

# WHAT CAN COOPERATION PROGRAMMES DO FOR THE ARCTIC?



A cross-programme collaboration between European cooperation programmes in the Arctic

In recent years, the Arctic region has received a growing attention from policy makers and investors. Because of the wide range of local, regional and international actors and the speed of the developments, a need for a more coordinated regional development has become clear.

In April 2016 the European Commission and the EU High Representative released a Joint Communication about **A new integrated EU policy for the Arctic**. In this document the European Cooperation programmes operating within the Arctic were encouraged and mandated to strengthen collaboration, synergies and complementarity.

In response to both, a rapidly changing environment and an institutional mandate, the five programmes operating in the Arctic – **Northern Periphery and Arctic, Nord, Botnia-Atlantica, Karelia CBC and Kolarctic CBC** – have decided to work more closely together.

Common Arctic themes were identified, based on shared values supporting the **sustainable use of resources in the Arctic**, the development of an **Arctic entrepreneurial spirit**, the utilisation of **cold climate opportunities**, and the pooling of resources to **overcome critical mass**. In the following pages you can see examples of projects working in each of these themes.

Although each programme maintains its specific approach, ultimately this collaborative network's purpose is to support projects that benefit the people who actually live in the Arctic.

