

# GENERATION BARENTS

## PROGRAM Generation Barents October 2023, Joensuu (Finland)

**Monday 23 October 2023, Sokos hotel Kimmel, meeting room  
Penttilä, Itäranta 1, Joensuu**

**08:00-08:55 Registration, meeting room Penttilä**

### **PART 1 – Introduction: Get to know the Barents Cooperation (2 hours)**

**Moderators: Martin Gamst Johnsen (Chair of BRYC) and Oskar Mannelin (former BRYC member)**

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**09:00-09:30 Welcome speeches**

**Markus Hirvonen**, Chair of the Barents Regional Council, North Karelia, Finland

*Topic: Priorities of the Regional Barents Cooperation*

**Antti Virtanen**, Desk Officer for Barents and Northern Dimension, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

*Topic: Youth as a Priority Area of the Finnish Barents Presidency program*

**09:30-09:50 Introduction of Barents Youth Council BRYC and its main activities by Kosma Rönkä, the vice-chair of the BRYC**

**09:50-10:00 Break**

**10:00-11:00 Panel discussion with enthusiasts from the Barents Youth Cooperation**

*Theme: What is the Barents Region and what has the Barents Cooperation meant for the young people over the years. The panel consists of past and present enthusiasts from BRYC and the Barents Region, representing different areas of cooperation.*

1. Political cooperation: **Alina Michelle Wilhelmsen**, member of Youth Council Tromsø, Norway
2. Environment: **Juho Räsänen**, former BRYC member, North Karelia, Finland
3. Education: **Aleksander Ponomarenko**, BRYC vice member, Kainuu, Finland
4. Culture: **Sondre Sætaberget**, Museum Moderator, Tromsø, Norway
5. Sports: **Riikka Pulkkinen**, representative of Barents games, Kainuu, Finland

**11:00-12:00 LUNCH**, Sirkkala hall

**PART 2 – Vibrant and attractive Barents region (3 hours 15 min)**

**Moderators: Martin Gamst Johnsen (Chair of BRYC) and Oskar Mannelin (former BRYC member)**

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**12:00-13:40 Working life and skilled labour in the Barents region**

*Theme: What kind of expectations does the youth have for working life and entrepreneurship? What does it mean to be an entrepreneur? How do companies attract and maintain young and skilled workers and, what do they expect from workers? Trends and needed skills in future working life.*

Presentations:

- Young people's views on working life and entrepreneurship, **Emma Albert** and **Saaga Kaikkonen**, Regional Youth Council of North Karelia/ North Karelian BRYC members
- Future working life, trends and needed skills, **Mikko Dufva**, Senior Lead, Sitra
- Discussion, questions

*Short break*

- Story of the young entrepreneurs, **Antti Uotila**, CEO, Three Empty Cases Ltd.
- New Barents Way, **Nils-Gutsu Kuhmunen**, young reindeer herder and Barents Regional Youth Council Representative from Nordbotten, Sweden
- Discussion, questions

**13:40-14:00 Coffee break**

**14:00-14:20 Student and job exchange possibilities in the Barents region, Marika Oksanen, Exchange Coordinator, University of Eastern Finland**

**14:20-15:00 Panel discussion on the attraction factors of the Barents region**

*Theme: What are the attraction factors of the Barents region? How can we attract new people to the region and maintain our youth in the region?*

Panelists:

1. **Ana Basic**, employer representative from Arbonaut Ltd
2. **Marika Oksanen**, student and work exchange programs expert from the University of Eastern Finland
3. **Shaohui Zhang**, student from the University of Eastern Finland
4. **Emma Kananen**, student from the University of Eastern Finland

**PART 3 – Wrap up and upcoming activities (15 min)**

**Moderators: Martin Gamst Johnsen (Chair of BRYC) and Oskar Mannelin (Former BRYC member)**

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*Theme: In this part, we wrap up the program, sum up the main conclusions of the day and share some thoughts on the future. We will also announce some upcoming Barents Youth activities, including Bodø2024 and the BRYC annual event 2024.*

**15:00-15:15 Summary and thoughts on the future (moderators)**

- Summary and conclusions from today's conference
- Thoughts on the future and information about upcoming activities
- BRYC Annual Event x Bodø2024 (political role play)

**15:15-15:45 Coffee break**

**PART 3 – Let's have fun and get to know each other (ca 2,5 hours)**

**Moderators: Kontiolahti Outdoor**

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*Theme: In this part of the program, we will have fun interactive activities, playful competitions, and teamwork to get the participants to know each other a little better.*

**15:45-18:00 Team activities**

**19:30-22:00 JOINT DINNER, Utran Uittotupa, Uittopäälliköntie 2, Joensuu**

*Bus transfer from Sokos hotel Kimmel leaves at 19:30*

## Tuesday 24 October 2023, Sokos hotel Kimmel, meeting room Penttilä, Itäranta 1, Joensuu

9:00-11:30 Barents Regional Council (Friends of the Presidency) Meeting

11:45 Barents Cultural Scholarship Award Ceremony

12:15 Presentation of Finnish Presidency flagship project “Strengthening the management of invasive alien species in the Barents region”

12:30 Awarding the Winners of the Discover Barents Photography Competition

12:45 Publication of the Prisoners of Ice Barents comic book

14:00-15:45 Barents Euro-Arctic Council (Friends of the Presidency) Meeting