

Report from The Regional Working Group on Youth issues 2008



Members 2009.01.01

Lauri Nyman, Kainuu Finland (Chair 2008)
Maria Östensson, Västerbotten Sweden (Chair 2009)
Maria Johansen, Troms Norway (Chair 2010)
Olga Pokrovskaya, Murmansk Russia
Sergei Surakin, Arkhangelsk Russia
Lars Miguel Utsi, Indigenous representative

Special invited to the meetings:
Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office, Murmansk

Secretary: Laila Dalhaug, The Norwegian barents Secretariat

Chair

Lauri Nyman as a stand-in for Matti Nissinen representing the Finnish side in the working group, have been the chair for the group in 2008. Deputy chair was Maria Östensson, Västerbotten.

Meetings

There were arranged two meetings for the group in 2008. The first was arranged in Kirkenes in February and the second one was held during the Regional Youth council's annual event in November 2008. Representatives from the group have taken active part in the preparation and implementation of BRYCs event Yeah Right! That took place in Luleå. There have been no back to back or joint meetings with the Barents Euro-Arctic Working group on youth issues (WGYP).

Cooperation with central working group

We are working with the aim to achieve a close cooperation with the central working group (WGYP). The working group however has a close cooperation with Maria Petrova at the Barents Youth cooperation Office in Murmansk which is established and operated by WGYP. The regional working group have suggested for the Russian chairmanship to arrange joint meetings in 2009. An invitation to revitalize this routine was orally presented to the WGYP in Moscow in November 2008.

Important areas in 2008

The most important task for the working group in 2008 has been the assistance to BRYC in the preparation of the human rights workshop Yeah Right! That focused on human rights in the Barents region seen in a youth perspective.

The event gathered 80 youths from all member regions and they took part in the forum MR-days with 150 presentations, workshops, seminars and more. They had a stand to inform about the Barents cooperation and the possibilities for youths in the

region. More than 3500 participants at the event had a chance to visit the stand that was one of the most popular ones. They all took part in a process where new project ideas and important areas for cooperation on human rights were pointed out.

The working group has been focusing on information about events and ongoing projects. The group has been involved in project Barents Builders that aims to increase the number of youth initiated multilateral cross-border projects in the region. A project application was prepared for the Interreg IVA North programme, but unfortunately refused support.

The group has been working on a follow up for both the Barents Builders project and the Young Entrepreneurs in Barents which experienced the same faith and was rejected by the Interreg IVA.

These were both good multilateral projects with many partners, but may now be abandoned or implemented as bilateral projects due to the treatment they got from interreg IVA.

Information

The working group has also been working on plans to provide more news for the website www.barentsyouth.org. Changes have been done now so newsletters may be produced from the site and two newsletters have been made in 2008.

Future plans

The group will follow up and work on the issues listed in our work program to make sure the Barents regional Youth program is implemented. There will be three newsletters in 2008. It is of major importance to continue to support the work of BRYC.

The group will support BRYC in the preparatory work for the annual multilateral youth event that will take place in Arkhangelsk autumn 2009

In addition to this the working group will cooperate more with The Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk on cross publish on news for youths. The employee at the office is also invited to all the meetings in the group.

Report according to mandate

On the basis of the mandate to the groups given by the Regional Committee, the WG's shall:

*Support the work of, and work in close cooperation with the Regional Committee;
The group informs the committee regularly and present reports, work programme and youth programmes on an annual basis.*

Generate ideas and project proposals for multilateral Barents cooperation;
The group have proposed and worked to implement two multi annual and multilateral youth projects in addition to the work of the youth council. The two last projects were rejected by Interreg IVA. The working group does in additional work together with BRYC on annual multilateral youth events with different topics.

Give ideas for policy work in the Barents Region;

The group has been stressing the importance of youth policy through the work with the preparation of the Barents Regional Youth programme and the establishment and operation of a youth council.

React on the ad-hoc needs in the respective field;

The group is prepared to assist the committee whenever needed

Support and implement the Barents Programme 2009-2013;

The group works on this and has concrete activities through implementation of projects focusing on youth involvement.

Report of its work and submit the work plan for future work to the Regional Committee in the first meeting of the year.

The group reports annually.

Kirkenes 070109

Laila Dalhaug
Secretary