



Sør-Varanger and Inari municipality



Joint agreement of Thursday 16th 2026

Inari and Sør-Varanger affirms our commitment to the agreement of 2025, with the intent to foster mutual friendship and cooperation between our municipalities. The meeting of Thursday 16th 2026 is the continuation of the Twin city agreement of 2025, with the intent to improve the connections between Inari and Sør-Varanger.

We agree to the following until the next meeting:

- a. We wish to establish a stronger people-to-people cooperation between the civil societies and local communities in Inari and Sør-Varanger. This is an overarching goal for all of our cooperation.
- b. Sør-Varanger wish to maintain the current level of cooperation on the Skolt Sami project, and not to further increase the scale of the project, unless funding from external actors can be acquired.
- c. We wish to foster local tourism, travels and commerce between Inari and Sør-Varanger through coordinated communication at the municipal level and information to the inhabitants about events in the respective municipalities. Both parties will work to create a semi-regular bus connection between Inari and Sør-Varanger.
- d. We will work to facilitate cooperation between local media outlets, as a part of point c.
- e. Inari and Sør-Varanger agrees to work towards a simplified cross-border customs and VAT arrangement for small and medium sized companies. VAT payment should be based on actual sales volumes afterwards. Prepayment on the border and refunding arrangement should be abandoned.
- f. Sør-Varanger will give thorough political support to upgrade and refurbishment of the Regional road 955 Pokka.
- g. We will investigate the possibility to establish a "twin municipality certificate" for inhabitants in Sør-Varanger and Inari. The first step is to find out the content of existing similar agreements between the Finnish and Norwegian municipalities elsewhere in Lapland.



Sør-Varanger and Inari municipality



Statements from the meeting:

Inari and Sør-Varanger municipalities recognize the fire of 11th of April in Näätamö/Neiden as shocking setback, but one that proves the value of cross-border cooperation and serve as an example of the genuine friendship between our societies. Inari appreciates the cross-border emergency rescue operations.

Inari municipality recognize the future reopening of Sydvaranger mine as a mutual advantage for both parts. Inari believes that the local economy of Inari will stand to greatly benefit from this development, and aims to cooperate with this in any way possible.

Sør-Varanger municipality gives its full support to upgrading the Regional road 955 Pukka, and consider it to be of regional importance. Sør-Varanger stresses the security aspect of proper infrastructure and local commerce, to which the current state of the road is a serious impediment for our municipalities.

Future meetings

Inari municipality agrees to host the next meeting in accordance with the twin city agreement of 2025.

Signatures



Mayor of Sør-Varanger



Mayor of Inari

Signed