Welcome to Sør-Varanger Municipality!
9 March 2016 at “Zipping and Innovating the Development Planning of the Cross-Border SK-UA territory“, Kosice Slovakia
Liza Stepanova, international coordinator SVM
Facts about Sør-Varanger Municipality

- Border zone
- State borders to Russia and Finland
- 10,221 inhabitants
- More than 60 nationalities
- 6% - Russians
- Part of Saami land
Business and infrastructure

• Largest employers:
  – Sør-Varanger municipality (schools and kindergartens, primary healthcare, technical services)
  – Finnmark hospital
  – Sydvaranger Gruve (Mining Enterprise)
  – Bergen Group Kimek (shipbuilding and repairs)
Business and infrastructure

- Barel: Norwegian-Russian producer of light equipment for air busses
- Oil transfer facilities
- Tourism
- Culture
- Shopping
Coastal liner «Hurtigruten» Bergen – Kirkenes
Living in Kirkenes
Norway`s most important periphery

Barents Summit June 2013
- Celebrating 20 years of Barents cooperation
- Kirkenes Declaration II was signed
International cooperation
Sør-Varanger – Petsjenga
1972: First cooperation agreement between Sør-Varanger and Pechenga municipalities

2008: Declaration on twin cities cooperation Sør-Varanger-Pechenga (Kirkenes-Nikel)


Sports

- Swimming
- Football
- Wrestling
- Ice hockey
- Skiing
BARENTS DAYS

Photo: Sør-Varanger bibliotek
Music

- Barents Border Rock since 2008
- Youth cooperation projects
- Barents Chaos Spectacle
- Kirkenes School Orchestra
- Cooperation between art schools
Samovarteateret
Libraries
«70 years at the border in peace»
Club «Dialogue»
Victory March
Schools and kindergartens
Vocational schools
Kirkenes - Murmansk
What makes it possible?

• Easier rules for border-crossing – Local Border Traffic Permit of 2012
• Cooperation agreements
• Funding tools – the Norwegian Barents Sekretariat etc.
• Universal language of sports, music
• Mutual interest
What next?

- Keep up the good work
- Initiate projects
- Involve more people
- Involve more school children
- Work more on strengthening our cooperation in the field of industrial and business cooperation
- Work trilaterally
- In a colder political climate the transborder cooperation is more important than ever!