

# The Future of Youth Cooperation in the Barents Region

BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

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Tim Andersson, BRYC Chair

Joensuu 2019



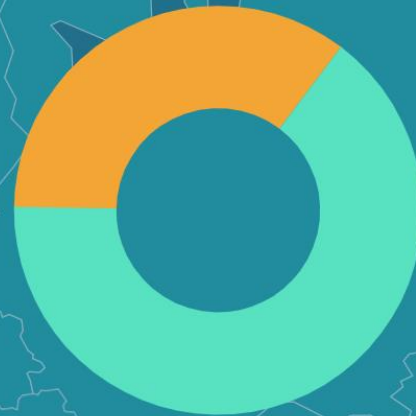


# BARENTS REGION POPULATION (2017):

# 5.2 million

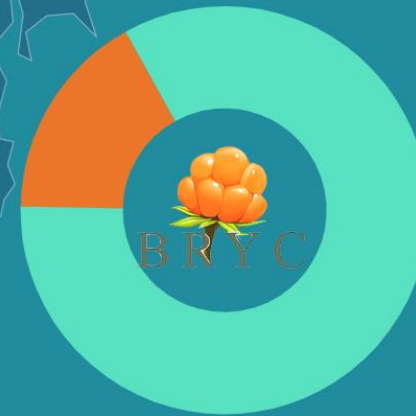
## POPULATION UNDER 30

Population aged 16-29 (35.20%) Remaining population (64.80%)

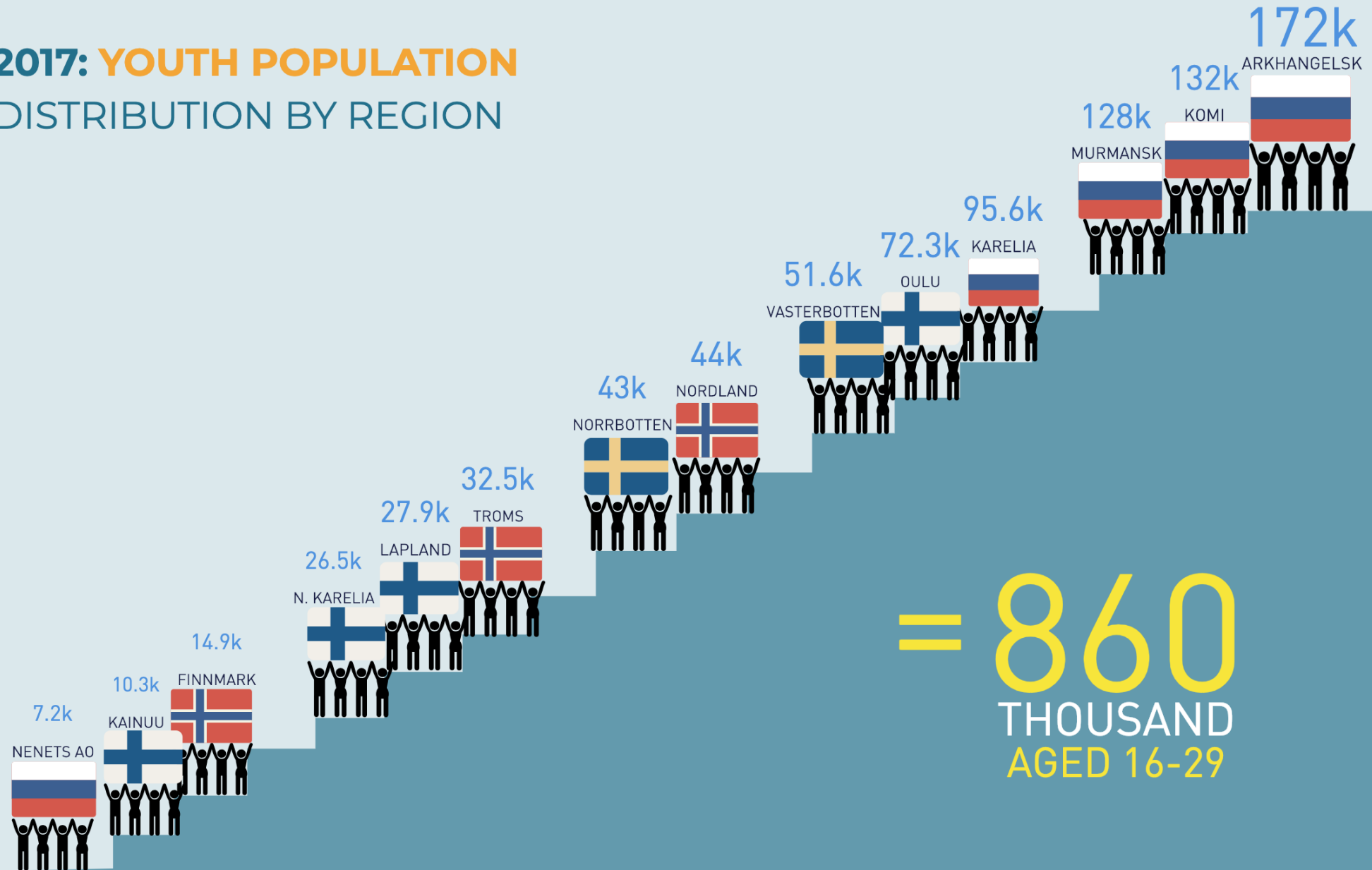


## "BARENTS YOUTH" - POPULATION AGED 16-29

Population under 30 (16.90%) Population over 30 (83.10%)



## 2017: YOUTH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

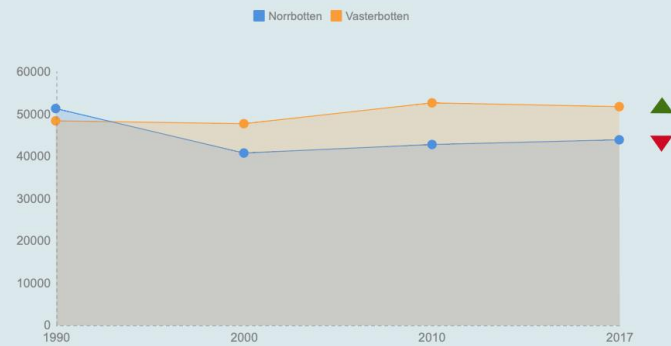




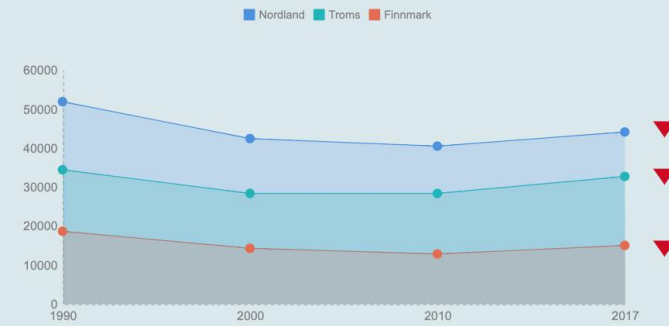
"In the period between  
1990 and 2017, the young  
population of the Barents  
Region (aged 16-29) has  
decreased with more than  
500 000."



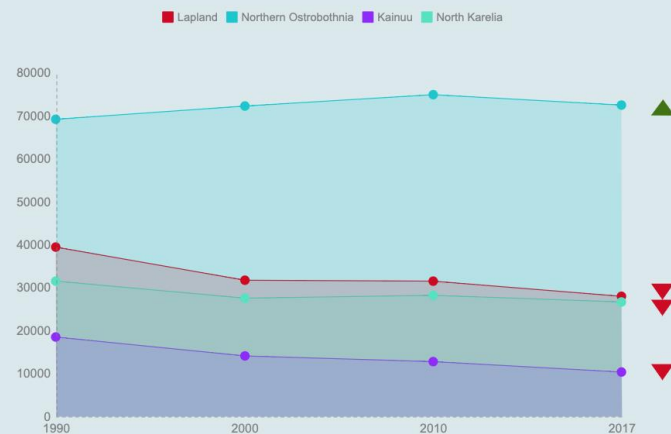
### NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS SWEDEN



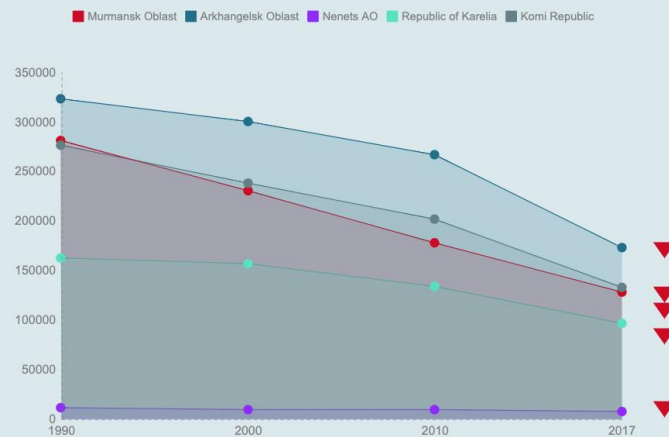
### NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS NORWAY



### NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS FINLAND



### NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS RUSSIA



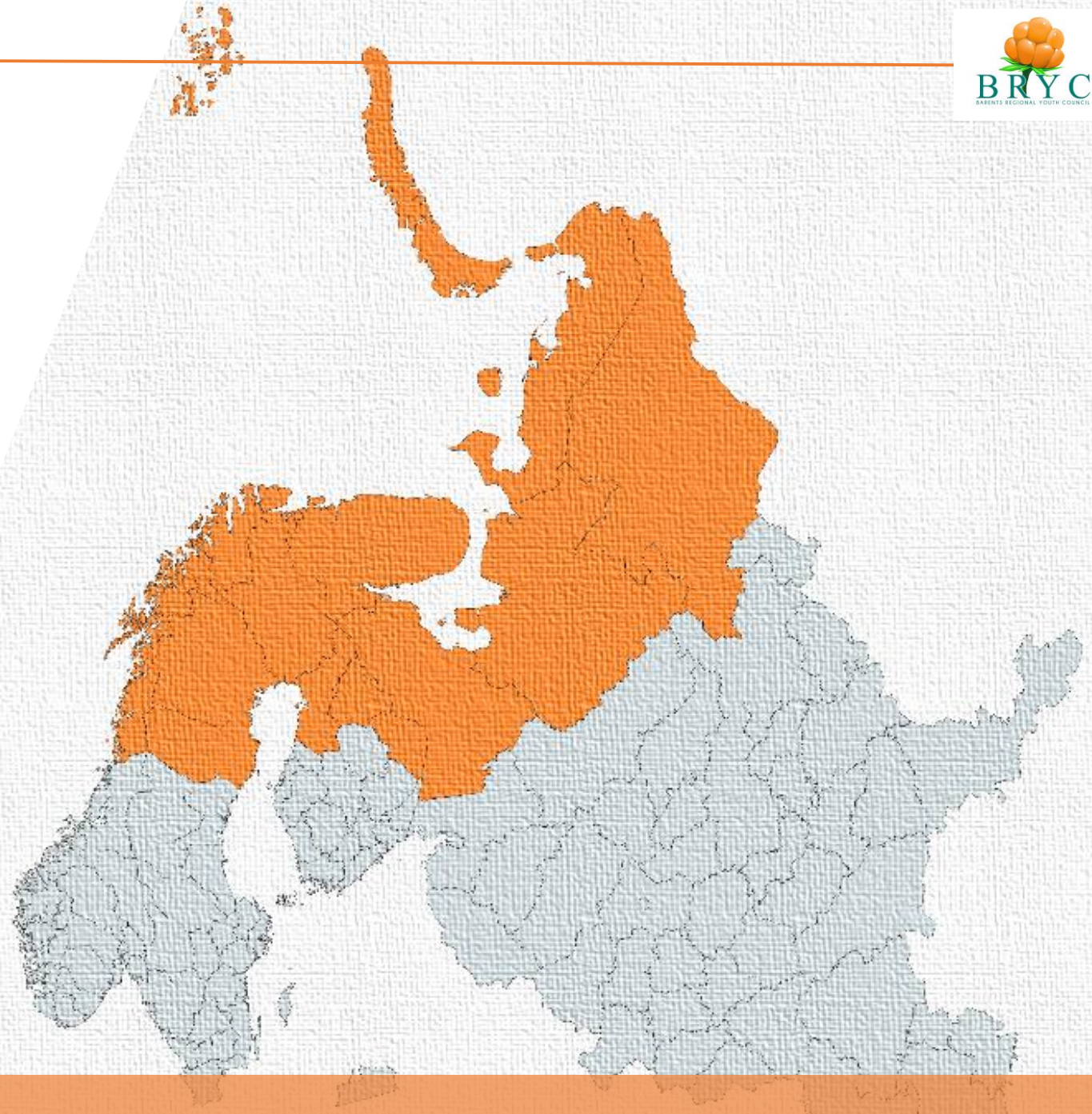


"The only regions where the number of young people has **increased**, are **Vasterbotten** (Sweden) and **Northern Ostrobothnia** (Finland). These regions host two of the largest **universities** in the Barents Region."



# YOUNG IN BARENTS

- Understand the Region  
14 regions across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia  
From Syktyvkar, Komi to Tromsø  
From Kirkenes to Petrozavodsk
- 860 000 Youth in the region
- Large industries, natural resources extraction
- Large cities such as Murmansk, 307 257 and Arkhangelsk 348 783
- Small cities Pajala, Sweden 1 958
- Vast differences
- Local youth initiatives, local councils mandated by regulation to student organisations
- No (or little) local youth initiatives in some regions
- A interest for International Cooperation, especially on the Russian side







## BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

- Established in 2004
- 15 representatives of their local youth community and one representative from the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples
- Meets twice per year
- The Council elects a board which manages the day to day activities
- Funded jointly by all regions in the Barents Cooperation
- Completely voluntarily
- Main goal:  
Prevent youth emigration and brain drain of the Barents Region

Trough projects make the region interesting to youth

Addressing important topics which affects youth in the Region



# WHAT WE DO

## ANNUAL MEETING (spring)

- The meeting is the highest decision-making body of BRYC
- All the 15 council members gather
- Adopts the action plan and budget for the given year (where to participate/what project to initiate)
- Defines the date, theme and location of the upcoming annual event
- Elects a new board and (every 2<sup>nd</sup> year) a new chair

## ANNUAL EVENT (autumn)

- Gathers around 60-70 participants from 4 Barents countries (aged 18-30)
- Program involves plenary discussions, workshops, as well as social and cultural activities
- 3-4 days
- Held in a new Barents location every year
- Promotes the Barents Region
- Aims: barents friendship, improvement of language skills, inspiration from workshops and fun!

## OUR PAST AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- Annual Events hosted annually with a specific theme
- Partners in a wide array of projects  
Uncapitals, Inversia Media Festival
- Current projects  
BRYC Career Development (early 2020)  
Barents Gaming Event 2019  
Barents Sexual Health Conference 2019-2020  
BRYC Indigenous Conference 2019







## YOUTH POLICY

- We are the joint voice of youth in the Region
- We are the future of the Region
- Infrastructure of Peace

# THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION

- Ideas and interest at an all time high
- Barents Model as a model of peace
- The connected generation
- The generation of change
- Language barrier are decreasing
- Gaming and social media is inherently a cross border activity
- Create a stable environment of cooperation and project/initiatives support





# PROJECTS

- Future projects 2020-  
De-urbanizing – harnessing  
technology for a diverse regional  
development

Barents Youth Musical Festival

BRYC Offices

Local projects in Regions



uncapitals: digital heritage



# CHALLENGES

- Legislation
- Funding
- Lack of interested youth to lead
- Lack of outreach to a wider audience
- Finding common ground



# BRYC BOARD 2018-19



**TIM ANDERSSON**

SWEDEN

*Chair*



**AUGUST SJØVOLL**

INDIGENOUS

*Deputy Chair*



**ALEXANDER TERENCEV**

RUSSIA

*Board member*



**JOLANDA MAGGA**

FINLAND

*Board member*



**MICHAEL KROTOV**

NORWAY

*Board member*



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@michael\_\_tromsen

# IN CONCLUSION

YOUTH

860 000 YOUTHS

THE REGION

VAST, RICH IN NATURAL  
RESOURCES

BRYC

YOUTH COOPERATION IN  
BARENTS

CHALLENGES

FUNDING AND  
LEGISLATION

FUTURE

BRIGHT, what else?

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION



barentsyouth

[www.barentsyouth.org](http://www.barentsyouth.org)