

NDI THINK TANK ACTION

**Seminar on Northern Dimension
Strategic Transport Network and
its Extension towards Asia**

12 March 2019

Minna Hanhijärvi

Project Leader & Liasing



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- 1. Northern Dimension Institute (NDI)**
- 2. NDI THINK TANK ACTION**
- 3. ND FUTURE FORUMS & OUTCOMES**

Video

- **Open Network of over 30 universities and research institutions in the ND area**
- **Aalto University/Center for Emerging Markets - CEMA!T leads since 2013 with co-coordinators St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON) and Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NArFU), Russia**
- **Pools expertise primarily in the four priority sectors of the Northern Dimension Policy**

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#ND_Institute #NorthernDimension

NDI THINK TANK ACTION

**Development of the
think tank functions of
the Northern
Dimension Institute**



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NDI Think Tank Facts



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Financing	Country
EC DG NEAR (90%)	600 000 EUR
Partner co-financing	10 %
Total budget	<u>668 455 EUR</u>
Duration	36 months
Starting date	20/12/2018

NDI Think Tank Partners



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**Aalto University,
Lead Partner, Finland**



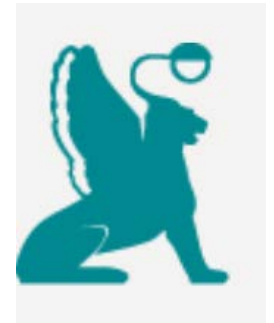
**International Institute
for Applied Systems Analysis
Austria**



**University of Oulu,
Finland**



**St. Petersburg State University
of Economics,
Russian Federation**



**Northern (Arctic)
Federal University,
Russian Federation**



NDI Coordination Team



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**Enhance genuine regional cooperation
in the Northern Dimension area
through
science diplomacy, capacity building and
people-to-people contacts.**

NDI Think Tank Objectives



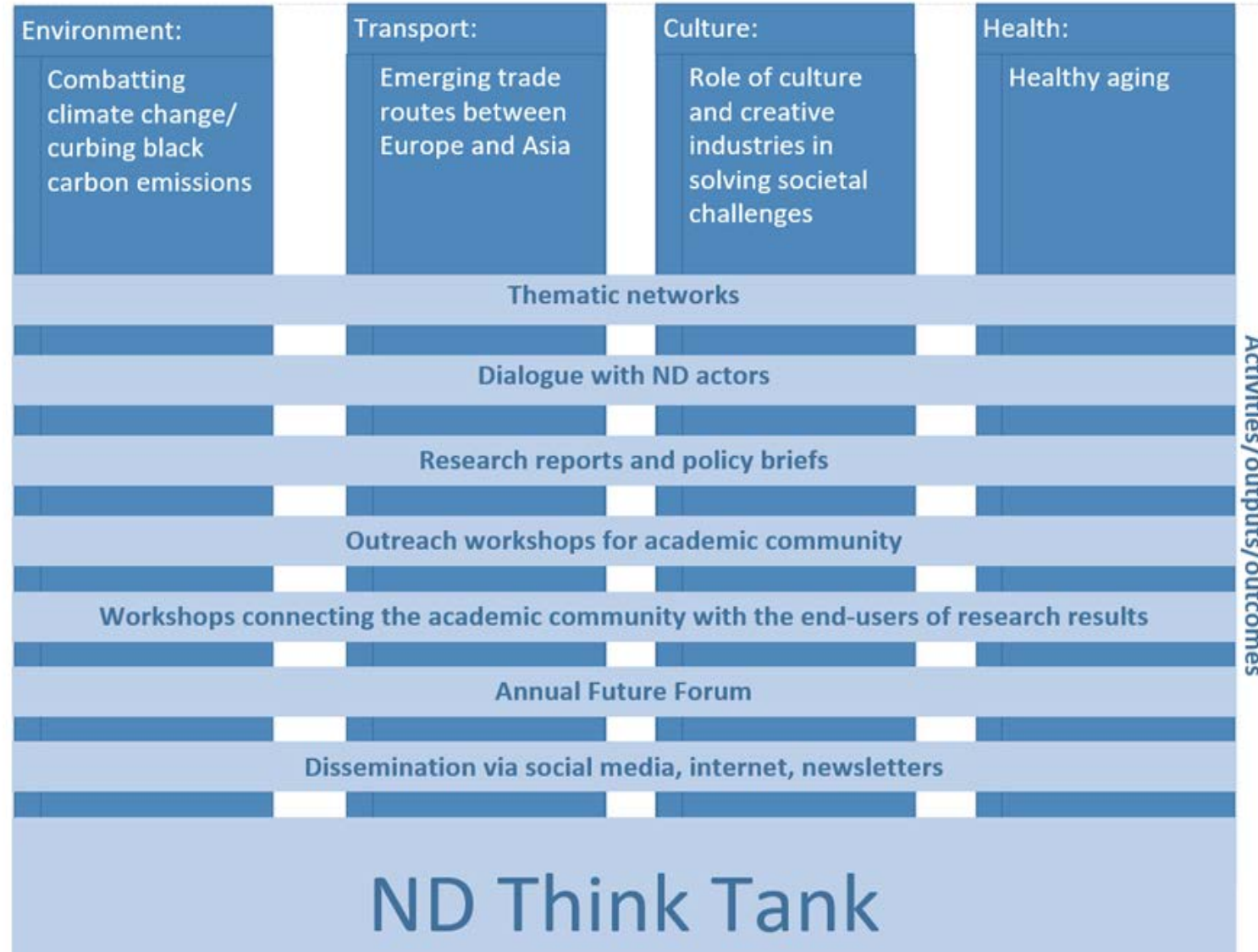
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- ❖ **Support** ND decision-makers in their research-based information needs, thus enhancing evidence-based decision-making.
- ❖ **Connect** the ND decision-makers with the academic community into an open dialogue, people-to-people contacts, co-creation and dissemination in the thematic fields of the four ND partnerships.
- ❖ **Strengthen** the voice of the academic community, NGOs and the business community in dialogue on the common challenges and available solutions in the ND area.
- ❖ **Raise awareness** of the ND collaborations outcomes and research-based solutions to the future challenges in ND area.

NDI Think Tank Co-creation Concept



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NDI Think Tank Activities 2019



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**Kickoff
27/2**

4 Co-creation workshops

**ND Future Forum
28/11**

Training for researchers

**Action Steering
Group**

Targeted research work on jointly selected topics of ND Partnerships

ND SOM

**NDPTL
Seminar**

**ND
Business
Forum**

4 Policy Briefs

4 Publications

Newsletter

www, social media

ND thematic research focus areas



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NDI facilitates thematic research on the jointly identified thematic focus areas under the ND Partnerships as issues and challenges that will shape the future developments throughout the ND area and that could be collaboratively addressed through ND cooperation.

❖ **Transport: Emerging trade routes between Europe and Asia**

NDI identifies topics of interest under the thematic focus areas for the ND Partnerships to ensure relevance of the research outcomes and their applicable format (policy briefs, reports, analysis, other)

- **What are the information needs and gaps for the NDPTL in this theme?**
- **On which topics there is a need for research-based solutions, recommendations for action?**



NDI FUTURE FORUMS 2018



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NDI/Aalto University arranged four high-level ND Future Forums in November 2018 in St. Petersburg, Brussels and Helsinki to support each of the ND Partnerships.

ND Future Forums on Environment and Transport and Logistics were arranged in Brussels on consecutive days 19 and 20 November 2018

ND FF on Transport and Logistics was focused on **Emerging trade routes between Europe and Asia – Impacts of China's Belt and Road Initiative on Northern Europe**

- **Keynote speakers from EC and Russian Ministry of Transport**
- **Research interventions**
- **Land and maritime transport and logistics companies**
- **Transport authorities**
- **Panel discussions; MEPs**

Outcomes: Policy Brief and video

Policy Brief on Transport & Logistics



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A Policy Brief – Ensuring the Sustainability of Euro-Asian Transport Connections –
was prepared based on the presentations and discussions among the researchers and commentators in the ND Future Forum by NDI/Aalto University and IIASA

Short document presenting research and discussion **findings** at the ND Future Forum to ND policy actors, and offering **recommendations for action.**



Northern Dimension Institute

Policy Brief 3 - February 2019

Ensuring the Sustainability of Euro-Asian Transport Connections

Growth in Euro-Asian trade and rising international interest to the Arctic have generated several initiatives to develop the land and Arctic maritime connections between Europe and Asia. Opening of new routes and increase in transportation capacities of existing ones are bringing social, economic and environmental impacts to the Northern Dimension (ND) area as well.

The ND Future Forum on Transport¹ discussed implications of the emergence of new Euro-Asian land and Arctic maritime connections to the ND area. The forum concluded that

* Sustainable development of Euro-Asian transport connections requires partnership and dialogue between all parties involved, including the EU, Russia, other ND countries, and Asian countries such as China, Japan and South Korea

*International regulation and utilization of modern technologies are needed to improve traffic safety and to control environmental risks caused by increasing traffic. This is particularly important in the Arctic with its fragile ecosystem.

*The ND Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL) offers a platform for dialogue in the ND area on an equal footing. It could be utilized to exchange information on investment plans and to facilitate coordinated action in the ND area, and thereby contribute to the aim of the European Commission on having a common European approach to global connectivity development.

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Policy Brief on Transport & Logistics



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Findings/challenges:

- 1) **Safety of transportation:** traffic safety, ecological and political risks,
- 2) **Discrepancies in the regulation of transportation both within the ND area and between the EU and its Southern and Eastern neighbors:** border-crossing procedures, transport costs,
- 3) **Uncertainties related to Asian countries' governmental policies relevant to transportation,**



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Policy Brief on Transport & Logistics



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Recommended solutions:

- ❖ **International regulation and utilization of modern technologies to improve traffic safety and to control environmental risks caused by increasing traffic,**
- ❖ **Harmonizing regulation of transportation both within the ND area and between the EU and its Southern and Eastern neighbors to remove bottlenecks and thereby improve the economic sustainability of connections.**

EXPLORING
THE NORTHERN
DIMENSION

Northern Dimension Institute

Policy Brief 3 - February 2019

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Policy Brief on Transport & Logistics



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Recommended solutions:

- ❖ **NDPTL could be utilized to exchange information on investment plans and to facilitate coordinated action in the ND area, and thereby contribute to the aim of the EC on having a common European approach to global connectivity development.**
- ❖ **Future development scenarios of Euro-Asian transportation, including the competitiveness of alternative routes, need to take into account environmental and political uncertainties in the countries along the routes.**
- ❖ **Corporate and public policy-makers could exploit more effectively research-based knowledge and expertise on these issues.**



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Policy Brief on Transport & Logistics

ND expert network on transport and logistics:

- ❖ **Railway links between Europe and Asia: Dr. Gerhard Troche, Senior Scientific Researcher – Rail Freight and European Issues / EU Rail Freight Corridors, Royal Institute of Technology KTH, Sweden**
- ❖ **Transportation connections and economic cooperation between the EU, the Eurasian Economic Union, China and other key Asian actors: Dr. Elena Rovenskaya, Program Director, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis IIASA, Austria**
- ❖ **Arctic Maritime Connections: Associate Professor Bjørn Gunnarsson, the Centre for High North Logistics (CHNL) at Nord University Business School, Bodø, Norway**



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VIDEO

**ND FUTURE FORUMS
on Environment and
Transport & Logistics
19 & 20 November 2018**



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THANK YOU!

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