



Annual report 2014

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

Chair: Ms. Christina Henriksen (elected 08.02.2014)

1. **The period** of this annual report is from 01.01-31.12.2014. This annual report concerns status and activity for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in the BEAR.
2. **WGIP** held four (4) **meetings** during 2014.
 - Jokkmokk, February 7-9
 - Moskva, April 25
 - Skype, April 9
 - Tana, October 24

Altogether 34 items have been discussed.

3. **WGIP** consisted from February 2014 of the following six (6) members:

The Sámi members from Finland, Sweden and Norway are formally appointed by the Sámi Parliamentary Council, after decisions from the respective Sámi parliaments. The Nenets member is appointed by Yasavey (The Regional Association of Nenets people in Nenets AO), the Sámi member from Russia is appointed by the elected Guelnegk Neark Sami Sobbar, and the Veps member is appointed by the Vepsian Culture Society – Vepsän Kultursebr.

Ms. Christina Henriksen, Sámi Parliament of Norway.

Ms. Ragnhild Melleby Aslaksen is the substitute member.

Ms. Kristina Nordling, Sámi Parliament of Sweden.

Mr. Lars-Anders Baer is the substitute member.

Mr. Klemetti Näkkäljärvi, Sámi Parliament of Finland.

Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio is the substitute member.

Ms. Elizaveta Kharitonova, Vepsän kultursebr/Vepsian Cultural Organisation.

Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova is the substitute member.

Mr. Alexander E. Belugin, Yasavey/Public Association of Nenets people in NAO.

Ms. Galina A. Arteeva is the substitute member.

Ms. Valentina V. Sovkina, Guelnegk Neark Sami Sobbar (established 2010).

Mr. Andrey Ageev is the substitute member.

Ms. Domna Homjuk was elected member of the working group at the III Congress of the Sámi at the Kola Peninsula on November 22, 2014.

Mr. Andrey Ageev is the substitute member.

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WGIP has six (6) observers:

- Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples “Gáldu”
- Association of World Reindeer herders “WRH”
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East “RAIPON”
- Sámi Council
- Sami Women Forum (decision 46/13)
- International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

4. *WGIP's* representation in the formal structure of the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation

Committee of Senior Officials: Ms. Christina Henriksen represented the WGIP in the meeting of the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials. Representatives for the Nenets and Veps peoples have also participated. Ms. Anja Salo (secretary of the WGIP) has represented the working group when necessary.

Barents Regional Council: Ms. Anja Salo and Ms. Tatiana Egorova represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Council.

Barents Regional Committee: Ms. Anja Salo and Ms. Tatiana Egorova represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee.

Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues: Ms. Nadezhda Laptander (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative (decision 08/13).

Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC): Ms. Olga Egorova (Sámi, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative (Decided through email correspondence with the WGIP members)

Barents Joint Working Group on Culture: Ms. Matrëna Taleeva (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative and Ms. Valentina Zganich (Nenets, Russia) is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

Barents Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues: Ms. Galina Arteeva (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative and Ms. Maria Filippova (Nenets, Russia) is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

BEAC Working Group on Environment: Ms. Anna Prakhova (Sámi, Russia) was appointed WGIP representative to the BEAC WGE (decision 26/11).

Steering Committee on Children and Youth at risk: Ms. Jenny Laiti (Sámi, Finland) is appointed WGIP's representative (decision 26/13).

5. *WGIP* Secretariat

Two (2) secretaries serve the WGIP: Ms. Anja Salo, adviser at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Ms. Tatiana Egorova, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Murmansk.

6. *WGIP* representation in 2014:

Ms. Christina Henriksen:

CSO-meetings

- 16-17. June, Kajaani, Finland
- 16-17. December, Rovaniemi, Finland

Work meetings (Secretariat, and Chair)

- 25. February, Kirkenes, Norway
- 17.-18. December, Rovaniemi, Finland

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Seminars, conferences and official meetings

- 11. September, Tromsø, Norway
 - Project conference organized by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- 24.-25. October, Tana and Kirkenes, Norway
 - Participation in the second world war liberation jubilee

Mr. Lars Anders Baer

Seminars, conferences and official meetings

- 11. September, Brussel, Belgium
 - Statement at the EUACI seminar “The EU in the Arctic – the Arctic in EU”
- 18. November, Rovaniemi, Finland
 - Participation in expert roundtable about climate change, adaption and sustainability in the Arctic.
- 13. December, Jokkmokk, Sweden
 - Statement about indigenous peoples` rights during a seminar organized by the Swedish church.

Work meetings (Secretariat, Chair and experts)

- 17.-18. December, Rovaniemi, Finland

Ms Anna Prakhova

WGE-meetings

- 8.-9. April, Petrozavodsk, Russia
- 8.-10. December, Arkhangelsk, Russia

Ms Anja Salo

CSO- meetings:

- 18.-19. March, Inari, Finland
- 16.-17. June, Kajaani, Finland
- 7.-8. October, Oulu, Finland
- 16.-17. Rovaniemi, Finland

Work meetings (Secretariat and Chair)

- 25. February, Kirkenes, Norway
- 17.-18. December, Rovaniemi, Finland

Regional Committee meetings:

- 20. November, Bodø, Norway

Regional Council meetings:

- 20. November, Bodø, Norway

Conferences and meetings:

- Arctic Frontiers conference
 - 20.-21. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Celebration of Sámi peoples day and various meetings with cooperation partners
 - 6. February, Murmansk, Russia
- Participation in the “Northern festival”. Meetings with various cooperation partners.

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- 21.-23. March, Lovozero, Russia
- Working meeting about Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress with the Center for studies at the University of Tromsø
 - 1-2. April, Tromsø, Norway
- Meeting at the Norwegian MFA about current issues for the WGIP
 - 23. April, Oslo, Norway
- Meeting with organizers of Riddu-Riddu Festival, Riddu Concert
 - 27. April, Moscow, Russia
- Official meeting with Ms. Nadezda Chuprova, leader of the Indigenous Center under the government umbrella in Murmansk Oblast and Mr. Roman Hatsevitch, Ministry of youth issues (also responsible for Sámi issues in Murmansk Oblast)
 - 30. May, Murmansk, Russia
- Presentation about the current situation for indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat`s project conference
 - 11. September, Tromsø, Norway.
- Meeting with representatives of "Yasavey"
 - 17. October, Naryan-mar, Russia
- Participation in the second world war liberation jubilee
 - 24.-25. October, Tana and Kirkenes, Norway
- Participation in the annual meeting of the Kola Sámi Association
 - 15. November, Murmansk, Russia

Ms Tatiana Egorova

Regional Committee meetings:

- 12. March, Arkhangelsk, Russia

Regional Council meetings:

- 12. March, Arkhangelsk, Russia

CSO- meetings:

- 16.-17. Rovaniemi, Finland

Conferences and meetings:

- Meeting with organizers of Riddu-Riddu Festival, Riddu Concert
 - 27. April, Moscow, Russia
- Official meeting with Ms. Nadezda Chuprova, leader of the Indigenous Center under the government umbrella in Murmansk Oblast and Mr. Roman Hatsevitch, Ministry of youth issues (also responsible for Sámi issues in Murmansk Oblast)
 - 30. May, Murmansk, Russia
- Presentation about the current situation for indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat`s project conference
 - 11. September, Tromsø, Norway.
- Participation in the second world war liberation jubilee
 - 24.-25. October, Tana and Kirkenes, Norway

Ms Olga Egorova

- Barents Regional Youth Council meetings (BRYC)
 - April 4-7, Tromsø, Norway
 - June 1-3, Stockholm, Sweden
 - November 4.-9, Tromsø, Norway

7. Activities

The WGIP has focused mainly on the following issues during the period:

Seminar about WGIP activities

In February 2014 WGIP arranged a seminar for the newly elected members in WGIP. We invited Anna Prakhova to talk about the work done in the working group of environment, ICR talked about their projects as well as Sámi Nisson Forum, our new observer organization.

The Financing of the WGIP activities

Since the very beginning of the Barents cooperation, the issue of financing the indigenous peoples' participation has been discussed at various levels in the Barents cooperation structure.

The issue was raised at the BEAC Ministerial meeting in Kiruna, 2011. Since then there has been on-going discussions in CSO on how indigenous participation can be guaranteed through financial contribution from the member states. In 2011 the Swedish government decided to adhere to Norway and allocated 100 000 NOK to working group activities.

In the beginning of September 2013 Finland decided to contribute with 25 000 EURO for 2013/2014. The Russian CSO member indicated that Russia was prepared to support WGIP activities too, but internal budget rules made the contribution difficult.

The member countries came to the agreement that the support should be channelized through the annual grant to the International Barents Secretariat, as part of the BEAC financial agreement. In March 2015 the member countries will contribute with a joint contribution of NOK 75.000 to the WGIP for the first time.

Preparations for the 3de Barents Indigenous Peoples` Congress and the 20th anniversary of the indigenous cooperation in the Barents Region

The main agenda item this year has been the preparations for the third indigenous peoples Congress. We have arranged workshops (Jokkmokk, Moscow and Tana) focusing on issues that should be included in the resolution document.

- Member states, Sámi Parliaments and the northern most counties in Norway are funding the congress that will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015.
- There will be three main agenda points: 1. The congress as discussion platform for the three indigenous peoples in the Barents region 2. Follow up on the Action Plan. 3. Resolution of the Congress. The text of the resolution will be a continuation of the two previous resolutions and will be prepared by Lars Anders Baer.
- In the evening, after the congress, WGIP celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Barents indigenous cooperation. The Sámi week in Tromsø will organize an anniversary concert with indigenous artists from the three people.
- On February 5th WGIP will host a conference together with the Center for Saami Studies at the University of Tromsø focusing on indigenous languages and extractive industries.
- On Sunday, February 8, during the "Saami week", herders from Kola and NAO will perform as guest participants in the reindeer races.