



The Barents Working Groups

Annual Report

Name of the Working Group: *Joint Working Group on Education and Research*

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: *Marina Kalinina, 2015-2017*

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

The JWGER has followed in its work the priorities within RF Chairmanship program at the Barents Council, through the following actions:

- 1. Report at the SCOs meeting in Arkhangelsk in March, 2016, with emphasis to large-scale projects run by universities in the Barents region, in compliance with the Barents Program and thematic regional action plans.*
- 2. A separate WG meeting was held in April 2016, where the Russia's Chairmanship program at BEAC was presented to Barents HEIs with a follow up discussion how the priority tasks implicit the research and education agenda in such areas as transport, environment, culture, indigenous issues.*
- 3. The WG members participated at BEATA meeting and the Barents countries Ministers of transport meeting in Arkhangelsk in June 2016. Proposals on bringing more focus on education and research into the WG on transport/BEATA, have been articulated.*
- 4. At the WG meeting in Saint-Petersburg, in September 2016, two core issues have been included into agenda: Barents HEIs` contribution into the projects within the Chairmanship program and discussing the draft of the Joint Transportation Plan from education and research perspective.*
- 5. The WG took part and reported on the WG activities at the Information event for the WGs Chairs, held at Russia`s MFA, in April 2017.*

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

In 2017 the WG implemented its communication through e-mail exchange mainly. The WG meeting has been scheduled for middle October but has to be postponed to be held later this year due to low rate of participation expected. The next meeting among the other issues, will deal with rotation of the group chair. The IBS will be kept posted on the process.

WG: *During the year the following meetings have been considered to discuss the issues of the*

- a. Circumpolar mobility meeting in Stockholm, February 2017*
- b. ICASS Congress in Umeå, June 2017*
- c. UArctic Council meeting, Nuuk, August 2017*
- d. Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies coordinators meeting, Arkhangelsk, October 2017*

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

The list of projects being realized by Barents HEIs with an impact to the regional development:

- 1. The key project for 2017 was the IV Barents PhD Summer School “Barents Region – the Territory of Ecology” is a long-term project between 5 institutions of the Barents region: UiT – the Arctic University of Norway, Oulu University (Finland), Umea University (Sweden), NArFu and NSMU (Russia, Arkhangelsk). This year the School called for researchers and experts to address the issues of exploration and preservation of the Northern environment: environmental protection, climate change and its impact on human health, protected areas management, prevention of natural hazards). In 2017 the School was hosted by NArFU and NSMU and attracted the PhD students from Norway, Russia, India, China and Switzerland. The participants had an opportunity to share knowledge and experience with scientists and experts in the course of lectures, discussions and workshops. <http://narfu.ru/en/media/news/297151/>*
- 2. Within the official program of the “Arctic-a Territory of Dialogue” conference held in Arkhangelsk in March 2017, the WG Chair took part in a panel debate Talking Barents, where the challenges the region is tackling as well as the role of education, academic mobility and research have been discussed. <http://forumarctica.ru>*
- 3. In the fall 2017 the WG, based on proposals from experts at Barents HEIs, provided contribution to the updated regional Action Plan on climate change. Key projects under the auspices of the WG, and in cooperation with universities and research centers at BEAR, include:*

Education and Research:

- a. *Development of International Master program “Environmental Risk Management in the Arctic” (NArFU, 120 ECTS, in English), http://www.narfu.ru/en/studies/degree_programs/erma/*
- b. *High North Expedition “Arctic Floating University”: acquiring new knowledge about the state and changes in the ecosystem of the coastal areas of Franz Josef Land archipelago (research areas: hydrometeorology, ecology, arctic biology, geography, ethno-politics, international law, oceanography)*
- c. *INTERREG NPA project “ADAPT NORTHERN HERITAGE – Adapting Northern Heritage to Environmental Impacts of Climate Change Through Community Engagement and Informed Conservation”: risk assessments of climate change impacts on historic places and associated adaptation strategies;*
- d. *NordForsk project “CLINF: Climate change effects on the epidemiology of infectious diseases and the impact on Northern societies” (NArFU, UiT/NORUT)*

Monitoring and modelling:

- e. *Long-term project “Developing of methodologies for monitoring, assessment, forecasting and prevention of risks related to transfer of toxic pollutants through biological pathways capable of accumulating in trophic chains and spreading in Arctic ecosystems” <http://narfu.ru/biomonitoring/en/>*

Black carbon:

- f. *Research module “Inventory of black-carbon emissions in Arkhangelsk Region” as a part of being developed Regional Climate Strategy for the Russian Part of the Barents Region*

Other projects:

- g. *The Norwegian Barents Secretariat project “Bridging Libraries Across Borders: Towards New Vision and Role in Society” <http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=290464>*
- h. *SIU High North Program project “ARPOL - Arctic Politics and Business Realities: Joint Courses Partnership in the High North” (including “Arctic Dialogue” winter courses and later the “Business Practices” in summer) <http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=290449>*
- i. *SIU High North Program BA program project “Travel and Tourism management development project” <http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=229907>*
- j. *Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 program project “AgroFore: Agroforestry in Barents Region”*

- <http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=294067>
- k. Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 programme project “FAMARB: Facility Management of Residential Buildings in Barents region”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=294066>
- l. SIU High North Program “Culture, Society and Development in the Barents region”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=290448>
- m. NCM project “Energy Efficiency and Cleantech in North-West Russia”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=290454>
- n. Finnish Ministry of the Environment project “Good Practice Recommendations for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Public Participation in EIA in the Arctic”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=294830>
- o. SIU High North Program “Forestry Summer School project”
http://narfu.ru/international/projects/mezdunarodnie_proekti/detail.php?ID=229906
- p. NCM project “Healthy food and lifestyle choices in the Arctic”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=223177>
- q. Development of telemedicine in the North project (in cooperation with National Centre for telemedicine, Tromsø)
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=294846>
- r. NCM project “The Discipline of Societal Security in the Making: Let's Make It Together!”
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=290457>
- s. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway MARPART2-MAN: Joint Task Force Management in High North Emergency Response
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=222998>
Maritime Preparedness and International Partnerships in the High North
<http://narfu.ru/en/projects/detail/?id=153681>

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

- a. In 2017 the WG succeeded with engagement of a Swedish institution to contribute as a WG member. Umeå University has joined the WG, and this is considered to be important in terms of the forthcoming Sweden's chairmanship at BEAC.
- b. Since the most of the universities in BEAR are being involved into circumpolar cooperation in a broad perspective, the visibility of Northern institutions have been discussed in a number of meetings both within the Barents WG and University of the Arctic member-institutions. A promotion of open access resources to develop education and research such as UArctic Study Catalogue and UArctic Research infrastructure catalogue, turned to be the tools to eventually improve visibility as well as marketing,

branding and recruitment of students, in the universities in the Barents region.
<http://education.uarctic.org/> <http://research.uarctic.org/>

- c. *By the WG an analysis was made on the Barents HEIs participation in UArctic Thematic Networks activities developing a problem-based approach on Arctic research. The finding was very positive in terms of engagement as the institutions from the Barents Region cover 80% of TNs. This might be recognized as a current contribution and potential for research expertise and informed decisions in the region.*
- d. *In 2016-2017 through UArctic reports Science Data Analytics, the Barents institutions turned to be more visible in its research expertise in terms of international arctic research, field-weighted citation impact, international co-authorship and impact of arctic research.* <http://research.uarctic.org/research-area/research-analytics-task-force/publications/>

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

The JWGER remains the network-based group of higher educational institutions and research centers contributing to the regional development through knowledge production and training of skilled graduates. In 2017 the universities-members of the WG, contributed into its work not equally, some institutions haven't been active when others were very supportive. A challenge remains to engage into the WG activities representatives of the national/regional ministries of education and science, and to lead the work in compliance with countries' chairmanship programs.