



Barents Joint Working Group on Culture

Kirkenes, 8 – 9 February 2012

Minutes.

1. The joint chairs, Mr. Bendik Rugaas, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Culture, and Ms. Elisabet Lax, Head of Cultural Affairs, County Council of Norrbotten, welcomed the members of the JWGC.
2. Ambassador Sverre Stub, Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials gave a brief introduction of the main priorities of the Norwegian chairmanship program for BEAC 2012-2013, and invited the JWCG members to come up with ideas for the cultural segment in the drafting of a new Kirkenes declaration. The two co-chairs will be the JWGC liaisons for this work.
3. A tour de table gave each member of the JWGC the opportunity to give a short introduction of their position and work. The participants were encouraged to contribute with information about ongoing and planned projects.
4. Minutes from the JWGC meeting in Archangelsk 2011 and the program “New Horizons in the Barents Region” were presented and commented. The report from the special event on creative industries was pointed out as particularly interesting. Norrbotten had brought a proposal for a “framework project” that followed up the main trends in the “New Horizons in the Barents Region” program. The presentation was favorably received by the members, and Norrbotten was encouraged to follow up the project along the proceedings outlined. Each member of JWGC would act as regional/national contact for the project or name another person

for this task. There was an exchange of information about ongoing and planned projects (a more extensive listing of this will be sent out with the draft minutes, as will the Norrbotten project description.) From the Norwegian side an outline of a possible youth project was presented involving cooperation between the youth activities in the Barents region and the activities of the Youth Center the Council of Europe. This will be explored further as a possible youth culture event in the 2013 Anniversary program. The History Textbook and Encyclopedia of the Barents region project was presented. The JWGC members took note of the status of the project, but saw this more as a project to be considered by the CSO.

5. From the outgoing Norwegian chair in the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC), the JWGC received updated information about the NDPC, status for the “Viking Route” and “Music export” projects, and the further developments of the NDPC Action Plan that focuses on arts and business, cultural tourism, and cultural industries.. From the Finnish member of the NDPC/SG information was given from the NDPC Cultural Forum in Tampere in November 2011. The chair of NDPC is for 2012 Finland.
6. Head of the International Barents Secretariat (IBS), Mr. Ari Sirén, gave a short presentation of the IBS.
7. Concerning the 3rd Program for Cultural Cooperation “New Horizons in the Barents Region”, the members were invited to contribute with projects, and particularly keep in mind the anniversary coming up in 2013. Projects presentation received from the members will be sent out with the minutes from the meeting, or if need be at a later stage.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for 28-29 November, 2012.
9. The chair and co-chair thanked the IBS staff for excellent work in organizing the meeting.