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***Report from the  
Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues' meeting***

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2010  
**Time:** 1300-1700  
**Place:** The Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes

**Members of the Regional working group on Youth Issues**

Maria Östensson	Chair	Sweden
Lars Miguel Utsi	Deputy chair	Indigenous repr
Anne Kenttäkumpu		Finland
Lene Hansen		Norway

**Others**

Laila Dalhaug, The Norwegian Barents Secretariat	Norway
Maria Petrova, BYCO	Russia
Lotta Jarvenius Rössner, The National Board for Youth Affairs	Sweden

## **Agenda**

The chair, Maria Östensson, welcomed all members of the working group and especially the new member from Finland, Anne Kenttäkumpu.

**Item 08/2010    Adoption of the agenda**

Agenda adopted with an addition item on the agenda on change of chairmanship.

**Item 09/2010    Adoption of the protocol from last meeting**

Protocol adopted

**Item 10/2010    Information from the regions**

New initiatives, upcoming international events. See also next item.

Maria Östensson informed about a project between FNUFF and Karelia on youth involvement. She informed about her meetings with WGYF, Eva Theisz and Lotta Jarvenius Rössner to discuss the Swedish youth event in 2011. The event will be arranged as a part of the Swedish chairmanship in WGYF.

Maria Petrova informed about the Murmansk Economic forum. She also informed about an event in Moscow in October focusing on youth participation in the Barents regional cooperation. The event gathered 4 Norwegians, 1 Finnish participant and 25 Russians. A project on youth and innovation was arranged in Murmansk under the title "Crazy Innovation".

Lotta Jarvenius Rössner from The National Board for Youth Affairs in Sweden informed about the work with the event and the financial challenges. They have been working with the follow up after the last meeting in WGYF. There has been a CBSS meeting where Eva Theisz is elected as a member.

Anne Kenttäkumpu informed about the new programme for youth involvement in Finland. Local authorities have to involve youth in local policy and must create arenas for youth to get their opinions and requests. The requests must be followed up by the authorities. There are now 61 mill Euros for youth policy in Finland. Research needs to be done. There are lots of people working with youth issues, but they are not professionals. In Lapland there is a regional strategy program where youth is priority. "Made in Lapland" is a new initiative to raise self esteem among youth.

Lene Hansen informed about some of the projects in Norway and many festivals have been arranged like Døgnvill, Riddu Riddu, Bukta, barents Jazz, FIFF, NUFF and more. The youth house TVIBIT in Tromsø is working internationally and have a link to other parts of the world in their work, for example Gaza and South Africa. They had a delegation visiting Hyperborea in Karelia and this was a great success.

A new film where youth that are passionate about their work is being made on the request from KUN (Norwegian center for knowledge and equality).

Think Mental Fashion is an NGO working with involving youth in HIV AIDS campaign and they work in South Africa and Murmansk.

Lars Miguel Utsi informed that there is an indigenous youth gathering in November. The Indigee project is on and will soon have their first gathering. During Riddu Riddu the Veps was the indigenous people of the year.

## **Item 11/2010                      Information about projects**

### **"Young researchers in the Barents region"**

The project Young researchers are looking for partners in Sweden and Finland. The aim of the project is to create a collaboration between pupils, teachers, students and teacher educators in Troms and Murmansk County through the concept of "young researchers".

"Young researchers in the Barents region" is a project which is to facilitate research on each other, with each other and in community with each other. The main goal is a Barents Finale in Tromsø in January 2013 with participants from Norway, Russia, Finland and Sweden.

### **The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour**

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour is a cultural tour about human rights for youth in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and northwest Russia – the area we call Barents. The tour aims to raise awareness about human rights and to activate youth to work locally or internationally with the areas that interest them. The tour will through its unique concept give a taste of the richness of cultures in each region.

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour will bring you:

- **School workshops** aiming to raise the awareness about human rights. Are they current for us, youth aged 16-19 living in the Barents region? How do we want to use them? And is there something missing?
- The greatest **live music show** providing a glimpse of the whole Barents region, including each country (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia) and their indigenous peoples (veps, nenets, sami).
- A **human rights festival**, free and open for everyone. Good music will be playing, there will be stands with information from NGO's on how to get organized, good fun and a lot of people.

### **Barents Builders**

This project wants to contribute to the creation of an active Area of Cooperation in Barents and The North Calotte and contribute to social integration, development of knowledge and transfer of knowledge. It is therefore important that the project includes all four countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The ingredients that make this work are tolerance, democracy, diversity, participation and social entrepreneurship, which all together is a part of the ethos in Barents Builder.

Through the Barents Builder project the Barents region can become a pioneer when it comes to active citizenship and making the most of young peoples' initiatives, and thereby create a good basis for regional and local development.

### The purpose with the project

- In the project a model will be developed to stimulate border crossing youth projects, to increase the number of contacts and cooperations/projects across borders.
- As a part of the Barents Builder model, an education and training will be developed, with the purpose of increasing the knowledge of young people of the possibilities and the competence of how to make their own project ideas a reality.
- In the Barents Builder project 28 young people will be educated in regional cross-border project work, the education to be quality assured and acknowledged through the OCN-method.
- Approx. 28 projects with regional cross-border activities will be realized as a result.
- The project's participants will also be trained to be resource persons for other young people with regards to regional cross-border projects.
- Around 150 young people in the entire Barents and North Calotte region will obtain knowledge about the region's possibilities and how one can find ways to make them a reality.
- Common activity/project for building regional cross-border awareness about the region's possibilities.

There is a need for young creative entrepreneurs to participate in a positive development of the Barents Region. It is important that young people from the different countries in the region experience the value of learning about each other and exchange and acquire knowledge together.

Due to difficulties with support to the implementation of the project we implement now a pilot.

There will be three separate workshops during Barents Builders- pilot. These will follow the development from idea, to accomplished projects and through to evaluation and development of new ones. Along the way there will be professional assistance from project managers educated from the Chaos Pilots and the Tvibit youth centre. There are three workshops where the last gathering will be in connection to the event in Kirkenes during October/November 2010 (the Barents Passion week).

### **The Barents pilots**

Two young Barents enthusiasts from Norway and Russia will spread knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment among young people and teachers in primary school and upper secondary school with regard to the North, The Barents cooperation and opportunities in the North. This will be done through lectures and workshops in a dozen cities and towns in northern Norway

Through the project participants will gain increased knowledge of the Barents Region and the northern regions, about the opportunities that exist for the exchange and cooperation in various areas with special emphasis on education, as well as gaining an increased understanding of the importance of cross-border cooperation in the north. Participants will be engaged in terms of the High North cooperation and be motivated to initiate their own projects.

### **Young Entrepreneurs in Barents**

Young Entrepreneurs in Barents II (YE II) is a business and project development project that will make it more attractive for young entrepreneurs (including social and cultural initiatives) to stay and do business as well as initiate projects in the Barents region by giving participants:

- Increased awareness about opportunities in the sector of business and social/cultural projects in the Barents Region
- Enthusiasm about the future in the Barents region
- Practical knowledge and network as tools for own participation

The aim of Young Entrepreneurs in Barents is to enhance and facilitate cross-border cooperation between young initiatives in the Barents region.

The project shall target all together 100 initiatives that live and work in the Barents Region. The target group is between 20-35 years old. Participants are recruited from creative industries, i.e. the branches of tourism, culture, trade IT, media and design. 20 fresh participants will be recruited in each country. In addition 5 participants from Young Entrepreneurs in Barents I will get a chance to further develop ongoing collaboration project through the YE II -project.

Principal applicant is Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences. Co-applicants are The Norwegian Barents Secretariat and Autonomous non-commercial organization Arctic Center of Training Specialists (Socium+). One project coordinator will be employed in each country.

Participants will go through an international business and project development program which consists of the following parts:

- 1) Young Entrepreneurs in Barents international conferences
- 2) Individual follow – up of projects
- 3) Personal development
- 4) Virtual communication

The creation of an international business network within the Barents region is the foundation of the international business and project development programme.

The international conferences will give inspiration, enthusiasm, knowledge, ideas and network to start up and continue cross-border projects.

Between the conferences, participants will be given the chance to develop themselves as international social, cultural and business entrepreneurs through international group coaching and professional mentorship. Individual collaboration projects will be followed up by offering advice and support as well as economic support for business and project trips within the region. At last, facilitation of a well-functioning virtual communication system is crucial for development of efficient cross-border businesses and projects.

## **Indigee – Indigenous Entrepreneurship**

On June 5th 2010 the Indigee – Indigenous Entrepreneurship project was launched. It aims to support up to 75 young indigenous entrepreneurs from the Barents region to develop their enterprises and business ideas. Indigee now encourages young entrepreneurs to apply for participation.

The purpose of the Indigee – Indigenous Entrepreneurship project is to develop entrepreneurship among indigenous youth in the Barents region. The participating entrepreneurs should have enterprises or business ideas closely related to indigenous culture and traditions. Entrepreneurs within reindeer herding, handicraft, fishing and hunting are possible participants, but also entrepreneurs within new areas of business such as tourism, modern design, photography, etc, are eligible for participation.

Indigee is now recruiting up to 75 participants from the four countries of the Barents region – 20 participants each from Sweden, Finland and Russia and 15 participants from Norway. Participants should be between 18-28 years old, have

an enterprise or a concrete business idea, have knowledge and understanding about indigenous peoples' culture and traditions and preferably have their business related to that.

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi is a mentoring program for Sami girls in Sweden. The project is soon to be launched and the project is looking for women aged over 20 that can become mentors.

The project is organized by the Barents Regional Youth Council, and the Sami Youth organization Sáminuorra. This autumn the project Niejda-up Sápmi Chicks will start. Now the project leaders need mentors to the project.

As a mentor you'll become a role model for girls and a human being who listens, encourages and plays an important role in young girls' lives. You get an education in Stockholm at " Fryshuset ", tutoring, and participation in a number of inspiration-events in different subjects with other mentors during the year.

### **Barents Stories- The photo book about Barents**

Photo is about seeing (and photographing) the world from new perspectives. The project emphasizes the view of the Barents region as dynamic that takes advantage of young people's driving force, which acts as a catalyst for increased cooperation locally and internationally.

In order to change the Barents, we must first transform the image in and out of our region, from static to dynamic.

By early increase young people's image of their surroundings in the north from a national game plan to a regional Barents Identity creates future opportunities for increased business cooperation and trade between the countries of the region but also provide a living community.

### **Pininga Youth Camp**

An international project is soon being implemented in Arkhangelsk. Within the project there will be rafting along the Pinega River in the Arkhangelsk region with visits to historical places and local villages located along the river.

Today tourism has become part and parcel of peoples' lives and it is becoming more and more popular all over the world. It's amazing that the number of people is growing, who choose not huge cosmopolitans and cities as their destination, but go to rural areas to camp, hike and enjoy untouched nature. What's more lots of young people are combining rural tourism with different sport activities like skiing in winter, hiking, camping or rafting.

That is why two young Barents enthusiasts decided to make an event, which will be enjoyable for the young people all over the Barents Region. Floating along the river, camping, visiting the places with deep history and experiencing Russian rich culture.

The main topic of the project is tourism. Participants will not only camp and raft, but also have some training on teambuilding and seminars and lectures on tourism and business. We want to make the event annual, attracting people from the Barents region.

**Item 12/2010    Barents Youth Event 2010 "Barents Passion Week"**  
One of the biggest challenges in the Northern areas and the one on top of the political agenda both on the regional and central level in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia is that many youngsters leave the region to live in the south and that there are very few young people from the other parts of the country who wish to live in the northern areas. That is why the region should be made attractive for the young people through knowledge about the quality of life and real opportunities in the north.

Barents Regional Youth Council is now arranging the workshop "Barents Passion Week" in Kirkenes, Norway. The aim of the project is to emphasize the good life in the High North. The project will contribute to the increase of the desire to live in and the knowledge about the quality of life there. The project will give young inhabitants of the Barents region understanding of the significance of correct and positive information and communication about the life in the north and importance about being proud of the societies we live in. It is important to let the Barents youth realize all the advantages of the life in the North as well as to get rid of all the wrong images and stereotypes that exist among the rest of the population.

80 youths are gathered from the whole Barents  
The project is initiated by the young people and is planned and implemented by and for the young people from all the Barents countries.

**Item 13/2010    The Barents Regional Youth Programme 2011-2015**  
The program is developed by BRYC and RWGYI and is to be presented for the Barents regional committee and council in Kajaani in November 2010.

**Item 14/2010    New chair**  
The chairmanship was handed over to Lars Miguel Utsi that will have the chair in the group the next two years.

**Item 15/2010    Other issues**

### **Work programme 2011-2014**

We need to look into the group's work programme at the next meeting

### **Next meeting**

Will be arranged in Umeå in March 2011

Stakeholders meeting in Oslo

A stakeholders meeting will be arranged in Oslo 29<sup>th</sup> of November to look into the possibilities of organizing the work more fruitfully in the Barents youth sphere.