



## Minutes of the BEAC Joint Working Group on Tourism Meeting Online 1 September 2021

**DRAFT 2-9-2021**

### 1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The JWGT Chair **Anita Irene Andersen** from Troms and Finnmark County Council opened the third JWGT meeting under the Norwegian Chairmanship on 1 September, using the Zoom platform. She presented the main outcomes from the last meeting in January and amendments made to the input to the Action Plan on Climate Change. She also presented the Agenda for this meeting.

The Agenda was approved with no additions.

### 2. Presentations of participants

The following participants introduced themselves:

**Satu Luuro** (Lapland), **Tuomo Tahvanainen** (Kainuu), **Jarno Turunen** (North Karelia), **Erika Rosander** (Swedish Ministry of Enterprise), **Egil Ørjan Thorsen** (Troms og Finnmark), **Demyan Smilevets** (Russian Tourism Agency), **Andrey Dubovtsev** (Indigenous Peoples), Head of IBS **Markus Karlsen**, **Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen** (Finnish Ministry of Economic Development) and **Romans Gokkoev** (IBS).

Also, **Alexander Eliseev** (Murmansk) joined the meeting and introduced himself.

### 3. Short status reports from each country

**Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen** presented the recent developments in tourism industry in Finnish Barents regions (presentation is attached to the Minutes), followed by updates from Lapland, Kainuu and North Karelia. **Erika Rosander** presented the situation on the Swedish side. It looks that the tourism companies are not back on pre-pandemic level, but recovery started during summer especially among nature-based companies. **Demyan Smilevets** also gave a short report from Russia. Russia is preparing to introduce e-visas when the travel restrictions will be eased. Several programmes are launched to support and stimulate both incoming and domestic tourism. WGIP member **Andrey Dubovtsev** reported about Covid-19 impact on the tourism sector in indigenous communities. **Egil Ørjan Thorsen** presented the status in Norway, including Covid-related rules (see attachment).

#### 4. Summary of questionnaire responses

The JWGT Chair presented in detail the results of the Questionnaire (see attachment). There were 9 responses received out of 16 persons, who received the questionnaire. Most of the working group members supported the continuation of the working groups as a Joint Working Group on Tourism.

#### 5. Updated Mandate

Roman Gokkoev presented the Draft Mandate based on the comments received before 15 June. The members of the JWGT made several revisions in the document, which are reflected in the attached Draft to be adopted by silent procedure upon request from the Chair prior to the next meeting.

#### 6. Update of the Barents Tourism Action Plan

The meeting participants discussed the need to update this strategic document published in 2013. The Chair proposed to conduct a workshop to elaborate on updating the Action Plan, considering recent developments, future scenarios, and the level of ambition. The workshop can be held during the next JWGT meeting in-person, digitally or as a hybrid version.

#### 7. Any other business

Incoming CSO Chair Jari Vilen presented the plans to launch the Finnish BEAC Presidency in Rovaniemi during the Arctic Spirit Conference including the CSO meeting on 15 November where all WG chairs will be invited.

Roman Gokkoev invited all to attend the Barents Youth Conference on 1 September digitally.

#### 8. Next meeting

The JWGT Chair will come up with a proposal to convene physically and/or in hybrid format presumably in Mid-November with the aim to update the Barents Tourism Action Plan (workshop) and to finalize the Mandate for the next period 2022-2025.