



**Barents Working Groups
Annual Reports 2009**

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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Main outcome of the activities of the BEAC Working Group on Economic Cooperation during Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC in 2007 - 2009

During Russian Chairmanship in the BEAC in 2007-2009 the BEAC Working Group on Economic Cooperation (hereinafter named as BEAC/WGEC) was chaired by Mr. Sergey Goncharenko, Deputy Director of the Department of Economic Cooperation, MFA of the Russian Federation.

Main directions of the activities of the BEAC/WGEC were elaborated in accordance with the Priorities of the Russian Federation during its Chairmanship in the BEAC in 2007-2009, approved by the Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Sergey Lavrov as BEAC Chairman.

1. List of main events of the BEAC/WGEC during the Russian BEAC Chairmanship (end of 2007 - 2008).

1) Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow, 4 December 2007: First BEAC/WGEC Meeting under the Russian Chairmanship, the Chairman of the Group met the representatives of the Embassies of the BEAC Member States in Moscow (minister-counsellors, economic counsellors, diplomats from the EU Representation Office in Moscow).

Participants: Embassies of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden in Moscow, the EU Representation Office in Moscow, Russian MFA (Second European Department and Department of Economic Cooperation), Ministry of Economic Development and Russian Forestry Agency, Russian Academy of Science, entities of Russian North-West, which are the BEAC Members.

Topic: exchange of views on the Russian plans for Chairmanship of the BEAC/WGEC.

Summary: with due attention to the views expressed by the participants the Russian Side elaborated the Priorities of Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC in 2007 – 2009 concerning regional economic cooperation, as well as the Perspective Plan for the Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC/WGEC in 2008.

Representatives of the BEAC Member States, EC, Russian Ministries and Agencies agreed with views proposed by the Russian Chairmanship for the BEAC/WGEC. These proposals were also presented at the Meeting of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation (Riga, 16 January 2008).

Russian Federation stressed the necessity for these two Working Groups to cooperate, considering that the said coordination of their efforts may bring a synergy effect and

contribute to the common goal – sustainable development (especially – in the economic area) of the Barents and Baltic regions of Europe.

The relevant documents (the Priorities of Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC in 2007 – 2009 and the Perspective Plan for the Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC/WGEC in 2008) were placed at the Russian Chairmanship in BEAC/WGEC web-site of the Russian MFA and were sent to the International Barents Secretariat.

2) Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Moscow, 21 May 2008: the BEAC/WGEC Meeting
Participants:

Representatives of the Embassies of Finland, Norway, Sweden in Moscow and of the EU Representative Office in Moscow, representatives of Russian Ministries and Agencies (MFA, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry Agency, Academy of Science).

Main issues:

Information of the representative of Finland on the main outcome of the Finnish Chairmanship of the BEAC/WGEC in 2005 – 2007; Adoption of the Plan for the Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC/WGEC in 2008 – 2009; Information on the outcome of the BEAC CSO Meeting on 7 – 8 April 2008 in Moscow; Discussion on forestry management development in the Barents region within the framework of the BEAC/WGEC (Report on the work of the Barents Forest Sector Task Force (BFSTF) in 2005 – 2007; Information on recent development, current situation and legislative changes, prospects for the future in the Russian Forestry Sector (by the representative of the Russian Forestry Agency); Prolongation of the BFSTF mandate; Exchange of views on matters related to the tentative meeting of the BEAC/WGEC in Brussels (who participates, items to be discussed, etc.); Information on B-BAG activities (Chairman – Mr. T.Rautajoki); Exchange of views related to the next Barents Industrial Partnership (BIP) Conference, etc.

3) St.-Petersburg, 27 November 2008: the BEAC/WGEC Meeting

Participants:

Representatives of the Embassies of Finland, Norway, Sweden in Moscow and of the EU Representative Office in Moscow, representatives of Russian Ministries and Agencies (MFA, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry Agency), the head of the Informational Bureau of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Main issues:

Information on the BEAC/WGEC activities since the BEAC WGEC Meeting (Moscow, 21 May 2008); Discussion on issues related to the forestry in the framework of the BEAC WGEC (appointment of Mr. S.Shtrakhov (Russian Forestry Agency) to the post of BFSTF Chairman; Information on recent development and future prospects in the Russian Forestry Sector in view of cooperation within the Barents Region); Results of the Meeting of BEAC WGEC Chairman in Brussels with the EC representatives (in June 2008); Information on B-BAG activities; Exchange of views related to the next BIP Conference; Information on economic developments in the regions of the BEAC Member States.

Information was presented on several economic projects being implemented in the entities of the Russian Federation – members of the Barents Regional Council (at the request of the heads of these entities):

- a) Republic of Karelia – “Barents-Link”; construction of the International Road Border Check-Point “Suvaoro – Parikkala”; reconstruction of the International Railway Border Check-Point “Vartsilla – Lutta”;
- b) Republic of Komi – construction of the Railway Line “Solikamsk – Gainy – Syktyvkar – Kargopory – Arkhangelsk”;
- c) Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug – “BARENTSKOMUR”.

4) Arkhangelsk, 16 December 2008: the 7th International Conference «Barents Industrial Partnership».

Participants:

The representatives of the Russian Federation (MFA, Administrations of the entities of the Russian North-WEst), Finland, Norway, Sweden, business communities of the BEAC Member States.

Topic of the Conference:

«Barents Industrial Partnership in Changing Economic Conditions».

Participants discussed the prospects of further broadening multilateral economic cooperation in the region in the spheres of economy, trade, science and technologies, education, environment protection and implementation of joint projects.

The Russian participants presented information on the opportunities to improve further cooperation within the framework of the BEAC in such areas as shipbuilding and ship-repairing, development of port infrastructure, forestry, etc. Information was considered with interest.

Main results of the BIP – 2008 confirmed interest of the BEAC Member States towards international cooperation in the Barents region. It was underlined that effectiveness of such cooperation for the Russian Federation would depend at large extent on dynamic involvement into the process from the part of its entities of Russian North-West, in

particular – Arkhangelsk and Murmansk Regions, Republic of Komi, Republic of Karelia and Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug.

Deputy Head of the Arkhangelsk Regional Administration, Mr. D.Pletnev, and Director of the International Barents Secretariat Ambassador A.Ignatiev addressed the participants with welcoming speeches.

2. Other BEAC events with participation of the BEAC/WGEC Chairman in 2008.

1. BEAC CSO Meeting, Moscow, 7 – 8 April 2008.
2. BEAC Working Group on Customs Cooperation, Moscow, 5 June 2008.

3. Meetings, Negotiations, Consultations of the BEAC/WGEC Chairman on BEAC issues in 2008.

1. With high-level representatives of Russian-Norwegian and Norwegian-Russian Chambers of Commerce and Trade, Moscow, 5 February 2008
2. With the representative of Denmark – the incoming Chairman of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation, Moscow, 8 June 2008
3. With representatives of the European Commission, Brussels, 19 June 2008.
4. With the Chairman of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation (Denmark), Copenhagen, 10 September 2008.

4. List of main events of the BEAC/WGEC during the Russian BEAC Chairmanship (2009).

1) St.-Petersburg, 2 June 2009: the BEAC/WGEC Meeting

Participants:

Representatives of Finland, Norway, Sweden, International Barents Secretariat, Information Office in St.-Petersburg of the Nordic Council of Ministers (as guest), representatives of Russian Ministries and Agencies (MFA, Ministry of Economic Development, Forestry Agency, Administrations of Arkhangelsk Region, Murmansk Region and Republic of Komi).

Main issue:

Impact of world financial crisis over economic situation in the Barents Region

Presented: Information of the representatives of Finland, Norway, Sweden, Russian Ministry of Economic Development and Russian Forestry Agency.

Main outcome. Information of BEAC Member States on measures related to combating crisis was placed at the Russian Chairmanship in BEAC/WGEC web-site of the Russian MFA

2) St.-Petersburg, 7 October 2009: the BEAC/WGEC Meeting

Participants:

Representatives of Finland, Norway, Sweden, Information Office in St.-Petersburg of the Nordic Council of Ministers (as guest), representatives of Russian Foreign Ministry and Forestry Agency.

Main issue:

Special Economic Zones in the Russian Federation

Presented:

Information of the Russian Federal Agency on Special Economic Zones (Important feature: Special Economic Zones in the Russian Federation as areas of innovations with opportunities for FDI)

5. Other BEAC events with participation of the BEAC/WGEC Chairman in 2009.

1. Visit of the BEAC Regional Council (Mr.P.Saapunki) to Moscow, 17 – 18 March 2009. Exchange of views on the importance of close cooperation between BEAC and BEAC Regional Council. Information on activities of the BEAC/WGEC was presented by BEAC/WGEC Chairman.

2. 14-15 October 2009: Participation of the representative of BEAC/WGEC Chairman in Murmansk Economic Forum.

6. Meetings, Negotiations, Consultations of the BEAC/WGEC Chairman on BEAC issues in 2009.

1. Moscow, 12 February 2009: Conference of the Russian-Norwegian and Norwegian-Russian Chambers of Commerce and Trade (with participation of Norwegian companies working in the Russian market). Information on activities of the BEAC/WGEC was presented by BEAC/WGEC Chairman to the participants of the Conference.

2. Copenhagen, 11 March 2009: CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation. Information on activities of the BEAC/WGEC was presented by BEAC/WGEC Chairman to the participants of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation.

4. Copenhagen, 12 May 2009: With the Chairman of the CBSS Working Group on Economic Cooperation (Denmark).

5. Moscow, 15 May 2009: With Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Norwegian-Russian Chamber of Commerce and Trade (Norway).

6. Vilnius, 17-18 September 2009: Participation of the representative of BEAC/WGEC Chairman in the Meeting of CBSS CSO (on issues related to the regional economic cooperation and creation of new CBSS Expert Group – that of the Expert Group on Maritime Policy).

ANNEX

How the work was planned: Main directions and general considerations.

1) It was considered that the experience already gained by the Russian Federation in chairing the BEAC and BEAC/WGEC previously, in 2000 – 2001, has the utmost importance for the successful work of the BEAC/WGEC in 2007-2009.

2) Practice and main results of the BEAC/WGEC activities under the Chairmanship of Sweden, Norway and Finland in 2001 – 2007 were considered and developed. We proceeded from the need to continue what have already been started and to contribute to what is under implementation.

3) When formulating guidelines for the BEAC/WGEC we took into account the dynamics of regional economic processes.

4) Proper attention was paid to defining trends of development of the BEAC/WGEC and the Council itself, as well as to the changes in the format of regional economic cooperation. Particularly we considered that:

- several years ago the Task Force on Custom Matters was separated from the BEAC/WGEC and transformed into the independent BEAC Working Group on Customs Cooperation (hereinafter–BEAC/WGCC);
- a number of issues, which the BEAC/WGEC is now dealing with, has direct connection and impact to the topics discussed at the BEAC/WGEC Meetings (trade liberalization, logistic improvement, etc.);
- in 2004 new area of cooperation was set up, which has been matured as an independent one, – assistance to the contacts of the businessmen in the framework of international conference “Barents Industrial Partnership” and other events; Russian BEAC and BEAC/WGEC Chairmanship considered this direction to be important for development of regional economic cooperation.

- 5) Main directions of the BEAC/WGEC activities during Russian Federation Chairmanship in the BEAC were as follows:
- to evaluate current economic situation in the region;
 - to explore opportunities and prospects of interaction between ministries, agencies and business circles, taking into account the aforementioned economic situation;
 - to contribute into possible elaboration by the BEAC Member States common and/or similar approaches towards cooperation issues;
 - to assist in implementation of regional projects (including the joint ones).
- 6) The Russian Chairmanship planned to consider and considered the following issues:
- opportunities for multilateral assistance to international business in the Barents Region and for implementation of mutual economic projects;
 - expediency and ways to involve in the activities of the BEAC/WGEC representatives of large companies and firms from the BEAC Member States (in order to exchange views on BEAC issues);
 - cooperation in the area of innovations, including views expressed by experts on special economic zones and zones aimed at application of the achievements of science to production, which were established in the Russian Federation;
 - issues related to the sustainable forest management (bearing in mind recent changes in the Russian legislation related to forestry issues);
 - general forestry issues (taking into account that Barents Forestry Special Task Force as a part and parcel of the BEAC/WGEC, is chaired during Russian Federation Chairmanship in the BEAC by the high level Representative of the Russian Forestry Agency);
 - possible assistance in the framework of the BEAC/WGEC to promotion of large projects in the entities of the Russian Federation, which are constituent in the Barents Region (on the basis of the proposals from these entities' regional authorities).
- 7) Bearing in mind that the most important direction of the economic cooperation within the BEAC is the interaction of the national business communities, it was considered as important:
- to hold consultations with the B-BAG (Barents Business Advisory Group) on issues related to the activities of the Latter;
 - to explore the opportunities to join the work of the BEAC/WGEC from the part of Regional Chambers of Commerce and Trade (Russian-Norwegian, Norwegian-Russian, Stockholm CCT, Lapland CCT and others – in line with their interest to such cooperation);
 - to elaborate the possibility of joining the regional economic cooperation process by the relevant divisions of the Russian Chamber of Trade and Industry and Russian Union of Entrepreneurs and Producers.

8) Contacts with the International Barents Secretariat (Kirkenes) formed the basis of practical everyday work of the BEAC/WGEC.

Support of the International Barents Secretariat (Kirkenes) staff, especially that of Amb. Alexander Ignatiev and Ms Anna Lund was essential for the success of BEAC/WGEC efforts to promote regional economic cooperation during Russian Chairmanship in the BEAC in 2007-2009.

As Chairman of the BEAC Working Group on Economic Cooperation in 2007-2009 I am grateful for the efforts of all International Barents Secretariat (Kirkenes) staff, especially that of Amb. Alexander Ignatiev and Ms Anna Lund, for their kind assistance.

Plans 2010

- Ministerial meeting on energy efficiency and possibly other economic related issues, May 18-19, Umeå.

Report of the BEAC Working Group on Customs Cooperation (WGCC)

During the 2009 the WG had its meeting in Petrozavodsk (Kareliya) on June 4.

The representatives from Russia, Finland, the European Commission and IBS participated in the meeting.

The issues of possibility of customs information exchange in BEAC region and innovations in Russian customs legislation have been discussed at the meeting.

Unfortunately due to the lack of power of BEAC member states which are also EU member states in the area of customs cooperation in facilitation sphere there were no substantial decisions taken during the meeting.

The Russian chairmanship in BEAC Customs WG also raised an initiative to host a meeting of Customs DGs in order to discuss the actual customs problems of the Barents region and try to find proposals for solving them, but due to the lack of MS proposals to the agenda of the planned meeting it was decided to postpone it for uncertain time.

Even under the “pressure” of the Russian chairmanship in the BEAC Customs WG the problems of low attendance to the meetings and lack of competence of BEAC EU and EFTA member states in customs facilitation matters did not let the WG to work with a sensible result.

Report 2009
from the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's
Working Group on Environment (WGE)
to the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials

At the 8th Meeting of the BEAC Environment Ministers was held in Moscow, the Russian Federation 9th November 2007, the Ministers gave a renewed mandate to the Working Group and directions for further work in the fields of climate change, the environmental “hot spots” of the Barents Region, cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption, nature protection, and water issues.

Since November 2007 Norway has held the chairmanship if the BEAC Working Group on Environment. At the next meeting of the BEAC Environment Ministers, which will take place in Tromsø, Norway on 17th February 2010, the chairmanship will rotate to Sweden.

In 2009 the Working group has had 2 meetings, in Vadsø - March 2009 and Arkhangelsk - October 2009, and will have a final meeting before the ministerial meeting in Oslo 20 January 2010.

In 2008 three subgroups under the Working group on Environment where established: Subgroup on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption, Subgroup on nature protection, and Subgroup on water issues. The subgroups developed strategies and action plans, as well as lists of prioritized projects, and have been active in 2009.

The meetings of the Working group on Environment have taken place back-to-back with the meetings of the Regional Working group on Environment and the three subgroups. This has given the regional representatives the opportunity to take part in the Working Group and the subgroups. The co-operation between the regions and contact between the national and regional levels represents an added value of Barents co-operation. However, the issue of financing the participation of the regional representatives remains to be solved. The Regional Working Group on Environment reports separately to the Regional Committee.

Contact information and reports, strategies, project documentation etc., developed by the Working Group on Environment and the subgroups are provided on the website:

<http://www.beac.st/?Deptid=25674>

This report contains the following sections:

- 1. Climate change**
- 2. The environmental “hot spots” of the Barents Region**
- 3. Cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption**
- 4. Nature protection**
- 5. Water issues**
- 6. Future work**

1. Climate change

In 2009 the co-operation project between the Working group on Environment and the Nordic Council of Ministers to study the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem goods in the Barents Region was completed. A follow up project to study the prospects of protected areas in the Barents Region to fulfil their aims under changing climatic conditions, was started in 2009.

In order to identify relevant areas of cooperation on climate change in the Barents Region in light of updated knowledge, the Working Group on Environment organised a cross sector conference Climate change in the Barents Region 1-3 September 2009 in Vadsø, Norway. Approximately 60 representatives from research institutions, central and regional management, and non-governmental organisations in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, and Sweden participated in the conference. Focus was on effects of climate change on agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, hydrology, health and living conditions, and on adaptation strategies.

Building upon the presentations and panel discussions, as well as the document Arctic climate change - Policy measures relevant for the Barents Region, adopted by Committee of Senior Officials of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council in 2005, the conference arrived at a set of recommendations on areas of co-operation on mitigation, adaptation, research, and outreach, relevant for the Barents Region. The recommended areas of co-operation concern several of the working groups in the Barents co-operation. The recommendations were presented to the meeting of Barents Council Ministers in Murmansk October 2009.

2. The Barents Environmental “Hot Spots”

With reference to the report *Updating of Environmental “Hot Spots” List in the Russian Part of the Barents Region: Proposal for Environmentally Sound Investment Projects*(2003), by 2009, several sector studies, pre-feasibility studies and other project development measures have been approved for support from the Barents Hot Spots Facility, administrated by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO).

An Ad-hoc Task Force on elaboration of procedures and criteria on excluding “hot spots” from the list was set up in March 2009. It consists of appointed representatives from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, as well as NEFCO, acting as chair of the Task Force. The report with recommended criteria and procedures for exclusion will be presented to the Ministers in February.

The regional authorities in the Republics of Karelia (2007) and Komi (2008) have established regional working groups to co-ordinate the work on the “hot spots”. Induced by a seminar in October 2008, organised by Working group on Environment in co-operation with The Committee of Natural Recourses and Environmental Protection in the Murmansk Region, a regional working group was set up in Murmansk in March 2009. In order to promote regional activity regarding the “hot spots”, a similar seminar on ”hot spots” and cleaner production for “hot spot”-owners, enterprises, regional authorities and other interested parties was conducted in Arkhangelsk in October 2009.

In 2007 it was decided to create an information system on the internet to inform the public and decision makers about the Barents “hot spots” and follow the process of solving the environmental problems connected to the “hot spots”. In 2009 a preliminary concept for such an information system has been worked out. The system will be part of the website of the Barents co-operation

www.beac.st. The goal is to have the system running by the end of 2010. Financial support for the system has been allocated from the Barents Hot Spots Facility.

In order to strengthen the co-operation between the Working group on Environment and Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) regarding the "hot spots", the working group chair has participated in one ACAP-meeting and the ACAP chair has participated in the meetings of the Working Group on Environment in 2009.

3. Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption

The Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (CPESC) subgroup has had 2 meetings in 2009 back to back with the BEAC WGE meetings in Vadsø, Norway in March and in Arkhangelsk, Russia in October 2009.

Upon request by the WGE chair the CPESC subgroup has developed a working program (annex I) and a list of priority projects (annex II) to help structure the work of the subgroup. In 2009 the subgroup focused on trying to complete the priority projects. The list of priority projects contains 16 projects. The subgroup has finalized 11 out of the 16 projects and will continue to follow up the projects that are not completed yet. The list of priority projects has been updated regularly and gives an overview of the subgroup activities.

Through the work in 2009 the subgroup would like to highlight the following accomplishments:

- Cleaner Production training of engineers in;
 - Vorkuta Region (Komi Republic) – finalized April 2009,
 - Nyandoma, Kargopol and Konosha Regions and Severodvinsk (Arkhangelsk Oblast) – finalized March 2009,
 - Petrozavodsk Municipality and Communal Systems (Republic of Karelia) – finalized February 2009,
- Efforts to incorporate Cleaner Production in the curricula of North-West Russian universities through;
 - Seminar in Oulu, Finland February 2009
- Engaging North West Russia in the global work to develop a 10 Year Framework of Programmes and disseminate the knowledge and experiences on different SCP subjects through the Marrakech Task Forces through;
 - Conference on Sustainable Building and Construction, St. Petersburg April 2009
 - Seminar on Sustainable Lifestyles and Education for Sustainable Consumption, St. Petersburg June 2009
 - Seminar on Green Public Procurement, St. Petersburg, November 2009
- Arrangement of the 2nd International Roundtables in Yasnaya Poliana covering environmental, Cleaner Production and cultural aspects.

The CPESC subgroup has also worked on revising the Policy Document as requested by the Ministers. During the process the Policy document has been developed into a Strategy on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption (annex III), which was approved by the BEAC Working Group on Environment in March 2009. The Strategy document presents Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption in a life cycle perspective and focus on minimizing the environmental impact from all phases of a life cycle. The strategy will be applied through the work of the CPESC subgroup.

In addition the subgroup has put effort in structuring the work of the group in 2009. A project documentation template (annex IV) has been developed in order to provide a fixed format on the essential project information, including the objectives, participants, roles and responsibilities, activities, timeframe, deadlines, budget and funding, of the projects. The final report of a project is also included in the template, giving the whole history of a project comprised in one document.

The subgroup has also focused on the Barents Hot Spots and supported the work under BEAC WGE on creating criteria for exclusion of Hot Spots from the AMAP/NEFCO Hot Spot list.

The subgroup has taken steps to initiate co-operation with the BEAC WG Energy, the Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP WG) under the Arctic Council and with the other subgroups under BEAC WGE. Though, no concrete actions have come from this yet the subgroup will continue to develop a co-operation with these partners. With ACAP some initial ideas have been brought forward and will serve as base for continued discussions.

4. Nature Protection

The Subgroup on Nature Protection (SNP) has had 2 meetings in 2009 back to back with the BEAC WGE meetings in Vadsø, Norway (March) and in Arkhangelsk, Russia (October). In addition the whole or members of the subgroup took part in several meetings to initiate new or follow up on ongoing projects. A separate meeting was convened in Umeå, Sweden in December in order to prepare the change of chairmanship of WGE SNP from Norway to Sweden due to February 2010.

As requested by the WGE chair the SNP has developed a Strategy and Action Plan (endorsed June 2008), that identify main project areas, and based on this made a list of priority projects which have been executed, finalized or initiated in 2009.

Through the work in 2009 the subgroup would like to highlight the following main accomplishments or initiated projects:

World heritage Conference in Syktyvkar, Russia, May 2009

The conference that especially focused on management of World heritage properties in the BEAR was a success. The resolution was forwarded to UNESCO- and IUCN, and emphasized e.g. possibilities for partnership between the heritage sites. One of the follow-up partnership cases is the Swedish Lapponia and Komi Yugyd Va national parks. The proceedings of the conference will be available at the BEAC Ministerial meeting in Norway, February 2010.

Forest Conservation projects and initiatives

In August 2009 Nordic and Russian experts took part in an expedition to Pyoza river (east in Arkhangelsk Oblast). In a resolution they recommended that the Pyoza river area should be protected. The resolution of the expedition has been distributed by the organizing institute INEP in Arkhangelsk, to stakeholders at regional level and Moscow Ministry of National Resources and Ecology (MNRE).

The trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Russia, Norway and Finland on the development of the Green Belt of Fennoscandia (GBF) has been discussed, and text of the MoU is ready for signing in February at the BEAC Ministerial meeting. As the partnership agreement between EU and Russia was signed 18th of November, this leads to the opening of the EU Neighbourhood funding programme during spring 2010. The Finnish environmental organizations are preparing applications focused on the GBF development.

Barents Protected Areas Network (BPAN)

Establishment of a functioning network of the PAs is the key issue of the project. Other potential networks around the umbrella of BPAN could be: Botanical Gardens; Sacred sites; Geodiversity. Two BPAN meetings have been organized: the first in January 2009 in Nuukio, Finland and the second one in October 2009 in Arkhangelsk. The resolution of the Arkhangelsk meeting includes

many tasks for the Nordic and Russian participants. A BPAN Action plan is in preparation; which will include proper project applications to EU and Nordic Council of Ministers. An information page/bulletin is being prepared for presenting at the BEAR Ministerial Meeting, February 2010.

Cooperation in “Treriksrøysa”, the border area between Finland, Norway, and Sweden

The aim of the project is to learn and take the best practices in management of protected areas and development of ecotourism from the Pasvik trilateral. A preparatory meeting was organized in Tromsø, Norway. The meeting was attended by Norwegian and Finnish representatives. Sweden will participate from 2010. An EU-application is being considered.

Planning of the next biannual Habitat Contact Forum meeting (HCF VI)

The first circulation letter of invitation to the 6th HCF Meeting has been released by the Committee of International Relations and Tourism of Arkhangelsk region in affiliation with SNP. The HCF VI will take place in week 22, and topics will be: 1) Wetland Conservation; 2) Forest Protection including Forested Wetlands; 3) Coastal Ecosystems; 4) Synergy of Natural and Spiritual Values.

5. Water Issues

The Subgroup on Water Issues (SWI) has had two meetings in 2009 back to back with the BEAC WGE meetings in Vadsø, Norway in March and in Arkhangelsk, Russia in October.

Upon request by the WGE chair the SWI subgroup has revised and updated a list of ongoing and new water projects to be implemented (annex I). In 2009 the subgroup focused on dissemination and follow up on the status for these listed projects. The list of projects contains 18 projects. Five of these projects are completed, five are ongoing and the rest is in preparation for funding and future implementation. The SWI will continue in 2010 and onwards to follow up the status for the listed projects that are not yet completed and that will be launched in the future. The list of projects has been updated regularly and gives an overview of the activities of the subgroup members and other participating organisations.

Through the work in 2009 the subgroup would like to highlight the following activities:

- Projects activities in the framework of flood forecasting and modelling to meet with the challenges of climate change
- Pre project activities on knowledge and competence exchange in water management sector and studies on development of sewage systems in the Russian Barents region, to possibly in future be financed through the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health
- Implementation of the Regional pre project on environmentally sustainable enterprises in the Barents region

The water subgroup has also worked on finalising the requested Strategy and Action document as requested by the Ministers (annex II). The strategy and action document was approved by the BEAC Working Group on Environment in spring 2009. The strategy will be applied through the future work of the SWI subgroup.

The water subgroup has through BEAC WGE also had close collaboration to the *regional working group on environment (RWGE)* as *called for* by the Ministers in the 2007 Declaration. The water subgroup has followed closely water related activities discussed and initiated under this Barents Regional Council regional working group. For example the regional initiative on implementing the pre project *Environmentally sustainable small enterprises in the Barents region* has been highlighted also in the water subgroup.

6. Future work of the Working Group on Environment

Preparing for the BEAC Environment Ministerial meeting in Tromsø, Norway on 17th February 2010, the WGE is drafting a ministerial declaration. The declaration will give directions for the work of the WGE 2010 -2011, under the Swedish chairmanship. In Tromsø, Sweden will present the chairmanship priorities. Important issues to be given attention are, for example: to follow-up on the work on criteria and procedures for the exclusion of hot spots, and to develop co-operation projects on cleaner production supporting this work; to develop a regional co-operation projects on water management in the framework of international commitments; to further strengthen co-operation projects enhancing nature protection. Special attention will also be given to finding opportunities for cross-sector activities, especially in the field of climate change. The work will be carried out in close cooperation with RWGE.

**Barents Euro-Arctic Council's
Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP)
Annual report 2009**

Background

The Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP) was established as an Ad Hoc Working Group in 1999 upon a Finnish proposal. By a decision of the CSO in December 2002, the mandate of the group was prolonged and revised, and the group was transformed into a permanent working group, integrated in the structure of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The work of the WGYP is based on the Plan of Action adopted at the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth Policy in the member states of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Tromsø 14 -16 of May 2001.

Activities in 2009

In 2009 the WGYP celebrated its anniversary – ten years since it was first convened.

During 2009 the work of the WGYP focused on the following activities:

- Implementing the Tromsø Plan of Action;
- Cooperating with other bodies of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Regional Council, as well as with international organisations and relevant regional structures;
- Steering and supporting the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) activities.

The WGYP held four meetings in 2009:

1–3 April in Moscow, ordinary meeting chaired by Roman Aleksandrov, Deputy Head of Department of touristic activities and international cooperation of Ministry of sports, tourism and youth policy of the Russian Federation;

3 September in Murmansk, extra-ordinary preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Conference chaired by Philipp Kosov, Head of Division of intercultural cooperation in tourism and youth policy of Department of touristic activities and international cooperation of Ministry of sports, tourism and youth policy of the Russian Federation;

22 September in Murmansk, extra-ordinary preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Conference chaired by Roman Aleksandrov;

16–17 November in Stockholm, ordinary meeting chaired by Eva Theisz, *Director of International Affairs* at the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs.

In accordance with the programme of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the BEAC for 2007–2009 the WGYP organised the **“Barents Euro-Arctic Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth Policy”** that took place in Murmansk, Russia 23–24 September 2009.

About 70 participants from 4 countries of the Barents region attended the event: national delegations from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, the representatives of the International Barents Secretariat, the Council of Europe, the Presidency of the European Union as well as the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC), Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues

(RWGYI), the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, indigenous peoples of the Barents region, national and regional youth councils and others.

The heads of the delegations were:

Olli Saarela, Ministry of Education of Finland,

Lotte Grepp Knutsen, Ministry of Children and Equality of Norway,

Boris Gusev, Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth Policy of the Russian Federation,

Annica Dahl, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality of Sweden.

The aim of the Conference was that young people, policymakers and researchers met together, discussed and worked out a common policy on how to make the Barents region attractive for young people and how to use young people as a resource and a driving force of the socio-economic development of the region.

The first day of the Conference featured a Youth Meeting which gathered young people from the Barents region. Their discussions according to the aim of the Conference resulted in youth proposals to the officials.

Researchers and experts of youth policy in the Barents region reviewed the current situation and tendencies in their keynote reports “International experience of youth cooperation” and “The role of youth in social-economic development of Barents Euro-Arctic region on example of oil and gas sphere”. The work of the Barents Regional Youth Council and Barents Youth Cooperation Office was presented. The youth representative appealed to the audience with the Declaration from the “reAction” event in Archangelsk.

The participants of the Conference shared their views, exchanged experiences and developed suggestions during discussions in working sessions: “Mutual understanding among the young people of Barents region”, “Involvement of young people in socio-economic development of the Barents region”, “Youth participation and role of youth organizations in the development of society. Environmental challenges in the Barents Region.”.

The heads of the delegations in their statements highly acknowledged the work done by the WGYP and regional cooperation structures. As a result of the Conference the Declaration of the Ministers in the form of Conclusions was adopted. The Declaration evaluates achievements in the youth policy in the Barents region over the previous 10 years, underlines importance of the youth cooperation and defines directions for the future efforts in this area.

The WGYP will publish a brochure with the Conference documents and materials.

Plans for 2010

The Swedish chairmanship together with members of the WGYP will work to implement the recommendations from of the Conference of Ministers of Youth Policy held in Murmansk in September of 2009. During 2010, an important task will be to develop a new Plan of Action for the work of the WGYP. Further WGYP will continue to support and secure the activities of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office, and finding possible points of cooperation with other relevant working groups. An important priority will be to enhance cooperation with relevant working groups within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council, as well as with other cooperation structures in the region.

Planned activities

2 WGYP meetings and joint meetings with RWGYI and BRYC, in Luleå (Feb) and Stockholm (Autumn)

First meeting to investigate the possibilities of a Swedish Presidency Youth Event

WORK PLAN OF THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH POLICY 2010

January-March

- Submit the WGYE Work report 2009 and Work plan 2010 to CSO by January 20.
Responsible: Chairmanship
- Secure financing for BYCO 2010 by January 31.
Responsible: Chairmanship together with all members of the WGYE
- Elaboration on themes for Plan of Action
Responsible: Chairmanship
- The 31th WGYE meeting and a joint meeting with RWGYI and BRYC, in Luleå February 23-25. Further discussions of the themes for the new Plan of Action and ways of closer cooperation with RWGYI and BRYC.
Responsible: Chairmanship

April-August

- Consultation of the draft Plan of Action between the members of WGYE
Responsible: Chairmanship together with all members of the WGYE

September-December

- First meeting to investigate the possibilities of a Swedish Presidency Youth Event: A preparatory group consisting of BRYC, WGYE and RWGYI, IBS(?) representatives will begin to plan the Swedish Presidency Youth Event, to be organised in Spring 2011.
Responsible: Chairmanship together with prep group
- The 32st WGYE meeting and a joint meeting with RWGYI and BRYC in Stockholm
Adoption of agreement of financing BYCO
Responsible: Chairmanship
- Annual report to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Sami parliaments in Finland, Sweden and Norway as well as the relevant Ministries on the implementation of the Plan of Action.
Responsible: Chairmanship

Continuous work:

- Steering and supporting the BYCO activities based on the work plan for 2010.
- Enhancing cooperation with RWGYI and BRYC and investigating the possibility to establish one common working group responsible for promoting youth cooperation in the region
- Promoting a cross-sectorial approach to working with youth issues within the structures of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and cooperate with and assist the other bodies of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council when they deal with questions with a youth policy dimension
- Taking initiatives regarding the work on youth policy and other youth related cooperation, and develop and coordinate the work of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council on these issues
- Acting as an expert body to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council on all matters relating to youth policy and on questions of concern to young people
- Cooperating and consulting with youth organisations and youth groups in the region
- Cooperating with relevant working groups within the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Regional Council
- Cooperating closely with other cooperation structures active in the youth field in Northern Europe especially the EU, CoE, CBSS, the Nordic Council of Ministers and Arctic Council and relevant regional structures

**Barents Euro-Arctic Pan European transport area (BEATA)
Results of Russian chairmanship in the Committee of the
Barents Euro-Arctic Region in 2009.**

Within the framework of the Russian Federation's chairmanship in the Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (CBER) in 2009 there were organized and held two meetings of the Steering committee of the Barents Euro-Arctic Pan European transport area (BEATA) in Arkhangelsk (June 9, 2009) and in Moscow (6th of October 2009) as well as 2 conferences on topic "Prospects of development of foreign-economic and transport affairs in the Barents Euro-Arctic region. Opportunities of cooperation of transport and custom bodies on the regional level" (10th June 2009, Arkhangelsk) and on a topic "Development of normative basis in the field of transport in BEATA region and activity coordination with other international transport organizations" (7th October 2009, Moscow).

During the meetings of Steering Committee the Parties discussed questions, concerning development of transport infrastructure in region, as well as concerning the correspondence of "Northern Dimension" partnership and CBER organization (BEATA). Following the results of held discussions, participants confirmed expediency of "Northern Dimension" work organization taking into account the activity, conducted in frames of BEATA.

On the conferences, where representatives of transport authorities of Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden took part, the Parties discussed questions, concerning modern condition of foreign-economic affairs between CBER member-countries, development of transport affairs between CBER member-countries, opportunities for cooperation of transport and custom bodies on the regional level, law regulation of relations in the field of international transport, on measures, undertaken by the Parties on the development of transport infrastructure, as well as customs regulation issues.

BEATA Barents Euro-Arctic Transport Area

Program 2009 - 2011

Objectives BEATA 2009 – 2011

- **Eco-efficient economy**
- **Coordination and integration with other forums such as Northern Dimension and Arctic Council**

Activities BEATA 2009 – 2011

- **Haparanda conference**
- **Strategic High North study**
- **ROADEx road maintenance project**

Meetings BEATA 2009 – 2011

- **Haparanda 16th-17th of June 2010**
- **2011 location and time to be decided**

Joint Committee on Cooperation within the Field of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

Annual Report 2009

Based on negotiations pursuing a draft Barents Rescue Agreement, the Joint Committee had worked for several years on interim bases under the voluntary chairmanship of Norway. Since the Barents Agreement on Cooperation within the Field of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region was signed on 11 December 2008, the Committee adopted the Agreement's formal provisions on the Committee's mandate. As a consequence of this Finland took over the chairmanship for the year 2009 and organised two Joint Committee meetings in the course of the year, the first one in Rovaniemi on 7-8 October, and the next in Helsinki on 17 December. Following the same principle Norway, as the next one in alphabetical order, took over the chairmanship for 2010.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the receipt of the last written notification to the Depositary of the implementation by the Contracting Parties Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia of the internal state procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement. By the end of 2009 three Parties had concluded this: Sweden on 2 February, Norway on 17 March, Russia on 12 October. Aware of the pending implementation process the Joint Committee yet decided to move to follow the provisions set in the accepted text.

In great deal the Joint Committee concentrated in deciding on the formalities of its work. The Agreement gives basic rules on the chairmanship to rotate among the Contracting Parties on an annual basis and in alphabetical order, at least an annual meeting of the Committee, and the general tasks to coordinate collaboration between the Contracting Parties and to evaluate the application of the Agreement. Provided by the Agreement the Joint Committee also among other thing initiates cross-border exercises and joint training as well as takes part in their planning, updates the Joint Manual and organises exchange of experts. In its own considerations the Committee also understood being authorised to evaluate experiences, observations, lessons learnt and evaluation reports on other joint activities of the Parties. Similarly the Committee saw its role as to initiate, plan and coordinate collaboration on different types of long and short term projects, and take other tasks in the sphere of the Agreement.

The Joint Committee defined its relationship with the CSO within the BEAC cooperation. In the view of the Committee itself, based on a special Agreement defining its mandate, the status of the Committee is not similar to the working groups of the BEAC. The Committee is independent and only informs the CSO and the BRC of its work. The International Barents Secretariat was thus asked to update the organizational chart of the BEAC cooperation to reflect the view of the Committee.

The Joint Committee would though prepare annual work plans and annual reports, and submit them to the CSO and the RC through the IBS, as well as maintain other ways to communicate with and update the IBS regarding the progress of cooperation and the activities of the Committee. The Committee would also provide the IBS with other essential documentation and contribution for IBS records and to be placed in its web-site, participate in the BEAC and the BRC working groups, when deemed necessary in the aggregate of the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation, and participate in the CSO and RC meetings when requested.

Decisions of the JC shall be made unanimously by the delegates of the four Contracting Parties, and the working language shall be English.

The Joint Committee finalised the Barents Joint Manual including information on rescue services in the participating countries and a blank-form for telefax communications for use in the cooperation of Barents region rescue services authorities and emergency response centres. Also the principle to use regional emergency response centres as primary points of contacts, as defined by national authorities of contracting parties, was accepted. It was agreed that the Joint Manual should not be posted on the BEAC-website as some of the contact information is not public. There will be communications tests for the emergency response centres to be carried out regularly several times a year.

The main activity of the Barents rescue cooperation was the Barents Rescue 2009 exercise organised by Russia in Murmansk district on 9-11 September. The scenarios included a serious traffic accident involving nuclear material, a sea rescue operation on combating oil spill situation, an aircraft accident with crash into a nuclear waste site, a serious forest fire and SAR at sea. The Joint Committee was not directly as an entity participating in the planning process, but most Committee members were in their civic positions. The exercise was evaluated as a success and the proposed working group for the planning of exercises will be a part of the Joint Committee. Russia also suggested having in the future a limited number of scenarios (1-2), but they should be more complexed involving different levels of administration. The next Barents Rescue exercise will be organised by Sweden in 2011.

The Kolarctic program was accepted by all partners (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia) and the European Commission. The program is a part of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument 2007 - 2013 for cross border cooperation between EU member states and neighbouring countries. A lot of work has been done to prepare the project *Cold condition management in emergency situations in the Barents Region* with Finland as lead country. The program period makes the financial support possible for three years time. Period for applications expires on 9 April 2010 which means the necessity to organise the work fast to agree on the principles of the project and each participants role and responsibilities. The opening of the ENPI Kolarctic program takes place in Murmansk on 26 January 2010. The State Provincial Office of Lapland asked each country to nominate two representatives for the Steering group, and will organise the Group's kick-off meeting at the participants' earliest convenience.

**Joint Committee on rescue cooperation in the Barents Region –
Work plan 2010**

Chair: Bente Michaelsen, Norway

1. The entry into force of the Agreement for the Barents Region. Ensure ratification of all the Parties to the Agreement.
2. Updating the Joint Manual and contact information – if necessary.
3. Follow-up of the exercise Barents Rescue 2009
 - a. Procedures for notification and request for assistance – regularly communication exercises between the points of contact in the Barents Region.
 - b. Testing of VTC-systems between the Points of Contact in the Barents Region
 - c. Border crossing procedures for response teams are to be as simplified as possible in accordance with the Agreement art. 8. Proposal to look into the national procedures of all the Parties to the Agreement to ensure that procedures are efficient or if changes should be made.
 - d. With regard to suspension and exemption of customs duties, other duties and taxes for rescue resources, it is stated in the Agreement art. 9 that national legislation and international obligations applies. Proposal to look into the matter to ensure that this is as simplified as possible for all Parties.
 - e. Planning of exercises - invite specialists to the Joint Committee to follow up recommendation in the Final Exercise Report.
 - f. Revising the Exercise Planning Guide.
4. Involvement in the possible project “Cold protection/hypothermia”

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region
Chair: Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen, Norway

Annual report 2009

1. *The period* of this report is from 01.01-31.12.2009. This report provides an update on the activity of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in BEAR.
2. *WGIP* has held three (3) *meetings* so far in 2009.
 - January 22-23, Tromsø
 - May 4th, Stockholm
 - October 31st, Copenhagen

3. *WGIP* has consisted of the following six (6) members:

The Saami members from Finland, Sweden and Norway are formally appointed by the Saami Parliamentary Council, after decisions from the respective Saami parliaments.

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Norway and Ms. Kirsti Guvsám is the substitute member.

Mr. Per Labba is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Sweden, and Mr. Stefan Mikaelsson is the substitute member.

Mr. Tuomas Aslat Juuso is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Finland and Ms. Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute member.

Ms. Elizaveta Kharitonova is appointed by the Vepsian Cultural Organisation and Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova is the substitute member.

Mr. Alexander E. Belugin is appointed by the Nenets organisation “Yasavey” and Ms. Galina A. Arteeva is the substitute member.

Ms. Valentina V. Sovkina was appointed by the Murmansk Regional Saami Coordinative Council (dissolved 2008) and Mr. Andrey Ageev is the substitute member.

4. *The WGIP representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation*

Committee of Senior Officials: Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen represented the WGIP in the CSO meetings during 2009.

Regional Council: Mr Tuomas Aslat Juuso represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Council. Ms. Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute WGIP representative.

Regional Committee: Ms Christina Henriksen (secretary of the WGIP) represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee during 2009. The WGIP secretary in Russia participates in meeting arranged within the Russian Federation.

Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues: Mr Lars Miguel Utsi is appointed WGIP’s representative and Mr. Andrey Dubevtsev is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

Barents Joint Working Group on Culture: Ms. Matrëna Taleeva is appointed WGIP’s representative and Ms. Valentina Zganich is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

Barents Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues: Ms. Galina Arteeva is appointed WGIP’s representative and Maria Filippova is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

Steering Group to the program for Children and Youth at Risk: Ms. Alexandra Artieva is appointed WGIP’s representative and Ms. Valentina Sovkina is the substitute representative (decision 11/08).

5. Secretariat

Two (2) secretaries, Ms Christina Henriksen, adviser at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Mr Evgeny Yushkov, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Lovozero, serve WGIP.

6. Representation of leader, members and secretaries of WGIP

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

- The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
 - February 18-19 2009, Petrozavodsk
- RAIPON VI Congress
 - April 23-24, Moscow
- IV World Reindeer Herders' Congress
 - March 30-April 4, Guovdageaidnu
- Various meetings with project partners in the projects Re-establishment of family-based reindeer husbandry in the Kola Peninsula (Obshina Kildin) and Kola Saami Radio FM station project.
- BEAC Ministerial Session
 - October 15th, Murmansk

Ms. Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina

- VI RAIPON Congress
 - April 23-24, Moscow

Ms. Christina Henriksen

- The Barents Regional Committee
 - February 17th, Joensuu
 - May 12th, Bruxelles
 - September 15th, Oulu
- The Barents Regional Council
 - May 13th, Bruxelles (secretary)
 - October 14th, Murmansk
- The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
 - February 18-19, Petrozavodsk (secretary)
- BEAC Ministerial Session
 - October 15th, Murmansk

Mr. Evgeny Yushkov

- VI RAIPON Congress
 - April 23-24, Moscow
- The Barents Regional Committee
 - October 13th, Murmansk
- The Barents Regional Council
 - October 14th, Murmansk

7. Activities

The WGIP has focused on the following issues during the period:

The Action Plan of indigenous peoples 2009-2012

The Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples 2009-2010 was adopted by the WGIP in Tromsø (January 22) and presented for the Regional Committee and the Committee of Senior Officials (February 17 and 18).

The WGIP Professional Day

A one-day seminar was held in Copenhagen, connected to the WGIP meeting in October 2009. Representatives from IWGIA (International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs), IPS (Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat within the Arctic Council) and the Nordic Council of Ministers took part in separate meetings on October 30th 2009. The seminar was funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

KOLA SAAMI RADIO

The Head of the WGIP raised the question regarding the financial situation of Kola Saami Radio in the CSO meeting in Petrozavodsk on February 18-19. KSR will continue as a project owned by the Saami Council during 2009. The Head of the WGIP has been working with this issue through dialogue with the project partners.

RAIPON VI Congress

The Head of the WGIP participated in the VI RAIPON Congress on April 23-24 2009. Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office was represented by Evgeny Yushkov.

International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

Lars Miguel Utsi has been seconded as indigenous peoples' adviser to the International Barents Secretariat by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adviser's main task is the execution of the project Indigenous Entrepreneurship.

ARCTIC FRONTIERS 2009

The members of the WGIP participated in the international conference Arctic Frontiers in Tromsø in January 2009. The participation was connected to the WGIP meeting.

BARENTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONGRESS 2010

WGIP has decided to arrange the first Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress in Kirkenes in February 2010. A conference (Co-Existence in the Arctic) will be arranged the following days. This is executed in cooperation with Gáldu – Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Nenets radio – Media project with Canada

The WGIP has started discussion with Canadian and Russian partners regarding the starting-up of the joint project on establishing a local Nenets radio station based in Naryan-Mar. WGIP will follow up this project and implement a pre-project in 2010 in cooperation with Yasavey (Public Association of Nenets People in the Nenets AO), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

Funding of the WGIP activities

In late 2009, WGIP received letters of funding for 2010 from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The WGIP welcomes this funding, and

will now be able to take part in the meeting of the BEAC Working Groups to a larger extent and higher the level of activity.

Annual report of the Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS) for 2009 and planning for the future

Co-Chairmanship

Sweden and Arkhangelsk Region has shared the Co-Chairmanship (Ms. Kerstin Ödman, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden and Mr. Andrey Krasilnikov, Health Care Department of Arkhangelsk Regional Administration).

On 12 November 2009 the JWGHS decided on its next Co-Chairmanship: Finland and Komi will be Co-Chairs for the coming two years.

Meetings during 2009

The JWGHS has had one meeting during the year. It was held on 12 November 2009 in Arkhangelsk.

A meeting planned to be held in Umeå, Sweden, had to be cancelled due to the fact that the Russian participants could not take part because of this financially difficult period.

Members of the JWGHS

Members of the Working Group are Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia at both central government level and the Barents regions in all four countries. The Indigenous People's Working Group is also represented by a member. The EU Commission, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being take part in the work.

Activities

The Co-operation Programme 2008-2011 has formed the basis for the co-operation. The scope and priorities of the programme are the prevention and combat of communicable diseases, prevention of lifestyle-related health and social problems, and support to children and youth at risk, and development of primary healthcare, public health and social services. Attention is drawn to the following areas of activity.

Follow-up of the Kirkenes declaration of 2003: Tuberculosis

The JWGHS has continued its follow-up of the Declaration of the Prime Ministers at their meeting at Kirkenes 2003. The declaration states that the Barents authorities are to gain full control of the tuberculosis situation in the region within 10 years, i.e. 2013.

The JWGHS considers that strengthening of international co-operation is needed in order to support the work to further reduce the spread of tuberculosis. Priority target groups should be prisoners and vulnerable groups of society who are at risk of becoming HIV infected or who are already infected with the virus. Adequate linking of civilian and prison TB programmes is essential. Co-operation and co-ordination between TB and HIV services should be strengthened. The importance of treatment and prevention of MDR TB was underlined for the future work. It was finally emphasized that health and social measures should be integrated as far as possible.

Future work should be done in co-operation with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) and its relevant Expert Groups. Already ongoing international co-operation should be taken into account.

The JWGHS welcomes the offer of the NDPHS Expert Group on Prison Health to take the initiative in this work. A meeting is to take place in March 2010 to prepare for an Logical Framework Approach (LFA) exercise in June 2010. The aim is to develop a programme covering both penitentiary and civil health care services. This programme is to form a basis for future applications for funding.

The NDPHS Prison Health Expert Group was asked to organize these meetings, in co-operation with Professor Maryandyshv, TB expert and WHO representative, Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk, and the new Co-Chairmanship of Finland and Komi. The Russian side is to report back to the JWGHS.

The sub-programme on Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents Region (CYAR)

The CYAR programme for 2008 - 2011 aims at strengthening the competence among the regional and local social administrations and at stimulating inter-agency co-operation in the Barents Region, in order to assist children and youth at risk. Chair is Mr. Pål Christian Bergstrøm, Director of Bufetat Region Nord, Norway.

Due to a number of initial difficulties it was not possible to start the concrete implementation of the programme until lately. These difficulties have been overcome, among other things, thanks to a generous contribution of Norway connected to the Norwegian chairmanship of the Programme. Because of the delay the JWGHS has agreed on a prolongation of the Programme throughout 2012.

The Steering Committee has adopted an activity plan for 2010 and a CYAR programme support project for competence building activities to be realized in all regions. Norway funds the project.

Furthermore, with direct reference to the CYAR programme, Norway and Murmansk region have signed a co-operation protocol for the period of 2008-2009, declaring their intentions to increase project partnership activities in accordance with the profile of the programme.

The first partnership initiated concerns rehabilitation and reintegration of adolescents who commit crime. The Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality and the Ministry of Justice and police have with the Governor of Murmansk and the FSIN penalty execution authorities agreed to establish a long-term project partnership on experience- and competence exchange starting in early 2009.

The second project partnership agreement was made between the Ministry of Social development in Murmansk region and the Regional office for children-, youth and family affairs Northern Norway for the period of 2009-2010. The target group of the project is

families who have children with disabilities, and the objective is to strengthen the parents' ability to provide good care for the child.

A new co-operation agreement for the period of 2010-2012 directly related to the CYAR programme is furthermore under elaboration between the Governor of Arkhangelsk region and the Ministry of Children and Equality in Norway.

The Sub-programme on HIV/AIDS in the Barents Region

This programme was first established in 2005 and then prolonged from 2008 – 2011. Chair is Mr. Arkadi Rubin, Minister of Health and Social Development of Murmansk Region.

Finland finances a programme coordinator.

The monitoring of 2008 has been followed up. The most important findings of the monitoring was that great progress has taken place in Barents Region after the planning phase of the Programme (in 2004). AIDS Centres have become strong and professional, collaboration with other authorities has improved, the work gets support from higher levels. Sustainability of the HIV work seems good; institutional framework, funding, human and technical resources are in place. Recommendations of the monitoring expert include stronger input into prevention of HIV, capacity building in project planning and management and closer collaboration with TB activities. According to the monitoring expert the "Barents HIV/AIDS Programme has potential for a continuous source for new innovative approaches".

Part of these recommendations have already been applied during 2009. A project planning seminar by Logical Framework Approach was organised with participation of representatives from Barents regions. Collaboration on HIV and TB has been planned and conducted in the Murmansk Region, and there are future plans for the Leningrad Region waiting for financing. Study tours have been organised to Finland, Sweden and Norway. An evaluation of the Norwegian-Russian HIV projects implemented in the Archangelsk Region, was carried out in December 2008 – January 2009. The chairman of the HIV/AIDS Expert Group of NDPHS concluded his evaluation that the AIDS centre has organised the HIV work in an excellent manner and that the international collaboration has contributed significantly in developing the current capacity. The evaluator recommended even stronger collaboration with the local universities and the School of public health. Another recommendation was to organise targeted prevention activities amongst vulnerable groups.

In the end of 2009, totally 12 projects were ongoing, 7 proposals reviewed and 16 projects completed within the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme.

Co-operation in the health and social fields in general

The JWGHS has followed the co-operation in the health and social fields in general in the Barents Region. Among the concrete results can be mentioned the establishment of a regional net of telemedicine, development of high-tech medical aid in cardiology, improvement of the quality of psychiatric aid, development of nursing, strengthening of work concerning HIV/AIDS and STI among youth and vulnerable groups, improvement of primary health care, establishment of a rehabilitation unit for patients with multiple sclerosis and stroke (Arkhangelsk). The Russian side has underlined that international projects play a vital role in professional growth and competence-building as well as in research and introduction of new methods of work, improvement of the quality of the medical and preventive aid. They also introduce new modern medical-preventive and organizational technologies in healthcare institutions. Normally the projects are interrelated with current reforms in the healthcare system of Russia. A co-operation aimed at early intervention and strengthening of parental skills in families with children who experience conduct disorders has shown very good results and has been spread to a total of six towns in North West Russia. Furthermore, several projects aiming at treatment of adolescents

with drug-related, aggressive and anti-social behaviour and their families are showing good results, and dissemination activities are increasing on these methods.

The Swedish financial contributions have been phased out. Finland has announced a reduction of its contributions. In the future national financing has to be complemented by other funding opportunities such as the Nordic Council of Ministers, the NDPHS Pipeline and EU funding.

Co-operation with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council is a Partner of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS). The Barents co-operation programme in the field of health and social issues is adapted to the NDPHS' priorities and the Barents. During the period the contents of the Barents Health database was transferred to the database of the NDPHS, www.ndphs.org. In total, 444 projects in the Barents Region are included in this database.

Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS)

Plans for 2010

The Working Group meeting will be organised in autumn 2010, according to preliminary plans in the Republic of Komi. The co-chair from Komi will have an important role in organising the meeting.

Collaboration in the field of tuberculosis

Implementation of the Prime Ministers' declaration (in January 2003) on the occasion of the Barents Euro-Arctic region will be continued. Health and social authorities will be urged to gain full control of spread of tuberculosis in the Barents region by 2013. In line with the conclusions Barents Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS) Priority target groups are planned to be prisoners and vulnerable groups of society who are at risk of becoming HIV infected or who are already infected with the virus. Adequate linking of civilian and prison TB programmes will be essential and co-operation and co-ordination between TB and HIV services will be strengthened. Special attention will be paid on treatment and prevention of MDR TB.

A TB expert group/network will be established jointly with NDPHS expert group on prison health. The following meetings will be organized in 2010 by Finland (THL and FILHA).

- A preparatory planning meeting in Archangelsk in March 2010
- A joint meeting in Russia in June will be organized to which all stakeholders are invited. The Logical Framework Approach will be used in order to develop a programme covering both penitentiary and civil health care services.

The sub-programme on Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents Region (CYAR)

The Steering Committee of the CYAR Programme is planning to have two meetings in 2010: the first in April in Syktyvkar, Komi, the second one in connection to the autumn JWGHS meeting.

The main activity in 2010 will be implementation of the CYAR Programme Support Project 2010-2012. This consists of dissemination of four selected evidence-based methods for children and youth at risk, with competence building in all Russian regions under the direct supervision of the SC.

There will be held a Barents Conference on CYAR in November, among other topics the dissemination of foster care services in North-west Russia.

In direct relevance to the CYAR Programme, a long-term project on rehabilitation of minor offenders between Norway and Murmansk region were initiated in 2009, and three project seminars and competence sharing will take place throughout 2010.

The SC will also arrange meetings with the NDPHS Expert Group on prison health in 2010, in order to coordinate efforts towards minor offenders between the organizations.

The first meeting will take place in Arkhangelsk in March.

The CYAR Programme will continue supporting new project ideas and project plans responding to the objectives of the Programme.

The Sub-programme on HIV/AIDS in the Barents Region

The Steering Committee of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme is planning to have two meetings in 2010: the first in April in Finnish Lapland close to the Russian border, the second in autumn in one of the Russian Barents regions.

The pilot project of the Programme, which has been developing low threshold services for drug users in order to prevent HIV in Murmansk Region, will be completed in the end of 2010. The closing seminar will be organised in Murmansk, possibly in November. The example of the pilot project will be used in further collaboration - e.g. there is a proposal for

similar activities in the Leningrad Region, the application is waiting for financing decision from Finland.

The Programme will participate in planning meetings of tuberculosis collaboration in the Barents and Northern Dimension regions. The co-infection of HIV and tuberculosis will be on special focus in this connection.

The financing of coordination of the Programme by Finland is project-based, and the current coordination project will be completed in the end of 2010. Because the current Barents cooperation program for health and related social issues continues until the end of 2011, a new application to finance HIV Programme coordination should be submitted in August 2010. During spring it should be decided, whether this new application will cover only 2011 or also 2012-2013.

The HIV Programme will continue supporting new project ideas and project plans responding to the objectives of the Programme.

BEAR Working Group on Education and Research

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

New Chairmanship for 2009-2011

In May 2009 Petrozavodsk State University was adopted to act as a regional chair of the Joint Working Group on Education and Research in 2009-2011 at the meeting of Barents Regional Committee. At the same meeting the Mandate of the JWGER was adopted with amendments concerning the rotation of the chairmanship.

According to the mandate the general objective is to develop contacts between educational and research organizations in BEAR and increase the role and competitiveness of both regional institutions of higher education and research institutions in the world education area.

The Joint Working Group on Education and Research took over the tasks of the previous Joint Working Group and continued to develop multilateral / bilateral interdisciplinary cooperation in the Barents Region.

General about the members of JWGER's activities in the Barents –region in 2009.

JWGER members contribute to cooperation development in academic and research spheres and exchange of international cooperation experience among the higher educational and research institutions of the BEAR.

Some of the meaningful events which were initiated and organized by the Universities – JWGER members are the following:

- 1) Syktyvkar State University organized an International conference “Functioning of Finno-Ugric languages under modern conditions” In November 2009. The goal of the conference was to share best practices in protection and developing languages and culture of Finno-Ugric peoples.

- 2) Murmansk Humanities Institute hosted a Russian-Norwegian seminar ‘Social rights of Norwegian citizens working in the North-Western Russia’ in October 2009. The seminar was supported by Barents-secretariat and Barents Institute. Important issues concerning legal culture and legal safeguards in Russia and Norway were under discussion.
- 3) Murmansk Technical University participates in a cooperation project “Centre for High North Logistics” between Tschudi Shipping Company, The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bodo University College and Norwegian School of Management (BI). The goal of the center is to develop knowledge that will contribute to sustainable, doable and efficient logistical solutions in the High North.
- 4) Universities of Archangelsk are traditionally active in Barents cooperation. In September 2009 Universities of Archangelsk hosted International Youth School “Prejudices «ReACTion» with participation of youth from the Barents region.
- 5) International conference “MBA program: education for carrier” was held in Archangelsk Technical University in September. The conference was a starting point for MBA program in Archangelsk. The program was supported by Barents-secretariat and Eurasia foundation.
- 6) The international workshop conference “Russia and Finland in a Multipolar World: Years 1809-2009” was held at Petrozavodsk State University on October 20th 2009. The conference was held under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Karelia, the Council of State of Finland, the Russian Humanitarian Science Foundation and the Nordic Council of Ministers. The two-day forum considered a wide range of questions related to national and state development of Finland, contacts between the two neighboring nations, preservation of historical and cultural heritage in the adjoining territories. Papers were presented by politicians, representatives of public organizations, leading scientists from universities and research centers of Russia, Finland and Sweden.
- 7) Two meetings of working groups of Finnish-Russian Cross-Border University -CBU and Finnish-Russian Barents Cross-Border University - BCBU were held at Petrozavodsk State University and Karelian pedagogical Academy on the 3d of November and 1st of December 2009. Both meetings were devoted to developing

international master programs in the frame of Bologna declaration's decisions. Representatives of faculties of Mathematics, Medicine, History, Forest Engineering, Political and Social Sciences, Social work, law department from 20 Finnish and Russian Universities discussed the mentioned above issues.

- 8) Writing and preparing for publication textbook and encyclopedia of Barents Region (joint activities of Petrozavodsk State University, Syktyvkar State University, Pomor State University, Murmansk Pedagogical University, Tromso University, Barents Institute, Umea University, Lulea University, Uppsala University, Oulu University, Helsinki University, Rovaniemi University).

This list could be continued, but even a rather short enumeration of the events presents a wide range of activities in various spheres of education and research and demonstrates great efforts and commitment of the Universities to the development of higher education in the Barents Region.

Meetings of the JWGER.

Since May, 2009 there were two JWGER meetings.

The first meeting of the JWGER was held in Petrozavodsk, in October 2009.

At this meeting the working group confirmed the renewed JWGER membership. The membership was confirmed by 10 institutions of higher education of the Barents region in Russia, a new member has joined the Group– the Social -Humanitarian College in Narian – Mar. The Group membership was also confirmed by the University of South Finland Joensuu-Kuopio, University of Oulu. It was also agreed that it was important to use already existing networks in order to create new larger networks and involve new members.

During the first meeting aims and goals of the Group were discussed and priorities for the group's activities were outlined. New co-operation projects within higher education and research in the Barents region have been discussed.

Minutes from the meetings can be found at

http://www.barentsinfo.fi/beac/docs/JWGER_meeting_201009_Petrozavodsk_minutes.pdf

The second network meeting with participants from the universities in the Barents region was held in January, 15th. To minimize the travel cost it was organized on-line.

At the January meeting the activities plan for the period of 2010 – 2011 was adopted. The possibilities concerning the projects financing were discussed. It was outlined that one of the most important tasks of the JWGER was to find financing for the programs, and an investigation was going on the possibilities to apply to the ENPI Kolarctic Programme and other funding opportunities for support. The members also discussed the appropriate role of Barents – secretariat in supporting JWGER projects. It was also mentioned that so far the Group's activity was mostly self-financed by the JWGER members and other funds and programmes.

At the meeting several projects related to higher education and research in the Barents region were selected for further elaboration.

[Minutes of the meeting will be available at the BEAR web-site after 10th of February.](#)

BEAR Working Group on Education and Research

FUTURE PLANS

2010

Main directions of future work

Main directions of future work were allocated as following:

1. To promote networks crossing the borders in the Barents region; to involve new partners into the network.
2. To increase cooperation in fundamental and applied research in the Region;
3. To intensify cooperation in academic and research spheres and exchange of international cooperation experience among the higher educational and research institutions of the BEAR;
4. To develop further cooperation in education and research in the BEAR in interaction with other international structures, in particular the Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the European Commission;
5. To facilitate networking for the selected projects.
6. To arrange on-line meetings to minimize the travel costs.

Future plans and activities for JWGER

During the group's meetings the following activities have been selected for future realization in 2010-2011:

- International days of scientific creativity, education and research "From contradictions to cooperation through the borders – 90 years of history" in Petrozavodsk. In the framework of the conference it is planned to hold scientific forum, round tables for the researchers, students' creativity festival. International days will demonstrate the history of cross-border neighborhood and cooperation which stimulated the Universities relations in education and research and highlight the Universities impact on the development of the Barents region in general.
- International conference "Bologna process in Barents-region: best practices and perspectives". It's planned to discuss best practices and some problematic issues of internationalizations in Barents area in Petrozavodsk
- International conference "Universities partnership network for preserving the languages and cultural heritage of the indigenous people of the North: challenges of

internationalization”. It’s planned to discuss the Universities role in developing of the education for indigenous people of the North in Syktyvkar.

- Winter and summer schools in ecology, history, forestry, international relationship, law, languages, etc.
- Applications’ preparing for Tempus IV project “Reform of higher education through international university cooperation”.

Emergent needs for the future cooperation

Necessary needs for the future cooperation were pointed out:

1. Appointing a co-chair of the JWGER from one of the Nordic Universities would allow to facilitate the cooperation and to coordinate the Group’s activities including fund-raising more efficiently.
2. To activate interaction with Barents-secretariat in order to find appropriate financial support for the Group’s projects.

**BARENTS EURIO-ARCTIC COUNCIL
ENERGY WORKING GROUP
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2009 OF THE CO-CHAIRS TO
THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS (CSO)**

1. Introduction

In 2009 the energy cooperation under BEAC was revitalized. The Energy Working Group (EWG) of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) was established in 1998. The new co-chairmanship of EWG from 2009, represented by Norway and the Government of Arkhangelsk Region, has undertaken new actions in the course of 2009. A discussion of future direction of work has taken place in the framework of BEAC-EWG in the formal meeting 24th September 2009.

There is a wide agreement that the cooperation in the framework of BEAC EWG should be on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the BEAC- EWG for 2009-2011 was agreed by the EWG on the 24th September 2009 and adopted by the CSO in October 2009. Future actions will be in line with these ToR.

The meeting of 24th September and the new ToR is a good basis for future work. It is the intention of the BEAC EWG to monitor and organize relevant events on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the course of 2010 and 2011. It would also be a task to provide energy-sector and policy - inputs where appropriate for the Swedish BEAC overall chairmanship.

2. Main events related to BEAC EWG

During the year of 2009 there have been held several meetings and workshops related to developing Barents cooperation in energy efficiency and renewable sectors. In some of thee the BEAC EWG has been directly involved. In others the role has been more of a monitoring and reporting character. The co-chairs would like to highlight the following:

15 January 2009 – meeting with representatives from the Ramboll Storvik AS, the winner of the tender for carrying out pre-invest research within the framework of the project UNEP/ GEF “Russian Federation – Support to the National Action Program on Protection Maritime Environment in the Arctic Region”

23 January 2009 – meeting with the leadership of the State Norwegian Housing Bank in Arkhangelsk on sharing experience in the implementation of the housing and utilities sector’s reform in the Arkhangelsk region and discussions on possible fields of cooperation, including introduction of new technologies in energy efficiency and energy saving sectors

18 March 2009 – 2nd meeting of the co-chairs of the EWG in Arkhangelsk, including representative from the International Barents Secretariat, with discussions on the list of members of the EWG from the Russian regions and BEAC countries, the objective and tasks of its activity, current situation on developing effective mechanisms of housing management sector, creating favorable and safety conditions for living, introducing energy efficiency and energy saving technologies in

Norway and Arkhangelsk region, and organizational issues of arranging the extended meeting of the in Arkhangelsk in September 2009, including the planning of the seminar on 23rd September.

23 September 2009 – THE BEAC EWG organized an international seminar “Energy Efficiency and Renewable; Possibilities and Challenges for Russian Municipalities” in Arkhangelsk with more than 60 participants from the BEAC countries, Republic of Karelia, Arkhangelsk Region and Vologda Region. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Arkhangelsk Region. The workshop underlined the need for energy efficiency in the buildings and the municipality sectors. Practical projects and experiences made in the energy efficiency centers in North West Russia were presented. A separate summary of the workshop will soon be available in a separate link.

24 September 2009 – extended meeting of the BEAC EWG in Arkhangelsk. The Governor of Arkhangelsk Mr. Ilya Mikhalchuk welcomed the participants and underlined the high priority of energy efficiency and renewable energy in North West Russia and called on the parties to a close cooperation in these fields in order to achieve concrete practical results. In the meeting the JEWG agreed on the Terms of Reference and the main direction of future work. The new ToR provides a good basis for future cooperation in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The activities in 2009-2011 will concentrate on energy efficiency and renewable energy. The representatives in BEAC from North West Russia, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden presented their plans and programmers on the national and regional level. The participants shared their concrete ideas on future activities within the frameworks of the EWG for 2009-2010. Delegates were invited to come up with ideas for future work, including possible financing of such activities and co-financing.

2 December 2009 – meeting with Nordic Environmental Financial Corporation and energy companies from the Arkhangelsk Region. At the meeting the project “Developing Energy Renewable Market in the North-West Russia” was presented. The Arkhangelsk Region Co-chairmanship closely cooperates with NEFCO, the Barents Hot Spots Facility under NEFCO, Norsk Energi company, and the Finnish Research Institute for Project-Based Industry on developing municipal energy efficiency program for the Arkhangelsk Region and a module concept within the project “Developing Energy Renewable Market in the North-West Russia”.

During the year 2009 the Arkhangelsk Region Co-chairmanship has agreed with the North-West Russia regions on their regional representatives/ members of the EWG. The regions appointed the following representatives:

Arkhangelsk Region	Mr. Anatoly Lukin
Murmansk Region	Mr. Alexander Kobytev, Mr. Alexander Nikolaev
Republic of Karelia	Mr. Alexander Shtogrin
Republic of Komi	Mr. Anatoly Kovalskiy
Nenets Autonomous District	Mr. Yuriy Teltevski

3. Activities in 2010

The Arkhangelsk Region co-chairmanship proposes the following activities for the BEAC EWG in 2010:

1. To arrange an international seminar in the Barents Region aimed at efficient use of energy technologies and renewable in housing sector;
2. To arrange meetings between the energy companies from the Barents Region to share knowledge and experience in energy efficiency and renewable sectors;
3. To study international project financial instruments for developing cooperation activities and projects;
4. To monitor, follow up and support cooperation projects in energy efficiency and renewable sectors in the Barents Region.
5. Energy in-put to a possible BEAC Energy Ministerial in 2010 in the course of the overall BEAC Swedish Chairmanship.

Anatoly Lukin

Co-chair of the BEAC - EWG
Director of the Department for Fuel and Energy Complex
Government of the Arkhangelsk Region

Johan Vetlesen

Co-chair of the BEAC – EWG
Deputy Director General
Ministry of Petroleum and Energy , Norway

Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC) Annual Report 2009

Joint Chairmen : Natalia Dikova, Russia
Ellen Østgård, Troms

Incoming chairmen (from des.11. 2009):

- Irina Gubina, Arkhangelsk
- Pia Erson, Sweden

The group - JWGC – held two meeting during 2009:

- January 29. in Kirkenes, Norway during the festival Barents Spektakel
- December 11.in Rovaniemi, Finland

In addition to the regional cultural administrations, the JWGC includes the representatives of the Finnish, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish ministries responsible for culture and one member from the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2009 the Barents Cultural Cooperation was presented by Ellen Østgård at the meeting of Regional Committee in February in Joensuu, Finland.

Indigenous Peoples

At the meeting in Kirkenes, Christina Henriksen from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat had a presentation of the “Action plan for Indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2009-2012”.

Ragnhild Dalheim Eriksen, Head of festival, had a presentation of the yearly indigenous peoples’ festival RIDDU RIDDU in Troms, Norway. The Riddu Riđđu festival was started by the sami associations in Kåfjord, Troms in 1991, as a sea-sami culture festival. The festival has become one of the largest sami festivals and primary yearly festival for international indigenous peoples. The festival programme encompasses music, stage art, literature, children program, Northern People program, youth camp, film program, courses (workshops), seminars, art exhibition, market (bazaar), indigenous houses and much more. The festival has permanent support from the Ministry of Culture, the sami parliament, Troms county council and Kåfjord municipality.

Implementation of the Barents Culture Program for 2008-2010: *New Winds in the Barents Region.*

The overall objective is to strengthen cultural cooperation and thus increase the impact of culture in the Barents Region. A proposed list of projects and the outcome are published on the page of the group on www.beac.st.

Barents Program 2009 – 2013, and the Project Barents 2010+

Roald Røkeberg, Barents Regional Committee, had a presentation of the Barents program and Barents 2010+, the project may be one of the financing tools for the new Barents Program 2009-2013 and implementation of certain parts of the Barents Cultural Program. The JWGC submitted proposals but Barents 2010+ was rejected. There will be a new application in 2010, with Oulu as lead partner. JWGC will contribute with an improved proposal to Oulu.

Northern Dimension Partnership on culture will be taken further during the second half of 2010, and there will be a conference/forum in St. Petersburg, spring 2010.

Culture Competence Cluster 2008 – 2009, managed by Arkhangelsk, is one of the real success stories within the multilateral cultural cooperation in the Barents Region. The project involves 50

managers form a variety of cultural sectors in the Murmansk, Archangelsk and Kaliningrad regions. The participants study culture management models in the Scandinavian countries and 25 of the more active participants were invited to a study tour to Finland and Norway. The two main aims of the project are competence development and network building with focus on young managers. Funding comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

UKM International: Arctic Young Art Connection (AYAC)

Odd-Halvdan Jakobsen, Troms, presented a project developing the network between young artists and adult leaders and the establishment of an Arctic Young Art Festival for the North.

Other News:

- The Russian-Norwegian Cultural Cooperation Plan for the High North was signed on January 28 in Oslo.
- The Programme of the Cooperation in the field of culture between the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway for the period of 2010-2012 was signed by the Minister of Culture of Norway and Russia on June 14 in Moscow.
- Finnish - Russian culture Forum in Syktyvkar, the Republic of Komi, (more than 300 participants).
- Barents Library Conference in Luleå, Sweden with 60 – 70 participants. (This conference is an important meeting place.)

Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC)

Plans for 2010:

- To continue working on the implementation of the Barents Culture Program for 2008-2010: *New Winds in the Barents Region* and Barents 2010+.
- To Finalize the organisational structure of the Preparatory Committee of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture and elaborate the conclusions of the NDPC that will be reported to the next Ministerial meeting (the second half of 2010).
- To convene the next JWGC meeting in Umeå, autumn 2010.

Joint Working Group on Tourism (JWGT)

The Joint Working Group on Tourism was established in 2008 to develop tourism business in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region and to promote ecologically, socially and culturally sustainable tourism. In practice this means promoting multilateral co-operation and joint projects, networking and exchanging information and best practices.

The objectives of the JWGT are defined in the mandate. They include:

- to increase the international awareness of and interest in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR) and thus promote incoming tourism to the area
- to promote the entrepreneurship and employment in the field of tourism in order to increase tourism revenue in the BEAR
- to promote development and realization of cross-border tourist projects
- to improve preconditions for tourism development in the BEAR e.g. by improving accessibility (flight and railway traffic), developing all year round tourism and developing border crossing formalities
- to maintain the unique tourism attractions of the BEAR by promoting the sustainable tourism development and by adapting to the challenges caused by the climate change
- to build, develop, promote and market authentic high quality joint products based to the local cultures and traditions of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, e.g. the cultures and traditions of the indigenous peoples
- to co-operate in fields of tourism education and research in order to recognise and spread good practices

The initiative to establish a Joint Working Group on Tourism (JWGT) for Barents region made by the Russian Ministry of Tourism was officially approved by the Committee of Senior Officials at its meeting 18 - 19 February 2009. The Barents Regional Committee supported the initiative in Kirkenes meeting 23. – 24.9.2008 and the JWGT was established. The mandate of the JWGT was officially adopted by the Barents Regional Committee and the Committee of Senior Officials in May 2009.

The Russian Ministry of Tourism was appointed as the chairman of the working group and Finnish Lapland as the regional co-chair.

The Joint Working Group on Tourism works on both national and region levels. The national level will provide information on the current state policy in this sphere, plans, programs, national legislation and amendments. The regional level is implementing the co-operation in practice.

Chairs for the period 2008 – 2010:

Valery Korovkin (governmental)

Head, International Department, Federal Agency for Tourism, Ministry of Sports

Tourism and Youth policy of the RF

Satu Luiro (regional co-chair)
Tourism Coordinator, Regional Council of Lapland

JWGT's activities in 2009

The JWGT meeting was organized on the 7th of May in Rovaniemi in association with the Barents Tourism Today and Tomorrow seminar.

In the meeting the group discussed the organisation of the work in practice. The group agreed that there is need e.g. for

- better knowledge of each others
- communication platform
- product catalogue of cross-border products
- joint marketing

Working group discussed about the stimulation of visits inside the Barents Region and contacts to the neighbouring areas. Study-trips, meetings, seminars and projects are good tools to broaden knowledge of each others. The group also noticed that it will be important to get the information about how tourism development is organised in different countries.

From the marketing point of view common activities are needed. At the moment for instance Russia is marketing actively in China, India and Korea. These markets will change whole tourism business in the future. These big new markets could be interesting target from Barents point-of-view. Building up international brand is very expensive. Therefore, joint marketing campaigns to strictly targeted market areas and segments might be a better starting point. However, first step is to get to know each other and collect the products together.

It was suggested that future actions could include e.g. a producing product catalogue for cross-border tourism products in the Barents Region, and building a common website as a platform for communication and marketing. It should be considered if there is need for new website or can existing websites like laplandfinland.com be used. One solution could be to include special Barents section to the existing website.

In the Rovaniemi meeting it was agreed that all these ideas have to be discussed in long run: they are good proposals but they have to be developed further. The conclusion was that the JWGT needs an Action Plan. It was decided that the Action Plan will be discussed and accepted in the next JWGT meeting in Murmansk on October 14 – 15, 2009 at the same time with the Economic Forum. Unfortunately, this meeting was cancelled for the practical reasons.

The group decided to collect information of successful and important tourism projects. This helps to develop the future activities. Evaluation of national and international projects was also needed. Therefore the Regional Council of Lapland collected the basic

information about Interreg III A North 2000-2007 projects related to tourism (attached). The list includes also some projects funded from the Kolarctic program. There is a lot to learn from previous projects so this list can be used as a tool when planning the future actions.

Joint Working Group on Tourism (JWGT)

Actions for the 2010

The ENPI CBC programme provides a useful financing instrument for developing Barents tourism. The call for proposals to the ENPI CBC programme will be launched on the 11th of January 2010.

Finnbarents is a project unit owned by the Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences (RAMK) and the University of Lapland (UoL). The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has granted a funding for preparatory work of ENPI project(s) for Finnbarents. The projects are planned to develop Barents tourism according to the objectives that have been raised e.g. in discussion of the JWGT, as well as in other forums. The objectives include:

- Developing tourism accessibility (border formalities and flight traffic east-west)
- Anticipating the challenges of the climate change for the tourism industry
- Enhancing the networking and co-operation of the tourism entrepreneurs based on common themes (for instance: skiing centers and ski tourism, snow & ice engineering, summer tourism)
- Making a survey of the needs and challenges met by the SME's when starting the cross-border business in tourism

These objectives are well in accordance with the JWGT mandate and goals. In 2010 Finnbarents will start the work to prepare development project(s). The JWGT will observe the process and comment the project contents when needed.

In October 2009 the Lapland Institute for Tourism Research and Education started its work. The institute is formed by three levels of education: Lapland Vocational College, Rovaniemi University of Applied Sciences and University of Lapland. In addition, the institute co-operates closely with other educational, research and development organizations such as e.g. the Lapland Centre of Expertise for the Experience Industry (LEO).

The Aim of the Lapland Institute for Tourism Research and Education is to offer internationally high-quality tourism research and education, to deliver information and to help develop sustainable tourism together with the tourism industry and other actors.

One of the objectives of the JWGT is to co-operate in fields of tourism education and research in order to recognise and spread good practices. Therefore, the JWGT welcomes the work and goals of the Lapland Institute for Tourism Research and Education, and looks forward to co-operate in the future.

The Komi Republic representative has invited the JWGT to organize the next meeting in Syvtyvkar in April 2010.

Annual report 2009 from the Regional Working Group on Environment (RWGE)

General

The Regional Working Groups work is guided by its official mandate handed down from the Barents Regional Committee¹. The group has also its own Programme of Action for 2007-2010. BEAC Environmental Ministers have also welcomed the tasks implemented by the group in its Ministerial Declaration and Report in 2007 and 2010. Each of the 13 Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR) member regions, as well as the Working Group for Indigenous Peoples is invited to be represented in the group. The environmental work of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (BEAR) is far reaching and diverse. *Priority* is however given to the following themes: Surface and drinking water issues, biodiversity, sustainable natural resource management, encourage control and reduction of most urgent pollution points, and information and knowledge dissemination. *Main objectives and tasks* are given priority to in the work of the regional working group: provide a network for strengthening and developing environmental cooperation at all levels, encourage assessment, control and reduction of the most urgent environmental problems like the listed 'hot-spots' in the Barents region, to strengthen public awareness and knowledge, initiate new project ideas and proposals for multilateral cooperation, support policy work in the region and react on the ad-hoc needs in the environmental field.

The chairmanship for the group was rotated from the Republic of Komi to Finnmark County of Norway in late 2008. The group will be chaired by the County Governor of Finnmark in 2009-2010, followed by rotation of the chairmanship to Sweden for the period of 2011-2012.

Participation from all the 13 member regions is crucial, so that the cooperation can fulfil the mandates handed down to it and implement strategies, and carry out actions described in the policy documents guiding the groups work. In addition, the group faces a serious challenge with regards to the revitalization of the work in the Russian regions on the environmental «hot spots», and without the help, support and initiatives from the Russian regions to do so this task will be impossible. It is also very important to strengthen and expand the existing network between all the regions and on different levels.

As earlier stated the financial challenges remain as one of the most difficult in our cooperation, both for meetings, travelling and project implementation. Therefore, one of our biggest challenges is how to find funding. Many actions on the environmental field are because of this carried out as bilateral projects with national project funding.

Year 2009

In February 2009 the chair reported to the Regional Committee on the groups activities in 2008 on the Committee meeting in Joensuu, Finland.

In 2009 the group has also conducted 2 meetings back to back with the Working Group on Environment (BEAC WGE). The first meeting of the year was held 9th-11th March in Vadsø, Finnmark and the second 8th -11th October in Archangelsk. Most important issues discussed on the meetings where; the groups' official mandate, information exchange and status reporting on ongoing projects results and status², discussion on follow up and new project initiatives³, general

¹ The RWGE official mandate was compiled in late 2008 and early 2009. It was adopted in early spring 2009 (annex 1).

² Pre project; Sustainable enterprises in the Barents region, a joint venture between Counties of Nordland, North Ostrobothnia and Komi and presentation of the implemented mercury-project in Arkhangelsk, bilateral project between Arkhangelsk Regional Environmental Committee and Norwegian Pollution Control.

activity reporting from all the participating organisations in the group, implementation of the groups Programme of Action 2007-2010 and general information concerning the Barents programme 2009-2013. Members of the BEAC WGE subgroups have also reported on the subgroup activities to the RWGE and vice versa. There has been an active cooperation between the regional and national groups due to the arranged back to back meetings. The RWGE chair Ms Bente Christiansen has also chaired one of the WGE subgroups under the Norwegian presidency, the subgroup on water issues. Water issues and water related issues have therefore naturally been highlighted on the 2009 meetings. The RWGE wish that the back to back meeting practice with the national level will continue at least to some extent, because of the good experiences with regards to the exchange of information and synergies between different projects and the nature of multidisciplinary challenges in the environmental field. Though the RWGE in coming years also will seek for possibilities to conduct own separate meetings in the different regions.

Following issues and accomplishments from the period is highlighted. Adoption of the groups' official mandate handed down by the Regional Committee took place in the beginning of 2009. There have been project activities in all the mentioned prioritised areas of works in 2008 and 2009;

- *Surface and drinking water issues;*
 - implementing the pre projects on environmentally sustainable small enterprises in the Barents region,
 - presentation from Arkhangelsk on the pre studies on knowledge and development of small scale sewage systems in Archangelsk region,
 - project in the framework of flood forecasting and modelling to meet with the challenges of climate change and
 - water laboratory cooperation with the aims of increasing the quality assurance level of the water quality monitoring laboratories and methods in the Barents Region.
- *Biodiversity;*
 - Pasvik-Inari Trilateral Park cooperation has accomplished certification through the Europarc federation an all European federation for protected areas,
 - 5th Habitat contact forum meeting was held in autumn of 2008 in Umeå.
- *Sustainable management of natural recourses and 'hot-spots' work;*
 - regions in cooperation with NEFCO have had activities as training seminars and enhancing control and reducing pollution from listed "hot spots",
 - pre project activities and seminars on the utilisation of natural resources like minerals and mining issues have been implemented by different actors in the cooperation.

The Barents working group for youth has initiated contact to the regional environment group, no actual joint actions have yet been initiated, but both groups intend to identify areas for cooperation.

³ F. ex New environmental buss initiative, Komi region also becoming partner in the successfully implemented Mercury project mentioned above and implementation of the project on Sustainable enterprises in the Barents region, Atlantic Salmon project and follow up Pasvik Programme.

Activities and plans for 2010

The group is at the moment finalising its input to the 9th Environmental Ministers Declaration and Report, to the up coming BEAC Environmental Ministers Meeting, 17th February in Tromsø. As well as reporting to the Regional Committee and International Barents Secretariat at the planned meetings in the beginning of the year. RWGE will continue to participate in back to back meetings with the BEAC WGE under the Swedish presidency 2010-2011. The RWGE is also planning to conduct one or two own separate meeting in the regions in the course of 2010. First meeting will be held in the Republic of Karelia in first part of 2010 to discuss the groups input to the Ministerial Declaration and Report, but also to discuss and to get acquainted with the different environmental challenges in the different regions. The group will also revise its Action program. The different members/actors in the group will continue their bilateral and multilateral project cooperation. The following regional initiatives to projects are highlighted here;

Further cooperation and new projects are in preparation in all the prioritised areas to contribute in solving the joint environmental challenges. Projects on reducing pollution and introduce outlet control in harbours under the project umbrella of Environmentally sustainable small enterprises in the Barents region, Pre project on knowledge and competence exchange in water management sector is seeking for financing possibilities under the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health and Pre project study on development of sewage systems in Archangels region. Pasvik programme with two concurrent projects; follow up and extended environmental monitoring in transboundary water basin in connection to safety of natural food stuffs and human health in the North. Atlantic Salmon in the Kolarctic area with reference to utilisation of a declining natural resource in connection with the effects of climate change and traditional indigenous livelihoods in the Barents region.

Future challenges

Future activities and challenges for the group include: challenges in connection with the increasing utilisation of natural resources as forestry, oil and gas and mining activities in the whole of Barents region, surface and drinking water issues, transboundary water management and harmonisation of methodologies, to stop further loss of biodiversity, mitigation and adaption to meet with the challenges of climate change.

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