



BARENTSKULT

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT

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THE BARENTS CO-OPERATION

The Barents Euro-Arctic Co-operation was established in 1993 by the signing of the "Kirkenes Declaration", which drew up the aim and guidelines for a regional co-operation in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The co-operation includes both regional and central participants. At the regional level there is an extensive co-operation in areas like business, education and research, environmental and health related issues, culture and indigenous peoples' affairs, as well as a practical "people-to people" co-operation, which involves many NGOs and individual persons.

BARENTSKULT – BACKGROUND

" The Government will strengthen cultural cooperation with Russia in the north, and aims to draw up a specific strategy for this purpose. Cultural contact promotes understanding and communication. Cultural activities create meeting places and networks, build trust and can often lead to cooperation in other areas."

The Norwegian Government's High North Strategy

"Increased focus on cultural co-operation in the High North, and especially with Russia, will be important. The extensive public involvement, which characterizes the co-operation in the Barents Region, will be strengthened through the Government's arts promotion programme "Kulturløftet". The cultural programme BarentsKult is an important co-operation project between the three northernmost Norwegian counties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs"

National budget (2008-2009)

The cultural field is characterized as one of the undoubted successes of the Barents Co-operation. That people meet in cultural contexts, and not least that people in the Barents Region learn to know each other's culture, is valuable, also in order to achieve success in other areas of co-operation.

The Barents region has a rich cultural life and several creative and talented cultural workers and artists. Through 15 years of co-operation the cultural networks in the region have grown strong in competence and knowledge. At the same time, the Barents Region and the cross-border co-operation which goes on there, has to an increasing extent become an exciting destination for artists who belong to other parts of the world. The Barents Region is more and more often used as an arena for development of new cross-border contemporary art and culture, often in an interaction between artists from the region and artists from the outside world.

Cultural entrepreneurship is a concept, which currently gains growing attention and importance in Europe. To an increasing extent, the establishment of micro-businesses within the cultural economy plays a key role in creating employment. To actively support cultural activities and business based on culture can contribute to regional development. Cultural activities and a rich business life with many companies that base their income on culture can serve as an important tool in the branding and marketing of the region in the outside world. Cultural activities and business based on culture can make a region creative and dynamic, which again contributes to a development where the region attracts new business establishments; because of the region's attractiveness companies may choose to set up business here, and not elsewhere. Culture can thus contribute to the creation of more working-places, both fully and partially financed through public sources and purely commercial ones. The Barents cooperation should thus focus on the economic value of the region's cultural richness, and the possibilities that exist for the development of creative art in the region. BarentsKult could be seen as a long-term investment which could, not least indirectly, contribute to the creation of future working-places in the north. At the same time, it is an important contribution to the development of the civil society in Russia to give Russian artists in the north the opportunity to participate in joint projects with foreign artists.

FINANCING SOURCES FOR BARENTSKULT

BarentsKult is financed by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Finnmark County Administration, Troms County Administration, Nordland County Administration, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs.

MAIN AIM

BarentsKult's aim is to stimulate to co-operation between professional artists and cultural players in the Barents Region, and to create international meeting places for the development of new art.

TARGET GROUP

The target group is: performing Norwegian and Russian artists, as well as professional cultural institutions and players.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applicants must be Norwegian public institution, private company, foundation, organisation or private person. In multilateral projects the application must come from the Norwegian partner, even though the lead project responsible comes from another nation.

TARGET AREAS

Based on an assessment of the main challenges of the cultural industries in the region at present, the following types of activities have been chosen as eligible for support:

- international co-operation projects focusing on the Barents Region within the fields of art and culture
- development of cultural arenas
- cultural business development
- festivals (with a potential to develop working places)

CRITERIA FOR SUPPORT

- The project must be in harmony with the main aim of BarentsKult.
- The project must be realistic and give concrete results.
- The project must be cross-border in its nature.
- Grants can be given to both bilateral (Norwegian-Russian) and multilateral (multinational) projects and activities which include participants from the Barents Region. In multilateral projects there must be both Norwegian and Russian participants.
- BarentsKult can support a project for up to 3 years. Support is given for 1 year at a time.
- The project's primary activities must take place in the Barents Region. Activities that are realized in the Russian part of the Barents Region are given priority.
- The project can receive up to 70% support from BarentsKult. Applicants are expected to obtain co-financing from other sources or to contribute with at least 30% own capital.

Examples of costs/activities that can NOT be covered

- Investments cannot be covered unless it constitutes less than 20% of the total application sum.
- Costs in connection with participation from Finland, Sweden and other nations cannot be covered.

- Costs in connection with marketing of goods or services.
- Research.
- Sports activities.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The following application deadlines apply to BarentsKult: 1 February and 1 September.

The application form can be received at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, or downloaded at the Secretariat's homepage, www.barents.no. The application must be in Norwegian or English.

Applications must be submitted on the application form, and sent both electronically and by regular mail. Complementary information can be attached, and this must also be sent electronically. Applicants will receive an e-mail from the Barents Secretariat to confirm the receipt of the application.

The institutions which take part in the financing of BarentsKult are represented in an expert committee, which works out recommendations in the application treatment process. The Barents Secretariat's board makes the final decisions for each project application. The board has application decision meetings around 8 weeks after the deadlines have passed, and the applicants will receive letters about the board's decision soon after the meetings.

If the project gets support, the applicant will receive a grant letter where the different grant criteria and conditions are listed. If the application is rejected the applicant will receive a rejection letter.

PAYMENTS – ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS – INSIGHT

Payments of grants are normally retrogressive, i.e. coverage of expenses that have been incurred. Advance payments (up to 75%) are made only upon application for this by the project manager. No payments can be made until the Barents Secretariat has received the grant acceptance and confirmed financing from the project manager.

Before the final payment of the grant is made, an auditor-certified closing account and final reporting form must be sent to the Barents Secretariat. It is the recipient's responsibility to ensure that an auditor is familiarised with the guidelines for the grant.

Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of the Regulations for the National Budget and Accounts, the Barents Secretariat and the Office of the Auditor General reserve the right of access to implement controls to ensure that the grant is being used in accordance with the conditions.

RECIPIENT'S SPECIAL OBLIGATIONS

Changes in the project description, budget and other fundamental conditions shall be reported to the Barents Secretariat without unnecessary delay.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Grants are given for the current budget year. The final reporting form and closing accounts must be received and the funds paid within the end of the next two years.

Grants allocated for one budget year for projects that span over several years are not automatically granted for subsequent years. Continuation of the project is based on a new application and an assessment of the results achieved.

Project reports are in basis public documents. Where nothing else has been agreed in advance, the project shall be available to the public.

In case of clearly unsatisfactory administration of the grant or lack of implementation, the Barents Secretariat has the right to withdraw the grant with immediate effect. The project manager shall be warned in writing of this and in such cases is given a minimum deadline of 14 days to correct the conditions or account for the reasons why such a situation has arisen.