



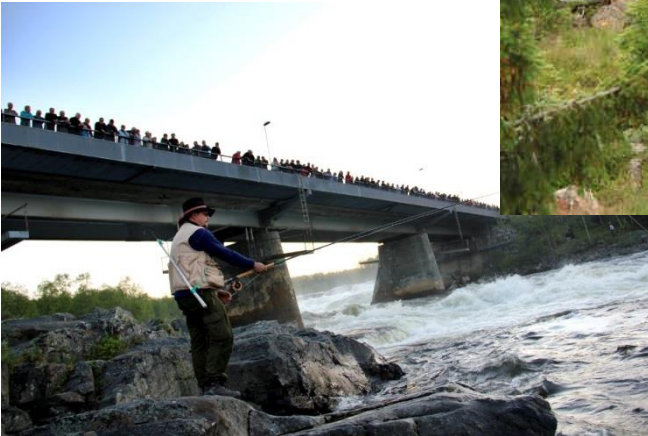
Welcome to Sør-Varanger Municipality!

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



**Sør-Varanger
kommune**

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





Tourists on a river boat
welcomed by a Saami
woman

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)

2011: Cooperation agreement Pechenga – Sør-Varanger 2014-2015

2016: New plan for cooperation Pechenga – Sør-Varanger 2016-2019



Sports

- Swimming
- Fotball
- Wrestling
- Ice hockey
- Skiing





Old boys

Barents Play Makers







BARENTS SPORT DAYS

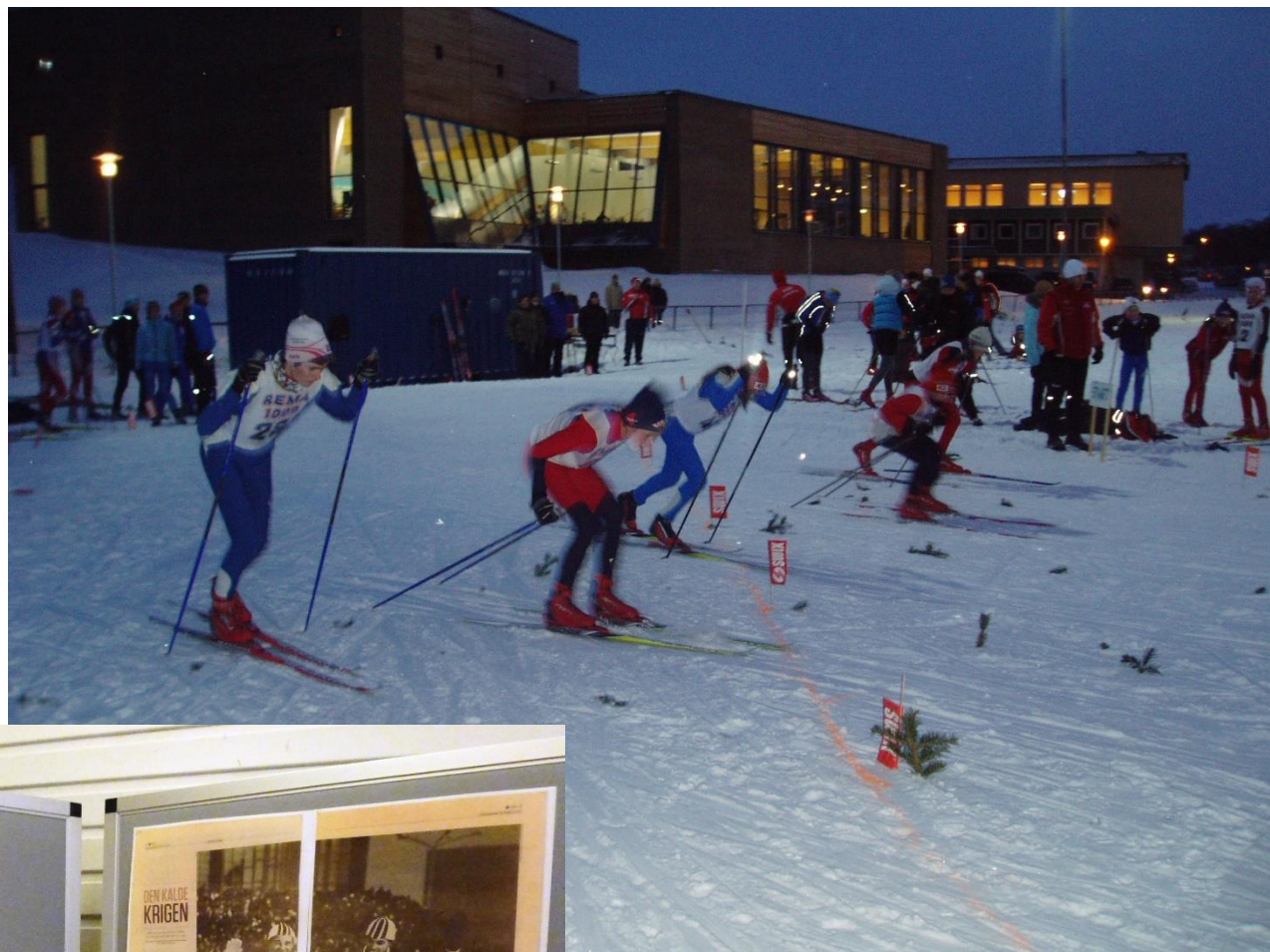


BARENTS DAYS



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!

