



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Name of the Working Group: **The Joint Working Group on Culture**

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: **The Ministry of Culture in Russia and The Regional Council of Kainuu**

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

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

4th meeting of JWGC- 2 years period in Harstad Norway on 19th June 2017

- presentation of the candidates of the regions for the Barents Scholarship for Cultural Cooperation and decision about selection of the recipients, except Russia
- planning the procedures for scholarship ceremonies
- commenting the draft Barents Regional Program

5th meeting of JWGC – 2 years period in Arkhangelsk

- get together with the Barents culture scholarship recipients and their personal presentations.
- the change of the chairs:
 - o Kainuu, Helena Aaltonen and Russia, Alina Ivashchenko finalized their work as co-chairs.
 - o Finnmark, Stine Qvigstad Jenvin and Sweden David Ek will begin in fall 2017 as co-chairs.

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

- Attending in the Arctic Art Summit in Harstad Norway 20th -21st June 2017
- Attending in the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Barents states and in the ceremonies where the scholarships for Barents Culture Cooperation were awarded for the first time in the Barents history to the recipients by the Foreign Ministers.
- JWGC commented the Program draft for Barents Regional Cooperation.

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

- The scholarships for Barents Culture Cooperation were awarded for the first time in the Barents cooperation history to the recipients by the Foreign Ministers along the Guidelines accepted by JWGC November 2016 and launched by the Ministers of Culture of Barents member States November 2016. During the first half of the year 2017 the member regions of JWGC made the selection process of the recipients. The meeting of JWGC decided the 3 recipients of Finland, Norway and Sweden the 19th June in Harstad Norway. Russia decided Russian recipient in November 2017.
- The First Barents Scholarships for Culture Cooperation, each amounting 10 000 euros, were awarded to photographer Jaakko Heikkilä, Finland, travelling theatre Samovarteateret, Norway, poet and writer Mona Mörtlund, Sweden and Ethno-Cultural Initiatives Support and Development Fund in the Republic of Karelia for their impact and exceptional work across the borders in the field of performing arts.
- The scholarship recipients started to plan an event together.

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

- The work in the Barents member regions and in the working group went well.
- The legal basis and finance of the Barents Culture Scholarship was not prepared in time in Russia, but the awarding succeeded fine in any way.

6. Other

- The Joint Working Group on Culture and the co-chairs of WG are satisfied and thankful of the cooperation with the member States and Regions and especially with Harstad and Archangelsk where the meetings, the Arctic Art summit and Barents Culture Scholarship ceremonies took place with the aid of Barents Secretary.