



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

**Chair: Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen, Norway**

### **Annual report 2008**

1. *The period* of this annual report is from 01.01-31.12.2008. This annual report concerns status and activity for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in BEAR.
2. *WGIP* held two (2) *meetings* during 2008.
  - April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, Naryan-Mar
  - October 30<sup>th</sup>, Rovaniemi

The Head and the secretaries held two (2) work meetings during 2008.

- January 17<sup>th</sup>, Tromsø
- September 18<sup>th</sup>, Tromsø

3. *WGIP* consisted in 2008 of the following six (6) members:

The Saami members from Finland, Sweden and Norway are formally appointed by the Saami Parliamentary Council, after decisions from the respective Saami parliaments.

**Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen** is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Norway and Ms. Kirsti Guvsám is the substitute member.

**Mr. Per Labba** is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Sweden, and Mr. Stefan Mikaelsson is the substitute member.

**Mr. Tuomas Aslat Juuso** is appointed by the Saami Parliament of Finland and Ms. Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute member.

**Ms. Elizaveta Kharitonova** is appointed by the Vepsian Cultural Organisation and Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova is the substitute member.

**Mr. Alexander E. Belugin** is appointed by the Nenets organisation “Yasavey” and Ms. Galina A. Arteeva is the substitute member.

**Ms. Valentina V. Sovkina** was appointed by the Murmansk Regional Saami Coordinative Council (dissolved 2008) and Mr. Andrey Ageev is the substitute member.

#### **4. *The WGIP representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation***

**Committee of Senior Officials:** Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen represented the WGIP in the CSO meetings during 2008.

**Regional Council:** Mr Tuomas Aslat Juuso represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Council. Ms. Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute WGIP representative.

**Regional Committee:** Ms Christina Henriksen (secretary of the WGIP) represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee during 2008.

**Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues:** Mr Lars Miguel Utsi is appointed WGIP's representative and Mrs. Andrey Dubevtsev is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

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

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

**Steering Group to the program for Children and Youth at Risk:** Ms. Alexandra Artieva is appointed WGIP's representative and Ms. Valentina Sovkina is the substitute representative (decision 11/08).

**Ad-hoc working group on the Barents Program/Barents 2010+ (2008):** Mr. Per-Ivar Henriksen is appointed WGIP's representative. Evgeny Yushkov is the substitute member.

### **5. Secretariat**

Two (2) secretaries, Ms Christina Henriksen, adviser at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Mr Evgeny Yushkov, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Lovozero until October 1st, serve WGIP.

### **6. Representation of leader, members and secretaries of WGIP**

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

- The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
  - June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2008, Naryan-Mar
- Joint meeting with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and others
  - June 2008, Kirkenes
- Joint meeting with RAIPON, WGIP, the Saami Council, the Saami Parliament, and Saami Women's Forum
  - June 2008, Kirkenes

Ms. Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina

- Joint meeting with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and others
  - June 2008, Kirkenes
- Joint meeting with RAIPON, WGIP, the Saami Council, the Saami Parliament, and Saami Women's Forum
  - June 2008, Kirkenes

Ms. Christina Henriksen

- The Barents Regional Committee
  - February 15<sup>th</sup>, Kajaani
  - May 28<sup>th</sup>, Kuusamo
  - September 24<sup>th</sup>, Kirkenes
  - November 18<sup>th</sup>, Umeå
- The Barents Regional Council
  - May 19<sup>th</sup>, Kuusamo (secretary)
  - November 19<sup>th</sup>, Umeå (substitute for Mr. Tuomas Aslat Juuso and Maria Sofia Aikio)
- The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, Naryan-Mar (secretary)

Mr. Evgeny Yushkov

- Conference on Saami self-determination
  - February 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, Alta
- The Saami Conference and the Saami Cultural Heritage Week
  - October 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, Rovaniemi
- Presentation of the work on establishment of a Saami parliament in the Russian Federation
  - November 24<sup>th</sup>, Karasjok

## **7. Activities**

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

### **The Action Plan of indigenous peoples 2009-2012**

The WGIP and the secretariat have been working on a draft for the Action Plan of indigenous peoples 2009-2012. The Plan will be adopted in January 2009.

### **Meeting with RAIPON and others**

The meeting between the WGIP, RAIPON, the Saami Parliament of Norway, the Saami Council, the Saami Women's Forum and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat took place in the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. Mutual interests and fields of cooperation were discussed, and focus was put on joint challenges connected to industrial activities in indigenous peoples' areas.

### **Meeting with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign affairs**

The WGIP met the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, during a lunch meeting in Kirkenes on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. RAIPON, the Saami Parliament of Norway, the Saami Council, the Saami Women's Forum and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat were also present. Items of discussion were the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

**The project "Obshina Kildin – Re-establishing family reindeer husbandry"** is a joint pilot project between BEAC and NCM. The WGIP is the project owner, and the project is led by Sámi Trade-and Development Centre in Norway and Jelena Koroleva in Russia. Mr Bjarne Store-Jakobsen is a member of the steering group of the project and has had several meetings with different actors concerning this matter.

### **International Barents Secretariat (IBS)**

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will second a position to the International Barents Secretariat in 2009, and the WGIP has been an advisory body regarding the content of such a position.

### **Indigenous Entrepreneurship**

The WGIP has been working on the proposal for this upcoming project, and a grant is given from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The grant (DKK 500 000) is to be divided between the IE project and the Micro Credit project executed by the Saami Trade-and Development Centre in Deatnu/Tana.

### **Visits to Nenets Autonomous Okrug**

- The Head of the WGIP followed the program of the delegation from Guovdageaidnu/Kautokeino municipality on their visit to Naryan-Mar in April 2008. The visit was coordinated with the WGIP meeting, and the Head of the WGIP visited the village of Nelmin-Nos (April 5<sup>th</sup>) and a reindeer herders' brigade (Kharp) outside of Naryan-Mar (April 6<sup>th</sup>).
- The Head of the WGIP participated in the CSO meeting in Naryan-Mar on June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>) and an excursion to Nelmin-Nos was organized in this occasion. WGIP met with the administrative Head of the Malozemelsky selsovet, Mr. Mikhail Taleev, and visited several of the local institutions.