



**TROMS fylkeskommune**

**ROMSSA fylkkasuohkan**

# **From a northern perspective: Shared ambitions, opportunities**

*Baltic Sea Commission 27. May 2010*

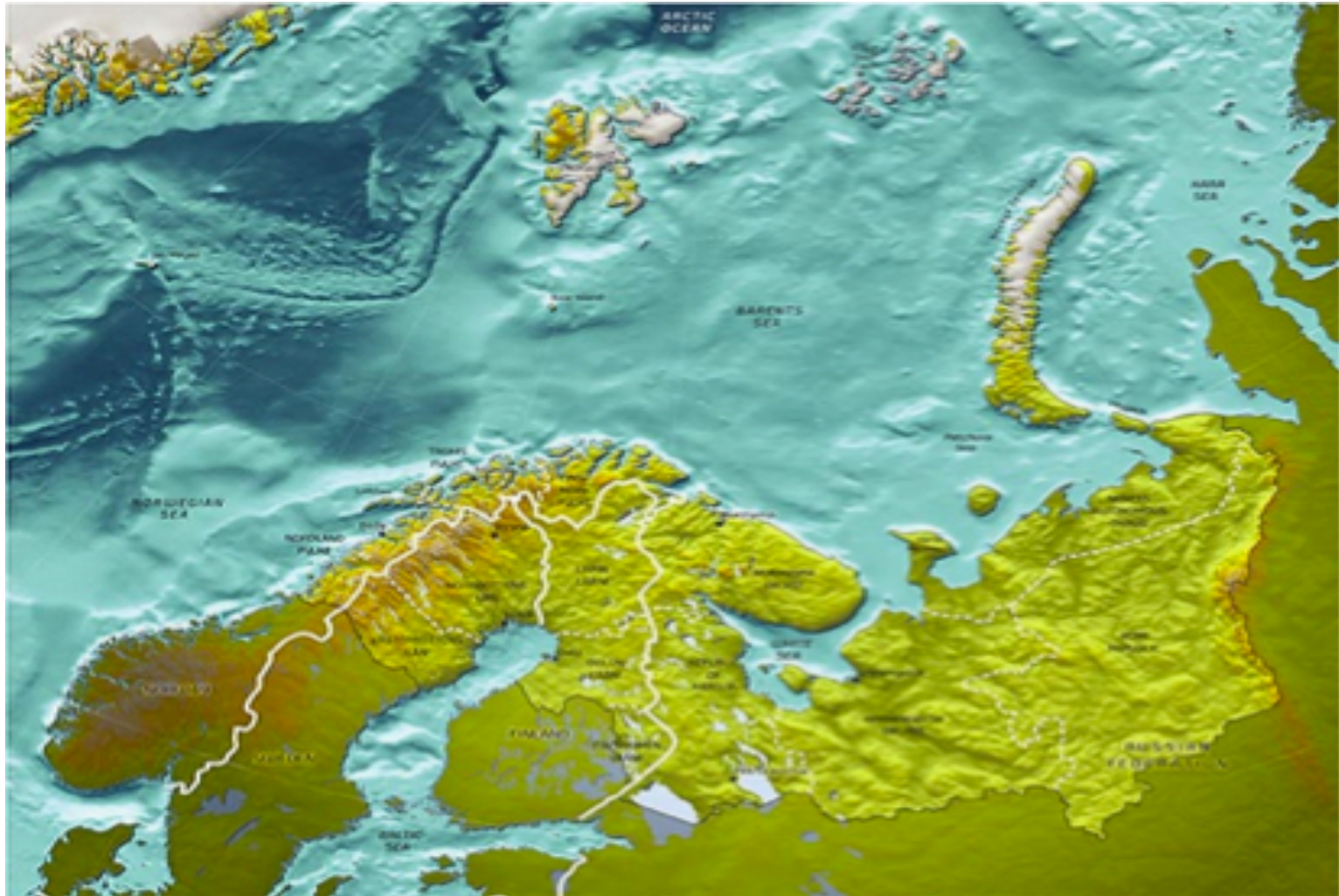
*Kent Gudmundsen*

*Executive Cllr for Education*

*Troms County Government*



# High North / Barents Region



# Culture and History -a treasure chest



Foto: Ola Røe

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# The High North

- **Natural resources:**
  - Oil and gas
  - Fish
  - Wood
  - Minerals
- **Peripheral and sparsely populated areas**
  - Cold climate
  - Long distances
  - Lack of infrastructure





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# Tradition of cooperation

North Calotte Council established in 1967:

- Norway: The counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark
- Sweden: Norrbotten
- Finland: Lapland
- Objectives: generate new cross-border cooperation in the area, support existing cooperation and remove obstacles that hamper such cooperation.



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# Barents Region co-operation

- Barents Regional Council: representatives from the highest political and executive level.
- Includes 13 counties, or equivalent:
  - Russia: Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Karelia, Komi and Nenets.
  - Sweden: Norrbotten and Västerbotten
  - Finland: Oulo, Lapland and Kaino
  - Norway: Finnmark, Troms and Nordland



# Barents Region co-operation

Secure a peaceful  
and stable  
development in  
the region





- Develop the cultural ties between the peoples
- Encourage bilateral and multilateral relations
- Environmentally and sustainable economic and social development
- Indigenous people



# The Barents Region and the EU

- Political cooperation both within the Barents Region and with other European arenas of collaboration.
  - Arctic Policy
  - Northern Dimension
  - EU-programmes
  - NSPA



# NSPA

- Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA)
- Mid-Sweden, North-Sweden, East-Finland, North-Finland and North-Norway.



# NSPA: a strong, specific and promising region



Foto: Ola Røe



## The NSPAs joint vision for 2020 is:

- NSPA comprises dynamic and modern regions with diversified economic profiles and functional labour markets
- Our enterprises are highly competitive and at the forefront of developing green technology, making a globally important contribution to sustainable development
- The regions offer attractive living conditions for women and men of all origins, as well as world class higher education opportunities



# Added value for Europe

- contributing to the climate change strategy of the European Union
- development of renewable energy resources and the securing of European energy supply
- innovative solutions



# Added value for Europe

- vast natural resources such as oil, gas, wood, fish and minerals
- excellent access to the resource rich Barents Region
- long tradition of partnership in the cross-border cooperation with North-West Russia
- excellent universities and education
- recreation and tourism



# Political Position

- further develop the **territorial cohesion** and **territorial cooperation** as a part of the **future cohesion policy**.
- supports the future cohesion policy and the **availability of structural funds** that are offered to all regions in all EU member states.
- welcomes the EU policy of strengthening the territorial cohesion with a **multi-level governance** for a sustainable development of all parts of the European Union.



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# Thank you for your attention!

