



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the Working Group: Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics, BRWGTL

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: Mr Hannu Heikkinen, planning director, Regional Council of Kainuu, Finland

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

Barents Region Transport and Logistics project (BRTL), project monitoring, and cooperation with the both BEATA and NDTPL.

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

During the reporting period, BRWGTL members have been actively participating to the BRTL project meetings as project partners and steering group members. The group has gathered to the following meetings: FEB 6 – 7, kick off meeting in Kajaani, Finland, MAR 21-22, BEATA meeting in Luleå, Sweden, APR 23-24 BRWGTL meeting and project meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, and SEP 11-12, project meeting in Umeå, Sweden, back-to-back with BEATA ministerial meeting.

The core all events in 2019 has been implementation and monitoring of BRTL project activities and commenting JBTP working process. The Chairman of the Working group were present in the Regional Council meeting in Tromsø, Norway.

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

BRWGTL was represented by BRTL project manager Jussi Huotari in Barents Parliamentarians Conference in Haparanda, Sweden in SEP 16-18. Working group members have also participated to Arctic – Territory of Dialogue forum in St.Petersburg, Russia in April 9-10 as well as in the both national and regional transport planning work and gatherings during the operational year.

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

The year 2019 has been the first operating year of the BRTL project. Running of the project has been the main task of the working group. Three out of the six working packages are now in progress and the first results will be published during the first half of 2020.

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

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

One of the biggest achievements during the reporting period was the launching of the BRTL project. The working group members have indicated their commitment to the implementation to the project activities. The project implementation has increased communication and activities inside the working group and thus brought added value for the Barents cooperation. Nevertheless, there is demand for cross-sectoral activities and deeper cooperation between the both governmental and regional working groups, as well as engaging youth to the BRWGTL work. This will be one of the main targets for the next operational year.

7. Other