



BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL
WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT
Russian Chairmanship 2014-2015

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WGE Chair

Russian chairmanship in WGE

- Continuing the work in the five core thematic areas
 - Barents Environmental Hot Spots
 - Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption
 - Nature Protection
 - Water issues
 - Climate change
- Focus on implementation of practical measures and enhancement of regional engagement
- WGE had 4 meetings during two years: Petrozavodsk (April, 2014), Arkhangelsk (December, 2014), Naryan-Mar (June, 2015) and Syktyvkar (November, 2015)
Subgroup meetings were held back-to-back

Subgroup on Environmental Hot Spots

- Implementation of the Hot Spot exclusion procedure at the remaining 36 Hot Spots in the Russian part of the Barents region

- Promotion of the development and implementation of relevant investment projects

Continuation of the close co-operation with the IFIs

- Strengthening the regional involvement

Introduction of the **new meeting format** with the aim to promote hot spot exclusion: extended Hot Spot meetings in the regions with the participation of WGE SHE, WGE CPESC, regional hot spot exclusion groups, hot spot owners and international financing institutions

Subgroup on Cleaner Production and Environmentally Sound Consumption

- project on education aimed at integration of training on cleaner production and environmentally sound consumption in universities within the Barents region and promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns
- promotion of the sectoral approach in hot spots exclusion process
- dissemination of information on best environmental practices (BEP), best available techniques (BAT)

Nature Protection Subgroup

- Finalization of the Strategy on Conservation of intact forests in the Barents Region
- Barents Protected Areas Network
- 8th Habitat Contact Forum in Russia (September, 2015)

Subgroup on Water Issues

- Working programme for 2014-2015 for the Subgroup on water issues emphasises the trilateral co-operation with Pasvik River and lake Inari at Finnish-Norwegian-Russian border
- The group follows closely the development of Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) for major Arctic rivers to achieve multiple global environmental benefits
- Projects with Regional WGE

Interaction with the other regional organizations

- Close cooperation with NEFCO and NDEP at the hot spots exclusion process
- Arctic Council 2015-2016 – chairmanship of USA has many priorities that are close to BEAC WGE topics: e.g. black carbon, community sanitation, freshwater security
- Arctic Contamination Action Programme: e.g. dioxines in Arkhangelsk oblast
- Arctic Council PSI (NEFCO hosts)

Thank you

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