

The Barents Regional
Working Group On
Youth Issues

The Regional Working group on Youth Issues

Work program

2007-2010

Approved by the Regional Working Group on Youth Issues February 2007

Work programme

Foreword

At its meeting on 5 September 2001, the Barents Regional Council decided to draw up a youth programme for the Barents Region. This was done at the direct request of the Barents Regional Youth Forum, BRYF, which was represented at the meeting and called for concrete action. The present programme is based on the conclusions from the Conference "Face the Future", which was held on 12-16 May 2001 in Tromsø, Norway. BRYF ended its work in 2003.

In the period 2003-2006 The Norwegian ministry for children and family affairs has allocated 1 mill NOK per year to support multilateral youth projects in the region. The Norwegian Barents secretariat got the responsibility of managing the fund. A youth coordinator was employed and the extra resources made a broader implementation of the programme possible.

The Barents regional committee established in April 2003 a regional working group on youth issues (RWGYI) to support the implementation of the youth programme. This group has since then been working in close cooperation with the intergovernmental working group on youth policy. They have been a very important group for the youth council and many of the activities in the Barents regional youth programme in the period 2003-2006.

The regional committee decided in June 2006 that the RWGYI in cooperation with the youth council (BRYC) should make a draft of a new youth programme 2007-2010. The regional council adopted the programme in November 2006. This indicates that RWGYI will keep up the work as a structure to facilitate the implementation of the youth programme 2007-2010.

Important conditions

The experiences from the youth programme have been very valuable and a preliminary evaluation shows that many youths from all the Barents countries have taken part and increased their knowledge about their neighbouring countries and increased their skills within sport, music, dance, environmental issues, language, entrepreneurship and so on. The main challenge has been the co-funding. Norwegian authorities have allocated 1 Million NOK (125 000 Euro) each year additionally to what the county administrations, municipalities and other funds bring in.

The most important condition for a successful implementation of a new programme is that all countries contribute with project money.

1. Organisation and networks

Aims/Goals	Tasks	Who	When
1.1 Continue the work of the regional working group for youth issues to implement the Barents regional youth programme 2007-2010 <i>(The programme)</i>	Continue the work of the regional working group for youth issues to implement the Barents Regional Youth programme 2007-2010 .	The working group	
	Support BRYC to make sure that youth have an arena and are heard and included in decision making processes and in the implementation of the Programme.	The working group	
1.2 Create broader regional networks to strengthen the cooperation	To create regional Barents foras to give BRYCers and the members in the working group useful networks and the cooperation is not so vulnerable.	The working group	
1.3 Further develop the cooperation with BYCO	Invite BYCO to all meetings in the working group and The meetings of BRYC	The working group/BS	
	Use BYCO as contact point and source for information and practical work related to international Youth activities in the region.	The working group/BS	
	Cross publish news between the websites www.byco.ru and www.barentsyouth.org		
1.4 Organize the work in the group as efficient and fruitful as possible	Influence the central working group to arrange and take part in back to back meetings and joint meetings with both the regional working group and the regional youth council	Chairman/BS	
	Look into the possibilities to arrange video conferences and meetings on the internet messenger systems	The working group	
	The Regional working group on youth issues should meet three times a year and report on its activities to the Regional Council once a year.	The working group	

	The chairmanship will be in Russia in 2007, Finland in 2008, Sweden in 2009 and Indigenous in 2010. Finland will have the position as deputy chair in 2007.		
1.5 Make the Regional Council and the regional committee feel ownership and responsibility for the implementation of the programme.	Inform about projects under the programme at their meetings and through the newsletter.	The working group	
	Work to highlight youth as one of the working areas for a international Barents secretariat and the national secretariat.	The working group	
1.6 Make sure that the youth issues are taken into account when forming policy documents for the Barents region the coming years.	Make sure that youth issues are taken into account when the new Barents programme will be worked out.	The working group	

2. Network Activities

Aims/Goals	Tasks	Who	When
2.1 Cooperate with the intergovernmental working group on youth policy	Arrange a joint meeting with the intergovernmental working group at least once a year.	Chairman	
	Cooperate with the intergovernmental group and the youth council on a youth conference/seminar on Active citizenship in 2007	The working group/ BS/BYCO	
2.2 Involve politicians and civil servants	Invite important key persons to the conferences and seminars and give continuously information about projects.	The working group	
2.3 Increase the numbers of multilateral youth projects in the region	Stimulate already established regional arrangements to expand and develop a Barents profile to their activity; festivals, seminars, camps etc	The working group	
2.4 Create arenas for cooperation with structures like the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers.	Cooperate in the arctic councils year of the arctic during the Norwegian chairmanship 2007.	The working group	
	Inform others about the programme	BS/ The	

	whenever it's convenient and possible. Look for common focus areas for future cooperation.	working group	
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3. Information flow and Youth participation

Aims/Goals	Tasks	Who	When
3.1 Encourage young people in the region to participate in the Barents cooperation and realize their own project ideas	Continuously follow up the BRYC members and recruit new ones with stand in.	Working group and BS	
	Support the youth network (BRYC) in their arrangements and expos.	Working group/BYCO and BS	
	Work towards the other structures in the Barents cooperation to give youth a voice and the possibility to take part in decision making processes.		
	Encourage and support the idea of arranging a Barents Builder School to give young enthusiasts necessary tools to implement and realize their own projects.		
3.2 Inform about the possibilities in The Barents cooperation to all exciting youth organisations	Inform about the www.barentsyouth.org and cross publish news with Info Nuorra, Ung I Troms, BYCO and other sites	The working group/ BS/Chairman	
	Whenever possible work towards having relevant information also available on indigenous languages and Russian	The working group/ BS/Chairman	

- Continually evaluate the programme and include new projects.