



NARRATIVE REPORT of the International Conference "Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the Field of Education and Research as a Resource for Regional Development"

International Conference "Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the field of education and research as a resource for regional development" took place in the Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M.V. Lomonosov, Arkhangelsk on November 27-29, 2012.

The Conference was organized by cooperating twin-universities NArFU and the University of Tromsø under their co-chairmanship in the BEAC Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER BEAC).

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Barents cooperation and in the run-up to the Kirkenes Declaration 2.0, the Conference provided an international forum to discuss success stories, point out new challenges and perspectives for further collaboration, and define ways to promote cross-border capacity building within BEAR with the focus on HE&R cooperation and its significance for the regional development. Thus, the Conference highlighted the role of **Universities** in improving the partnering connections between business, political and educational sectors for the benefit of the Barents region development in the changing global environment.

The main financial sources of the Conference were:

- RF Government funding
- grant from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat (with the leading partner – University of Tromsø)
- grant from Russian International Affairs Council
- own financing from NArFU
- private sponsors
- participation fees.

The Conference program included a number of key and side events:

- 2 plenary sessions;
- 4 thematic sessions on different aspects of Barents cooperation:
 - *Stream A.* Twenty years of history of cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region: success stories, perspectives, new start?
 - *Stream B.* Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region in the field of education: time for research based education?
 - *Stream C.* Research cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region: university as a resource for business and industry development
 - *Stream D.* Education and career paths in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region through the eyes of young people.
- Panel discussion: Northern Universities for the Development of the Region: New realities – New perspectives. A Dialogue Between the University Community and Politicians (on-line broadcast in the Internet, dozens of questions and comments on Twitter);
- visit of RF Minister of Education and Research Mr. Dmitry Livanov, working meetings of the Conference participants with the Minister of Education and Research of the Russian Federation and the Governor of the Arkhangelsk Region;
- official visit by the Consul General of Sweden in St. Petersburg to NArFU;

- signing of Cooperation Agreement between NArFU and the Finnmark University College (Norway);
- working meeting of the Rectors from Higher Educational Institutions – members of the Arctic Association of Russian Universities;
- a number of project meetings on implementation and planning of joint projects;
- presentation of the book “Russia and Norway: Cooperation in the Barents Region” by co-authors A. Krylov and I. Broch;
- 2 exhibitions devoted to Barents cooperation;
- meeting of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER BEAC).

Conference Side events list:

- **Round table:** Challenges of teachers training in the High North
- **Open lecture** delivered by the Doctor of Historical Sciences, President of the National Institute for Research of Global Security, member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Envoy of the Russian Federation, Honorary Doctor of NArFU Anatoly Smirnov «Nordic Countries within Arctic space»
- **Round table:** BEAR viewed by the youth - the past and the present
- **Workshop** «Interim results of the project Public-Private Partnership in Barents Tourism/BART» implemented under the Kolarctic Programme»
- **Annual meeting** of the Heads of founders of the Arctic Association of the Russian Universities
- Working meeting **of the Consul General of Sweden in St.-Petersburg Mr. Jan Nyberg** with Rector and Vice-Rector of International Cooperation of NArFU, meeting the students studying Swedish
- **Open lecture** by the Doctor of Technical Sciences, Deputy Chair in the Presidium of the Kola Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Problems of the Industrial Ecology in the North Vladimir Masloboev «Integrated use of mineral resources of the Kola peninsula and technological aspects of the environmental protection»
- **Round Table:** Social Space of Northern Territories - challenges and solutions in the BEAR countries
- **International webinar** in Norwegian with participation of Ingvild Broch, Special Advisor in the Norwegian Association for Higher Education Institutions, interpreter, Honorary Doctor of NArFU (Norway)

Total number of Conference events participants was over 500 people from 4 Barents countries (approx. 56% of them were female participants). Among them, there were representatives of 39 organizations (incl. 27 educational establishments) from 24 cities, incl.:

- Federal ministries and other authorities;
- Intergovernmental organizations (incl. the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Nordic Council of Ministers, Joint Managing Authority of the Kolarctic ENPI CBC Programme, etc.);
- Regional authorities;
- Businesses (incl., Arkhangelsk Pulp and Paper Mill, Nenets Oil Company, Severalmaz, etc.);
- Higher educational institutions and R&D centers;
- Associations;
- NGOs;
- mass media.

As for their status, the participants were leaders and senior officials from governmental and intergovernmental institutions, representatives from diplomatic services in the ranks of Ambassadors and Envoys, companies' CEOs, 5 rectors and 9 vice-rectors, students, post-graduate students, teachers and researchers, public figures, reporters and journalists.

The list of VIP participants/keynote speakers included:

Dmitry Livanov, Minister of Education and Research of the Russian Federation

Igor Orlov, Governor of the Arkhangelsk Region

Ilya Ivankin, Minister of Education and Research of Arkhangelsk Region

Sverre Stub, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of BEAC

Andrey Shalyov, Honorary Consul of Norway to Arkhangelsk

Lars Kullerud, President UArctic, Senior Advisor to GRID-Arendal Managing Director

Britt Vigdis Ekeli, Vice President of Education in the University of Tromsø, Norway

Anatoly Smirnov, President of the National Institute for Research of Global Security (NIRGlobS), member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Envoy of the Russian Federation, Honorary Doctor of NArFU

Alexander Ignatiev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Arctic Herald Chief Editor

Katja Sukuvaara, Senior Advisor, Joint Managing Authority, Kolarctic ENPI CBC Programme

Evgenia Mikhailova, Rector, North-Eastern Federal University named after M.K. Ammosov

Alexander Ershov, Rector, Murmansk State Technical University

Reijo Tolppi, Rector, Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Viktor Martynov, Rector, Russian State University of Oil and Gas, named after I. M. Gubkin

Ingvild Broch, Special Advisor in the Norwegian Association for Higher Education Institutions

Conference results and outcomes:

- experience exchange and best practices dissemination on the international arena with participation of leading experts, politicians, high-ranking officials, scholars, students, business;
- Barents cooperation model promotion (by means of on-line broadcast and massive media coverage);
- strengthening HE&R position as driving force for regional development;
- enhancing links between politicians, authorities and universities;
- defining new challenges and perspectives for further collaboration;
- strengthening the role of JWGER as an efficient tool for HE&R development;
- proposals and contributions were prepared to be included in the intergovernmental documents on further cooperation in the Barents-Euro Arctic Region (incl. new Kirkenes Declaration);
- launching new initiatives on the federal and regional level: proposals for enhancing Barents cooperation and HEI internationalization were developed and presented to the Minister of Research and Education of the Russian Federation;
- 4 new joint projects were initiated;
- more than 50 press-releases, articles and news about the Conference have already been published in mass media and web-pages of the Arkhangelsk Region, Northwestern Federal District, Russia and Norway;
- a number of summarizing analytical publications are being prepared for the following web-pages: NArFU, Rossiiskaya Gazeta, Russian International Affairs Council, BarentsObserver, National Institute for Research of Global Security, Arctic Herald, APECS, etc.;
- Conference theses collection is going to be published.

The Conference participants were asked to fill in feedback questionnaires. Most of them were positive and thankful to the organizers for highly topical and informative program of the Conference, which met their expectations and turned out to be a success. The relevance and significance of the Conference, as well as a

good level of organization, were noted by the keynote speakers and high-ranked Russian and foreign guests of the arrangement, including Mr. Sverre Stub, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of BEAC.

The Conference *materials* (program, participants' lists, video, photo and Power Point presentations) are available on the official web-page <http://cibear.narfu.ru/cibear2012/>.