

# Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY)

## Annual Report 2011

30 January 2012

### Members of the JWGY

Bjørn Jaaberg Hansen	National Co-chair	Norway
Lars Miguel Utsi	Regional Co-chair	Indigenous representative
Lene Hansen		Norwegian regional representative
Eva Theisz		Sweden
Mikael Bergström		Swedish regional representative
Seija Kähkönen		Finland
Anne Kenttäkumpu		Finnish regional representative
Gerenzala Sangadzhieva		Russia
Maria Petrova		Russian regional representative
Anastasia Starostina		Russian regional representative

### Background

The JWGY was established when the Regional Working Group of Youth Issues (RWGYI) and the Working Group on Youth Policy were merged in October 2011. A series of Barents Youth Stakeholders meetings were arranged in 2010 and 2011 prior to the merger to discuss enhancing efficiency and synergies within the Barents youth field. These meetings gathered representatives from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the International Barents Secretariat, the Barents Youth Cooperation Office, RWGYI, WGYI and BRYC.

A merger between the RWGYI and the WGYI was suggested on the international Barents youth conference which was arranged in Murmansk in September 2009. Discussions about a merger continued and intensified in 2010 with the meetings of the Barents Youth Field Stakeholders. In Umeå in March 2011 the two working groups decided to start the process of merging with each other. Terms of Reference were developed based on the Plan of Action of WGYI and the Regional Youth Programme of RWGYI and finally approved by the CSO and RC in October 2011, which formalized the merger into the Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY). Since October the Barents youth issues have been handled the JWGY.

### Activities of the JWGY in 2011

The JWGY had one meeting in Oslo on November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on the establishment of formal documents and procedures for the JWGY. An overview of the Terms of Reference was also done and a plan for activities the following year.

The JWGY was, together with the other working groups, invited to the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) on December 6<sup>th</sup> to present its plans for 2012.

### Plans for 2012

JWGY will focus on merging the agendas of the two former youth working groups into a common agenda. The next meeting of JWGY, in Tromsø in April 2012, will be devoted to discuss with the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) about future activities. The Norwegian Ministry for Children, Equality and Social Inclusion has informed the JWGY on their plans an larger activity in the autumn devoted to a dialogue between youth and representatives of regional authorities in the Barents Region .