

**5th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Barents programme  
«Children and Youth At Risk»  
Petrozavodsk, The Republic of Karelia, Russia**

**Date and time:**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2010, 10.00-17.00

**Venue:**

Conference Hall, Hotel “Karelia”

Petrozavodsk, Russia

**Participants of the meeting**

**Pål Christian Bergstrøm** Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Programme “Children and youth at risk in the Barents Region 2008 – 2012”

Director General of the Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway

**Elena Krasovskaya** Deputy Chairman of the Steering Committee of the CYAR programme

Deputy Chairman of the commission for juvenile and protection of their rights under The regional government;

Consultant, Department for Cooperation with law enforcement authorities, Office of the Government of the Murmansk region

**Roman Koposov** Coordinator of the CYAR programme

Advisor, Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway, Department of international relations in the Barents region

**Marina Zyryanova** Secretary of the CYAR programme

Senior Executive Officer, Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs in Northern Norway, Department of international relations in the Barents region

**Vappu Sunnari** University lecturer, gender studies/equality, University of Oulu, Finland

<b>Ingrid Löfstrand</b>	Project Coordinator, Association of Local and Regional Authorities of the province Norrbotten, Sweden
<b>Elena Dunaeva</b>	Advisor to the Deputy Governor of the Arkhangelsk region on social issues
<b>Ilja Semjashkin</b>	Head of the Agency for Social Development of Komi Republic
<b>Olga Sokolova</b>	Deputy Minister for Health and Social Development, Republic of Karelia
<b>Galina Razbivnaja</b>	Deputy head of the legislative chamber, Republic of Karelia
<b>Hanne Johnsen</b>	Photographer (Norway)
<b>Olga</b>	Interpreter

**1. Welcome speech – Representative of the Government of the Republic of Karelia**

*Olga Sokolova:* Dear colleagues, I would like to welcome you. Karelia is one of the subjects of the Russian Federation which participates actively in international cooperation including the area of children and youth at risk. Next year we celebrate 10 years of cooperation with Norway. We also have cooperation with our neighbours in Finland and Sweden in different. Our location is our advantage. Not only cooperation with foreign countries is important to us, but also with our neighbouring regions. We are very glad that the Steering committee meeting takes place in Petrozavodsk. It is a pity that our programme is so tight that you do not have time to see more of the Karelia Republic.

Mrs. Sokolova presents some statistics about the Karelia Republic: Population - 700,000 people, 19% are children, more than 20% - elderly people, expected life is 65 years, average age of the population is 38 years, population density is 3,8 people per 1 square km. Karelia is a big republic; it stretches for 700 km from the south to the north, and for 450 km from the east to the west. There are 16 municipal districts and 2 cities.

Russian is the official language, but there are other languages as well: Karelian, Veps, Finnish, Belorussian, Ukrainian. The industry is based on natural resources, timber, stone, mining industry. Also tourism has been developing recently.

In 2010 the republic celebrates its anniversary as a republic.

**2. Opening of the meeting – Chair. Presentation of all the participants of the meeting.**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* Thank you very much for the welcome speech. Karelia is absolutely a very interesting region. I have learnt a lot about the republic but there is much more to learn. I would also like to thank the republic for hosting this meeting.

All the members are present apart from the representative from the working group for indigenous people.

We drop the round of presentations as we all know each other. We go directly to the agenda. We are now in the mid-term as a Steering committee. The programme has been running successfully for 2 years, two more to go. We will look at the preliminary results and plan the future activities for the programmes and what happens after the end of the programme. At this stage all the regions actively participate in the programme and the project activities are running successfully.

The stability in the SC is a success factor for the programme and I am glad that it looks like the Steering committee has stabilized.

**3. Adoption of the agenda.**

The Chair has made following changes in the agenda:

Point 8: We add «The proposal for the activity plan for the Steering committee for 2011» to the agenda.

Another point to add to the agenda: Hanne Johnsen is also present at this meeting. At the last meeting in April she presented her work. Today she would also like to present the progress in her project. If we have time in the end of the day, we will give the floor to her.

Mrs. Krasovskaja has to leave us at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Galina Razbivnaja wanted to greet us but another meeting in the legislative chamber has started at 10 so she will join us later. She has big experience from the education sector.

We finish the meeting at 5 p.m. Some of us will visit the possible location for the methodology center. I will get back to the plans for the methodology centre later.

The dinner for the Steering committee is at 7 p.m. We meet in the hall at 6.45 p.m.

The agenda with some minor changes is adopted.

#### **4. Adoption of the protocol of the SC meeting from April 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Komi Republic.**

No comments. The protocol is adopted.

#### **5. Information from the regional representatives – relevant news, updates on co-operation activities and prospects in the realm of children and youth at risk.**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* It is a very important part of every meeting. One of the objectives of the CYAR is the update on the situation in the regions. Time limit is maximum 15 minutes for each region.

##### ***Murmansk region***

*Elena Krasovskaja:* Dear colleagues, I would like to start with some legislative aspects. The regional parliament adopted the law about the ombudsman office. From 2011 in the Murmansk region there will be an ombudsman. 56 regions of Russia have already an ombudsman. Some days ago the Ombudsman for the Russian Federation visited the Murmansk region for 2 days. He visited many institutions in the social service. Generally he was satisfied and pointed out the effective cooperation with Norway, Finland, Sweden. Only the organization «Save the children» has invested 46 million roubles to child protection. It is a considerable contribution to children and families at risk. We plan to continue this cooperation.

Special attention should be paid to the fact that 2010 is the year of the information campaign against child abuse. Within this campaign in Murmansk region an organizing committee was established, and the activity plan was adopted.

Administrations in Murmansk, Ostrovnoj, Severomorsk, participate in the national competition «City without violence and tears». In institutions of social care in Murmansk, Poljarnije Zori, Montsjegorsk there is an functioning “hot line” 8-800-2000-122 for children and parents where they can receive necessary help.

In September 2010, a long-term programme «Children of the Kola polar area» was adopted for 2011- 2014. This programme includes three sub-programmes: «Support of the Family in the Murmansk region», «Children of the Kola polar area», «Improvement of the demographic situation in the Murmansk region».

In 2003 the Government of the Murmansk region established an expert council for realization of regional social programmes for families and childhood which has been working in the Murmansk region since then.

Through the regional legislation a new form of work with family and children at risk was introduced - patronage. The patron follows up and provides necessary help to a child who still lives with his biological family which is in a difficult situation. The assistance is realised within a 3-side agreement. In 2009 110 children were under patronage, by the end of 2010 we expect 270 children to be placed under patronage. In addition, centres for postinternat adaptation which are created in institutions for social care for population run patronage of 110 graduates from institutions for orphans and children left without parent care.

Other forms of work with children and families at risk are being developed in the region, such as mobile social help to families and children, judicial help for families, social hotels for young mothers with children, a shelter for mothers with newborn babies.

As a part of prevention work against return of children from foster families to institutions, training for candidates for foster parents has started as well as psychological and pedagogical guidance of foster parents. This will prevent critical situations in the relations between children and foster parents and return of children to institutions. There are 6 institutions that provide guidance and follow-up – Centre for psychological, medical, and social guidance, Centre for development of family form of accommodation for children, the PPMS-centre in Murmansk and three kindergartens.

In several municipalities programmes for prevention of social orphanage are implemented. The municipal model for prevention of social orphanage in Murmansk has won the title in the All-Russia competition for the best regional and municipal experience for prevention of the social orphanage.

The results are following: This year the number of unaccompanied children identified as such for the first time has decreased for 30% and is now 345 children.

Another problem is to organize summer vacation and employment for children. In 2010 38,5 thousand children were sent to summer vacation. It is 2,5 thousand more than last year. Murmansk has 148,000 children in the region. The total population is 836,000. The share of the minors - 17 %. Each year our regional commission on juvenile matters organizes a campaign «Teenager» (Podrostok): from May till October raids and activities for children at risk take place, with special focus on offences against children.

We are concerned that there is an increase in number of offences against children. Many cases are about the alimony. The number of crimes committed by the minors has decreased by 28,4%. The share of juvenile delinquency is 4,7% of the crimes generally. (Last year - 6,6%). Reduction in criminal activity in general is observed. But unfortunately the number of the crimes committed by minors under the influence of alcohol has increased.

In the Russian legislation there is no clear definition in the national legislation what a child abuse is. Because of that cases subject to Article 156 of the Criminal code are often requalified to less serious charges. We pointed it out to the Ombudsman and presented our suggestions.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* Thank you, Elena. These numbers are really inspiring. It is easy to see that all the relevant parties are working. It is very good news that Murmansk region will have an ombudsman.

### ***Karelia Republic***

*Olga Sokolova:* First I will say a few words on international cooperation. With Norway we work with methods for prevention of child neglect in families at risk. Since 2005 we have been working with the Incredible Years programme. Today there are 3 institutions with permanently operating groups (Petrozavodsk, Segezha, Kostomuksha). There 39 children, 46 parents got support.

Since 2008 we have been implementing the ART programme. This year we are completing this project but the results from this time let us disseminate them. We plan to involve not only social services but also educational institutions. On Monday we start next workshop with 30 participants. We appreciate our cooperation with Bufetat and the Protocol on intentions is almost ready for signing. One of the objectives is the establishment of the methodology centre.

As a part of our cooperation with Finland, this year two big seminars on «Safe childhood and health» took place. The goal is to exchange the experience about health promoting activities. In October 2010 a project «Organization of independent life for youth at risk» has started. Within this project we will improve the life conditions of the children who graduate from the orphanage and social institutions and disabled children.

We continue to share experience and competence within the field *disabled children*. Our delegation visited such institutions in Finland. We have been invited to participate in a project on accommodation of institutionalized children in families together with Pskov region.

We started to work on interactions between closed specialized institutions and the services which follow up the children after their stay. In Petrozavodsk, it is the special school # 8. After they return to their home, we try to organize the follow-up of each child.

We also participate in the campaign «Against child abuse» and joined the hot line. On December 2 - 3, 2010 a big conference will take place in Petrozavodsk for the north-west Russia on the support of the children in difficult situation.

*State support based on state contract* - an experiment since August 2010, 17 regions participate.

One of the categories that fall under this experiment are families with many children.

Another aspect of our work is organization of recreation for children. The Ministry of health and social development and the Ministry of Education organized the vacations completely, sent children to Krasnodarskij kraj. Recreation continues. Yesterday a group of children went to the Moscow region for treatment. During the summer children`s safety is a priority and that no children`s rights are violated.

Today and tomorrow the Ombudsman for Children's Rights in the Russian President's Administration, Pavel Astakhov will visit Karelia.

On December 01, 2010, the 10th annual Father Frost games open with participants from Russia and Finland. Different charity events will take place.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm*: Thank you. I have some questions. The project on children who graduated from the special institutions. Murmansk region has some experience. There are 3 postinternat institutions who follow up such children.

Last time you mentioned a project «New horizons» on children who return to Karelia from Pskov colonies. What is the status of the project?

*Olga Sokolova*: The project is completed. These children need follow-up after such long terms stays in specialized schools/colonies.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm*: What was actually done?

*Olga Sokolova*: This project was realized by a NGO, and there was a mini institution which provided this support.

*Elena Krasovskaja*: You mentioned a project on independent life for children from orphanage. The authorities provide the child with an apartment. But these children sell these apartments very quickly for very little money. We made a suggestion to Astakhov on how to solve this problem.

*Olga Sokolova*: There has been proposed a bill on «Housing for orphans».

*Elena Krasovskaja*: There is a long way to go between a bill and a law.

*Vappu Sunnari:* This problem exists not only in Russia, but also in Finland. In northern Finland there is a social worker who works on a dissertation about this problem.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* One question on the foster homes foster care? Foster families? in Karelia. What is happening with it now?

*Olga Sokolova:* I cannot provide any information now. It is an ongoing project.

### ***Sweden***

*Ingrid Löfstrand:* I cannot talk about any cooperation with Russia but I will speak about the work in Sweden. There has been an official governmental investigation process going on for some time. Children from foster care and institutional care / now grown-ups/ who were not content with the care, were encouraged to tell about their experience and feelings. Most of them had bad memories. Those who **were content** did not come forward, we do not know about them. Anyhow, it is frightening to see that so many people had unhappy childhood when the society has taken care of their childhood. It is very important to take care of this information and to do better in future. The National Board of Health and Welfare has made information brochures and a web-site about the children`s rights in the foster care and institutional care, about their right to be heard, so that people know about it.

The issue is how to give the opportunity to children in foster care/institutional care to express their feelings. Social workers not connected with the authorities will work with these children.

The importance of education for children in foster care or in institution is another issue. Often we do not expect them to do as well at school as others. Good education is very important for them.

There are programmes for school support for such children.

We also focus on the knowledge about neurological damage of children. It is important to recognize early such damages and take measures to provide them with as good future as possible.

*Elena Krasovskaja:* Are there any projects with Russia?

*Ingrid Löfstrand:* No, there are no projects. The association for social workers had a visit from Murmansk and were supposed to go to Murmansk, but there was no financing. Though the interest was great. A film was made about an imaginary situation about a girl coming to a foster family. I used this film as an educational film.

*Elena Krasovskaja:* It is a pity that there are no more projects with Sweden. We had many project on drug abuse and other issues. It was very interesting. Let us hope for the better times.

### ***Komi Republic***

*Ilja Semjashkin* presents some statistics about the republic:



In 2010 there has been a reduction for 17% in the number of families and children at risk. There are 3153 children registered as children at risk. Improvement in the numbers of children who were returned to the family from social institutions. (68% compared to 66% last year).

A number of children who were subject to violence is 1014 cases. This is first of all connected to the higher degree of identification of such cases due to the information campaign and information work.

Since February 2, 2010, there is an ombudsman for Komi as a part of the office of the leader of the republic. We chose such a form of organization (opposed to a public position) because then it is easier to be heard.

The question about the signing the Protocol of intentions is being monitored. The government of the republic and the national government are considering this protocol now.

Nevertheless, we managed to conduct two seminars now in November 2010. We see there is a huge interest among the specialists. We also conducted seminars on children at risk with participation of people from Kirov, Vologda, Arkhangelsk. There was a workshop «The right to childhood». We also had a social advertizing contest «My family, my city, my republic».

In September 2010 a seminar on early prevention of child abuse together with the regional charity organization «Response» took place. We trained 80 specialists.

The hot line is also working. We allocated funding for 20 projects in the republic, the projects are very diverse, for pregnant young mothers, for children with deviant behaviour, for family tourism for families at risk. A project «For the future» for prevention social orphanage. In this project postinternat care is planned and support to children who return from colonies. This work we have not done before so we will use the experience of our neighbouring regions.

We trained 33 specialists in “Incredible Years” and “Family Group Conference”.

In Komi, there is an experiment that restricts the sale of alcohol (beer) in shops. This law is no longer active now but we know that 10% of all the crimes committed in 2009 by minors were committed by children and youth under the influence of alcohol. This number decreased.

In order to help the orphans to get housing, we are building 215 apartments to be accommodated after graduation. In these houses there will be offices with social workers who will support the children in the post-care period so that they do not sell the apartment. We have also applied for financing to realize this project.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* Thank you, Ilja. I have heard that the courses were organized at a very high level.

*Elena Krasovskaja:* For what time was the restriction for sale of alcohol?

*Ilja Semjashkin:* Between 23 and 07. But the consumption of alcohol was prohibited 24 hours in all public places. The positive results were obvious. Similar results were also registered in Kirov.

*Elena Krasovskaja:* In October the Government of the Russian Federation adopted a new sentence execution conception. The concept of the colonies will be changed to centres. The conditions will be changed. Even though they will still be isolated but there will be work on the socialization. The children will feel that they are not abandoned, isolated, but corrected.

On December 01, Nils Christie arrives to Moscow. It would be very interesting for all of us to listen to his ideas.

*Olga Sokolova:* How many orphans in your republic do not have housing?

*Ilja Semjashkin:* There is a queue of 437 children. But when the houses will be built, the half of them will get housing.

*Olga Sokolova:* Who works with them at the level of the federal units?

*Ilja Semjashkin:* The Agency, but now the municipalities overtake the responsibility as they have more possibilities for building, selling etc. But social services will still have the responsibility for follow-up.

As for the colonies, there was a project in Komi for restructuring the timber industry. Now the housing for the workers will be transferred to UFSIN. We consider either establishing that kind of a correctional centre there.

We have many children and youth who do not have any housing after their return from the penitentiary institutions, they stay in a crisis centre. They get registration papers so that they can get a job.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* I would like to comment that the reform on juvenile delinquents is very interesting. We have similar goals and objectives. Norway is also going through a similar reform. Norway and Russia cooperate on this topic with Murmansk region and Arkhangelsk region. As Nils Christie was mentioned, we invited him to participate in a seminar in Murmansk in 2011 and he will participate.

I would like to welcome the new representative of the Karelia republic, Galina Razbivnaja, Vice-chairman for the legislative chamber of Karelia. (*Mr. Bergstrøm briefly presents the CYAR programme*).

*Galina Razbivnaja:* For me it is very important to participate in this meeting as I have been working for 46 years for childhood. I have just come from the next session of the legislative chamber. We talked about the curfew, the restriction for summer for children and youth to stay in the streets. It used to be 11 p.m, now it is 10 p.m. There is no penalty but it is a moral issue for parents. The police do not take children in detention but accompany them home. There was a big discussion. I cannot say that it is followed but it is still an attempt to focus on the problem of children staying out at night.

Now I work with children parliaments (for children in the age of 10 - 14 years). Several working groups and hearings took place and as a result we have a list of 47 problems named by children themselves. And one of them is that they are afraid to stay in the streets late alone. There was a blind girl talking how they feel insecure in the streets and in the public transport. Many similar stories about neglect. Then there was a hearing for the adults.

Next Friday we go to Zaozerje, a district with serious health issues. Reasons: poor economic situation.

There are children`s chamber and children parliament at the legislative chamber of Karelia. On December 3 there will be a conference on risk of HIV, with 100 representatives for youth organizations. The goal is to create volunteer clubs for social projects promoting healthy life style.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* The way you include children systematically in policy-making processes is very important, how you let them speak.

*Galina Razbivnaja:* It is our main task, to listen to them, to understand, to acknowledge them.

#### ***Arkhangelsk region:***

*Elena Dunaeva:* I will not use much time to present the facts that my colleagues have already mentioned: there has been a decrease in juvenile delinquency in the Arkhangelsk region, we have been working intensely with organization of vacation for children, the office of the ombudsman will be established in the region, etc.

I would like to say about the most important events. We had the first seminar in Incredible Years, 15 specialists from 3 institutions (mostly from Arkhangelsk) were trained. The specialists were very satisfied and thankful to the mentors and we would like to apply for one more course for the southern part of the region. In Velsk a centre for support for family and children will be open this year. We are ready to gather one more group in Incredible Years on the basis of this centre.

We worked hard on the long-term programme «Prevention of negligence and juvenile crime for 2011 - 2013». It was adopted in september 2010 by the regional government. Reduction of funding is obvious due to the crisis. But still we included some innovative programmes. One of them is accompanying juveniles in conflict with law. In one of the districts in Arkhangelsk there is a service for support to juveniles in court. In 2010 a social worker there followed up 22 juveniles in 17 trials. Another method is mediation for criminals and their victims. Every second trial with juveniles is ended by court with agreement of the sides. I would like to put Mediation services in the programme for 2011.

We have also prepared for signing the Protocol of intentions for multiagency cooperation for prevention of juvenile crimes, rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile delinquents, and it was

signed on September 16, 2010. We have established the working group and the steering group and are getting ready for the seminar in December in Norway.

The group that was created within the agreement on cooperation within implementation of elements of juvenile justice meets regularly to discuss relevant issues and existing problems. The regional court prepares summaries on the placement of the juveniles in special closed pedagogical institutions and in temporary detention centres.

With the support of Statoil there will be a regional conference on the 25-26 of November on «Accommodation of orphans in families: experience and development perspectives in the Arkhangelsk region»: with a plenary session on Day 1 and group work in groups - Prevention of social orphanage and child abuse will be the topic for one of the groups.

*Vappu Sunnari*: The question of child abuse has been raised and how we define it? How do you define it?

*Elena Dunaeva*: We reached an understanding on this term two years ago. There is a resolution of the Supreme Court of the Russian federation “On use of legislation by courts for resolving arguments connected with children upbringing”, researches have also provided a very clear definition of what a child abuse is. Article 156 of the Criminal Code is working: 88 cases were started in 2009.

*Elena Krasovskaja*: The federal criminal code does not define child abuse. A lot of questions are raised during investigation. We cannot refer to any research for this.

*Vappu Sunnari*: Is child prostitution always a child abuse?

*Elena Dunaeva*: Involvement in prostitution and organization of prostitution are subject to the Criminal Code, but a different article, not child abuse.

### ***Finland***

*Vappu Sunnari*: There is a very acute problem of health in the northern regions. We have more than one master programmes on Health issues, Comparative social work, Environmental work. Students in these programmes will participate in a study week in Oulu. There is a student from Arkhangelsk writing a thesis on violence in families. Such work is very important as all of them will work later in social services. Our partners are Pomor State University and Arkhangelsk State University. In January a new group of students starts.

In this education «From violence to care» specialists from different spheres will take part. In 2012 this programme will be conducted in English, Finnish and maybe Russian.

Last time I mentioned a project «Allies» which works well now. It is international project, coordinated by the University of Oulu. In this project children are from 5 to 7 years old. Earlier it

was 11-12 years. The goal is to recognize as early as possible the risk of being a part of violence at school. We try to cooperate with families, that is why the project is called «Allies».

One more issue: girls at risk. I was at a conference in Copenhagen where this issue was discussed. Maybe next year a conference devoted solely to this issue. There is a sister project under the heading of the Council of Baltic Sea States that works with this problem.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* It has always been an objective for us to cooperate closely with CBSS.

Unfortunately we have not been able to do that so far. The problem of trafficking is more actual for the Baltic sea area than in the north. But of course it is important to stay up-to-date. We will include it in the plan for 2011.

### **Norway**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* We are going through a reform in child care services now. Two important processes are going on: we continue to work on turning our resources and efforts to early intervention and use of knowledge-based methods. We work on development of family-based services for orphans. When we increase the number of foster families, we decrease the number of children in institutions.

The child population in Norway is 100 000. In the institutions of Northern Norway there are 110 children. The number is decreasing. Those children who stay in the institutions have bigger problems later in life than those in foster families. If the problem is only care, we try to solve it by means of foster families. There is also a reform of residential care. We have institutions which offer care to children with all types of problems. But the quality is lower than we want it to be. We are going to differentiate these institutions according to the problems. Each institution will specialize on one particular problem. We identified 6 types of problems (drug abuse, psychiatric problems (depression, anxiety, suicidal), low risk behaviour problems, high risk behaviour problems, children with acute phase of problems (for a short stay, then children return to usual environment), care for children for whom we did not find a foster family). There are 1000 children living in foster families. 100 - who are waiting for a foster family. Specialists will be trained according to the type of the institution. These institutions will house 6 - 8 children each. Elena Krasovskaya has visited such an institution for high risk behaviour children in Tromsø.

Another direction is the involvement of children and youth in the development of the policy making. As in Sweden, there is a research project in Norway among children at the age of 12 in social care receive a questionnaire where they express their opinions and feelings. We will use this information for the development of child services.

We have signed several protocols on intentions, with Murmansk region and Arkhangelsk region. We hope to sign similar protocols with Komi and Karelia in 2010. Some more information I will present when we discuss the activity report.

*Elena Krasovskaya:* Who finances these 6 types of institutions?

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* This is stated by law that municipalities will pay a fixed sum per place in such institutions but it is very small. Anyway, it is cheaper to place a child in a foster family than in such an institution. The rest is paid by the government.

*Vappu Sunnari:* None of the groups include sexualized violence. Even though you do not want to mix different problems, you still might. Maybe there should be such group as well. For example, the problems of incest receive very little attention.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* Within child care services the possibilities to differentiate are very limited.

*Ilja Semjashkin:* How many specialists are supposed to work in such institutions? Per child, or per institution?

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* 3 specialists per 1 child. But this may vary. If children are simply waiting for a family they need less care than children with special needs, problems.

#### **4. Information on CYAR principles for financing the activities within the CYAR programme.**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* We raise this issue as we receive a lot of questions. There are some basic principles. The funding covers only competence building activities (and include travel costs, accommodation, translation etc.). It is not supposed to cover equipment and materials to run the course. Exceptions can be made but an application should be submitted to the Secretariat. The specialists who get the skills cannot use their competence for commercial reasons. The programmes should be run free of charge.

#### A proposal for practical issues for project activities:

Each SC-member finds a contact person responsible for practical arrangements. We work in 4 programmes in the 4 regions and the Secretariat often has to deal with different people on different programmes.

The deadline is December 1st, 2010. No objections.

#### **5. Status report on the Activity Plan in 2010 – Chair**

##### **a. The Steering committee**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* The following activities took place in 2010

- 2 Steering committee meetings – in Syktyvkar in April and in Petrozavodsk in November
- Operationalization of the CYAR Support project; contracts: the CYAR project plan has been elaborated and is running. A number of contracts were signed in order to run project activities.
- Approximately 30 CYAR seminars/ meetings/ workshops were conducted in 2010.
- Information about relevant organization for the CYAR project:
- Meeting with NDPHS EG Prison Health: a decision was taken about regular participation in the EG`s meetings;
- Meeting with CBSS WGCC has not been carried out yet.
- Report to the JWGHS: a report on the progress in the CYAR programme was presented in Syktyvkar in September 2010. The programme was supported very much by the Russian regions-members of JWG. After the report the Chairman of the JWG (Finland) said that Finland will take responsibility for including CYAR in the next programme of JWGHS. This is very good news. The task of the Steering committee now is to give some input to JWG for CYAR-II.
- Exploring the possibilities for funding of new initiatives according to the CYAR programme: in progress now. As of now, we are funded by NDPHS and Ministry of Justice and Police (for cooperation on juvenile delinquents). We are now preparing an application to EU Kolarctic, the deadline is March 1, 2011. We should stay in contact about additional projects, events.

The Activity plan for 2010 is completed besides the meeting with CBSS.

#### **b. The CYAR Programme Support Project**

Roman Kuposov presented a table that illustrates how many training courses were conducted in 2009 – 2010.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Incredible Years</b>	<b>ART/Family ART</b>	<b>Family Group Conferences</b>	<b>Mediation Boards</b>
Arkhangelsk	1	0	0	School version
Murmansk	1	2/0	0	0
Komi	1	0/0	1	0
Karelia	1	2/1	1	0

“Incredible Years”: Pål Christian Bergstrøm presented an effect study on the programme by Kolesnikov/Mørch (May 2010) which showed clear improvement in the group with IY compared to the group who received traditional treatment.

“Family Group Conference”: few workshops were conducted due to the restructuring of the representative office of «SOS-Children`s Villages» in Murmansk. Since 2010 they are subordinate to Moscow.

“Mediation boards”: Agreements with Murmansk and Arkhangelsk regions were signed where partners are correctional services and police in addition to the cooperation programme between Norway and Russia signed in January 2010 by Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Justice and Police of Norway.

The Secretariat received a request from Oulu about using the Family ART. They contacted the University College of Rogaland and visited them.

Roman Koposov presents the volume of the participants (children and families) in CYAR project.

<b>ART, Family ART</b>			
Karelia,	3 institutions	30 trainers	353 kids 31 families
Murmansk	6 institutions	25 trainers	18 kids
<b>Total 371 kids, 31 families, 55 trainers</b>			
<b>Incredible Years</b>			
Karelia	3 centres	18 trainers	274 kids 245 families
Murmansk	4 centres	22 trainers	118 kids 105 families
Arkhangelsk	3 centres	15 trainer	
<b>Total 392 kids, 350 families, 55 trainers</b>			
<b>FGC</b>			
Petrozavodsk	1 centre	20 trainers	1 conference
Syktvykar	5 centres	18 trainers	
<b>Total 38 trainers, 6 conferences</b>			

**6. a. Elaboration of the plan for CYAR project activities in 2011 - proposal from the Secretariat**



Roman Koposov presented a **Proposal for activities for CYAR Programme Support Project for 2011**

### The Incredible Years

Region	2011	Preliminary dates
Karelia	Course # 1	24-28.01
Murmansk	Course # 2	29.03-01.04
Komi		
Arkhangelsk	Course # 3	<i>autumn</i>

### ART and Family ART

Region	2011	Preliminary dates
Karelia	Part 2 Course 2	14 – 17.02
	Part 3 Course 2 + supervision	04 – 06.04
Murmansk	Part 3 Course 2	10 – 11.02
	Family ART + supervision	29.03-01.04
Komi		
Arkhangelsk	New course	<i>autumn</i>

If Oulu will have training in Family ART it also has to be included in the Activity plan.

### Family Group Conferences

Region	2011
Arkhangelsk	Course # 1 Supervision # 2
Murmansk	Course # 2
Komi	Supervision # 1
Karelia	Supervision # 3

### Mediation Boards

Region	2011
Arkhangelsk	
Murmansk	
Komi	
Karelia	

**What About Us?**

<b>Region</b>	<b>2011</b>
Arkhangelsk	
Murmansk	
Komi	
Karelia	

Ilja Semjashkin expressed Komi`s interest is ART for 2011.

*Secretariat:* Training may start and will be completed in 2012, but we have to contact our colleagues in Rogaland.

*Elena Dunaeva:* What about the mediation?

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* There are legal obstacles, so we cannot start using it yet. But we meet the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and UFSIN twice a year. We will continue working on implementation consequently. Training courses will start when these obstacles are away. It is not up to me. We have agreements at the federal level and local level but we have to wait. We can schedule training courses now but we cannot use the programme.

*Elena Dunaeva:* It has been discussed to create a test region for probation services in every federal district. Arkhangelsk region was suggested as one of them. At the last session of the Governmental commission on affairs of juvenile delinquents and protection of their rights this question has been raised again. The meditation boards fit in perfectly into the probation service.

*Olga Sokolova:* Have I understood correctly that the dates for the proposed activity plan are not final?

*Roman Kuposov:* The dates for ART are set from the Norwegian side by the trainers from Rogaland.

*Olga Sokolova:* We hope that you in future can inform us beforehand on the dates.

*Roman Kuposov:* If the dates do not suit any of the parties, we will find a solution.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* Can we adopt this activity plan and let the regions think about the dates? This is the activity level with the funding we have now. If we get funding from Kolarctic in March, we might include more seminars and activities in the project plan.

Marina Zyryanova presents the programme “What About Us?”, programme for couples who have disabled children. The goal of the programme is to provide parents with an opportunity to focus on their relationship to prevent divorces. A course runs over a weekend (from Friday evening till Sunday evening).

In North-West Russia this programme is being implemented in Murmansk region at Monchegorsk complex centre for social services for the population. In 2010 four specialists were trained in this programme and will start working with 4 couples who have disabled children.

*Ilja Semjashkin:* It is a serious problem as families with disabled children fall apart. The mother gets some financial support but it is so small. The question is being discussed about raising the size of this financial support as mothers use so much time taking care of the child.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm:* I would like to propose that the Steering committee adopts the proposed activity plan for the CYAR Support project for 2011. The exact dates will be discussed with the representatives. Any objections?

No objections. The Activity plan for CYAR Project is adopted.

The Steering committee is positive to increase the activities directed towards the CYAR target group children with disabilities through admitting requests of interest in the 'What About Us - WAU' programme to the SC Secretariate. Decisions on dissemination activities of the WAU will be made by the Steering Committee.

The proposal was adopted.

#### **b. Elaboration of the Steering committee activity plan for 2011 – Proposal from the Chair**

Pål Christian Bergstrøm proposes following activities

- 2 Steering committee meetings - 1 on the Nordic side (to be decided later) in April and 1 in Murmansk in November;
- Submit an application å EU KolArctic - March 2011. The application will be put on the [web-site](#) and the members of the Steering committee will be able to comment on it. The web-site is updated regularly and the SC members are encouraged to use it actively.
- Submit an application to NDPHS - 15. October 2011 (CYAR Programme Support Project). This is the core funding for CYAR and it is only a formality as we already received funding till 2012.
- Cooperation meetings - Working Group Baltic Sea States. A request for the meeting has already been submitted
- Report to the JWGHS
- Continue CYAR Programme Support project activities according to the plan adopted at this meeting. This is the core activity for the programme.
- Elaborate proposal for CYAR - II programme to the JWGHS

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm*: I propose to the Steering committee to adopt the proposed Activity plan for 2011.

The activity plan is adopted unanimously.

#### **7. Hanne Johnsen presented the progress in her project.**

A book has been published. The book includes 120 pictures, 35 interviews. Mrs. Johnsen has invited 8 experts in Norway to comment on the book and to highlighten four topics: resilliance, care, child dialogues, UN convention on children`s rights (Article # 12).

*Hanne Johnsen*: My question is if the SC thinks that the book will be interesting for the Russian audience.

A remark is made on the fact that only Norwegian experts were invited to comment on the book. The reason to that was that Mrs. Johnsen dose not have any information about Russian experts who would be relevant.

*Ilja Semjashkin*: This idea is very close to the compaign against child abuse and family violence. There are definitely many experts. The "Fund for support of children in difficult situations" have many experts. Maybe you can translate a part of the book and show it. Maybe we can consider this book as a means of prevention.

*Olga Sokolova*: On December 2-3 there will be a conference in Petrozavodsk. Maybe you can present your book there.

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm*: I agree, it is very important that we hear the voice of children. But it will definitely be a strength if Russian experts as well as from other countries contribute to it. If it is not just a scientific research, it should be interesting also for a bigger audience.

*Roman Kopusov*: We have been trying to find a publisher in Russia to publish the Incredible Years book for parents. We disseminate this book in the regions where we run the courses. I would like to ask the SC members to assist us in this search. We would appreciate any help.

#### **8. Closing of the meeting**

*Pål Christian Bergstrøm*: We have agreed before that we will have some professional contents for the meetings. This time we did not have time. We should continue our work with including some professional activities so that we have more time together, for presentations of new programmes, research, institutions etc.

I would like to propose to include such an activity in the programme of the next meeting when we decide on the location.

I announce the meeting closed and thank everybody for the fruitful work.