

Preparation meeting for the Barents Freeway Project in Oulu 18.8.2011 (Kolarctic ENPI)

Present: Hannu Heikkinen (Kainuu), Tuomo Palokangas, Eija Salmi, Roman Gokkoev (Pohjois-Pohjanmaa), Bo-Erik Ekblom (Norrbotten), Mikael Bergström (Västerbotten)

The preparation of a Kolarctic ENPI project application was discussed and the following issues were agreed:

1. The project application will be prepared and submitted before 14.11.2011 according to the comments made by intended project partners (see attachment)
2. The project partners are Norrbotten and Västerbotten from Sweden, Lapland, Oulu region and Kainuu as an associate and Lapland's and Oulu region's ELY centres from Finland, Nordland, Troms and Finnmark from Norway. Also Murmansk, Arkangelsk regions and Republics of Karelia and Komi will be invited to the project.
3. The duration of the project will be 24 months starting from summer 2012 and ending in summer 2014. The proposed project budget is max. 1,4 million euro, with co-financing of 140 thousand euro divided between 7 Nordic regions (i.e. max. 20 thousand euro per region including financing of preparation of the project application). The share of ELY centres' co-financing will be clarified separately. The max. amount of financing from the programme is 90%.
4. The project will update the existing national and regional transport strategies in the Barents region and combine on their basis the Barents transport strategy. The project will focus on the development of aviation, border crossing and seaport cooperation inside the Barents region. In addition case studies will be implemented (incl. small-scale investments needed for organization of air transportation for passengers and the development of airports especially in Russia). The cross-border railway connection through Vartius will be studied according to the wish of the Russian partners.
5. A consultant will be hired at a maximal price of 14 thousand euro to prepare the project application. The payment will be divided between 7 Nordic regions (max. 2.000 euro per region). Lapland's ELY centre will act as a Lead partner for the project.
6. The draft project application should be available for comments by the end of September and it will be presented to the Barents Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics in Kiruna in October coordinated with the Barents Regional Council meeting.
7. The agreed working name of the project is "Barents Freeway".