

Minutes Joint Working Group of Youth, 12 April 2018

Participants

National:

Lotta Jarvenius Rössner	Swedish agency for youth and civil society
Karina Chuykova	Federal Agency for Youth Affairs

Regional:

Hanne Sofie Roaldsen	Troms County Authority
Mikael Bergström	County Administrative Board of Västerbotten
Susanna Lantz	Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten
Grigory Kovalev	Government of Arkhangelsk region
Ivan Zhernakov	Government of Arkhangelsk region
Minna Mustonen	Regional Council of Kainuu
Nina Merete Austad	Finnmark County Authority
Trine Grytøyr	Nordland fylkeskommune
Tiina Moisala	Regional Council of North Karelia

Other:

Inna Fedorova	BRYC
Tim Andersson	BRYC
Elizaveta Vassilieva	Norwegian Barents Secretariat
Tomas Hallberg	International Barents Secretariat
Hanna Blåhed	Pol. Sci. Student, Umeå University
Tatiana Egorova	WGIP secretariat
Eva Ekmeahag	Swedish Ministry of Foreign affairs

Chair: Lotta Jarvenius Rössner

Secretary: Susanna Lantz

Start of the meeting, Welcome to Västerbotten and Sweden

Mikael Bergström welcomed the group to Västerbotten and Sweden with a short presentation of Västerbotten, including population and municipal division.

Format of the meeting; election of co-chair and secretary for the meeting

National chair: Lotta Jarvenius Rössner from MUCF was chosen to be the national chair of the meeting and the working group during the Swedish presidency. Hanne Sofie Roaldsen was chosen to be the co-chair of the working group from the regional level for the same period.

Susanna Lantz was chosen to be the secretary of the meeting.

Presentation of participants

Each region and organisation was presented including their role and responsibilities for youth issues (for details see annex ppts).

Presentation of the Swedish Chairmanship and its priorities – Ministry of foreign affairs. Eva Ekmehag, Swedish Foreign ministry

Eva Ekmehag welcomed the convening of the joint working group on youth. Young people's issues are on the forefront of development in this region and in the world.

The Swedish chairmanship priorities were presented:

- Sustainability
- Regional sustainable development
- Human rights
- Gender equality

All characterized by openness, peace and stability, a prerequisite for development. Stressed the importance of including the indigenous peoples.

Overall priorities:

- Environmental dimension
- Economic
- Social
- Increased visibility

MFA of Sweden has developed a communications strategy which hopefully will be adopted during the CSO-meeting in Skellefteå in May.

Information regarding the 25-year anniversary in Luleå the next week (April 18). This working group will be responsible to follow up on the outcome of the conference. This includes further develop the conclusions from the conference. The results will then be handed over to Norway, the next national chair.

International Barents Secretariat (IBS), presentation of the secretariat, Barents and how other working groups are organised and working

Information from Tomas Hallberg on the International Barents secretariat and how they can assist the working group. It was stressed that the actual work within the Barents cooperation is made by the working groups.

IBS expects the working group to inform them about the members of the working group and short reports after each meeting to distribute in their channels.

In turn, IBS can provide the working group with:

- Registration during events.
- Visa support. IBS can help you with a Barents-visa. It was pointed out that members should not go on tourist visas, and members should be advised to follow the visa rules.
- Information important to you working groups.

Norwegian Barents Secretariat presentation of the organisation and the work with supporting youth activities in Barents region

Presentation by Elizaveta Vassilieva. The Norwegian Barents secretariat supports and promotes Norwegian cooperation between Norway and Russia. By bringing people together they develop close friendships. One example is a girls football team in Murmansk.

BRYC presentation of the organisation

Presentation of Barents regional youth council, BRYC.

Plans for 2018, a few examples:

- Election of new chair and deputy
- Attendance to meetings with JWGY
- Start an online community around BRYC.

Tatiana Egorova and Inna Fedorova emphasized that it's a shame that there is no BYCO office anymore and wondered if it could be restored. The message from the chair was that it's an issue of financing.

Discussion in groups on the organisation, objectives, tasks and fields of action of the working group

The group divided into two to discuss the organisation, objectives, tasks and fields of action.

Summing up and presenting the group discussions

Group 1

In group 1 the following points were discussed:

- The role of BRYC to the joint working group of youth and how to interact in the future. How can the working group help and assist BRYC?
- One way of helping BRYC is to have a project together with close contact between decision makers and the youth in the region.
- BRYC should make a long-term action plan for what issues are important next couple of years.

Group 2

In group 2 the following points were discussed:

- Joining an already existing project to quickly start working together. Erasmus+ is a good idea to start with.
- The group should be active in-between meetings. It will increase the activities.
- Exchange of good practice between the regions.
- Use the working group as communication channel between different stakeholders.
- Entrepreneurship-programs
- Contact with regional BRYC representatives to find out what ideas are out there.
- Increased communication between BRYC and the working group.

Decision on how to proceed with the Mandate, frequency of meetings and next meeting

The chair proposed that the discussion on the mandate is postponed and instead the comments will be collected digitally through e-mail. Afterwards we will formulate some sort of task force to work with the comments and formulate a new updated mandate.

Comments on the mandate is due April 22nd 2018.

BYCO Finances

The final finances for BYCO office for the period 2015-2016 were enclosed the invitation of the meeting. The office was closed in 2016, but the financial follow-up had not been presented before to the JWGY. The JWGY approved the final accounting records, and thereafter confirmed that this dossier is closed.

Meetings

The chair proposed to have at least one more meeting this year.

In-between meetings the Russian part suggested using Telegram, and would inform the participants about it via e-mail after the meeting.

The Swedish chair suggested a meeting as soon as possible before the summer.

Other issues

Tatiana Egorova has all the old BYCO documents and material in her office and asks what to do with it. The chair will return with an answer.

Arkhangelsk region invited the entire working group to the following three events:

- Arkhangelsk international youth forum "Team-29" (international status since 2011): 21 – 25 June 2018
- Arkhangelsk international Forum "In Honor of Navy and Motherland", which is dedicated to the anniversary of 325 years since the beginning of building first Russian Navy in Arkhangelsk: 18 – 20 October 2018

- International forum in Arkhangelsk “Arctic. Made in Russia” for young scientists and active youth who want to improve life and activities in Arctic: March – April 2019