

**Minutes of the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of Cooperation Program
of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council
Children and Youth at Risk**

November 7th, 2012

Beginning – 10.00

Ending – 16.00

Venue – room 508 of the Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Republic of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, the Republic of Karelia

Pål Christian Bergstrøm	Chair of the Steering Committee of the Programme "Children and youth at risk in the Barents region Director General, the Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway
Elena Krasovskaja	Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee of the CYAR programme Deputy Chair of the commission for juvenile and protection of their rights under The Murmansk Regional government; Consultant, Department for Cooperation with law enforcement authorities, Office of the Government of the Murmansk region
Marina Zyryanova	Coordinator of the CYAR programme Project leader, Department of international relations in the Barents region, the Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway
Roman Kopusov	Adviser, Department of international relations in the Barents region, the Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway
Svetlana Antokhina	Deputy Minister of Health and Social development, Republic of Karelia
Elena Dunaeva	Advisor to the Deputy Governor of the Arkhangelsk region on social issues
Ilya Semiashkin	Head of the agency for social development of the Komi Republic
Vappu Sunnari	University lecturer, gender studies/equality, University of Oulu, Finland

Suvi Pihkala	Project coordinator, University of Oulu, Women and gender studies, Finland
Natalya Oniani	Leading specialist, Department for monitoring and analysis of programmes, Ministry of Health and Social development of the Republic of Karelia, Russia
Igor Krasnov	Interpreter

Agenda

- 1. Greeting. Opening of the meeting. – Chairman of the CYAR Steering Committee**
- 2. Introduction of the participants.**

Pål Christian Bergstrøm greeted the participants of the Steering Committee meeting of the program Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (hereinafter referred to as SC CYAR), and marked the importance of the future work. He informed that Mrs. Lefstrand (SC member from Sweden) and the representative of Barents Region Council's Joint Working Group of Indigenous Peoples because of her maternity leave are not going to participate. Hence, it was proposed for consideration and unanimously decided that a new request should be sent in order to nominate a new candidate as advised by the SC CYAR of Indigenous Peoples of the North.

S.V. Antokhina made a presentation in which she talked about the Republic of Karelia in general, about how social services are provided in the Republic, about social support measures to families and children, international experience, including a detailed report on the CYAR methods implemented in the Republic and about perspectives of cooperation in this direction.

She thanked Norwegian colleagues for the opportunity for specialists from the Republic of Karelia to be trained in cutting edge social work technologies. It was marked that all the social technologies are applied ones, are used in practice and have positive feedback from specialists and participants of the project.

She expressed hope for further implementation of The Incredible Years Program in the Republic of Karelia, as well as spoke about the necessity to train 8 specialists from Petrozavodsk and 20 specialists from 7 municipalities of the Republic in methodology «ART – Aggression Replacement Training», 6 specialists – in methodology Family ART, 10 specialists – in methodology What About Us?.

3. Agenda Adoption.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm told about the necessity of continuing the present work concerning CYAR program, especially among institutions of different spheres such as education, social service, etc.

4. Adoption of the 8th SC meeting minutes dated June 14th 2012 in Oulu, Finland

The minutes of the previous, 8th SC CYAR meeting were approved unanimously (taking into account the necessity to correct the name of one of the participants), and then will be published at Barents Secretariat's webpage in the archive.

5. Status Report for 2012 – Chairman: news from the Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS). Status for 2012.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm made a report about progress of work concerning the program Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents Region for 2008-2015.

He reported that CYAR results at the international level were noted positively at the conference in the UN Children's committee. Two main points were underlined there:

1. ensure multi-agency approach;
2. endorse the method Family Group Conferences.

He reported about the meeting with representatives of P.A. Astakhov, Plenipotentiary on Children's Rights under the President of the Russian Federation, which took place in summer 2012. AudTrain program was presented at the meeting, as well as suggestions for its use in the framework of CYAR implementation in North-West Russia. There has not been received any response up to now.

Roman Kuposov told about the results of the meeting with representatives of Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation in October 2012 in Oslo, and presentation of the mediation implementation status in the Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions. Members of SC CYAR asked to send them the minutes of the meeting.

During the discussion there was raised a question about unified approach during implementation of a number of CYAR methodologies in regions of Russia, particularly, concerning cooperation with the Federal Service for Execution of Punishment (hereinafter referred to as FSIN). It will be necessary to regulate this issue on the basis of the fact that there is unified legislature for the work of all FSIN offices in the regions on the territory of Russia. The issue of further ART spreading in FSIN will also depend on the R&D results concerning evaluation of ART effectiveness in closed institutions.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm suggested concentrating efforts on work with «open» institutions, because it is difficult to work with FSIN so far.

As regards The Incredible Years methodology implementation, following the results of the recent meeting with Carolyn Webster-Stratton, it was decided that there is urgent necessity to train additional mentors, because E. Vorobyeva has a very tight schedule connected with business trips to the regions.

Special attention should be paid to the updated version of The Incredible Years methodology, because at present the training is performed according to the previous version of the program.

He mentioned positive results of mediation.

He thanked the colleagues for the work, the results of which allowed to reach and perform all the goals and tasks set for 2012.

Vappu Sunnari – Finland shows interest to the spreading of method Family Group Conferences on its territory. There is an issue of including this region into the action plan for 2013-2014.

Roman Kuposov informed about the results of reports analysis on implementation of IY and ART. Such data are available for electronic circulation.

There are no remarks concerning The Incredible Years methodology.

Concerning ART – Aggression Replacement Training there is a problem of nonobservance of unified approach to testing in all the institutions. There have been worked out recommendations for performing of the testing; they will be available for electronic circulation.

During the discussion of this problem it was decided to translate the available methodological recommendations, questionnaires, check lists («Organisational readiness check list» for IY program and the analogous one for ART program) and distribute them to all the participating regions of CYAR program and further to the institutions implementing methods of the program till the end of 2012. Moreover, it is important to properly instruct the coaches concerning all the organizational issues.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm informed the SC members that CYAR project had received financing from Kolarctic – European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument, Cross-Border Cooperation, (hereinafter referred to as Kolartic) for 2012 – 2014, as well as said that Russian partners had got co-financing from the charity fund Fly on the Wings (Moscow). A new component of CYAR project will be implementation of the distance program From Violence to Caring (Oulu University, Finland).

It is also important to mention that there was signed a contract between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karelia on financial support to the Methodology Center that is going to deal with spreading the experience in the framework of CYAR program methodologies in North-West Russia.

He mentioned that Council of the Baltic Sea States in very much interested in CYAR program. Particularly, Estonia began implementation of this program and invited representatives from Bufetat North-Norway as specialists in order to share existing knowledge and experience.

He expressed a desire to find means of cooperation between the Barents Region and Estonia, specifically among Russian-speaking population of Estonia which is of the greatest interest.

6. CYAR action plan for 2013 – discussion

- a. Project implementation plan for 2013**
- b. Detailed planning**

Marina Zyryanova reported about signing a contract with Kolarctic dated 02.10.2012, according to which there was approved the action plan for 2013-2014.

She mentioned the necessity of strict observance of the defined plan because in case of its failure further financing will be stopped.

She informed that because of joining the Kolarctic program, action plan is formed for 12 month (not a calendar year). That's why the first period of CYAR project includes the period from 02.10.2012 till 30.09.2013. The arrangements in the framework of the project till the end of 2012 were planned beforehand, during the 8th SC meeting. She reminded about arrangements planned for 2012 and presented the plan for CYAR project implementation for 2013 (up till 30.09.2013 inclusive).

Roman Koposov added that they need information about existing demands of Russian regions in holding different arrangement in order to plan the coaches' work. Concerning the IY program – corresponding methodological literature (books) have been sent to the regions.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm suggested approving the presented action plan for the period 02.10.2012 - 30.09.2013.

Action plan was adopted unanimously.

Later there was made a joint decision about holding two meetings in 2013: in Sweden – in spring and in the Arkhangelsk region – in autumn.

7. Information from regional representatives – actual news, news about activities and perspectives of cooperation in the sphere of children and youth at risk.

Regional reports for CYAR program were presented to the Secretariat beforehand.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm presented the review of the reports mainly mentioning the changes. The reports are attached to the present minutes of the meeting and will be available electronically at CYAR website.

8. Planning of the next SC meeting and CYAR seminar – suggestion from the Chairman.

Marina Zyryanova informed that Mrs. Lefstrand suggested holding the next, regular SC CYAR meeting in Sweden.

During the discussion the participants agreed that it would be reasonable to combine SC CYAR meeting and annual CYAR conference in Sweden.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm submitted for consideration the topic, under the auspices of which it would be possible to hold a regular annual conference on CYAR program: Child Protection Cooperation in a Multicultural Environment. Reason for choosing such a topic was mentioned as the necessity to take into account peculiarities of upbringing children and cooperation inside families in different cultures, differentiated approaches and adaptation of unified CYAR program methods in different societies, media coverage issues and public discussion of problematic and difficult cases of mixed families, upbringing of adopted children, etc. This topic should also become very important from political point of view, that's why it is possible to expect a lot of participants.

SC CYAR members actively supported the presented topic, suggested supplementing the list of issues for consideration at the forthcoming conference by the notion juvenile justice, to which Russian society has formed mainly a negative attitude.

Pål Christian Bergstrøm, enlisting SC SYAR members' support, expressed the intention to inform Mrs. Lefstrand about holding the next SC meeting in Sweden and suggest the above-mentioned topic of the annual conference on CYAR program, as well as discuss the possibility for numerous specialists from Barents Region to participate in it.

9. Closing of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked all the participants of the 9th SC CYAR for an interesting discussion, competent remarks, decisions made and productive cooperation.

The minutes were kept by

N.D. Oniani