



Northern
Dimension

WE ARE THE NORTH.

NORTHERN DIMENSION





THE RIGHT DIRECTION. NORTH.

The Northern Dimension (ND) is a joint policy of four equal partners: the European Union (EU), the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland. It was initiated in 1999 and renewed in 2006.

The ND policy aims at supporting stability, wellbeing and sustainable development in the region through practical cooperation. The Northern Dimension operates through four partnerships on the environment, public health and wellbeing, transport and logistics, and culture.

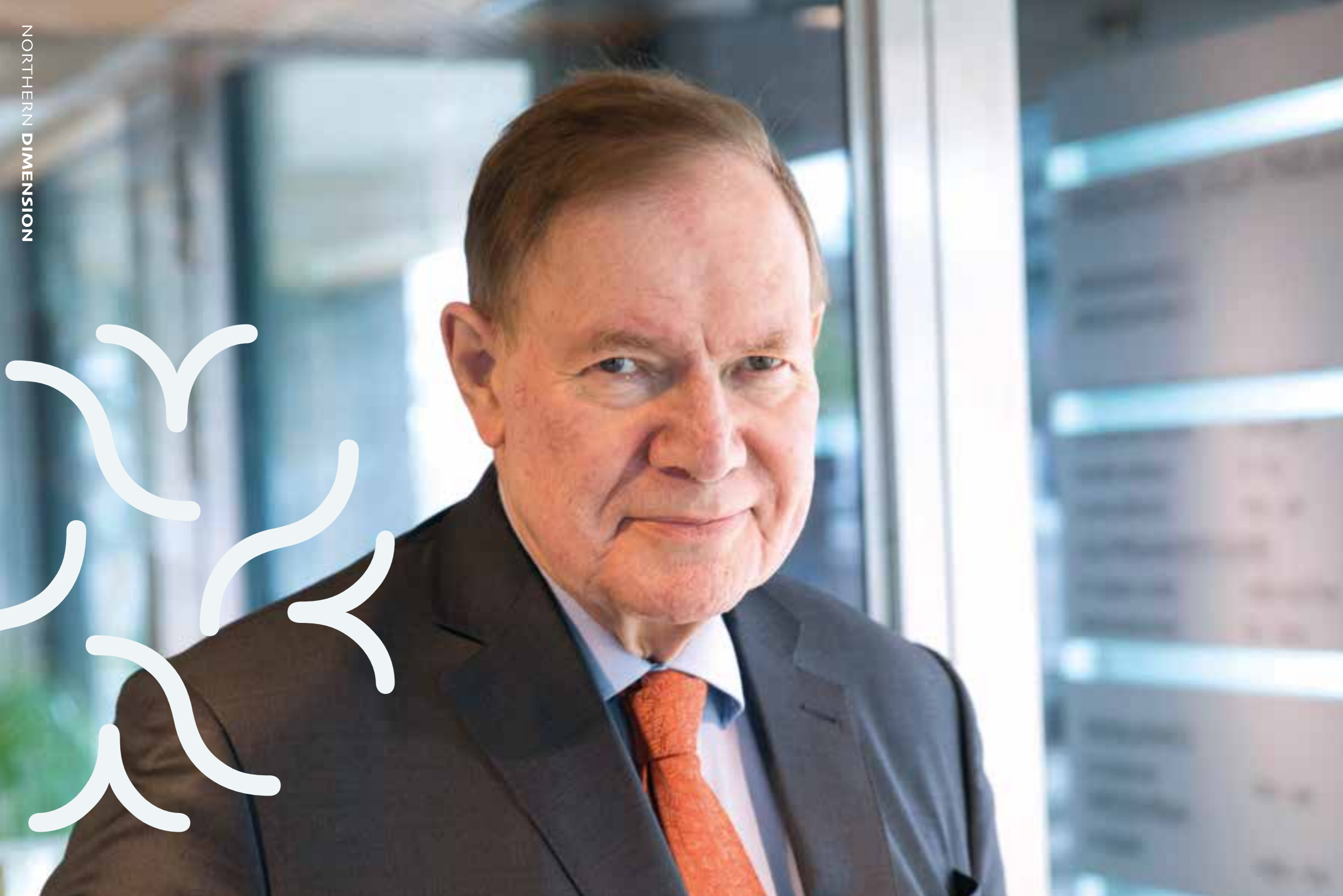
This book provides the reader with an insight into the history, key accomplishments and future of the Northern Dimension. The implementation of the book was made possible by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and it was prepared by European Movement Finland.

The authors of this book would like to thank everyone who participated in the creation of this book.

We wish you pleasant moments with the Northern Dimension.



INITIATED 22 YEARS AGO.
STILL GROWING AND DEVELOPING.



PAAVO LIPPONEN

NORTHERN DIMENSION

When Finland and Sweden joined the European Union in 1995, the Union gained a geographical Northern Dimension. Finland's aspiration to create a northern policy for the European Union meant that Russia and the entire Arctic Region had to be considered. From these points of view, Finland launched an initiative in 1997 for the EU's Northern Dimension policy. Gradually it has developed into a multifaceted and equal partnership between the European Union, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland.

The strength of the Northern Dimension is its pragmatism. The four Northern Dimension partnerships cooperate in areas in which collaboration is in the interest of all parties. The Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership has resulted in significant financial investments in the water treatment plants of Russia and Belarus, as well as nuclear waste treatment in northwestern Russia. The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-Being brings authorities together to prevent communicable diseases. The Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics addresses the development of northern and Eurasian networks. The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture promotes entrepreneurship alongside cultural awareness.

Northern Dimension cooperation extends from northwest Russia to Greenland, and from the North Pole to the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. It complements the work of the Council of Baltic Sea States and the Arctic Council and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Funding comes from the European Union, the Russian Federation and EU Member States, as well as from international financial institutions. The Northern Dimension projects, especially the environmental investments, are among the most significant concrete achievements in northern cooperation.

Climate change and nuclear safety are major challenges in Northern Dimension cooperation. Furthermore, a project aiming to reduce black carbon emissions in the Arctic region, initiated by President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö, is also advanced through Northern Dimension policy. Finland is active in all four partnerships, and we are happy to see that the Northern Dimension has become an established part of Europe's main cooperation structures.

Paavo Lipponen
Former Prime Minister of Finland

JARI VILÉN

THE HIDDEN GEM OF COOPERATION

The European Union's Northern Dimension policy, adopted 20 years ago on the initiative of Finland and Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen, is a tool for promoting European regional stability and security, and its value has only increased, especially with the tension in EU–Russia relations. The strength and attractiveness of the Northern Dimension lies in the equal partnership between the European Union, Russia, Norway and Iceland.

The value of regional cooperation has further increased as a result of recent events. It is even more important to work in such a way that cooperation in the region is shared in order to increase stability and predictability while maintaining our own values and principles.

In regional cooperation, despite higher-level tensions, the focus can be on concrete cooperation and action at the practical level. These formations, such as the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Northern Dimension policy, were created in the post-Cold War decade of easing in the 1990s and very often on Finland's initiative or with its con-

tribution. Now these regional councils can show that they are sustainable tools in all circumstances and especially necessary during tensions.

As you can read in this book, environmental issues are still at the heart of our Northern Dimension. The Northern Dimension area is a kind of laboratory for the earth; changes appear here first and the effects are the greatest. President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö has said, quoting him freely: "If we lose the nature of the north, we lose the world."

We should be pleased that, a few decades ago, such a model and structure of cooperation was wisely created, the value and importance of which are growing again. Today, the emergence of these structures would hardly be possible. We should treasure this sometimes hidden gem of our cooperation and let it grow and flourish in our common interest.

Jari Vilén
Finnish Ambassador for Barents and the Northern Dimension



NORTHERN DIMENSION – MORE THAN JUST POLICY

The Northern Dimension is a common policy of the European Union, Russia, Norway and Iceland that provides proven instruments and platforms to tackle common global and regional challenges jointly.

It is a very potent tool that covers the European North, including the Arctic, Barents and Baltic Sea regions and northwest Russia. During its 20 years of operation, the Northern Dimension has provided concrete solutions to many of the acute problems the European North is facing.

Now it is time to talk about the future.

The world is changing rapidly. Climate, technology and demography are transforming societies in the world and in the European North. European Movement Finland regards the Northern Dimension as a way to address these new challenges and opportunities emerging in areas such as environment, health, transport and global networks. We must cooperate across national and regional boundaries if we are to tackle these challenges.

Global warming and the loss of environmental diversity are amongst the most pressing threats affecting the fragile nature of the European North.

The Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership has an impressive track record of funding projects such as the wastewater treatment plants in northwest Russia and in Belarus that have significantly reduced pollution of the Baltic Sea. Furthermore, the nuclear and hazardous waste treatment projects at Andreeva Bay in Russia have reduced radiological and environmental risks in the Arctic. These concrete projects have produced outstanding results in just one partnership.

Past achievements are a proof of concept, but there is much work ahead of us if we are serious about developing the European North sustainably. That is why European Movement Finland took part in the creation of this book and urges the four equal Northern Dimension partners to commit to the partnerships and the ongoing and future projects.

In these trying times, practical ground-level cooperation is truly called for.

Aku Aarva
Executive Director
European Movement Finland



EUROPEAN MOVEMENT FINLAND

European Movement Finland is part of European Movement International – the largest pan-European network of pro-European organisations, operating in 39 countries. European Movement Finland consists of approximately 3500 individual members and dozens of community members, and aims to promote civil debate about European and EU politics in Finland. In addition, European Movement Finland actively works with Finnish institutions, organisations, associations and political parties in various fields of politics, including in elections. European Movement Finland is building a better Europe.

HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN DIMENSION

The significance of the Northern and Baltic regions in the European Union increased after the Baltic States regained their independence in 1991, Finland and Sweden joined the EU in 1995, and Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland joined the EU in 2004. The length of the common border between the European Union and the Russian Federation increased considerably and it became evident that the region's challenges and opportunities should be faced together in a constructive and positive manner.

The solution was presented by Finland in 1997 through the Northern Dimension initiative, which aimed to advance partnership between the European Union, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland. First made public by the then Prime Minister of Finland, Paavo Lipponen, the initiative highlighted the importance of EU external relations and the peace, stability and development of the European North. The Northern Dimension initiative provided the future partners with a pathway towards European cooperation in a post-Cold War era.





PATH TOWARDS THE NORTHERN DIMENSION

- 1997** ▶ In December 1997, the Northern Dimension Initiative was presented in the Luxembourg European Council.
- 1998** ▶ In December 1998, the Vienna European Council adopted a Commission Communication on a Northern Dimension for the policies of the Union.
- 1999** ▶ In spring 1999, the Cologne European Council adopted Guidelines for the Implementation of the Northern Dimension.
In November 1999, the Finnish EU Presidency held a Ministerial Conference on the Northern Dimension. An inventory of current activities under the Northern Dimension was adopted.
In December 1999, the Helsinki European Council invited the Commission to prepare a Northern Dimension Action Plan (NDAP).
- 2000** ▶ In June 2000, the Feira European Council adopted the first Action Plan for the Northern Dimension.
- 2001** ▶ In April 2001, the Swedish EU Presidency and the European Commission held the second Ministerial Conference on the Northern Dimension in Luxembourg.
In June 2001, the Gothenburg European Council endorsed a Full Report on Northern Dimension Policies that outlined ideas and proposals for the continuation of the initiative.

- 2002** ▶ In August 2002, a Ministerial Meeting in Greenland discussed the guidelines for the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, which were adopted in Luxembourg in October 2002.
- 2003** ▶ In June 2003, the European Commission proposed the second NDAP, which was adopted at the European Council meeting in Brussels in October 2003.
- 2004** ▶ The second NDAP covered the period 2004–2006.
The first Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held in Brussels in October 2004.
- 2005** ▶ On 21 November 2005, the Northern Dimension Ministerial Meeting held in Brussels unanimously approved the Guidelines for the Development of a Political Declaration and Policy Framework for Northern Dimension policy. These guidelines acted as the basis for the new Northern Dimension policy. The parties agreed that the Northern Dimension is a shared policy and that it will be the regional expression in the North of Europe.
- 2006–2007** ▶ The political declaration and the policy framework document became the basis for the Northern Dimension from 2007 onward.
The European Union, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland adopted the new Northern Dimension policy Framework and Political Declaration for a permanent Northern Dimension policy.

WHAT IS THE NORTHERN DIMENSION?

The Northern Dimension (ND) is a joint policy of four equal partners: the European Union (EU), the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland. It was initiated in 1999, during Finland's first EU Presidency, and renewed in 2006. The Northern Dimension was designed as a joint policy of the whole European Union, not only of its northern Member States, and the support it has received throughout the EU Member States is a testament to the commitment of the whole Union.

The ND policy supports stability, wellbeing and sustainable development in the region by means of practical cooperation. It covers a wide range of sectors, such as the environment, nuclear safety, health, energy, transport, logistics, promotion of trade and investment, research, education and culture.

The Northern Dimension builds on and strengthens the existing regional cooperation in the European North. It covers the Arctic, Barents and Baltic Sea regions, and northwest Russia.



COMBINING FORCES FROM REYKJAVIK TO ST. PETERSBURG.

The Partnerships flexibly redirect their thematic focus on new emerging challenges and opportunities according to priorities on the Partners' agenda.

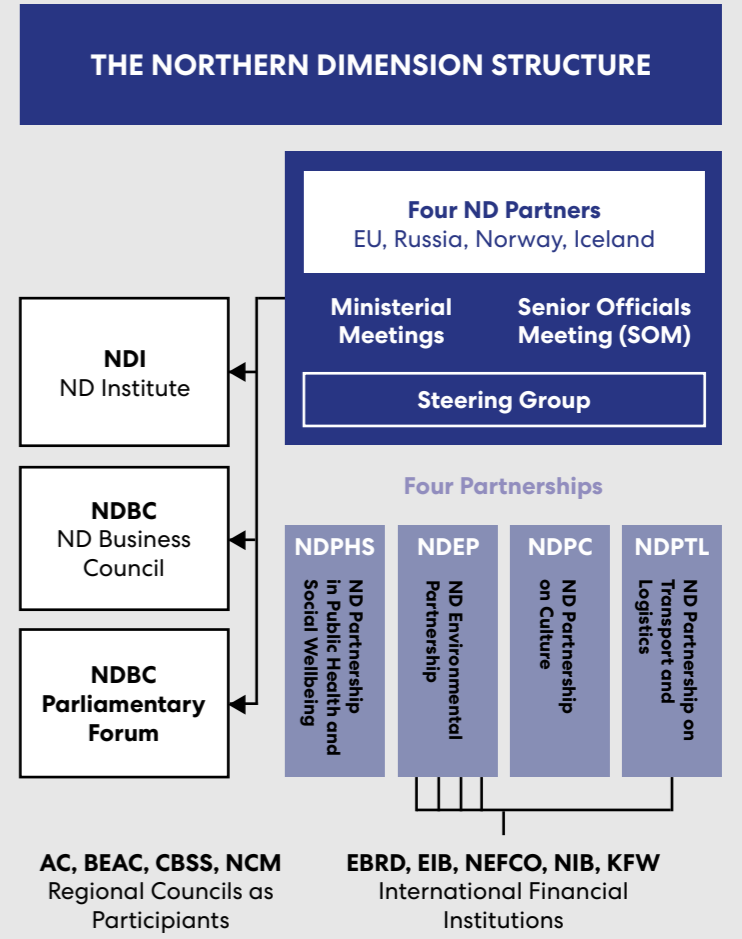
- The ND Environment Partnership (NDEP) initiates projects on minimising black carbon emissions.
- The ND Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-Being (NDPHS) works on healthy ageing and the societal implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ND Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) focuses on the digitalisation of transport and emission-free transportation.
- The ND Partnership on Culture (NDPC) catalyses new business opportunities at the crossroads of creative industries and other sectors of the economy.
- The ND Business Council (NDBC) facilitates cooperation in emerging business areas such as the circular economy.
- The ND Institute (NDI) funnels research knowledge to decision-making and provides multi-stakeholder platforms for the co-creation of solutions to acute societal challenges.

The success of the ND is based on its pragmatic approach, which:

- Builds on existing cooperation and people-to-people networks;
- Focuses on concrete projects that address global challenges through local and regional action.

The ND is a truly common policy that builds on equal cooperation between its partners, in which the receiving countries cover most of the cost of ND projects.

The ND is an efficient instrument for financing large-scale projects. ND partner donations catalyse funding from international financiers.



NORTHERN DIMENSION BUSINESS COUNCIL (NDBC) | EST. 2009

Connects businesses in the ND area with each other and with governmental decision-makers via annual Business Forums in St. Petersburg and thematic working groups. The ND Business Council's Working Group for ecology initiated the establishment of the Water Excellency Center network.



NORTHERN DIMENSION INSTITUTE (NDI) | EST. 2009

The Northern Dimension Institute is a university network and think tank that serves the thematic partnerships and policymaking with evidence-based knowledge and raises awareness about the ND in the wider society. The NDI's is tasked with knowledge exchange, and dissemination platforms include annual ND Future Forums, NDI Policy Briefs and NDI Background Papers.



THE PARTNERSHIPS OF THE NORTHERN DIMENSION



FOUR PARTNERSHIPS

The ND policy aims at supporting stability, wellbeing and sustainable development in the region through practical cooperation. The Northern Dimension operates through four partnerships on the environment, public health and wellbeing, transport and logistics and culture.



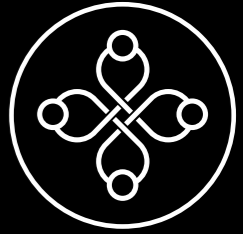
ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP
(NDEP) | EST. 2001



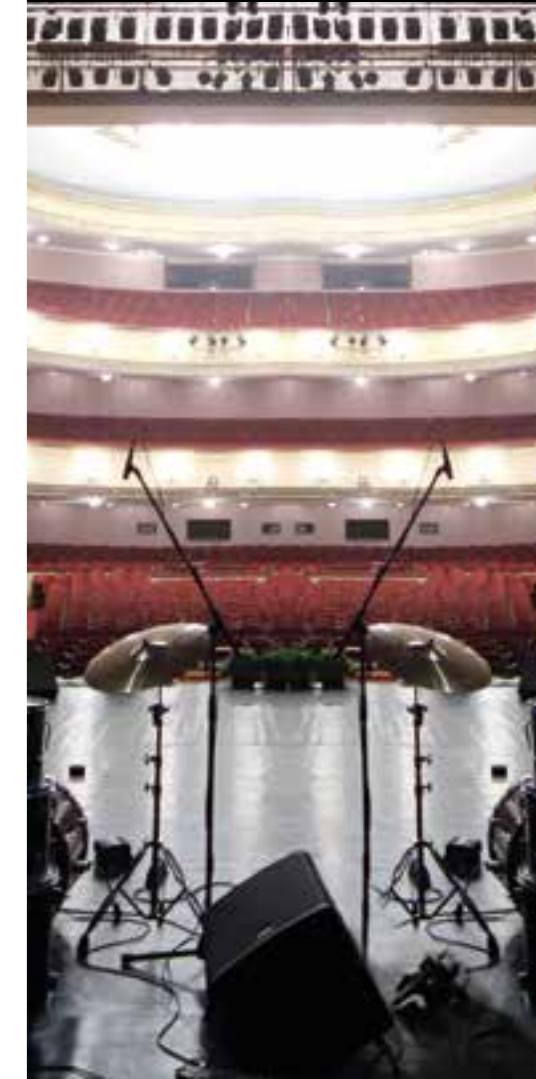
PARTNERSHIP ON TRANSPORT AND
LOGISTICS (NDPTL) | EST. 2009



PARTNERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND
SOCIAL WELLBEING (NDPHS) | EST. 2003



PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE
(NDPC) | EST. 2010





NORTHERN DIMENSION ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

The Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) addresses issues relevant to the region's environment: the protection of water bodies (the Baltic Sea and Barents Sea), nuclear safety, waste management and district heating projects. The NDEP aims to increase and coordinate funding for important environmental projects with cross-border effects in the ND area.

The NDEP was conceptualised in the Gothenburg EU Summit in 2001, after which the established Steering Group defined 12 priority projects in northwest Russia and a strategic approach to finance nuclear safety projects. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

(EBRD) was charged with administering the funds and principles for cooperation between relevant stakeholders, like the Russian authorities, including the Federal Atomic Energy Agency (Rosatom).

In January 2002, the Rules of the NDEP Support Fund were agreed by the EBRD Board of Directors and the Fund became operational. The work of NDEP was further endorsed in November 2006 when the European Union, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland adopted the new Northern Dimension policy Framework and Political Declaration for a permanent Northern Dimension policy.

SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS

The wastewater treatment plant projects of the ND Environmental Partnership in northwest Russia and in Belarus have significantly reduced pollution of the Baltic Sea. The NDEP projects on nuclear and hazardous waste treatment, for example on the nuclear fleet support ship Lepsa and at the spent fuel storage facility in Andreeva Bay, have considerably reduced radiological and environmental risks in the Arctic. Today, the NDEP is also a financial structure that facilitates implementation of projects to minimise black carbon emissions in the European North.

NDEP.ORG/





ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Northern Dimension area boasts vast natural resources, unique biodiversity in its seas and rivers, and some of the last untouched European forests. However environmental degradation is causing increasing concern. The low temperatures of two of the region's seas, the Baltic and the Barents, make them particularly sensitive to environmental degradation and this is exacerbated further by low salinity and shallow waters in the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea is threatened by eutrophication, which reduces the oxygen in the water and damages the health and diversity of indigenous fish, plant and animal populations. Phosphorus and nitrogen from poorly treated wastewater and agricultural waste has led to excessive growth of algae in the seawaters, which deprives other living organisms of oxygen when it decomposes, producing marine dead zones. The Baltic Sea has changed over the years from a clear-water marine environment to a sea with noxious algal growth in most parts. The narrow strait of water of the Gulf of Finland – shared by Finland, Estonia and Russia – has been particularly affected.

For projects concerning the Baltic Sea, the NDEP cooperates with the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) and its Baltic Sea Action Plan aimed at eliminating the remaining hotspots that have cross-border effects. The NDEP closely follows the activities of the Northern Dimension initiative established in 2006 by the European Commission, Russia, Norway and Iceland and complements the new EU Baltic Sea Strategy. For projects regarding the Barents Sea, the NDEP works in conjunction with the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.



ST. PETERSBURG SOUTHWEST WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Pollution flowing into the Baltic Sea has increased dramatically in the last hundred years, due to wastewater discharges from fast-growing cities, industry and agriculture. Due to the nature of the Baltic Sea, with limited water flow in and out of the Sea, the nutrient load in the water body has increased to unsustainable levels.

At the mouth of the River Neva, the beautiful city of St. Petersburg, with over five million inhabitants, was the main source of pollution of the Baltic Sea for decades. The rapidly growing city was struggling with wastewater treatment – in the 1970s, the wastewater was flowing freely through the Neva into the Baltic Sea. In the 1990s, 33 per cent of the wastewater was flowing untreated into the sea.



The opening of the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant of St. Petersburg (SWWWTP) in 2005 was a massive step forward in solving the wastewater treatment difficulties of the large city. Since then, the nutrient load passing into the Baltic Sea from the metropolitan area has decreased significantly.

The NDEP was part of the concerted international effort to improve the environmental situation in the Gulf of Finland by investing in the SWWWTP. This has been one of the highest-priority projects of the NDEP, as in recent years about 1,220,000 m³ per day of untreated wastewater has been flowing through the River Neva into the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea. The SWWWTP was the first project to be completed within the framework of the NDEP and, with goodwill and transparency, it managed to attract over EUR 50 million in donor funding from Finland, Sweden, the European Commission and NDEP.

The SWWWTP presented a unique case for unprecedented international cooperation and client dedication that delivered excellent

results for the local population and the environment of the Baltic Sea. The plant now complies with HELCOM standards and treats 330,000 cubic metres of wastewater per day, previously discharged untreated into the River Neva. It removes 90 per cent of phosphorus and 70–80 per cent of nitrogen from the wastewater load. The city's capacity for treating wastewater has increased to 99 per cent, which has resulted in improved water quality in the Gulf of Finland.

The project has won international awards such as the Swedish Baltic Sea Award in 2005, the EU European Business Award for the Environment in 2006 and the Russian Federation Quality Prize in 2006. The positive results have enabled further investments in the St. Petersburg wastewater treatment system, and after the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant was opened, over EUR 1 billion has been invested in further improvements.

NDEP.ORG/PROJECTS/ST-PETERSBURG-SOUTH-WEST-WASTEWATER-TREATMENT-PLANT/

<p>NDEP</p> <p>NDEP: EUR 40 million Other IFIs: EUR 220 million Total investments over: EUR 860 million</p>	<p>Since 2001, the NDEP has worked with SUE Vodokanal St Petersburg on wastewater treatment.</p>	<p>Significant reduction</p> <p>51 % of total phosphorus</p> <p>Reduction of phosphorus flowing into the Baltic Sea from NDEP financed projects (Neva river basin) in Russia, including St Petersburg</p>
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AT A GLANCE

Sector: Water and waste treatment
Client: Nordvod
Grant agreement signed: 4 December 2003
Project status: Completed
Implementing IFI: EBRD

FINANCING				
National Funds	IFI Loans	NDEP Grant	Other Loans	Other Grants
Vodokanal EUR 6,172,000 NEFCO EUR 4,032,811 Consortium EUR 8,163,760	NIB EUR 45,000,000 EIB EUR 16,130,000 EBRD EUR 35,450,000	Investment EUR 5,800,000	Vodokanal (SIP) EUR 4,000,000 Vodokanal EUR 15,000,000 Swedfund EUR 4,000,000 Finnfund EUR 4,000,000	SIDA EUR 11,000,000 FMoE EUR 10,000,000 EU TACIS EUR 24,000,000
TOTAL EUR 192,748,571				



NUCLEAR CHALLENGES

Spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in northwest Russia, mainly generated by the Russian Northern Fleet, present a legacy of dangerous environmental hazards on an international scale. The Barents Sea area is the largest repository of nuclear waste in the world. Existing facilities for the management of nuclear waste are obsolete and fully utilised, while some leak radioactive material into the environment. Current facilities were not designed to support the gigantic task of decommissioning the ageing Soviet nuclear fleet and so efforts must be directed towards radically improving the way accumulated waste is managed as well as facilitating the present and future decommissioning and de-fuelling of nuclear-propelled vessels.

The Russian Federation has 250 submarines, warships and icebreakers containing over 450 naval nuclear reactors. The size of the nuclear fleet has been reduced, and around 140 submarines as well as surface ships, support and maintenance vessels were withdrawn from service in the northwestern region of Russia. The result is significant amounts of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste accumulation in poor storage conditions in the region. This causes considerable concern about risk to workers, local populations and the environment.

The Partnership's nuclear window has become a major multilateral initiative in dealing with nuclear waste management in northwest Russia. Its focus is on the Kola Peninsula, Archangelsk and Murmansk regions, which constitute the largest repository of nuclear waste in the world. The NDEP carries forward the work of the Contact Expert Group of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Established in 1996, the Contact Expert Group is an international specialist forum for consultation on principles and practice for nuclear waste management in Russia.



DECOMMISSIONING OF THE LEPSE FTB

The dry cargo ship Lapse was built in 1934 and converted into a floating technical base in 1961. Until 1981, it supported the refuelling of Russia's nuclear icebreakers. Since 1981, Lapse has been used for storing used nuclear fuel and radioactive waste. In 1988 Lapse was decommissioned.

The vessel, laid up in Kola Bay near Murmansk, contained two storage tanks for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from icebreakers, with 639 spent fuel assemblies (SFAs) on board. A considerable amount of high and intermediate-level liquid radwaste (LRW) is stored in the SNF storage tank tubes, in special tanks and in the cooling circuit.

The decommissioning of Lapse was identified as an important task 20 years ago and the work was initiated by the Murmansk Shipping Company (MSCo), but it was abandoned in 1994 when funds ran out. Lapse was then brought to the attention of the international community and received great support from the European Commission, NEFCO and the governments of Norway and France.

In 1996, the project to deal with Lapse was included in the European Union's TACIS programme (the CIS technical assistance programme), with funding allocated for the inspection of the used fuel.

In 2008, the initial executive grant agreement (GIS) was concluded for the disposal of the Lapse, the recipient of which was LC NFC, with the EBRD as the administrator. The aim of the project was to improve the radiation situation and eliminate serious environmental hazards in the region by removing used nuclear fuel and radioactive waste from the Lapse and sending it for reprocessing or temporary storage.



After 2011, with funding from Russia's federal target programme (Ensuring Nuclear and Radiation Safety for 2008 and for the Period until 2015), a comprehensive radiation survey of the vessel was undertaken, and preparatory work began. This included docking, partial conversion of the ship's hull, removing some radioactive material, decontamination, and installation of additional equipment. Lapse was then towed to the Nerpa Shipyard in 2012.

All spent nuclear fuel from the Lapse has been safely and successfully removed. The last of six shipments funded through NDEP was completed in July 2020 and the final spent fuel rods held in the caissons of the facility were removed with Russian Federation Funding in May 2021.

The total cost of decommissioning the Lapse was over €53m financed through the Nuclear Window of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership Support Fund, an international fund with contributions from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK, and managed by the EBRD.

The NDEP project built on the extensive cooperation of the international community and Russian experts from Rosatom, Nerpa Shipyard, Atomflot and MSCo. The successful completion of the projects was the culmination of over a decade of international collaboration to address the environmental hazard caused by Lapse. Its successful completion advances nuclear and radiological safety in the region, addressing a serious danger to the people and the environment of the Barents Sea region.

AT A GLANCE

Sector: Nuclear safety
Client: FCNRS
Grant agreement signed: 11 May 2011
Project status: Completed
Implementing IFI: EBRD

FINANCING

NDEP GRANT EUR 53,000,000

WITH ADDITIONAL BILATERAL RUSSIAN FUNDS



NORTHERN DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP ON TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

The Northern Dimension Partnership on Transportation and Logistics (NDPTL) aims to improve the major transport connections and logistics in the Northern Dimension region in order to stimulate sustainable economic growth at the local, regional and global level.

The NDPTL was conceptualised in the first Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the revised Northern Dimension in St. Petersburg in 2008. The major principles of the NDPTL were defined in the Naples High-Level Meeting in 2009. The emphasis in the future will be on digitalisation, automation and robotics as well as logistic solutions and acquisition of relevant research data.

In addition, green transport and the reduction of maritime transport emissions, as well as connecting Europe and Asia, are also priorities of the NDPTL.

Since its inception in 2012, the NDPTL Support Fund has funded nine projects with an average grant size in the order EUR 300,000. By providing funding for studies, planning and preparatory stages, these have accelerated the implementation of transport projects in the NDPTL area. The projects include developments in ports, sections of road and facilitating border crossings. Particularly successful examples include the Gdansk DCT project, comprising planning an extension of the Gdansk Deepwater Container Terminal which enabled the raising of EUR 290 million in financing for the investment. The NDPTL also serves as a regional forum for transport and logistics issues.



SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS

The ND Partnership on Transport and Logistics facilitated the planning phase of an extension of the Gdansk Deepwater Container Terminal (Gdansk DCT). Gdansk DCT has seen spectacular growth in traffic, fuelled by the fast growth of the Polish economy during the 21st century. A small NDPTL project developed the initial concepts, with which the consortium managed to obtain co-financing for the entire investment totalling EUR 290 million from a group of commercial and pro-development banks, including the EBRD.

Construction began in January 2015 and was completed in 2016. The extension of DCT Gdansk has enabled it to grow to one of the largest terminals in the Baltic Sea region with 15 million TEU of containers handled since the opening of the terminal in 2007. The terminal benefits the ND area both in terms of providing a gateway from Northern Europe to the Mediterranean as part of the Baltic-Adriatic Core Network Corridor as well as improving the links to the Far East.

AT A GLANCE

Grant beneficiary: DCT Gdansk S.A.
Country: Poland
Grant award decision: June 2014
Grant from NDPTL Support Fund: up to EUR 150,000

FINANCING

Project description:

The investment finances preparatory studies and planning for the expansion of the public deep-sea container terminal in Gdansk. The objective is to adapt the terminal's container-handling capacity.

Total project costs: EUR 860,000 (preparatory phase)



DEVELOPMENT OF THE LULEÅ IRON ORE PORT, SWEDEN

The project accomplished preparatory hydrographic surveys of the Malmporten (Swedish for 'iron ore port') project. This will consist of renewing the port infrastructure at the Port of Luleå, a key port for iron and steel industry raw materials in Europe, as well as a massive dredging operation in the fairways leading to the port. This includes deepening and modernising the main fairway, as well as an alternative, more sheltered, winter route. Combined, these investments will allow substantially larger ships to use the Port of Luleå, including during severe ice winters.

As a whole, Malmporten is one of the biggest infrastructure projects in Swedish history. The project will secure a flow of iron ore from mines in northern Sweden to steel industries elsewhere in Europe and worldwide.

The results of the global project will dramatically reduce unit costs. It also serves the environmental needs of the ND region, as the use of larger ships will lead to a reduction of the environmental impact per ton transported.

WWW.NDPTL.ORG



AT A GLANCE

Grant beneficiary: Luleå Hamn AB
Country: Sweden
Grant award decision: 2014
Grant from NDPTL Support Fund: up to EUR 700,000

FINANCING

Project description:
The investment financed preparatory hydrographic surveys of the global project which will consist of major improvements at the Port of Luleå as well as massive dredging of the fairways to the port to enable passage of substantially larger ships.

Total project costs: (ongoing)



IMPROVEMENT OF THE SAIMAA CANAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Saimaa Canal, an essential part of the traffic system in Eastern Finland, connects 3500 km of inland waterways to the Baltic Sea, serving transportation between Finland and Russia, but also transportation between much of Finland and the whole Baltic Sea area.

The project included plans and detailed designs of the Saimaa Canal electrical distribution and lightning systems, mechanical structures and machine rooms. The main objective of the project was to improve the canal, creating a safe and modern waterway connecting Finland, Russia and the Baltic Sea region.

WWW.NDPTL.ORG



AT A GLANCE

Grant beneficiary:
Finnish Transport Agency
Country: Finland
Grant award decision: November 2013
Grant from NDPTL Support Fund:
EUR 109,000

FINANCING

Project description:
The project provided a study of the technical requirements for the modernisation of the Saimaa Canal infrastructure in eastern Finland. The investment financed the planning and design of the canal's electrical distribution, lighting, mechanical structures and machine rooms.

Total project cost: EUR 248,000



NORTHERN DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-Being (NDPHS) is a networking platform for strengthening professional connections, sharing and co-creating knowledge, and developing joint activities in public health and social wellbeing.

The NDPHS was conceptualised at the Oslo Summit in 2003, and it operates in accordance with the Oslo declaration, with a mission to promote sustainable development of the European North by improving people's health and social wellbeing. It operates through seven Expert Groups, addressing the following themes: HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and associated infections, antimicrobial resistance, alcohol and substance use, non-communicable diseases, occupational health and safety, primary healthcare, prison health.

Overarching horizontal themes include active and healthy ageing, integrated care, mental health and digitalisation. Emergency response to the biggest health crisis of our time, the COVID-19 pandemic, falls

outside the mandate of the partnership. At the same time, the negative long-term effects of the pandemic on public health, which are starting to manifest themselves and will become more evident in the coming years, will be addressed by the NDPHS.

Promotion of the Health in All Policies and One Health approach is a long-standing priority of the partnership. We are aiming to strengthen collaboration across other sectors and across multiple levels to achieve better public health outcomes and to address the impacts of environmental factors and the climate crisis on people's health and wellbeing. One of the sectors with which the NDPHS is collaborating closely is arts and culture. In close cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC), the NDPHS is currently implementing a project, The Art of Staying Healthy, which aims to develop collaboration between the arts and health sectors and to pilot arts interventions – such as music, dance, theatre, photography, creative arts and design – aimed at increased health and wellbeing.



SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS

A well-established network of experts

The most precious asset of the partnership is the network of like-minded public health enthusiasts who facilitate mutual understanding, exchange of experience and best practices, and policy learning. The NDPHS values a practical and agile approach to working where all partners cooperate on an equal footing based on trust and respect. The NDPHS set-up and working methods are rather unique, as it comprises both experts – through its seven Expert Groups – and policy makers and politicians, therefore experts have a direct channel of communication with policy makers.

Creating and sharing knowledge

The NDPHS experts are producing a wealth of information that underpins national policy-making. Recent and prominent examples include a scientific project called the Northern Dimension Antimicrobial Resistance study, NoDARS, which examined the levels of antimicrobial resistance among healthy individuals. The outcomes of the project were used to review, adapt and develop the national guidelines of the participating countries. Another example is a study on potential years of life lost (PYLL) and a series of regional workshops on progress and analysis of the main causes of premature deaths in the Northern Dimension countries.

AgeFLAG and the Task Force on Active and Healthy Ageing

The NDPHS Task Force on Active and Healthy Ageing facilitates knowledge exchange about unmet needs among older population groups and develops actions to address these needs. Understanding of the health and social care needs of older people based on the different life paths they are on, rather than a simplistic division based solely on age, is long overdue and the partnership will contribute to filling this gap. Several areas for work have already been identified. These include the promotion of inter-generational dialogue, increasing positive public attitudes and reducing ageism and self-ageism, as well as promotion of inclusivity and the participation of older people in policy making.

The Task Force is a result of the Swedish Institute-funded AgeFLAG project, which mapped the needs for action in the field of active and healthy ageing.



More impact together by empowering Northern stakeholders (MITTENS)

The European Union co-funded MITTENS project comprises a comprehensive set of activities that involve all the NDPHS Expert Groups and contributes to the implementation of the NDPHS objectives in the strategic focus areas. The activities undertaken and planned include:

- Strengthening the knowledge base on the reasons for and consequences of antibiotic treatment among older adults.
- Establishing a network of local municipalities focused on preventive work to reduce harm caused by alcohol and drugs among youth (PALETT project), so that they can exchange experiences and learn from one another's approaches, activities and outcomes. This activity builds on the previously implemented NDPHS project Alcohol and Drug Prevention among Youth, ADPY.
- Exploring the issues related to the cannabis legalisation debate and the challenges of novel nicotine and tobacco products.
- Inventory of approaches to Latent Tuberculosis Infection in the ND countries – epidemiology, strategies, approaches and treatment options.
- Identifying the gaps and updating the core competency of occupational safety and health professionals in the changing world of work.
- Identification of best practices on organisational health literacy in the Northern Dimension area.

Promoting co-creation and inclusivity

The NDPHS strives to fundamentally and systematically revise modes of thinking and encourage the stepping out of silos towards co-creation that is inclusive across sectors and society. Having close ties with several of the regional networks and organisations, the NDPHS is well positioned for such a task. We pay particular attention to our organisation practising what we preach, and to being inclusive in our own work when discussing and proposing solutions aimed to strengthen health systems. We give the floor to patients and civil society representatives to have their voices heard. It is crucial to listen to the users, engage and understand them and co-design the solutions together, making extra effort to empower and involve people from marginalised and vulnerable groups in a meaningful way. As an example, NDPHS experts have embarked on a study aiming to identify and analyze the barriers to providing remote health and social services in our countries. Digitalisation of health and social services must be inclusive and not lead to more inequalities.

WWW.NDPHS.ORG



HOSTED BY **MS. KAROLINA MACKIEWICZ**

BETTER STANDARDS QUALITY OF LIFE & HEALTH

AIM FOR SOCIAL WELL-BEING

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR NDPHS STRATEGY

FOR **ELDERLY PEOPLE**



PLENARY SESSION 1

I DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

2010 **ELDERLY PEOPLE POPULATION** **X16**

2060 **OF EU** **X29**

PROF. JULIA MIKHAYLOVA

PROBLEMS OF ELDERLY PEOPLE

X2

LONELINESS, NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE, FEAR OF FUTURE

2020? X3-8

HIGHLY CRITICAL

AGEFLAG PROJECT

PURPOSE → BOOST COOPERATION AMONG THE BARRIERS LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

AGING → EX → HEALTH → ACTIVITY

Supported by **SI** SWEDISH INSTITUTE

RESULTS FROM ESTONIA-LATVIA-RUSSIA

SOLUTIONS

- REMOTE CONSULTANCY
- CARE FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT INSURANCE
- DECISION SUPPORT
- INCREASE COVID-19 TESTINGS
- SMARTPHONE APPS
- FAMILY SUPPORT

II FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF PHC FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

DR. CARINA TAKKILAINEN

BIRTH RATE ↓

ELDERLY PEOPLE ↑

HOW TO INTEGRATE

USE DIGITAL PATIENT CENTERED CARE WHO/EUROPE EPW UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE PROTECT ELDERLY PEOPLE TRAINING HCP

III LESSONS LEARNED PHC DURING COVID-19

DR. VALERY CHEENYAVSKY

GAPS & PITFALLS

QUEUE IN HOSPITALS	LESS SPECIALISTS	NOT EQUIPPED PHC
ELECTIVE SURGERIES	LESS PHC CONTACTS	PROCESSES POSTPONED

PLENARY SESSION 2

GROUP 1 | ENG

PRESENTED BY **MIKKO VIENONEN**

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

LEGAL REGULATIONS NEED IMPROVEMENT

PREPARE FOR VACCINE

COLLABORATE WITH DIFFERENT SECTORS

LEARN FROM HISTORY

GROUP 2 | RUS

PRESENTED BY **IRINA CHUKHRIENKO**

E-HEALTH IS NECESSARY

STUDY OTHER COUNTRIES' E-HEALTH

MOBILE APPS TO TRACK ELDERLY PEOPLE

POLITICAL ACTIONS NEEDED

WRAP-UP

POLICY BRIEF

NEXT STEP

30 SEP. 2020

POLICY BRIEF WORKS HOP

SEE YOU

EVIDENCE ON THE ROLE OF ART

KATEY WAREAN

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

PHYSICAL HEALTH

HEALTH-PROMOTING BEHAVIOURS

CARE GIVING

MENTAL HEALTH

PREVENTIONS & PROMOTIONS

TREATMENT

MUSIC & MOTHERHOOD

ARTS ON PRESCRIPTION

BREATH MAGIC

ACUTE CARE

THE ART OF STAYING HEALTHY

within the 11th EUSBSR Annual Online Forum

CHILDREN & YOUTH AND THE IMPACT OF ART

EMBODYING DIFFERENCE THROUGH "/>

GAMES IN TIME OF CORONA

ANITA JENSEN

ARTS ON PRESCRIPTION

RESULTS

LEVEL OF ENERGY IN LIFE ↑

MORE JOY IN LIFE

MOTIVATION ↑

READY TO MOVE ON IN LIFE

SELF ESTEEM

PURPOSE

ESCAPISM

SOCIAL DISTANCING

CREATIVITY

VIRTUAL REALITY

MOBILE GAMES

TOGETHER APART

JAAKKO KEMPPAINEN

GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Q1 COLLABORATE & INTERNATIONALLY

EDUCATION SYSTEM

HEALTH

CULTURE

FUNDINGS

Q2 REMOVE BARRIERS

ECONOMICAL

ECOLOGICAL

PHYSICAL

SOCIAL MEDIA

MOBILE APP

MOTIVATION

Q3 OPTIMISED DELIVERY OF ART

VULNERABLE GROUPS

COVID-19 EFFECT

DIFFICULT TO REACH

PRIORITIES OF ART & HEALTH

Q4

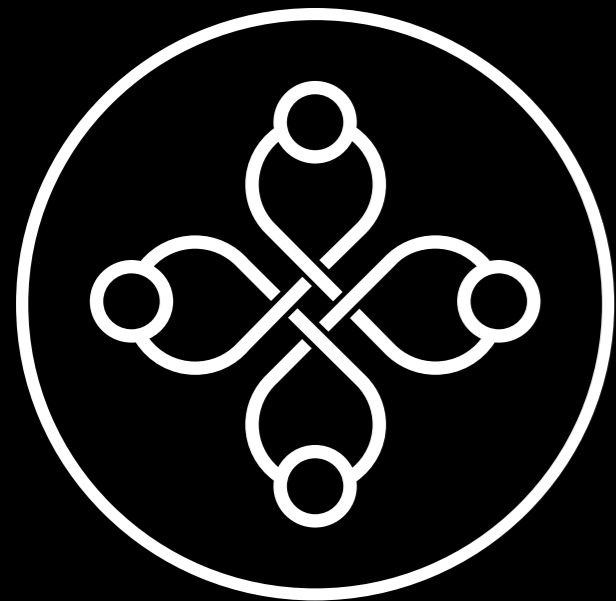
SOLUTIONS

INSTRUCTING TEACHERS

ONLINE TOOLS

PROFESSIONAL TEAMS

READY-MADE PACKAGES



NORTHERN DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE

The Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) is the most recent of the partnerships, established in May 2010. The mission of the NDPC is to contribute to social and economic sustainable development and innovation in the Northern Dimension area by focusing on the operating conditions for cultural and creative industries (CCI). The Partnership works towards a stronger, more competitive and more resilient CCI sector that contributes significantly to the sustainable development of the European North.

Culture and creativity is a driving force in international, regional and local sustainable development and a cornerstone for cooperation in the ND area. The role and value of CCI is on the rise. It sets a collaboration framework in various spheres of society and facilitates social inclusion through culture and creativity.

The Northern Dimension area has a rich cultural heritage, as well as national and linguistic diversity and strong cultural production. The region has a great deal of experience in cultural cooperation and exchange, as well as numerous professional networks which play a valuable role in knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The NDPC sees the Northern Dimension as a thriving cultural and creative hub. The partnership promotes the area as a global front runner in value creation of CCI and emphasises the role of this sector in sustainable development. CCI play a key role in the enhancement of social wellbeing, societal and economic stability and peace. This added value is created in the realm of cross-innovations, where CCI collaborate in unseen ways with other sectors of society. While there are some very encouraging examples of CCI crossovers, there is a lack of systematic approach to cross-innovations. The partnership emphasises creative cross-overs and cross-innovations and highlights the impact of the innovation capacity of CCIs. At a practical level, the partnership enables cross-sectorial initiatives with other partnerships and stakeholders, launches pilot projects and complements existing actions, as well as generating relevant cross-innovation knowhow, studies and knowledge gathering. The partnership also facilitates dialogue between cultural actors and other sectors, especially within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The NDPC gives special attention to cooperation within the Northern Dimension policy framework and its existing structures. The NDPC is the only platform for the CCI sector that covers the entire ND area, including the EU Member States from the Nordic and Baltic countries, Germany, Poland as well as the non-EU countries of Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. As such, it provides access to a wide pool of expertise and experience related to CCI development around the ND region. The partnership adds value by fostering dialogue between national CCS strategies and by bringing together cultural and creative operators with policymakers. While NDPC is officially a governmental partnership, it has the flexibility to operate closely with other public and private organisations in setting up new initiatives and forming broader alliances. The partnership brings together both the national authorities as well as cultural and creative associations, experts and a wide range of actors within the field of CCI. NDPC serves as a focal point linking creative professionals and organisations with counterparts from other ND countries.



SIGNATURE ACHIEVEMENTS

1. A mapping study, **Cross-Sectoral Cooperation and Innovation within Creative and Cultural Industries – Practices, Opportunities and Policies within the Area of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, funded by the European Union.**

CCI cross-innovation is an important element of the new Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture Strategy 2021–2024. Therefore the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC) ran a project the core of which included mapping to identify the degree of cross-sectoral cooperation and innovation currently taking place between the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and other social and economic sectors in the Northern Dimension countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden).

The project outputs include mapping, reports, policy briefs, articles, experts' focus groups, WEB and case studies looking at different forms of cross-sectoral cooperation and innovation.

WWW.NDCPCROSSINNO.EU

2. A joint project with NDPHS, **The Art of Staying Healthy**, (co-funded by the EU) aims to develop collaboration between the arts and health sectors and to pilot art interventions in the context of the health and wellbeing of people and communities in the Northern Dimension area.

Ten cooperation projects dedicated to the theme of arts and health from all around the ND area receive grants to implement project actions with various focus groups. The Art of Staying Healthy project provides competence-building for the project owners



through peer workshops and mentoring. One of the outcomes of the project is a practical toolkit to enhance collaboration between the CCI sector and the health and social sector. The project enhances community building to facilitate knowledge sharing and dialogue between arts and wellbeing professionals.

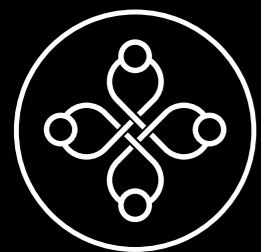
3. A mapping study (co-funded by EU) on CCI professional mobility within the region, examining the gaps within already existing cultural mobility funding schemes in the Northern Dimension area. The study analyses the needs and expectations of CCI stakeholders for cross-border cooperation and the need for mobility funding. The new Northern Dimension mobility programme for Cultural and Creative Industries professionals will be based on the findings and recommendations elaborated within the study.
4. The NDPC's online hackathon, HackCreative: An Industry Transformed, brought together more than 300 participants from 30 countries around the world to develop ideas on how to support the industry during the COVID-19 crisis. From 26 ideas developed during the hackathon, three were selected to share a cash prize fund of EUR 10,000 provided by Swedbank.

WWW.NDPCULTURE.ORG

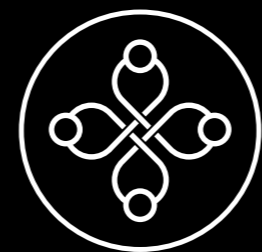




NORTHERN DIMENSION



**HACKATHON
2019**



**3 INTERNATIONAL FORUM
2016**

A coastal scene featuring a long wooden pier extending into the sea. Several seagulls are swimming in the water in the foreground. The sky is a mix of light blue and soft orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is calm and scenic.

AN ONGOING
MISSION.

THE NORTHERN
DIMENSION OF
TOMORROW.

NORTHERN DIMENSION FUTURE

The Northern Dimension became part of the European Union's foreign policy in 1999 on Finland's initiative. It aims to promote stability, prosperity and sustainable development in the European North, from the Arctic to the Baltic Sea. Diverse cooperation has developed into four partnerships in the fields of environment, health, transport and culture. The activities are complemented by the Northern Dimension Institute, the Northern Dimension Business Council and the Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum.

A lot has been accomplished in the past 20 years, but much work is still ahead. The value of regional cooperation has increased and cooperation between the four equal partners is still necessary if we are to tackle the common challenges the European North is facing. Despite higher-level tensions, the Northern Dimension offers an opportunity to continue concrete cooperation and action at a practical level.

The future of the Northern Dimension relies on the commitment of the four equal partners. Utilising this well-established tool to solve the common challenges that the European North is facing can produce practical solutions to be utilised throughout the world. In particular, cooperation in environmental protection and tackling the challenges of climate change in the fragile northern, Arctic environment will be even more important in the future.



Northern
Dimension

