



Minutes of the (Joint) Working Group on Tourism Meeting Online 25 November 2021

DRAFT 26-11-2021

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Egil Ørjan Thorsen from Troms and Finnmark County Council in the absence of **the (J)WGT Chair Anita Irene Andersen** opened the fourth (J)WGT meeting under the Norwegian Chairmanship on 25 November, using the Teams platform. He presented the Agenda for this meeting.

2. Presentations of participants

The following participants introduced themselves:

Satu Luro (Lapland), **Heikki Ojala** (Oulu region), **Tuomo Tahvanainen** (Kainuu), **Jarno Turunen** (North Karelia), **Erika Rosander** (Swedish Ministry of Enterprise), **Kairi Pääsuke** (Norrbotten), **Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen** (Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment), **Yulia Lyapina** (Arkhangelsk), **Anastasia Ivanova** (Murmansk), **Sergey Mishin** and **Olga Lapina** (Nenets), and **Romans Gokkoev** (IBS).

Also, **Demyan Smilevets** (Russian Tourism Agency) sent his greetings via e-mail.

3. Presentations of national tourism strategies from each country

Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen presented the Finnish National Tourism Strategy 2019-2028 and action plan 2019-2023 (presentation is attached to the Minutes). **Erika Rosander** presented the new Swedish National Tourism Strategy, published in November (see attachment). Roman Gokkoev conveyed greetings from **Demyan Smilevets** who sent a letter with a brief report from Russia (letter attached). New Working Group member from Nenets region **Sergey Mishin** presented tourist attractions of Nenets autonomous okrug (presentation attached). **Egil Ørjan Thorsen** presented the Norwegian National Tourism Strategy 2030 (see attachment). He also summarized the presentations and concluded that all strategies have emphasis on sustainable development in the tourism industry.

4. Workshop on questionnaire responses (Update of the Barents Tourism Action Plan)

Egil Ørjan Thorsen presented the structure of the new Barents Tourism Action Plan 2022-2026. The WG provided input to the following points: time span of the Action Plan, future scenarios, examples of projects, key action areas, what has been achieved during the previous Action Plan (since 2013).

It was agreed, as some input provided earlier by replying to the questionnaire digitally was not available, the current (J)WGT Chair Troms and Finnmark will combine and share by e-mail the main outcomes from this workshop and received responses to the questionnaire for further elaboration.

5. Presentation of the Finnish Presidency and activities in 2022-2023.

Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen and **Tuomo Tahvanainen** presented the plans for the work under the Finnish Presidency for the next two years (presentation in attached to the Minutes).

6. Any other business

The (J)WGT adopted the Annual Report 2021 and the final version of the Mandate of Working Group on Tourism 2022-2025 (to be approved by the CSO and the RC).

7. Next meeting

The new WGT* Chair (Finland) will call for a virtual meeting presumably in March 2022 with the aim to present detailed plans for the WGT's work during the Finnish Presidency and proceed with the update process of the Barents Tourism Action Plan (call for tenders).

*From now on the WGT is used for the Working Group on Tourism (earlier Joint Working Group on Tourism, JWGT) following the merger of the Working Groups. More info: www.barents-council.org