



Suggestion

13 October, 2016

Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation Guidelines

Adopted by the Joint Working Group on Culture on 13 October 2016, submitted to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Committee of Senior Officials on 27 October 2016.

1. Barents cooperation objectives

The principles and objectives of the Barents cooperation are aimed at promoting stability, well-being and sustainable development in the Barents Region. Barents cultural cooperation shall seek to increase awareness of the significance and potential of human, natural and cultural resources as well as the attractiveness of the Barents Region.

The Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC), according to its mandate and strategy for 2014–2018, aims to promote dialogue and cooperation in the Barents Region. Furthermore, the JWGC shall help establish prerequisites for practical cultural cooperation by creating meeting places and encouraging multicultural dialogue, exchange and cooperation, thus contributing to diverse and innovative arts and culture and encouraging artistic and cultural development in the region.

2. Barents Scholarship objectives

In line with the Barents cooperation objectives, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) in collaboration with the JWGC awards Barents scholarships to recognize and encourage artistic excellence and cooperation across borders and to support common arenas and meeting places for artistic and cultural development in the region.

3. Barents Scholarship funding

The four Barents countries – Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden – contribute to the establishment, funding and award of Barents Scholarships on equal terms, whereby each country pays for the scholarship of the selected recipient from that country.

The Barents Scholarship is established as a trial arrangement for four years, and is continued by silent procedure unless decided otherwise within the 2018–2019 chairmanship period.

4. Provisions

Scholarships are awarded to professional artists and artistic associations within the cultural field in the Barents region.

Scholarships are awarded every second year, once per JWGC chairmanship period.

All scholarships can be awarded within the same identified and specifically chosen cultural fields including multidisciplinary initiatives and with the view to cover the whole cultural field over time.

Scholarships shall be awarded based on an overall assessment of:

- Experience and ambitions: experience with cultural cooperation across borders in the Barents Region and ambitions for further development of projects.
- Artistic quality in previous work.

- Barents affiliation: The recipient must be a resident of and work within the Barents Region.

5. Nomination and selection procedures

Each of the four Barents countries will nominate one candidate from each of the counties that make up that country's part of the Barents Region, to be presented as candidates for the final selection by the JWGC.

The nomination procedures are determined by each country.

The JWGC makes an assessment of the nominated candidates and selects four of these, one from each of the four Barents countries. Each of these four selected candidates is awarded a Barents Scholarship.

Selection of the candidates and scholarship recipients shall be based on an open and democratic process, in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.

The scholarship recipients are announced publicly and awarded at an appropriate event by the BEAC chair. The date of the event and the host are to be decided by the BEAC chair, after consultations with the JWGC.

6. The Scholarship

Each of the four Barents Scholarships awarded every second year (once per JWGC chairmanship period) amounts to 10 000 €.

The award ceremony will be organized in the Barents Region by the appointed host in cooperation with the JWGC/BEAC. The venue for the event is chosen by the host.

Four scholarship holders and four new recipients are to take part in the event. The event is intended to act as a kick-off platform and to encourage the scholarship recipients to cooperate in the future. The Barents cooperation partners will provide financial support to cover travel expenses and accommodations for the recipients from respective countries.

7. Conditions

The Barents Scholarship must be used in accordance with the scope and purpose defined by the JWGC when awarding the Barents Scholarship. Each recipient shall deliver a brief written report on how the Scholarship has been used. The documentation shall be submitted to the JWGC electronically. The information may be published on the BEAC web sites.