

## ***Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi***

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



### **WGIP MEETING**

**September 22nd, 2018**

#### **Kautokeino**

##### Working group members present:

Lars-Anders Bær, Chair (Sami, Sweden)

Tuomas Aslak Juuso (Sami, Finland)

Galina Platova (Nenets, Russia)

Evgeniy Foteev (Veps, Russia)

Inger Eline Eriksen Fjellgren (Sami, Norway)

##### Secretariat:

Ida Holm Hansen, NBS

Tanja Egorova, BIPO

##### Observers:

Elna Sara (WRH)

Mikkel Anders Kemi (WRH)

##### Interpreter:

Olga Egorova

Maria Ruchevaja

**18/18** Call-up approved

**19/18** Agenda approved

**20/18** Protocol from the last meeting in Brussels Approved with corrections

### **21/18 Short information from WGIP members about the situation in the region**

#### **Finland:**

- Sami Parliament act coming to an end, most likely in week 39.

- The truth and reconciliation process is still frozen until the Sami Parliament act has been decided, but 1,5 million euro has been reserved in the budget for 2019 if the truth and reconciliation process will be acted upon.

- On the matter of the arctic railway Heiki Palto has been chosen to work with this issue, with Tuomas Aslak as his vice member. They have established three subgroup, which

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are financing, planning and environmental impact. Still waiting for the answer from the Norwegian Sami Parliament if they want to join the JWG, reindeer herders on the Finnish side have expressed interest in joining. Had meeting with the Sami Council, all three Sami Parliaments and the reindeer districts that are involved yesterday, and the idea to establish a JWG so that all efforts could be joined have come as a result of this.

- New responsibilities, the Finnish Sami Parliament now has the enhanced participation process in the UN.

- All three Sami parliaments have discussed the possibility to be represented in Brussels and the Finnish Sami Parliament is still working towards this.

- A raise to the budget of the Finnish Sami Parliament has been proposed.

- Also there is a matter of determination of who can define themselves as Sami and who can not. According to the definition, a Sami is a person who considers him- or herself a Sami, provided that this person has learnt Sami as his or her first language or has at least one parent or grandparent whose first language is Sami. However, now there is a case where the Finnish Saami Parliament has rejected some applications on being registered in the Saami census of Finland, where the government has ruled against the decision of the Finnish Saami Parliament.

### **Norway:**

1. Regulations for consultation in cases concerning Sami issues. The Council of the Sami parliament in Norway and the Norwegian government have agreed upon regulations for consultations. These regulations will be included in the Sami act. The consultation regulations ensure that the Sámi parliament and other Sámi interests can participate in consultations in order to achieve free, prior and informed consent in cases that concern the Sámis. The Plenary in the Sami Parliament and The Norwegian Parliament have to approve the regulations before the new law can be put in force. A lack in the new regulations is that it does not give any obligations to the Sami Parliament on how the Sami Parliament itself should consult with Sámi right holders and interests.
2. The Truth and reconciliation commission. The Truth and reconciliation commission has had their first meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2018. The commission has been established to examine the State's assimilation of the Sami and Kven peoples in Norway. A paradox is that the secretary for the commission has recently advertised they are looking for employees, this without having any requirements that the employees speak the Sámi language. The Sámi communities have protested against this.

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3. The Nussir-case in The Finnmark estate. The majority of the board in the Finnmark estate has for the second time given their approval to the operating license (driftskonsesjon) concerning the Nussir-mine. The company Nussir ASA plans a large copper mine in the inner part of the Reppardfjord, a rich fishing fjord hosting Norwegian and Sámi fishers. The mine will pollute the fjord and will have big negative effects for the reindeer herders in the area.
4. Sámi book busses. The Council of Sami Parliament in Norway has suggested to stop financing the Sámi book busses. The financing of the buses has been a common project between the Norwegian county council, different municipalities and the Sami Parliament in Norway. Also authorities on the Swedish and Finnish side participate in the financing. For some Sámi villages and societies the Sámi book busses have been the only Sámi and library service in the area. The busses have been important for cross-border cooperation and the education of Sámi children. If the Sámi Parliament stops the financing this will jeopardise the whole existence of the book busses. The Samis on the Swedish and Finnish side react on the fact that the Council of the Norwegian Sámi Parliament has decided to cut the financing without consulting them. The Sami parliament will decide in the matter next week.
5. World conference on indigenous women. The Norwegian Sámi Parliament is participation in the International work on organising the world conference on indigenous women, which will be held in 2020. A question is whether WGIP should participate in this planning in some way. The delegates from Norway will come back with information about this work when have done some inquiries.

### **Veps:**

#### Language and culture:

- In 2018, the Society of Vepsian Culture CROO received a grant (500 thousand rubles) from the Ministry of National and Regional Policy of the Republic of Karelia for the implementation of the Ethnography studio “Voices of Generations” / “Sugupolviden äned”. In the framework of the project “Ethnic Studio”, the study of the Vepsian language, culture, history and life of this group of ancestors, including the dialect of the northern (Prionezhsky) Veps, was organized. The innovativeness of the project was that its implementation was organized according to a modular principle (work sites) in 7 areas: Vepsian language, local history, historical memory, research activities, traditions and crafts, national cuisine, and folk art. A program has been developed for each working site and responsible persons have been identified. On June 23, the first Vepsian holiday “KALARAND” was held within the project. In other Vepsian rural settlements of Karelia, they are held traditionally. The project ends at the end of 2018.

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- In the administrative center of the Ryboretsky Vepsky settlement, the village of Rybreka, the creation of a new cultural institution “House of the Vepsian Language” is underway. The Veps language house will become an additional resource for institutions and organizations where Veps language is currently taught as a subject within the curriculum.
- July 12 in Moscow under the leadership of the head of the Federal Agency for Nationalities I.V. Barinov held the first meeting of the National Organizing Committee for the preparation and holding of the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

### Natural resources and ecology:

- A fishing community has been created in the Ryboretsky Vepsian rural settlement.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Republic of Karelia on July 9, 2018 prepared a “road map” - an action plan reflecting the important decisions of the republican authorities to improve the ecological and socio-economic situation in the Ryboretsky Vepsian rural settlement. It includes checking the activities of all enterprises conducting their activities in the territory of the Ryboretsky settlement, their compliance with environmental requirements and tax obligations.

### **Nenets, Russia:**

- Pension reform in Russia is changing, for the moment the retirement age is 55 for women and 60 for men, and for indigenous peoples and people in the north it is 50 for women and 55 for men. In the reform they suggest that the new age is 60 for women and 65 for men, but for the indigenous people it will stay as it was. Because of this, a lot of people are now reconsidering whether or not they are indigenous, and there has been an increase in the number of people acknowledging themselves as indigenous. The final decision on this law will most likely be taken during autumn 2018.
- The State Duma of the Russian Federation approved the final wording of the amendment to articles 11 and 14 of the Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" (regarding the study of the native language among the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and the state languages of the republics that are part of the Russian Federation). The law will provide school education in the native languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation and the state languages of the republics of the Russian Federation (21 out of 22 republics). You can also choose Russian as your native language. This will be up to the parents to choose on the application of the students whether or not to study their native language

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- At the first meeting of the Reindeer Development Council it was decided to develop reindeer herding as an industry in accordance with a single strategy. This is a comprehensive document in which the main goals and objectives of the development of reindeer husbandry will be worded. It is planned to reflect all areas related to the support of the industry and the people employed in it, such as improving production indicators, social support, personnel training, and infrastructure development. Also, at the suggestion of the representatives of the reindeer herding farms, the Acting Governor of the NAO instructed to consider the possibility of creating a separate structural unit of the regional administration that will be engaged in the development of
- For the first time the reindeer herders of the Nenets AO were examined for oncology and HIV.
- For the first time, the prosecutor's office of the Nenets Autonomous District conducted a personal reception of herders out at the tundra.
- A joint project of the Social Humanitarian College and the Central Library. A.I. Pichkova took 3rd place in the pedagogical unit of the III All-Russian Festival of Folk Culture "Heirs of Traditions".
- Scientists of the Higher School of Psychology, Pedagogy and Physical Education NArFU MV Lomonosov (Arkhangelsk) study the characteristics of the development of children living in the northern territories.

### **WRHA:**

- Projects last year, mostly about preservation and how to take care of traditional knowledge
- The project Eallu won the price of the world best cookbook, and also the prize for the best book on food within arctic cook books.
- This autumn there will be some projects in Rovaniemi in October, gathering youngsters from Russia, Norway, Finland and Sweden, and also one project in Moscow.
- Ethical guidelines project for scientist/researches visiting local communities will be finished in 2020.

### **Sweden:**

- Just had elections, still uncertainty on who's going to lead the country.
- Also working with the regulations for consultation

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- About the truth and reconciliation process; the government says that they shouldn't be involved in that issue, but they're not negative to the issue. The Swedish church has addressed their role in this process.
- OECD collaboration together with the Swedish Saami Parliament, presentation of this report will be in November
- The case of the Saami village of Girjas, where they are battling the government on the hunting and fishing rights in its territory has now accepted into supreme court, the case will take place in 2-3 years
- The case of the reindeer herders is still in limbo, because of difficulties between the Norwegian and Swedish side and not so much collaboration in between the countries to solve the matter.
- The case of the Hungarian politician that was hunting reindeer in Sweden is still ongoing

**Resolution:** Information included in minutes

### **22/18 Approval of renewal WGIP Terms of References**

*Renewed version was sent to WGIP members before the meeting*

**Resolution:** Terms of reference approved with corrections

### **23/18 IV Barents Indigenous peoples Congress and Conference**

*Members should be prepared to discuss program both for the Congress and the conference*

WGIP members discussed on implementation of IV BIPC.

**Resolution:** The secretariat and the chair is given the mandate to make a draft program for the congress and the conference, and a draft of the action plan and the final document/resolution for the congress.

The congress, conference will be arranged in a time frame of two days.

The date 27th of May in Lyxale, Sweden.

### **24/18 Second Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit in 2019**

*Information from WGIP chair about last development.*

*Secretariat kindly asks members to think about possible topics, main questions, participation, invited guests, financing and other relevant issues both for the Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit before the meeting, and welcomes feedback from all members at least one week before the meeting.*

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**Resolution:** The secretariat and the chair is given the mandate to make a draft program for the congress and the conference and the summit, and a draft of the action plan and the final document/resolution for the congress.

The date 28th of May, in Lyxale, Sweden.

LAB will discuss the joint communique with the CSO at the meeting next week.

### **25/18 WGIP Action Plan 2019-2023**

*New Action Plan for indigenous peoples into Barents region should be adopted during the Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress 2019.*

**Resolution:** Each member gives one topic each for the action plan before the beginning of November 2018. The secretariat and the chair will prepare the AP draft as soon as they receive suggestions from WGIP members.

### **26/18 Participation in other WG**

*Members of WGIP need to decide which WGs should be prioritised to take part in. A full list of BEAC WGs can be found at: <http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Working-Groups>, and they are also listed here:*

*Anna Prahova – Joint Working Group on Environment*

*August Sjøvoll – Barents Regional Youth Council*

*Andrey Dubovtsev – Joint Working Group on Tourism*

*Tatiana Egorova – Joint Working Group on Youth*

Shvetsova Daria is suggested to JWGE by the veps representative Evgeniy Foteev.

Alexandra Famina is suggested to the JWGC.

Heidi Eriksen is suggested from the Finnish side to the WG on health and social issues.

**Resolution:** Daria Shvetsova elected as a new representative in the WGE. Alexandra Famina elected as a new representative in the WGC. Chair LAB suggests to ask the the Sami Parliaments in each country to suggest and finance a participant in the WG for transport.

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### **27/18 Upcoming BRC meeting 26-27 September in Syktyvkar**

*Domna Khomiuk will represent WGIP on this meeting. WGIP members should come with inputs to WGIP report on BRC meeting, having in mind that economic developing in the Barents region and building of railway will be discussed.*

**Resolution:** Domna will inform about conference, congress and summit, and also at the meeting they will discuss the joint transport plan in Barents at the meeting and WGIP should prepare some key notes for Domna to present at the meeting. Tuomas Aslak or LAB will make a summary of the document that Domna will present.

### **28/18 WGIP Budget**

Since the end of 2015, the WGIP has received permanent funding for its activities in the amount of 75,000 NOK from all four countries participating in the Barents Cooperation.

The WGIP finances meetings of the WGIP itself (2-3 times a year), in which 6 members of the WGIP, 2 secretaries and 2 translators take part. The WGIP finances the participation of WGIP members in various relevant events, such as conferences, seminars, and meetings. The WGIP is also willing to initiate and finance seminars and events related to topical issues of life and cooperation of indigenous peoples.

The WGIP also funds the participation of indigenous representatives in other working groups of the Barents cooperation (joint WG on tourism, joint WG on youth, Barents regional youth council).

In the upcoming 2019, the WGIP will also need to finance the participation of indigenous representatives in: the Working Group on the Environment and the WG on Culture.

In the light of the above, and taking into account budget expenditures in 2018, it seems necessary to increase the amount of funding to ensure the participation of all indigenous representatives in various working groups.

**Resolution:** The Chair of the WGIP will raise the issue of a possible increase in funding for the WGIP at the upcoming meeting of the CSO.

### **29/18 Next meeting**

**Resolution:** The secretariat will give the WGIP members information about the upcoming meeting place and time.