

**Agreement on the financing and functions of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO), Murmansk**

**2015**

The ministries responsible for child and youth policy in Finland, Norway and the Russian

Federation and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (formerly: the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs) have committed to the financing of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) for the years 2014-2016.

BYCO will be located in Murmansk during the agreement period.

**Finances of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)**

The ministries responsible for child and youth policy in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society have decided to finance the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) on an equal basis.

The annual budget of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) will be defined and adopted by those members of the Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY) who represent the ministries responsible for child and youth policy in Finland, Norway and the Russian Federation, and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society.

The financial contribution of each country will be subject to an annual decision made in accordance with national budgetary procedures and systems.

For the year 2015, the ministries responsible for child and youth policy in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society have agreed in principle on a contribution of 10 000 € per country.

The four countries agree to transfer their annual national contributions to the bank account of the International Barents Secretariat (IBS) by 31 March 2015. The four participating countries are also encouraged to provide additional voluntary contributions, where possible.

**Tasks of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)**

The role of BYCO is to promotemultilateral cooperation in the youth field in a way that contributes to improving the situation of young people in the Barents region. Additionally, BYCO contributes to sustainable development of the region.

**Management of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)**

The Executive Officer´s mandate derives from the Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY) and the Barents Regional Council.

The JWGY will adopt the annual Work Plan of BYCO and examine the Executive Officer´s annual report.

**Validity of the agreement**

This agreement will be valid for the period of 1.1.2015 - 31.12.2015 and it will be reviewed by the JWGY during the second half of 2015.

On behalf of the Ministry/ the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society

Date

Signature