

**Agreement to Cooperate Within the Framework of Arctic Skills 2016  
between Murmansk Region Ministry of Education and Science and  
Education (Russian Federation), Centre for Economic Development,  
Transport and the Environment for Lapland (Finland), Department of  
Finnmark County Council (Kingdom of Norway)**

The parties agree on working towards a common goal of strengthening cooperation between schools and companies in the borderland region of Russia, Finland and Norway if the funding is provided.

**The parties' intentions in framework of cooperation are:**

- To arrange a vocational competition in Kirkenes in May 2016. The competition will be named Arctic Skills. Arctic Skills will be arranged as a competition for students in programs of vocational education.
- To use vocational competitions as a mean of strengthening the status of vocational education and highlight its importance in society.
- To work for closer cooperation and increased knowledge about vocational education and professional work practice in the neighboring countries.
- To consider the competition as a meeting arena for students, young professionals and companies.
- Finnmark fylkeskommune, as represented by Kirkenes Videregående skole, will host the competition in 2016. Kirkenes Videregående skole will be responsible for managing the project, both its practical implementation and economic obligations.
- Participants must cover the costs of travel and accommodation.
- Murmansk Region Ministry of Education and Science and Education, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland, Department of Finnmark County Council are responsible for promoting the competition among schools, companies.
- All parties commit to using their own events, educational program of vocational education and other occasions for promotion and information purposes.
- All parties must provide the host organization with information about educational programmes of vocational education and subject content in order for the host to arrange just and fair competitions.
- Each party must designate a contact person for each country.
- We aim to make the competition Arctic Skills a yearly event. In 2016 the competition will be held in Finnmark, Norway. In 2017 it will be held in Murmansk, Russia or Lapland, Finland.

- The parties will join efforts to promote an application to Kolarctic in 2017 in order to prolong the project.

In addition of the agreement the detailed description of the project will be worked out.

**For Murmansk region**



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Minister of Education and Science  
of the Murmansk Region  
(Russian Federation)

**For the county of Finnmark**



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Lisbeth Sandtrøen  
Head of the Department of  
of Finnmark county  
(Kingdom of Norway)

**For the county of Lapland**



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Kauko Kunnari  
Leader of the questions of vocational education of Centre for Economic  
Development, Transport and the Environment for Lapland (Finland)