



Umeå
Ministerial

Youth Recommendations

from the Working Groups of the
Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation

3 October 2019, Umeå, Sweden





The recommendations below have been developed by the working groups of the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation to increase youth engagement and safeguard youth issues at the heart of all areas of cooperation.

Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY)

Goal

Keep youth issues high on the agenda, ensuring that youth issues become a natural part of all aspects of the Barents cooperation. Formalise the role of the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) within the cooperation. Encourage all the working groups to report on their youth-related activities in their annual reports.

Recommendations

1. Invite a representative from the BRYC to take part in working group meetings on a regular basis, as an advisor.
2. Include a question in the working group annual report template, asking how the working group has included young people or worked with youth issues during the year.

Timeline

Indefinite.

Working Group on Environment (WGE)

Goal

Increase participation of young people in the Habitat Contact Forum (HCF), including as speakers.

Recommendation

Invite young people to take part in the HCF, which is held every second year in the Barents region.

Timeline

Indefinite. The latest HCF was held in Murmansk in June 2019. Young people from across the Barents region attended the event.

Barents Forest Sector Network (BFSN)

Goal

Stimulate young people's interest in forest-related education and careers to increase the number of young people working in the forestry sector in the Barents region.

Recommendation

Invite young people to take part in the Forest Forums and similar events.

Timeline

Indefinite.

Steering Committee for the Barents Euro-Arctic Pan-European Transport Area (BEATA)

Goal

Decrease the number of deaths of young people in road traffic accidents, as road accidents are one of the major causes of deaths among young people globally. A goal set in accordance with the Global Goals of the 2030 Agenda to be discussed at the third Ministerial conference on road safety in Stockholm 2020.

Recommendation

Increase road safety measures in order to meet Target 3.6 of the Global Goals.

Timeline

Goal to be reached by 2030.

Joint Working Group on Education and Research (JWGER)

Goal

Improve opportunities for young students to take part in mobility programmes and build a curriculum based on courses from a variety of Barents universities. Increase quality and relevance of higher education and quality improvement of institutions.

Recommendation

Mixed Barents Campuses – establish a transnational university alliance to promote efforts that ensure Europe is equipped with highly skilled, globally competitive and qualified individuals with Barents know-how and expertise.

Timeline

Umeå University will apply for EU funding. Deadline: February 2020. If successful, a four-year implementation phase will follow in preparation for a full-scale launch of the campus.

Goal

Create an inventory of research about the Global Goals in the Barents region and engage young people and indigenous peoples in the region in discussions about the Global Goals.

Recommendation

Global Goals – take stock of current research on how well the Global Goals, their targets and indicators match the situation in the Barents region. Based on these findings organise a workshop with the participation of young people and indigenous peoples.

Timeline

Conduct a survey in the autumn of 2020. Arrange the workshop when a critical mass of engaged researchers has been achieved.

Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC)

Goal

Involve young people more in Barents scholarship activities.

Recommendation

Arrange at least two events where young people and Barents scholarship holders can meet and exchange experiences and ideas.

Timeline

Until November 2021. The first event will take place in Umeå in October 2019, when young people and the Barents scholarship holders of 2017 and 2019 will meet in a workshop together with the JWGC to discuss the possibilities digitalisation may bring for cultural exchange, consumption, production and creative business in the Barents region.

Joint Working Group on Health and Social Issues (JWGHS)

Goal

Through child rights impact assessment (CRIA), increase young people's engagement in policy-making and advocacy of their rights at all levels to improve health and social issues. Consider their best interests in services for adults.

Recommendations

The working groups should systematically conduct CRIA of their strategies, policies and activities, including the results in their annual reports.

Timeline

Indefinite.

Regional Working Group on Investments and Economic Cooperation (RWGEC)

Goal

Increase focus on young people and entrepreneurship, enhance cooperation between educational institutions and the business sector, showcase the possibilities the region has to offer, promote cross-border knowledge and experience sharing, and create regional networks. Engagement from young people in all the BEAC member countries.

Recommendation

Continue ICE (Innovate Cool Experiences) and the vocational education competition, Arctic Skills.

Timeline

2019–2020. A successful first event was held in Kirkenes in the summer of 2019.

Joint Committee on Rescue Cooperation

Goal

Increase engagement of young people in its activities.

Recommendation

Take the perspective of young people into account in the planning of future Barents events.

Timeline

Indefinite.

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP)

Goal

Help young indigenous people in the Barents region set up and develop businesses related to their culture and traditions.

Recommendation

Invite young indigenous people from the Barents region to take part in the entrepreneurship concept 'Indigee'. The concept focuses on skills such as handicraft, reindeer herding, hunting, fishing, tourism, modern design and IT which contribute towards strengthening regional development and spur the economic growth of indigenous communities in the Barents region.

Timeline

Start late second half of 2020 if funding is available with a tentative timeline ending in 2023.