other regional cross-border interface. In this regard, the success of the Eurasian development project will depend on this key vector as infrastructure connection is a key vector for this economic integration.

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