



BEAC Joint Working Group on Education and Research
BRIEF ANNUAL REPORT 2016

JWGER membership and status: 14 Barents universities and research units acting as a network

Chairmanship by: Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Arkhangelsk, Russia)

Chairmanship period: 2015 – 2017

Chair: Marina Kalinina, NArFU Rector`s Advisor on international cooperation

In 2016 the Joint Working Group on Education and Research elaborated the activities based on the **WG mandate and its overall objectives** focusing on strengthening the WG membership; contributing the regional programs and action plans; enhancing academic cooperation across the borders; inter-acting with other WGs of the Barents Council and the Regional Council on cross-cutting issues; mapping synergy with other consortia and networks dealing with research and education in the North.

Through its activities the WG emphasized **the priorities of the RF Chairmanship at the Barents Council** including such areas of cooperation as transport, environment, culture, research and education. It has been a special focus on the discussing the chairmanship priorities both at the CSOs meeting in Arkhangelsk where the WG reported, and at the WG meetings held in a course of the year in Arkhangelsk and Saint-Petersburg.

Creation of a **common educational space in the Barents region and further development of internationalization in the area of higher education and research** has been recognized by the WG members as a priority task. The member institutions used the WG arena as a meeting point to discuss the themes of promoting education and research as the tools for regional development; of better use the available tools and resources to strengthen academic collaborations across the borders; development the research-based education in the North in the light of Arctic science challenges; enhancing the quality of education and research training in the region; better promoting educational opportunities at Northern HEIs and the North as an attractive study destination; circumpolar mobility development and partnerships with other actors of the regional cooperation.

A step forward was made **to better promote Barents HEIs through the University of the Arctic** collaboration, by conducting member profiles <http://www.uarctic.org/member-profiles/>, catalogue of educational courses and programs with Arctic and Northern focus <http://education.uarctic.org/studies/>, research infrastructure catalogue <http://research.uarctic.org/resources/research-infrastructure-catalogue/> and research data analytics reports <http://research.uarctic.org/resources/research-analytics-task-force/>, contributing so far to advance collaborations and increasing the quality of education and research in the region. Active engagement of the Barents HEIs into the University of the Arctic (UArctic) Congress in Saint-Petersburg in September 2016 gave the institutions an opportunity to contribute to the Arctic science conference held in conjunction with the Congress and to the variety of research themes selected in accordance with the ICARP III process <http://www.uarctic.org/about-uarctic/events/uarctic-congress-2016/science-section/>.

Events and activities 2016:

1. March, 22 – participation at BEAC CSO meeting, report on the JWGER activities to the CSO.
2. April, 7 – WG meeting with the emphasis on the RF Chairmanship priorities in the BEAC, Arkhangelsk.
3. June, 20 – seminar on BEAC Communication Development project, Arkhangelsk
4. June, 20 – participation at BEATA meeting, discussing the Joint Barents Transportation Plan, Arkhangelsk.
5. June, 21 – participation at the BEAC Ministers of transport meeting, Arkhangelsk
6. September, 12 – WG meeting with a focus on research challenges within the frames of a Joint Transportation plan and Arctic research policy on the international and inter-regional level.
7. September 12-16 – member institutions participated at UArctic Congress, Saint-Petersburg.
8. December – proposals submitted to the advanced Action Plan on climate change.

Promotion of the Barents region as the cooperation area for education and research has been made in a number of scientific conferences and sessions where the JWGER Chair contributed:

1. MARPART International conference and project seminar organized by High North Center for Business at Bodø Graduate School of Business at Nord University, Reykjavik, Iceland, February 25-26, 2016
2. Arctic Science Summit Week, Arctic Observing Summit, International Arctic Assembly, UArctic Board meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, March 12-18, 2016

3. BEAC Committee of Senior Officials meeting & BEAC Joint Working Group on Education and Research, Arkhangelsk, Russia, March 21-22, 2016
4. BEAC Joint Working Group on Education and Research (Report: Prospects and challenges for university cooperation in the light of the Russian Federation BEAC Chairmanship priorities), Arkhangelsk, Russia, April 07, 2016
5. Round table discussion “Navigation in the Arctic: Promoting Cooperation and Addressing Challenges”, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) in collaboration with the Pew Charitable Trusts (Report: Transportation challenges in the North from education and research perspective), Moscow, Russia, April 13th, 2016
6. NDI (Northern Dimension Institute) steering group meeting, Helsinki, Finland, May 26, 2016
7. Seminar on BEAC Communication Development project organized by the International Barents Secretariat (IBS), Arkhangelsk, Russia, June 20th, 2016
8. BEAC Joint Working group on education and research meeting, Saint-Petersburg, Russia, September 12th, 2016
9. All-Russian research to practice conference “The Arctic as a National Mega-Project: staffing and research support solutions”, Arkhangelsk, Russia, June 06, 2016
10. China-Russia Arctic workshop “Russia-China Cooperation in the Arctic: Prospects and Obstacles”, Ocean University of China (Report: Multilateral Arctic Science Cooperation: Implications for Russia – China university partnerships), Qingdao, China, October 31st, 2016
11. Conference of the Russian International Affairs Council “International Cooperation in the Arctic: New Challenges and Vectors of Development” dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council (Report: Networking tools for Arctic cooperation), Moscow, Russia, October 12-13, 2016
12. International Conference “Canada-Russia Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arctic” at Carleton University (Report: Academic cooperation across the Arctic: multilateral tools and opportunities), Ottawa, Canada, November 24, 2016
13. VI International Forum “Arctic: Today and the Future” (Report: Formation of common scientific and educational space in the Arctic region through networking), Saint-Petersburg, Russia, December 5-7, 2016
14. Barents Cooperation Forum, Helsinki, Finland, December 8, 2016

Report by
Marina Kalinina
BEAC JWGER Chair

Date: January 31st, 2017

Place: Arkhangelsk

Attachments:

- 1) Barents Higher Education Institutions in the Arctic Research
- 2) Study Catalogue
- 3) Research Catalogue
- 4) MARPART project advisory board