



Annex 3 for the *Regional Working Group on Environment (RWGE)*

Venue: Helsinki, Ministry of the Environment

Time: Tuesday, February 7th, 13:00-17:00

Working language: English

Invited: Regional members of the RWGE

Chairman: Mr Mattias Lindgren, Adviser, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden

Projects

Roar Høgsæt, County Governor of Nordland, Norway, presented a report from the University of Nordland called "Sustainable production at enterprises in the Barents region" in which both Russian and Norwegian students have collaborated. The main goal of the report was to create cooperation between the regions that are located in the Barents region linked to the overall objective and strategy of the Barents cooperation. Feedback of the report is welcomed from the rest of the group before the 1st of March.

Bente Christiansen, County Governor of Finnmark, Norway, told the group about several projects. The "Pasvik Water Quality Report" was handed out in which several monitoring programs have been implemented to monitor pollutants in the water. This was a trilateral project between Norway, Finland and Russia. Another trilateral project was also mentioned. This program monitors bears by gently snagging hairs from the bears in the wild and analysing the hairs. This was done with the help of statically placed barbwire, without damaging the bears. Finally the Kolarctic Salmon project was also presented. It looks at how salmon moves in the rivers and out in the sea. A lot is unknown about the salmon and their movements. This is also a trilateral project involving Norway, Finland and Russia. Some other projects were also mentioned.

Jari Pasanen, Lapland Regional Environment Centre, Finland, informed the members of the group that there was a project in which they looked at mining development in order to try and reduce the harmful effects from these kinds of operations. There was also big undergoing project on water monitoring within Finland.

Tero Väisänen, North Ostrobothnia Regional Environment Centre, Finland, spoke about a hydropower project within Finland, in the Kemi River. He also mentioned a joint project between Finland and Sweden where they look at flooding issues in the Tornio River.

Tatiana Tiupenko, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Komi, Russia, presented an ongoing project in Komi. They are taking inventory of all the nature preserves in the Komi region and the project is estimated to be completed in 2013. A film festival has also been held in Komi. Movies with a green focus were shown and lectures were held. Hopefully, this will be an annual event. A teacher exchange with the Norrbotten region has been initiated. A teachers exchange is under way. Some other projects were also mentioned.

Anna Prakhova, Working Group on Indigenous People, Russia, spoke about a conference in Kirkenäs concerning environment and business. Another event is a congress in Kirkenäs concerning issues that are important to the indigenous people.

Mattias Lindgren, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten, Sweden, informed the group that there might be another Regional Working Group on Environment meeting in Haparanda, Sweden in June. Further information will be distributed when available. He also informed on the upcoming activity within the Regional Chairmanship, the Barents Green Growth Forum. Mattias asked for suggestions of speakers and called to the other regions to contribute by disseminating the info to other relevant stakeholders etc.
