

## Northern Dimension: Specifics of Cooperation between the EU and Russia in the European North

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Narva/Ivangorod, August 27, 2014

### People who made the Northern Dimension



Mikhail Gorbachev, Secretary General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1985-91; he first suggested that Europe needs a Northern Dimension



Paavo Lipponen, Prime Minister of Finland, 1995-2003; after Finland joined the EU in 1995, he suggested that the EU needs a Northern Dimension



Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland; Vladimir Putin, President of Russia; Jose Barroso, President of the European Commission; Javier Solana, EU High Representative for CFSP; Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway; Geir Haarde, Prime Minister of Iceland (all positions as of November 2006)

## Metaphors that we use when speaking about Europe



Europe moving



European home

European family



### What the Northern Dimension's been:

- Gorbachev's idea;
- Finnish initiative;
- EU program (not like TACIS/ENPI);
- Part of EU regional policy (not like Barcelona process);
- Part of EU foreign and security policy (not like U.S. Northern European Initiative);
- Four-lateral policy of the EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland;

Reading: Lindstrom, Bjarne. "The Northern Dimension: Nordic Regional Policy in a Brave New European World". *Built Environment* 26, no. 1, Nordic Planning meets Europe (2000), pp. 21-30.

## The Northern Dimension Area



Includes Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Northern Poland, Northeastern Germany and Northwest Russia

## Images of the European North



Energy of the East meets experience of the West in the Northern Dimension area

Northern Dimension area was born together with globalization



Northern Dimension area is the smartest region in the world



## Main problems of the Northern Dimension area



- Unfavorable climate
- Long distances and sparse population
- Vulnerable environment

## What is the Northern Dimension policy:

- 4 partnerships:
- ND partnership on culture
- ND partnership in public health and social well-being
- ND partnership on transport and logistics
- ND Environmental partnership – last, but not least

## Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership – 2 “windows”



Environmental window



Nuclear safety window

Besides the partnerships, the Northern Dimension also has:

- Northern Dimension Business Council
- Northern Dimension Institute

@ <http://www.northerndimension.info>

How much are things like the Northern Dimension relevant today, during the crisis in Russia – EU relations?



Questions, comments, complaints?