



Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC)  
of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region  
Protocol of the meeting 29. January 2009  
Kirkenes, Norway

**JWGC Meeting Protocol**  
**Kirkenes, Norway 29. January 2009**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chairs - Mrs. Dikova (Russia) and Mrs. Østgård (Tromsø) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to Kirkenes during the Festival Barents Spektakel and The Norwegian Barents Secretariat. A special warm welcome to the invited guests as CSO member from Sweden Per Wallen, Alexander Ignatiev, Head of the International Barents Secretariat. Presentation of participants of the meeting in JWGC (Annex 1).

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The enclosed agenda (Annex 2) was adopted with the following changes: Information from CSO after the adoption of the agenda.

### **3. Information from BEAC.**

Alexander Ignatiev, head of the International Barents Secretariat, informed about the next meeting of foreign ministers in Murmansk on 15 October 2009, Sweden will take over the Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) from Russia for the next two years. The Region of Troms (Norway) will take over the BRC Chairmanship from the Oulu Region (Finland) on 14 October 2009.

From Sweden Per Wallén, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Adviser informed about the focus areas of the Swedish Chairmanship Towards an eco-efficient economy – strengthening cooperation to meet the interlinked challenges of economic growth, climate change and sustainable use of natural resources.

- Health and related social issues
- Cultural cooperation
- Youth participation and international exchange
- Transport infrastructure

### **4. Adoption of the Protocol of the meeting 16. June 2008 (Arkhangelsk, Russia)**

The participants of the JWGC Meeting adopted the Report from 16. June 2008. Enclose the conclusion of the international forum “Culture of the Barents region” 16.–18. June 2008 in Arkhangelsk, Russia.

### **5. Handing over the report “Voices in the Barents Region - Action Programme for Cultural Cooperation in the Barents Region 2003 – 2006” by Mr. Ershov.**

Mr Ershov hand over the report “Voices in the Barents Region - Action Programme for Cultural Cooperation in the Barents Region 2003 – 2006”

### **6. Presentation of the Barents Programme 2009 - 2013, and the project Barents 2010+ by Roald Røkeberg, member of the Barents Regional Committee**

The overall aim is to strengthen the development in the Barents region by bringing multilateral co-operation into action. The project will be one of the financing tools for the new Barents Programme 2009-2013. Implementation of certain parts of the Barents Cultural Programme (JWGC). The main goal is to promote good framework conditions for commercial activities. Support further development of sector programmes.

The JWGC to put forth proposals to Barents 2010+, where all the 13 Barents regions are working to come together on an application to the Baltic Sea Region Program. However, participation of the Russian regions depends on whether Russia decides to be part of the program. Given a positive answer from Russia on this matter, it is the first time that there is a program available for funding covering all regions participating in the Barents Cooperation.

#### **7. New winds in the Barents Region : - part B (projects) and implementation of the program the Barents Region in order to make the people feel proud of their culture.**

What the working group needs to do now is to make the Programme complete with concrete multilateral activities and projects. The two Co-chairs suggest to re new the list of projects - bilateral and multilateral - with contacts to the persons responsible for a project and a web-site if it exists. The foundation for this is good since the Ministers responsible for Culture from Russia and Norway, as well as Heads of the Finnish and Swedish delegations at the International Forum "The Culture of the Barents Region" (Arkhangelsk, Russia, 16-17 June 2008) concluded that the value of regional cultural cooperation is increasing.

The group discussed a proposed list of projects and the outcome will later be published on the page of the group on [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st).

#### **8. Cooperation with the Working group of Indigenous Peoples and presentation of some culture projects.**

- Presentation of the "Action plan for Indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2009-2012" by Christina Henriksen from The Norwegian Barents Secretariat.
- 2010 Barents Indigenous people congress
- Presentation of the yearly indigenous peoples' festival RIDDU RIDD by Ragnhild Dalheim Eriksen.

#### **9. Information about International Barents Secretariat by Anna Lund, Executive Officer**

The International Barents Secretariat supports the working groups with secretariat functions. Overview information about BEAR with the website [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st), newsletters, calendar Barents cooperation. New working group on tourism is established.

#### **10. Information about the Norwegian - Russian Strategy on Culture by Bendik Rugaas between Russia and Norway.**

The minister of Culture from Norway, Giske and the Russian minister of Culture Avdejev signed a historic agreement between Norway and Russia in January 2009. It will be followed by a three-year Programme (2010-2012) on cultural co-operation between the two countries.

#### **11. Annual report 2008**

The Chairs will finish the report and send it to CSO.

#### **12. Next meeting**

Next meeting will take place in Lapland

#### **13. Any other business - reports from each regions**

Murmansk: CSO meeting 15. -17. October 2009

Arkhangelsk: Culture Competence Cluster 2008 – one of the real success stories within the multilateral cultural cooperation in the Barents Region. The project involves 50 managers from a variety of cultural sectors in the Murmansk, Archangelsk and Kaliningrad regions. The participants study culture management models in the Scandinavian countries and 25 of the more active participants were invited to a study tour to Finland and Norway. The two main aims of the project are competence development and network building and the focus is on young managers. Funding comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers. Next meeting 1. – 4. April.

Finland: Reorganising, new tasks are yet unknown.

Lapland: change of Secretary General in Art Council Lapland and Tomi Aho from Oulu will be the new representative.

Finnmark: new representative Kirsti Riesto

Sweden: bigger regions is a possibility.

Västerbotten: reported about the ongoing work to change regional administrative borders, which will create larger regions in among others northern Sweden.

Nordland: new representative Nina Badendyck

The Northern Dimension – the Policy Group prepare a possible cultural partnership. Meeting in Oslo 3.Mars.

**PARTICIPANTS JOINT WORKING GROUP ON CULTURE (JWGC) MEETING  
29. JANUARY 2009 (KIRKENES, NORWAY)**

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**Interpreter**

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AGENDA OF THE JWGC MEETING  
KIRKENES, NORWAY  
29. JANUARY 2009  
The Norwegian Barents Secretariat

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2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Information from CSO and RC
4. Adoption of the Protocol of the JWGC meeting 16 June 2008 (Arkhangelsk, Russia)
5. Report “Voices in the Barents Region”
6. The Barents Programme 2009 - 2013, and the project Barents 2010+  
by Roald Røkeberg, member of the Barents Regional Committee
7. New winds in the Barents Region : - part B (projects) and implementation of the program
8. Cooperation with the Working group of Indigenous Peoples and presentation of some  
culture projects
9. Information about International Barents Secretariat  
by Anna Lund, Executive Officer
10. Information about The Norwegian - Russian Strategy on Culture  
by Bendik Rugaas
11. Annual report 2008
12. Next meeting
13. Any other business



