



Ministry of Sport, Tourism and Youth policy of the Russian Federation

**Protocol of the 26-th meeting
of the Working Group on Youth Policy
of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council
24-25 November 2008**

Moscow, 15 December 2008

Participants:

Ms Seija Kähkönen, Finland, State Provincial Office of Lapland
Mr Björn Jaaberg Hansen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
Ms Tove Andersen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
Mr Roman Aleksandrov, Russia, Ministry of sports, tourism and youth policy
Ms Nadezhda Karkach, Russia, Ministry of sports, tourism and youth policy
Mr Laptev Pavel, Russia, Federal agency for youth affairs
Ms Emma Kuusi, Finland, Ministry of Education
Ms Sophia Bongiorno, Sweden, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality
Ms Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office
Ms Anna Lund, International Barents Secretariat

Chair: Mr Roman Aleksandrov

Secretary: Mrs Nadezhda Karkach

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair opened the 26th meeting of the Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP). The proposed agenda was adopted. The point “Regional cooperation with Barents Regional Youth Council and Barents Regional Committee” suggested by Mr. Hansen was added.

2. Adoption of the protocol from the 25th meeting of the WGYP

The protocol of the WGYP meeting in Rovaniemi (14 October 2007) was adopted without changes.

3 Information from the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)**3.1 Financial report 2007 and 2008**

Ms Petrova presented financial reports for 2007 year and for the period January-November 2008.

Russia has owed 1 507 € of its contribution for 2007 year and 10 000 € for 2008 year because of reforming of the government structure.

Russian side suggested to compensate unpaid rest of its contribution for 2007 and 2008 years (11 507 €) with the payment for 2009. Russian contribution will be done. Russian proposal was supported by other WGYP members.

The WGYP agreed to compensate the travel costs to summer vacations of Ms Petrova in 2008. In accordance with the Russian legislation for regions of Extreme North an employer has a duty to cover vacation's travel costs of the worker every other year.

3.2 Budget for 2009

It was discussed to enlarge the sum of contribution of the WGYP member countries for 2009 year because of increased rate of inflation in the Russian Federation and the world financial crisis. Under discussion Finland, Norway and Russia aroused their capacity of enlarging the level of contribution up to 12 000 €, Sweden abstained. Following the principle of equality of the contribution its level for 2009 year was left on 10 000 €. The WGYP members decided to return to the question of increasing the sum of contribution for 2010. The probable lack of money reasoned by inflation and crisis in 2009 will be covered by extra contribution of Russia (its debt for 2007 and 2008).

Norway suggested to give a right to the Chair of the WGYP to include or split up the items of expenses if needed, within the sum. After making changes the Chair is obliged to inform other members.

Mrs Karkach and Ms Petrova were asked to make clear the procedures of prolonging the contract with "Intereducation" or another organisation on the administration on BYCO.

The budget for 2009 was adopted in the amount of 50 000 €.

3.3 Work reports 2007 and 2008

Ms Petrova presented the work reports of BYCO for 2007 and 2008 (January-November 2008). The WGYP has approved the work reports of BYCO.

3.4 Work plan for 2009

Work plan for 2009 was presented by Ms Petrova and adopted by the WGYP.

3.5 The prolongation of the agreement on the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)

The members of the WGYP decided to prolong the Agreement on the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) for 2009-2010. Sweden made a reservation and declared that it would inform the WGYP about its approval of the draft within 2 weeks. It was agreed the Russian chairmanship would send the final version of the agreement to the members of the WGYP and that the agreement would be approved through letters of intent during December 2008 .

4. Cooperation with Barents regional structures

The WGYP noted that attention must be paid to cooperation between the regional structures (BRYC and RWGYI). The WGYP confirmed Ms. Petrova's mandate to participate in the meetings of BRYC and RWGYI, and other relevant structures. The WGYP decided to continue the practice of having joint meetings with the RWGYI and inviting a BRYC representative to its meetings. The protocols of WGYP meetings shall be sent to relevant international regional groups and institutions.

5. The program of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the BEAC

Mrs Karkach informed the WGYP about events in the youth sphere in 2009 set by the program of the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the BEAC. The WGYP specified and developed a time schedule of events in the youth sphere for 2009.

6. The Conference of Ministers responsible for youth policy and international youth event in 2009

6.1 The place, dates and format of the Conference

It was decided that the Conference of Ministers responsible for youth policy will take place in Murmansk. Provisional dates: 28 September – 2 October 2009.

The aim of the conference will be decided by the WGYP.

BYCO with the help of regions can prepare an exhibition of best previous youth projects.

The WGYP will involve scientists and experts in the preparation of the Ministerial Conference. Sweden made a reservation against the further planning of a conference until the theme of such a conference has been further developed within the WGYP. Norway informed that there will be national elections in September and that participation on political level could not be guaranteed at present.

6.2 International youth event International youth event will take place in Murmansk straight before the Ministerial Conference. Provisional dates: 26-27 September 2009.

50 youth representatives (4 from each Barents region) and observers from international youth structures will be invited to the International youth event. Indigenous people should be also represented at the event.

The Russian Federation will pay meals and accommodation of participants. In accordance with previous practice the regions or national authorities will cover the travel costs of participants from their region/country. The WGYP asked Ms. Petrova to coordinate practical issues of organizing the Conference and the Youth event with Murmansk regional and municipal authorities.

6.3 The Declaration of Ministers

The Chairmanship is responsible for preparation of a Draft Declaration to be adopted by the Ministers. The next WGYP meeting will be devoted to detailed elaboration of the Declaration. The draft will be finalised at the September meeting of the WGYP.

7. International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

Mrs. Lund informed WGYP about last news and changes in the work of IBS, told about future meetings. She informed that the Session of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Committee of Senior Officials, Regional Council and Regional Committee will take place in Murmansk, Russia on 14-15 October 2009. Mrs. Lund suggested to publish information regarding WGYP functioning and to add WGYP and BYCO events to the Calendar of events on the web site. IBS and WGYP agreed to be in close contact for future cooperation.

8. Miscellaneous

Ms. Bongiorno informed that the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality of Sweden will delegate its representation in the WGYP to the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs during 2009. . WGYP should update the Plan of Action to the Ministerial Conference in 2009.

9. Reports on national developments

The WGYP was informed about recent developments in national youth policies. Deputy Minister Oleg Rozhnov told the WGYP about new state authority responsible for youth policy, the Ministry of sport, tourism and youth policy of the Russian Federation, constituted in May 2008.

10. Date and venue of the next meeting

The next WGYP meeting will be held in Moscow, preliminary dates are 24-26 March 2009. One more meeting of the WGYP is planned to be held in Murmansk straight before the Ministerial Conference.

To: WGYP members

Barents Regional Committee

Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues

Barents Regional Youth Council

International Barents Secretariat

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation