



## THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the Working Group: **Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation in the Barents Region**  
The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: **Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency under 2020**

### 1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

During the Chairmanship Sweden has mainly focused on evaluation and Lessons identified, follow up and development of the new Barents Rescue cooperation concept introduced during the Swedish Barents Event week in Kiruna in September 2019.

In addition, the Chairmanship raised the importance to contribute to the Action Plan for Climate Change in the Barents Region.

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

During 2020 two meetings of the Joint Committee have been organized in online format due to COVID-19 restrictions: 29 April and 10 December 2020 (back-to-back to the Concept Development Conference for Barents Event week 2020).

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

As a Chair Sweden was invited and participated at the BEAC High level meeting 26 October and BEAC Council of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting 9 December 2020.

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

Sweden during its Chairmanship in JC, together with other countries, improved the efficiency of the cooperation within the Barents Agreement by:

### *Evaluation of the Barents Rescue Event 2019 (BR19)*

JC analyzed the BR 19 evaluation report with recommendations and took note on that.

JC approved to encourage apply the After Action Review (AAR) methodology for evaluation of future Barents Rescue Events.

JC also approved, when appropriate, continue to organise the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) exercise in future Barents Rescue Events.

### *Barents Joint Manual*

Based on lessons identified and recommendations in the BR 19 evaluation report the proposals for changes in the Barents Joint Manual have been prepared and approved by the JC.

### *Action Plan for Climate Change in the Barents region*

According to the earlier decision to take into account the Action Plan for Climate Change in the Barents region the JC has analyzed the contribution to the Action Plan implementation. The baseline scenario for the Barents Agreement activation in the exercise 2019 was taken from the experience from the Swedish wildfires 2018 and the research on climate change related to wildfires in the Barents region. JC noted that ongoing cooperation have contributed to the implementation of the Action Plan - the seminar "Climate Changes in the Barents region" has been organized as a part of Barents Rescue 2019 Event Week.

Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) will ensure that the Action Plan for Climate Change will be taken into account during the planning of future Barents events.

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

The JC understands the importance of youth involvement in the Barents cooperation. The youth perspective will be taking into account during the planning of future Barents events.

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

During the Swedish Chairmanship the work of the JC was focused on implementation of the recommendations from the BR 19 Evaluation report in order to better fulfill the purpose of the Barents Agreement and the Manual. The necessary changes have been made in the Barents Joint Manual and approved by the JC. In general, the cooperation is constructive and pragmatic with active participation from all Barents countries.

## 7. Other