



THE BARENTS WORKING GROUPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Name of the Working Group: BEATA and the Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period: Finland took over from Norway 26 October 2021 and Västerbotten took over the Chairmanship of the Regional Working Group on Transport and Logistics from Oulu June 2021.

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

The Luleå Declaration from 2019 formed the priorities for the work program under the Norwegian Chair. Two main priorities were set up, first the work to analyze and improve the 24 hours resting areas for drivers of heavy goods vehicles, then to contribute to dissemination of knowledge and best practises in transport in order to decarbonize and make transport safe and efficient.

The priority for the Regional working group is the Barents Region Transport and Logistics project (BRTL) which is done in close cooperation with Beata. A pilot study on 24-hour rest areas has been conducted in 2021. The pilot was about camera monitoring of the rest areas in Buktamoen (Norway) and Töre (Sweden). With an app solution it was possible for drives to predict the possibility to find a place to park at the truck stop for rest.

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

All the events and activities under the Norwegian Presidency have been carried out on digital platforms. In 2021 we have held two Steering Committee meetings and one joint meeting with the regional working group. We organised one Ministerial/high level Meeting and three webinars. Main topics for the steering committee have been the report on 24 hour resting areas, discussion between the working groups to merge and preparation of the Ministerial Meeting.

There have been one meeting with the RWGTL and regular meetings, workshops and seminars within the BRTL project.

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

Webinar on sustainable aviation in February: Status for the development of low and zero emissions solutions in aviation, initiatives and plans in the region

Railway and logistics in April: The role of the railways as carrier of goods in Barents, examples from border crossing lines, long term planning and dealing with the bottle necks

Sustainable shipping in the Arctic in October: Perspectives on shipping from the Arctic Council, the importance of education and competence, search and rescue, information services and sustainability

Webinar on Transport and Logistics in the Barents Region held 19th of May organized by the BRTL project.

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

The webinars intended to cast light upon the current state of innovation and technology contributing to more sustainable and safe transports, providing examples for learning and inspiration. There were many good interventions, and we are pleased with the outcome of the webinars, thanks to the speakers and participants from the four countries.

We initiated a process with the regional working group on transport and logistics to merge the groups in order to improve the cooperation. The cooperation and relation between the groups are good, but with an unleashed potential. We reached an overall agreement, based on a joint memo from the chairs of the working groups. The design and structure of the merged working group will be elaborated under the Finnish Presidency.

The Finnish members of the regional working group have taken actively part in the planning process of the forthcoming Finnish Presidency.

5. Youth involvement (how has the working group included young people or worked with youth issues during the year)

6. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

2021 has been a year with many events and a high level of activity. We have achieved the objectives regarding the report on 24 hour resting areas and the series of webinars. Development of a new merged transport cooperation will improve the performance and pave the way for the future transport cooperation in the Barents region.

The BRTL project proceeds as planned. The project has been prolonged until 2022 because of the Covid 19 situation. The extra months will be devoted to dissemination of the results of the project and planning ahead for to proceed with the issues raised.

7. Other