



Joint Working Group on Culture Meeting February 27, 2014, Västerbottens Museum, Umeå

Minutes from the meeting

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Welcoming words from the hosting region
3. Minutes from the JWGC meeting in Bodø, Nordland 19-20 September 2013
4. JWGC Mandate 2014-2018
5. Cultural cooperation in the Barents Region – Strategy 2014-201
6. Information about Umeå as the European Capital of Culture 2014, Jan Björinge, CEO Umeå2014
7. Barents Culture Prize
8. Presentation of the Barents Forum, on Feb, 28, 2014 at Sävargården, Gammlia and update on ENPI –project "New Horizons 2013-2014"
9. On coming JWGC meetings
10. Short updates from JWGC members on current issues and projects
11. Any other matters
 - a. Practical routines for chair, International Barents Secretariat's role
 - b. Indigenous peoples

1. Opening of the meeting

Chairman Maija Lummepero, Finland, and Co-chairman Lev Vostriakov, Arkhangelsk region opened the meeting and sent their thanks to previous chairs for a period well done.

Participants in the group not attending the meeting have sent their excuses to chairman Maija Lummepero.

The chairs presented some upcoming changes in the group; Republic of Komi has a new representative.

Round of presentation.

2. Welcoming words from the hosting region

Words of welcome from Ola Kellgren, Head of Cultural Affairs, Region of Västerbotten

3. Minutes from the JWGC meeting in Bodø, Nordland 19-20 September 2013

Minutes were sent to the JWGC for approval on Sep, 27, 2013 and the revised minutes were sent on Oct, 2, 2014.

Minutes approved.

4. JWGC Mandate 2014-2018

Final drafting of the mandate.

The draft mandate has been sent out before the meeting. All Russian JWGC members not attending the meeting have sent their consent regarding the mandate.

Mandate approved with some small revisions.

The mandate will be presented to the CSO in due time to be approved at the meeting in Inari, Finland, on March 18-19, 2014.

5. Cultural cooperation in the Barents Region - Strategy 2014-2018

A draft strategy was sent out before the meeting. Chairman Maija Lummeperu informed about the new structure of the document and conclusions from previous JWGC meeting in Bodø.

There were discussions about some special issues in the strategy:

- The image on the cover will be changed.
- The term "identity" in second paragraph in chapter 2 – The meeting discussed that there are several identities in the Barents region, not just one identity.
Conclusion: The wording refers to a formulation made by the Ministers of culture at an Arkhangelsk conference in 2008 and is therefore kept unchanged.
- Demography – The importance of mentioning also the increasing elderly population, as well as focusing on the importance of the youths staying in the Barents region was stressed.
- Quality – The question regarding challenges in maintaining high artistic quality in the region was raised. It was also stressed that the group needs to be cautious in using the term quality in the strategy, although we can emphasize maintaining high quality by support and encourage cooperation.
- Innovation – or rather the lack of formulations about culture's significance for innovation. **Conclusion:** This can be taken into chapter 5, about culture and creative industries. The meeting gave Sverre Miøen the task to come up with a suitable wording.

Tomi Aho presented the idea behind the structure in chapter 6 and 7, about objectives and prioritized objectives for the JWGC for 2014-2018. This way, the prioritized objectives are specially highlighted which allows us to quite easy shift focus in coming strategies not needing to draft the whole document.

The meeting commended the improvements in the strategy and approved the document after some final drafting.

The CSO will be informed about the new strategy at the meeting in Inari, Finland, on March 18-19, 2014.

6. Information about Umeå as the European Capital of Culture 2014, Jan Björinge, CEO Umeå2014

Jan Björinge informed about the background and the journey towards becoming the European Capital of Culture 2014.

7. Barents Culture Prize

Chairman Maija Lummepuro gave short information referring to the Bodø meeting, when the JWGC concluded that the working group proposes to the CSO to consider establishing Barents Culture Scholarship rather than a Barents Culture Prize. A scholarship was considered more forward thinking and could be more in line with the JWGC strategy.

In the 14th BEAC Foreign Ministers Session's (28-29 October 2013, Tromsø, Norway) Joint Communique para 22, it was stated that Cultural cooperation is important for developing a common Barents identity. Civil society and culture institutions play key roles in this context. The Council welcomes the initiative to establish Barents Culture Awards to further encourage cross border cultural cooperation.

In the Bodø meeting, Nina Badendyck, Nordland, was given the task to write a proposal for a Barents Cultural Scholarship and the meeting discussed the proposal with following comments:

- The scholarship should focus on the youth and include all art forms
- Each country has its own methods to find suitable candidates, it is proposed to use already existing structures as much as possible
- It is important that the suggestions of candidates come from the regions
- What steps are included in the process? It was stressed that it would be a good idea to describe every step in a chart to get an overview of the process
- The process will be different depending on which approach is used to find candidates; via open call or via the expertise in each region
- In a way, the scholarship idea might request more work, administration and finances than the Barents Culture Prize idea would

- It could be a challenge to secure the funding continuously. Whether financing come from national or regional level differentiates between the countries
- A price or a scholarship is an important tool for our cooperation
- There is a great variety in the width of the suggested artistic areas
- The scholarship does not necessarily need to be awarded every year

Conclusions:

- Each region elaborates with the suggestion from its own perspective and sends information about organizational procedures, financial possibilities and specific questions regarding practical and financial issues to Nina Badendyck **April 15** at the latest
- Next CSO meeting is already in mid March, it was decided to wait until their meeting after that to present a proposal from the JWGC
- Each regional process document is presented at the next JWGC

8. Presentation of the Barents Forum, on Feb, 28, 2014 at Sävargården, Gammlia and update on ENPI –project "New Horizons 2013-2014"

Presentation by Tomas Lind, project coordinator for New Horizons 2013-2014.

The five subprojects are running as planned:

- Barents Forum for strategic cultural planning and policy implementation
First Barents Forum is being held in connection to the JWGC meeting, on February 28. We will then have the opportunity to contribute to the new ENPI Kolarctic program. Next Barents Forum is planned to December 5 in Murmansk (JWGC meeting December 4).
- Young entrepreneurs for culture and creative sector
A new group of young entrepreneurs have now started, a joint seminar week together with the first year participants was held in Rovaniemi this February.
- Museum, cultural heritage and northern identity
Next seminar is held in Luleå May 5-7.
- X-border
The successful exhibition was closed in October 2013.
- Sound of Barents

Enclosed is a copy of the presentation.

9. On coming JWGC meetings

May 21, 2014, Maritime Centre Vellamo, Kotka, Finland: Joint meeting of three regional working groups: Barents Joint Working Group on Culture, CBSS Senior Officials Group on Culture, NDPC Steering Committee.

All are invited to the Baltic Sea Cultural Forum - Eastern Viking Forum II on May 20-21, 2014, Maritime Centre Vellamo, Kotka, Finland.

Chairman Maija Lummepero stressed the importance of us elaborating the scheme regarding the Barents Culture Scholarship as much as possible in time for the Kotka meeting.

A first draft of the agenda will be sent out for feedback in early March.

December 4, 2014, Murmansk, Russia.

10. Short updates from JWGC members on current issues and projects

The participants gave short presentations on current issues, events and projects.

11. Any other matters

- **Practical routines for chair, International Barents Secretariat's role**

Ari Sirén from IBS sends a greeting that they would like to participate in the work of the JWGC.

The meeting suggested for Chairman Maija Lummepero to contact the IBS regarding their capacity and resources to work more actively with us. Maija will distribute their answer before the next meeting.

- **Indigenous people**

The question was postponed until the next meeting.

Participants

Finland:

Ministry of Education and Culture: Maija Lummepuro, Chairman

Lapland: Tomi Aho

Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu: Ulla Lassilla

Russia:

Ministry of Culture: Olga Andonieva, Anastasia Bachurina

Arkhangelsk: Lev Vostriakov, Regional Chairman

Komi: -

Murmansk: -

Karelia: -

Norway:

Ministry of Culture: Sverre Miøyen

Nordland: Kristoffer Dolmen

Finnmark: Reidun L. Andreassen

Troms: -

Sweden:

Ministry of Culture: Pia Erson

Norrbotten: Elisabeth Lax

Västerbotten: Ola Kellgren, Pia Brinkfeldt