



The Barents Regional Council

The Report of the Kainuu Chairmanship

The Regional Committee and the Barents Regional Council

The Chairmanship period: Russian Federation and Kainuu Region, 2015-2017

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

Kainuu Region:

1. Strengthening and Streamlining Regional Co-operation
2. Promoting Economic Co-operation
3. Co-operation on Transport and Logistics
4. Good Practices and co-operation in the Social and Welfare sector
5. Environment and Climate Change

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

2.1. Meetings of the Regional Committee (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

The 1st RC meeting of the chairmanship on February 16th 2016 (video)

- Chairmanship Programme priorities of Kainuun Chair; Communication Plan draft
- Funding issues discussed with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland on the IBA Funding

The 2nd RC videoconference meeting on April 21st 2016 (video)

- **A Communication Plan** in co-operation with the IBS project, to be approved in May 2016
- Coordination of **events**, bigger events with multiple tasks, exchange of knowledge (Kajaani in May 2016 the first trial)
- Enhancing cooperation of Japanese municipalities with Finland, BEAC and BRC (the initiative came from Mr Shinoda and Mr Miwa)

The 3rd meeting of RC in Kajaani 30th May 2016 (face-to-face)

- Back-to-back with BRC, 3 WGs and seminar
- Regular reporting
- Communication strategy for regional cooperation adopted

The 4th meeting of RC August 2016 (video)

- Preparing the Regional Cooperation Forum

The 5th meeting of RC in Luleå, Sweden on 8th of November (face-to-face)

- Regular reporting
- Report on the Barents communication and cooperation study by IBS

The 6th meeting of RC 18th January 2017 (video)

- BRYC Funding and Reporting
- The Barents Project Survey and the Barents Forum in Helsinki
- Updating the Barents Programme process planning
- Discussion on the “Davos Conference” for Barents Cooperation

The 7th meeting of the RC in Alta, Norway, 22nd and 23th March 2017 (face-to-face)

- Regular reportings (RC, SCO, IBS) and reports from the regions
- Report on BRYC and WGIP
- Starting the programming process for the Barents Programme 2018 - 2022

The 8th RC meeting on 20th of June 2017 (video)

- A draft Barents Programme, SWOT analysis and Barents logical framework was prepared and discussed by the RC

The 9th RC meeting 20th of September 2017 (video)

- Main task: processing the new Barents Programme 2019 – 2023
- Mandates of the WGs
- Visibility of the Barents regional cooperation
- Reports from the CBC Programme Managing Authorities

The 10th RC meeting in Arkhangelsk, Russia, 20th of September (face-to-face)

- back-to-back with BRC meeting and the Ministerial Session of the BEAC
- Joint declaration
- updating of the Barents Action Plan on Climate Change
- Change of the Chairmanship

2.2. Meetings of the Barents Regional Council (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

The 1st meeting of BRC in Kajaani, Finland on 30th -31st May 2016

- Membership application of North Carelia received
- Reports from the member regions, CSO, IBS, BRYC and WGIP
- WG meetings of RWGTL, JWGC and JWGT
- Joint Barents seminar incl. Minister of Traffic of Finland Ms Anne Berner and ex_PM Paavo Lipponen

The 2nd meeting of BRC in Luleå, Sweden on 8th of November

- Regular reportings (RC, SCO, IBS) and reports from the regions
- Adoption of the Barents Youth Programme and financing decision for the next 2 years
- Approval of the BRC-membership application of the North Carelia
- BRC and RC visited Luleå data center

The 3rd meeting of BRC in Alta, Norway on 23th of March 2017

- Regular reportings (RC, SCO, IBS) and reports from the regions
- Starting the programming process for the Barents Programme 2018 – 2022: Task Force nomination
- Report on BRYC and WGIE
- Seminar on “BARENTS – OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH” at Alta University

The 4th meeting of BRC in Arkhangelsk, Russia on 18th October

- Draft of the Barents Programme 2019 - 2023 to official comments from the regions
- Change of the Chairmanship

2.3. Meetings of the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

- **CSO Moscow December 18th 2015**
- **CSO Arkhangelsk, 21.3.2016–23.3.2016**
- **CSO Petrozavodsk June 15th 2016 (via Skype)**
- **CSO Naryan-Mar, Nenets, Russia; 13-14.12.2016**
 - Helena Aaltonen from Regional Council of Kainuu was reporting on the Kainuu RC Chair activities and future plans (on the behalf of Pentti Malinen)
 - The BEAC CSO welcomed the membership of North Karelia to the BRC
- **CSO Murmansk, March 15th and 16th 2017**
 - Communication Plan for Barents regional cooperation
- **CSO Sortavala, June 28th and 29th 2017**
 - Presentation of the Republic of Karelia (Tourism potential and the forthcoming 100th Anniversary of the Republic in 2020)
 - acceptance of BEAC operational documents: Mandate template and Annual report template for the Barents Working Groups; Guidelines for the Barents Working Groups
- **CSO Solovki, September 13th to 15th 2017**

- Draft Declaration of the Ministerial Session
- **CSO Arkhangelsk; October 18th 2017**

Pentti Malinen as Chair of the RC participated these meetings.

2.4 Other meetings of Barents cooperation

Barents Parliamentary Conferens in Helsinki 2015

- Parliament of Finland organised in the 28th to 30th of September 2015 the
- Pentti Malinen as a participant Timo Korhonen having a presentation on forthcoming the Kainuu Chairmanship of Barents Regional Council 2015 – 2017

Barents Industrial Partnership meeting in Oulu 2015

The themes for the Barents Industrial Partnership meeting 2015 were:

- Arctic ICT and possibilities of digitalization
- Achieving More Together – Growth for Barents Tourism
- Prospects for financing in the Barents Area
- BIP offers the companies and other Barents stakeholders a regular forum for discussions, networking and business

Information event for the Chairs of the Barents Working Groups 27.4.2017 Moscow (MFA Russia)

- 1) Opening by the IBS: Presentation of the staff and core activities of the Secretariat: What can the IBS offer for the WGs?
- 2) The Chair of the CSO: What does the CSO expect from the Working Groups?
- 3) The Chair of the RC: What does the RC expect from the Working Groups?
- 4) The Chairs of the Working Groups pitching the work and results of their respective Working Group
- 5) Tour de table: What do the Working Groups need from the IBS?
- 6) How can Barents cooperation projects be funded?

Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit in 28th April 2017, Moscow

- Pentti Malinen, Helena Aaltonen, Katja Sukuvaara

Finnish “Background” Group for Barents cooperation in Helsinki on

- network of Finnish national level participants of Barents cooperation
- Meetings: March 27th 2017; October 3rd 2017
- Pentti Malinen participated

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

3.1. Projects of Kainuu Chairmanship

Barents Cooperation Forum

The aim for the forum was included in the Chairmanship Priority of Kainuu:

- Promoting the networking, project planning and utilization of the opportunities offered by the funding programmes will be improved by developing co-operation between the programmes and improving the flow of information to the regional committee, with the aim to prepare co-financed projects.
- Barents Cooperation Forum offers the latest information on the development activities and funding opportunities within the region. The Forum will also serve as a platform for creating strategic partnerships for new projects and other collaborative initiatives.

Online survey for cross-border project stakeholders

- Preliminary work done by web survey within potential project stakeholders on all Barents region conducted by Kajaani Univ. of Applied Sciences; On-line survey in English and Russian was open until Monday 03.10.
- Distributed to over **700** contacts with request to participate in a survey and distribute it to the relevant contacts. **134 answers** received.
- **The results presented** in Barents cooperation Forum by Mikko Keränen from Kajaani University of Applied Sciences
- A **written research report** on the Study by Kajaani Univ. of Applied Sciences

Cooperation Forum in Helsinki

- Forum was very successful in terms of active participation
- **Seminar on existing financing instruments** for cross-border cooperation within Barents area (see presentations on website www.barentsforum.com)
- Main target to enable larger projects by area, number of partners and funding volume
- 150 participants
- **Joint workshops** on 10 selected themes for joint projects
- **Matchmaking tool** was used to help participants to find relevant partners for their project initiatives (profiles completed in connection with the registration)
- About 80 bilateral meetings occurred between participants

As a result new portal for potential projects launched by IBS:

<http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Funding>

- The interactive framework and the enthusiastic atmosphere indicated that the forum will create new partnerships and project ideas and will serve as a kick-start for similar events in the future. **More information at www.barentsforum.com and in social media by: #barentsforum**

Century of Nature Photography in the Barents Area

- Regional Council of Kainuu in cooperation with JWGT has received **“IBA” funding** from the Finnish ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Project aims at starting a new initiative for nature tourism and nature photography within Barents regions
- Already a success...
- The photographic competition is going on until the end of October. Seminar, announcing winners and prizing will be 9th November 2017 in Kuhmo, Kainuu, Finland.
- <https://www.discoverbarents.com/>

3.2. The new Barents Programme 2019 - 2023

Task Force for the Barents Programme process

- **The Task Force** members are: Russia: **Yury Smirnov** (Murmansk), Finland: **Katja Sukuvaara** (Kainuu), Norway: **Markus Karlsen**, (Finnmark) and Sweden: **Mikael Bergström** (Västerbotten)
- The Barents Programme Task Force has had **two online meetings** (on 3rd April and 2nd June). In order to map common priorities and development needs for the Barents cooperation, the Task Force has sent **a request** including the questions to all 14 regions

Next steps:

- To finalize the draft Barents Programme based on the comments from the RC.
- To submit the draft for the CSO consultation.
- To present the draft for the RC and the BRC in Arkhangelsk on 17th October 2017.
- Final approval of the Programme by the BRC in 2018.

3.3. Events

Japan's ambassador Mr. Kenji Shinoda and councillor and Mr. Yoshiaki Miwa visited in Kajaani on the 13th October 2015

In the Spirit of the Rovaniemi Process, November 2015

- Theme was Regional and Local Arctic; Keynote speech by Pentti Malinen

The 96th Annual festival of the Republic of Karelia in Kostamuksha, June 10th 2016

The 97th Annual festival of the Republic of Karelia in in Olonets, June 10th 2017

The 1st meeting of CBC Karelia Joint Management Committee 25-26.5. 2016 in Helsinki

Barents Reunion in Haparanda-Tornio on the 24-25 of May 2016

- Participants from Kainuu: Pentti Malinen and Tuomo Tahvanainen
- Barents Reunion organizers: IKEA, and the cities of Haparanda (Sweden) and Tornio (Finland).
- <http://www.barentsreunion.com/>

Barents Cooperation "The open window between Europe and Russia" 16.6.2016 in Bruxelles

- The seminar provided the EU capital with more knowledge about the unique examples of best practice, as well as challenges and opportunities the Barents cooperation face
- Pentti Malinen was giving a speech on importance of people-to-people co-operation

EU High-level event "A sustainable Arctic – innovative approaches", Oulu June 2016

https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/content/register-high-level-event-sustainable-arctic-%E2%80%93-innovative-approaches_en

CBC Karelia and Kolarctic ENI programmes

- have started with the first calls for applications
- First meetings of monitoring committees - > funding decisions & LIPS priorities

- Kolartic CBC has approved a project directly linked to WGTL: “KO1029 BRTL, Barents Region Transport and Logistics”; Lead Partner Regional Council of Kainuu’
- Large infrastructure projects in final decision making in EU Commission

Euregio Karelia cooperation

Euregio Karelia is a cooperation area and cooperation forum of the three Finnish regions: Kainuu, North Karelia and Northern Ostrobothnia and Republic of Karelia of Russian Federation. Founded in 24th Febr 2000. Euregio Karelia’s highest decision-making body is the Board. There are 12 members in the Board, 6 from Finland and 6 from Russia. There are two chairmen in the Euregio Karelia Board at the same time, one representing the Finnish and one the Russian members. Kainuu hold the co-chair during the year 2017.

The Regional Council of Päijät-Häme organising a Barents event for regional councils in Southern Finland on 12th October 2017

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

- Communication strategy adopted (in addition to IBS Communication and cooperation report)
- Two special projects: Barents cooperation Forum (including online survey) and Barents Nature Photography Competition (both funded by the Finnish MFA; IBA Funding)
- Video meetings of the RC
- Membership of North Carelia
- Back-to-back meeting of RC, BRC and WGs
- Regional reporting in BRC meetings
- Activation of the WG activities by Kainuu Region
- Draft for a new Barents Programme 2019 – 2023 (Task Force preparation)

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

- projects succeed well and were visible part of the chairmanship
- the goals for Kainuu chairmanship were achieved at least satisfactory
- Barents team work within Kainuu succeeded fluently
- video meeting technology and skills need still improvement

Evaluation of WG activities by Kainuu representatives will be included as an Appendix.

6. Other

- Kainuu Chairmanship will thank all the regions, regional representatives as well as the MFA of Russia, IBS, CSO, Finnish partners for good cooperation

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