

## **Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC) Annual Report 2009**

Joint Chairmen : Natalia Dikova, Russia  
Ellen Østgård, Troms

Incoming chairmen (from des.11. 2009):

- Irina Gubina, Arkhangelsk
- Pia Erson, Sweden

The group - JWGC – held two meeting during 2009:

- January 29. in Kirkenes, Norway during the festival Barents Spektakel
- Desember 11.in Rovaniemi, Finland

In addition to the regional cultural administrations, the JWGC includes the representatives of the Finnish, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish ministries responsible for culture and one member from the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2009 the Barents Cultural Cooperation was presented by Ellen Østgård at the meeting of Regional Committee in February in Joensuu, Finland.

### Indigenous Peoples

At the meeting in Kirkenes, Christina Henriksen from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat had a presentation of the “Action plan for Indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region 2009-2012”.

Ragnhild Dalheim Eriksen, head of the festival, had a presentation of the yearly indigenous peoples’ festival RIDDU RIDDU in Troms, Norway. The Riddu Riddu festival was started by the sami associations in Kåfjord, Troms in 1991, as a sea-sami culture festival. The festival has become one of the largest sami festivals and primary yearly festival for international indigenous peoples. The festival programme encompasses music, stage art, literature, children program, Northern People program, youth camp, film program, courses (workshops), seminars, art exhibition, market (bazaar), indigenous houses and much more. The festival has permanent support from the Ministry of Culture, the sami parliament, Troms county council and Kåfjord municipality.

Implementation of the Barents Culture Program for 2008-2010: *New Winds in the Barents Region.* The overall objective is to strengthen cultural cooperation and thus increase the impact of culture in the Barents Region. A proposed list of projects and the outcome are published on the page of the group on [www.beac.st](http://www.beac.st).

### Barents Program 2009 – 2013, and the Project Barents 2010+

Roald Røkeberg, Barents Regional Committee, had a presentation of the Barents program and Barents 2010+, the project may be one of the financing tools for the new Barents Program 2009-2013 and implementation of certain parts of the Barents Cultural Program . The JWGC decided to put proposals to Barents 2010+. There will be a new application in 2010, made by Oulu, and the JWGC will concrete the first proposal.

Northern Dimension Partnership on culture will be taken further during the second half of 2010, and there will be a conference/forum in St. Petersburg, spring 2010.

Culture Competence Cluster 2008 – 2009, managed from Arkhangelsk, is one of the real success stories within the multilateral cultural cooperation in the Barents Region. The project involves 50 managers from a variety of cultural sectors in the Murmansk, Archangelsk and Kaliningrad regions. The participants study culture management models in the Scandinavian countries and 25 of the more active participants were invited to a study tour to Finland and Norway. The two main aims of the project are competence development and network building and the focus is on young managers. Funding comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

UKM International: Arctic Young Art Connection (AYAC)

was presentation by Odd-Halvdan Jakobsen, Troms.

This is a project to developing the network with young artists and adult leaders and establishing an Arctic Young Art Festival for the northern area.

Other News:

- Program for culture cooperation between Norway and Russia 2010 – 2012 was signed by the Ministers of Culture from Norway and Russia.
- Finnish - Russian culture Forum in Syktyvkar, Komi, more than 300 participants.
- Barents Library Conference in Luleå, Sweden with 60 – 70 participants, this conference is a important meeting place.

Plans for 2010:

- Further on with implementation of the Barents Culture Program for 2008-2010: *New Winds in the Barents Region* and Barents 2010+.
- Northern Dimension Partnership on culture
- Next meeting in Umeå, autumn 2010