

Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



WGIP MEETING,

January 8, meeting started 10.00

January 9, meeting started 9.00

Alta, Norway

Attended by:

WGIP members:

Galina Platova, nenets, Russia

Evgenii Foteev, veps, Russia

Andrei Ageev, saami, Russia (substitute member)

Lars-Anders Baer, saami, Sweden

Tuomas Aslak Juuso, saami, Finland

Piere Heaka Muotka, saami, Norway (by Skype)

Sekretariat:

Ida Holm Hansen, NBS

Tatiana Egorova, Bipo

Others:

Elna Sara, AWRH, observer

Valentina Sovkina, SWF, observer

Evgenii Galshenko, interpreter

Maria Ruchjevaja, interpreter

1/19 Approval of call-up

Decision: Call-up approved

2/19 Approval of agenda

Decision: Agenda approved

3/19 Approval of protocol from the last meeting in Kautokeino

All members of the WGIP have received the protocol before the meeting

Decision: Protocol approved

4/19 Short information from WGIP members about the situation in regions

Secretariat kindly asked WGIP members to send information by mail at least one week before the meeting

Veps, Karelia:

- Since October 2018, a language resource center for Karelians and Vepsians has been working, which is funded on a permanent basis, with state and republican funds. This

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is a rather active body on the basis of which many seminars and other events take place.

- A project was organized by the League of Baltic Peoples on the construction of traditional boats in the course of which a traditional Vepsian boat, "vepsyanka", was created.
- The project of the Ethno-Studio "Voices of Generations" - support and study of my native northern dialect of the Veps language. We hope that there will be projects to study the two other dialects. In the course of this project, children learned to work with professional equipment and prepared themselves as ethnographers. A film was also created which is dedicated to the occupation by the Finnish troops. In the film, old-timers recall in their dialects how they had to get along with a different culture.
- An anthology of modern national literature since 1999 has been published.
- On January 26-27, an expedition of MSU students worked in region, who conducted interviews with local residents on the subject of quality of life, the purpose of which was to find out what to improve for development. This project is a state program for the development of villages.
- Now there is a reform of schools and various educational institutions, which touched our rural schools. Recently, a list of schools to be abolished was leaked to regional media, and the Ryboretskaya school on Vepsian territory got into it. This is one of the schools where Vepsian language is taught. The state and the republican government considered this school not to be profitable, since there are few students there, not taking into account the importance of this school. The abolition of this school threatens the very existence of the village of Rybreka. Perhaps it is beneficial to the authorities, since there are opportunities in the village to open a company for mining, as well as the development of the road, and it is not convenient for the government to reckon with the locals. Now the public has risen against, there is an active discussion on the Internet. The message was transmitted to the deputy leader of the republic. The Head of Karelia should arrive in the village and discuss this issue, but if he decides not in favor of the village, then we will continue the struggle.
- Conference on the languages of the indigenous peoples on May 1st in Moscow. Per now there is no detailed information, it will be at the end of February. The main direction - the study of languages and the story of the most effective programs.

Nenets, NAO:

- In November 2018, a meeting of the Council on Interethnic Relations of the Russian Federation was held in Khanty-Mansiysk. The President of the Russian Federation signed a decree establishing the Fund for the Preservation and Study of the Native Languages of the Peoples of Russia. This is relevant, since the year 2019 declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The founders of the Foundation are the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation and the Federal Agency for Nationalities Affairs. We need to know the prospects of this fund and the WGIP to participate.

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- The State Duma of the Russian Federation is preparing for consideration new laws on ethnological expertise and the register of small numbered indigenous peoples of Russia. The law on ethnological expertise gives the government the authority to determine the method and procedure for assessing the damage caused to indigenous peoples of the North during the industrial development of the territory. As for compilation of the register of small numbered indigenous peoples (SNIP), it is a separate and very serious topic. The work will be carried out jointly with the All-Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the Far North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON), with its national divisions in the field. And only after the creation of the base of SNIP, to resolve issues of social support for these peoples.
- On October 26, 2018, a meeting of Arctic science ministers was held in Germany. At the event, the Vice-President of RAIPON made a report. The ministers of science in Berlin adopted a joint document, in which they recognized that the indigenous peoples of the Arctic had accumulated a wide range of living knowledge, inseparable from their culture and language. That indigenous peoples should be involved in assessing and setting priorities in Arctic research. In the speeches of ministers of the Arctic countries, it was repeatedly stressed that the centuries-old experience of the survival of these peoples, their ability to maintain natural balance, are teaching aids for the entire world civilization.
- The number of social payments for the NAO reindeer herders has been increased. We are talking about monthly social payments for working reindeer herders, annual payments for retired reindeer herders, as well as scholarships for students - children of reindeer herders.
- In 2018, the Kalevala book was first published in three languages at once - Finnish, Russian and Nenets. The publication is timed to the 85th anniversary of the birth of the Nenets poet Vasily Ledkov, who translated the text of Kalevala into the Nenets language 20 years ago. Also noteworthy is the fact that the book is decorated with Nenets ornaments on the theme "Nenets motives". They are made by children from Russia, Germany and Canada.
- In March 2019, the Congress of the Nenets people will be held in Naryan-Mar.

Saami, Kola Peninsula:

- In November 2018, the 4th Congress of the Saami people of the Murmansk Region took place, where Domna M. was elected as a member of the WGIP.
- On February 6, two important meetings took place: with the Governor of the Murmansk Region and the Chairman of the Murmansk Regional Duma. The meeting was attended by representatives of various organizations and discussed issues affecting the interests of the entire Sami people, such as:
 - Ensuring the protection of the rights of indigenous people to land. Now it is quite difficult to implement. Communities are faced with a lack of understanding on the part of officials, or even a desire to understand. And at this meeting, the governor rather sharply accepted criticism in the direction of the officials, and I hope that now it will be easier for us to resolve issues to enshure our rights.

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- The question of the mastering of fish quotas for haddock and cod. It will be decided with the direct participation of the heads of executive authorities.
- The question of saving the language. Today, the situation is critical: carriers are declining, and transferring knowledge is possible only on the initiative of enthusiasts. In 2018, a group of Sami children took part in the “Talents of the Arctic” competition organized by the FADN, the “Talented Youth” Association and RAIPON.
- Cooperation with Juoigiid Searvi. It was proposed to consider the allocation of funds for events within this organization.
- In the past three years, work was carried out on the photo album of GM. Kert (Soviet and Russian linguist, an expert on Sami and Baltic-Finnish languages. In the 50s he visited the Kola Peninsula and collected materials). The album has been released, but there are materials in the archives of Karelia that can still be used and it is necessary to continue the work on studying and digitizing.
- The question was raised about the intervention of the government of Murmansk region in the issue of protection against illegal hunting. The Murmansk Regional Duma assured that the issue is under control.
- It was noted that many issues could have been solved more actively if there was a specialist from the Sami in the governmental institution, who would be interested in solving the issues of indigenous peoples. The question will be considered and, probably, there will be such a position.

Saami, Norway:

- The law on the right to consultation was moved from the Sami Parliament to the Norwegian government. The parties decided to postpone the final statement until the end of this year.
- It was demanded that the decision on the Fosen Windmill Park be postponed until the matter is raised at the UN Committee on Racial Discrimination.
- In the framework of the UN Year of Indigenous Languages, a conference was held in February in the city of Tromsø with the participation of the Sámi from Norway, Sweden and Finland.
- The opening of the UN Year of Indigenous Languages in Paris earlier this year.

Saami, Finland:

- The renewal process of the Lappi County Health System is still ongoing. The situation is very strange. On April 14, the government changed and some proposals are not yet clear to the Finnish parliament. The main funding received strong criticism from the Sámi, since there is a 200,000 euro difference between the main funding and what is actually required.
- Our efforts to increase funding for the Sámi Parliament have produced results. 460,000 euros have been secured and are a large part of the core funding. This allowed us to pay half-time for two additional politicians, plus hire three people to the administration.
- Giellagáldu, cooperation between the Sami parliaments of the Nordic countries to synchronize the Sami languages on a more constructive basis will be developed as a result of the working group of the Sami parliaments on this issue.

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- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission process is still under discussion, but there are positive responses from all sides.
- The act of fishing is renewed. The government has taken away fishing rights from people living in Sámi areas, but now they have realized their mistake, because they are losing their support, and are now trying to return rights to people. This is clearly breaking the law, let's see what the constitutional committee of the parliament will do.
- The discussion on ILO169 was withdrawn from parliament. This process was in parliament for 4 years, because they did not ratify it. The technical conclusion, because they didn't decide anything, it means that it should be revised, the parliament declares that this is just a technical component. However, many believe that the convention will not be ratified.
- The Arctic Railway is still under discussion, the working group on this issue is still assessing the impact it will have on the area. The report will be published on February 11th. An impact assessment should be made, the indigenous point of view has not been added, even if they have asked to add. There will be a debate in the national media.
- Having completed the consideration of the case on elections to the Sami parliament, the Human Rights Committee, decided that Finland had violated the international civil rights rule by allowing people to register against the will of the Sami people. Indigenous peoples have the right to decide who is indigenous and who is not. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was ratified by many countries, including Russia, without objection. Articles 1, 3, 25, 26, 27 have been translated. We expect that the act of the Sami Parliament will be changed. The Sami Parliament will re-appeal the decision of the Supreme Court of Finland to remove the 97 people added against the will of the parliament. Consideration is being given to postponing elections to parliament in the autumn of next year so that the added Finns can be removed before the elections and so that the elections can be held properly with the right legislation. At the moment there is no response from the Finnish parliament.
- The Tana River case is still ongoing and requires assistance from other indigenous peoples. The Act, based on the Tana River, is being updated. Still at the negotiation stage.

Saami, Sweden:

- In Sweden, elections were held four months ago, and the government was chosen only 1.5 weeks ago. This is the minority government of the Green Social Democrats. Ahead of the political uncertain future.
- On the right to consultations, the former government did not present the bill to the Swedish parliament, so now the rights to consult remain an open question, but we hope that the Norwegian side will put pressure, the Swedish proposal is less than the Norwegian. The problem is money.
- The legal situation in which fishing rights were considered will be considered by the Supreme Court next year. We hope to get an explanation of the rights to fishing and hunting.

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- An OECD study by Chris McDonnell, in which Finland and Norway do not participate, will soon be published.

Sami Women Forum, observer:

- The project “The History of Sami Women”, which describes Sami women in four countries, is now coming to an end. Information is on the SWF page on Facebook.
- SNF cooperates productively with the International Forum of Indigenous Women. The question of holding a global forum in 2020 on the territory of Sapmi, most likely on the territory of Murmansk, is now being discussed.

Decision: Information is included in the protocol. On the issue of the Vepsky school in Rybreka, the organization of the Veps people, together with the WGIP, will prepare a text of the appeal to the regional authorities of Karelia on behalf of the WGIP. This information will also be communicated to the members of the CSO.

5/19 Information about last CSO meeting in Sweden, and last BRC meeting in Syktyvkar, Russia.

Information from Lars-Anders Baer and Andrei Ageev

At the last meeting of the BRC, Domna M. reported information about the work of the WGIP and the upcoming congress and summit.

At the meeting of the CSO, practical points on the mandates of some working groups were mainly discussed.

Decision: information is included in minutes

6/19 WGIP participation at UNPFII Eighteen Session: 22 april-3 may 2019

What kind of side-event can WGIP present at the forum? Who will participate?

If the WGIP takes part in the forum, then it will be necessary to prepare a side event on the cooperation of indigenous peoples in the Barents region.

Decision: the question is to be discussed

7/19 Extra financing for WGIP activities from Interreg programs.

The last call for sending the application is February 15th, so WGIP members need to discuss which aims we will apply for. One of the options is a co-financing of participation of indigenous representatives in other Working groups in the BEAC.

Decision: An application will be submitted to Interreg, the Sami parliaments of Finland and Norway may be partners. It is necessary to consider the possibilities of financing through Kolarctik.

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8/19 IV Barents Indigenous peoples Congress

Members should be prepared to discuss the program for the Congress. The draft program was sent to WGIP members in advance.

The revised draft program is attached.

Practical points:

- The Chairman, together with the secretariat, will prepare a draft resolution by the end of February.
- Possibility of borrowing translators from Sami parliaments, as a contribution to the financing of the event?
- WGIP members should send suggestions to panel discussion participants.
- Our representatives to other WGs should be invited to Lyxele.

Current budget:

- 140,000 NOK received from three regions.
- Answers from other sources are expected.

Decision: Draft resolution until the end of February. The budget must be determined before the end of February.

9/19 Second Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit in 2019

Members should be prepared to discuss the program for the Summit. The draft program was sent to WGIP members in advance.

The revised draft program is attached.

Decision: Members of the working group should send invitation lists by the end of February. From the beginning of March, the secretariat will be engaged in sending out invitations and organizing the event.

10/19 Other questions

Else Grete Broderstad, the head of the Sami Knowledge Center of the University of Tromsø, sent a letter asking whether the WGIP could become a reference group in one of the projects.

Decision: The question is postponed for discussion at the next meeting.

11/19 Next meeting

Decision: end of March-beginning of April in Inari, Finland.