



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the Working Group: Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area - BEATA

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: Norway

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

The Norwegian Chair seek to follow up recommendations from the draft Joint Barents Transport Plan (JBTP) and will hold seminars assembling experts and stakeholders investigating plans and possibilities within each transport mode. Objectives and activities are outlined in the work program for 2020-2021.

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

All traditional meetings have been replaced by digital/online meetings due to the pandemic. A large event on aviation had to be cancelled in March. The Steering Committee has met and communicated online. In October we held a webinar on road transport according to the work program. We highlighted challenges with heavy goods vehicles (HGV) and traffic safety with presentations from the four Barents countries. The webinar also covered smart transport solutions and presented examples of green logistics. The Barents environmental working group presented the upcoming revision of Barents Climate Action Plan.

The full day webinar went quite well, with 40-50 attendees from all Barents countries with active participation during the webinar.

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

The Steering Committee agreed to set up an expert working group to make a report on development of 24h resting areas for HGV along the border crossing roads in Barents. The report, consisting of recommended facilities and with a map showing possible locations, will be delivered by Q1 2021.

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

Due to the circumstances caused by the pandemic we were not able to hold the seminar on aviation in Barents planned in Bodø in March. We are planning to hold a shorter webinar on electrification of aviation early in 2021. Except for this, we have followed the work program. The cooperation with the regional group on transport and logistics is working and we have started a dialogue with the Environmental working group aiming to give input to the upcoming revision of Barents Climate Action Plan.

5. Youth involvement (how has the working group included young people or worked with youth issues during the year)

Unfortunately, not so much to report here. We will seek to invite representatives from the Joint Working Group on Youth to the upcoming events in 2021.

6. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

All the remaining events and meetings for 2021 will be held on digital platforms. We have had challenges finding a technical platform that suits all BEATA parties and providing interpretation at the same time. We will make use of the resources in IBS in order to overcome these technical obstacles.

7. Other