



Barents Rescue 2019

**Increasing disaster response capabilities in
the
Barents Region through enhanced
cooperation**

2019-08-19



Background



Background

Barents Euro-Arctic Council was formally inaugurated on the initiative of the foreign minister of Norway, Thorvald Stoltenberg, in 1993. The aim is to:

Strengthen peace, stability and progress through the enhancement of the capability of cross-border cooperation within the Barents Euro-Arctic region.

During 2017–2019, Sweden will hold the chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, led by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Background

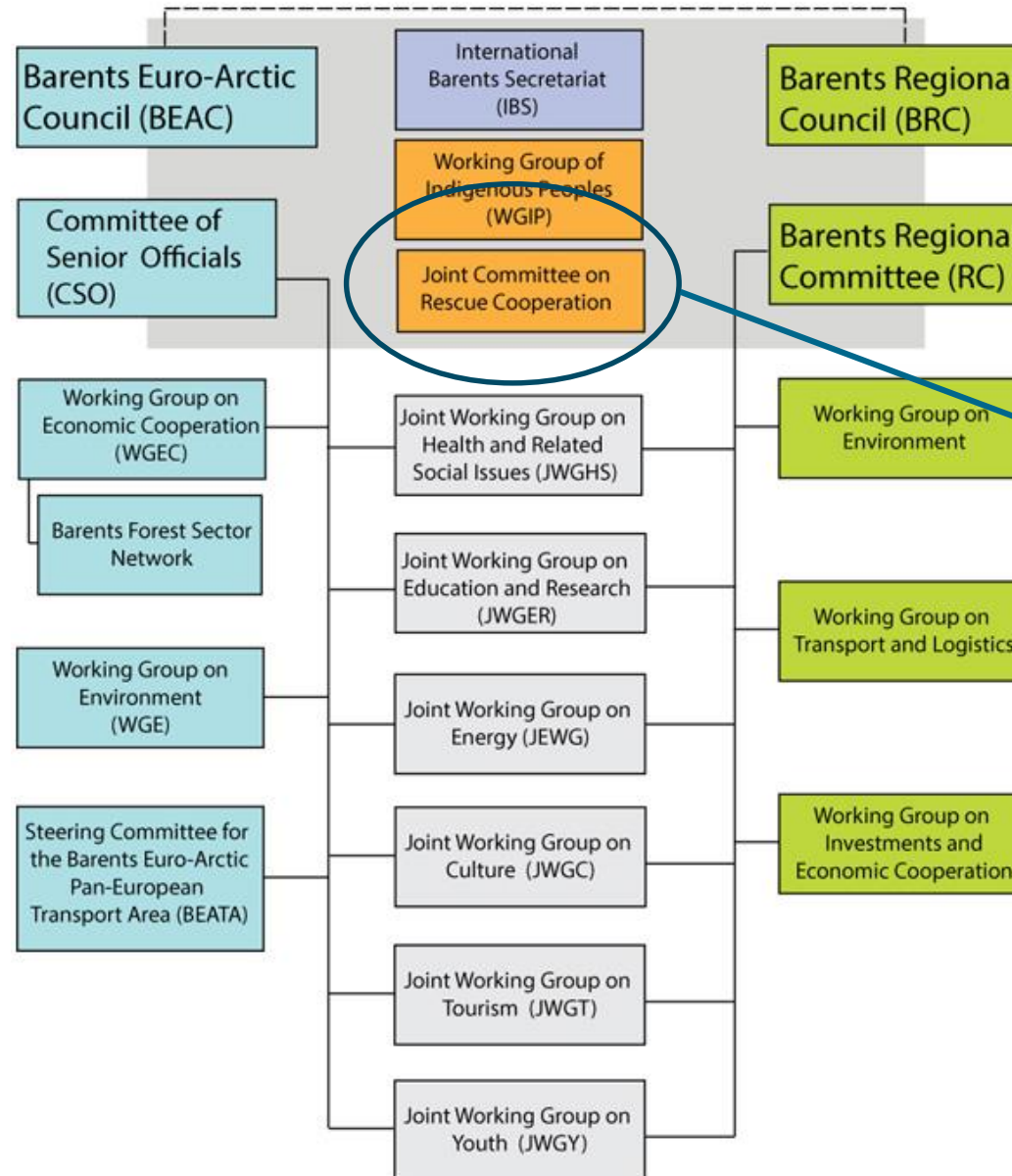
The Barents Agreement was signed in 2008 by the governments of Sweden, Norway, Finland and the Russian Federation. The agreement includes cross-border collaboration in the following areas:

Emergency prevention, preparedness and response, and the ability to extend cooperation to facilitate the provision of mutual assistance in the event of natural or man-made disasters or other emergency situations.

The agreement describes, among other things, joint exercises and training.



The Barents Cooperation



Sub-group:
Planning and Evaluation
Working Group.
Sweden holds the chairmanship
2018-2019.



City of Kiruna





Barents Region:

- Finland: County of Lappland and County of Uleåborg
- Norway: Fylke of Nordland, fylke of Troms and fylke of Finnmark
- The Russian Federation: Republic of Karelia, Republic of Komi, County of Archangelsk, County of Murmansk and The autonomous area of Nenets.
- Sweden: County of Norrbotten and County of Västerbotten



Previous exercises

2001 – Sweden (Boden, within the framework of Partnership for peace)

2005 – Norway

2007 - Finland

2009 – The Russian Federation (Murmansk)

2011 – Sweden (Luleå/Jokkmokk/Boden)

2013 – Norway (Tromsö)

2015 – Finland (Levi)

2017 – The Russian Federation (Republic of Karelia)

2019 - Sweden



Barents Rescue



What is Barents Rescue?

- Barents Rescue is a civil international crisis management exercise
- It was initiated and conducted in Sweden for the first time in 2001.
- From 2019, it will be conducted every third year.
- The four countries take turn in arranging the exercise.
- The last time that Sweden hosted Barents Rescue was in 2011.



Increasing disaster response capabilities in the Barents Region through enhanced cooperation

Exercise Barents Rescue has been created under the Barents agreement in order to develop the capacity for cross-border collaboration when dealing with natural disasters, large scale accidents and other emergencies in the Barents region.



A peaceful and secure development in the Barents Region

Since 2016, the focus for the exercise has shifted from field training exercises to emphasize the planning process, where structure, methods, experience-gathering and field work collaboration between partners in the region is vital. The implementation shall also take into consideration the action plans for climate adaptation and the effect on the Barents Region. During 2019, Sweden, through MSB, are hosting the Barents Rescue and will test a new concept in the shape of an Event Week.



National perspective

- Sweden, through MSB, holds the chairmanship in the Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG), a working group under Barents Joint Committee, during 2018–2019. PEWG has the task of supporting the planning and evaluation.
- Barents Rescue 2019 is expected to provide experience which is applicable in all other emergency situations requiring International support, regardless of the country, nature or cause of the emergency.

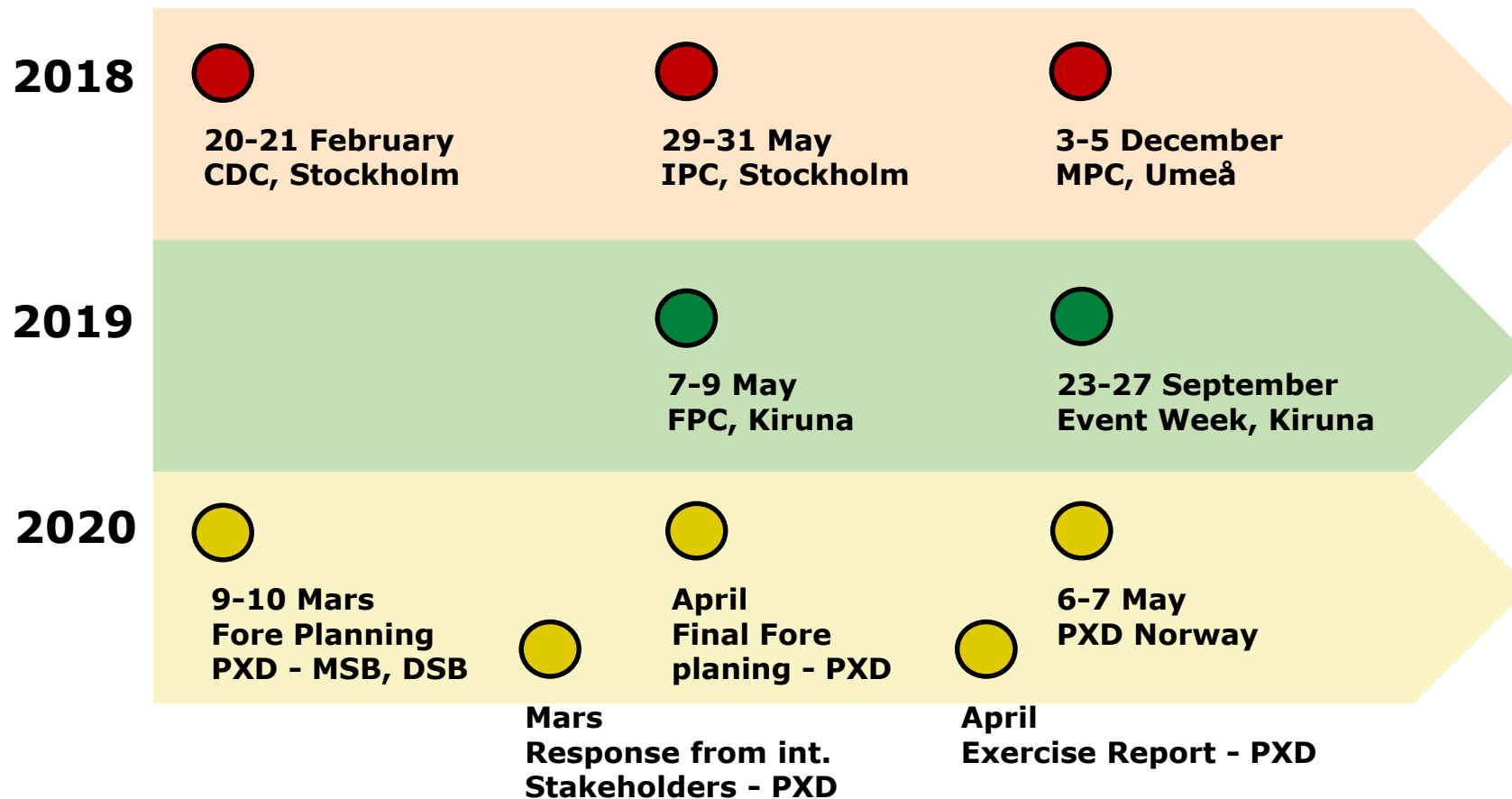


Regional perspective

- The Swedish regions of Norrbotten and Västerbotten are participating and are the ones most involved in the Barents cooperation.
- The County Administrative Boards of Västerbotten and Norrbotten, the Swedish Police Northern Region, the Rescue Services and the County Councils are, among others, all active partners when planning and conducting BR 2019.



Timeline





Event Week



Event Week 23-27 september

Event Week will consist not only of practical training and field exercises for first responders but also seminars, workshops and other forms of educational training. The practical training and exercises aim to develop the following areas:

- First responder's collaboration on scene in the Barents region,
- robust communication between Tetra users in one region within the Barents region,
- raising alerts,
- border-crossing and host nation support.



Event Week 23-27 september

Several activities will take place before and during Event Week 2019. The participants will, among other things, develop the following areas:

- To send, receive and act upon emergency alerts and requests for assistance in accordance with the Barents cooperation framework,
- to share and uphold a common operational picture,
- to receive collective and coordinated support from other nations in line with the host countries routines for host country support,
- to conduct more effective routines for national border crossings,
- to cooperate at the emergency site.



Swedish Police DVI-exercise within Barents Rescue

During Event Week, one of the worlds largest exercises within Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) will also be conducted. The exercise includes every component of a DVI-operation such as:

- The disposal of deaths at the scene, known as the Post Mortem examination,
- meeting next-of-kins in the Information Center for recording of personal descriptions as well as comparing DNA tests, known as the Ante-Mortem collecting of information.



Alarm exercise (Alarmex)

Common objectives:



Actors have ability to handle alarms and request for assistance according to the Barents Agreement

Sweden is exercising:

- Early warning and request for assistance according to the Barents Agreement and Joint Manual
- Analyze and give feed-back concerning the offered resources from the Barents Countries
- Offer assistance for requested resources in terms of border crossing, receiving, connection etc.

Norway, Finland, Russia is exercising:

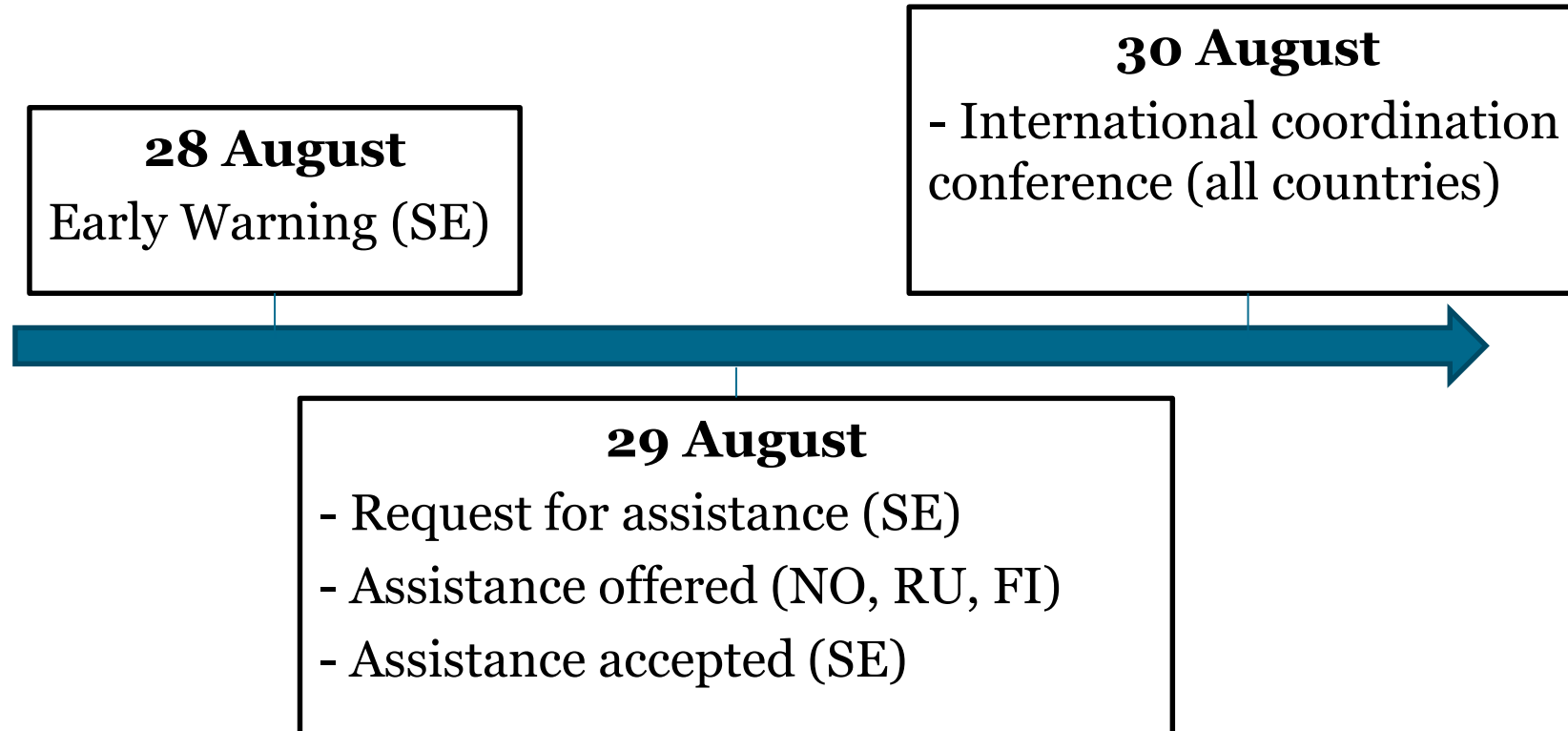
- To receive, interpret and handle incoming request for assistance from Sweden
- To mediate an offer to support Sweden
- Participation in international collaboration conference

Exercise prerequisites AlarmEx:

- Resources offered by the Barents Countries during AlarmEx shall be based in the wordings in the request for assistance that Sweden is sending, not correspond to the resources the country is exercising during the Field Training Exercise.



AlarmEx timeline





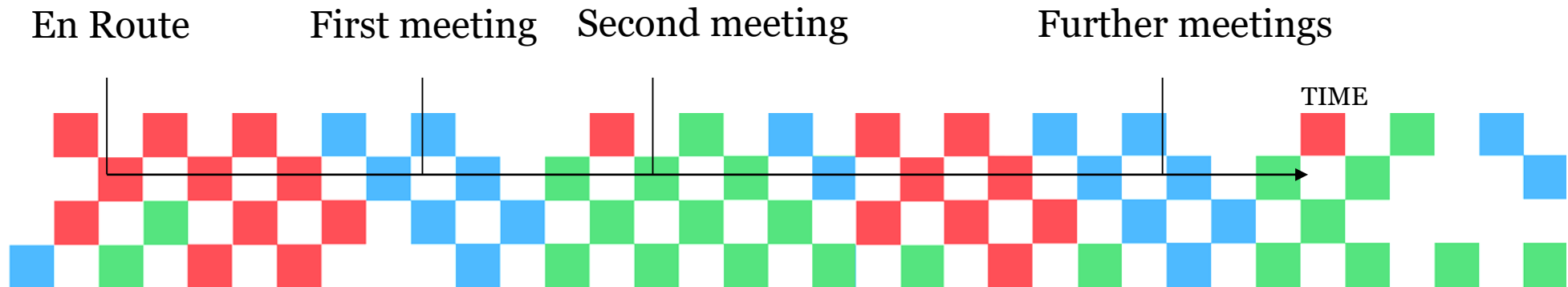
On Scene Joint Command

Is developed as model for joint command on scene by

- Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
- Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare (SoS)
- Swedish Police

The training is a one day course that exists of both theory and table top excercises. The model is a simplified staff-model adapted to the on scene conditions and focuses on the process of joint command:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. En route | - Safety |
| 2. First meeting | - Situational awareness and information |
| 3. Second meeting | - Situational awareness, alignment/orientation and overall goal for the incident |
| 4. Further meetings | - Situational awareness, alignment/orientation and joint plan for fallback |





Training Day

The aim is to achieve a common view and understanding for every nations working routines and safety rules during exercises.

A number of stations to choose from based on your own profession.



Stations in Training day

- Hypothermia
- High altitude rescue
- Clamp injuries in race and landslide. Clamped persons, rescue techniques
- GIS chart support on scene
- Introduction Disaster Victim Identification



Command Post Exercise CPX

- CPX is an exercise where the operational level manages fictitious resources that fictively conducts actions on-scene. On-scene resources are simulated by DISTAFF.
- The operational level will act from an operations- and coordinations center (OSOCC) in the city of Kiruna in which police, healthcare, rescue services and other first responders will act together.
- Simultaneously management on system level exercises direction, priority and operational picture from ordinary management locations regional and national.
- The system level will involve, unlike operational level, only Swedish actors and the two levels will not be in direct contact with each other.
- CPX will be conducted during office hours on tuesday Event Week and will not be noticed outside management locations.
- The public will not take notice in the CPX except that exercising staff and exercise management may spend their spare time in the city of Kiruna during Event Week.



Field Training exercise, FTX

- Large rescue exercise where first responders and other actors and authorities participate.
- Geographical distribution of exercise areas which include Luossavaara recreation area, Torne river around Laxforsen and Jukkasjärvi.
- FTX will also be noticable in large areas of the City of Kiruna during week 39
- Resources in the shape of different vehicles and equipment both on the ground and in the air from Norway, Finland, Russia and Sweden will be seen in the Kiruna area during week 39



Host nation support and border-crossing

- The exercise presents Sweden with the opportunity to train both requesting and receiving supporting resources from other countries.
- A seminar in order to increase knowledge in border-crossing will be held for Swedish participants the 23th of May.
- A workshop for international participants will be conducted during Final Planning Conference, in order to ensure the easiest possible border-crossing for participating actors.



Robust communication – overall objectives

- Offer robust and secure communication for cooperation and management in operational and strategic level during Barents Rescue 2019
- Use existing bilateral agreements, methods and techniques
- Supply a “3-country-solution” in order to achieve exercise goals.



Evaluation

- As part of Barents Rescue 2019, a joint actors' evaluation will be conducted.
- The purpose is to contribute to experiences for developing the ability to conduct cross-border cooperation on-scene in accordance with directives in the Barents Agreement.
- The goal is that experiences from Barents Rescue 2019 come to use in upcoming work in strengthening the ability to conduct cross-border cooperation on-scene in accordance with directives in the Barents Agreement.



Swedish participants

- MSB
- County of Västerbotten
- County of Norrbotten
- Municipalities and NGO's
- Rescue services in the region
- The Region of Västerbotten (health care)
- The Region of Norrbotten (health care)
- SOS Alarm (112 emergency)
- Swedish Transport Administration
- The National Board of Health and Welfare
- The Swedish Police
- The Swedish Church/church of Luleå
- ...



Norwegian participants

- DSB
- Norwegian civil defence
- Commissioner of Nordland County
- Helse Nord
- JRCC North Norway
- Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Norwegian Police
- Norwegian Search and Rescue
- Salten Brann IKS
- 330 Squadron
- Customs directorate



Finnish participants

- Vantaa Social and Crisis Emergency Centre (Vantaa)
- Helsinki university hospital (HUS)
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (MSAH)
- Finnish Red Cross
- Rescue Departements of North Finland
- Emergency Services College (Crisis Management Centre Finland)
- Finnish Customs
- Finnish Defence Forces
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs



Russian participants

- Murmansk rescue services
- Emercom of Russia



More information

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- msb.se/barentsrescue19
- barentscooperation.org