

Report

CYAR Steering Committee Chair meeting in Murmansk, April 23rd-24th 2009

Participants:

Pål Christian Bergstrøm, Chair. Elena Viktorova, Deputy Chair. Elena Nemna, Consultant on international co-operation, Ministry of Social development, Murmansk. Svetlana Sedneva, interpreter.

Background for the meeting.

The planned 3rd CYAR SC meeting in Syktyvkar, Komi, on April 22nd-23rd was cancelled due to a withdrawal of the Komi republic's offer to host the meeting. This due to 2009 budget cuts. Since the planned JWGHS-meeting in Umeå, Sweden on May 5th also was cancelled for similar reasons and no new meetings are decided upon, the Chairs decided to meet in Murmansk in order to uphold progress on the 2009 Activity plan. This is not to be regarded as a decisional SC meeting, but a working session where proposals for further significant actions are to be put out to the members for approval. The Chairs decided to structure the meeting according to the Syktyvkar agenda.

Agenda for the meeting

1. Welcome speech – skipped
2. Opening of the meeting.
On the opening of the meeting, the Chair informed on the cancellation process of the Syktyvkar meeting and the status of the present meeting. As for the constitution of the SC, since last meeting the members from Karelia, Komi and Sweden have been withdrawn, without any formal notice of replacements.
Decision: The Chair will send a letter to Karelia, Komi and Sweden and ask for replacements of committee members.
3. Approval of the protocol of the SC meeting from Nov 11th-12th .
The protocol was distributed previous to the Syktyvkar meeting.
Decision: the Chairs decided to approve the protocol in the next SC meeting.
4. Adoption of the agenda - skipped.
5. Presentation of regional reports from 2008.
The Chairs has previously agreed to call for regional reports in two steps; Russian regions in step one, and Nordic regions in step two. This in order to assemble information from the Russian regions, then decide on what relevant, comparable information to ask for from Nordic participants.

A complete set of Russian reports (except Nenets, which is integrated in the Arkhangelsk report) has been manufactured and delivered to the Chair in Russian versions. The reports have been translated to English prior to this meeting, and the Chair presented a draft, assembled version of the reports. The Deputy Chair informed that an updated version of the reports exists, and that an assembly of chosen statistics

have been made. The participants agreed that the reports provide very useful information about the children and youth at risk scenario in the Barents region. Decision: the Deputy Chair will provide the updated versions of the Russian reports electronically, and the Chair will update the English versions accordingly. When completed, the separate reports will be sent to the International Barents Secretariate (IBS) in Kirkenes for publication on the new CYAR web-site. The reports from the Nordic countries will be asked for as soon as member replacements are done, and an analysis of what relevant comparable information to ask for can be made. The Chair will continue working on the assembly of the reports until the next SC meeting, for presentation.

6. Status report on the 2009 SC Activity plan

a) Activities since last meeting.

A detailed presentation of this will be given in the next SC meeting, many activities are nonetheless reflected in the other agenda items. An urgent activity to get done, is to arrange a meeting with the Head of the Childrens Unit under WGCC. The Chair will arrange this before next SC meeting.

b) Presentation of the CYAR web site

The Chair had a meeting with the IBS in Kirkenes in December 08. Topics for the meeting were the addition of a new CYAR web-page on www.beac.st, and production of a CYAR brochure for promotion purposes. The IBS has been very helpful in the process, and the Chair presented the provisional versions of the web-site and brochure. There is now a link from the beac.st JWGHS-page under 'Working groups'-menu, to the CYAR-page.

Decision: the Deputy Chair will go through the material and give her comments to the Chair. When updated, the draft versions will be presented to the SC for approval. The Deputy Chair will further take responsibility for making a draft presentation of the CYAR programme in Powerpoint format, for promotion purposes. The set date for completion of this is July 1st.

7. Fund application process for CYAR.

The Chair gave information on the status of the EU Kolarctic ENPI-program, and the possibilities for funding of the CYAR programme or projects through this. The Chair has been in contact with communication points in Vadsø and Västerbotten, and the situation is not favourable for the CYAR programme. Since Russia decided not to sign the EU ENPI co-operation agreement, the possibilities of including Russian regions in inter-regional programmes have diminished. For the 'Barents 2010 Plus'-programme, a decision was made not to include the CYAR programme on this background.

In the meantime, a very interesting proposal has been put forward by JWGHS Chair Kerstin Ödman, raising the idea of a co-operation between BEAC and the Nordic Council of Ministers on the CYAR programme/-projects (in an e-mail of April 17th). A prepared discussion could not take place in the meeting, given that the message was not received in Murmansk. Nonetheless, the participants discussed ideas for concrete projects to include in an application to NCM with BEAC support, and the process of finalizing an application.

For concrete projects, ideas that were discussed were;

- i) The Norwegian-Murmansk project partnership on rehabilitation of minor offenders, extended to a Barents region perspective

- ii) The establishment of a Methodology centre for social work with children and youth in Karelia, with a Barents region perspective.
- iii) Dissemination of the Incredible Years Programme in North-west Russia (it is running in Karelia and Murmansk regions, and both Arkhangelsk and Komi has expressed great interest for implementation of this)
- iv) Dissemination of the Save the Children-project 'Street Mobile Teams' for unaccompanied children to NWR
- v) Establishment of a Post-internat for youth in Murmansk city

All proposals builds on existing collaboration structures and plans for development of social services. The Chairs agreed to put the proposal for funding of concrete projects out to SC members, in order to get more ideas for projects on the table.

Decision: In order to finalize a draft application, the Chair will send an e-mail with the application form attached to all SC members (when replacements has been made) and ask for one or two concrete project proposals from each. The proposals should be in accordance to regional plans for social development as stated in the regional reports. The proposals will be presented by the Chairs to the SC no later than in the next meeting. It should be an objective that the JWGHS can consider and decide on the draft application in their November meeting.

8. Relevant news from the regions.

The Deputy Chair informed that due to the present financial situation, the regions will probably not be able to participate in any meetings requiring travel costs in 2009. This will most likely influence the planning of new SC meetings. There are further notice of structural changes in the Murmansk oblast administration in 2009. The outcome of this is yet not certain, but will be a topic in the upcoming e-mail information exchange process in the SC.

Decision: The Chairs decided to get started with the planned e-mail communication on a monthly basis within the SC, in order to disseminate relevant news from each region. The information should be short and to the point. The Chair will initiate this no later than May 7th.

9. Planning of next SC meeting and CYAR conference in Nov 2009.

Given substantial 2009 budget cuts it might be wise to arrange the next SC meeting in connection to the CYAR conference, where all travel expences could be budgeted.

The Chair presented a concrete proposal for a CYAR conference. This should contain a) a presentation of the CYAR programme and b) an expert conference on minor offenders. This is one of the prioritized target groups for CYAR, and the first project directly linked to the CYAR programme is a Norwegian-Murmansk co-operation on minor offenders. The Norwegian 'Co-operation programme on health and related social issues in the Barents region' have signalled a positive attitude towards funding a conference on this topic, and an application is already made.

Decision: The chairs decided to elaborate on the idea of coordinating the CYAR conference with an expert conference on minor offenders in a Barents perspective. The Chair will make a proposal for a programming board for the conference, and put the idea out to the SC for comments and approval.

10. Presentation of the child care service system in Komi republic – skipped

11. Closing of the meeting

12. Visiting the Institution of residential care for children without parental care – skipped

29.04.09. Pål Christian Bergstrøm