



# «Children and Youth At Risk»

Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

*15 years for safety and social inclusion for children and youth in the Barents region*

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# What is CYAR?

- **Background:** growing concern for the life situation of children and youth at risk in the Barents region in the 2000s
- Bi-lateral cooperations from 2000. CYAR adopted in 2008. Steering Committee of 8 representatives (from Norway, Finland, Sweden, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Komi, Karelia, Indigenous peoples)
- **Programme owner:** All Barents Partners – BEAC `Joint Working Group on Health and related Social Issues` (JWGHS).
- Norway – Chair and secretariat, Murmansk region – Co-Chair.



# What is CYAR?

## Who are we trying to reach?

- Children and families in risk situations
- Children without parental care
- Institutionalized children
- Children with behavioral problems
- Children in conflict with the law
- Children with disabilities



# What is CYAR

## What do we want to achieve?

- Improved prevention and detection of violence and abuse
- Increase positive parenting skills
- Increase social skills and positive behaviour
- Increase utilization of family and network care
- Reduce number of youth met with traditional judicial punishment – imprisonment
- Increase quality of care and treatment for children in foster homes and institutions

# What is CYAR

## Ambitious?

We have to be ambitious! This is why:

- We know more and more about the damages done on children exposed to violence and abuse
- We represent the largest cluster of child protection authorities in the Barents region, on strategic and operational level.
- We have access to the capacity and skills of hundreds of professionals, and means to improve quality in practices working directly with children and families
- We are in a position to improve standards for protection of children, and increase cross-cultural understanding and problem-solving



# What is CYAR

Fortunately: The Barents partners have taken this situation and opportunity seriously, and have dedicated considerable resources and efforts in the CYAR cooperation.

A huge inter-agency network of professionals, researchers, administrators, politicians, ombudsmen have been tied together, covering all of the Barents Euro-Arctic region (CYAR links to Moscow, Vologda, Estonia)

CYAR is an effective and systematic tool for information exchange, cross-cultural understanding and competence sharing on protection of children in the Barents region

# What do CYAR do

## Some principles of program design and implementation

- **The Steering Committee initiate and run long-term project partnerships**
- **Partnerships have to be anchored at both strategic and operational level**
- **Only engage in Non-material partnerships, human-resources**
- **Competence-sharing activities on Evidence-based practices**
- **Successfull implementation depends on quality assurance systems**

# What do CYAR do

## Competence-sharing partnerships:

- Incredible Years
- Family Group Conferences
- Aggression Replacement Training – ART, Family-ART
- What About Us? – for families and children with disabilities
- From Violence to Caring – online education for early recognition and prevention of violence
- Mediation – restorative justice for children in conflict with the law

*Descriptions of the programs in the CYAR booklet*





# CYAR results 2008 – 2014

- Over 800 professionals have received training in the Barents region
- Approx. 30 CYAR workshops and seminars per year
- Quality assurance systems in all programs – follow-up activities.
- CYAR have reached over 4,000 children and families among the target groups so far
- Research groups, on effect on behavior change, improvement of social skills (IY, ART)
- Over 100 cases of restorative justice, mediation and not prison

# CYAR results 2008 – 2014

## Specialists received training - 822



# CYAR results 2008 – 2014

## Children and youth– more than 4000



# Challenges and Next steps

## Challenges:

CYAR Steering Committee statement, 17/6-15:

*"The Steering Committee of the BEAR "Children and Youth At Risk"- programme expresses concern on the downplayed role of vulnerable children and youth as a target group in development of new cooperation structures covering the Barents region, hereby the Northern Dimension Partnership on Health and Social well-being, the Joint Working Group on Health and related Social issues programme and the EU Kolarctic programme. Further, the Steering committee expresses concern on the recent downscaling of funding of activities within the CYAR programme in a situation of increased focus on child protection, globalization and transnational child protection cases. Throughout the programme period of 2008-2015 a solid platform for cross-border collaboration and competence-sharing on protection of children have been established. Prevalence of diverse forms of violence is an issue that endangers the childrens rights in the Barents region and therefore needs to be tackled seriously by addressing the issue in the strategic plans. The Steering Committee members underline the need for continuation and further development of the cross-border cooperation on protection of children's rights in the Barents region."*



# Challenges and Next steps

Next steps: JWGHS meeting November – proposal for CYAR III 2016-2019

Possible directions:

- Competence sustainability on Evidence based programs
- Prevention and detection of violence and abuse
- Monitoring of childrens rights
- Prevention of trafficking and sexual exploitation
- Innovative use of IT-technology in protection of children
- Stronger cooperation with Education and Research

