



## THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS ANNUAL REPORT

Name of the Working Group: **Joint Committee** on Rescue Cooperation in the Barents Region

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: Mette Sylvelin Seyersted, 2018

### **1. Priorities of the Norwegian Chairmanship**

- To underline the importance of the decisions made by the Joint Committee in 2016 and 2017 – and the importance of implementing them further.  
The decisions were:
  - A three years cycle for the main event, starting from 2019.
    - A main event should at least include practical training and/or an exercise for First Responders.
    - A main event will also include other activities such as conferences, table-top exercise as appropriate.
  - To extend the scope for the Exercise Working Group [EWG] and rename it to Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) with the aim to assist the JC in its work.
  - Furthermore, it was stressed the importance to make the JC work visible and clearly communicate its decisions.

### **2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)**

First meeting, 26. April 2018 in Bodø, Norway

Main topics and outcomes:

- The Joint Committee approved the following two new forms to be included as attachments to the Joint Manual:

- Acknowledgement of Request for Assistance and
- Initial Offer of Assistance.

- The organisation of the PEWG  
The Joint Committee discussed the possibility of developing the working group under the Joint Committee – the Planning and Evaluation Working Group (PEWG) – by adding several expert sub-groups to the PEWG. The conclusion of the Joint Committee was:  
The size and structure of PEWG remains unchanged and the Joint Committee will primarily focus on the actual core group (PEWG) in the planning and evaluation of the exercises.
- Sweden informed on the planning of the Barents Rescue 2019 (BR19)

#### Second meeting, 3. December 2018, Umeå, Sweden

Main topics and outcomes (outcomes are based on draft minutes – Dec. -2018 – to be approved at the next meeting of the Joint Committee in 2019)

- The Joint Committee agreed on the proposed adjustments and updates of the Barents **Joint Manual** resulting mainly from the two new forms approved by the Joint Committee at the first meeting this year.
- The Joint Committee agreed to task the PEWG to start the first phase in order to produce a list of emergency preparedness-terms, from English into Finnish, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish. The list should be limited to terms useful for Barents Rescue, including ALARMEX.
- The Joint Committee agreed that there is a need to develop safety research projects within the scope of the Barents Agreement based on challenges caused by climatic change.
- Sweden gave an update on the planning of BR19 as well as on the forest fires in Sweden during summer 2018.
- The Joint Committee shared experiences on the handling of wildfires in the Barents region.
- The chairmanship of the Joint Committee for 2019 was passed on to Russia.

### **3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)**

During 2018, members of the Joint Committee and the PEWG have participated at the Initial Planning Conference and the Main Planning Conference of BR19 in Sweden.

### **4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)**

See point 2 above regarding the two new attachments to the Joint Manual as well as the decision point on a terminology list.

**5. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)**

The second meeting of the Joint Committee was held back to back with the Main Planning Conference of BR19. Apart from being practical, it eases the participation in the planning process of Barents Events.

The Joint Committee could still make itself more visible at BR conferences.

**6. Other**

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