

Report from The regional Working group on Youth issues 2003

Meetings

Established in Rovaniemi 9th of April 2003.

Including the establishment meeting, there have been four group meetings in 2003. In Bodø in August, in Umeå in October and in Oslo in November.

Cooperation with central working group

One of the meetings was a joint meeting with the intergovernmental working group on youth policy. Juri Smirnov from BYCO (Barents youth cooperation office) and Bjørn Jaaberg Hansen, chairman of the central working group, have attended all the meetings. Susanne Ljungström participated the central working group in Stockholm 19th of Mars 2003. We have a relatively close cooperation with the central working group witch we want to develop and we are planning two joint meetings in 2004 and a common youth conference in 2005.

Projects

Work program

The group have spent quite some time on discussing the content of a work program. The work program was approved at the meeting in Oslo in November, and will be evaluated and changed when necessary.

Youth happening in Umeå

During the Barents councils meeting In Umeå 2-3 October we wanted to focus on the coming effort to take youth issues into account in all the focus areas within the Barents cooperation. Four young people from each country in the Barents region met in Umeå and worked on the LA-21 project called Clean Up, and showed the performance for the Barents Regional Council. This play covers many areas that are focus areas in the Regional youth program. Indigenous people, environment, politics, youth participation and culture.

Through the project Clean Up we worked across the borders to create an understanding of environmental problems, which increasingly will influence our lives. But this play is also a tool to make young people learn to speak up and participate in politic issues that is influencing their future. In this play the participants expresses their thoughts concerning environmental issues and other issues that is important for a future in the region.

Barents regional youth council

On request from youth representatives from the whole Barents Region (that were participating on a youth seminar in Murmansk in October), we supported the establishment of Barents Regional Youth Council. The council will work on strengthening and expansion of the cooperation between youth organisations in the Barents region.

The council will consist of one youth representative from each län, fylke, oblast and okrug in the region. This person must be chosen from an organisation that has taken the responsibility to be a contact for other youth organisations interested in the Barents cooperation in their home region. The council will be established during the culture festival Barents Spectacle in Kirkenes 23rd to 25th of January in 2004. The following criteria are set for the representatives - He or she must have an age fitting the category "Youth" (over 18 and under 25 years), have knowledge about youth issues in their region, be interested in international cooperation. The work language in the council will be English

Future plans

Follow up and work on the issues listed in our work program to make sure the Barents regional Youth program is implemented.

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