

Summary

The year 2017 was full of different local activities in the Barents region, such as presentations at universities, workshops with students on Barents and project management, meetings with local authorities and organization of events in home regions. It should also be mentioned that BRYC has had a high number of new members this year.

Regarding the communication with the Barents Regional Council and Regional Committee, BRYC appreciates the opportunity to take part in the meetings and stay as a “legal” member of the Barents cooperation.

In 2017, the main Annual Event of BRYC revolved around the topic “Borders” – borders as barriers between countries, internal borders as a psychological aspect, and borders in the society. The event took place in Arvidsjaur, Sweden, in November 2017. Around 80 youth participants from Sweden, Finland, Russia and Norway attended the event. The program of the annual event included three simultaneous workshops:

1. Cultural borders «Borderology - a new science or way to connect Barents»;
2. Social borders «Labour adaptation or how to get acquainted with your adult life»;
3. Country borders «Intercultural leadership and choosing identity».

Through these interactive workshops, led by the young specialists from Russia and Sweden, young participants could exchange knowledge and expand their vision on the various concepts of «borders». Also, the army battalion in Arvidsjaur was chosen as a touristic site for an excursion. The second day of the annual event was devoted to the role-play game, model of «Barents regional committee», where the participants could play as policy-developers of the Barents Cooperation and elaborate measures and strategies aimed at youth development in the region. The “Barents Model” game was devoted to the 25th anniversary of the Barents cooperation to give young people a better understanding of the regional structure.

Throughout the year, BRYC established contacts with international organizations and relevant actors in the interest of future collaboration, not only from the Barents region, but European actors as well. BRYC’s indigenous peoples representative was invited to attend the annual meeting of the WGIP, which took place in Murmansk, March 2017. Later in April, he also took part in the 1st Barents Indigenous People’s Summit in Moscow.

In the frames of the bilateral project “Generation 2020” with Slovakia, BRYC continued its dialogue with the Carpathian cross-border region, funded through the EEA/Norway Grants. In this project, BRYC collaborated with the Slovak youth organization “Generation We”, which sought to incorporate the BRYC-model of in their own home region. BRYC’s chair had a meeting with them in Kirkenes, where she hosted a workshop on project management and shared contacts.

Earlier in 2017, the whole youth council had the chance to visit Alta (Norway) and meet with local youth organisations. All of these organizations were new to BRYC, meaning that the council was able to establish new contacts and widen its network.

Later in 2017, BRYC followed the tradition of sending a youth delegation to the High North Dialogue conference in Bodø, Norway. Each year, BRYC tries to pick new youth representatives to represent the council at this conference, as all the events should have “new faces” and new ideas.

Simultaneously with the High North Dialogue, the BRYC chair hosted a big event in the frames of the project “Combating youth unemployment”, which took place in Murmansk. The event gathered representatives of business, government and youth organizations, serving as a communication platform for these three groups.

BRYC’s representative from Komi had a chance to take part of the International Youth Ecological Volunteer Camp for Barents Euro-Arctic Region, which took place in Inna, Russia, in late June.

Another important event titled “Europe Lab” took place in Gdansk (Poland). The event gathered youth from various youth organisations, such as human rights activists, researchers, urbanists, peacekeepers, young entrepreneurs and others. This became a good “entrance” to the European audience for BRYC, in terms of exchanging best practices and peer-to-peer work.

Autumn started with a youth exchange project called “Future leaders of the Barents region”, at which our representative from Nordland took part.

Later in September, a big event supported by BRYC was held in Arkhangelsk, the “Uncapitals” project, devoted to IT development and cultural heritage of the Pomor culture, where participants developed a virtual reality Pomor museum. This project will continue in the future, as the Pomor museum will be mobile and will be presented through the regions of Barents. Also in the beginning of October, BRYC managed to apply for the Erasmus+ programme for further development of the Uncapitals project.

In February, BRYC together with Fridaymilk co-hosted the festival “Inversia” in Murmansk, devoted to audio-visual arts. The festival gathered artists from the Nordic countries and Northwestern Russia, and attracted around 1500 young people in Murmansk.

In 2017, BRYC forwarded its suggestions to the new Barents Programme. This was a great opportunity for BRYC to contribute to the future of the Barents Cooperation. BRYC also contributed with input to the NSPA Network, with proposals on EU investments in the Arctic/Barents region targeting youth.

Communication has been an important topic for BRYC in 2017. Similarly to the BRC, BRYC has been discussing ideas on how to improve external communication and increase visibility among regional youth audiences. As a result, the council in 2017 developed a communication strategy, including measures to modernize BRYC’s digital profile and use of social media platforms. Having funding for the next year, working in accordance with the new communication strategy and new branding goals for “Barentsyouth”, BRYC believes 2018 will be a more fruitful and productive year for BRYC.

Meetings and events in 2017

Date	Activity	Representative(s)
18 January	Meeting with Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten	Tim Andersson, Västerbotten
22-27 January	Arctic Frontiers, Tromsø	Hege Kallbekken, Troms
2-4 February	Inversia festival, Murmansk	Inna Fedorova, Murmansk
15 February	Meeting with Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten	Tim Andersson, Västerbotten
27-28 February	Troms youth council meeting and workshop, Murmansk	Inna Fedorova, chair
14 March	WGIP Meeting, Murmansk	August Sjøvoll (Indigenous representative)
20-21 March	BRYC Annual Meeting, Alta	Most of the BRYC members
22-23 March	Meetings in the BRC and RC, Alta Barents Event for University Students, Alta	BRYC Board
27-29 March	Comun youth project, Headmark/ Varmland	Inna Fedorova, chair
14 April	Meeting of BRYC Sweden	BRYC Sweden
17 April	BRYC Board meeting (Skype)	BRYC Board
18-19 April	High North Dialogue – Bodø	Tuure Vairio (Oulu), Anastasia Oparina (Arkhangelsk)
26 April	Meeting with the youth organisation from Carpathian region «Generation WE»	Inna Fedorova, chair
27 April	Comun youth project, assistance in organisation	Inna Fedorova, chair
28 April	1 st Barents Indigenous People's Summit, Moscow	August Sjøvoll (Indigenous representative)
4 May	Meeting of BRYC Sweden	BRYC Sweden
19 June	Meeting with Foreign Ministry of Sweden	BRYC Sweden
21 June	Meeting of BRYC Sweden	BRYC Sweden
30 June – 7 July	International Youth Ecological Volunteer Camp for Barents Euro-Arctic Region States – Inta, Republic of Komi	Ekaterina Konevskaya (Komi)
5 July	BRYC Board meeting (Skype)	BRYC Board
26-30 July	Forum for young professionals, «Europe lab», Gdansk, Poland	Inna Fedorova, chair

7 September	Meeting with Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten	Tim Andersson, Västerbotten
7-11 September	The Future Young Leaders of the Barents Region – Murmansk	Viktoria Markussen (Nordland)
13 September	BRYC Board meeting (Skype)	BRYC Board
27-30	September Uncapitals, Arkhangelsk	Inna Fedorova, chair
1 October	Meeting of BRYC Sweden	BRYC Sweden
17-18 October	Meetings in BRC and RC, Arkhangelsk Ministerial meeting, Arkhangelsk BRYC Board meeting, Arkhangelsk	BRYC Board
30 November – 3 December	BRYC Annual Event 2017 in Arvidsjaur, Norrbotten (Sweden)	All BRYC members + invited youth participants

Youth initiatives (projects)

Date	Activity	Representative
1-5 February	Inversia – Visual arts festival for youth, organized in Murmansk	Inna Fedorova, chair
21-24 September	Uncapitals: Digital Heritage – Art camp for young artists, programmers and historians, organized in Onega, Arkhangelsk	Inna Fedorova, chair
2016-2017	“Generation WE”	BRYC

BRYC members in 2017

1. **Inna Fedorova (Chair and Board Member)**
Murmansk, Russia
 2. **Tim Andersson (Board Member)**
Västerbotten, Sweden
 3. **Hege Kallbekken (Board Member)**
Troms, Norway
 4. **Tuure Vairio (Board Member)**
Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland
 5. **August Sjøvoll (Indigenous representative and Board Member)**
Nordland, Norway
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6. **Roosa Mikkonen (Member)**
Kainuu, Finland
 7. **Jaakko Joentakanen (Member)**
Lapland, Finland
 8. **Maria-Katariina Antonov (Member)**
North Karelia, Finland
 9. **Anna Oliva Taksgård (Member)**
Finnmark, Norway
 10. **Viktoria Markussen (Member)**
Nordland, Norway
 11. **Alexandra Møller (Member)**
Norrbotten, Sweden
 12. **Katarina Lindmark (Member)**
Norrbotten, Sweden
 13. **Anastasia Oparina (Member)**
Arkhangelsk, Russia
 14. **Maxim Mashin (Member)**
Karelia, Russia

15. **Ekaterina Konevskaya (Member)**

Komi, Russia

16. **Olga Braginets (Member)**

Nenets AO, Russia