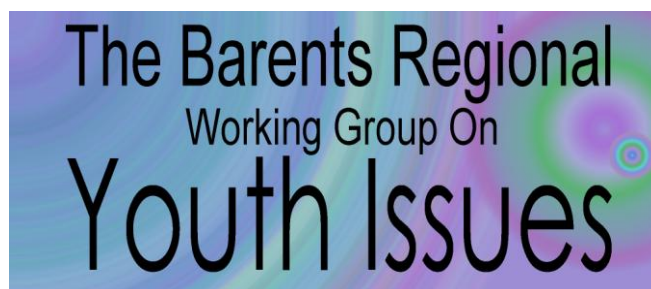

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Report from meeting in

Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues

Scandic Grand Marina hotel Helsinki
Thursday 12th of March 2008
time 0900 -1600

To:

Members of the Regional working group on Youth Issues

Maria Östensson	Chair	Sweden
Maria Johansen		Norway
Lars Miguel Utsi		Indigenous
Matti Nissinen		Finland
Olga Pokrovskaya		Russia
Elena Dotsenko		Russia

Others:

Laila Dalhaug, The Norwegian Barents Secretariat
Maria Petrova, BYCO

Date: Thursday 12th of March 2008
Time: 0900
Place: Scandic Grand Marina hotel Helsinki

Items

01/09 **Approval of the agenda**

Approved

02/09 **Approval of protocol from last meeting**

Approved

03/09 **Information about events and projects**

Maria Johansen gave information from Nordland, Troms and Finnmark.

Finnmark

A new adviser is employed at the county administration and they have started to build new structures for youth work in the county. There will be a group of young parliamentarians to take part in the conference for young parliamentarians in Murmansk in March. There is a democracy development project between Alta and Velsk in August. A studytrip for young parliamentarians from Murmansk is planned to Finnmark through a Nordic Council of Ministers programme.

Nordland

In Nordland they have a strong emphasis on culture and have worked a lot with the culture discount card for youth. They arrange a generation conference soon with seniors and youth, they meet and discuss different topics.

World heritage in the hands of youths is an upcoming initiative that will gather youths at Vega and may also have a potential as a Barents project.

Troms

In Troms County there has been a youth conference in January. The theme was challenges in upper secondary school and the punch line was: "Dropped out or pushed out". The conference decided upon 10 projects that should be worked with and implemented, among them:

- Free dental treatment for everyone up to 25
- Free school lunches
- More physical exercise in school
- Focus on mental health
- More snow mobile tracks
- Teachers with more education
- Youth discount card for travelling
- Grants for home travel

They elected 7 members for a new youth council and their first session will be after Easter.

Olga Pokrovskaya, Murmansk

2009 er "Ungdomsåret" i Russland. In Murmansk the festival TRASSA is going on and there are different events each weekend. There have been movie festival and a drum festival is coming up soon. There have been a project on prevention of crime among youth that focuses on alternative lifestyles. Also an international project on safety on roads has been implemented. The international family day have been arranged and they have been working on establishing a youth parliament. An project targeted towards orphanages have been implemented. A new version of the website

www.4erdak.ru is launched. There will be a conference for young parliamentarians in Murmansk last weekend of March.

Elena Dotsenko

The new governor in Arkhangelsk is active and interested in youth policy. They have established a working group for international cooperation and they are ready to support any youth initiatives with international profile. There is a huge turnover of members in the different structures on regional and municipal level and that is as challenge. There is established a new website www.molarc.ru where information about youth arrangements and events will be presented also in English. They are working to get an overview now and will make a list over all NGOs in Arkhangelsk and have it presented at the site also in English language.

There have been several projects going on and at university level a project that aimed to involve students in the Bologna process was carried out. Some twin cities projects have been implemented. Projects on youth tourism and entrepreneurship are a priority. BRYCs event in September will focus on tolerance and will be carried out in Arkhangelsk. Several organisations in Arkhangelsk is active in international work like Red Cross and AETAS and the organisation "Agreement" that works to involve immigrants in the society trough physical activities.

There is project under development that aims to ecological youth tourism.

In Arkhangelsk they have a youth government consisting of youths from NGO that give advices for the governors.

Lars Miguel, Sapmi

In Sweden the young Sámis have their own organisation Sami Nuorra. There have been one in Norway earlier, but have not been working for some years. There are several sign now that this can be revitalised on the Norwegian side. Sami Nuorra will arrange a international Annual Congress in Pite in Sweden in May and there will be participants from all Barents Countries. There will be discussions of different topics and among them the international Sámi youth gathering and the establishment of a youth organisation in Norway. The sami youth council in Norway plans to arrange a youth conference in 2010 in Sweden. There is a congress for the reindeer herders in Kautokeino this spring.

Matti Nissinen, Kainu

In Kainuu they have youth councils in schools in almost all municipalities and they have a voice in the city councils. There was an article about Rosa Oikarinen, Kainu representative in BRYC, in regional newspaper. It was focusing on that youths are moving out. The youths of Kainu are still active and possibilities to involve themselves. There are some projects aiming at immigrant families and to involve young immigrants in the local society.

Maria Östensson, Västerbotten

The BRYC member from Västerbotten is Robert Lundgren and his stand in is Adam Z. Maria had a meeting with them to discuss different youth projects and two initiatives are very interesting. One is targeted toward young sami girls and focuses on gender equality and one is a "Barents Reggae, Rock and Rights tour" that focuses on human rights. Both are spin-offs from the Yeah Right event in Luleå last year. Umeå is trying to become the cultural capital of Europe 2014 and arrange a lot of events and in this work have a focus on Sámi culture and heritage.

Maria Petrova, BYCO

The WGYI have a meeting in Moscow 1.-3.april and want to cooperate with BRYC and WGYI. In September they plan a ministerial meeting in Murmansk and prior to that they will arrange a youth event.

Laila Dalhaug, Norwegian Barents Secretariat

There will be arranged a Barents Sea youth conference in Hammerfest in April with 30 students from technical university of Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. Nature and Challenge arranges a nature and environment camp in Troms and their partners arranges an environment seminar in Murmansk.

There are several other projects supported like Music summer schools, Jazz festivals, Barents fashion week and more.

The Norwegian Barents secretariat support many student and teacher exchange activities. A new programme on sports is established and gives grants to international camps, matches, seminars, networking etc.

A new position at the international Barents secretariat on indigenous peoples is established and the person employed there will among other things work with a project on indigenous people and entrepreneurship.

Status for Young Entrepreneurs in Barents; we try to get finance from Nordic council of Ministries to the Swedish and Finnish part of the project.

04/09

BRYC report

Nordic council of Ministries arranged a seminar on creative industries, youth entrepreneurship and tourism in Barents and Baltic. They invited whole BRYCs board to take part and it was very informative and a good place for networking.

BRYC had a board meeting and started the planning of the new event. They will have their next meeting in Kirkenes 20.-22.march 2009.

Elena Dotsenko informed about the working group for the "Children and Youth at Risk" programme and that its maybe possible to cooperate with this group in some ways.

05/09

BRYC event 2009

Laila Dalhaug referd to the results from BRYCs meeting in St.Petersburg where a lot of time was spent on the discussions around the practical matters and the content for the event. This years event will take place in Arkhangelsk and the focus will on predudist and xenofobia. The dates for the event is set to 16.-20.september. The plan is to gather 60 youths from all the Barents countries and together set up a performance that trough different expressions will illustrate the negative effects of prejudism.

The goal is to make the participants more open towards differenceness and give the audience a good valuable experience and make them think and start a changing process. The methodology developed though the project may be used in other foras that will fight xenophobia, both NGO and public institutions

The conclusions may be summed up as follows:

- The theme must be narrowed down to the area prevention of prejudice trough common activities (theatre)
- Small youth conference on day 1 with broader topic Youth cooperation in Barents.

- It should be discussed whether to shorten the event with one day
- It should be invited people from minorities to make sure they are included
- There must be a reasonable number of participants from each country to get financing from international sources.

This event is planned just prior to the ministerial conference in Murmansk and it may collide with the youth event planned in Murmansk by the WGYF

Decision: Maria Östernson will compose a letter to the WGYF where we show our interest in cooperation and our concern about the possible overlapping in time the two events planned in September.

06/09

Barents 2010 PLUS

Maria Östernson informed about the Barents2010PLUS project in brief. A short presentation of the idea and story behind the Barents Builders was presented by Laila Dalhaug. The Barents 2010PLUS have three main topics environment, human resources and Economical cooperation. Its interlinked with the Barents programme.

The Barents Builder School is an education where the participants get the tools to realise their own project ideas. A total of 30 young people from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia will receive a basic training in realising their own projects. These participants shall in turn train app 5 young people from their local community, and the project will as a result reach 150 young people in the Barents region. The participants will get a crossborder-builder training that gives them the possibility to build constructive organisations and increase the tolerance in the region by transnational cooperation.

Lars Miguel Utsi suggested contacting LNU to get some of their experiences trough working with similar issues.

Decision: The Working Group support the idea of including the Barents Builders as a part of the Human Recourses chapter of the programme

07/09

Information

Laila informed about www.barentsyouth.org and that it's a good idea to publish news there about already implemented or upcoming events

08/08

Other Issues

Next meeting will be in Arkhangelsk during the BRYC-event