

## **The Northern Dimension Institute (NDI) in brief**

- **The Northern Dimension Institute (NDI) is a network of universities and research institutes focusing on Northern Dimension themes.**
- **The NDI is open for all interested parties. The aim of the NDI is to coordinate research projects, to help in forming research consortia and to find possible sources of funding for financing the studies.**
- **Current work of the NDI is coordinated by a group of universities consisting of the Lappeenranta State University, the St. Petersburg State University and Lund University.**
- **The NDI was established in November 2009 and the activities will be launched in 2010.**

### **1. Current Situation of NDI development**

The Constitutive Meeting of NDI, hosted by Lappeenranta University of Technology (LUT) and St. Petersburg State University, was organised in Helsinki on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, 2009. The participants of the meeting represented the multinational NDI Development Group. The meeting tightened cooperation between partners, and one of the meeting's concrete results was the creation of the NDI action plan for the year 2010.

During December 2009 and January 2010, the NDI Development Group prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the rules of NDI. The NDI coordinator sent the founding documents of NDI (i.e. the MOU, rules and NDI Concept) to partners for signatures on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2010.

### **2. Year 2010 Main Activities**

During the first half of the year 2010, the main aims of NDI are to strengthen the NDI coordination structure, to make the research work of NDI possible, to deepen collaboration between NDI parties (among NDI partners and with other ND structures) and to stabilise the position of NDI in ND structures.

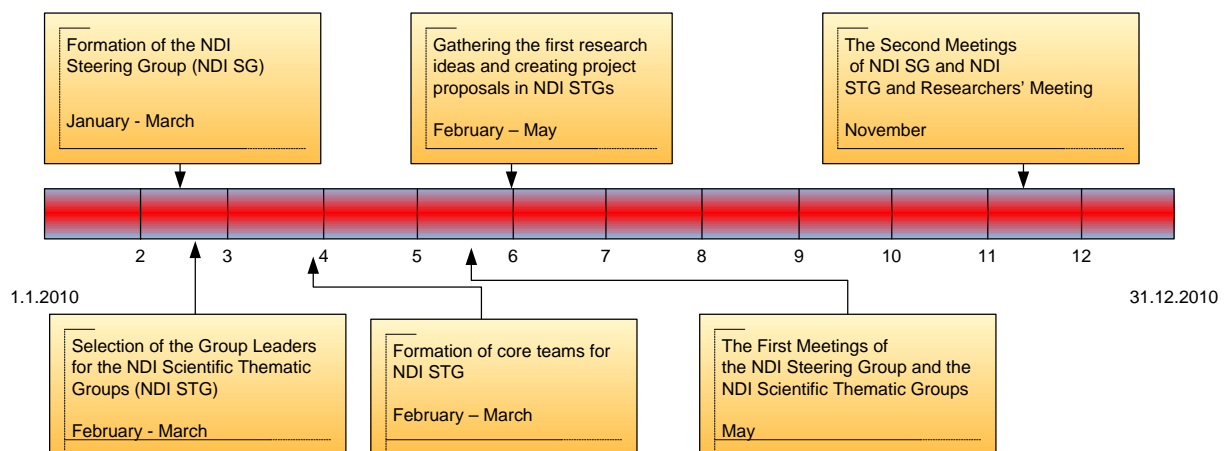
Firstly, the NDI Steering Group (NDI SG) will be established by the end of March, and it will have its first meeting on May in Finland.

Secondly, the leaders for the NDI Scientific Thematic Groups (NDI STG) will be selected, and at least the first two core research groups established (energy and the environment, and culture). Partners of the consortia are encouraged to create and write research plans, and to find out possible funding sources for them. The research plans will be evaluated by the NDI Steering Group.

The NDI Coordinator will continue negotiations with potential partners primarily in the ND region, and the development of NDI with existing partners. The organisation of basic funding is

one of the most fundamental problems to be solved already during the initial phase of the existence of NDI, and needs to be discussed in detail.

The following chart summarises the main activities of NDI during the year 2010:



### 3. NDI partners (by January 15, 2010)

1. St. Petersburg State University, School of International Relations, Russia
2. Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland
3. Helsinki School of Economics, The Center for Markets in Transition, Finland
4. University of Oulu, Thule Institute, Finland (University of the Arctic)
5. University of Tartu, Estonia
6. Vilnius University, Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Lithuania
7. Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
8. Riga International School of Economics and Business Administration, Latvia
9. Lund University, Sweden
10. Malmö University, Sweden
11. Danish Institute for International Studies, Denmark
12. Barents Institute, Norway
13. Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland (University of the Arctic)
14. Belorussian State Technological University, Belarus
15. International Sakharov Environmental University, Belarus