

**Protocol of the 31th meeting of the Working Group
of Youth Policy of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council,
24-25 February 2010, Luleå**

Participants

Ms Sanna Puura, Finland, Ministry of Education

Ms Seija Kähkönen, Finland, State Provincial Office of Lapland

Mr Björn Jaaberg Hansen, Norway, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Mr Einar Jensen Saga, Norway, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Ms Nadezhda Karkach, Russia, Ministry of sport, tourism and youth policy

Ms Kerstin Rosén, Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office

Chair

Mr Björn Jaaberg Hansen

Secretary

Ms Maria Petrova

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Due to the absence of the Swedish Chairlady, Eva Theisz, due to illness, the working group decided that the meeting would be chaired by the representative of coming Norwegian Chairmanship, Mr Björn Jaaberg Hansen. Ms Kerstin Rosén represented Sweden at the meeting.

The chair opened the 31th meeting of the Working Group of Youth Policy of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The proposed agenda was adopted with the exception of the point on the Discussion of the new Plan of Action, and the point on the first discussion of the Swedish Presidency Event 2011. Discussion of these items was postponed to the next meeting.

New items were added to the agenda: Presentation of a draft Result report for BYCO 2002-2009, principles of BYCO financing, administrative arrangements of BYCO, possibilities for prolongation on agreement on BYCO.

Adoption of the protocol of the previous meeting

The protocol from the 30th (Stockholm, 16-17 November 2009) WGYP meeting was adopted after rephrasing the section on "**Implementation of the results of the 2nd Ministerial Conference held in Murmansk, September 2009**".

Information from the Barents Youth Cooperation Office

Work report 2009 (Annex 1)

Ms Petrova presented the BYCO Work report for 2009. The report has been specified with the amount of projects and percentages on different types of BYCOs activities. The WGYP suggested that most attention of BYCO should be paid to multilateral projects. The report in the future should also

reflect the Work plan and give some indication on what has been achieved and how and what has not been achieved.

Work plan for 2010 (Annex 2)

The Work Plan for 2010 with amendments from the previous meeting was presented by Ms Petrova. Some new lines were proposed for the Work Plan in p.6: 1) to exchange information with the IBS 2) to keep contact with the persons responsible for the youth work in the region and youth work among the indigenous people. As BYCO and IBS have the same target group they need to exchange information about their activities and plans. There should also be communication with the WG on indigenous people.

Ms Petrova should send reports to the WGYP from the attended meetings of RWGYI and BRYC. Ms Petrova will be making travel and activity plans for the coming 2 months and send them to the Chair. Number of travels was discussed – it is important for BYCO not to concentrate on Murmansk region only but also to provide services, information and education for other regions.

It could be of value to establish a BYCO profile in the social networks such as Facebook and Vkontakte to reach their members.

BYCO has to have contact with secretariat in Kiel and the Nordic Child and Youth Committee.

Financial report 2009 (Annex 3)

The Financial report was presented by Ms Petrova and the financial has been cumbersome during 2009. Intereducation was responsible for BYCO until July this year, when the National Youth Council was appointed in August.

Since the National Youth Council is an NGO, the taxation system they use differs from that of state institution Intereducation. NYC has paid 18% VAT on all the incomes. The WGYG stated that they should have been informed about this before the responsibility for running BYCO's accounts was transferred to NYC.

All countries have made their contributions to BYCO according to the agreement. Due to the changes of exchange rate Euro\RUR Russia's contribution for 2009 is 18 790 euro, the remaining 1 210 euro will be transferred in 2010.

The report was accepted by the WGYP, the remaining amount of 379 670,50 RUR was transferred to 2010.

The WGYP wished to have a representative of NYC, responsible for accounting present at the WGYP meetings to present the financial documents.

NYC should also send a letter to WGYP explaining the taxation system they use, and the difference in the taxation of salaries and VAT payments, compared with the previous accountancies.

Ms Petrova should write a short paper for the WGYP on the situation with the office costs, publications and materials and equipments, that are the budget lines that were not totally used in 2009.

Budget 2010 (Annex 4)

The outline of the 2010 budget reflecting the actual amount of transfer from 2009 and expenses on taxation was introduced by Ms Petrova.

Russian suggestions on the principles of financing were discussed. Main part of the expenses is in rubles, only travel costs are in Euros or other national currency. There was a discussing whether the budget should also be made both in rubles and in Euros. The amount of contributions were discussed, the possible raise of the contributions will be discussed at the meeting in end of 2010.

Due to the changes of exchange rate Euro\Rub and challenges for Russia to produce the exact amount in Rub the WGYP decided that in 2010 the exchange rate for the calculation of BYCO's

incomes and expenditures should be 43 Euro\Rub. The WGYP agreed that they could accept 481 470 Rub covering ordinary contribution 2010 and the remains of 2009 transfer from Russia and have a new discussion in the end of 2010.

Concerning the salary level of BYCO's personnel it was stated that it should be competitive with the salary level of other international organizations and information offices of other international organizations working in Murmansk. Possible increase of salary will be discussed at the meeting in the end of 2010.

The four countries should indicate their intention about the prolongation of BYCO after 2010 as soon as possible. The possibility for having agreement for a longer period was discussed. The WGYP decided to discuss at the next meeting this item as well as the question of increasing some budget lines.

Swedish Chairmanship Event 2011

The event will take place in Sweden in spring 2011, the WGYP will return to the discussion at the next meeting.

Plan of action

The Chair, Ms Theisz will draft a new plan of action before the next meeting.

Any other business

Result report 2002-2009

Ms Petrova presented the Result report 2002-2009. The WGYP members will look it through and send their feedback and recommendations before the Easter holidays.

Information strategy for BYCO

BYCO needs an information and networking strategy. That would help to understand how to reach different actors in the area, how the communication is functioning now and how it can be improved even more, how to link the work of BYCO with the other actors.

Ms Petrova will work out a draft of an information strategy and send it for comments to the members of the WGYP before the next meeting.

Contract with the National Youth Council

Ms Karkach gave the contracts with the National Youth Council to the members of the WGYP. The copies of the signed contract should be sent to the Ministry of sport, tourism and youth affairs of the Russian Federation and BYCO.

Items for agenda of the next meeting

It is necessary to discuss the following items at the next meeting.

1. BYCO agreement. The upkeep of BYCO, its budget, etc. Increasing the amount of contributions and what added value to the work of BYCO it will give. For what period to sign the agreement.
2. Increasing the number of staff by 50% employee, that was not possible due to the lack of funding.
A 50 % assistant could be responsible for updating the website, technical work such as answering the phone calls, emails, translations, etc. during the absence of the coordinator. That would give the coordinator a possibility for more active work in the regions.
3. Plan of action for WGYP
4. The Chairmanship Event 2010.

Date and venue of the next meeting

The next WGYP meeting will be held in Stockholm, preliminary dates are October 7-8 2010.