



Minutes of The Barents Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC)

Meeting

Date: 22 February 2018

Venue: Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, Norway

The meeting was held within the framework of the Barents Spektakel in Kirkenes and the members were invited to activities during the Spektakel on 21 February. The members also visited Samovarteateret, who was awarded the first Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation for Norway in Arkhangelsk in 2017.

Before the formal part of the meeting, the members were greeted by Margrethe Alnes, grant programme coordinator at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, informing about the financial opportunities they can provide for Barents cultural initiatives. Eva Ekmehag from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs informed about the Swedish national chairmanship 2017–2019 (priorities: sustainable development, human rights, gender equality and youth engagement, welcoming the scholarship and inviting to a youth conference in Luleå 17-18 April) and Markus Karlsen, international adviser at Finnmark County Authority informed about the priorities of the regional chairmanship 2017–2019 (including a discussion on the importance of explicit mention of culture within the priorities of the Kolarctic CBC and other funding instruments).

Rune Rafaelsen from Sør-Varanger municipality gave his reflections on the Barents cooperation as part of the celebration of 25 years of the cooperation and Pikene på Broen informed about their work with Barents Spektakel.

Tomas Hallberg, Head of the International Barents Secretariat (IBS) informed about the services IBS can offer the working groups (visa support, publications, updating member lists, registration service for meetings, facilitating connections with other WGs and stakeholders and informing about funding instruments) and stressed the importance of clear mandates for the WGs and the chairmanships. It was made clear that IBS cannot prioritise direct service to the WG meetings, such as initiatives to meet or minutes.

The members from Norrbotten and Västerbotten informed about their work and strategies within the field of culture and digitisation and suggested common ventures in the future. It was agreed to see this first discussion as a starting point and the JWGC supported the

idea of the hosts arranging a workshop on possible future cooperation on culture and digitisation within the framework of next JWGC meeting in Kiruna in November 2018.

Nordland informed about the aspiration of Bodø to become the European Capital of Culture in 2024. For the first application, there is no time to involve the other regions in the Barents cooperation, but for the future, cooperation with other actors in the Barents region on this venture would be welcome.

After the presentations mentioned above, the formal part of the meeting started:

Agenda of the formal meeting

1. *Opening of the meeting*
2. *Adoption of the agenda*
3. *Approval of the Arkhangelsk meeting minutes from 18 Oct 2017*
4. *Evaluation of the Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation*
5. *Information from the members*
6. *Meeting schedule planning for 2018*
7. *Steering documents for the JWGC*
8. *End of the meeting*

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Stine Qvigstad Jenvin, opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the change to add an item on the steering documents for the JWGC (henceforth agenda item 7)

3. Approval of the Arkhangelsk meeting minutes from 18 Oct 2017

The minutes of the Arkhangelsk meeting from 18 Oct 2017 were approved, with the change to correct the information on the Russian scholarship recipient (correction will be made by Helena Aaltonen).

4. Evaluation of the Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation

The item was introduced by Co-chair David Ek, Swedish Ministry of Culture, who welcomed the achievement of awarding the scholarships in Arkhangelsk and introducing some questions for the JWGC to discuss before the procedures for the second and last round of the trial period scholarships start.

Nomination procedure

The JWGC agreed to use the procedure stated in the guidelines, namely that the JWGC must be presented with one nominee per region and that it is the JWGC who decides which nominee from each country will be the scholarship recipient. This does not

prevent the regions of a country to agree on a common recommendation to the JWGC, but all nominees must be presented to the JWGC.

Award ceremony

The JWGC agreed that next scholarship ceremony should be arranged within the framework of the Session of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council in fall 2019, preferably connected to the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs with a formal award ceremony, but also accompanied by a more public event, where the old and new scholarship recipients can present their work/plans.

The letters sent out to the chosen recipients should be coordinated by the Chairmanship, to ensure that the recipients receive the same information.

Documentation

The JWGC agreed that the documentation by the recipients asked for in the guidelines will serve more of a communication/promotion purpose than as a control mechanism. The Chairmanship will draft questions for the recipients to answer (such as what the scholarship has meant to their work) to be agreed upon by the JWGC before sent out. The documentation will be presented on the BEAC homepage before the scholarship event.

Art fields

The JWGC agreed to remain flexible as for which art fields are eligible for the next scholarship round. This criterion should be removed from the guidelines, should the scholarship continue after the trial period.

Correction

Helena Aaltonen will remove the word “Suggestion” from the guidelines and send out a “clean” version to all the members.

Road map

JWGC Meeting Fall 2018	Confirmation of funding for scholarship and travels
Spring 2019	Nomination procedures in the regions
JWGC Meeting Spring 2019	Regions present nominees and the JWGC decides
After Spring Meeting	Coordinate letters to the new recipients
June 2019	Ask old recipients for documentation
Summer 2019	Plan award ceremony
BEAC Session Fall 2019	Award ceremony or ceremonies

5. Information from the members

A tour de table was made where the members informed about one upcoming activity in 2018. The tour de table served as a good example of how forward-looking and vibrant cultural life is in the Barents region. In this connection, the Republic of Karelia introduced the project “Kantele-CAMP” by the non-profit organisation “Foundation for support and development of ethno-cultural initiatives”, the Russian recipient of the first Barents Scholarship on Cultural Cooperation, and asked the members of the JWGC to circulate the information of the ethno-camp in their regions with a view of receiving prominent applications from all regions in the Barents cooperation.

6. Meeting schedule planning for 2018

The JWGC agreed that the next meeting will be held in Kiruna, probably during the first half of November 2018, ensuring that there is no overlap with other relevant events. During the meeting in Kiruna, the aim is to hold also a workshop on future cooperation possibilities within the field of culture and digitisation.

The first meeting in 2019 is planned to be held late spring/early summer and the second meeting of the year (and the last of the chairmanship period) is planned to be held within the framework of the BEAC Session.

7. Steering documents for the JWGC

The JWGC agreed to give the Chairmanship the task of drafting a new strategy and mandate for the JWGC (both entering into force in 2019), taking input for the strategy from the new Barents Programme (to be adopted in 2018) and the input the members of the JWGC are welcome to send to david.ek@regeringskansliet.se during spring 2018. The drafts will be presented for comments by the JWGC before fall, to be adopted during the Kiruna meeting.

The Chairmanship will also present an action plan for 2018-2019.

The JWGC also agreed to make a suggestion for the drafting of the Barents programme with the following changes (underlined):

Chapter 3.3:

“Accessibility to a rich and developed cultural life is essential for equal and good living and this can serve as an important tool in the branding and marketing of the region to the outside world.”

Chapter 3.4:

“Broadband is becoming a prerequisite to economic, cultural and social development, since...”

8. End of the meeting

The meeting ended and the JWGC expressed its gratitude to Finnmark County Authority and the Norwegian Ministry of Culture for their contributions to the generous visit programme.

David Ek wrote the minutes.

Participants:

Finland

Helena Aaltonen

Regional Development Specialist

Regional Council of Kainuu

Tel: +358 447100854

E-mail: helena.aaltonen@kainuu.fi

Tomi Aho

Special Adviser

Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Office of Rovaniemi

Tel: +358 295330850

E-mail: tomi.aho@taike.fi

Hanna Susitaival

Special Adviser

Art Promotion Centre Finland, Office of Joensuu

Tel: 0295 330 910

E-mail: hanna.susitaival@taike.fi

Maija Lummepuro

Senior Ministerial Adviser, Cultural Affairs

Ministry of Education and Culture

Tel: +358 295330198, +358 400800218

E-mail: maija.lummepuro@minedu.fi

Norway

Stine Qvigstad Jenvin

Chair

Assistant Head of Culture

Finnmarks Fylkeskommune

E-mail: stine.qvigstad.jenvin@ffk.no

Nina Merete Austad

Adviser

Finnmark County Authority

E-mail: Nina.merete.austad@ffk.no

Geir Knutson

Assistant director of Culture, Environment and Public Health

Nordland County Council

E-mail: geiknu@nkf.no

Eirin Gjelsas

Head of Art and art development

Troms County Council

e-mail: Eirin.gjelsas@tromsfylke.no

Sverre Miøen

Senior Adviser

Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Tel: +47 22248013, +47 41552565

E-mail: sverre.mioen@kud.dep.no

Russia

Anna Tomchik

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Karelia

Tel: +7 8142785507

E-mail: tomchik@mincult.karelia.ru

Konstantin Baranov

First Deputy Minister

Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Archives of the Republic of Komi

Tel: +8 8212 287-563

k.m.baranov@mincult.rkomi.ru

Olga Anisimova

Adviser, Committee of Culture and Arts of the Murmansk Region

Tel: +7 81520486-595

anisimova@gov-murman.ru

Sergey Ershov

Chairman, Committee of Culture and Arts of the Murmansk Region

E-mail: ershov@gov-murman.ru

Maria Sergienko

Senior Expert of the Department of International Cooperation

Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation

Tel no. +7 495 629 10 10, ext. 1697

Email: maria.sergienko@mkrf.ru

Sweden

Eva Jonsson

Strategist

Region Norrbotten

Tel. +46 705498062

E-mail: eva.a.jonsson@nll.se

Kristina Nilsson

Head of Culture

Region Norrbotten

E-mail: [Kristina.b.nilsson\(at\)norrbotten.se](mailto:Kristina.b.nilsson(at)norrbotten.se)

Pia Brinkfeldt

Region Västerbotten

Tel.: +46 90163721, +46 705165745

E-mail: pia.brinkfeldt@regionvasterbotten.se

David Ek

Co-chair

Head of Section

Ministry of Culture

Tel: +46 84053897

E-mail: david.ek@regeringskansliet.se