

Protocol of the 30th meeting of the Working Group of Youth Policy of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, 16-17 November 2009, Stockholm

Participants

Ms Emma Kuusi, Finland, Ministry of Education

Ms Seija Kähkönen, Finland, State Provincial Office of Lapland

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

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

Ms Laila Dalhaug, Norway, Norwegian Barents Secretariat

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

Ms Eva Theisz, Sweden, The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs

Ms Sophia Bongiorno, Sweden, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality

Ms Kerstin Rosén, Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Per Wallén, Sweden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Maria Östensson, Sweden, Västerbotten County

Ms Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office

Mr Lars Miguel, International Barents Secretariat

Ms Ylva Maria Pavval, Sweden, Barents Regional Youth Council

Mr Robert Lundgren, Sweden, Barents Regional Youth Council

Mr Halvard Rundberg, Norway, Barents Regional Youth Council

Chair and secretary

Ms Eva Theisz

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The chair opened the 30th meeting of the Working Group of Youth Policy of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. The proposed agenda was adopted with the amendment of the point on the *Annual report of the WGYP 2009*.

Adoption of the protocol of the previous meeting

The protocol from the 28th (Murmansk 3 September 2009) and 29th (Murmansk 23 September 2009) WGYP meetings were adopted without significant changes. Ms Karkach will send the final protocols before the end of 2009.

Information from the Barents Youth Cooperation Office and financing of BYCO

Work report 2009

Ms Petrova presented the BYCO Work report for Jan-Oct 2009. The WGYP expressed its appreciation for the work made by Ms Petrova under the problematic financial circumstances during the transitional period from Ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation to Ministry of sport, tourism and youth policy of the Russian Federation.

A discussion followed among the members of WGYP how the report could be used to show the added value of the Barents cooperation and the BYCO itself. The WGYP suggested that Ms Petrova should give more concrete examples of the work that has been done during the year and underline actions



UNGDOMSSTYRELSEN
www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se



SWEDISH CHAIR OF
THE BARENTS EURO-
ARCTIC COUNCIL
WWW.BEAC.ST

taken with some figures on how many consultations, conference etc BYCO carried out in 2009. Finland suggested that the 10 year anniversary of the youth cooperation in the region should be mentioned.

Norway raised the thought to update the Executive Summary written in 2005 to include the period of 2002-2009. The summary could be used to make the youth sector more visible within the Barents cooperation but also externally in raising visibility and promoting the work done by BYCO. The group agreed that it is important to raise the visibility of the Barents youth cooperation in general and the BYCO in particular.

Russia suggested that the web-site should become a more active tool in spreading information to young people in the region. An idea is also to coordinate the web-sites of the International Barents Secretariat, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and BYCO to care for different kinds of information to enhance efficiency. Discussions on this will continue between those responsible for these websites.

Financial report 2009

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.

No payments have been made to BYCO from October 2009 and BYCO has not yet received the Swedish and Russian contribution. Sweden informed that the Swedish contribution has been sent to the National Youth Council in the beginning of November after receiving the invoice in October.

The WGYP asked National Youth Council in cooperation with Ms Petrova to include a column for expenses in Rubel, in addition to the one in Euro, to enhance transparency of BYCO transactions. The Nordic members also reconfirmed that there is a need for an official explanation from the Russian Ministry stating that the cooperation with Intereducation has ended and that the National Youth Council is responsible for the financial administration of BYCO, including some technical information about the contract with the National Youth Council on how to transfer the contribution. The WGYP requested Russian side to send the letter as soon as possible..

Work plan for 2010

Ms Petrova introduced the work plan and budget for 2010 and the WGYP had the following recommendations;

- Formulate more concrete activities in the work plan, the full financing given
- Intensify the cooperation with the Nordic NA for the Youth in Action programme in order to find synergies and learn more about funding possibilities for youth projects in the region
- Create a more proactive information strategy –How to inform about the Barents cooperation? which target groups to reach?
- Create a “model project” which can realize and promote it as a best practice, within Youth in Action or European Youth Foundation
- Establish “Barents guides”, young ambassadors to inform about the Barents cooperation
- Investigate the possibilities of having an EVS volunteer

Budget 2010

The outline of the 2010 budget was introduced by Ms Petrova and observations were made by the WGYP that the salary of Ms Petrova should be adjusted according inflation and that if developing an information strategy the allocation for information activities can be increased. Norway proposed that the budget line for miscellaneous costs should be minimized and that the chair should be responsible for discussions with Ms Petrova about salary. The need for part-time employee was highlighted, but financial uncertainty has so far been an obstacle. A part of the budget for 2010 may be allocated to this or to the hosting of an EVS-volunteer.

It was decided that BYCO should consult the chair of WGYP on larger budget expenses, such as longer travels. The members of WGYP also decided the principal of equal co-funding of BYCO by



UNGDOMSSTYRELSEN
www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se



SWEDISH CHAIR OF
THE BARENTS EURO-
ARCTIC COUNCIL
WWW.BEAC.ST

10 000 Euro should remain in 2010. The amounts and principals of future funding will be addressed at the meeting in Spring 2010. All WGYP members will investigate internally the possibility of raising the funding for 2011 before meeting in Luleå. If joining the regional and national working groups in the future the possibility of regional co-funding should also be looked into.

Ms Petrova will send updated versions of the above mentioned documents to the WGYP.

The program of the Swedish chairmanship in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council

Ms Rosén from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the programme and focus areas of the Swedish Chairmanship in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. In addition the chair of WGYP highlighted the Swedish priorities in the youth policy field. (See annex XX and xx)

Ms Östensson from Västerbotten County and chair of the Regional Working Group on Youth Issues (RWGYI) presented the priorities of the RWGYI and MS Pavval, chair of the Barents Regional Youth Council gave a presentation on the future plans of BRYC. (RWGYI priorities – annex xx)

Implementation of the results of the 2nd Ministerial Conference held in Murmansk, September 2009

The representatives present agreed to achieve a truly joint chairmanship, initially with back to back meetings inviting BRYC to join as well. Furthermore the chairs of the RWGYI and WGYP stated that the new regional work program and plan of action for WGYP will be developed in close cooperation. Finally the aim is to investigate the possibilities to join the RWGYI and the WGYP during the Swedish chairmanship. Finally the recommendation of the Conference to establish a common working group by joining the RWGYI and the WGYP should be discussed during the Swedish chairmanship

Any other business

Annual report of the WGYP 2009

Ms Karkach will send a draft of the Annual report to the chair by December 15. The chair will finalise it and send it to all members of WGYP before end of 2009. Finally the report will be sent to the CSO by January 20 2010.

WGYP work plan 2010

The chair presented an outline of the work plan and it will be sent to the WGYP members before end 2009 in order for them to supplement. The work plan should be submitted to the CSO by January 20 2010.

Conference report

Ms Karkach will compile the conference report for the 2nd Ministerial Conference held in Murmansk, September 2009 and she asked that all statements by Head of Delegation, held in Murmansk should be sent to her in order to finalise the report.

Date and venue of the next meeting

The next WGYP meeting will be held in Luleå, preliminary dates are February 24-25 2010.