



FINNISH CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH POLICY

A SUMMARY AND COMPILATION OF ACTIVITIES DURING 2005-2007

The main objective within the youth sector of the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2005-2007 was to promote active citizenship of, information for and mobility of young people. The aim was to enhance young people's awareness of their Barents identity and to offer better opportunities for creating networks and working through them.

The chairmanship objectives were integrated into the activity of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP), which is based on the Plan of Action adopted by the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth Policy in the member states of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Tromsø 14 -16 of May 2001, and on the mandate approved by the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials in December 2002.

During the Finnish Chairmanship the WGYP had four ordinary meetings, including two joint meetings with the Regional Working Group on Youth Issues. The Ministry of Education and the State Provincial Office of Lapland were responsible for carrying out the Chairmanship.

One main achievement during the Finnish Chairmanship was to solidify the financing for the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO). The agreement regarding the financing of BYCO for 2007-2008 was signed during December 2006-January 2007 by the Ministries responsible for Youth Policy of Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. The agreement serves to formalise the administrative status of BYCO and to ensure continuity of its activities. It is being implemented through annual contracts between the Ministries and "Intereducation", the Russian authority responsible for the administration of BYCO.

Another important issue was the evaluation of the WGYP and BYCO activities. Dr Julia Zubok from the Institute for Socio-Political Research at the Russian Academy of Sciences was assigned by the WGYP to conduct an evaluation of WGYP and BYCO activities. The WGYP held an initial discussion on the evaluation report during its extra meeting on 4-5 December 2007. The aim of the evaluation was to provide elements that could be taken into account by the subsequent Chairmanships in the preparation of its programmes and thus strengthening a continuity between chairmanships.

To promote the objectives of the Finnish chairmanship, the WGYP organised, together with the Finnish Ministry of Education, two youth policy seminars titled "Youth in the Barents Region - a

lottery win or bad luck?" part I and part II. The aim of these two seminars was to examine the situation of young people in the Barents Region from different perspectives. The Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues RWGYI as well as the Barents Regional Youth Council BRYC and youth researchers were involved in the organising of these seminars. This process was useful as it provided an opportunity to deepen the themes that were elaborated and strengthen the commitment of and cooperation between those involved.

For the first time there was a direct contact between young people of the Barents region and the BEAC, as the youth participants of the second seminar delivered a joint statement to the BEAC Foreign Ministers meeting (Rovaniemi 14-15 November 2007). Inviting young people to BEAC sessions can be considered a good practice for the future.

This compilation summarizes the main documents of the Finnish Chairmanship of the WGYP.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the WGYP, the RWGYI and the BRYC and all others involved in Barents youth cooperation for their excellent contributions during the preparation and implementation of our Chairmanship programme.

The Finnish Chairmanship Team

Appendices:

- 1. Agreement on a common financing of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk for the period of 2007-2008**
- 2. Report from the seminar "Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck?" part I (Rovaniemi 27-28 August 2006)**
- 3. "Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck?" part II (Rovaniemi 12-15 October 2007) - Summary by the chairmanship + 2 appendices**
- 4. "Youth of the Barents Region: Social Integration in Multicultural Space" - Evaluation report by Dr Julia Zubok**

APPENDIX 1



Agreement on the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) 2007-2008

The Finnish, Norwegian, Russian and Swedish ministries responsible for youth affairs within the remit of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council have decided and committed themselves to extend the agreement in principle on the common financing of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) to cover the period 2007-2008. The BYCO will be located in Murmansk for this agreement period.

1. Finances

The BYCO will be financed by the governments or ministries responsible for youth affairs in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden on an equal basis. The annual minimum budget of the BYCO will be agreed upon by the Barents Euro-Arctic Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP). The financial contribution of each country will be subject to an annual decision.

2. Tasks

The overall objective of the BYCO is to facilitate multilateral cooperation in the youth field, thereby contributing to young people's living conditions and to sustainable development in the Barents Region.

As stated in the Terms of Reference of the Coordinator for Youth Cooperation in the Barents Region (25 April 2002), the BYCO shall provide information and guidance for youth groups, organisations and networks on national and international resources available for funding projects; on education in project planning, implementation and follow-up; on possible cooperation partners nationally and internationally; and on planned and ongoing youth projects and meetings in the Barents Region.

The BYCO coordinator(s) shall participate in the meetings of WGYP and in other important meetings, such as ministerial conferences. Furthermore the coordinator(s) shall keep in close contact with the regional and local administrations in the Barents Region and in regular contact with other cooperation structures and organisations active in the

northern part of Europe. The coordinator(s) shall also keep contact with the Barents Regional Council and visit all countries on a regular basis.

3. Management of the BYCO

The work plan and the annual budget for the BYCO shall be adopted by the WGYP. The BYCO coordinator(s) shall be appointed by, get their mandate from, and report to the WGYP.

4. Evaluation

An evaluation of BYCO will be made by the end of 2007.

5. Validity

This agreement will be valid for the period of 1.1.2007 - 31.12.2008 and will be reviewed at a meeting of the WGYP in the first half of 2008.

Done on _____ in _____

Riitta Kaivosoja
Director General
Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy
Finnish Ministry of Education

Done on _____ in _____

Haktor Helland
Director General
Department of Children and Youth Policy
Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality

Done on _____ in _____

Alina Levitskaya
Director
Department on Youth Policy, Upbringing and Social Protection of Children
Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation

Done on _____ in _____

Annica Dahl
Director
Division for Youth Policy
Swedish Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

APPENDIX 2



**BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC SEMINAR
"Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck?"
Part I**

**27-29 August 2006
Rovaniemi, Finland**

FINAL REPORT

Introduction

In order to promote the objectives of the Tromsø Plan of Action and its mandate, the Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP) of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council organises during Finland's chairmanship of the Council two Barents Euro-Arctic Seminars where the aim is to examine the situation of young people in the Barents Region from different perspectives. The first seminar was held on 27-29 August 2006 in Rovaniemi and the second one is scheduled for the second half of 2007. The 2007 seminar will be organised in close cooperation with the Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues (RWGYI) and the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC).

The aim of the two seminars is to examine youth in the Barents Region from various different angles. In the first seminar, the subject matter was approached through four sub-themes, which were examined both at a general level and through working group discussions. The four sub-themes were 1) young people's living conditions, 2) active young citizenship, 3) social empowerment of young people, and 4) risk in youth mobility in the Barents Region. Each sub-theme was first outlined at a plenary session by a keynote speaker, after which the participants grouped into theme-specific sessions for a more thorough discussion.

A preparatory group was established to plan the thematic content of the 2006 seminar. The group consisted of the keynote speakers, the working group rapporteurs and representatives of the State Provincial Office of Lapland and the Youth Policy Division of the Finnish Ministry of Education. The preparation was also supported by a national working group nominated by the Finnish Ministry of Education and consisting of representatives from the Ministry, the State Provincial Office of Lapland, the University of Lapland, the Finnish Youth Research Network, the Finnish Youth Co-operation - Allianssi, and the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO).

The 2006 seminar was intended for experts in the youth field. Invitations were sent to the following organisations:

- Member states of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russia) (4 representatives/country: 1 from regional and 1 from central administration, 1 researcher and 1 representative of the Barents Region indigenous peoples, where appropriate)
- Council of Europe
- Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO)
- Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues (RWGYI)
- Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC)
- Barents Working Group of Indigenous Peoples
- NORDBUK (Nordic Child and Youth Cooperation Committee)
- Baltic Sea Working Group for Youth Affairs
- National Agencies for the EU Youth programme
- Finnish Barents Presidency secretariat
- Lapland and Oulu Provincial State Offices
- City of Rovaniemi
- Universities of Lapland and Oulu
- Representatives of the media

Opening speeches

Address by Mrs. Hannele Pokka, Governor of the Province of Lapland, State Provincial Office of Lapland

Barents Euro-Arctic seminar "Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck?"
Rovaniemi, Finland, 28 August 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Mina damer och herrar,
Uvazhájemyje dámy i gaspadá,
Hyvät naiset ja herrat,

On behalf of the State Provincial Office of Lapland it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Lapland and also to the town of Rovaniemi, and to this Barents Euro-Arctic seminar.

Recently, the raw materials of oil, gas and minerals occurring in the Barents region have attracted much interest in the north from other parts of the globe. Areas previously labelled as being peripheral areas are now inspiring a totally new type of interest. The oil lying at the bottom of the Barents Sea has even led people to believe that this hidden away place of North-eastern Europe could one day become Europe's Kuwait. This was a comparison I read recently in one of Finland's biggest national newspapers.

In the future, the world will more than likely become increasingly interested in our northern regions. The advances in technology and development of the economy that results from the exploitation of these raw materials will encourage people to make investments, thereby bringing new opportunities to the area. The wider scaled utilisation of tourism does its own job at making the Barents region known, as well as introducing extremely important employment opportunities for areas with poor employment conditions. The increase in the number of jobs will attract people to relocate to the north, so the focus for migration will not always be north to south, but it could be the other way around.

We speak of gas and oil and similar resources that we hope will bring in large revenues for the north. Indeed, if well utilised, these could be of prime importance for the future of the Barents region. We must not, however, forget the most important resource of the north — the young people. This is precisely why we have convened for the seminar about to begin.

One of the themes for this seminar is active citizenship. I would like to tell you an example of youth activity in Lapland. On the provincial level in Lapland is the Youth Forum with the Youth Council on the municipal level operating in sixteen municipalities of Lapland. Young people are elected to their council posts by ballot, and the youth councils of the Lapland Youth Forum elect representatives from among their members, whose job it is to convene three times a year to discuss and impact issues. For instance, the Lapland Youth Forum has actively participated in the development of the Lapland Youth Information Portal.

The activities of the young people in the wider Barents region are evident with the BRYC, Barents Regional Youth Council. The BRYC has been active in compiling the Barents regional

youth programme. The programme is currently being revised, so the young people once more have a good chance to make an impression on how young people should be taken into consideration in activities occurring in the Barents region.

New technology and broadband connections for remote areas and more widely throughout the Barents region, makes it possible for young people to participate and to study using these internet connections. The internet has completely overturned the world of young people the past few years, and it has brought equal and modern services within the reach of these young people regardless of where they live.

Lapland is a sparsely populated, expansive country. In order to succeed, the Laplander has always had to be entrepreneurial and creative. If you ask Lappish young people today who or what comes to mind from the words entrepreneurial and creative, the answer will be Mr Lordi. Lordi is a young man from Lapland whose hard rock band won the last Eurovision Song Contest in the spring. The success has truly started a new movement in Finland: the Lordi phenomenon. The success Lordi enjoyed also inspires other young people.

With these words, I open this Barents Euro-Arctic Seminar “Youth in the Barents Region — a lottery win or bad luck?”

Welcome once more!

Address by Riitta Kaivosoja, Director General, Ministry of Education

Barents Euro-Arctic seminar "Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck?"
Rovaniemi, Finland, 28 August 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen, Madame Governor,
Mina damer och herrar,
Дамы и господа, [Dámy i gaspadá]
Hyvät naiset ja herrat,

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this Barents Euro-Arctic seminar.

The Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council have been functioning for over thirteen years. These structures were established to support and promote regional cooperation in the northernmost parts of Sweden, Norway, Finland and north-west Russia. The overall objective of this cooperation is to promote sustainable development in all its aspects: economic, environmental and social, and thus contribute to peaceful development in the northern part of Europe.

Thirteen years of cooperation have witnessed the creation of many effective programmes, projects and networks. However, many serious social, economic and environmental problems still remain. As many other parts of the world, the Barents region is in the middle of major structural changes. Globalisation, ageing populations, migration and unemployment – to mention just a few – pose challenges that also the youth sector must be able to meet.

The Barents cooperation is an essential part of a wider Northern Dimension policy. Cooperation between all regional bodies in the Northern Dimension area is crucial. The Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers, as well as the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, are forums of coordination and exchange of information. They all bring added value to the Northern Dimension.

Seven years of Barents cooperation on youth issues have been fruitful. Especially the work conducted through the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk, since 2002, has been widely commended. But more can be done.

The European Union agenda is currently coloured by a debate on active citizenship and dialogue structured from local to European level. I believe that structured dialogue is a necessary concept in the Barents context as well. In my view, we need continuous and constructive cooperation between all relevant actors in the youth field – that is policy makers at local, regional and national level, youth researchers, those active in the youth field and young people themselves.

During the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, our main objective within the youth sector is to promote active citizenship of young people. We concentrate especially on young people's participation, youth information and mobility.

We will organise a set of two youth policy seminars. The outcome of this first seminar will provide the basis for the second one. Next year, young people themselves will play the leading role in contributing to the content of the seminar. This way, we hope to create a continuum between these two seminars and take a step forward in issues that are crucial to young people in the Barents region.

During these two days here in Rovaniemi, our aim is to examine the current situation of young people from different perspectives. We have invited researchers from Sweden, Norway, Russia and Finland to speak about young people's living conditions, active young citizenship, social empowerment and mobility - all of this with the focus on the Barents region. These also are some of the main priorities in our national youth policy and legislation.

I hope that the two seminars will produce some clear political messages to be forwarded to the Committee of Senior Officials and to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. It will be up to each member country to take concrete measures to improve young people's living conditions, to encourage and motivate them to become active citizens, to prevent young people's exclusion from society, and to promote exchange of information and youth mobility within the Barents region. This is an ambitious goal, but I do believe that we will be able to reach it.

With these words, I would like to wish every success for this seminar.
Thank you!

Background papers

The four sub-themes - young people's living conditions, active young citizenship, social empowerment of young people, and risk in youth mobility - were discussed on the basis of the background papers written by the seminar keynote speakers. The papers were sent in advance to the participants so as to afford them the opportunity to apply themselves to the seminar themes beforehand. The background papers thus served as food for thought and as a basis for discussions both in the plenaries and in the theme-specific working groups.

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Theme I: Young people's living conditions

Unn Doris Bæck and Gry Paulgaard¹

The Barents Region is characterised by ethnic diversity, and major cultural, economic as well as political differences. In many respects, the differences are greatest between north-western Russia and the other nations in the Barents Region. Thus, it is problematic to speak about youth in the Barents Region as a homogeneous category, especially when it comes to living conditions. Is it at all possible to find similarities among young people in this geographically constructed area? Do young people have anything else in common other than living in what we refer to as the Barents Region?

Despite great differences within this region, I will focus on some similarities concerning important premises for young people's living conditions. Hopefully this will give us a starting point for further discussions in the working group(s). I will concentrate on both structural conditions, especially the possibilities for education and work, and cultural conditions as the symbolic meaning, understanding and evaluation of living conditions and quality of life in this region.

Two of the most obvious common features within the region are the climate and the geography. Waara (2002) has described the great distances and the climate as the most striking differences between the Barents Region and rural areas in the rest of Europe. Whereas most rural inhabitants in Germany, for instance, are only a few hours' drive from several large cities, the majority of inhabitants in the Barents Region must depend upon a local centre and must drive for one or more days to reach a larger regional centre or a town.

Another feature common to the different countries is their peripheral position. The Barents Region is on the edge, on the periphery in relation to the national centres. The periphery is often associated with remoteness, isolation from "the modern world", colonialism and resource extraction. The northern periphery, i.e. the Barents Region, might therefore be considered as the marginal edge of civilisation and the very end of the world. Gry Paulgaard has shown how

¹ Unn Doris Bæck, PhD, Senior Researcher at NORUT Social Science, Tromsø
Gry Paulgaard, Dr. Polit. Associate Professor, Department of Educational Studies,
Faculty of Social Science, University of Tromsø.

this kind of myth still exists, and how young people in the North strongly resist images of themselves as being backward and outdated (Paulgaard 2006). At a Youth conference arranged by the Barents Secretariat last autumn, where some of this research was presented, young people from Russia, Finland and Sweden also recognised this kind of image of the North.

In studying young people from northern places of varying sizes, it has been interesting to note the importance of appearing as hip and modern as possible - as in urban centres - when it comes to clothes, music, leisure activities, technological equipment and experiences from holidays abroad. Of course they know that they live on a periphery compared to Oslo, London or Paris, but their home place is also considered as a centre for those who live there, a centre where the living conditions in some respect are competitive with the conditions in urban centres further south (Paulgaard 2001, 2006)

Recently the Barents Region has also become associated with mega-projects in petroleum, hydropower and tourism, linked to high modernity and globalisation. In Norway, some have claimed this will turn the map upside down, making the Northern region “the new centre” when it comes to modern technological development, resource management and economic growth. Critics of these mega-projects claim that these changes only focus on petroleum, gas and fish – *resources in the sea* – and not on *resources on the land*, namely people, especially young people. However, how will these changes influence young people’s opportunities in this area? Could these changes indicate a turn from a “bad-luck image” to a “lottery-win image” when it comes to young people’s experiences in the Barents Region? This being said, to what extent is it possible to claim that being a young person in the Barents Region prior to these changes has been associated with “bad luck”?

Unfortunately living conditions for young people in this region have not been systematically examined and compared. Researchers from Finland and Russia are working on a project entitled “Everyday life and future plans of youth living in Karelia”, but there are no publications yet in English (Larissa Schvets and Vesa Puuronen). I am now involved in a new research project “Young people in the Barents Region – work and welfare” funded by the welfare programme of the Norwegian Research Council, led by Norut Social Science in Tromsø, involving researchers from different universities in the Barents Region. Since this project has just started, we cannot present results yet. We will therefore give some outlines about the background for this project, by focusing on what we can learn from research in different countries in the region.

One important question for the administrative bodies in the Barents Region might be: is it possible to suggest concrete measures to improve the quality of life of young people in the region? I suggest that the availability of job opportunities is one such concrete measure. Work is an important element in the life of young people (as well as adults) in the Barents Region as much as it is in other regions of the world. Studies of young people in Russia show that they place a great deal of emphasis on work when they are considering their future life (Shvets & Ilyina 2002). None of the young people studied by Shvets & Ilyina envisaged unemployment as an element in their life.

Work is important for materialistic reasons, as a means of surviving and acquiring the basic material for living. Recent analyses have shown that the meaning of work is important also in other respects (Baethge et al. 1988, Ziehe 1993, Karlsen 2001b, Paulgaard 2001, Heggen, Jørgensen and Paulgaard 2003). Work is also viewed as essential for self-development and self-realisation, perhaps even more than as a means of securing material welfare. From such a perspective, it is relevant to question the ability of a fringe region to offer jobs for young people?

Bæck (2004) has pointed out that the currently available jobs in small communities in the North of Norway are inadequate for keeping the young people in such places. The work that is offered must have qualities that go beyond the purely material, and it is often impossible to realise the most creative and modern jobs in rural communities.

The meaning and evaluation of available jobs seem to vary somewhat from one country to another in the Barents Region. Studies from Russia show that most young people look upon work as an external necessity, a means leading to material prosperity, but not as an independent value or a path to self-realisation (Titarenko 1995 (referred to in Shvets & Ilyina 2002), Shvets & Ilyina 2002)). According to Shvets & Ilyina, research into young people in Russia in the 1990s revealed a trend towards them becoming less motivated to work. Moreover, studies carried out in Petrozavodsk, show that Russian boys in rural areas seem fairly realistic in their expectations regarding their future working life, and most of them envisage doing manual work (Shvets & Ilyina 2002).

One point here is to stress that work is important for young people's living conditions, both to secure material wealth and in their experience and evaluation of the quality of life. As we know, for several years there has been an economic downturn in the Barents Region. Research within the region has shown that unemployment has been high and it has been difficult for young people to become established on the labour market. There is considerable migration of young people both within the region, from peripheral to central districts, and especially out of the region.

The migration is closely linked to the situation on the labour market. It is taking place within the region, from peripheral to central districts and out of the region to more central areas in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Studies from various parts of the Barents Region have shown that the most important reasons behind this migration are work and education (Waara 1996, Soininen 1998, Viinamäki 1999, Bæck 2004). According to Soininen (2002), in recent decades young people in Karelia and Lappland have developed a migration culture because of poor education and work opportunities.

One consequence of this is the development of an uneven age structure, particularly in small communities, as shown in studies by Waara (2002a) and Paakkunainen (2002) from the Swedish and Finnish parts of the Barents Region, respectively. Young people migrate and leave the local communities which, little by little, become dominated by old people who, in turn, become fewer and fewer. This leads to the local communities experiencing difficulty in caring for old people and maintaining other public and private services (Waara 2002a). From such a perspective, it might be possible to draw a "bad-luck image" of being young in the Barents Region.

The transition from school to the labour market is a critical phase for many young people. Young people are in a specially exposed position relative to fluctuations in the labour market because they have had little chance to consolidate their position in it. Problems in relation to the labour market at a young age may, in the worst-case scenario, lead to prolonged exclusion from employment. This has also to do with the fact that having, or not having, a job is a key factor for how people are met and perceived by others (Heggen, Jørgensen and Paulgaard 2003).

Broadly speaking, young people in the Barents Region are faced with common problems associated with working life and unemployment. At the same time, the various countries in the region have different welfare regimes which influence how welfare schemes linked with the labour market are practised and experienced. The Barents Region is, moreover, characterised

by particular cultural, religious and ethnic structures or institutions which can influence how welfare and the role played by the users of welfare services – for instance, the role of an unemployed person – are practised and experienced.

Whereas the Nordic nations have been welfare states with well-functioning schemes with regard to labour market measures, etc., for a very long time, the situation in Russia is different. The collapse of the socialist welfare society has resulted in growing problems in every sphere when it comes to social services (Milyukova 2002). A population decline, partly arising from a reduction in the lifespan in Russia and rising emigration from Russia, is leading to a drop in the domestic product and fewer resources to fund the welfare benefits secured during the Soviet period. The welfare state is being deconstructed at the same time as unemployment is rising.

There are some important common features as regards young people's status on the labour markets in the Barents Region. Unemployment has recently been rising throughout the region and the trend in unemployment among the younger age groups (e.g. 20-24 years) is particularly negative. In northern Norway, unemployment is almost three times higher in the 20- to 24-year age group than the average for this part of the country. Approximately the same figures are found in the Swedish part of the Barents Region, while the situation in the Finnish and Russian parts is still more worrying. Whereas the unemployment rate in Finland as a whole in 2003 was approximately 8%, in the 15- to 24-year age group it was 21.8%.² In Oulu, the rate in this age group was 26.9%, whereas as many as 39.9% of 15- to 24-year-olds in Lappland were unemployed. In some rural areas in Karelia, unemployment among young people is as high as 40-50%, and unemployment is currently one of the most serious economic problems in Russia (Shvets & Ilyina 2002). A feature all the areas have in common is that unemployed young men significantly outnumber unemployed young women.

What is new about the trend in unemployment here in recent years is that the opportunities in the labour market have changed in ways that make it difficult for new groups of young people to become established. Whereas well-educated people had few problems obtaining jobs during the previous downturn, this is not the case now. Reductions across the entire central government, county municipal and local authority sectors resulted in comparatively large reductions in the numbers employed in the public sector, especially in rural authorities (Pedersen & Olsen 2004). Since the public sector employs 40-50% of the work force in most local authorities in northern Norway, it is obvious that changes in that sector have considerable consequences for unemployment in these areas. As the public sector in Norway absorbs approximately 80% of people with higher education, unemployment among the well educated has risen sharply. In Norway, about every fifth unemployed person has higher education, and the same tendency is seen in the rest of the Barents Region. An indication of this is found in Finland, for example, where the population trend towards the end of the 1990s was negative in many regions where employment largely depended on the trend in employment in the public sector (Statsrådet Finland 2001).

The changes in the public sector also have great consequences for the demand for highly educated women in the work force in the northern areas, since women particularly strongly dominate the public sector here. Another feature in the Barents Region is that jobs in the private sector are also disappearing, except in larger towns and built-up areas (Pedersen & Olsen 2004). Continued rationalisation in the goods-producing industry is expected, not least because of increased global competition, whereas the service industries are growing, primarily in the larger towns (Helo & Hedman 1996, Onsanger & Selstad 2004). The eastward expansion of the

² All the Finnish figures have been obtained from the Central Statistical Office of Finland.

EU creates new challenges in the private sector, and liberalisation in relation to manpower from north-western Russia may have appreciable consequences for some segments of the labour market in the rest of the Barents Region.

The changes in the labour markets in the Barents Region have many consequences for young job seekers in the region. Recurring crises increase the chances for prolonged unemployment, which, in turn, significantly increases the chances for future unemployment. This applies to both well-educated and poorly educated people. Common features in the welfare policies linked with the labour market followed by the authorities in the Barents Region countries are that the threshold for obtaining unemployment benefit has been raised, the benefits have been limited, and other terms have been made significantly more rigorous. People who have not earned unemployment benefit rights are compelled to be financially dependent on their family or social security. In Norway, we also see that the use of labour market measures directed at young people has been significantly curtailed. The intention is to increase mobility and protect the public sector from expenses, but when unemployment rises this places increasingly more young people in difficult living situations with strong feelings of loss of welfare which, with repeated or longer periods of unemployment, has an effect on their ability to be breadwinners later in life (Halvorsen 1996, Hammer 1999, 2004).

The way young people experience unemployment is influenced by a number of factors. First, by social images of work and unemployment, and, here, cultural, ethnic and religious aspects can play a part. Second, by how they perceive their own situation relative to that of their peers (reference group) and to social images of what it is like to be young.

One question we ask in our project is what effect can the relationships of young people to the labour market have regarding their opportunities to "live out" their youth in various parts of the Barents Region? What are looked upon as key elements in a youth year in various communities? How important is it to be able to participate in leisure activities and consumption, for example? Do unemployed young people experience decisive social limitations with regard to youth culture? Does this vary for girls and boys?

The expectation gap is an expression used by, among others, Thomas Ziehe (1993) to describe the situations young people in modern societies find themselves in when dealing with choices. Modern societies offer individuals an infinite choice of opportunities and selections, and almost everything seems open for the individual to reflect on and choose between. However, this concept of opportunities often only exists at an awareness level (Karlsen 2001a). Whether the individuals actually find themselves in a position where they can exploit the opportunities is an entirely different question. Ziehe claims that, as a consequence, an expectation gap arises between dreams and realities. There is not necessarily any correspondence between what individuals expect out of life and what they are really capable of achieving. How will such a situation influence young people's experience and evaluation of their living conditions?

There are significant variations in the barriers and opportunities that young people encounter in relation to where they live, the resources of the individual person and those they encounter over time. Young people in the Barents Region are faced with special challenges in this regard. This region is today characterised by major changes linked with the local economy and the labour market. How will such changes affect the work opportunities for young people? Will unemployment still be high because the new jobs within the new industries and technologies will be occupied by experts from other regions – according to a "fly in and fly out" principle? As a result, it might be possible to claim that the Barents Region will become a region where one

comes for oil and gas, but leaves if one has ambitions? (And a place for tourists, “the noble savage” image of the North) If so, the changes probably still will contribute to considerable migration of young people both within the region and especially out of it? Therefore policies directed at young people and work opportunities are extremely important on both national and regional levels in the Barents cooperation.

Questions for discussion

- Is it possible to find concrete measures that should/could be taken by the administrative bodies – or what could be done regarding youth policy to improve young people’s living conditions in the region?
- How can a “lottery win” for young people be realised within the ongoing changes in the Barents Region? Who are the possible actors having the power and capability in this respect? And how could such a good intention be translated into action?

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Theme II: Active young citizenship in the Barents Region – preconditions and challenges

Anne Tuhkunen

It has been claimed that young people comprise a politically inactive group in contemporary society. This may also reflect inactivity in other activities in (civil) society. The reasons for this inactivity may vary. However, there may be one reason that takes precedence over all others: contemporary society focuses mainly on citizenship that involves traditional, formal civic institutions, such as political parties, and traditional civic activities, such as voting and signing petitions. These political expressions seem more appropriate for older generations, but they are not necessarily the ways in which young people prefer to act politically in contemporary society (Vinken 2005, 149). Furthermore, young people may not have enough information about political procedures and practices.

Specific features of the everyday living environment may also result in political inactivity of young people. Local living conditions and local imago may affect young people's desires and opportunities to be active and to engage in civil society. For example, local living conditions in the form of long distances and peripheral location may be obstacles for some young persons; on the other hand, low local imago or negative images and weak local attachment may have negative effects on young people's attitudes towards engagement in civil society locally. However, this does not necessarily diminish young people's will to be active in respect to the wider society.

We also have to remember that the Barents Region has both national and regional centres and peripheries of its own. Consequently, young people living in different member counties/countries comprising the Barents Region have dissimilarities in opportunities for engagement in civil society. Charting the local situation, including its strengths, weaknesses and problems, is a key element in improving and possibly even reforming local systems to find ways in which society could support young people to be more active and competent agents in our society. This charting should be based on reflective information provided by relevant research projects and local actors. Charting should be done systematically on all spatial levels of activity. These levels are: local, regional, national, interregional and international.

Charting special features of the living environment and young people's activities carried out on all activity levels may also be a way to understand young people's motivations to be either active or inactive citizens. Furthermore, we should not underestimate the value of young people's personal experiences of the local living environment and participation. Personal experiences, especially positive ones, are the basis and impetus of future engagement.

Different national, regional and local cultures and systems of political decision making create challenges in defining and promoting a "Barentsian" way of active citizenship. Local opportunities to participate in civil society may be "too local" in the vast scale of the Barents Region; therefore regional distinctiveness has to be regarded as a challenge in the process of promoting active citizenship in these areas. On the other hand, regional diversity and local ways to arrange opportunities for direct and representational influence can be seen as a source of best practice. This means that regions should be willing to develop their political practices by sharing their experiences and possibly by adopting new practices suggested by representatives of other parts of the Barents Region. This requires frequent information flows between representatives of the member countries and counties.

These aspects, mentioned in the previous chapters, set some preconditions on young people's active citizenship. Development of opportunities for direct influence is easiest and possibly most effectively carried out at local level. Participation at local level requires activity, but not just the activity of young people, i.e. their will to seize the opportunities they are given and their readiness

to take initiatives by themselves. Local decision makers have to be devoted to involve young people in the local political system and promote active citizenship. In addition to this, young people should be encouraged and offered opportunities to act not only locally but also on other spatial activity levels. Most importantly, a positive spirit of mutual understanding and trust should prevail between young people and decision makers.

Questions for discussion

Promotion of young people's active engagement in (civil) society needs information

- What might be the reasons in the Barents Region that hinder young people's opportunities or desire to engage in civil society?
- How could the opportunities for participation be promoted in the Barents Region?

Special features of the Barents Region set some preconditions for young people's active citizenship

- How can the exchange of information between different areas in the Barents Region be developed and intensified in order to promote active citizenship of young people?
- How can interaction and exchange of information between administration and young citizens be promoted? What factors affect mutual trust and understanding?

Encouraging and motivating young people to be active citizens in their own living environment

- How would it be possible to increase young people's opportunities for direct and/or representational influence at local, regional and national levels?

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Theme III: Social empowerment of young people in the Barents Region

Peter Waara

Young people in the Barents Region – standing at the crossroads of extended horizons or evaporating possibilities?

Barents in the World or the World in Barents

Adolescents growing up in contemporary Europe are, regardless of location, affected by a social and cultural change ventured by an emerging and all-embracing globalisation process (Wallerstein 1999, Castells 1998). Some scientists argue that this will lead to a complete change in life and life opportunities, in general. Established social and cultural denominators of life are abandoned, abolished and substituted with new perspectives that will alter alter the mindsets of individuals and groups. New opportunities and perspectives evolve and merge into individualised life strategies transgressing previously known patterns of social relations.

Extensive use of the Internet could serve as an example of the impact of globalisation on day-to-day activities suggesting that young people's horizons are widening. Firstly, we can identify a broken relationship between age, formal education and knowledge when analysing the use of the Internet. Adolescents and children learn to utilise these new means of communication while their parents and the elderly population, in general, are seemingly slow in adopting such technologies. Secondly, the definition of usability varies between generations. It is common that parents regard computers and the Internet as devices aimed at entertainment, while adolescents have a much broader view of their usability. Computers and the Internet, as well as the extensive communication resulting from them, have become an integrated part of adolescents' lives. Thirdly, access to knowledge and information is no longer related to the location of the user. This enables individuals to attach to virtual communities of knowledge and interaction based on mutual interest rather than spatial location. Fourthly, the distinction between production and consumption of information becomes blurred. Adolescents develop their own networks adjusted to individual preferences independently of traditional loci of information technology. And last but not least, by the mere process of sharing information on a global scale, different associations develop, altering the spatial significance of peer and reference groups as being associated with a particular place.³

These examples of possibilities associated with the Internet, give us a hint concerning the pace of change adolescents and also societies are experiencing. The Internet is one, though important, example closely associated with both a technological aspect and with a mass of transgressive social and cultural processes. We can notice several positive effects of this development. An optimistic view suggests that this development, in general, leads to increased wealth even if even if occasionally problems are identified in different parts of the world (Giddens 1999). The expected lifespan for individuals has increased, in general, all over the world; people are experiencing an increase in material wealth; more and more countries are developing into functioning democracies, etc. This is, however, not to suggest that inequalities are non-existent. On the contrary there still exists a gap between the richest and poorest countries in the world, inequalities are widening as a result of an enhanced global division of labour and the exploitation of underdeveloped areas. Yet, the level of wealth on a global scale is, in spite of persistent inequalities, revealing a positive trend incorporating democracy and liberalisation as an alternative to fundamentalism or dictatorship (Giddens *ibid.*). On a social level, we can observe the weakening of social selection based on tradition wherein life chances were distributed by heritage and legacy. Ascribed qualities, regardless of actual competence, were the denominators of career opportunities, as well as of material, social and physical health. The successive abandonment of tradition (and its guardians) could be regarded as a shift from ascribed towards achieved qualities, that is, individual

³ This development of an extensive use of the Internet is well discussed in Yndigeegn, Waara and Paakkunainen (2005). Concerning the broken links between age, formal education and ability and knowledge in Internet-based networking, see Sonia Livingstone (2001, 2002)

competence regardless of heritage, gender or other determinants of social position and life chances.

It is presumed that the production of essential products and services is undergoing a change from intensive industrial production towards a high degree of computer-aided industrial processing, as well as a growth in the service sectors. This change will surely, as time goes by, transform the class structure of society and presumably open up previously exclusive pathways to adulthood for adolescents all over the world. Present structural and cultural conditions also mean that young people are not forced to settle for, and adjust their life careers based on, locally defined 'truths' and conditions. The readiness among adolescents to migrate from their hometown if conditions are not satisfied is a matter of great concern especially for those living on the periphery.

It is not only the individual's sense of being well off, pathways to democracy or extensive interaction on a global scale or local circumstances in a global world order that are accountable in the long run. Parallel to these, environmental problems, overpopulation and diminishing natural resources associated with highly developed industrialisation are identified as threats. Research predicts climate change as a result of CO₂ pollution. Overpopulation is a pertinent issue, especially when the vast majority of people tend to gather in close proximity to coastal environments, which are regarded as particularly vulnerable to natural disasters caused by human intervention (due to global warming). Intensive interaction also means that diseases are rapidly spread on a global scale to remote areas of the world (i.e. pandemics). Economic growth in south-east Asia, China and India will affect the world supply of oil and gas, and these assets in the Middle East are currently the subject of military intervention on a global scale. Previously autonomous communities are embedded in a global order and local circumstances are affected by processes beyond the mandate and field of influence of local authorities, groups and individuals. The negative impact of altered life trajectories, freedom of choice and contingency emphasise a sense of individual rootlessness, development of new forms of human exploitation, as well as an enhanced individualisation that goes hand in hand with alienation (Melucci 1989).

In certain aspects, the development of peripheral areas reveals whether or not the impact of modernisation and of globalisation is as comprehensive as stated above. Development in the Barents area reveals a huge change in living conditions. The mining industry in Sweden and Russia is quite well developed, as also is the steel industry in Russia, Finland and Sweden. Exploitation of oil and gas assets provides job opportunities in Norway and Russia. Sawmill factories and pulp processing rely on the vast land areas in the region. Alongside the shore of the Barents Sea, we also find a scattered pattern of small fishing communities (Midré & Paulgaard 1999). Parallel to the small-scale fishing activity are industrialised fish factories that exploit the fish assets of the ocean. Tourism and recreation are important areas in the economy of the region, accentuated by the well-known Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, as well as the 'place of residence' of Santa Claus in Rovaniemi, Finland. This increasing market segment provides job opportunities for young people (albeit on a seasonal basis) and will eventually also lead to further development of this segment. A somewhat diminishing economy based on the traditional branches of small-scale fishing, reindeer farming and traditional handicrafts still survives as an important denominator of ethnic heritage.

Against this view of a universe of possibilities, we find counter-arguments stating that the impact of altered life trajectories and pathways towards adulthood are dependent still on established educational systems, labour market opportunities, leisure activities and a high density of peer groups among others. Such facilities do exist in smaller communities, but not to the same degree as in urban environments where adolescents can attend settings according to their own interest and individual lifestyles. As a consequence, young people will either adjust to locally defined life trajectories, commonly regarded as traditional, or will orient themselves toward environments providing them with opportunities adjusted to their particular interests and ambitions. For those remaining on the periphery, the impact of globalisation, at its best, becomes something one reads about in the newspaper, or experiences through national broadcasting or through the Internet. At

its worst, the local community will find its resources exploited and the ensuing profits concentrated in conglomerates far away from the periphery. Thus, any economic profit imbedded in these opportunities runs the risk of being exported to interest groups outside the particular local or regional setting. The population of the periphery will, at its best, find itself engaged in low-qualified jobs, on a seasonal basis, while the qualified jobs will be given to a well-educated labour force that will fly in to work, and fly out to live and develop in the respective local communities. Young people with interest and ambitions of educating themselves are opting for living environments that can provide them with a good supply of opportunities, most often within higher education. As a consequence, the periphery will experience an emigration of adolescents with ambitions violating the culture and perspective of the local community. Those who remain at home in the rural setting, obviously experience some threshold for attending higher education or new careers or have life perspectives not necessarily attached to urbanised milieus. Regardless of cause, the consequence will be a periphery containing people who share much the same perspectives concerning the past, the present and also future possibilities. This scenario becomes even worse when regarding young people's orientation toward urban settings, leaving behind a rural community characterised by a diminishing population base, an increasing older population and stagnation in other fields of human activity.

Unification or disintegration

In the Barents Region, people share much the same living conditions. The economy is based on traditional land use by the indigenous populations and on the exploitation of natural resources. People also share the harsh climate and experience long distances between urban centres in the region. If adolescents are interested in attending higher education, they are most likely forced to migrate to a regional centre since most small towns in the Barents Region are not large enough to sustain a university or third-level college. It is, however, far-reaching to suggest that similarities like the ones described above both structurally as well as culturally are integrative and supportive of a particular 'Barentsian' identity.⁴ Here, as elsewhere, one of the main denominators of adolescents' identity formation is the disembedding of practice in modern society (Giddens 1990). Regardless of spatial location, young people are able to relate and adjust to a global supply of images and role models. From this it follows that identity becomes less related to a particular location than ever before, since the identity of modern youth (as it is assumed) is regarded as 'fluid' or 'plastic', thus changeable, and this enables young people to adapt and adjust to a wide set of easily accessible opportunities in their daily activities.

This implies that young people attach themselves to formations not necessarily related to the community or region they reside in. Access to the media and the educational system provides young people with a supply of ready-made images of 'being in the world' which they utilise and against which they match their identity formation. All together, this development does not support the creation of a mutual Barentsian identity commonly shared by adolescents in Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway. Unification and conglomeration do take place, though on a global scale and related to mediated influences from far away. People do not share the same language or nation nor do they experience common historical roots. Much of the daily concerns of young people in the Barents Region are also found elsewhere and beyond the Nordic/Russian hemisphere of the Barents Region.

The extensive information/communication patterns among youth alongside advancement in education (i.e. language skills) support the idea of transgressing established national borders rather than suggesting any cultural or social unification among adolescents strictly related to a spatial location. Living in the geographical outpost of Europe creates of course certain life

⁴ See also Delanty (1995) concerning the construction of a European identity and Hettne, Sörlin and Østergård (1998). Additional to this is Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities* (1991) suggesting that the prerequisite for the development of a unifying identity is that members of the area share language and information. The impact of media is an important denominator of whether or not there will develop any identity associated with a particular land area such as the Barents Region.

perspectives and challenges, but these are not unique to young people in the Barents Region. Rather, the situation described above is shared by all young people living in remote areas all over Europe (Jents, Shucksmith 2004).

In studies analysing the situation of young people in the Barents Region and around the Baltic Sea, there seem to be unifying elements among young people in the Nordic countries and a tendency towards the exclusion of young people from Russia (Soininen 2002, Waara 2002, Yndigegeen, Waara & Paakkunainen 2005). Among others, the unifying elements are the development of the Nordic welfare states since the 1950s, a balanced market economy as well as a long period of political stability, generating a view of society with opportunities for everyone. Extensive language training in schools from an early age, as well as easy access to the Internet in the Nordic countries, are two dimensions aiming towards interaction transgressing national and language borders. This could be contrasted with a view advocated by Russian youth, both accepting the developed westernised capitalism while at the same time regarding the pre-soviet era as an image of Russia's great role in the past. Irina Milykova describe this as:

Europeanisation tendencies, orientations to western patterns in policy and culture coexist with an extremely cautious attitude to the West; liberal values as regards to individual human rights coexist with a desire for a 'strong hand' and authoritarianism (Milykova 2002, 23)

Structural, political and economic factors are important to bear in mind when analysing interaction patterns. Language skills, visa regulations, as well as access to inexpensive travel routes within the Barents Region plus access to transportation facilities are factors that affect young people's actual interaction. It is rare to find any form of exchange at an interpersonal level. As a consequence, cooperation and development of mutual ventures in the Barents Region are at present mainly matters for formal authorities and private entrepreneurs as a result of the process of defining a particular Nordic dimension in the beginning of the 1990s. Regionalisation and the transgressing of hitherto closed borders (between the Nordic countries and Russia) became the buzzword in the creation of a particular Barentsian hemisphere. This process took place mainly on a political level revealing problems in creating intra-personal relations in a region characterised by long distances, a harsh climate and different languages. Efforts in making the Barents Region more unified than before are currently organised around non-governmental associations (NGOs) such as youth organisations in general, environmental organisations and ethnically defined associations (i.e. Barents Youth, Greenpeace and associations for the Indigenous people), agreements between various county representatives (i.e. networks concerning the environment, culture and education) and, on a national level between authorities (i.e. foreign departments and ministries of education and culture).

Young people at the crossroads between ruralism and urbanism

Lack of economic development, emigration and problems concerning educational opportunities, labour market participation (labour force, employment, sick leave rates, etc.), general health status, political participation and so on have during the last decades led to the launching of several governmental strategies in order to meet this situation. In the Nordic countries, labour market programmes as well as the decentralisation of higher education have been launched with the aim of ensuring a well-educated labour force and hence opportunities for mainly young people in this peripheral region. Alongside these programmes, cultural denominators are crucial for adolescents' sense of living a modern lifestyle. In general, the lifestyle of modern men/women is manufactured as being closely linked to the 'city-dweller yuppie' rather than the "Hill Billy" of the neighbouring rural town. Stories of those who succeed are established as modern myths enhancing an image of being young and successful as being closely linked to an urban-based life. These pictures also stress that young people who choose to stay in peripheral regions, will remain stunted in their personal development and sooner or later become embodied in the traditional landscape of a rural, backward, traditional and exotic community. Both the objective dimensions of economy (i.e. labour market issues, enterprise structures, differentiation of the labour market, etc) and the social

situation of any community (i.e. patterns of emigration, lack of peer groups), as well as subjective impressions of how one wants life to develop, are the result of processes beyond the individual's range and ability to change. As a consequence, individuals either are opting for a life in accordance with local facilities or are striving toward urban-anchored images mediated to them in various ways.

In order to become adult, the individual has to achieve a set of predefined key transitions often profoundly associated with a certain environment which can provide the necessary arrangements concerning finishing school, finding a job, leaving the nest and finally also raising one's own family. Each of these transitions is linked to assets such as a developed educational system, a functioning labour market, easily accessible and cheap apartments, and finally also access to peer groups. However, emigration continues to be a problem even though there are opportunities to attend higher education through information technology and distance education. A diminishing labour market, the lack of career advancement for both females and males in combination with an attachment to national and international agendas set by agencies elsewhere have given emigration a new momentum. Local circumstances are evaluated in relation to urbanised images of a modern life and young people's mindsets are often adjusted to environments different than those they meet in their local community. In comparison, the periphery becomes the 'poor country relative' while the city represents a universe of possibilities. Regarding these circumstances, the vast majority of adolescents are more or less structurally as well as culturally forced to adapt, adopt and adjust to the urban milieu and its supply of pathways into adulthood.

It is not easy to find counter-movements with regard to these trends of enhanced urbanisation (Jents & Shucksmith 2004). Dependency of labour, education and a supply of goods and services have to be taken into account when individuals are about to settle down in a community. A labour market providing employment within a qualification range suitable for well-educated people enforces migration from smaller towns to larger ones, often to regional centres in the Barents Region. Distance education (university) in the periphery (rural communities) might reinforce emigration due to the local labour market situation after finishing studies. Long-distance commuting is rare and expensive (due to low passenger density, etc.) and families are forced to find ways to overcome this dilemma by themselves. Utilising a private car narrows the access range where one lives and where one works. Also, children and their leisure activities (sport, peer groups, cinema, etc.) are important when deciding whether to live in the periphery. If leisure activities are included in the family budget, then the scope of action becomes even narrower.

In the Barents Region, as well as in other peripheral regions we can speak of both an urbanisation and a counter-urbanisation process. Urbanisation follows a traditional pattern where people living in smaller settlements move into larger ones. The migration flows go from the village to the municipality centre, from the rural municipality to the regional centre, and finally, from a regional centre to a national centre. Inter-municipal migration is mainly a matter for adolescents and young adults. In a recent study in the County of Norrbotten, Sweden, the migration statistics of 1968-2004 reveal that migration most probably occurs in the 19- to 29-year-old age interval (Waara 2005, 2007). After the age of 30, migration flows related to the life situation of people decrease. Family formation, integration into social networks where one lives, labour market position, as well as child rearing and providing a decent living situation, inevitably lead to a more settled lifestyle (Jonsson, Waara 2005). Counter-urbanisation takes place during what could be labelled as the family consolidation phase. This is the period when families are finding out that they are not in an immediate need of an urban supply of those necessities associated with the youth life stage. Yet access to a labour market, school attendance and leisure activities among the children lead families to locate to neighbourhoods close to a regional centre. As a consequence, both urbanisation and counter-urbanisation will yield a population increase in the regional centre at the expense of the periphery in the same region.

Conclusion

It is obvious that it's difficult to trace any particular common identity in the Barents Region, especially among the young citizens in the region. Any attempts to define the region as more (or less) related to any culture/indigenous population is as a consequence exclusive and will result in the eventual abandonment of any intra-cultural communication and development. It is also stated that adolescents' attempts to define themselves in terms of ethnicity is profoundly affected by the globalisation process, which can help to develop a general view concerning exploitation and oppression across a broad spectrum of indigenous populations. The combination of distant cultures being absorbed into a personal lifestyle surely reveals the comprehensive impact of the global youth culture. Thus, any reorientation toward a unique and predefined ethnicity does not match late-modern youth cultures. At the same time, the general theme against oppression and exploitation should be a reminder to politicians and the power elite, in general, that circumstances in the High North also can develop into a matter of concern on a global scale. Thus, any locally anchored development is disembedded into a global context.

The outcome of this process is marginalisation, affecting both those who remain and those migrating from the rural community/area. Those who remain become excluded from an urban-anchored and youthful lifestyle. They suffer from long periods of unemployment and have a weak relationship to the labour market. This eventually creates economic marginalisation, as well as opening the door for non-approved activities in order to make ends meet. It has been argued that the 'remainers' are less interested in participating in political activities. Instead they regard the political system as solely geared towards the 'urban upper-class' in the major capital cities, while excluding those on the periphery (Dax, Machold 2002). This binary perspective clearly defines 'Us' in the periphery/rural areas as against 'Them' in the centre/urban areas. The second leg of marginalisation affects those who choose to migrate out from the rural community. Departing from the periphery and the lifestyles advocated by those who remain will eventually disqualify the 'movers' from the local community. This *disintegration* works in two ways. Firstly, by attending higher education and advancing in their careers, the movers will disqualify themselves from the local labour market in the rural community. There are no jobs available for them within their qualification range. Secondly, migration also means shifting reference groups and gaining access to lifestyles other than the local ones. By subtle means, movers are defined more or less as traitors once they choose to leave the culture of the community. Thus *disintegration* from the local community becomes a strategy for adolescents if they opt for careers and personal development and establishing an independent life of their own, and if they are also interested in experiencing a youthful life during this intermediate period of higher education. But *disintegration* becomes also the result of staying in the home district, since exclusion is the result of a diminishing labour market, as well as the evaporating opportunities attached to seasonal and low-paid employment.

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Theme IV: Risk in Youth Mobility

Julia Zubok

Risk as a youth peculiarity

In contemporary societies, risk factors constitute a basis for social issues for different groups of young people. Not just the consequences of natural disasters, ecological catastrophes, ambivalence towards new techniques and technologies and terrorist actions, but also economic recessions, mistakes in management, and political crises across the world concern large proportions of the populations, producing in A. Giddens's terminology particular "environments of risk" with a high level of uncertainty.

From the sociological point of view, uncertainty is seen as an unclear, unpredictable situation or a process that expresses itself on the societal and individual levels in changes in the social structures and lost opportunity to govern the situations and processes. Changes in the economic structures, in the positions of social groups, identity basis and forms, a social protection system with growing individualisation do not leave any other choice just than to take a risk in order to overcome uncertainty.

At the same time, risk is a significant factor in individual self-realisation, which plays an important role in individual and social development and cannot but become one of the main elements of individual and social strategies in a changing world.

Influencing on a relatively large scale across all sectors of the population, unpredictability and uncertainty particularly affect the younger generation whose social positions are yet to be attained and established in the period of transition and during their search for a place in society. On the one hand, while experiencing risk the young become an object of influence from macro-level social processes connected with instability and malfunction of the social institutions under which young people currently live. As a consequence of the prevailing risk conditions, young individuals are permanently at risk of missing out, of not achieving their desired goal in life, be it a good education, a job (let alone an interesting one), a good career and promotion prospects, a good salary (adequate enough to be able to start a family) or a home.

Dialectically, on the other hand, the young themselves emerge as a source of risk activity and not just because of lifestyles but because of following their own ambitions, actualising social claims, new goals, experimenting with different models of self-expression and life strategies in the process of their integration into a changing society. By taking chances young people reproduce risk. Planning their career and life story in correspondence with their personal interests in different spheres of social life and demonstrating along the way a readiness for increased activity in achieving personal goals, inevitably involves risk in terms of choice and competition.

In changing societies where socio-cultural patterns are rapidly losing their effectiveness, the younger generation has to find something previously unknown, which increases risk. Moreover, young people are more oriented towards new patterns and do it with less consideration of possible negative outcomes. Most of them are driven by the hope to take a place among the winners, which increases individual positive inclinations towards risk. Thus, risk can be described as the particular state and conditions in which individuals, groups or a society fend for themselves as well as the activity that occurs under such conditions.

During the process of integration into society, youth are on a two-way transition: from the certainty provided to them by their families, or other institutions if there are no families, to the uncertainty of the relatively independent life when they are growing up; and from the uncertainty of the marginal position of not being a completely grown-up person with limited rights and opportunities for independence to the certainty of the relatively sustainable social status and identities connected

with social maturity. Risk is becoming a distinctive feature of youth as a particular socio-demographic group and turns into social conditions and a factor for one's self-actualisation that becomes not simply a barrier, but rather a significant recourse for social promotion.

Despite growing uncertainty and risks having become distinctive features of many societies in late modernity, they have passed different stages of modernisation. That is why the degree and prerequisites of risks vary from one society to another. In societies going through social change without shock, the scale of existing risks is not the same as that in those societies surviving a long-term crisis on the societal level. Societies undergoing socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural changes experience the loss of old patterns of social relations and the demise of old social mechanisms, which have lost their effectiveness. However, the new forms of social relations and social mechanisms have not yet been fully worked out. The latter cannot be easily predicted and always carries with it an uncertainty, unpredictability and risk. This situation gives rise to greater unpredictability both in the institutional functioning and in the life trajectories of individuals and groups.

Risk in youth mobility: empirical evaluation methods

Uncertainty and risk penetrate all social mechanisms, structures and relations, changing them significantly. The mechanism of social mobility is not an exception. Social mobility is seen as the process connected with achievements and changes in young people's social positions within the social structure and which expresses itself in changes of living standards, education, profession and occupation that overall determine a particular status. However, it is not only a simple transition from one group to another and from one level to another but it also involves qualitative changes in values and interests of young people. The positive changes in the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of youth status as well as value orientations in different spheres of social life are significant signs of successful youth mobility.

As is already known, the results of youth mobility depend on young people's aspirations and abilities on the one hand and existing opportunities for upward mobility provided by social institutions on the other. In uncertainty, such opportunities undergo changes, giving way to personal responsibility and individualisation with a high risk. On an individual basis, the degree of risk in youth mobility expresses itself in the opportunities for achieving a desired status by putting into practice goals and life plans in accordance with one's inclinations and talents. That is why opportunities for self-realisation, including the opportunity to find a job, to further one's education, to improve one's qualifications, to increase one's wages, to get promotion, to set up one's own business, to become protected under the law, and to enjoy prestige, are leading indicators of the social position of a group and are taken as the most important indications of youth mobility trends.

Once, on the one hand, young people become an object of influence from macro-level institutional malfunction that produce a state of unpredictability and uncertainty, and on the other hand, take risks making individual choices, actualising innovative potential in the process of transition, empirically risk is evaluated as either "environmental risk", i.e. objective risk, or "activity risk", i.e. subjective risk. The first is caused by uncontrolled social reality and is far from the individual choice of the young people. The second is connected with the free choice made by young people in favour of risk taking, particularly their life attitudes in which risky scenarios driving towards self-realisation and promotion within society occupy a leading place.

In order to reveal the influence of the features of both risk factors over youth mobility trends, several groups of the sample are taken in accordance with the assessment that they made – evaluating their life situation as one with a high level of uncertainty/instability or vice versa – certainty/stability. Another two groups of young people inclined towards changes and risk taking or towards risk eliminating and predictability. The analysis was carried out by a comparison of the indicator dynamics of different groups in accordance with the above-mentioned indicators.

Youth mobility: general trends*

Opportunities for self-realisation are the main tools of social mobility and risk control on an individual level. Comparative data show that nowadays young people can more easily find a job, get higher wages, as well as set up their own business, than was the case at the beginning of the 2000s. At the same time, there has been a failure to protect the rights of the youth and so it is difficult to find a good career. Under conditions of uncertainty the latter sources for youth mobility are at a significant risk (Table 1).

Table 1. Opportunities for self-realisation of young people

Opportunities of	Lower than average on a 7-point scale	Rank	Lower than average on a 7-point scale, in percent
Improving one's qualifications	4.59	1	24.6
Protecting one's social and legal rights	3.79	4	42.8
Finding a job	4.27	2	30.0
Making career	3.61	5	46.2
Better pay	3.86	3	39.3
Setting up one's own business	2.76	6	64.9

Source: 'Social development of Russian youth' survey data.

In general opportunities for youth mobility remain below the average; however, they vary in accordance with the type of enterprise young people work in, material well-being and area of settlement (Table 2).

Table 2. Degree of opportunities for self-realisation for young people according to different social factors (mean on a 7-point scale)

Factors		Opportunities of			
		<i>Improving one's qualifications</i>	<i>Increasing one's income</i>	<i>Making a career</i>	<i>Setting up one's own business</i>
Sector of the economy	State	4.21	2.89	3.02	2.26
	Private	3.97	3.70	3.31	3.09
Incomes and living standards	High	2.45	2.07	1.99	1.60
	Low	2.28	1.51	1.59	1.33
Area of settlement	Urban	2.64	2.06	2.04	1.69
	Rural	1.99	1.49	1.50	1.27

Source: 'Social development of Russian youth' survey data.

However, one can see there is not just a notable difference in the level of opportunities of those young people working in the state and non-state economies but that there is also a contradiction: the opportunity to improve one's qualification in the state sector does not lead to higher living standards of those employed by state enterprises while wider opportunities for career advancement and incomes growth are not being supported at an adequate level relative to one's qualifications in the private economy. Thus, skills do not necessarily lead to upward social mobility of young people. This creates the risk of a crisis in ethics and the motivation for work as important factors for social and professional growth.

The relationship between opportunities for self-realisation and material differentiation is even closer. The opportunities for better living conditions and health care, better knowledge acquisition at school, developing skills in different spheres of interest (courses, coaching, extra-curricular activities, music, sport, etc.), and entering prestigious education establishments all depend on family income and are open only to those who are wealthy. The fact that 44.8% of young people do not have access to higher education because of financial problems is evidence of the high level of polarisation among young Russians.

As the data show, the regional factor brings significant differences into the structure of youth opportunities. This traditionally existing difference turns into a crude barrier in the way of social mobility and it becomes one of the most powerful risk generators for young people living on the periphery. The most unfavourable situation is observed in rural areas where youth life opportunities are much narrower than among those living in urban areas. It is consequently reflected in the youth consciousness as estimated low mobility chances.

Objective and subjective risk in youth mobility

There is a difference in mobility opportunities among different categories of young people with different levels of risk. In order to observe the key differences, a comparative analysis of the trends is undertaken in pairs: among young people living in a life situation of objective stability or risk and young people with different orientations directed towards risk taking or risk eliminating (Table 3).

Table 3. Correlation between youth life situations and their estimations of the opportunities for self-realisation (mean on a 7-point scale).

Assessment of life situation	Evaluation of opportunities to					
	<i>Find a job</i>	<i>Improve qualifications</i>	<i>Increase wages</i>	<i>Achieve promotion</i>	<i>Achieve protection under the law</i>	<i>Set up one's own business</i>
Stability and certainty	4.15	4.63	3.97	3.57	4.09	2.45
Uncertainty and risk	4.05	4.49	3.74	3.78	4.07	2.77

Source: 'Social development of Russian youth' survey data.

Data show that in stable situations with a high level of certainty young people perceive themselves to have better opportunities to find a job, improve their qualifications and even incomes than in a situation of uncertainty and risk. However, they perceive that risk gives better chances for career promotion and business. Only protection of one's rights does not depend on life situations and remains an equally uncertain prospect under conditions of stability and of risk. The latter opportunity is still at significant risk in a changing Russia.

An even stronger correlation is found between these indicators when an analysis of youth orientations towards stability/risk (subjective risk) is undertaken (Table 4).

Table 4. Correlation between youth orientations towards stability/risk and their estimations of opportunities of self-realisation (mean on 7-point scale).

Direction of orientation	Evaluation of opportunities to					
	<i>Find work</i>	<i>Improve qualifications</i>	<i>Increase wages</i>	<i>Achieve promotion</i>	<i>Achieve protection under the law</i>	<i>Set up one's own business</i>
Stability and certainty	3.94	4.49	3.55	3.60	3.97	2.40
Changes and risk	4.30	4.77	4.06	3.92	4.40	3.20

Source: 'Social development of Russian youth' survey data.

As analysis of data presented in Table 4 shows, all indicators are considerably higher among those young people oriented towards change and risk. Obviously in taking risk they have better chances to be successful than others choosing stability and eliminating risk. There are sustainable positive changes among young people with a “risk orientation”. At the same time the data prove that the general outlook and in some areas opportunities remain on or below the average.

However, despite the fact that the level of individualisation among youth is growing from 47.1% to 56.5%, the size of the group positively oriented towards risk has decreased from 20.2 to 17.4% over the last 5 years and it is more than twice less than it was at the beginning of 1990s (37.8%). This is a response to the criminalisation of social and economic relations, an uncalculated and unpredictable risk environment, and long-term uncertainty on the macro-level.

For a more detailed examination of the objective and subjective factors of youth mobility, two of the sample groups have been analysed: first the group perceiving risk as a life situation (26.1%) and second the group perceiving risk as a personal orientation (17.4%) (Table 5). As the comparative analysis demonstrates, all indications in the first group show a decrease in successful mobility strategies. Objective risk determines mostly negative mobility trends, causes status inconsistencies, and prolongation and impediment to the transition of various youth groups. Amplifying destructive trends, this risk reveals itself differently in different areas: work, professional status, education, law protection, strengthening contradictions in the mechanism of social mobility.

As the comparative analysis demonstrates⁵, all development indicators in the first group show a decrease in successful life strategies. Objective risk determines mostly negative trends of youth development strategies. Amplifying destructive trends, this risk reveals itself differently in different areas: work, education, formation of civic consciousness, communication, etc. – that also strengthens inner contradictions of self-actualisation. It also causes status inconsistencies, prolongation and impediment to the transition of various groups of youth.

The reason for this dependence lies in the area of features, defining the state of youth, living under conditions of uncertain social reality and forced risk – all being experienced with an existential feeling of fear and confusion. Risk as an objective condition of life and as a constant state of the individual might also cause special activity in the form of hope. But more often this state is experienced as a sense of uneasiness, fear and despair that binds the will. At the same time, the decline of activity may be related to the ruin of groundless hopes, which also raises the level of anxiety.

⁵ The research was carried out in 12 regions of the Russian Federation. The youth sample (of age 15 to 29) aggregated[or “totalled”] 2004 people in 1999, 2012 people in 2002. The chief of the project – Professor V. I. Chuprov ()).

The fundamental change of success indicators was discovered in the second group, who were risk-oriented and able to evaluate its possible outcome. At the same time, positive changes in the direction of life strategies took place. This counts in favour of the synergetic effects of risk as a resource for social promotion and successful overcoming of obstacles arising. However, the fact that risk attitudes are not universally spread is supplemented by advanced self-reflection – which raises the question of ways to rationalise it.

Table 5. Objective and subjective risk as factors in youth mobility.

Indications	Among youth living under conditions of risk (“objective risk”)	Among youth oriented towards risk taking (“subjective risk”)
	Risk level **	Risk level **
Youth mobility in connection with employment level		
Youth employment level in material production (%)	4	0
Youth employment level in cultural production (%)	7	-5,1***
Educational mobility		
Level of education (%)	0,8	1,4
Opportunities for entering desired education establishments (mean on a 7-point scale)	0,6	4
Level of education as value (%)	0	0,6
Quality of knowledge as a value (%)	3	3
Professional mobility		
Proportion of youth working in accordance with professional knowledge in material production (%)	6	-10***
Proportion of youth working in accordance with professional knowledge in cultural production (%)	5	0
Professionalism as the important characteristic of one’s personality (mean on a 7-point scale)	2,7	1,6
Estimation of professional prestige (%)	1,5	-1,5***
Qualification level (K)	0,15	-5,5***
Satisfaction with work (%)	2	-1***
Mobility in connection with social protection of youth		
Young people’s opportunity to defend their rights (K)	1,6	1,4

Conclusions

Strong connections exist between macro-level economic, cultural and political trends and youth. The so-called “objective” components of risk faced by young Russians are associated with an uncertain social environment and stem from the ongoing instability and its consequences in

modern Russia. Becoming an inevitable part of the social reality they penetrate into the social and personal life of young people and become determinants of the negative changes in the mechanisms of social mobility. At the same time, “subjective” components, bringing new forms of activity, play a predominantly constructive role in youth mobility and manifest as an important recourse of individual and societal development. Thus, new challenges are arising for youth policy in regard to different strategies of risk management among youth.

Questions for discussion

1. Forms and factors of youth mobility in modern societies and specifically in the Barents Region
2. Globalisation as a factor in youth mobility
3. Promoting mobility: youth policy and social technologies
4. Individual mobility strategies: lottery win or bad luck?

Notes:

*Current analysis is based on the national survey on social development of young people conducted by the Youth Sociology Dept of the Institute for Socio-Political Research (Russian Academy of Sciences). The project was headed by Prof. Vladimir I. Chuprov and Dr Julia A. Zubok. The sample includes 2012 respondents aged between 15 and 29.

**Risk level = $X_t(\text{risk})/X_t$

$X_t(\text{risk})$ – mobility dynamic among the youth group living under conditions of risk (“objective risk”) or oriented towards risk taking (“subjective risk”) over a particular period of time

X_t - mobility dynamic in the whole sample of youth

*** Contrasting meanings of the Risk level are evidence of positive changes in youth mobility trends.

Conclusions of the Working Groups

The seminar participants were grouped into four theme-specific working groups, namely: 1) young people's living conditions, 2) active young citizenship, 3) social empowerment of young people, and 4) risk in youth mobility in the Barents Region. The results of the working group discussions were reported by rapporteurs at the final plenary session of the seminar. This section of the seminar report summarises the discussions in each working group, their conclusions and possible proposals for concrete measures to be taken.

* * * * *

Working group I

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIVING CONDITIONS

Chair: Gry Paulgaard, University of Tromsø, Norway
 Rapporteur: Kyösti Urponen, University of Rovaniemi, Finland
 Participants: Bjørn Jaaberg Hansen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
 Jan Christian Marthinsen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
 Alexander Rudenko, Russia, Murmansk Regional Board for Youth Affairs
 Michael Haglund, Sweden, Ministry of Education, Research and Culture
 Petter Mahrs, Barents Regional Youth Council
 Thorsteinn Einarsson, Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues
 Elina Juntunen, Finland, Ministry of Education

Questions discussed and topics highlighted by the working group

The working group discussed the topic of young people's living conditions, particularly the diverse and unifying characteristics as well as the structural changes in the Barents Region and, on the other hand, the concrete measures and the role of youth policy in addressing the challenges and the question of living conditions in general. It was noted that the region is very diverse and that there are various differences with regard to social welfare systems, policies, problems, social structures as well as social change.

Despite the variety of differences, it is possible to identify some common dimensions and similarities of problems, such as long distances, a cold and harsh climate, high unemployment rates and low salaries. Also cultural minorities, peripheral/marginal features and rapid social change seem to be connective points.

It was noted that a very thorough analysis cannot be drawn as there is a **lack of comparative research** results concerning life situations and lifestyles of young people in the Barents Region. So far, the studies have more or less concentrated on one country within the region.

The working group also discussed **the image of the region** and how the general public and young people perceive the region. It is obvious that there are differences in how the local people see the region and how, for instance, tourists consider it.

Furthermore, **late-modern lifestyle demands** and social pressure may influence the needs and wishes of young people. An **expectation gap** may arise between the dreams and realities of young people, which may result in moving from the region if the needs and wants can no longer be satisfied in the local surroundings.

The question of natural resources was also addressed. The problem seems to be that the **multinational or "anything-but-local" companies exploit the natural resources in the region**. Thus, local people do not seem to benefit so much from the prosperity and profits yielded by the natural resources.

Conclusions of the discussion and proposals for concrete measures to be taken

The working group emphasised that **more comparative quantitative and qualitative studies** as well as **coordination of research projects** would be needed in the Barents Region. Furthermore, efforts to increase an **exchange of best practices and collaboration of authorities and research institutions** should be intensified.

It was highlighted that it would be important to **increase the understanding of features and challenges of late-modern society** in the periphery in order to better respond to the potential changes and to develop responsive policies.

The group also discussed the issue of participation and power. **Young people should be seen as a true resource**, a partner, and attention should be paid to listening also to **new types of social movements**. Innovative opportunities to participate should be developed and their scope broadened, **shifting from informing and consultation to partnership and delegated power**.

The group also discussed the question of **new forms of poverty** with regard to people's access to transportation, communication, services and employment opportunities. Political will and concrete measures are needed to bridge the gap. **Horizontal policies** should be in place and multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration should be increased in order to address these issues properly. Furthermore, attention should be paid to understanding the problems of the *"fly in - fly out population"*. One of the concrete measures could be a new share of taxes that would be allocated as a compensation for using local infrastructure.

It is important to maintain **the infrastructure, including the social infrastructure**, as it directly affects the living conditions of young people. Investments in health and social welfare services for young people are needed. Education and employment opportunities should be such that they **attract young people** to stay in the region and that they would be able to earn their living. The group emphasised that the elimination of transition problems from school to working life should be regarded as one of the priorities. The collaboration between young people, authorities, employers and educational and other relevant institutions should be promoted.

The group noted that the **opportunities provided by the ICT should be utilised more effectively**. Positive examples of the cultural industry taking advantage of ICT are, for instance, the relatively newly established game companies that employ young people in the Rovaniemi area. Also Rajarock and the Sodankylä film festival rejuvenate the region and **build positive images**. It was highlighted however that there should be more cooperation within the region, between the authorities as well as the civil society, to share the positive examples and best practices.

In conclusion, it is very important to secure the material conditions in order to enable young people to be active agents of their own life, to have real possibilities, positive attitudes and trust. Furthermore, it is essential for young people to see some future opportunities in the region with regard to their education and employment, meeting their needs and aspirations. The group also noted that it is necessary for the region to develop and maintain different forms of capital, such as financial, human and social. Success stories should be provided as encouraging examples and to build an attractive image of the region.

Working group II

ACTIVE YOUNG CITIZENSHIP IN THE BARENTS REGION

Chair: Anne Tuhkunen, University of Tampere, Finland
 Rapporteur: Jaana Lähteenmaa, Finnish Youth Research Network, Finland
 Participants: Helge Hellberg, Baltic Sea Secretariat
 Galina Kupriyanova, Council of Europe
 Nasiyat Shirinova, Russia, Federal Agency on Education
 Laila Dalhaug, Norway, Barents Secretariat
 Tove Andersen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
 Olli Saarela, Finland, Ministry of Education
 Liisa Männistö, Finland, Ministry of Education

Questions discussed and topics highlighted by the working group

The working group discussed the term “active citizenship.” The group agreed that we should promote the use of – and speak about – **”active citizenships” (plural) – instead of “active citizenship” (singular)** in order to stress that there are several ways of being an “active citizen”.

In this connection, the group wanted to highlight that **not only the traditional political activities, but also cultural, social, etc., activities** of young people should be promoted in the Barents Region.

The group discussed certain ethical questions, such as **instrumentalising the young people** – as the future labour force, etc. The group wanted to highlight that the younger generation shouldn’t be “instrumentalised” – neither in thoughts nor in acts – when promoting their activity. Therefore, the motive behind promoting young people’s activity shouldn’t be how to educate them to be a good labour force – or a good “this or that” – for the future. Instead, we should promote their activities while keeping in mind that having a satisfying childhood and youth is a basic right and a value “per se”.

One of the important questions discussed was the **topic of “sensitivity”**. For example, when promoting the activities of young people and different kinds of youth groups (also) in the Barents Region, one has to take into account that the act of promoting the rights of a certain youth group may be considered a threat or even an insult by some others. For instance, promoting the rights of sexual minorities may greatly insult certain religious circles.

Conclusions of the discussion and proposals for concrete measures to be taken

The group concluded that there are many possible ways to encourage the active citizenships of young people, which have not been used effectively – or at all – in the Barents Region.

It was suggested that **municipalities or other local authorities in the Barents Region could be encouraged to consider the views of local young people**. In Norway, for instance, a certain kind of “development money” is given to municipalities that have consulted the local young people and can also document and prove it.

The group had also certain other proposals for concrete measures that should be taken. First of all, **the question of lowering the voting age to 16 (or even to 15), at least in local elections, should be seriously discussed**. This would be in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe, as it has made a proposal for a political debate on lowering the voting age to 15 years in

local elections. The working group agreed with this proposal, as lowering the voting age might encourage young people to be more interested in the so-called traditional politics.

Secondly, **the possibilities offered by the new technologies** – mobile phones, computers, virtual spaces, etc. – as potential means of motivating young people to take part in politics should be investigated and tested. They should be promoted especially in the Barents Region where the geographical distances are remarkable.

The working group had even more concrete and practical ideas of measures that should be taken. It was suggested that **more cross-border activities**, such as the *Rajarock* event, should be developed in this area. This would encourage young people to learn to know each other and each others' cultures in the Barents Region.

Furthermore, the working group considered it very important to **actively encourage young immigrants to take part in (citizen) activities** in the Barents Region, in all Barents countries. In that way many problems, for example those connected with racism, could possibly be avoided. It would also help young immigrants to adapt to the area and to integrate into the local society.

The working group also pointed out that the **existing good practices** of each country in the field of promoting active citizenship of young people should be recognised and that the Barents regions and countries should learn from each other.

Finally, it was pointed out that **private enterprises in all the Barents countries should be encouraged and motivated to invest money in youth projects** within the region. It was proposed that the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) would take an active role in promoting public-private partnerships.

Working Group III

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BARENTS REGION

Chair: Peter Waara, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
 Rapporteur: Heli Niemi, University of Lapland, Finland
 Participants: Mauri Uusilehto, Finland, Centre for International Mobility (CIMO)
 Veli-Matti Ulvinen, Finland, University of Oulu
 Eva Theisz, Sweden, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs
 Siri Wernberg, Norway, Representative of indigenous people
 Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office
 Seija Astala, Finland, Ministry of Education

Questions discussed and topics highlighted by the working group

The working group discussed the concepts of 'empowerment' and the 'Barents Region' in general, and pondered on what is meant by 'empowerment' in the Barents Region. The participants asked how these concepts should be defined, by whom and why.

The working group also raised questions about the image of the Barents Region in young people's life: young people's identity and the context of the Barents Region. The following questions were asked:

- Does the Barents Region context and identity exist and, if not, should it exist for young people?
- Who defines the Barents Region? Young people or politicians?
- What is the special significance of the Barents Region for young people?
- Do young people need a Barentsian identity? How can they find it and feel it?

The discussion about the empowerment of young people in the Barents Region was approached from the following perspectives:

- **Images and identity of the Barents Region (people, living contexts, home)**

The working group discussed the image of the Barents Region by asking whether it is the "hot context". It was noted that the Barents Region concerns only very few groups of people and it doesn't interest young people so much. Young people look further and regard the other countries in Europe, North America, etc., as more interesting. Nevertheless, the image of the Barents Region is not that negative, but at the same time not that positive either.

The working group wondered whether we need the identity of the Barents Region at all. On the one hand, it was noted that we don't have it, but we need it. On the other hand, the group asked why there should be any formal Barents Region - and cooperation between the different countries - when the climate, long distances and language differences create such a huge gap between the countries in the region anyway.

The working group sought to find out how to create the image and identity of the Barents Region and why to do it. It was noted that people have to "feel" an identity. They have to find the special characteristic and the added value of the region before they can identify with it. The working group discussed possible ways to create the brand and to find the added value of the Barents Region. The Barents Region could, for example, be described as an exotic - "wild and crazy" - peripheral place where young people go to have fun at the

skiing centres, but such an image would not have just positive effects on young people. Another way is to emphasise that in relation to global youth cultures young people in the Barents Region are special on many terms. The negative image could be turned into a positive one by regarding the Barents Region as a positive place. Young people could be encouraged to regard the Barents Region as their home, where their roots are, where they have a good life and where they can always return.

The working group commented that the Barents Region has been a more political than concrete concept. The Barents Region has been defined from an adult perspective and it has been used mainly in a political framework without real content. If young people don't understand and don't know the meaning of the concept, they can't perceive the Barents Region.

- **Conditions and possibilities for empowerment**

Sustainable development of local resources

The natural resources in the region (e.g. oil and gas) and tourism create lot of opportunities for young people. These resources offer education and jobs and increase the economic level in the region, but these can't be the only benefits. The local resources bring along not only positive development but also some negative consequences. For example, the tourism centres are more places "for temporary fun" than places for "Whole Life" Working And Living. This kind of lifestyle might be damaging to young people.

Labour, education and career

The education and career possibilities have changed in the Barents Region. Previously, education was the key to employment and a better life. Nowadays, there are only limited opportunities for employment in home towns and of guaranteeing one's economical subsistence in the region even with a well-educated background. The bad economic situation gives people reasons to move out even if the quality of life might be good in the region.

In order to keep the young people in the region, attention should be paid to the educational and career opportunities. Education should correspond to the real needs in the region and it should focus on quality more than on quantity. Different opportunities for education (e.g. distance education, Open University) as well as more advanced jobs should be offered besides the basic tasks.

Social networks as the supporting communities

Social networks like family, other adults and young persons' peers, play an important role in young people's life. They should be seen as the supporting social networks that have a positive influence on young people and which create their social capital. Social networks can offer young people role models that are needed in their life.

Barents: periphery & Barentsperiphery - regional centres vs. peripheral areas

The Barents Region itself is a peripheral area comprising urban and rural areas with different kinds of living circumstances. It appears that the regional centres will continue to survive well, but the small villages as peripheral areas will need more support and attention from the policy makers.

Females & Males – gender-related viewpoints for empowerment

Young women and men have different opportunities in the Barents Region. For example, the natural resources (e.g. oil and gas) offer a lot of jobs for men, but not so many opportunities for women. Besides, many women have jobs that are below their

qualifications. The working group emphasised that as long as there are no equal opportunities for young women in the Barents Region, they will not stay there.

Majority & Minority – ethnicity-related viewpoints to empowerment

The working group reminded that young people are not a homogeneous group. There are no norms for how they should live their lives. The aboriginal inhabitants (not only the Sami people) of the Barents Region have their own special needs and they have to make efforts in relation to people who move there from other regions or countries.

Conclusions of the discussion and proposals for concrete measures to be taken

The discussion about the Barents Region context and identity can be summarised as follows:

1. The context of a Barents Region doesn't exist for young people in general. The area has to have a real meaning and an added value for young people so that they can identify with it. At the moment the concept of a Barents Region has been defined more by politicians than by young people.
2. The special value of the Barents Region could be related to the home, social networks and individuals themselves. The area could be seen as a real home for the young people where their original/primary social networks and identity exist and where they always can return.
3. It is not possible to formulate a Barents Region identity from outside of the individuals. Young people have to discover and experience it by themselves.

The working group did not make any proposals for concrete measures to be taken. As a final conclusion and a greeting, the group would like to emphasise the following point: no young person should have to regard migration as the only option to fulfil her/his dreams. Young people should be supported and informed to act within the region by inviting and involving them in the existing social networks.

Working Group IV

RISK IN YOUTH MOBILITY

Chair: Julia Zubok, Russian Academy of Science, Russia
 Rapporteur: Samu Seitsalo, Centre for International Mobility CIMO, Finland
 Participants: Thomas Roed Jakobsen, Denmark, CIRIUS
 Petra Erkkilä, Finland, Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi
 Jukka Nikulainen, Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 Andrey Ageev, Russia, Murmansk Regional Centre of Indigenous Peoples of the North
 Seija Kähkönen, State Provincial Office of Lapland
 Janne Torvinen, Finland, Ministry of Education
 Marja Hanni, Finland, State Provincial Office of Lapland

Questions discussed and topics highlighted by the working group

The original theme of the working group was "promotion of youth mobility", but it was broadened to encompass the topic of "risk in youth mobility", which was based on a national survey on social development of young people (conducted by the Russian Academy of Sciences).

The background organisations of the participants were both governmental and non-governmental, but the participants represented only Finnish, Russian and Danish nationalities.

The questions for discussion in the working group were the following:

1. Forms and factors of youth mobility in modern societies and specifically in the Barents Region?
2. Globalisation as a factor of youth mobility?
3. Promoting mobility: youth policy and social technologies?
4. Individual mobility strategies: lottery win or bad luck?

The working group started the discussion by trying to determine some of the terms used in this context. First of all, the working group discussed **the notion of mobility**, both its physical and social aspects. **Physical mobility** means movement of people inside the region and/or between regions. The reasons for physical mobility are various, including moving to a different location for a long-term reason, such as to work or study. Another category might be visiting another place to meet other people, a sport activity or a youth camp.

It was emphasised that physical mobility is one factor in **social mobility**. We have to bear in mind the differences in the socio-economic conditions in the different countries of the Barents Region. Different social structures will give different meanings to social mobility.

We heard an example of Sámi youth in the Kola Peninsula. The rural schools lack resources in the region. This leads to the fact that the basic skills of the pupils from rural schools are not at the same level as those of graduates from the more urban schools in the region. Nevertheless, the graduates are competing with each other for the same study places in the universities. Furthermore, students from rural areas move to bigger cities in search of education and in many cases they do not find their place in society. They cannot return to their home villages because they feel that they would be considered losers. Instead, they remain in the bigger cities searching for different opportunities that might not even exist.

The working group noted that **physical mobility can be promoted by providing adequate information** in order to make it possible to overcome mental barriers.

Globalisation was the second notion discussed by the working group. Globalisation has almost as many meanings as there are people using the term. What is meant by globalisation in the context of the Barents Region? The working group regarded globalisation as a two-way road for the region. While taking something from the region, globalisation is bringing something to the region as well. This is happening in many different fields and on many levels, e.g. cultural and economic. In a long-term perspective, a balance should be found between the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation. We should take advantage of globalisation in building up opportunities for youth mobility, for example by using the strong culture of the region for the purposes of attracting other regions into cooperation projects.

Conclusions of the discussion and proposals for concrete measures to be taken

The working group noted that there are many tools available and many existing structures. What seems to be lacking is the **coordination and cooperation between the different actors**. This seminar was regarded as a good example of important cooperation between different experts in the youth field. The majority of participants found it important that the subsequent seminar (to be organised in 2007) would be organised together with the youth organisations and youth actors in the region.

1. **Youth policy should be regarded as cross-sectoral policy.** This means that the BEAC Working group on Youth Policy (WGYP) should be given the role of coordinating youth policy and related activities of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, including also coordination between the different working groups of BEAC when it comes to youth matters.
2. **There is a need for more information and statistics about the living conditions of young people in the Barents region.** Representative research should create a basis for a good policy. Adequate indicators should be worked out on a theoretical level in order to compare the situation in different countries. Researchers should be given more opportunities to meet.
3. **Cooperation between the National Agencies of the European Union Youth in Action Programme, the Nordic Children and Youth Committee (NORDBUK), the Barents Youth Co-operation Office (BYCO) and the Barents Regional Youth Council has to be intensified.** The Nordic Council of Ministers and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council should work closely on concrete projects involving youth policy.

Finally, the working group stated that by providing better opportunities for youth mobility, **a positive image of living in the Barents Region can be built as the basis for empowerment, identity and citizenship of young people in the region.**

Conclusions of the Chairmanship

The main objective within the youth sector of the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2005-2007 is to promote active citizenship, information for and mobility of young people.

In order to promote the objectives of the Tromsø Plan of Action, adopted in 2001, the Barents Euro-Arctic Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYP), together with the Finnish Ministry of Education, organises two youth policy seminars during the chairmanship. The first seminar was organised in Rovaniemi, 27-29 August 2006. It will provide the basis for the 2007 seminar, where young people will play the leading role. The aim of these seminars is to examine the situation of young people in the Barents Region from different perspectives, such as active citizenship, social empowerment, living conditions, and mobility.

The conclusions of the four working groups (*I Young people's living conditions, II Active young citizenship, III Social empowerment of young people, and IV Risk in youth mobility*) will be taken into account when the WGYP will identify the focus of future cooperation. The topics highlighted by the working groups will be further discussed and elaborated by the WGYP and the messages from the two seminars will be forwarded to the Committee of Senior Officials and to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Special attention of the chairmanship will be paid to:

- encouraging researchers in the WGYP member countries to carry out comparative studies within the region and making full use of the results of these studies in political decision making;
- broadening the concept of active citizenship to encompass not only its social and political dimensions, but also its cultural, economic and evolving technological aspects;
- supporting various forms of active citizenship with the aim of strengthening the capacity of young people;
- creating public-private partnerships in order to provide a wider basis for the funding of common projects in the youth field;
- integrating the youth dimension in all relevant policies, such as employment, entrepreneurship, health and education, in the framework of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

The Finnish chairmanship stresses the important role of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in providing information and guidance services for young people in the Barents Region with the aim of promoting their mobility. The chairmanship emphasises the need to ensure the continuation of this valuable work also in the future.

Participant list of the working groups

Working group I: Young People's Living Conditions (EN-RU), meeting room 8, Neustrelitz

1. Gry Paulgaard, chair, Norway, University of Tromsø
2. Kyösti Urponen, rapporteur, Finland, University of Rovaniemi
3. Bjørn Jaaberg Hansen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
4. Jan Christian Marthinsen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
5. Alexander Rudenko, Russia, Murmansk Regional Board for Youth Affairs
6. Michael Haglund, Sweden, Ministry of Education, Research and Culture
7. Petter Mahrs, Barents Regional Youth Council
8. Thorsteinn Einarsson, Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues
9. Elina Juntunen, Finland, Ministry of Education

Working group II: Active Young Citizenship (EN), meeting room 1, Murmansk

1. Anne Tuhkunen, chair, Finland, University of Tampere
2. Jaana Lähteenmaa, rapporteur, Finland, Finnish Youth Research Network
3. Helge Hellberg, Baltic Sea Secretariat
4. Galina Kupriyanova, Council of Europe
5. Nasiyat Shirinova, Russia, Federal Agency on Education
6. Laila Dalhaug, Norway, Barents Secretariat
7. Tove Andersen, Norway, Ministry of Children and Equality
8. Olli Saarela, Finland, Ministry of Education
9. Liisa Männistö, Finland, Ministry of Education

Working group III: Social Empowerment of Young People (EN), meeting room 3, Narvik

1. Peter Waara, chair, Sweden, Luleå University of Technology
2. Heli Niemi, rapporteur, Finland, University of Lapland
3. Mauri Uusilehto, Finland, CIMO, Centre for International Mobility
4. Veli-Matti Ulvinen, Finland, University of Oulu
5. Eva Theisz, Sweden, The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs
6. Siri Wernberg, Norway, Representative of indigenous people
7. Maria Petrova, Barents Youth Cooperation Office
8. Seija Astala, Finland, Ministry of Education

Working group IV: Risk in Youth Mobility (EN-RU), meeting room 2, Kiiruna

1. Julia Zubok, chair, Russia, Russian Academy of Science
2. Samu Seitsalo, rapporteur, Finland, CIMO, Centre for International Mobility
3. Thomas Roed Jakobsen, Denmark, CIRIUS
4. Petra Erkkilä, Finland, Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi
5. Jukka Nikulainen, Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
6. Andrey Ageev, Russia, Murmansk Regional Centre of Indigenous Peoples of the North
7. Seija Kähkönen, State Provincial Office of Lapland
8. Janne Torvinen, Finland, Ministry of Education /
Marja Hanni, Finland, State Provincial Office of Lapland

APPENDIX 3

**BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC SEMINAR
 "YOUTH IN THE BARENTS REGION - A LOTTERY WIN OR BAD LUCK?"
 Rovaniemi 12-15 October 2007
 Part II**

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRMANSHIP

The main objective within the youth sector of the Finnish chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council 2005-2007 was to promote active citizenship, information for and mobility of young people.

In order to promote these objectives as well as the implementation of the Tromsø Plan of Action, adopted in 2001, the Barents Euro-Arctic Working Group on Youth Policy (WGYA), together with the Finnish Ministry of Education, organised two youth policy seminars during the Finnish chairmanship. The aim of these two seminars was to examine the situation of young people in the Barents Region from different perspectives. The first one (Rovaniemi 27-28 August 2006) was based on expert contributions regarding young people's living conditions, and the second one on young people's own initiatives.

The second seminar (Part II) was organised in Rovaniemi 12-15 October 2007 in close cooperation with the Barents Regional Working Group on Youth Issues (RWGYI), the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. The participants to the seminar consisted primarily of young people representing BRYC, national youth councils in BEAC countries, local and regional youth networks and fora and indigenous people, but also of representatives of national, regional and local authorities and youth researchers as well as representatives of the RWGYI and the Council of Europe.

Young people had a leading role in the elaboration of the content of the seminar as well as in the proceedings. The content was based on the projects ideas that arose from the Tromsø Youth Conference in 2006. The aim of the seminar was to further reflect on and concretise some of these ideas. Moreover, the youth participants were requested by the preparatory group of the seminar to produce statement to be addressed to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Foreign Ministers meeting (Rovaniemi 14-15 November 2007).

The seminar was chaired by Ms Olga Pokrovskaja, Chairperson of the BRYC. The "Rotating Idea Development Method" was used at the working session with the aim to bring forward each participant's views.

Eleven project ideas were selected, discussed and considered as feasible initiatives for youth cooperation in the Barents region. The WGYF expressed its willingness to contribute to the realisation of these projects. The youth participants also elected five persons to deliver their joint statement to the BEAC Foreign Ministers meeting. These were Ms Marit Puranen-Marjavaara (Sweden), Ms Iiris Jakola (Finland), Ms Olga Pokrovskaja (Russia), Mr Stian Johansen (Norway) and Mr Tuomas Aslak Juuso (indigenous peoples). The statement received a positive response from the Foreign Ministers.

Annexes:

1. a summary of the discussions during the working session by Ms Laila Dalhaug, Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes
2. the statement of young people to the BEAC Foreign Ministers meeting

Annex 1

Rotating idea development process in Rovaniemi October 2007

Exchange programmes

General questions of concern;

What countries are to participate?

All four Barents countries

What about accommodation and integration?

Type of exchange

Promote intercultural understanding

Language courses

Artist exchange

Rent a nationality, get a new perspective

Use already existing exchange programmes

Sub programmes

“Home stays” non formal exchange and education

Cultural heritage

Target groups for exchange...

Young and old people from two countries have together with another old and young person Student exchange

To meet people from different countries to exchange and discuss democracy in each others country

Exchange of young entrepreneurs

Exchange programmes of talented youth in arts, sports.

Financing for this exchange could be done by giving concerts and plays.

Exchange programmes for schools 6-18 years.

People sharing and learning

Exchanging non organised youth

Journalist's students should get opportunities to visit each other.

Political youth organisations

Exchange should lead to contribute to.....

Promote and build a Barents Identity

Environmental issues

Preservation

Language

Traditions

Tolerance

Themes

Be creative concerning the themes

- Artists
- Art
- Music
- Dance
- Cooking competitions

Possibility to visit four families in the Barents area

Exchanging traditional knowledge, culture and a different way of life

Promote common projects among young people

Youth centres could provide information about exchanges

Age of participants

No age limit

High school

15-29 years old

Costs for the exchange, covered by.....

Free of charge for all participants

Use already existing funds and scholarships

Scholarship from your own region to bring projects back home

100 billion

A lot of Euro

Combine financing from other programmes

Each country should contribute with funds that should be handled by a joint fund

Involve the private sector

Administration and handling of the programme

IBS, the international Barents secretariat in Kirkenes

Youth centres

Information points were people who would like to join an exchange program can turn to with questions and so on.

It should be easy to apply and a minimum of bureaucracy in order to involve young people

It should be easier for Russian students to study in the Nordic countries

Exchange between NGO's

Young civil servants

Cooperation of the EU

Selection of participants

Youth parliaments should be involved in the selection of grants and scholarships

Young people should be involved in the selection of participants

Principles

No drugs and alcohol

Evaluation of outcomes

Outcomes should be visible

Follow up meetings

Database

Barents winter festival

Themes;

To celebrate the sun is coming back
Celebrate the northern lights
One theme every year
Love festival with best Barents kiss
Music and traditional themes like Yoik
Celebrate New Year's Day and Christmas
Barents Olympics
Winter film festival
Go all in have big artists
Workshops with different subjects like crafts, fishing

How often...

Once a year or every second year
Annually rotating between the different Barents regions

How long

One week
One month

Arranged by...

Youth in action voluntary service
Involve the private sector
The national team who wins the games during the festival gets to arrange it next year

Activities

Ice bathing competition
Reindeer rodeo
Cooking Barents food competition and the jury should be celebrities

Traditional sports

Ice sculptor contest

Extreme sports

Fashion shows with winter clothes like overalls

Winter gallery with photos and art

Snow football

Barents survival competition

The best Barents Santa and snow girl

Snow mobile races

Promote hand made gifts for Christmas and the New Year

Competition to build the most beautiful snowman

Competition to build a snow man the quickest

Who can stay the longest with out wearing any clothes in an igloo?

Snow castle

Snow ball fighting

Ice melting competition

Open Air disco

Cooking over open fire

Learn how to make traditional clothes

Story telling

Promote...

In mass media

Internationally in order to attract tourists

Crazy....

Have a winter festival during summer

Best bikini/swim trunks competition

Barents October fest

Summary the Barents social forum

Arrange a network between meetings with different topics
Include all types of groups
Working with pr and communication

NGO market fair

Web portal

Youth centres

Location...

Use the internet doesn't have to be located physically
One in each region
Create a network of youth centres BYCA and existing set under the coordination by BYCO
Mobile and virtual

Types...

Political ideas exchange centres

Dance club

Press centre via the internet

Youth camp centre Inari

Age group

18-25 years old

Role...

To inform

Analyse

Promote active young citizenship

Democracy

Youth initiatives

Educate and inform about cross regional issues

Cross regional knowledge

Should provide training possibilities

Why..

It's important for developing democracy

To learn more about politics and the right/possibilities

to organize young people

Create opportunities for Bands to play and perform their music

Lobby

Network in order to work more efficient and cooperate

on some of the activities with common goals

Direct information from the political leaders

Addressing youth issues and problems

Barents builders**Purpose:**

For creativity

Educate chaos pilots

To awake people

To develop the Barents cooperation

Active youth stay in the region

Democracy

Involvement in society

Marketing:

Press

Internet

Trought networks

Finances

Foreign ministry

Education ministriesw

EU

Barents secretariat

Regional governments

Companies

Political parties

Participants

Students

Youths

Heads of youth organisations

Youth workers

Train the trainers

Interested in international work

Entrepreneurs

Inform about decisions take by the youth parliaments

Youth parliaments delegation from every university influence the county and national level

Cooperate with NGO's

Provide visa support service

Barents passport

TVIBIT in Tromsø

Organisation and financing

Central government

- Coe

- National

- Regional

- Local

Money from one county to another will make officers work hard to provide their capacity

The leaders?

Staff

Leaders should be members of political youth parliaments

Crazy...

Have big parties

Age 18-30 or divide in groups 13-16 years 16-18 and 18-24 and 24-30

Must be interested in doing project activities

Duration/where

Max one year in total

One long gathering 1 month and supplied with one gathering in each country to learn about the region and different cultures

Level

University education

Integrated in schools education

Part of entrepreneurial school

Periodical study

Half semester at university

Virtual education

Certified OCN

Valid for lånekassen

Teachers/ partners

Motivated professional teachers, chaos pilotes

EU

Marco el Sefano

NGOs

Education ministries

Governments

Enterprises

Fredrik Beckman

Part of exchange programmes

Content/tools

Internet

History of the region
 Practical economy
 Project management
 Gender perspective
 Learn about different countries
 Train teachers
 Motivation
 Attitude
 Inspiration
 Diversity
 Linguistic
 Culture
 Creativity

Positive thinking
 Private accommodation
 Free of charge

Follow up

Spread knowledge with others
 Show results
 Train new youths

Obstacles

Finances
 Travel/visas
 Attitude
 Languages

Barents culture exchange Business

Barents records, music industri
 Selling tradinational clothes
 Fast food chain with tradinational food and beverage
 Not rain dance, reindeer dance!
 Attack rich Americans to watch bad culture.
 Barents CD, one twice a year with artists from all countries. (New talents, points don't be the regions and their projects.)
 While participating om a festival, the groups (performs) should also have a chance to play/perform in a local bar/restaurant and get paid for it.
 Selling/make merchandise, t-shirts, cd's, handicrafts and food/drink.
 Link to myspace > make a Barents space page on the Internet. Vote for your favourite artist and make the Barents CD.
 Have a www with info on young artists, upcoming festivals, and potential sponsors/employers.
 Make a group with eg. Dancers from all the different areas in Barents. (rehearsals on the internet)
 Barents records, music industri
 A festival in the Treriksroset. (Where the country boarders cross eachother)

A book about Barents people "doing" culture seilt.
 Start a music project that selects the artists and ensures the quality and is manager > artists are members of the project.

Study: BD POP in Norrbotten, Sweden! Its like that suggestion.
 A lottery among the participants.

Sell adventures (action pack)
 Taking part in organising (promoting)
 Photos of people, making a calendar.
 Try to take on another perspective and "think like someone else!")
 Volunteers?
 Network/contacts?
 Arangegigs for the bands and artists and give them money after.

We have to teach the artists a.s.o to be tough and claim their claims. (claim money)
 National days of cultures of different countries.
 Auxions of hand made things.
 Selling old crap to tourists. (Remaining)
 Aim of gathering: Make a show with all the youths.

Crazy corner

Selling Barents ring-tone (Create and sell)
 Sell our languages
 Selling snow
 Barents idol
 Barents screen-saver
 Create Barents virus, and antivirus
 Ministers of culture foundations (they made donations from their incomes)

Barents extreme games

Extreme multi-sport trough the Barents region
 snowboarding
 Hiking
 Kayaking
 Bridge jumps
 Skateboard
 Roller sports
 Bungee jumping
 The longest distance on ski during 24 hours
 Extreme ironing contest
 Sunextreem week at midsummer
 Reindeer rodeo
 Actic kiting
 Sleeping in lavvo
 Who can stay longest in a sleeping bag
 Invite people from Africa arrange master courses
 Make a film TV show of the event
 Professionals and experts must choose participants
 Climbing
 Participants must be young under 30.
 Also for leaders of social organizations
 Arranged at treriksroya
 Snow skating

Culture exchange

Exchange cultural experience
 Selling products
 Exchanges between generations

Cultural exchanges with indigenous people all over the world with music, dance way of life, food etc

Snowmobiles

Literature contest for youth short stories, poems
 Culture festival; food, music, theatre

A conference where young and old can meet and exchange experience and competencies
 Cultural exchange office in each country in Barents

Barents meet the world

Barents cup: an informal football cup with participants from all regions. A good arena to ex cultures in other genres than sports ex music, art.

Youth cultural camp between youth in Barents with dance, music, language, sports, traditions

Who stay longest in igloo/hole?
 Sleep in igloo

How to cope with the silence and darkness
 For nature life students
 Marathon in the morning
 Sauna and icepool swimming
 Insurance and doctors
 Annual competition for professionals good PR
 Experts to show the sports

Purpose: show potentian of the region, tourism, fun, substitute for drugs

Crazy ideas:
 Eating icecream in -50 degrees
 Swim from Kirkenes to Murmansk
 Breakdance with board
 Extreme sport in the future:
 -first person naked trough Barents stafett around Barents
 one person climbing on a person biking in water
 pick your own king crab with bare hands

Within the region and between Barents and the rest of the world
 Website where the organisations can register if they are looking for exchange partners

Modernize old cultural history, takes
 Exchange of tastes, smells, sounds etc. Using all senses
 Fashion week
 The cultural exchange part should be an obligatory part of every other exchange program
 Experiences and exchange of youth cultures, subcultures in the different countries

Language and how to behave courses

Home stays
 Summer camps
 Festivals with film, music, folklore

Kids culture, toy exchange
 Band and dancers tours and exchanges

Promote knowledge and values in the Barents region
 Exchange books, lullabies for children -translations

Folklore festival for all ages, common theme music and dance

Use the new media action group

Exchange of traditional skills

The creative industry, create jobs, new opportunities for youth

Finances: sponsors, public funds

Local, regional and national governments

Challenges: language, interpretation, misunderstandings

Why: improving national relationships, learn about differences and similarities, increase tolerance in the society "celebrate difference"

Aims to create a Barents identity

A book with menus of cult behaviour

Many regions have projects for example "BD Pop" in Norrbotten Should cooperate because

New media action group

Barents newspaper, young reporters from each region
Movie productions on the region, local action movies produced by amateurs.

Educational courses with youth leaders (From political parties for example) * to learn how to use the media.

* Must be experienced with media.

Training on using new media technologies for young people and leaders.

-More concrete

Presentation, aim of the Barents youth co-operation.

Youth participating to the media productions.

Political statement

No oil exploitation in the high north

Emphasize the importance of young peoples involvement in decision-making on local and regional level

Give young people positions

Easier visa arrangements and communication

Free visas

Barents passport

Ratify the ILO convention nr169 in all countries

Support indigenous peoples rights. Respect their needs

Support indigenous peoples different governing bodies economically

They have possibilities and interest

Involve private sector, see it as an investment

For all Barents citizens

Own programme

Customs learning

Preservation of culture

Language

Sport

Role-play of all situations

Crazy ideas

Role-playing

Language school

Barents big brother- living each week with different cultures

Wintercamps with snowmobiles

Crazy ideas

Railway/busstation/airport-informing on the boarding pass.

Youth net marketing

Mobile TV

Information tablecloths for bars and cafes

Paper towels with addresses

Training for journalists to work with young people

Barentswood

Involve and support ngos

Sustainable use of natural resources

Stop polluting our future

Support and build a sustainable future

Promote gender equality

A region for all

Train from west to east

Youth policy should be in the mandate for the new international Barents secretariat

More educational exchange programmes

Scholarship arrangements should be better

Think about it in a long perspective-the young people is the future of Barents, take care of them!

High north policy-support for people that lives in the north

Housing for young families

Stop centralisation

Transport between the countries in the region

Information about transport should be available in many languages many places for instance on internet

Barents languages courses

Translation of main documents to native languages
Differences in the living conditions should decrease, make better balance

Create a common Barents identity in the Barents region

Funding possibilities for youth in Barents projects

Technology

Crazy ideas:

Involve ministers in our work

Exchange job with each other

Tourism destination Barents

(Visiting) going to the forest settlements of the countries of the Barents region.

Info om hotel differences, youth people, bad and good, and very good!

Railway trough Barents Norway > Sweden > Finland > Russia.

Motor-race trough Barents.

Night to put/build a tent; how is it in Russia?

Unique in the region:

- Stella polar
- Midnight sun
- Reindeers
- Bad weather
- Snow
- Silence
- Diversite

Bus trip, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia, like a package that tourists can buy.

Global

Marketing + Regional/crossborder

Two market-inside and outside.

Outside is most important regarding cashflow IN to the region

Survival in the winter > Robinson crusoe style.

Better communications between countries, trains, buss etc

Mine tourism

Be careful with mass tourism to prevent damage to tradinational way of lifes culture (reindeer hearing)

Crazy ideas

Going travelling by stopping cars, living in tants.

“Hot and cold” (marketing)

Alternative, ecological means of transportation (reindeer, dogs, nordland’s horse and certs)

Summer ice-fishing contest

TV Radio Barents

Barents news

The chennals to teach people international tradinational skills.

Get to know Barents trough television.

Travel-letter pr.tv from the region.

Possibility for young people in Barents to send in their private movies.

Short movies (because its necessary with sensur.)

Award the best movie in the month/year.

News channel, B-News, non-stop from different regions of Barents.

Barents friends, Barents quiz show

Barents youtube.

Reality show, where all countries participating competing to each other – everybody have their favourites.

Programming in all languages, text advertising of native language in each country.

Easier to contribute, more accessible to watch (than English.)

Programs from Barents extreme sports event.

Traditional Barents culture shows – i.e festival

Existing radio stations > allowing using broadcast time to youth Barents NGOS.

In English, with subtitle.

Barents blog

Language program training

Travel TV-show from every region

Used in schools for education about Barents

Large bands, music in radio

Crazy ideas

Barents drag-queen contest

Bad-weather tv

Barents big brother

Reality-shows with all the different cultures that are in the Barents region.

“SVISJ” > promote band/artists > music videos.

Promote democracy and participation

Invite young people with different backgrounds

Real meetings between youth and politicians- face to face

“democracy education” in schools, NGOs, also local decision makers

Workingplans, strategy- national, regional, local

How do we make young people interested in politics combined with youth political parties

Young people must feel they have influence, important to get youth into the structure by giving them strategic positions in municipalities and counties

International projects

Private sector should finance. And both through advertising and investment.

There need to be good quality to attract audience.

Sport-programmes and quiz-programmes.

Radio shall give possibility to bands to play music

All the languages in the region should somehow be represented.

It’s important to take care and develop the languages.

Tv shall have time to show film, video from youth,

filmgroups from Barents (amateur) professional.

Commercial radio/tv?

Public support to regional projects (youth media groups)

Programs/documents about different people/nations, indigenous people’s minority and majority.

Way of life/culture, information...

Start as a project with EV financing sponsors.

Sport of indigenous people (competitions)

Web-TV live-broadcast

Reality – how to survive nature (back to 1850(winter))

Inform about the work in the Barents cooperation national/regional

Info from website goes to radio/TV, a Barents TV channel (internet & local TV)

To encourage public channels to broadcast “Barents-programmes” in prime time.

Barents media group, English language.

With youth correspondent, involve media students in the work with developing the channel.

In cooperation with punk TV (punktv.no)

The audience will see that youngsters do good things/good ideas/good projects.

Show good samples from the work in different NGOS, local youth councils.

Documentary: “The last moiram”

Exchanges of journalists.

Programs just for the b.region, of for the whole country (

Studying at school

Lessons of politics

Project civil life

Public service announcement in tv, radio, newspapers etc

Exchange between local youth councils in the Barents region

Let the youth organize themselves to make them participate at their own interest

Help to create national political associations

Young people need concrete activities not only talking

Initiative channel- ideas from youth

Actual power to youth at local level

Analyze the need for this theme

Include youth in decision-making processes
Information network
Campaigns
Work camps for youth – meetings with politicians

Build a democracy school with help of the civil society
Exchange programmes to learn about democracy and participation in other countries
Non formal and formal structures necessary

Shows with cool people where democracy are presented

Democratic and participatory school
Democratic families

Annex 2**Statement of young people to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council
Presented at the BEAC Foreign Ministers meeting (Rovaniemi 14-15 November 2007)**

Dear foreign ministers,

We have an important message for you. Please ask yourselves this question: How do you want the Barents region to be in 20 years? An industrial desert where experts fly in and fly out or a prosperous region full of possibilities and active youth with different ethnic and national backgrounds. We want the people and especially the youth living in the Barents region to be regarded as the main assets for the development within the region. We are here representing many young people who are engaged and interested in the future of this region. But we are not only the future, we are the present.

We want to co-operate across the borders on projects and issues that will make our region grow: culture, entrepreneurship, education etc. You can ensure youth participation, youth initiative and development by providing non-bureaucratic funding-possibilities for multilateral youth projects – and this should be in the mandate for the International Barents Secretariat.

There are a lot of opportunities throughout the world. But we want to stay here.

To make that happen:

Youth policy should be a part of the mandate for the International Barents Secretariat in the same way as for example culture, health and education.

We are talking about Barents co-operation in a global context. Communication is obviously an important part of co-operation. In order to communicate, we need the opportunity to learn each others languages. It is a severe challenge: for example in Murmansk there is no possibility to learn Barents languages in a good level. Another issue is transportation and logistic. Almost all our connections are going from North to South, more East-West-connections are necessary.

There is one matter that has been stressed many times but we choose to raise it again – it's visa regulations. Barents youth dream of getting easy and cheap visas for co-operation in the region.

Indigenous peoples still have rich and living cultures and ways of life. But their rights are not fully supported. Every state must secure the rights of indigenous peoples by ratifying the ILO-convention number 169 and by following the new UN-declaration of indigenous peoples.

We and our region have a huge potential. The Barents region need our competence and our knowledge. You have the power to improve young people's living conditions and working possibilities in the region. But we are the main

resource of the Barents region. And we are not here today as a three minute youth alibi. We recognize the time we've been given but we want more: to take part in the decision making processes from a local level to your level.

Our answer to the question is clear. We choose a prosperous region.

(Distributed)

Political statements from the Barents youth

- To ensure youth participation, initiative and development across the borders in the Barents region we need non-bureaucratic funding-possibilities for multilateral youth projects. This should be in the mandate for the International Barents Secretariat so that we can co-operate on projects and issues that will make our region grow: culture, entrepreneurship, education etc. Further on it requires a well organized structure for Barents co-operation in all the concerned countries, which does not exist today.

- Youth policy should be a part of the mandate for the International Barents Secretariat in the same way as for example culture, health and education.

- Seeing Barents co-operation in a global context well functioning communication is indispensable. The opportunity to learn each others languages and to travel through an east-west connection is a necessity for people as well as for the industry.

- Barents youth dream of getting easy and cheap visas for co-operation in the region.

- Every state must secure the rights of indigenous peoples and ensure continuous growth of their cultures by ratifying the ILO-convention number 169 and by following the new UN-declaration of indigenous peoples. As of today Norway is the only country in the region that has ratified this convention.

- As youth is the main asset to the region we want to mainstream the youths' points of views by taking an active part in all decision making processes from a local to an international level.

APPENDIX 4**YOUTH OF THE BARENTS REGION: SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN
MULTICULTURAL SPACE**

Dr Julia Zubok

Dept. for Sociology of Youth
Institute of Socio-Political Research
Russian Academy of Sciences**I. Social integration of youth in modern society****1. Social integration: notion and methodological frame**

Modern society development perspectives are dealt with searching of effective measures directed on increase of its social integration level. In a general sense integration means the process of uniting all elements in a system. Hence, integration is viewed as one of the most important mechanism of stabilization and development.

Society as complicated social system is characterized by interaction of different stratum and groups. Youth is one of such groups. Main peculiarity of youth as a special socio-demographic group is connected with its specific role in reproduction and development of society. Integrating in social structure, young generation has the ability not only to inherit cumulative material and cultural values, but also to renew them using new experience and knowledge. Thus young people do not just render social relations on the same level but contribute to their further development.

Meanwhile successful development of society depends on the degree of development of young people themselves, in what extent they are able to solve more and more complicated issues arising in both economy and in strengthening of civil society. But in its turn successful social and human development is possible only in well integrated society where young generation joins social structures actively and

freely, takes sustainable social positions. Successful social integration takes place on the basis of individual self realization, personal achievements in different spheres of life. Availability and equality of opportunities for social mobility and self realization which are independent from origin, family backgrounds and surrounding of young people, give them the feeling of safety and future. Such society becomes attractive for young people. At the same time Common aims, values, norms, shared traditions as well as joined social and cultural activity gives the feeling of community that is the main basis for social identification. The latter is the most important regulator of solidarity in consciousness and in behavior of young people, their readiness to active participation in social life is being formed. Than more young people participate in social activities in different spheres of life then stronger they feel of being part of the society and identify with the present and future of the society.

Social integration means not only inter-group processes i.e. interaction between youth from the one side and the society from the other but also intra-group relations within young generation. Common experience, values, ideas, opinions, participation in different types of joint activity is integrating factor within youth itself.

Thus, the process of social integration of youth reflects the character of youth relations with society necessary for stable social relations and *integrity of society* as well as different forms of *intra-group unity* of youth.

2. Basis, forms and contradictions of social integration in modern society.

Successful integration of youth is traditionally realized on the following basis: cultural, concerned with common system of cultural values and norms; functional, that supposes mutual exchange of work results according to specialization of different youth groups; communicative – exchange of information, estimations, feelings, common emotional experience. In modern society this basis undergoes changes. What has determined these changes?

Firstly, processes of *globalization*. Rapprochement of countries, creation of associations and communities not only significantly extend borders of youth integration but also change its forms and basis. If before young people were integrated within a local society with closed national borders, cultural norms and traditions, nowadays integration occurs into big communities that function in the frames of entire region united by economic, political, cultural, communicative links.

Economic and industrial rapprochement of countries causes *new forms of labour division*. New productions and professions appear. It causes special features of economic and manufacturing specialization of country-members. At the same time integration of industry and production is carried out, transnational structures, joint firms and corporations are created. Joining them young people overcome national borders, that means they overcome all other borders, including cultural ones.

Contemporary young people are integrating into *multicultural space*. Cultural exchange and integration of original cultures within the region take place in conditions of more and more active geographic mobility of youth aimed at education, placing in a job, tourism, sports, recreation, etc. New basis of integration becomes mutual opening up not only recourses and manufacture but also cultural and historical inheritance i.e. language, traditions, literature, arts etc.

Changes in economic sphere and cultural convergence are reflected in consciousness of young people determining commonness in values, *ways of life*. Traditional basis of identification with native country, its culture, history, values and norms gives way to more generalized socio-cultural patterns in globalizing world. Changing in youth values, formation and spreading of common universal socio-cultural patterns are observed in all life spheres of youth life: in work, education, family relations, intra- and intergeneration relations.

Along with traditional norms and values young people rendered new ones that become new basis of intra-group integration. Humanism, tolerance, respect of human rights are among them. Common basis is also youth global subculture with its symbolic world – youth fashion, consumption patterns, music preferences, etc. This

basis of integration was developed due to wide communicative processes among young people as well as through mass media, youth fashion, advertisements.

In this way, two aspects of youth integration, traditional and new ones coexist by the impact of globalization. Contradictions often happen between them.

Secondly, the reason of integration character change is *uncertainty* that all modern societies are passing through. This state is characterized by constant dynamic changes in production, labour market, professional demands, necessary social competency, etc – all these factors destabilize youth life conditions in region, add abruptness. Meanwhile social institutions called to stabilize the situation can't provide all guarantees to youth. As being a part of society social institutions are also changing and often produce uncertainty themselves (defaults, political crisis, education reforms, etc.).

Under conditions of uncertainty, contradictions in integration mechanism appear on the macro level: linear and predictable patterns are lost, integration becomes more and more spontaneous, the role of fortune in youth's life and risks increase. Contradictions between youth's desire to take firm positions in social structure, to gain certain social status from the one hand and barriers to effective integration into society challenged by uncertainty from the other hand are marked out on the micro level. A lot of conflicts are revealed in connection with youth's entering labour market, getting qualification, and education in the new establishments and other. It often brings alienation of youth from the society, discrimination and marginalization of some groups which are symbols of social exclusion – the process opposed to social integration.

In conditions when institutional regulation of integration is getting weak, the accent moves to individual search of integration strategies under conditions of open social reality. Values of self actualization and self development as ways of attaining success under pressure of hard competition become common for young generation. Individual efforts instead of collective ones and growing individualization become the new form of youth integration into modern society. However young people's

opportunities are not equal, that leads to differentiation of integration strategies and inequality in success that is depended on recourses of the certain group, or a region, or a country within a region. Obvious intra-group differentiation of young people is determined by difference of financial position, geographical and socio-cultural surrounding, and difference of social and historical past, traditional mentality, and level of actual development of countries. It means that needs, interests, values, attitudes and means of their implementation are different for young people from different social groups and different parts of the region.

In this way, on the one hand processes of closing up are observed when common events, social experience and contradictions are common for young people of the whole region. On the other hand, social and economic differences that inevitably bring to socio-cultural differences remain. In these conditions the most important mechanisms of integration are enlargement of opportunity structure for young people and cultural exchange between them.

II. Social integration of youth of Barents region as object of youth policy

1. Social regulation mechanisms of integration processes in the Barents region

Search for ways of solving of the mentioned problems makes the issue concerning mechanisms and ways of social regulation actual. Two forms of management impact are pinned down: purposeful regulation of integration processes and self-regulation. The main role in both cases belongs to social institutes – organized system of social links, norms and definite standards of behavior in concrete situations. They form institutional base of formal and informal regulation of youth's integration processes.

However, self-regulation of integration processes of informal character based on youth self-organization, youth social creative work, initiative aimed at gaining of

desired social position takes the significant part. The examples of self-organization are as individual initiatives as collective initiatives: short-term associations of young people in terms of concrete problem orientated projects and youth organizations, movements, acting on permanent basis. Both of them act as mechanisms of youth integration into society. Aiming at the process predictability increase, interaction of institutional mechanisms with creative work of youth is important.

The main institutional mechanism of integration processes regulation in youth surrounding is youth policy directed on creation of lawful, economic, organizational conditions and guarantees for self realization of young people, development of youth communities, movements, and initiatives. That is why main problems are adequately reflected in main directions of working out and implementing of youth policy bodies' activity in Barents region. WGYF and BYCO act as the main bodies of working out and implementing youth policy in the region.

The main aim of their activity is economic development, safe and sound environment, human and social development.

The main postulate that determines the direction of activity of mentioned above bodies is admission of young people as an important resource in the development of the region and its role in strengthening civil society and in the development of democracy in the Barents Region. Implementation of this admission demands measures needed to avert the threat of exclusion among young people in the Barents Region taking into account particular features of different categories of young people. These directions are improvement in the living conditions of the people in the region; focus on the situation of indigenous peoples in the region; focus on the situation in the Russian parts of the region is essential in order to ensure cooperation on an equal basis in the Barents Region. The issue of young people's living conditions was one of the main topics in the Barents Euro-Arctic seminar "Youth in the Barents Region - a lottery win or bad luck", organised in Rovaniemi on 27-29 August 2006.

Mentioned above directions are reflected in *priorities, measures and projects*.

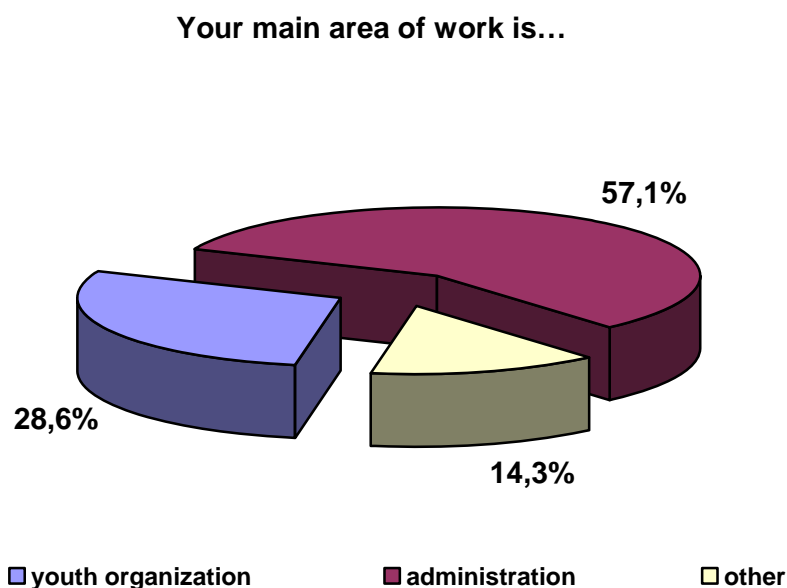
To some extent they are connected with investigation of special projects and programmes relating to the civic society in terms of youth policy; promotion of information to young people in the region, promotion Barents cooperation and expanding the cooperation with other regions in Europe. If more concretely these measures represent the following:

- In the field of integration of youth into society - the target group is marginalized youth. Special projects directed towards improvement of living conditions of children and youth are prioritized.
- Development of local youth initiatives and projects based on the interests of the young people themselves and developing of the Barents Regional Youth Council as one of the most important mechanisms of inter-group cooperation of youth are foreseen in the sphere of increase of youth self – organization and social participation level .
- The cooperation between youth researchers in the region and research projects related to the situation and living conditions of young people; carrying out an investigation on existing research on the situation of children and youth in the region took the main part in the sphere of scientific activity provision of structures on youth policy. Possible initiatives in the research area may become basis for improving the living conditions and situation of young people.
- In the sphere of strengthening of inter-group integration of youth - municipal and people-to-people cooperation in order to develop exchange and contact between local youth groups and associations based on multilateral cooperation; investigation the possibility of national support to multilateral projects and activities, especially in the field of culture and in relation to youth exchanges, environmental issues and cooperation between young people from indigenous peoples; provision of special priority to projects aiming to promote the culture of indigenous young people in the region and cooperation between them.

- From organizational point of view - development of improving the cooperation between youth workers and youth leaders in the region and development of information to young people and cooperation between youth information structures; deepened cooperation on various levels: intergovernmental, regional, among the indigenous peoples, and direct business.

2. The experience of youth policy implementation in the Barents region

Sociological survey among experts was conducted to estimate work efficacy of WGYF and BYCO. 29 of experts from 4 countries of the region took part in the survey. The sphere of experts' work is youth organization and administration.



Satisfaction with WGYP and BYCO work

All experts are completely satisfied with BYCO work in contrast to WGYP work. At the same time experts are completely satisfied as with personal consulting as with coordination of different structures, groups and spreading of information.

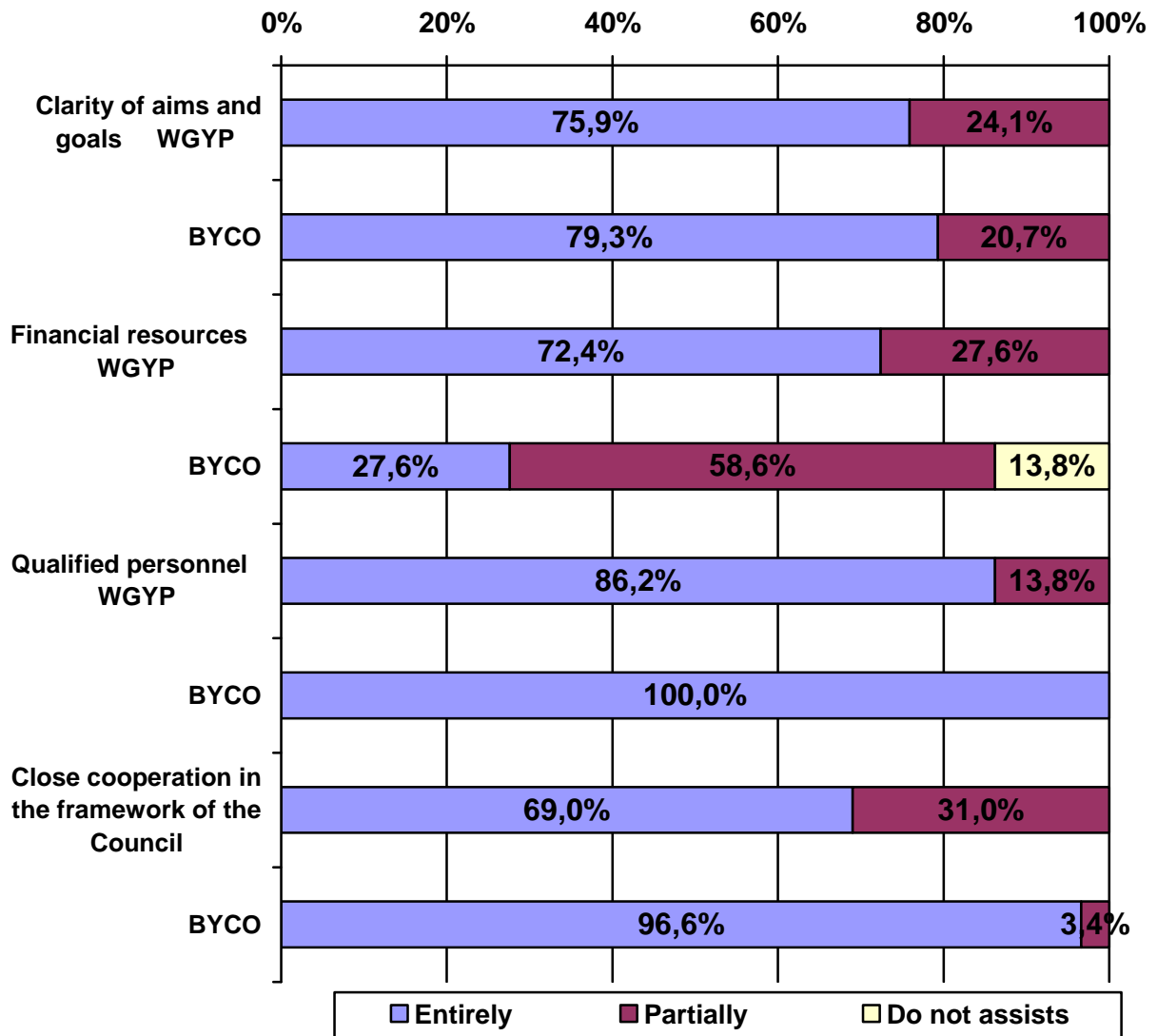
70% of experts are completely satisfied with WGYP work and 30% of experts are satisfied partially – this is the evidence of the very high estimation of WGYP activity. However, experts' opinions are different in regional terms: 83% of Russian experts expressed partial satisfaction with work of this organization. Russian experts are also partially satisfied with different organizations' work coordination and spreading of information. Experts from Sweden, Norway, Finland are completely satisfied with WGYP work as well as BYCO work.

Successful work factors

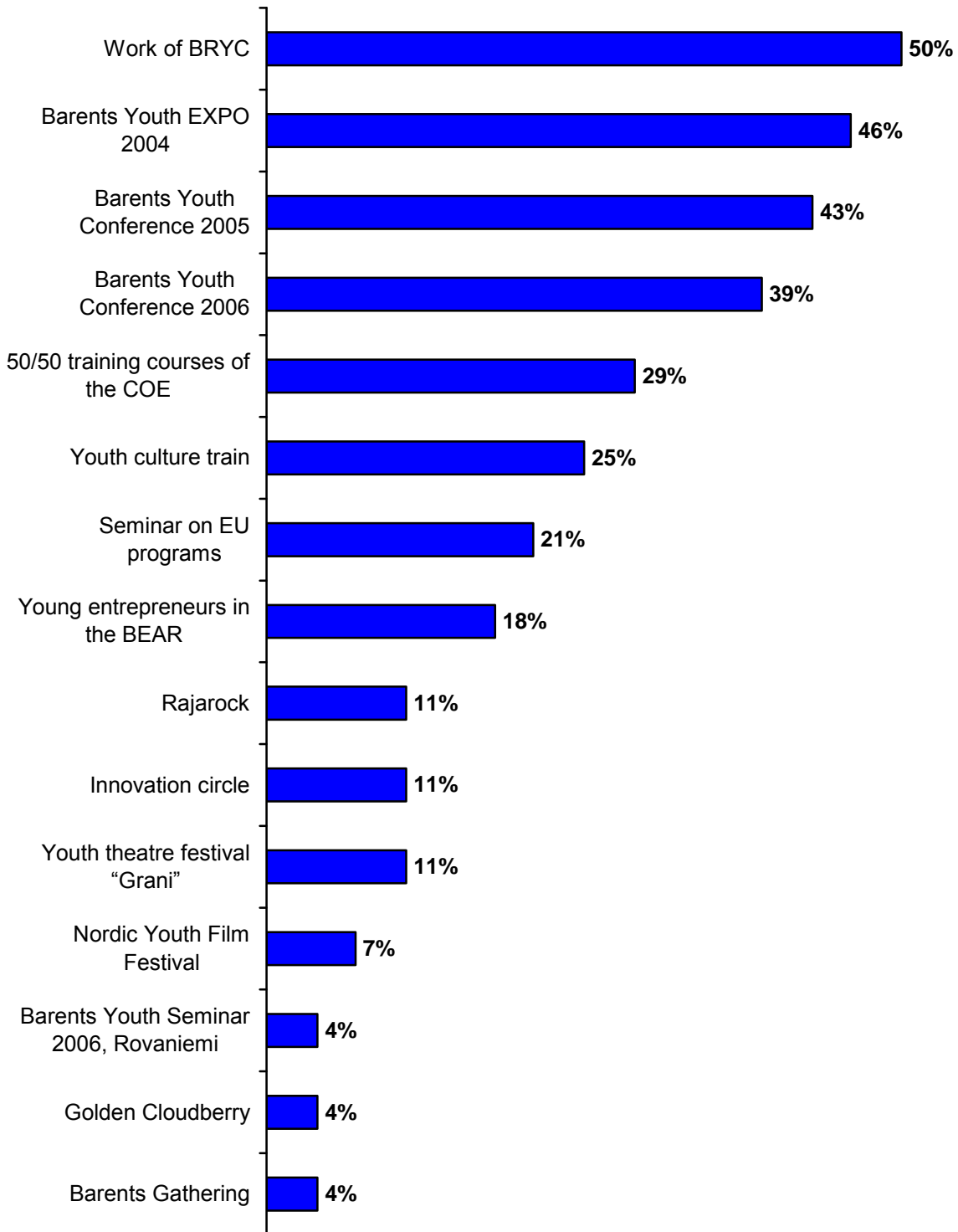
All experts who estimated work of WGYP and BYCO underline that clarity of aims and goals, qualified personnel, close cooperation in the framework of the Council assist to their successful work in high degree or partially.

However, experts' opinion concerning BYCO availability of financial recourses is different. Most experts (58,6%) consider that availability of financial recourses assists to successful work of BYCO only partially and 13,8% of experts consider it doesn't assist at all.

What, in your opinion, facilitates successful activities?



Which projects have you been involved over the last four years?



Half of experts took part in work of the youth council of Barents region and Barents Youth Expo 2004. The significant part of experts also took part in youth conferences of in 2005 and 2006.

It must be pointed out high involvement of Russian and Norwegian experts in different youth projects of the Barents region. Significant number of experts from Russia and Norway took part in work of the youth council of the Barents region, Barents Youth Expo 2004, youth conferences in 2005 and 2006.

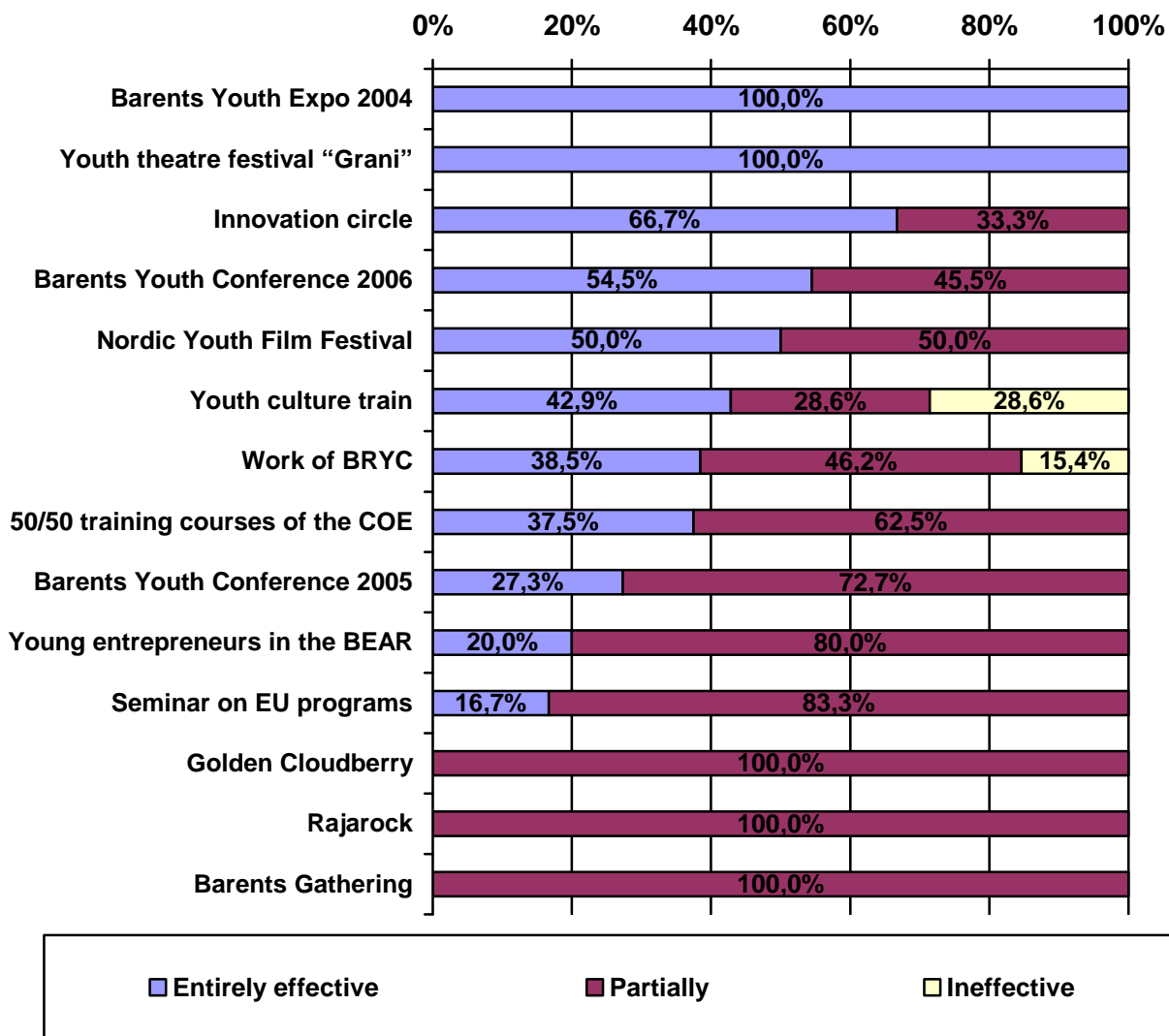
Every second expert from Sweden took part in Barents Youth Expo 2004 and project “Youth culture train”.

Experts from Finland are less included in youth projects than their colleagues from Russia, Sweden and Norway.

Experts also estimated the efficacy of those projects they took part by the following criteria:

- Involvement of large numbers of youths
- Close youth cooperation
- New and useful contacts
- Attracting attention of the authorities to the problems of the young
- Cooperation of state and nongovernmental organizations

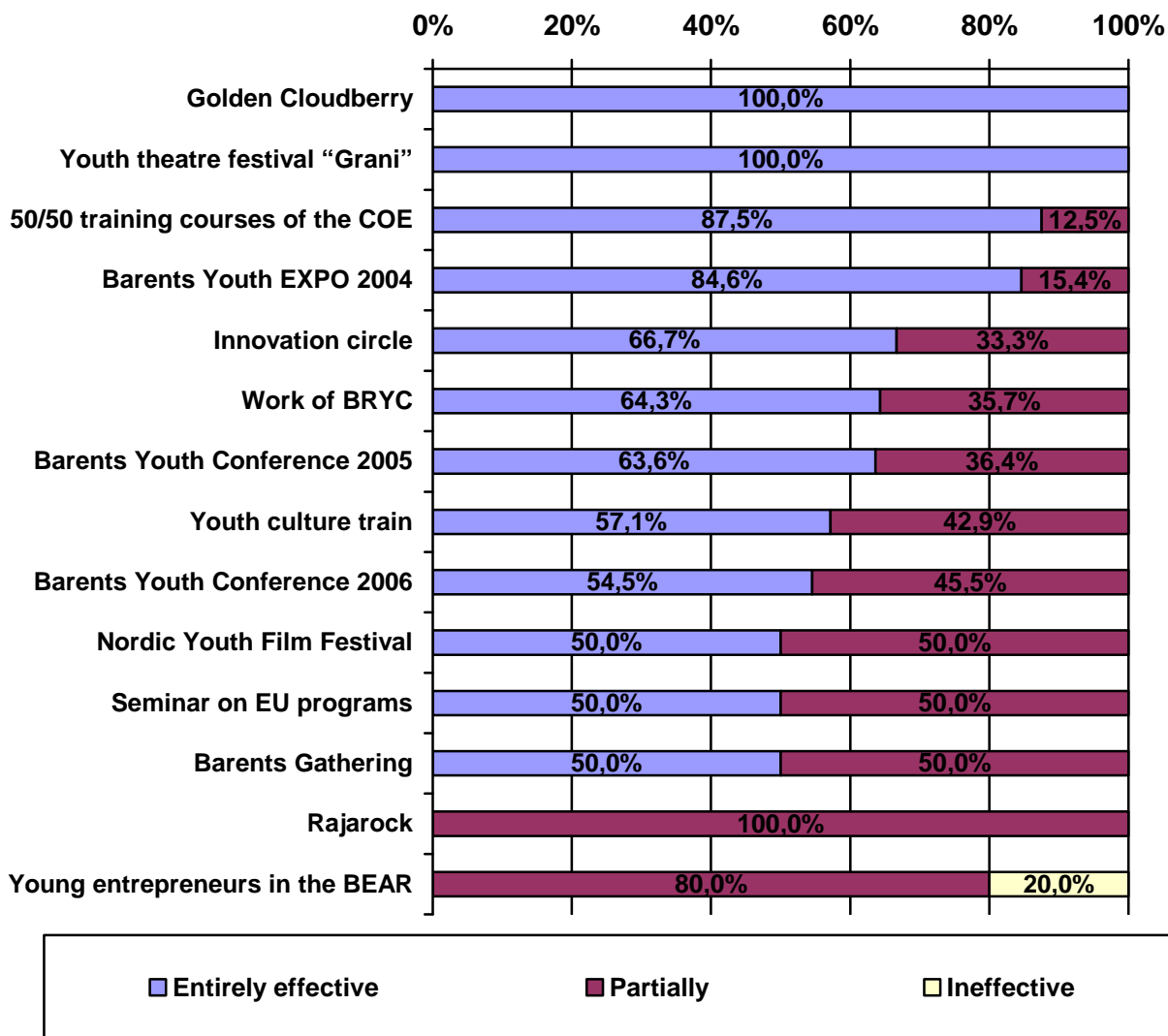
Projects efficacy estimation from the point of involving large numbers of youth



Such projects as "Barents Youth Expo" and "Youth theatre festival "Grani"⁶ were the most effective in involvement of large numbers of young people, while the other projects - "Innovation circle", "Barents Youth Conference 2006" and "Nordic Youth Film Festival" - were just a little less effective from this point of view.

⁶ Expert estimated only those projects they took part.

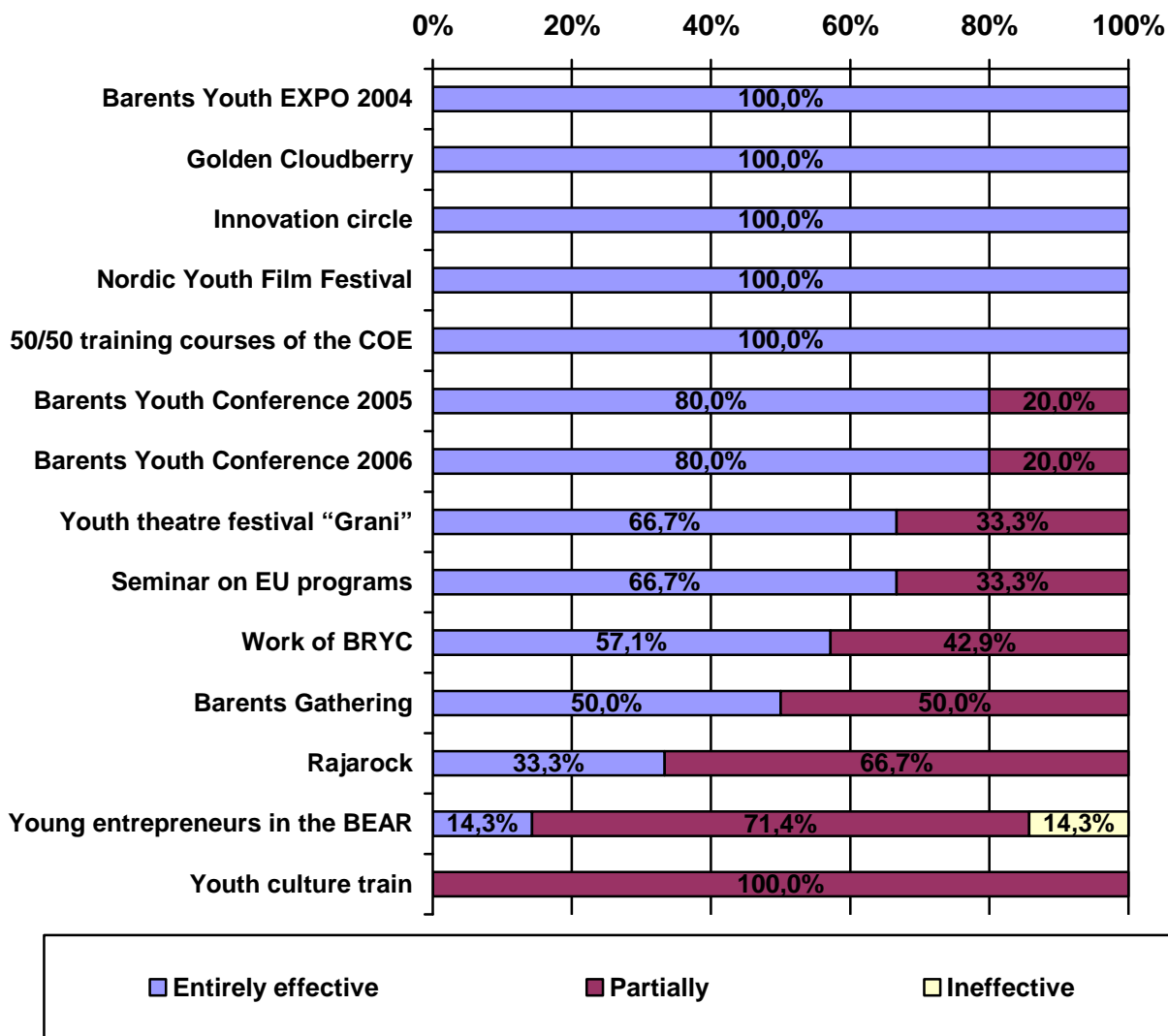
Projects efficacy estimation from the point of youth cooperation



Concerning youth cooperation experts pointed out “Youth theatre festival Grani” and “Golden Gloudberry” as completely effective. According to the experts’ point of view “50/50 training courses” of the COE, and “Barents Youth Expo” were also highly effective.

Two thirds of experts pointed out the efficacy of such projects as “Innovation circle”, work of Youth Council of Barents region and “Barents Youth Conference 2005”. Project “Young entrepreneurs of Barents region” turned out less effective.

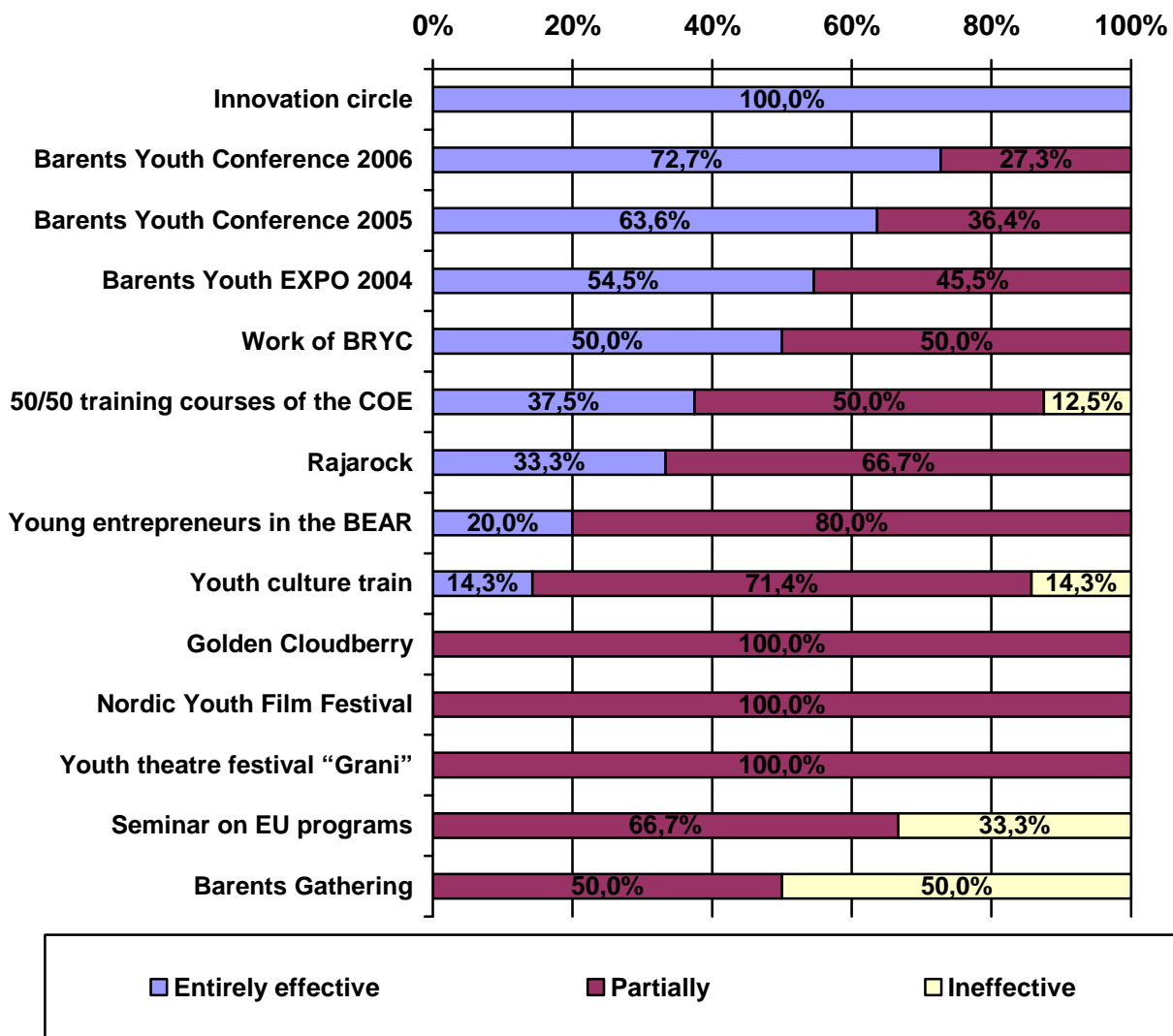
Projects efficacy estimation from the point of new and useful contacts



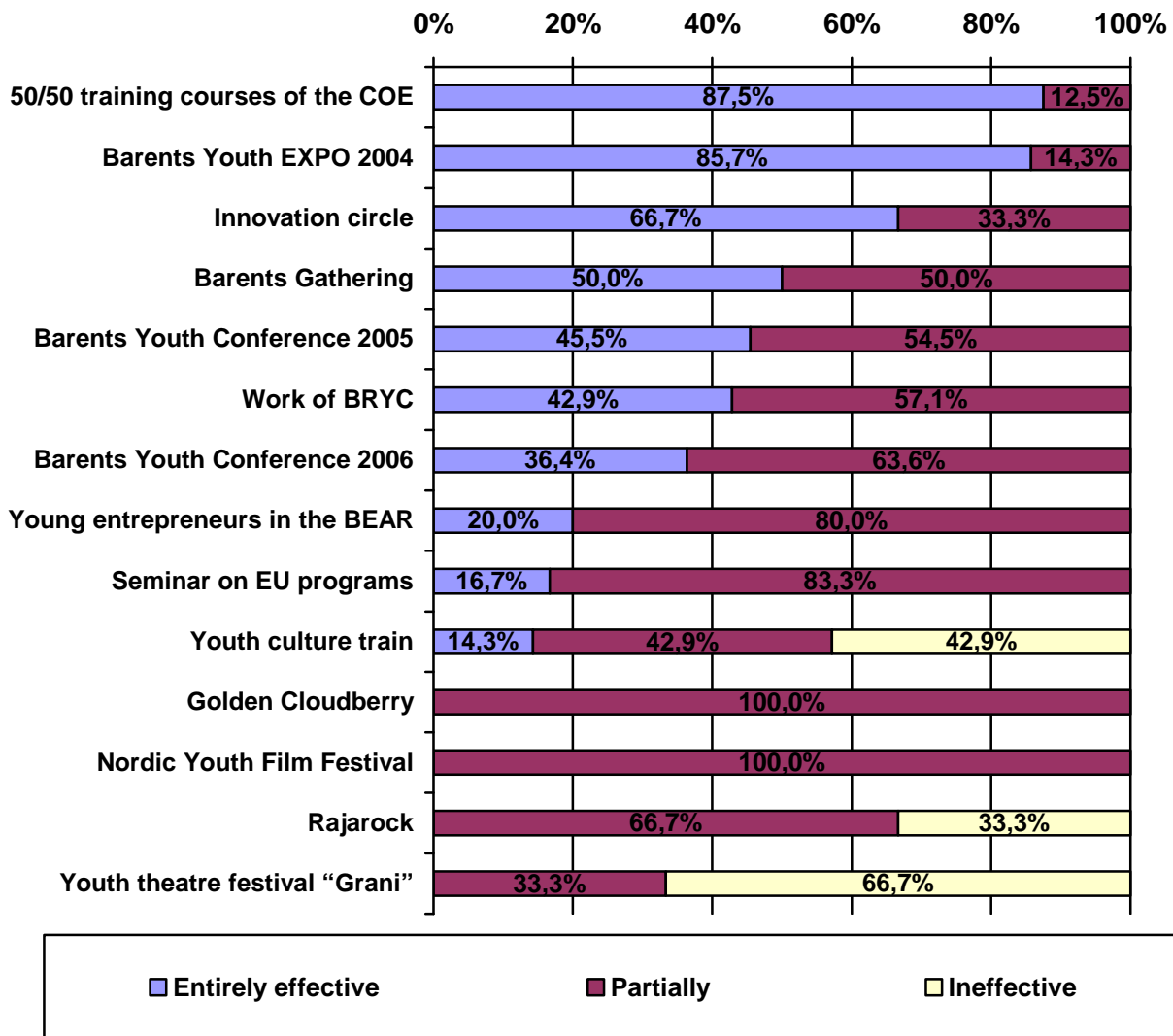
Most experts consider projects they took part highly effective concerning new links and useful contacts. The project "Innovation circle", "Barents Youth conferences 2005, 2006", "Barents Youth Expo 2004" and work of BRYC proved to be most effective. However, according to experts projects "Rajarock", "Youth culture train" and "Young entrepreneurs of Barents region" became less effective for searching new useful contacts. According to experts most of conducted projects

turned out to be little effective concerning the issue of attracting attention of authorities to youth problems.

Projects efficacy estimation from the point of Attracting attention of the authorities to the problems of the young



Projects efficacy estimation from the point of Cooperation of state and nongovernmental organizations

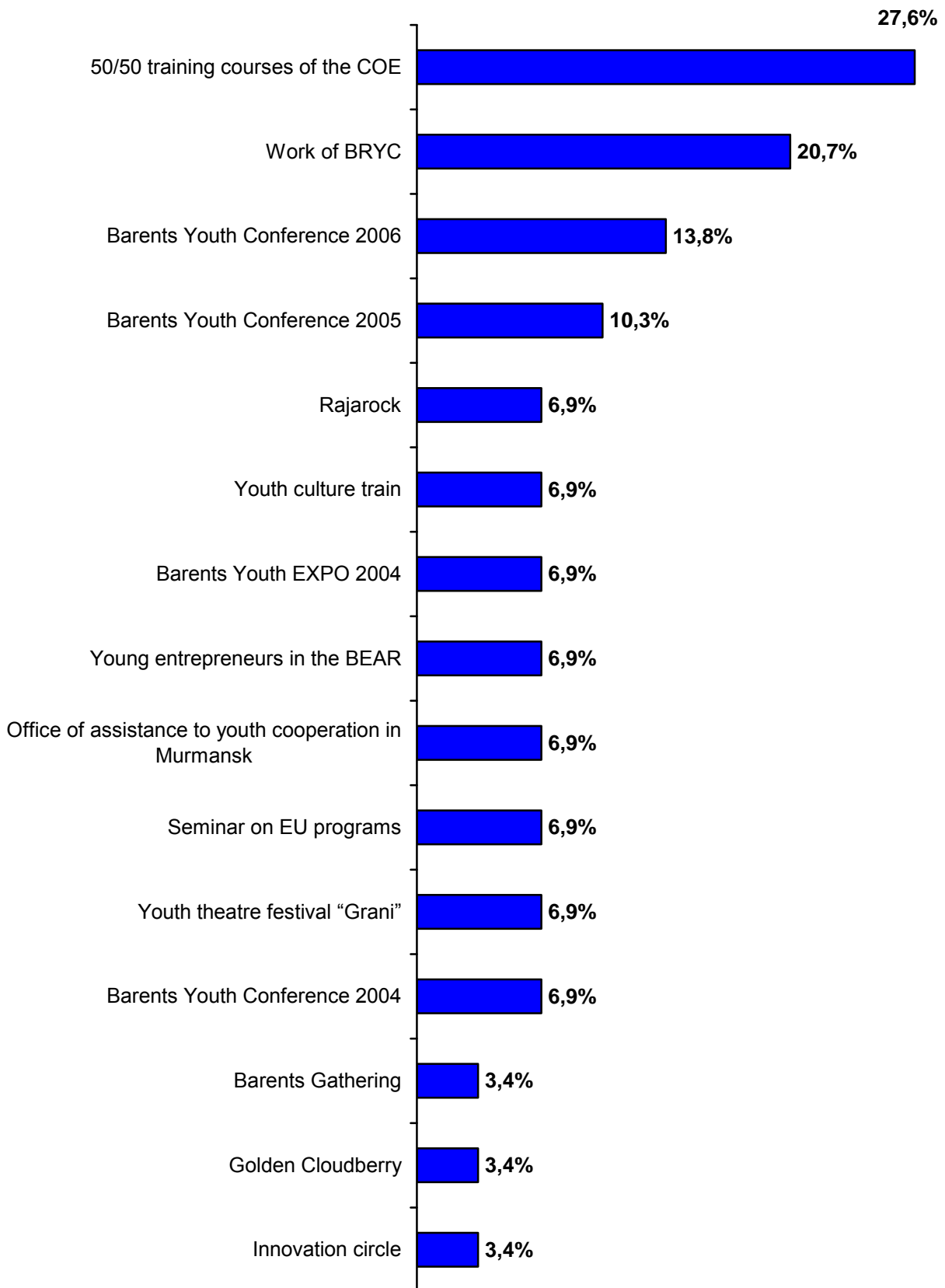


Concerning the point of cooperation of state and non-governmental structures many projects were proved to be even less effective.

According to experts when estimating the projects from this point 50/50 training courses of the COE, Barents Youth Expo 2004 and Innovation Circle were the most effective.

Youth theatre festival "Grani", "Youth culture train", "Rajarock" were found least effective.

The most effective completed projects



According to experts' opinion **the most effective among the fulfilled projects** are BRYC work, 50/50 training courses of the COE and also Barents Youth Conference 2005, 2006.

Explanation of efficacy of fulfilled projects by experts

BRYC work:

- Youths can influence the process of taking decisions in region, exchange information and conduct joint arrangements through their representatives in BRYC.
- Bryc is an important body for providing the point of view of youth organizations and their desires.
- The work of the council is very efficient for exchanging information and planning activities for the members of the council from the Barents countries.
- BRYC is doing a very good job and is very efficient considering the limited number of participants and financing
- Youth Council is important for letting young people influence the decisions taken concerning them and expressing the voice of youths from the region.
- Work of the council is very important for creation of contacts between the youths of the region.

50/50 training courses of the COE:

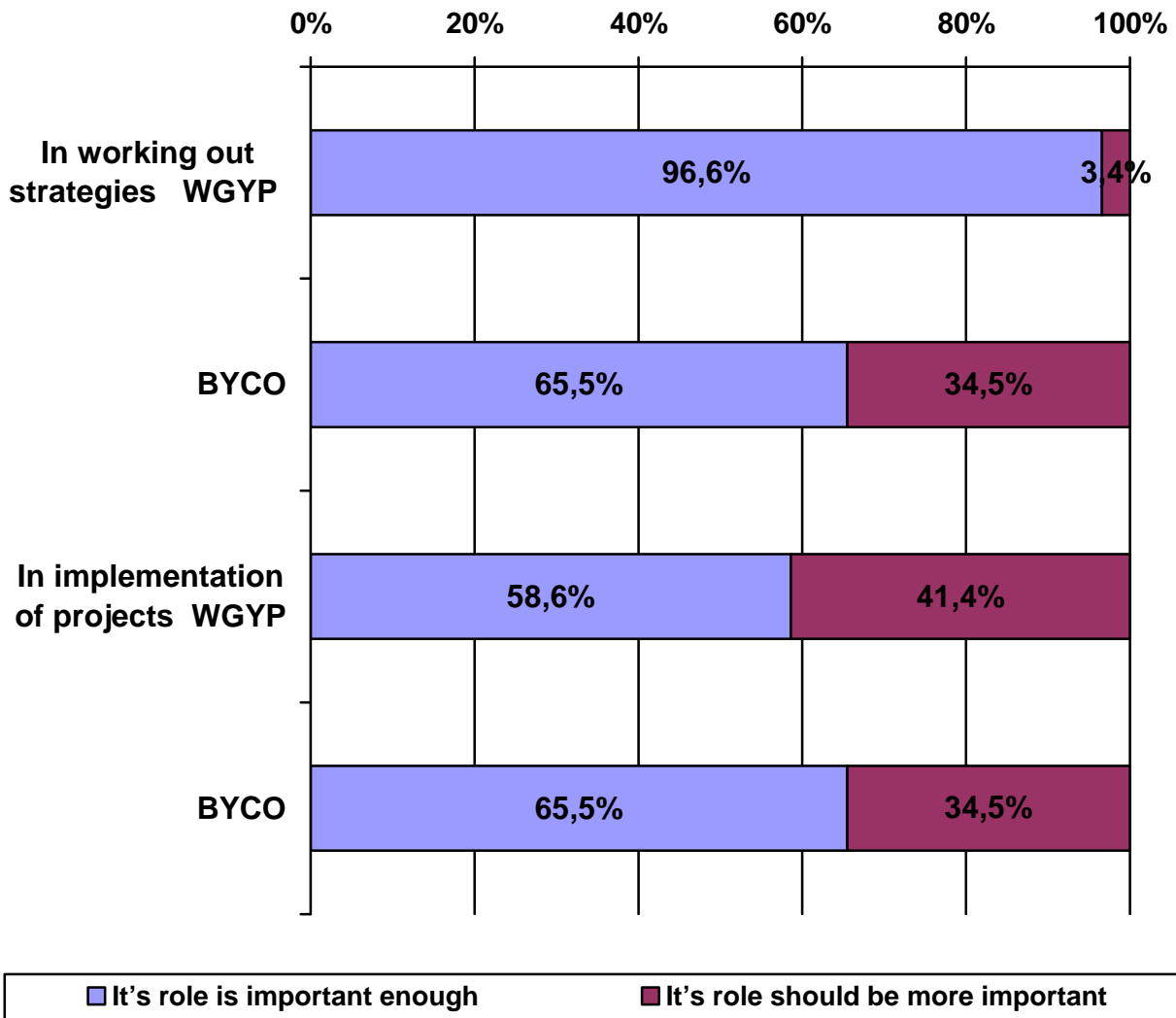
- A lot of useful practical information was represented, technology of conduction worked off, interesting forms of work.
- There was a possibility to get to know a lot of new about youth work, sources of financing, to get acquainted with representatives of authorities on youth work and work with youth organizations from different countries and regions.

- Meeting of big quantity of youth structures representatives (state, public), exchange of experience, contacts, gaining of new knowledge, development of joint projects. Evidence of possibility of fruitful state authorities and youth structures cooperation.
- This project allowed young people of different nationalities to solve their general problems together, included financial part of new and modern projects, give exact answers for all financial questions
- The course gave a lot of information about the possibilities for cooperation in the region, lots of new contacts were established in a non formal atmosphere between youth workers and members of youth NGOs.

Barents Youth Conference 2005 and 2006:

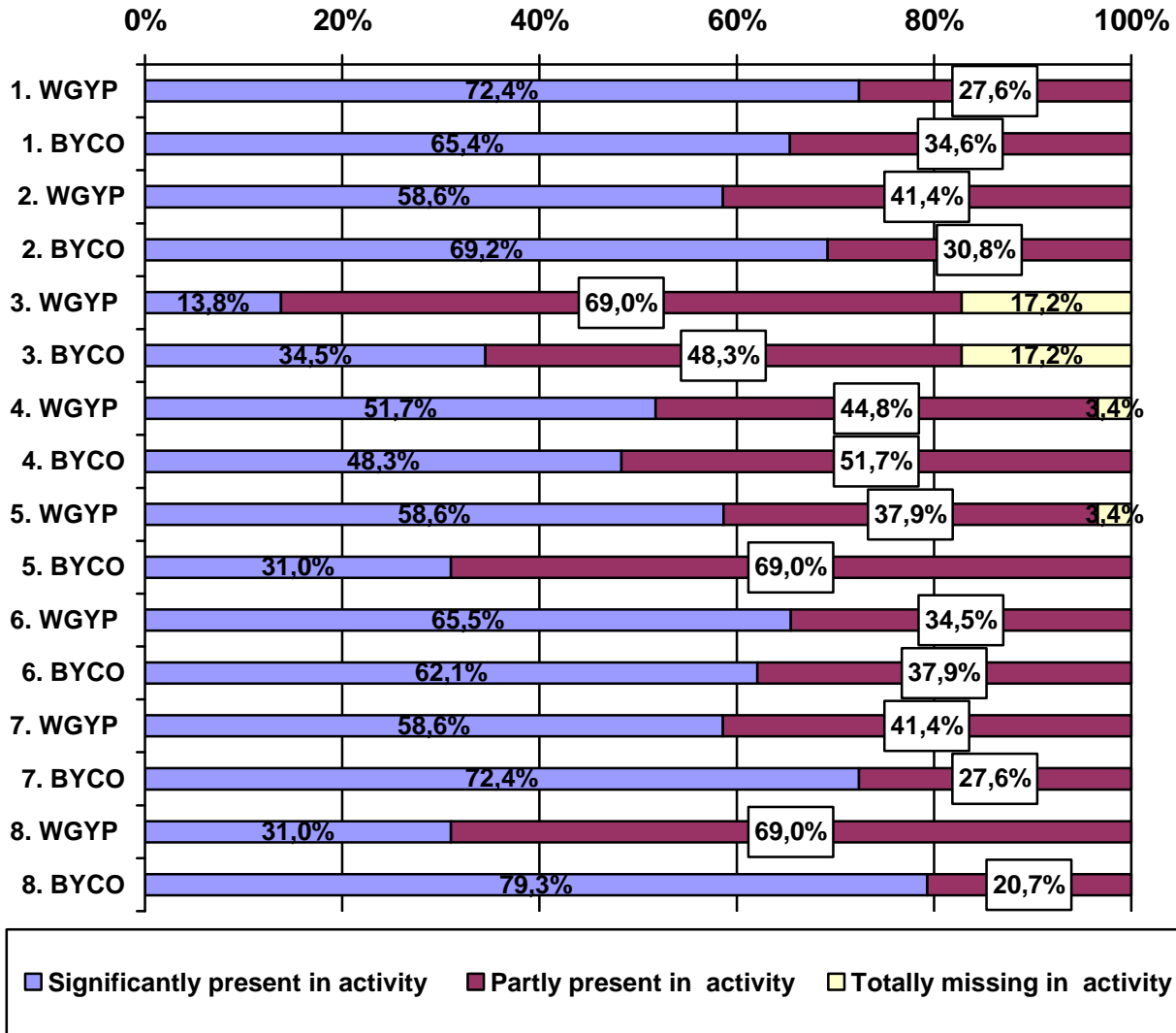
- These two projects allowed us, representatives of Lapp youths , to enlarge the sphere of cooperation. Conferences helped to find new contacts, to discuss face to face projects and other things.
- The form of arrangement conduction proved to be very effective, it allowed to formulate a lot of projective ideas and to get to know young people's conception of their present and future in Barents region. Different youth organizations from all regions were also well represented.
- Was very well-organized, participants generated a lot of new project ideas during a very short time.
- New project ideas were created by the youths themselves and in cooperation between the youths from different regions.
- Effective for making a forum for discussion and establishing new contacts and creating new cooperation ideas.

Role of WGYB and BYCO in the working out of strategies and implementation of projects



Practically all experts underline significant role in developing WGYB strategies in contrast to BYCO. Every third expert consider that the role of BYCO in development of strategies must be strengthened. Most Sweden experts (66%) especially underline it. As for realization of concrete plans experts point out the necessity of WGYB role strengthening. 41,4% of experts claim about it, more over 83% of Russian experts hold this opinion.

Presence degree of WGYP's and BYCO's activity declared in documents.



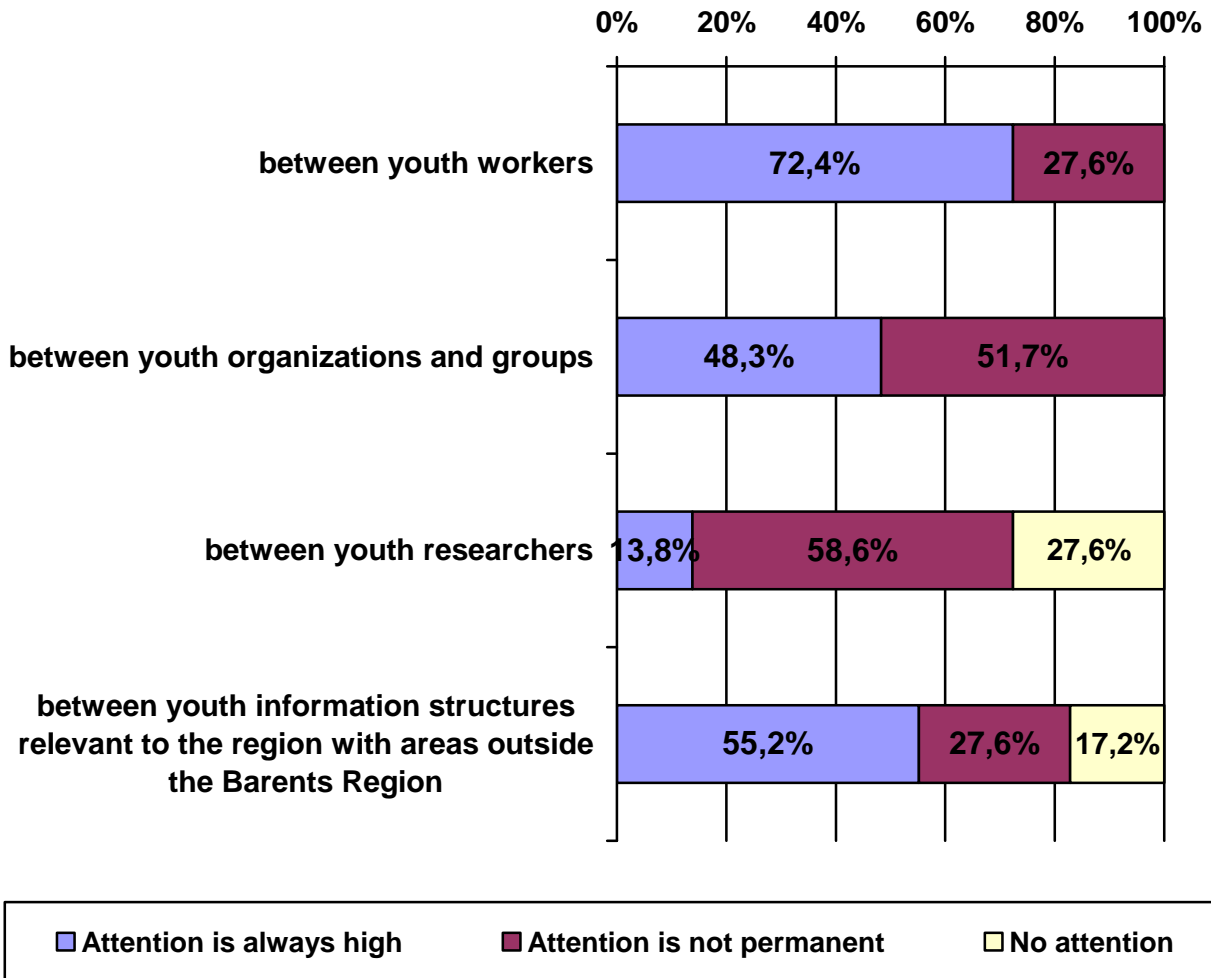
Type of WGYP's and BYCO's activity, declared in documents:

1. To act as an expert body to the Barents Council in matters relating to youth policy
2. To co-operate with other bodies of the Council and the Regional Council in the sphere of youth policy
3. To promote regional youth research
4. To prepare for the Council matters relating to young people's living conditions
5. To determine measures needed to avert the threat of exclusion among young people in the Barents Region
6. To investigate special projects and programs relating to the civic society in the terms of youth policy
7. To create opportunities for youth exchange between local youth groups
8. To explore possibilities to obtain support from sources such as the European Union, the Council of Europe and national financing schemes for international co-operation between youth workers, youth organizations and groups, and youth researchers

As to presence of activity orientations declared in official documents in WGYF and BYCO work, we have the following points:

- On the whole experts underline complete or partial presence of all activity orientations declared in official documents in WGYF and BYCO work.
- Support of youth regional researches in work of both organizations is represented very weakly (69% (WGYF) и 48,3% (BYCO) – «Partly present in activity», and 17,2% - «Totally missing in activity»).
- Most experts point out only partial presence of exploration possibility to obtain support from such sources as EU, The Council of Europe, national financing schemes of international cooperation of young workers, youth organizations and young researchers in WGYF work.
- Other orientations of WGYF and BYCO work are represented in equal degree (just a little more than half experts point out complete presence, other-partial).

What attention is paid by WGYP to the following aspects of cooperation?

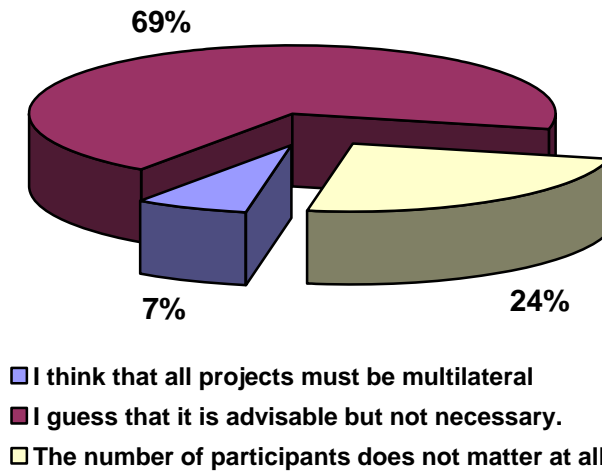


Most experts point to always high attention from WGYP to cooperation between youth workers (72,4%) and between information structures relevant to the region and areas outside the Barents region (55,2%).

Concerning cooperation between youth organizations and groups experts' opinion is split on two halves: 51,7% of experts consider that attention is temporary and unstable, while 48,3% of experts on the contrary underline permanent high attention.

Experts see that WGYF pays little attention to the aspect of cooperation between researchers (attention is not permanent – 58,6%), no attention at all (27,6%).

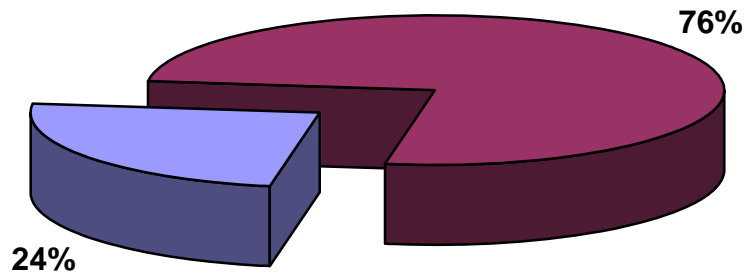
How necessary, in your opinion, is participation of each country-member of the Barents Sea Co-operation in all projects?



Most experts are sure that all member countries have to be involved in every project, however the degree of participation may vary and be depended on importance of the project for the certain country.

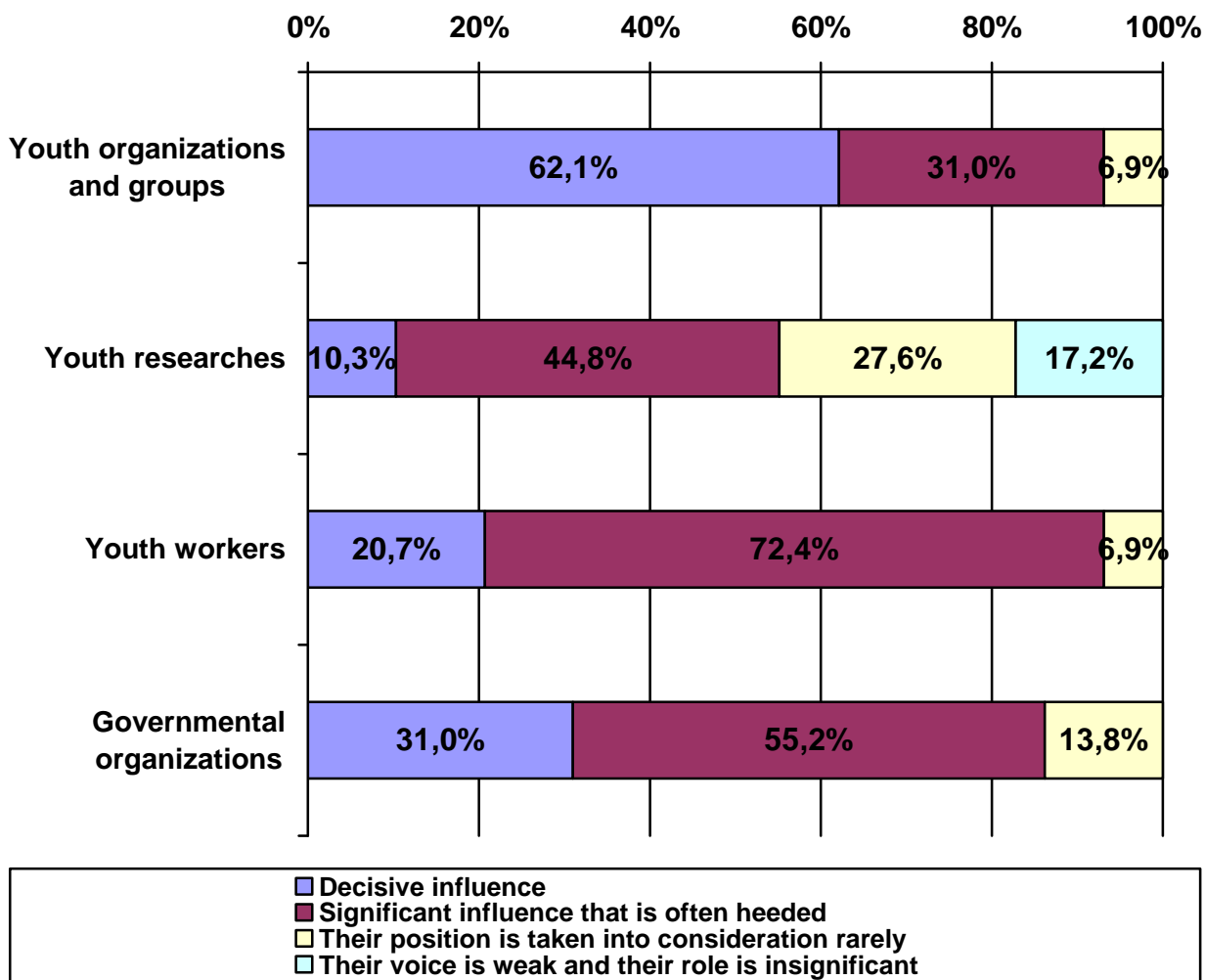
As for financial support of projects, 76% of experts consider the projects must be realized on the basis of co-financing from international and national funds.

The most appropriate ways of financial support of projects



- Financial support should be provided by international funds.
- Projects should be supported by national and international funds together.

The degree of following subjects influence on the development of WGYP projects

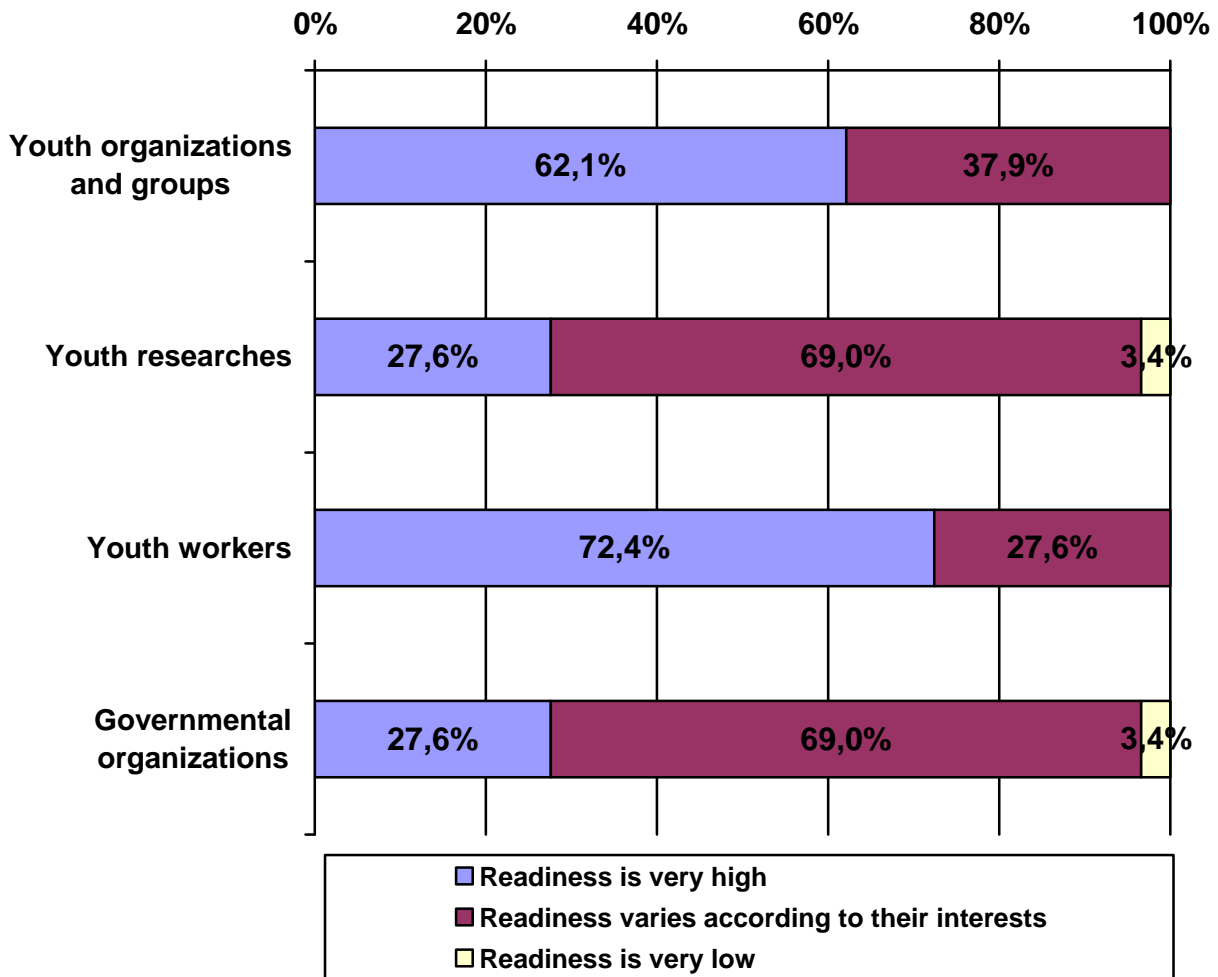


Experts mark out key influence of youth organizations and groups on development and realization of projects (62,1%).

Youth workers and governmental structures also influence significantly on development and realization of projects.

As for youth researchers, experts put them on the last place among those who influence development and realization of projects.

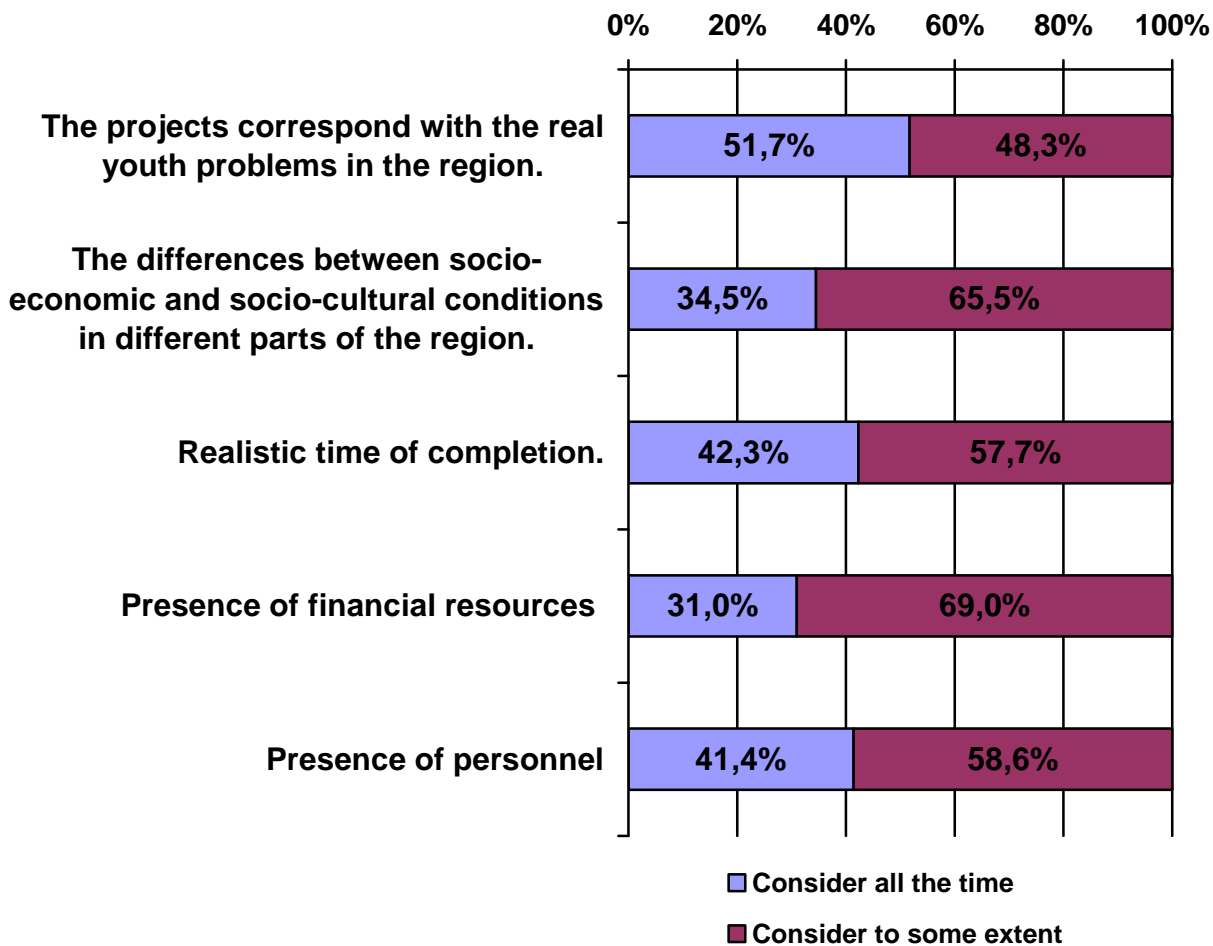
Inclination to participation in the projects



Youth organizations and groups, youth workers have high readiness to development and realization of projects.

Readiness of youth researchers and governmental organizations is dealt with their interests.

To what extent the following issues are taken into account by the present projects?



Half of experts consider real problems of youth in region are always taken into account by present projects.

Realistic time of completion and presence of personnel according to experts are taken into account only to some extent.

Differences in social-economic and social-cultural conditions in region and presence of financial resources in present projects are taken into account only sometimes – every two experts from three experts consider this way.

Particular problems connected with social integration of youth and improvement of social participation that should be in the focus of WYGP's activity in the future?

Social integration, activity and equality

- social inclusion of minorities
- social integration of youth with immigrant background
- inclusion of different youth groups into international cooperation, not only the ones talented in music, dancing and so on.
- involving youth in the life of local and small communities
- support to socially disadvantaged youth for their better adaptation
- support to talented youth
- connection of different young people who taking part in different social activities
- giving an opportunity to define problems from different points of view
- overcoming of youth passivity in making decisions and participation in decision-making process at various levels
- close cooperation with the governmental organizations
- to consider the features of "modern information space" in choosing forms and methods of working with youth
- gender, ethnic and region equality defense

Concrete issues in different spheres:

In education:

- availability of education and equal opportunities for good education for all
- effective education in the field of civil society bases construction

In employment:

- decreasing youth unemployment by providing with job or supporting young people in searching job

In entrepreneurship:

- support to different types of business-people - females in business and business initiatives of socially disadvantaged youths by creation business-incubators and strong legislation

In the question of migration:

- opportunities for social mobility among different sections of young people: in the northern territories, among indigenous youth and rural youth

In culture:

- promotion of youth culture on the multicultural base and tolerance: multicultural youth community support; attention to moral orientation of youth culture

Concerning living conditions:

- improvement of living conditions by means of accessible domicile and affordable crediting
- making northern areas more attractive for the youths

Concerning healthy life-style:

- promotion of healthy life-style by prevention of antisocial behavior and addictions (drug and alcohol)
- creating effective alternatives and measures for popularization a healthy life-styles

Aspects of youth cooperation important for further development

Social integration activity and equality:

- projects for socially disadvantaged youth and children
- Overcoming of sociophobia among youth - inability to solve live problems.
- protection of human rights and equality
- support to youth NGOs as one of the main tool for their self-organization

Concrete issues in different spheres:

In education:

- conditions for more qualitative education
- programs pupils and students exchange, including exchange of ordinary youth (without any achievements)
- informal education, including self participating in international cooperation
- professional education and advanced competences education
- traineeships for further participating in social projects and in local management

Entrepreneurship:

- youth entrepreneurship in the rural areas
- more deep and effective development of youth business undertakings, not only in terms of discussing at the conferences but in terms of financial and law support.
- Call for and support of the new perspective ideas in business

Migration:

- indigenous youth problems
- rural youth problems

Living conditions and unemployment:

- promotion of living conditions and employment for youth in regions of BEAR

Healthy life-style:

- social aspects, health and preventing drug addictions
- support to more physically active life styles and promotion of sports, team and health as a new youth fashion.

International cooperation:

- cooperation of youth councils, volunteers, environmental protection
- cooperation within sport and tourism, making them more attractive for youths
- aspects of cooperation between youth representatives and authorities working with youth
- culture exchange
- facilitation of visa granting at work with the international projects
- youth ecological cooperation
- joint actions, not only cultural, but also sports, ecological, etc.
- cooperation of young researchers and other young scientists
- creation of conditions for more effective and fast searching of partners for projects' development and realization (informing about projects, about necessity and willingness of cooperation in any spheres)

3. Conclusions and recommendations

According to documents analysis and expert's survey data the following conclusions and recommendations should be done:

1. As analysis show WGYP's and BYCO's work as the bodies acting in the field of youth policy in the region is highly estimated. However there is evidence of certain contradiction in the perception of a role of each body by experts. So, experts believe, that BYCO's role should be strengthened in strategies' development, and WGYP's role – in realization of concrete plans. Such perception does not correspond with their original functions: the working group is the basic subject on development of concrete directions of youth policy in region, and BYCO's role follows from its name – the coordinating center. On the one hand, it can be caused by some functional uncertainty which can be connected with indistinct differentiation of powers, purposes and tasks between these two structures. On the other hand, experts' estimations may reflect the wish of closer cooperation of all structures in the all aspects of activity. The latter may guarantee sufficient level of integrity in youth policy.
2. The support of youth regional researches - direction of WGYP and BYCO activity which declared in official documents - is presented in activity of both organizations more poorly others. Meanwhile, without such researches, conducting not from time to time and taking let's say important but separated problems, but methodologically well based investigation considering youth of the region as a whole and in its connection with all processes going on in the region youth policy is at risk to become spontaneous, chaotic and fragmented. Hence there is a high need for the organization and support cooperation between youth researchers of BEAR on continuing basis. Intensification of the cooperation with the Barents Research Network and following up of

research projects concerning young people in the region, such as “Young people in the Barents Region – work and welfare”, which involves researchers from different universities in the Barents Region seems to be fruitful.

3. In order to provide scientifically grounded youth policy it is important to work out estimation criteria and a system of qualitative indicators that help to understand changes among young people and evaluate activity of different structures acting in the field of youth policy implementation. These criteria and indicators should reflect together aims and priorities of regional development and youth aspirations. The absence of these criteria can be observed in vague comments concerning implemented projects and particularly their results. For example, the fact that practice of sending volunteers’ from one city to work in other city exist doesn’t contain any information about the character and efficacy of such work.
4. Enlargement of definition of safety and unsafety within youth policy. Unsafety is dealt not only with youth life styles but mainly with uncertainty and risk that young people meet on the way of social integration. Hence provision of safety for youth is seen to be connected with social insurance and reduction of uncertainty level in the everyday life. That is why complex of measures seems important, these measures must be directed to:
 - a) Strengthening of measures on development of young people’s social competence that assists flexible integration under conditions of rising competition and unpredictable changes. These measures include trainings and courses that provide knowledge not only by professions but also skills of self development, self actualization, creative ideas, skills of interaction in team, of building priorities and obtaining frustration resistance, motivation of risky

actions and reflection on its results. All these factors provide complementary possibilities for integration for young people.

b) provision of lawful and social defense of young people in parts of the region going through the most dramatic social transformation and instability that would prevent different forms of social discrimination of youth and processes of youth social exclusion.

5. The major direction of future WGYF activity is considered the support of youth in those spheres which are the major channels of integration into a society: education, employment, business activity, living conditions, cultural development, and health.
6. Achieving goal of better cooperation and bringing youth together to pay attention on deep involving of all countries into realization of projects in BEAR.