



The Barents Working Groups

Annual Report

Name of the Working Group: **Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics**

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: **Mr Hannu Heikkinen, Regional Council of Kainuu, chairmanship has been for an indefinite period, reporting period 2017**

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

Barents regional cooperation on transport and logistics and cooperation with BEATA steering group as well as information exchange between partners and a new Barents Region Transport and Logistics project KO1029 application.

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

11.1.2017 was held the regular meeting at the same time with Arctic Road Transport Conference in Ivalo. The WG took part to a workshop dealing with North Finland Transport and Logistics Strategy work.

27.-28.9.2017 was held the regular meeting in Brussels. Main topics were project KO1029 workshop and meeting with MEP Merja Kyllönen in European Parliament. Message from the Kyllönen's point of view was that Arctic area / EuroArctic area / Barents area is important and it is necessary that area itself gives the specific information to EU: why it is necessary to develop Barents area, what the area could offer to EU, how the EU benefits from Barents area.

Working Group has continued the project KO1029 preparation work keeping regular workshops during the year:

- Skype-meeting 7th of February
- Helsinki 2th of March
- Brussels 27th of September
- Arkhangelsk & Skype-meeting 17th of October, project info to Russian Partners
- Helsinki 9th of November
- Skype-meeting with Russian partners 20th of December

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

Working Group prepared the new Mandate updated to be adopted by the Barents Regional Committee.

Working Group prepared the project application “Barents Region Transport and Logistics” for Kolartic ENI Programme. Project KO1029 was accepted by JMC in June 2017. Project starts officially during 2018 and the duration will be 36 months.

Representatives of the WG had participated to the following meetings in 2017:

- BEATA Joint Meeting in St. Petersburg 30th of May
- Arctic Railway Seminar in Kirkenes 8th of June
- Arctic Seminar in Helsinki 30th of November

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

The WG got the mandate updated and adopted by the Regional Committee. The Kolarctic ENI project application prepared by the WG was successful. WG made co-operation with BEATA Steering Group and participated to the North-Finland transport and logistics strategy work. As a new topic WG started co-operation with Finland, Sweden and Norway EU offices.

5. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

In generally the co-operation, project planning and application went successfully. Most challenges were found with activity and communication with the Russian partners.

6. Other

Swedish and Norwegian Partners have had several meetings with each other dealing with Barents issues.