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PREFACE

The Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2005-2008 contains proposed initiatives and projects for a total costs of up to 30 millions Norwegian crowns (NOK). These proposals are aimed to the Nenets, Vepsian and Saami regions located on the Russian side of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. The plan prioritizes areas such as health and social related issues, environment and use of nature, education and capacity building, traditional economic and business activity, culture, infrastructure and media and information activities. The documents describes also the goals and principles upon which these proposals are based and give an account of the situation as it stands today along with an historical perspective.

The Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples submits the Action Plan to central and regional authorities for a follow-up and implementation.

PART I - ACTION PLAN OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES 2005-2008

1. Introduction

1.1. Barents cooperation

Cooperation in the *Barents Euro-Arctic Region*, BEAR, was established January 11, 1993 in Kirkenes, Norway. Representatives from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Iceland, Denmark, the EU Commission and the Saami Council signed the *Kirkenes Declaration*. In this Declaration defines the framework, structure and official purposes for the cooperation.

From a territorial point of view, the cooperation includes the northernmost counties in Norway, in Sweden and Finland and Murmansk and Archangelsk regions, Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Karelian and Komi Republics in Russia. There are 6 millions inhabitants in the region of the 1 755 800 km² and approximately 80 000 of them are representatives of the Indigenous Peoples.

The Nenets, Vepsians and Saami are the Indigenous Peoples of the region. In addition to their settlement traditions and use of the region's natural resources for trade since long before the establishment of national states, they speak their own language, enjoy their own cultures, industrial traditions and lifestyle¹. The Komi, Karelian is other minority peoples who live in the region. They expressed a wish to take part in the Indigenous Peoples cooperation.

Kirkenes Declaration

In the declaration on cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region the Foreign Ministers from the participating countries confirmed their support to the Indigenous Peoples rights in the North, in according to the purposes in Chapter 26, Agenda 21. They affirmed their will to enhance the community of the Indigenous Peoples in the Region and to ensure that the cooperation, which has been initiated, will take the interests of the Indigenous Peoples into consideration. One of the purposes of the cooperation is to promote *«projects that defines, in particular, at improving the situation for the Indigenous Peoples in the North»*.

Also stated in the declaration:

The members commit to the establishment a Working Group for issues relating to Indigenous Peoples, which will include representatives from the Indigenous Peoples and their authorities as well as representatives from the governments of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. They are also agreed that the Working Group, based on international cultural expeditions to the Nenets region, could consider the development of a regional program for the restoration and preservation of the Nenets and Saami old relics and monuments; the establishment of the cultural center for the Nenets in the Nenets Autonomic Okrug on a regional lever; the establishment of corresponding Saami center in Lovozero, Murmansk region; and the establishment of an appropriate regional medical foundation.

Furthermore, the parties agreed about the exchange of information on existing or proposed legislation for the Indigenous Peoples. In connection with securing of

¹ [the full description in the part III](#)

sufficiently high quality food supplies based on the overall similar climatic conditions in the Region, the parties underlined the importance of exchanging information and expertise in the area of reindeer herding.

Jubilee declaration 2003

One of the main aims in the Barents cooperation is to improve the conditions of people's life. There underlines that the aim could be achieved first of all by the interaction of certain conditions in the different fields, starting from security and to ... *the interests of Indigenous people*. There announced in the declaration: « *We are going to consolidate the participation of the Indigenous Peoples (saami, nenets and vepsian) in the Barents cooperation*».

Regional Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region.

The Regional Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region has been appointed by the Regional Council's decision. The group is established permanently in 1995 and has got an advisory status to the Regional Council and the Barents Council. That means that the Working Group has been given, in addition to its original mandate, a distinct political dimension within the Barents cooperation.² The Saami Parliamentary Council proposes the representatives from Finland, Sweden and Norway for the period of the four years. The representatives from Russian side - Nenets, Saami and Vepsian elect on the period of the three years in accordance with proposals from their own organizations.³

Barents Indigenous Peoples office in Murmansk (BIPO)⁴

The establishment of the Barents Indigenous Peoples office (BIPO) in Murmansk was a very important event. The work at this project has been continued during the several years. Saami Parliament in Norway financed the establishment of office. The formal founder and responsible for the project is Barents Secretariat in Norway. The Barents Secretariat directs the work of the office. The office is located at the building of Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU) in Murmansk.

1.2. Why an Action plan?

The development of an Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples emerged from the Regional Councils mandate by assignment of the working groups by 1993. From the very first days of the Barents cooperation the reality in the Barents region has displayed an increasing need to have a joint, overall program, having a special purposes to improve the situation and living conditions of the Indigenous Peoples in the region.

This Action plan replaces an Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples for 2000-2003, adopted by the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in June 1999. It is directed to the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region from the Russian side. The main challenge in

² [the full description in the part III](#)

³ [owns Terms of reference for the Working Group - Appendix 2.4](#)

⁴ [see Appendix 3](#)

the future is to work out a joint Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples in the whole of region, that means, for Saami areas in Sweden, Finland, Norway and Russia.

Indigenous Peoples resources

Areas that for Indigenous Peoples are traditional historical and cultural landscapes are for others untouched and virgin lands, having a big potential and attractive to develop for their purposes. It leads to problems in contacts, conflicts of interests and other needless problems, which make the living conditions of the Indigenous Peoples difficult. The Indigenous Peoples have big problems connected to living conditions, social security, rights in the process of the transition to the markets economy, problems in obtaining traditional access to the natural resources, and decline in the official medical and social measures.

The liberalization of the economy and increased external access to and exploitation of the region's natural resources, have resulted in increased pressure on renewable and non-renewable resources. The existence is threatening indigenous traditional livelihood, culture and way of life. The development with lack of resources in ordinary society areas will also lead to lack of transmission of traditional cultural proficiency to the future generations. Altogether, this poses a threat to the Indigenous Peoples and their living conditions, culture, community and future existence.

Special challenges

The Indigenous Peoples situation creates particular challenges for the Barents cooperation, which in turn requires special approach. The Action plan aims to contribute to the promotion of special needs and interests of the Indigenous Peoples. The ambition in the work with an Action plan is to make conditions by the Indigenous Peoples *themselves* and to shape policies for their own development in their respective settlement areas and communities for the long term.

Despite many difficulties and problems, there is much potential in the region. The Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples will focus on the *positive* aspects of community's development and make use of existing resources.

The population itself is the biggest resource of the Barents region. The Indigenous Peoples traditional livelihood, languages, identity and cultural heritage, in addition to equal cooperation amongst the varied partners, will form the basis of the further development.

The proposals in the Action plan on Russian side is meant to create alternative solutions for Saami, Nenets and Vepsians regards federal decision, in the late 1990s, to relocate some of its citizens in the North West part of the country. The positive purpose of these relocations is to give people the possibility to come back to the regions of their childhood, but the way it function doesn't answers to the needs and interests of the Indigenous Peoples. As the Indigenous Peoples usually are not immigrants in their communities, they wish to improve opportunities and living conditions in their communities instead of been moved to other places.⁵

⁵ [An exception is the situations than the Indigenous Peoples have been compulsory moved from their traditional living places. In this case there is a need to stimulate creation of conditions for possible moving back Indigenous Peoples to their primordial places.](#)

1.3. The field of responsibility

The Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples is tabled to the central and regional levels within the Barents cooperation in accordance with the Working Group's mandate, status and field of responsibility.

Thus, the proposed plan forms the basis for the concerned states' follow-up in connection with their cooperation and support efforts directed to North West Russia, as well as the regional levels of the Barents program. This requires broad coordination of measures and projects.

The Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples is not intended to replace any other cooperative efforts already active in the region. It is just addition to the important cooperation taking place on the central, regional and local levels to improve the living conditions for the inhabitants in the region.

It must be remembered that responsibility for the Indigenous Peoples projects is not the sole obligation of the Working Group. All groups operating in the Barents cooperation are also accountable for the promotion of the interests of the Indigenous Peoples. This means that each level in the cooperation can and shall initiate and implement Indigenous Peoples projects with in their own administrative frameworks.

The field of application

The Action plan suggests to the implementation of the measures in the geographical traditional place of residence of the Indigenous Peoples. Even though the initiatives are directed towards concrete settlement areas in which the Indigenous Peoples live, the intention is to include *all* population groups in these areas.

Evaluation

The effectiveness of the Action plan will be evaluated gradually and continuously. The priority of the fields of activities and measures must be fixed in accordance with a status of every concrete year. The report and implementation of activities during the year must be done by annual reports and action plans. Such kind of Action plan makes a document more *dynamic instrument* answering to the new needs, give the visual conception about the role of the Indigenous Peoples and make easy the long-term planning.

2. Foundation of principle.

2.1. Indigenous Peoples dimension

The dimension «Indigenous Peoples» of the work could be considered from both internal and external perspectives. The internal perspective is cooperation amongst the Indigenous Peoples themselves. The external is the Indigenous Peoples' relationships with central, regional and local authorities. Both perspectives must be considered as the foundation for the further development and successful work of the Indigenous Peoples.

The contribution of the Indigenous Peoples' work in the Barents region is very comprehensive, crosses over various sectors and will involve both central and regional governments. The work of the Indigenous Peoples themselves might be considered as the Third Dimension in the Barents cooperation, in addition to the central and regional levels. This work, however, cannot be isolated and separated from the rest.

Central and regional governmental policy often defines the Indigenous areas as marginal outlying districts, i.e. the majority of the peoples consider these areas as outlying and minor districts. For the Indigenous Peoples themselves the same areas are centers of the Indigenous Population for which special regional and community programs must be developed. The Indigenous Peoples' trans-national character and society life represent a significant challenge in this respect. This means that the development and implementation of projects and policies affecting this population, has also to be seen from a «foreign policy» perspective.

2.2. Indigenous Peoples' rights

The struggle of the Indigenous Peoples for their own rights is often the same as the struggle for the equivalence relation to themselves as to another groups of population. What is acceptable and naturally for other people and nations, must also be acceptable and naturally for the Indigenous peoples. The existence of Saami, Nenets and Vepsians is connected to this region and only this region. Their way of life, culture and language have historic roots in this area and must be a base for the planning and future development. The negative tendency in the development of the Indigenous Societies can be met with measures that correct this.

These areas has not to be considered and could not be considered as virgin lands. These have to be considered as a «*cultural landscape*» with bordering on places of residence and activities of the Indigenous Peoples. From time immemorial, the Indigenous Peoples settled these areas; give their own names to the rivers, brooks, lakes, gulfs, mountains, plateaus and valleys, glades and meadows. These names tell a history and knowledge about the nature in these areas.

Ruthless exploitation of natural resources is a growing problem in the regions where the Indigenous Peoples live, it concern both renewable and non-renewable resources. The main aim of the future Indigenous Peoples' work in the Barents region is to explain and consolidate the rights of the Indigenous Peoples to land, water and natural resources in the region with such resources. The questions of rights are the cornerstone for the survival of the Indigenous Peoples culture and are crucial for preservation of the Indigenous Peoples' areas for the future generations. The areas must be assured the best possible protection against extraction of non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and minerals, as long as these operations continue to impair the growth potential for the renewable resources. In

addition to the development of oil extraction and mining industry as a desirable source of profit and working places, these activities could also be permanent environmental threat. Land based activity will be established on traditional grassing land and extraction of oil and gas will be on traditional fishery areas, which could be basis for conflict.

Large-scale international companies and business investors, have to base their activities and plans on above facts in these areas. Basic for indigenous traditional livelihood and cultural practice has not to be damage from their activities and planned measures. The way to prevent conflicts is to construct true relationships with the Indigenous Peoples and their institutions. Local management and control are crucial to provide the rights of local population in utilization of the renewable resources.

2.3. Family's role in the Indigenous Peoples society

The ties of relationships in the Indigenous societies are traditionally very strong. Projects and measures in the Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples are directed towards the Indigenous areas, where the family instead of the individual is the main base of the society. The traditionally formed kin consists of close related individuals and families, represented by the different generations from the oldest to the youngest.. Women have a central place in this connection because they are often the guardians of traditions and language. They are often responsible for the house, for the care of children, for the sick and elderly. Initiatives directed specifically towards women in these communities are very important and fruitful. Men's role are often tied to earn livelihood for the family and to bring income. The traditional trades and harvesting culture has given men a language usage connected to these activities. In transferring language from a generation to next these constellations are important, like individuals, family, kin and generations. The deliberate choice of language defines the development of motherly language.

3. The aims

3.1. Overall aims

In keeping with the declaration of the constituent assembly of the Barents Council, the overall aim of the Indigenous peoples work is to develop friendship and cooperation based upon equality, co-existence and tolerance amongst the peoples in the region. Founded on the Nenets, Vepsians and Saami's status as people and as an Indigenous Peoples, the cooperation is intended to improve health and living conditions, to secure the rights of the Indigenous Peoples and to ensure cultural continuity of traditions in the future.

3.2. Main aims

The primary aims of the Action plan for the Indigenous Peoples is to ensure that the authorities adjust adequate provision to be made so that the Indigenous Peoples themselves could administer, maintain and secure further development of their language, culture, economic and social life for the future generations.

3.3. Interim aims

- To effect the Year of the Indigenous peoples in the Barents cooperation 2005 and use the experience in the further work
- Good influence on issues relating to the Indigenous Peoples and their areas
- Strong and sound local communities with access to employment, well developed health and welfare facilities, and schools and education facilities
- An adequate and secured material resources for the Indigenous Peoples' cultural activities
- Favorable condition for the revival and development of the Indigenous peoples language
- Initiatives and projects directed towards the Indigenous Peoples women and families
- Favorable conditions to secure, continue and use of the Indigenous peoples' knowledge and competence
- Favorable conditions for the development of necessary the Indigenous Peoples' institutions
- Correct external information to increase the understanding of the Indigenous Peoples' culture, economic and social situation

4. General conditions

4.1. International rights of the Indigenous Peoples

The People's right to self-determination is an internationally well-known principle, which the UN's member states are committed to promoting and protecting. Some part of the Barents region's states has been established on areas inhabited by the Indigenous Peoples. This fact allows the Indigenous Peoples, living here from time immemorial, to lay down their own demands to the rights of community, their own culture, the social way of life and areas. However, there is a difference between countries concerning the ratification of different conventions in connection with the Indigenous Peoples and introduction of them into the national legislation. To regulate the situation by conclusion of the obligatory cooperation treaty on issues of the Indigenous Peoples between countries will be the important initiative for the future.

Successful work of Action plan depends on ensuring that the general framework of the projects is carefully adjusted to meet both the needs and desires of the Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples' work in the Barents region must be perceived as taking place in connection with on-going international processes in both the area of the Indigenous Peoples' and of minority rights. Internal tribunals and national laws of the individual countries must be adjusted to reflect international conventions. The Indigenous Peoples' rights to the natural resources of the settlement areas must be the cornerstones of the preservation of their culture.

One of the principle purposes in the observance of the Indigenous Peoples' rights is the necessity of recognizing the Rio Conference's principles (The Conference of the United Nations Organization on Environment and Development UNCED 1992)⁶ and the principles of the ILO Convention No 169 on the Indigenous Peoples and Tribe Peoples in Independent States. The UN Convention on Civilian and Political Rights for Minorities in Independent States of 1966 is another international agreement, which is of great significance to the Indigenous Peoples. Moreover, there is the UN Convention for Protection of Biological Diversity of 1993 and Draft UN Declaration on the Indigenous Peoples' rights of 1994.

By declaring 1995-2004 *an International Decade of the Indigenous Peoples in the world*, the UN General Assembly has expressed its will to include Indigenous Peoples Issues on the agenda. The period 2005-2014 - the following Second International Decade of the Indigenous Peoples in the world, to notice here that the work on issues of the Indigenous Peoples takes a long time. Using the International Decade as an instrument, the UN's member states have to commit themselves to addressing and improving the living conditions of the Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration brings the Indigenous Peoples attention to the purpose to give the Decade of the Indigenous Peoples the concrete contents, which could bring results.

Each of the Barents region states will be challenged to formulate the Indigenous Peoples policies which will be similar to one another and in which the principles concerning the Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination is carefully observed. The UN's

⁶ [Chapter 26, Agenda 21 of the World conference of environment and development, June 1992](#)

Indigenous Peoples Decade is a suitable vehicle for the development of such a consensus. It is essential to point out that initiatives and projects, which are planned and initiated in the area, must not be perceived as «missions» to the Indigenous Peoples, but rather aspire to ideas originating from the peoples *themselves*.

4.2. EU, the Nordic countries and the Arctic cooperation

The development in the Indigenous Peoples areas in the Barents region should also be seen in both Nordic and Arctic perspectives. It constitutes a serious challenge to ensure that all the various initiatives and programs, which will be planned and implemented, will be effectively coordinated. For example, the Arctic Council's and the Nordic Ministers Councils' initiatives should be complementary to the initiatives of the Barents cooperation. Additionally, the European Union might develop some of these initiatives. The Interreg program ought to be developed so that the Indigenous Peoples in Russia could be active and equivalence participants.

4.3. Barents Council

«The Kirkenes Declaration»⁷ and following «The Jubilee Declaration 2003» apply to the several items to have significance and determine the framework for the Indigenous Peoples' work. It includes the protection of the Arctic environment as a physical foundation for the settlement, the principles of the environment and sustainable development within all areas of economic cooperation and health and social efforts with regard to improving the quality of life for the population on the Russian side of the border. Moreover, there is scientific and technological cooperation, education and research, development of the infrastructure, cultural and human relations and the development of a sustainable economic life in the Region.

4.4. Indigenous Peoples cooperation

From an internal Indigenous Peoples perspective a successful program will require cooperation amongst the various players. In this respect, the public movement The Nenets Peoples' Association JASAVEI, the Society of Vepsians Culture, The Non-governmental Organization of Saami of Murmansk region (OOSMO), the Kola Saami Association (AKS) are essential the Indigenous Peoples players on the Russian side.

At the same time, it remains important to remember to connect the work of the Indigenous Peoples to the general work being developed in Russian Indigenous issues. «The Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East the Russian Federation» (RAIPON) is an essential player for cooperation in this respect.

Similarly, there is a need to coordinate the work, which has been started by the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and carrying out by the Arctic Council. The coordination of all this work must take place at central level.

⁷ [The Kirkenes Declaration on 11.01.1993, the Jubilee Declaration on 11.01.2003](#)
www.beac.st

In the looking to the future the strength of the «*Saami Parliamentary Council*» and establishment of *Saami Convention* between Finland, Sweden and Norway will assist the basis and conditions for the future initiatives of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Region. The cooperation between four countries, based on the Saami Convention must be a purpose to the future.

The Indigenous Peoples collectively are prepared to take the obligations connected with realization of agreement to submit the joint initiatives to the states in the Barents Region. The Action plan is a contribution in this respect. The states have the responsibility to make suitable provisions to follow up the initiatives, which are promoted on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples.

PART II - SPHERE OF ACTIVITY AND MEASURES

5.1. Introduction

The Part II based on the Part I and consists of the more concrete sections of priority spheres of activities. The projects are realizing year after year in accordance with the Action plan and priorities, which the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) is making out in the yearly budget planning. The projects and initiatives named in this part realize in accordance with available budget means.

The basis for activities of the Indigenous Peoples in BEAR is a mutual cooperation among equal parties. The aspiration must be to realize the multilateral projects and involve as much as possible states-members. Main and leading elements in this case must be the leaders of twin municipalities of the states in cooperation, leaders of institutions of the Indigenous Peoples, countries, associations and unions, non-governmental organizations of the Indigenous Peoples together with the electives bodies.

Through the realizing of the Indigenous Peoples Year 2005⁸ in the Barents cooperation wants to attract the society's attention to the dimension «Indigenous Peoples» in the region as a positive and useful for all peoples, who lives in the Indigenous Peoples areas. To inform *about the Indigenous Peoples society, about these* needs, interests, traditions and different forms of culture, specially languages, trades and methods of management will help to understand better the situation and to avoid the different conflicts taking place in the region. The good knowledge and information help to make a better ground and basis for the cooperation. It is supposed that the work will be done during the Year will make a basis to conclude long term agreements among the state-members of cooperation of the measures for the Indigenous Peoples in region.

The motto of the Year is learning by cooperation. It raises the main purpose as: a) taking care and responsibility for our common Motherland, b) mutual respect and understanding, c) admittance of cultural diversity, d) people to the peoples cooperation. The main events of the Year supposed to pursue a political policy which could, probably, change the agreements form among ministers of state-members in cooperation, including the interests of the Indigenous Peoples. The Agenda for such work has been suggested at the Opening of the Year at the Barents Spectacle in Kirkenes the first week in February 2005.

5.2. Geographical limitation

The geographical limitation comprises the Nenets, Vepsian and Saami areas in the Barents region on Russian side.

⁸ [2005 - the Year of the Indigenous Peoples in BEAR. The own report and evaluation will be present later](#)

5.3. Fields of concentration

5.3.1. Health and social related issues

Background

The basis for the work in sphere of health and social related issues of the Indigenous Peoples on the Russian side is the conclusions of the several research works - projects. There are the preliminary project «Health Services to the Indigenous Peoples in North West Russia - Requirements Analysis», the report from the Karelian Republic which studied the incidence of tuberculosis in the Vepsian area/Sheltozero and also the «Evaluation of investments from municipality Karasjok to the public health service Lovozero 1998-2001», and a conclusion with the proper measures plan - «Struggle with the alcoholism among the Indigenous Peoples in North West Russia».

The conclusion drawn from the above is that the *curative health service* in the areas is satisfactory by Russian standards, but future efforts must focus on *preventive measures*.

Work in the area of preventive measures must be based on current health and social conditions and include the cultural aspect of population. The health of women and children is essential in this work, for example, to provide pre and postnatal care. The current conditions of the elderly and adolescents should also be focused on environmental concerns and this situation in the labor market is the essential elements in this work.

Medical service must be careful think out and to answer the existed medical problems in the region. It is necessary to take measures by development and realizing of medical preventive program and to put the attention on the problems are result of the whole complex of problems. Such as: unemployment, urbanization and changing of traditional profit sources of the Indigenous Peoples, loss in the cultural heritage as result of compulsory assimilation, regional and national process and changes.

Especially important to have a correct housing policy aimed to the satisfaction of the Indigenous Peoples needs. The development of infrastructure must also be contented with needs appeared at the new settling and new kinds of activities.

Goals and strategy

- Good system of medical service. The illness must be quickly and effective treated and preventive makes a minimum risk of after-effect of an illness or new illness. To have a special training and give help in the acute and extraordinary situations.

Measures

- Knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples language and understanding of cultural diversity.
- Preventive health and social service
- Curative health service
- Investment in medicines and hospitals equipment and material
- Specialist doctors/health services-competence development
- Investment in old age pensions/centers

Costs

The total costs are estimated at NOK 8,07 millions over a 4-years period. Of this amount, 3 millions has been set aside for the development of a residential/service center for the elderly in one of the Indigenous Peoples' areas and approximately 1 million to curative services in the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis in the Vepsian areas.

5.3.2. Environment and use of nature

Background

Traditionally, the Indigenous Peoples have been and are closely connected to nature and to the utilization of it and by virtue of these traditions have always used the resources based on their renewability. This connection between nature, resources and the settlements ensures the viability of the land, not untouched wilderness but rather a balanced, organic structure with nature being its regulator. Nomadic life adjusts to nature and to the variations of renewable resources.

Sadly, today's modern society has begun to exploit both renewable and non-renewable resources globally, particularly in the Indigenous Peoples' traditional settlement areas and without regard to their sustainability. The current use of these resources by outsiders threatens the settlement areas traditional viability and it's driven by a power structure whose purposes are very different from those of the Indigenous Peoples. The development of a power struggle between modern and traditional values has resulted in the prioritizing of leisure and luxury activities versus the primary needs of the Indigenous Peoples, such as foods, cloths, houses etc.

Preservation and access to the Indigenous Peoples areas and its resources are therefore of vital importance to the Indigenous Peoples' culture in the future.

It is very important to remember under the using and commanding of the national resources that the environment and the nature itself are the physical foundation of the Indigenous Peoples' culture, theirs social and economic development and it the same time guarantee of spiritual support and successful life. The threat of security and accessibility of provisions and natural resources connected with pollution of the environment, unprofitable development and changes of climate, which could be prolonged and fraught with serious consequences to the health, and life of the Indigenous Peoples.

Goals and strategy

- Secure nature and the environment as the physical foundation for the Indigenous Peoples' cultural development. Provision is to be made to return areas lost to the modern use of resources to their traditional use.

Measures

- Cleaning and improvement of the quality of drinking water in settlement areas
- Revival and settling again traditional places of the Indigenous Peoples' areas
- Securing and documenting of the Indigenous Peoples' traditional use and exploitation of the areas
- Mapping and monitoring of the environmental situation in the region
- Cleaning and restoring of abandoned industrial and military areas
- Cleaning and securing of nuclear deposits, oil installations etc.

Costs

The measures character makes the costs calculation complicated. Some of them have to be realized during the course of the program period. Preliminary costs calculates up to 4 millions Norwegian crowns over a period of 4 years.

5.3.3. Education and capacity building.

Background

Education and raising the level of competence are of vital importance to the Indigenous Peoples' future development. The need for new levels and types of knowledge creates new challenges. Individuals, companies, organizations and entire geographic areas are faces with the demand for a new way of thinking, different planning methods and modern strategies. In this respect, it is significant to further develop traditional and local knowledge.

Insight and mutual tolerance amongst cultures and systems form a foundation upon which to build. There is considerable value in the exchange of expertise amongst cultures and across borders and this is essential in the development of industry based on the areas' resources.

Education is particularly important for the continuation of the Indigenous Peoples' languages. New knowledge and capacity building are created through research, which in turn form the basis for the Indigenous Peoples' growth and development. Well-developed schools and education and research institutions developed by and for the Indigenous Peoples are the keys to education and competence of the Indigenous Peoples.

Goals and strategies

- To do everything necessary for an educational exchange and mutual cooperation on the gymnasiums level, higher educational establishments and Universities to give the Indigenous Peoples the opportunity to introduce with a language, culture and social life each other and to add important expertise which will be useful to the future development of their communities.

Measures

- Annual courses in Kildin Saami in Lujàvri, Revda and Murmansk
- Language training in the Indigenous Peoples areas
- Publish Saami, Nenets and Vepsian fiction and documentary literature
- Develop east Saami museum competence
- Competence development within the keeping of reindeer
- Training of Russian duoddji teachers
- Visits from Russia to Saami advanced level schools
- Arrangements of scholarship for Russian Saami who wish to study at Sami Higher School
- Implement research projects, which are very useful, both for the Indigenous Peoples and the society as a whole.

Costs

The preliminary costs is 2,4 millions Norwegian crowns over the program period.

5.3.4. Traditional economic and business activities

Background

The development of traditional industries is a vital to the positive growth of the Indigenous Peoples' communities worldwide. The purpose here is for the Indigenous Peoples to be given the conditions for securing and developing its society on its own. It would be little value to contribute with the financial means because of population becomes unilaterally dependent on these without creating values itself.

The economical development of region will give new possibilities to the Indigenous Peoples to take part actively in preservation and development of cultural and social aspects. The primary industries, i.e. reindeer herding, fishing, hunting, agriculture and duoddji (arts and crafts) are the foundation in the Indigenous Peoples' industrial activities. In turn, these industries will form the foundation for the development of new «modern» industries such as tourism, trade, «small and medium size enterprises» by producing and selling arctic food, equipment, clothing etc. For that has to have a good access to the natural resources and qualitative security of the environmental. Ensuring the economic benefits of processing raw materials for making and sale on the consumer market is a great purpose. This may create the future foundation for business development.

The Indigenous Peoples greatest investment potential in business and industry is in reindeer herding, in primary production and processing of reindeer meat and in the sale of their product. Although the Russian market is big, it needs development, as reindeer meat is not widely used at the moment. Exporting of live reindeer, reindeer meat and processed products to foreign countries is another possibility. At the last time there are a tendency to establish *Obschinas* and to more and more privates reindeer herding on the Russian side in the future what could attract the attention to the choice of the projects.

Goals and strategies

- Great optimal conditions for the development of enterprises based on the Indigenous Peoples' areas primary industries: keeping of reindeer, fishing, hunting, agriculture and duoddji, and ensure that these are developed in a way that provides added value.

Measures

- Establishment of an industrial fund for the Indigenous Peoples
- Establishment of keeping of reindeer, agricultural and fishing and hunting units
- Building and maintenance of slaughterhouses, processing plants and fence plants
- Develop market oriented accounts, marketing and sales units
- Support arrangements for establishments within duoddji, including sales and marketing links
- Development and production of mobile houses for reindeer herders
- Preventive measures against reindeer's illness

Costs

The costs will depend on that needs to establish in the first of all. On the other hand, an annual industrial fund of 1,5 millions Norwegian crowns might contribute to the

organization of many of the necessary measures. In total, 4,5 millions Norwegian crowns will be required in the program period.

5.3.5. Culture

Background

Throughout history, the Indigenous Peoples in the region have experienced that their settlements and culture have been severely threatened by diverse national power structures, regional and local measures. There were active programs aimed at the elimination of the Indigenous Peoples' distinguishing characteristics and unique culture. In some of areas, the authorities have also moved compulsory the Indigenous Peoples to the settlements areas, which do not allow them to live in their traditional life style.

Through coordination, socialization and identity, the Indigenous Peoples' cultures are closely tied to their primary industries, nature, language, traditions and history. To preserve and develop the Indigenous Peoples' cultures, one must have an overall perspective in which both the individual and the community are focused on. In this respect, there are also challenges in preserving cultural variations in the region. The concept of culture also includes sports activities.

The consolidation of the Indigenous Peoples' culture based on the nature resources and traditions raises the aim to adjust to the external changing based on their own possibilities. The borders between the countries should not create unnecessary obstacles to the work being proposed. Both regional and governmental authorities in the Barents region shall contribute actively in order to ensure the implementation of the projects. A primary purpose must be that the Barents region shall sustain living Saami, Nenets and Vepsian culture, which will continue to enrich the entire region.

Goals and strategies

- Make suitable provisions to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples themselves are empowered to secure and develop their own culture and based on the sports conditions in accordance with the Barents Sports program.

Measures

- Scholarship and arrangements of exchange for the region's Indigenous Peoples artists, including young artists and other specialists of culture
- Scholarship and arrangements of support to encourage the Indigenous Peoples sports
- Annual festivals, including youth festivals, seminars, meeting and cultural exhibitions
- Special Indigenous Peoples cultural productions and displays

Costs

There is a need for 2,1 millions Norwegian crowns over the program period of the 4 years. An annual *cultural fund* established using one third of this amount and placed it at the disposal of the Indigenous Peoples, would contribute to the laying of an important foundation.

5.3.6 Infrastructure

Background

«The Kirkenes Declaration» promotes the realization of a *Nenets ethnic center* in Nenets Autonomous Okrug and a *Saami Cultural Center* in Lovozero. A pre-project has been implemented with rough drawing and costs calculations of new buildings. In Lovozero

village, Lovozerskyi district, there is a National Cultural Center located in the restored building «CHUM». To use that less costly than building a new structure and for today the Cultural Center in Lovozero is open. Such cultural centers will focus on the projects and ideas of the Indigenous Peoples and should help to develop the economical and traditional industries alternatives for the Indigenous Peoples. That building is open as a service center for the local people to attract the interests of Russian and international organizations and enterprises.

The Indigenous Peoples cooperation in the Barents region stipulates the active participation of the Indigenous Peoples from the Russian side *themselves* on the level as the Scandinavian countries. Mutual visits is a very important condition to well cooperation and will contribute to confidence and understanding necessary for the implementation of the future common projects.

Goals and strategies

- Well-developed infrastructure that enables the Saami, Nenets and Vepsian on the Russian side to be active collaborators in securing and developing their community's cultural uniqueness.

Measures

- Exchange program of the administrative personnel from the all levels
- Arrangement of financial support to Russian Saami, Nenets and Vepsian participation in the international Indigenous Peoples cooperation
- Realization of a Nenets ethnic center and possibly a Vepsian cultural center
- Mutual visits in the settlement areas of one another
- Development of the cooperation among the Indigenous Peoples in the region

Costs

Economic blueprint: 5,7 millions Norwegian crowns over period for the four years. During the realization of the above mentioned cultural centers to need the use as a basis the restoration of the existence building.

5.3.7 Media and information activities

Background

Dissemination of information and the skills to process it, the knowledge of others' preferences, and who controls one's own interests are central themes when analyzing power structures. The capacities to deliver and hold back information are main elements in the definition of influence.

Internal information amongst the Indigenous Peoples and information extended to the population around them as well as fully development media facilities by and for the Indigenous Peoples and in the Indigenous Peoples' language are vital growth and development. Radio and television, newspapers and periodical published by the Indigenous Peoples themselves are extremely important in preserving and development the Indigenous peoples' language, culture and social life.

Cooperation between the Indigenous Peoples' institutions and already established the Indigenous Peoples' media will encourage the development of radio and television programs, newspapers and periodicals. Using of modern information technologies will develop other exchanges of information.

The establishment of the Saami Radio of the Kola Peninsula has been a rather successful to create the several attractive working places. Radio studio is situated in the «CHUM» building. The young journalists have got a special education and broadcasting is going three times a week by the Kildin Saami language.

Goals and strategies

- Well developed media facilities in the Indigenous Peoples languages
- A comprehensive flow of information amongst the Indigenous Peoples and externally towards the rest of the population
- Development and preservation of the Indigenous Peoples languages with the help of media

Measures

- Establishment of media facilities in the Indigenous Peoples language
- Exchange of media among the Indigenous Peoples
- Acquire the equipment and use the information technologies
- To do the broadcasting available also to the reindeer herders in tundra

Costs

The total level of all costs is 2 millions Norwegian crowns over the program period.

6. Economic consequences

The Action plan for the Indigenous Peoples 2005-2008 is comprised of the projects and measures for a total calculated costs **28,77 millions Norwegian crowns**. The realization of the Action plan will depend on annual means revenue.

Total picture and annual distribution in million Norwegian crowns.

Area of priority	Costs	2005	2006	2006	2008
5.3.1. Health	8,07	2	2	2	2,07
5.3.2. Environment and use of nature	4	1	1	1	1
5.3.3. Education and competence level	2,4	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,6
5.3.4. Traditional industries and business activities	4,5	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2
5.3.5 Culture	2,1	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,6
5.3.6 Infrastructure	5,7	1,4	1,4	1,4	1,5
5.3.7. Information and media activities	2	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5
Total	28,77	7,1	7,1	7,1	7,47

Barents region's usual financing mechanisms expected to finance the program primarily. It is supposed to attract to the financing the currently programs of EU system and the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen too. At the same time, coordination and timing of the various measures and projects directed towards North West Russia by different players is a purpose. This concern both the implementation and financing.

In this respect, the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples wishes to emphasize the importance of the establishment of a *financial fund* of the Indigenous Peoples (see part 5.3.4. and 5.3.5 above). The Indigenous Peoples fund would increase their access to necessary financing, create the means for long term planning and realizing of the Indigenous Peoples measures and projects.

7. Organization and representation

The Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples represented the Saami peoples from four countries - members of the Barents Euro-Arctic region - Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, Nenets from Nenets Autonomic Okrug and Vepsian from Karelia Republic and has a status as a consultative organ both for the Barents Council and the Barents Regional Council. The Working Group for the Indigenous Peoples has been a participant of the Barents cooperation since 1993 and WGIP has an own vision for the future in the Barents Euro-Arctic region in the long term perspective and takes care about the deep and equivalence participation of the Indigenous Peoples in the cooperation.

The Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples sees the need for increasing the Indigenous Peoples representation in the Barents cooperation's organizations. The Indigenous Peoples ought to be represented in the Barents area on the same level as representation in the Arctic Council. On behalf of the Indigenous Peoples in the region, it is supposed that the leader of the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples will participate in the Barents Council with own delegation. During the period of reorganization it is also to be suggested to give the Working Group an another definition - the Barents Council of the Indigenous Peoples, where takes into consideration the political dimension of the Indigenous Peoples. The Council will appoint, the representative from the Indigenous Peoples to the Barents Regional Council, from its members.

The Norwegian side has a proposal in this connection about an international secretariat, and that will conform to the wishes of the Indigenous Peoples. The secretary maintains relations with the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), prepares the questions for discussion in the Barents Council of the Indigenous Peoples, helps to the leader and represents the interests of the Indigenous Peoples if it is necessary in connection with Barents cooperation. It is also necessary to increase coordination between regional and governmental levels as regards financing of the Indigenous Peoples work and the shaping of legislation, which affects the Indigenous Peoples.

PART III INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WORK IN THE BARENTS REGION

8.1. Indigenous Peoples in the region

The Barents cooperation is a result of a historical process, started in the 18th century, that began long before the national states were established. The initiative, which was taken in 1993, is an extension of the long contact between the peoples of the north and the normalization of the relationships in the settlements.

Out of the Barents region's are 6 millions inhabitants, approximately 40-60 000 Saami live in Norway, 20-30 000 in Sweden, 10-15 000 in Finland and 2-3 000 in Russia. The part of the Nenets Autonomic Okrug there are approximately 7 000 Nenets. The Vepsian in the Karelian Republic, concentrated in the Vepsian county (Vepsian Volozt/Sheltozero)⁹, constitute approximately 6 000 persons.

The splitting up of the Northern area into «National sectors» is a relatively new phenomenon from an historic point of view. In 1200, Sàpmi or the old «Finnmark» was still a whole cultural region with a scattered but exclusively Saami population. Sàpmi included most of the area, which is described as the Barents region today, in addition to areas on the Norwegian and Sweden sides. One exception was Archangelsk oblast and the Karelian republic on the Russian side.

Hunting, gathering, fishing and the utilization of renewable resources were common trades for the population and various Saami languages were used. Of course, there were also considerable cultural variations in the region. The area was taxed by the rules of various formations of a nation in the Middle age, and in the most extreme periods it happened that the same areas were taxed up to 3 or 4 times.

The pomor trade flourished in the 19th century. The part of the economical life of the Indigenous Peoples was a domestic reindeer. During the period of migration and populations groups inflow from the south more lately and into recent times the Saami region - Sàpmi and the population were gradually pressed together. The areas were incorporated into various national states. The installation of the border between Norway and Sweden/Finland occurred in 1751, Sweden and Finland in 1809, Norway and Russia in 1826 and Russia and Finland in 1944.

⁹ [There are approximately 30 groups of the Indigenous Peoples in the North, in Siberia and Far East in the Russian Federation. There are approximately 200 000 inhabitants live in 27 regions, and it is the 64% of the all Russians area \(The rapport about the environments problems influenced to the traditional lifestyle of the Indigenous Peoples in the North Russia, Pavel Sulyndziga and David Henry, Moscow 1998\).](#)

The Saami and other Indigenous Peoples in the region have always been dependent on access to the natural resources in their settlements, because they had to provide themselves the provisions in the severe arctic conditions.

Despite strong pressure on the part of the national states to erase the culture and language of the Indigenous Peoples and minority peoples, they have survived to lesser and greater degrees. The preservation of traditional industries has been the reason to that.

The Nordic Saami Council established connection with the Saami in Russia quite early, and the first discussions started in 1987. In 1991, the Sàmi/Sàmi organizations on the Russian side were admitted as members in the Saami Council on a formal basis. The point of departure for the cooperation between the Indigenous peoples in the region builds partly on language belonging, coinciding cultural expressions, family ties and almost identical forms of trade. Even though the problems and purposes vary with regard to time in the various countries, this forms a sound basis for an exchange of ideas and experiences for development of the Indigenous Peoples. An expanded cooperation of the Indigenous Peoples is fundamental for a positive development for the Indigenous Peoples in the region.

Indigenous Peoples profile in the Barents cooperation

*The Regional Committee for the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region*¹⁰ was appointed by the Regional Council April, 22-23, 1993 and consisted of 6 members. The Working Group has got the mandate to:

- Develop an Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region
- Provide a description of the state of current cooperation
- Shed light on how the Indigenous Peoples in the respective countries are organized
- Put forward proposal that can improve the Indigenous Peoples' position and their cultural, economical and traditional trades development in the region.
- Put forward proposals as to how the regional Council could contribute to an as positive development as possible.

The Working Group has to a pint, which economical and organizing results supposed to get and which offers they have to another groups of the regional cooperation.

The Committee organized the first conference of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region in Bodø, 16-17 June 1994 to discuss the future measures and procedures of the cooperation. At the same time, the first formal meeting between the Nenets Autonomous Okrug in Russia, the Saami Parliament of Norway, the Saami Parliament of Sweden, the Saami Parliament of Finland and the Kola Saami's Association in Russia took place.

The aspects in the Indigenous Peoples cooperation

¹⁰ later changed to the *Working Group of the Indigenous peoples in the Barents region*

The Indigenous Peoples cooperation is *cross sectional* including both governmental and regional dimensions and an inherent and external perspective. The implication of this is that it can be argued that the Indigenous Peoples' cooperation is a *third dimension* in the Barents cooperation. With this as a point of departure, work was undertaken to raise the status of the Committee. In 1994, it was proposed that the group be re-organized to the *Indigenous Peoples Council* consisting of leaders for the Saami representative elective bodies in Norway, Sweden and Finland and the deputy *governor* for the Nenets Autonomous Okrug¹¹. In addition, a special arrangement for representation of the Saami, Nenets and Vepsian in Russia is being worked out pending a separate Saami representative elective body on the Russian side.

The proposal with regard to Indigenous Peoples Council was submitted to the Barents Council in September 1994. The Barents Council could not process the proposal at the meeting, but stated in its common declaration:

«... The Council welcomed the proposed establishment of a permanent Regional Committee for the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents and Euro-Arctic region, (...). The Council agreed to give the Regional Committee for the Indigenous Peoples a special advisory role in relation to the Barents Council».

In the Regional Council, however, the idea to establish Indigenous Peoples Council did not receive the same support as it did in the Barents Council. The Russian side, in particular, was critical of placing emphasis on Indigenous Peoples issues in the Barents cooperation. That is why, the representatives from the Indigenous Peoples have postponed the question concerning the Indigenous Peoples Council at the regional Council to the best time.

Based on the current situation, one found it appropriate to raise the status of the Committee for the Indigenous Peoples. This proposal put forward to the regional Council at a meeting in January 1995, which made the Working Group *permanent basis* with an *advisory status*, towards the Regional Council and the Barents Council. Besides that, in 1996 in the Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes has been confirmed a new position - a consultant of the Indigenous Peoples' issues. To sum up, it is possible to say that Committee of the Indigenous Peoples has obtained a higher status and legitimacy in the Barents cooperation.

8.2. Current status

Indigenous Peoples representation

Even though the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples reached a special status, there is the request for a stronger the Indigenous Peoples representation in the Barents region bodies. On the 5th meeting in the Barents Council in Luleå in January 1997, the Saami Parliament pointed out the need for an Indigenous Peoples representation in the Barents Council on a level with the representation in the Arctic Council.

¹¹ In accordance with Offer about *reorganization of cooperation of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region*, Committee of the Indigenous peoples, 31 August 1994

On behalf of the Indigenous Peoples in the region, the Saami Parliament recommended also that the leader of the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples participate in the Committee of Senior Offices (CSO). It is also necessary in the further consolidation of cooperation between the regional and governmental levels in connection with financing of the Indigenous Peoples work and the shaping of a legislation affecting the Indigenous Peoples.

Expansion of the cooperation

The Barents Indigenous Peoples Conference was implemented in connection with the 16th Saami conference, which took place in Murmansk in 1996. The activity of the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples was directed towards the current situation and future purposes for the Indigenous Peoples in the region. The need for a coupling to the general work on Indigenous Peoples issues in Russia was discussed between the Working Group's leader and the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON). The Working Group has also pointed out the need for coordination with the work, which is carried out the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) and the Arctic Council.

It is also essential to coordinate the work with a *Saami Convention* between Norway, Sweden, Finland and possibly, Russia, and the work with the Indigenous Peoples rights on a more general foundation in various international levels such as United Nations Organization and International Labor Organization. The coordination must take part at central level.

Composition of the Working Group

In 1996, the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples recommended that the Vepsian in the Karelian Republic be given representation in the group. The Vepsian entered the Working Group's meetings the first time in Kirkenes, May 13, 1997. This implies that, from this date and after the meeting in Sarisälkä in February 2000 the Working Group consists of 6 members.¹² Thus the Working Group consists of one representative from Nenets, one representative from Vepsian and four representatives from Saami. One from Russia, one from Finland, one from Sweden and one from Norway represent the Saami. The Indigenous Peoples representatives from Russia have been appointed upon recommendation from the Nenets organization «JASAVEI», Non-governmental Saami organization of Murmansk region (OOSMO) in cooperation with Kola Saami Association (AKS) and the Society of Vepsian Culture. The Saami Parliamentary Council, which is a cooperating body between the Saami elected Parliaments, appoints Saami members from Nordic countries.

The Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples has worked in favor of being able to decide the size and composition of the Working Group itself on an independent basis. The Leader of Group is elected among the Group.

¹² [in accordance with a resolution 1995 of the representatives from each region in the Working Groups](#)

Functions of secretariat

At present, the functions of the Secretariat discharge the *consultant of the Indigenous Peoples issues* in the Barents Secretariat, Norway and the employee of the Barents Indigenous Peoples office (BIPO) in Murmansk, Russia.

Conclusion

From the moment when the new 4-years program came into operation the Indigenous Peoples contribution to the Barents cooperation consists of two parallel strategies. On the one hand, it applies to the implementation of the «The Indigenous Peoples Year 2005 in BEAR» in cooperation with the organizations and authorities. At the same time and parallel with such immediate efforts, long-term work takes place at project level to improve the living conditions amongst the Indigenous Peoples in the Russian area of the Barents region. This plan of action is a peculiar contribution to this work.

The program is submitted to the governmental and regional authorities for a consideration and implementation. For the program work to be successful, there is a need for adjusted economic and organizational framework conditions.

The fact that the Indigenous Peoples in the region, with their distinct languages, cultures, mode of living and industries do not exist in other places in the world, means that the governmental and regional authorities have a great responsibility to preserve the peoples' existence, living conditions and cultures for the future.

8.3. Indigenous Peoples accounts/inquiries

The following inquiries and accounts on the Indigenous Peoples, finances via the Barents cooperation have been implemented:

- Indigenous Peoples of Russia (modern structure and self-organization and interactions with bodies. Artem Rybkin, Association of the World Reindeer Herders, Russian Branch, Moscow 1998)
- The Action plan for the keeping of reindeer husbandry in Murmansk oblast and Nents A.O. - Barents Program's pre-project 96202, the World Reindeer Peoples' Union, February 1997
- Health service to the Indigenous peoples in the North West Russia, demand analysis Dr. Ole Mathis Hætta, Dr. Aino Snellman, SEG, November 1996
- Specialist plan «Establishment course for the Indigenous Peoples», Bjørn Bjørgvel, Bedriftskompetance, Hammerfest, June 1996.
- Report - Saami industrial activities in the Kola Peninsula in the county of Murmansk, Fiskebeck Project AS, September 1998
- The Action plan for the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region 1994-1997. Action preparation and development of the projects in the Barents program. The Indigenous Peoples Committee 18-19 June 1998.
- Proposal of reorganization of the Indigenous Peoples cooperation in the Barents region. The regional Indigenous Peoples Committee, August 31, 1994.
- The Action plan of the Indigenous Peoples 2000-2003. The Regional Indigenous Peoples Committee, Petrozavodsk, June 23, 1999
- Preliminary project «Saami Radio of the Kola Peninsula», Saami Council, NRK, ULE and SR - Saami Radio and SVT Sapmi, June 15, 2002
- Evaluation of the investments from municipality Karasjok to the public health service v.Lovozero 1998-2001, Thorbjørn Bjorvatn, 14.01.2002
- «The Struggle with alcoholism among the Indigenous peoples in the North West Russia», inquiries, researches and measures plan», SEG, Tana, 04.09.2001

Documents are available at:

Barents secretariat, Pb.276, N-9915, Kirkenes, phone. + 47 78 97 70 50, fax +47 78 97 75 55; e-mail: info@barsek.no

The Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO), Murmansk, Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU), Sportivnaya street, 13 office 131B, phone/fax: +7 815 2 45 21 40, e-mail: bipo@murman.ru <http://www.murman.ru/barents-info>

Appendix 1

The total picture of means allotted on the Norwegian regional level 1995-31.12.2005 in millions Norwegian crowns

Areas of priority	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	/									
	96									
5.3.1 Health and social problems	0,13	0,18	0,85	0,39	0,45	0,05	0,11	0,01	0,17	
5.3.2. Environment and use of nature					0,59			0,08		
5.3.3. Education and competence level		0,42	0,36	0,33	0,23	0,17	0,13	0,13	0,11	
5.3.4. Traditional industries and business activities	1,05	0,33	0,31	0,14	0,13	0,21	0,41	0,41	0,22	
5.3.5. Culture	0,66	0,16	0,54	0,22	0,44	0,51	0,24	0,24	0,10	
5.3.6. Infrastructure	0,75	0,07	0,07	0,14	0,21	0,61	0,36	0,16		
5.3.7. Information and media activities	0,04		0,01	0,03			0,12	0,30	0,12	
Total millions NOK	2,63	1,16	2,14	1,25	2,04	1,55	1,37	1,32	0,72	2,41

Appendix 2

Terms of Reference for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

1. The purpose of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (WGIP) is to serve as a forum for indigenous co-operation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and to ensure the involvement of the indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the decision-making process and their participation in the co-operation.
2. The WGIP has a permanent status with an advisory role for the central level and the regional level. The decisions of the WGIP are of the recommendation character for the central and regional levels. The Chairperson of the WGIP attends the BEAR Ministerial Meetings and is given an opportunity to take the floor.
3. The WGIP determines the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region for four years giving yearly priorities, proposing practical solutions, and recommending the decisions to be made, and submitting it both to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council. The WGIP follows the implementation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and reports on it both to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council. The implementation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region is the responsibility of both central and regional levels. The other organs (Saami Parliamentary Council, Saami Council, Saami Parliaments in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, Association of the World Reindeer Herders, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), central and regional WGs), operating in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, are also responsible for its promotion and implementation within their own administrative frameworks.
- 4a. The WGIP consists in total of 6 members (permanent participants) and includes one Saami representative from Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden respectively, one representative of the Nenets, one representative of the Vepsians.
- 4b. The Indigenous Consultant at Barentssecretariat in Kirkenes, Norway, serves as secretariat for the WGIP. The Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office (BIPO) serves also as secretariat for the WGIP. Its head is one of the secretaries of the WGIP.
- 4c. The WGIP has in total 3 observers and includes one representative of the Saami Council, one representative of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, one representative of Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON).

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5a. The members of the WGIP, representing the Saami in Finland, Norway, and Sweden, are appointed by the Saami Parliamentary Council for four years, if not the Saami Parliamentary Council wishes to change the member during the period.

5b. The members of the WGIP, representing the Nenets, Saami, and Vepsians in Russia, are nominated by the regional public indigenous organizations, having at least 5-year experience of practical work with indigenous peoples and issues, in accordance with the Charter (Regulations) of the regional public organization concerning the representation in the international organizations, at the general Meeting (Congress) of the Meeting of the leading organs (authorities) of the regional public indigenous organizations for three years.

5c. If there are several regional public indigenous organizations in the region (subject of the Russian Federation – a constituent part/member of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region) a joint decision of the leading organs of the regional public indigenous organizations on the appointment of the member of the WGIP is made. If the joint decision is impossible to make a lot is cast.

5d. It is a compulsory requirement for the proposed WGIP member to be of the Barents indigenous origin and live in the subject of the Russian Federation – a constituent part/member of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

6. The ~~Chairperson~~ of the WGIP is elected among the members of the WGIP by the members of the WGIP for two years with a possibility to be re-elected unanimously.

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7. The WGIP meets at least twice a year rotating the venue of the meeting between Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

8. Each meeting sets the date and venue of the next meeting. ~~The call-up and agenda will be approved at the meeting, but being distributed three weeks beforehand. The chairperson of the WGIP determines the agenda of the meeting. The members and observers of the WGIP may propose a certain issue to be considered at the meeting of the WGIP having submitted it in a written form to the BIPO but no later than a month before the meeting.~~

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9. The meetings of the WGIP are conducted either in Russian or Saami with interpretation being provided. English, Norwegian, and Swedish are also the working languages.

10. Decisions of the WGIP are taken unanimously by its members. Decision-making is possible only when there is a quorum at the meeting of the WGIP (four members of the WGIP are present).

11. The WGIP may invite special participants and guests to contribute to its work.

12. The costs related to the activities of the WGIP are covered by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden, the Saami Parliamentary Council, and other sources via the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

Appendix 3

The Barents Indigenous Peoples Office –status and future work

The establishment of Barents Indigenous Peoples office (BIPO) in Murmansk was a very important event. The work at this project has been continued during the several years. Saami Parliament of Norway financed the establishment of office. The formal founder and responsible for the project is Barents Secretariat in Norway. The Barents Secretariat directs the work of the office. The office is located at the building of Murmansk State Technical University (MSTU) in Murmansk. Address: MSTU, Murmansk 183010, Sportivnaya street, 13 office 124B, phone/fax: +7 8152 45 21 40, e-mail: bipo@murman.ru, <http://www.murman.ru/barents-info>

The tenancy contract between parties has been established and finally signed on 19.08.2003. From one part it was signed by leader of the Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes, Norway, Rune Rafaelsen and leader of the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples in BEAR Anna Prakhova, and from another part, Olga Buch on behalf of rector of Murmansk Technical University Alexandr Ershov and representative from Murmansk region Administration Lidia Kosareva. The contract is made in English in the 4-th copies and consists of 6 pages including the internal office' budget.

The premises have been repaired and supplied with all necessary technical means and equipment for the work of full value. The office has been automatic connected up to the international net (internet) of MSTU to avoid the extra costs. The telephone and fax lines have been mounted later. It is a part of service agreement with MSTU.

The engaging of an employee on the work is going by the usual way in accordance with advice from the meeting of the Working Group of the Indigenous peoples in BEAR, question 11/03. The employee applied for work on 19.08.2003 the trial period of 6 months. At once the employee has got a three weeks training in the Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes, Saami Parliament of Norway and other institutions and organizations of the Indigenous Peoples with a corresponded activity. The official opening of the Barents Indigenous Peoples Office took place on 7 October 2003 with participation of the interested parties and guests.

The employee of BIPO left the work of own accord in May 2005. The leader of the Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples in the Barents region has been the leader of office until the end of 2005. It is necessary to employ a new leader of office at the beginning of 2006 and to renew the tenancy contract. It may be necessary also to consolidate the work of the office by opening a department in Lovozero (Lujàvri) - the heart of living of Saami in the Kola Peninsula. Premises for such department are to lease office at the repaired building of the Saami Cultural Center. This work has to be done in close cooperation with leader of Saami Council who lives there. The necessities of such consolidation have been underlined by Barents Secretariat in Norway and leaders of the projects on this area.

The objective of The Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Murmansk is to be a working tool and a service institution for The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in the Barents Cooperation, to be a part that carries out preparation of items for the WGIP it self, the indigenous representative in Barents Regional Council and the indigenous representative in Barents Regional Committee, to be a service institution for indigenous and others with interest of indigenous issues in Barents Region, to be an administrative link between several levels in the Barents Cooperation what concerns indigenous issues and further more carry out services linked to indigenous issues in Barents Region. BIPO office is meant to be a working tool for indigenous groups on Russian side and a natural link between those groups and indigenous groups on Nordic side.

Appendix 4

Directions About the Election and Appointment of the Indigenous Representatives to the WGIP in BEAR Members on the Russian Side.

Stage 1. Local Nomination and Decision on Appointment.

The procedure of nominating a member of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR (WGIP) and his/her deputy takes place at the General Meeting (Congress) or meeting of leading organs (authorities) of the regional public indigenous organizations, having at least 5-year experience of practical work with indigenous peoples and issues, in accordance with the Charter (Regulations) of the regional public organization concerning the representation in the international organizations.

If there are several regional public indigenous organizations in the region (subject of the Russian Federation (RF) – a member of the BEAR) a joint decision of the leading organs of the regional public indigenous organizations on the appointment of the WGIP member and his/her deputy is made. If the joint decision is impossible to make a lot is cast.

It is a compulsory requirement for the proposed WGIP member and his/her deputy to be of Barents indigenous origin and live in the subject of the RF – a member of the BEAR.

Stage 2. Informing of the Appointment.

Decision on appointment of the WGIP in the BEAR member and his/her deputy is forwarded to the executive organ of the subject of the RF – a member of the BEAR, Regional Council and Chairperson of the WGIP. The term of office of a new WGIP in the BEAR member and his/her deputy is 3 years.

Stage 3. Provision of the Activities of the Member of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR on the Russian Side.

In accordance with the rules, established in the BEAR (Reference 1) and taking into consideration the peculiarities of the indigenous peoples' co-operation and of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (Reference 2), suggest the subject of the RF – a member of the BEAR covering the expenses, related to the participation of the member of the WGIP in its activities.

When holding a WGIP meeting on the territory of the subject of the RF – a member of the BEAR, ensure the holding of the WGIP meeting, having considered and organized a meeting of the WGIP members with the leader of the executive organ of the subject of the RF – a member of the BEAR.

