



Umeå 2003-10-01

Mandate for the Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues

Starting point

The BEAC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) decided in December 2002 to appoint an ad hoc Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues for the year 2003. The ad hoc WG took over the tasks previously performed by the Reference Group 1999-2002. The objective was to further develop multilateral/bilateral interdisciplinary co-operation in the Barents Region and to work out proposals for a new programme on health and related social issues for the period 2004-2007. The previous Health Programme was also prolonged to cover the year 2003.

A new programme on health and related social issues will be adopted by the BEAC at its Meeting of Foreign Ministers on 3 October 2003, in Umeå

Objective of the WG on Health and Related Social Issues

The WG will take over the tasks previously performed by the Reference Group and further develop multilateral/bilateral interdisciplinary co-operation in the Barents Region. It will identify and implement measures required to fulfil the aim and tasks described in the Co-operation Programme on Health and Related Social Issues in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2004-2007.

Methods of work

The Working Group should choose its own working methods, which are the most appropriate for a particular project and which are in line with financing possibilities. This could include a number of different actions such as appointing consultative experts groups, using external evaluation experts, organising conferences or seminars and involving universities and other research institutions etc.

The Working Group should ensure full co-operation and co-ordination with the proposed Northern Dimension Partnership in Health and Social Well-being as well as with other international actors in the Barents Region in order to avoid duplication and to strengthen the impact of actions taken.

The Working Group should meet at least once a year. If necessary, it should be possible to form a smaller group with one participating person from each country and region to manage urgent tasks between the meetings of the Working Group.

Composition of the WG

In order to enhance an active participation on equal terms between the different actors in the programme, a shared chairmanship should be practised. The chairmanship should be circulating within intervals of two years with a Nordic country and a Russian region working together.

The Working Group should include following representatives as permanent members:

- One representative from each republic, oblast, okrug or county of the Barents Regional Council
- One representative from national (federal) competent authorities in each participating country
- one representative of indigenous peoples
- one representatives of the WHO
- one representative of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- one representative of the European Commission
- regional international bodies such as the Task Force on Communicable Disease Control and if suitable, other international initiatives.

Permanent members could invite specialists to take part in the meetings whenever necessary.