

## **IBS annual report: "The Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (JWGHS)" - proposal**

- Due to the Chairmanship of Sweden and Murmansk, the meetings of the WG were held in Murmansk in April and in Umeå in December.
- The WG discussed mainly the implementation and results of the three programmes on 1) HIV/AIDS, 2) tuberculosis and 3) children and youth at risk but also general development of health and social status in respective member states and regions.

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- The WG has been very committed to its work and the professionalism of the experts attending the WG meetings has been very encouraging. The unequal development of health and social welfare between, but also within states, urges for continued cooperation.
- Challenges remain though within the Barents health cooperation due to divergence of responsibility for it in the Barents Member States and regions and the scarce resources within the sector.