



BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Barents Regional Youth council

BRYC

Report 2010

The Barents Regional Youth Council

Our mission

We will strengthen the youth cooperation in the Barents region and empower young people to actively participate in the shaping of the Barents region and the society in which we live.

Introduction

At its meeting on 5 September 2001, the Barents Regional Council decided to draw up a youth programme for the Barents Region. This was done at the direct request of the Barents Regional Youth Forum, BRYF, which was represented at the meeting and called for concrete action. The present programme is based on the conclusions from the Conference "Face the Future", which was held on 12-16 May 2001 in Tromsø, Norway. BRYF ended its work in 2003.

In 2003 The Norwegian ministry for children and family affairs allocated 1 mill NOK per year for two years to support multilateral youth projects in the region. The Norwegian Barents secretariat got the responsibility of managing the fund. A youth coordinator was employed and the extra resources made a broader implementation of the program possible. The funding has continued until today and a new programme is developed.

Background

The countries in the Barents region have many common challenges when it comes to youth issues and this invites to increased cooperation about these matters.

During an international youth seminar in Murmansk October 2003, the participants strongly signalled that young people want to participate more actively in the Barents cooperation. They concluded that the best way to ensure this would be to establish a new youth structure in the Barents cooperation, a council consisting of young people from the whole region.

Establishment

The establishment meeting for the Barents regional Youth Council (BRYC) was held in Kirkenes during the festival Barents Spektakel 2004.

The council consists of one youth representative from each county, oblast, republic and okrug in the region and one representative for indigenous youths. The 14 members of the council will work towards a strengthening of the youth cooperation in the Barents region.

The members are chosen by their county administration based on the following criteria: - He or she must have an age fitting the category "Youth" (over 18 and under 30 years) and speak English, have knowledge about youth issues in their region and be interested in international cooperation

Organisation

BRYCs secretariat is in the hands of the person responsible for the youth program at the Barents secretariat in Kirkenes. The Secretariat invites the members to the meetings, find suitable meeting dates and arrange travel and accommodation for the participants. The Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk have the responsibility to coordinate the participation of the representatives on the Russian side and make plans for travels, arrange visas and spread information BRYCs closest collaborator in the Barents cooperation is the Regional Working group on Youth Issues.

ACTIVITIES

Council meetings

The Barents Regional Youth Council with all representatives meets normally twice a year. In 2010 the meetings were held in Luleå, Sweden and Kirkenes, Norway

Meetings in the council in 2010:

Annual Meeting and Council Meeting
24th to 26th February
Luleå, Sweden
(*enclosure 1 and 2*)

Council meeting
Friday 28th of October 2010
Joint with The Regional working group
Kirkenes, Norway
(*enclosure 3*)

Board for BRYC

One contact person from each country, plus the indigenous representative is represented in a board for BRYC. The personal compositions board have differed in terms of the tasks, to ensure that the team always has interest in the particular task they are working on at the time. The board is elected every year during the annual meeting. Boardmembers 2010:

Ylva Maria Pavval, Sweden
Ksenia Kipurova, Russia
Isa Tolonen, Finland
Kristine Iversen/Viktor Paulsen, Norway
Halvard Rundberg, Indigenous People

Meetings in the Board for BRYC 2010:

Board Meeting June 2010
10-11 June Troms, Norway
(*enclosure 4*)

Board Meeting September 2010

9-10 of September 2010
Umeå, Sweden
(*enclosure 5*)

Board Meeting December 2010

14th-15th of December 2010
Helsinki, Finland
(*enclosure 6*)

BRYC Event 2010

One of the biggest challenges in the Northern areas and the one on top of the political agenda both on the regional and central level in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia is that many youngsters leave the region to live in the South and that there are very few young people from the other parts of the country who wish to live in the Northern areas. That is why the region should be made attractive for the young people through the knowledge about the quality of life and real opportunities in the north.

The Barents Regional Youth Council therefore arranged a workshop "Barents Passion Week" 27.-31.October in Kirkenes, Norway. The aim of the project was to emphasize the good life in the High North. The project contributed to increase of the desire to live in and the knowledge about the quality of life in Barents. The project gave young inhabitants of the Barents region understanding of the significance of correct and positive information and communication about the life in the north and the importance about being proud of the societies we live in. It is important to let the Barents youth realize all the advantages of the life in the North as well as to get rid of all the wrong images and stereotypes that exist among the rest of the population.

This was done by gathering together 80 youths aged 18-29 from the whole Barents region (20 from each of the countries Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia divided among 13 member regions of the Barents region) with different cultural and ethnical background for 3 days in Kirkenes. There was arranged several parallel creative workshops that ended up in a joint Barents menu. The menu consisted of different small cultural events, performances or experiences that was be presented for the people in Kirkenes at Barents Passion Café. The project was innovative and exiting and involved the participants in important social and political questions in a new way through creative joint work.

Barents Regional Youth Council is working under the motto "Diversity is the Barents Identity" and they ensured that minimum 20% of the participants were of indigenous origin or ethnical minorities to reflect the fantastic diversity of the population in the North.

BRYC spin-offs 2010

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour is a cultural tour about human rights for youth in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and northwest Russia – the area we call Barents. The tour aim to raise awareness about human rights and to activate youth to work locally or internationally with the areas that interest them. The tour will through its unique concept give a taste of the richness of cultures in each region.

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour will bring you:

School workshops aiming to raise the awareness about human rights. Are they current for us, youth aged 16-19 living in the Barents region? How do we want to use them? And is there something missing?

The greatest live music show providing a glimpse of the whole Barents region, including each country (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia) and their indigenous peoples (veps, nenets, sami).

A human rights festival, free and open for everyone. Good music will be playing, there will be stands with information from NGO's on how to get organised, good fun and a lot of people.

Barents Builders

This project wants to contribute to the creation of an active Area of Cooperation in Barents and The North Calotte and contribute to social integration, development of knowledge and transfer of knowledge. It is therefore important that the project includes all four countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. The ingredients that make this work are tolerance, democracy, diversity, participation and social entrepreneurship, which all together is a part of the ethos in Barents Builder.

Through the Barents Builder project the Barents region can become a pioneer when it comes to active citizenship and making the most of young peoples' initiatives, and thereby create a good basis for regional and local development.

The purpose with the project

In the project a model will be developed to stimulate border crossing youth projects, to increase the number of contacts and cooperations/projects across borders.

As a part of the Barents Builder model, an education and training will be developed, with the purpose of increasing the knowledge of young people of the possibilities and the competence of how to make their own project ideas a reality.

- In the Barents Builder project 28 young people will be educated in regional cross-border project work, the education to be quality assured and acknowledged through the OCN-method.
- Approx. 28 projects with regional cross-border activities will be realised as a result.
- The project's participants will also be trained to be resource persons for other young people with regards to regional cross-border projects.
- Around 150 young people in the entire Barents and North Calotte region will obtain knowledge about the region's possibilities and how one can find ways to make them a reality.
- Common activity/project for building regional cross-border awareness about the region's possibilities.

There is a need for young creative entrepreneurs to participate in a positive development of the Barents Region. It is important that young people from the different countries in the region experience the value of learning about each other and exchange and acquire knowledge together.

Due to difficulties with support to the implementation of the project there was implemented a pilot in 2010. There were three separate workshops during Barents Builders- pilot.

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi is a mentoring program for Sami girls in Sweden. The project is soon to be launched and the project is looking for women aged over 20 that can become mentors.

The project is organized by the Barents Regional Youth Council, and the Sami Youth Parliament Sáminuorra. This autumn the project Niejda-up Sápmi Chicks will start. Now the project leaders need mentors to the project.

As a mentor you'll become a role model for girls and a human being who listens, encourages and plays an important role in young girls' lives. You get an education in Stockholm at " Fryshuset ", tutoring, and participation in a number of inspiration-events in different subjects with other mentors during the year.

Barents Stories- The photo book about Barents

Photo is about seeing (and photographing) the world from new perspectives.

The project emphasizes the view of the Barents region as a dynamic that takes advantage of young people's driving force, which acts as a catalyst for increased cooperation locally and internationally.

In order to change the Barents, we must first transform the image in and out of our region, from static to dynamic.

By early increase young people's image of their surroundings in the north from a national game plan to a regional Barents Identity creates future opportunities for increased business cooperation and trade between the countries of the region but also provide a living community.

Pininga Youth Camp

A international project is soon being implemented in Arkhangelsk. Within the project there will be rafting along the Pinega River in the Arkhangelsk region with visits to historical places and local villages located along the river.

Today tourism has become part and parcel of peoples' lives. And it is becoming more and more popular all over the world. It's amazing that the number of people is growing, who choose not huge cosmopolitans and cities as their destination, but go to rural areas to camp, hike and enjoy untouched nature. What's more lots of young people are combining rural tourism with different sport activities like skiing in winter, hiking, camping or rafting.

That is why two young Barents enthusiasts decided to make an event, which will be enjoyable for the young people all over the Barents Region. Floating along the river, camping, visiting the places with deep history and experiencing Russian rich culture.

The main topic of the project is tourism. Participants will not only camp and raft, but also have some training on teambuilding and seminars and lectures on tourism and business. We want to make the event annual, attracting people from the Barents region.

Information and other activities

The representatives of BRYC have informed local and regional NGOs in their Counties about larger Barents Youth events. The information flow has a great potential for improvement and all members are now building up their own list of addresses in their mailbox to be able to forward messages and links.

OTHER ACTIVITIES, REPRESENTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

20 – 24 January

Tromsø

Halvard Rundberg, Robert Lundgren and Adam Wännman-Zetterqvist had a RRR working group meeting in Tromsø during the Tromsø International Film Festival.

25 – 28 January

Århus

Halvard and Ylva went to Århus for a RRR kick-off with Jens Choong, Riksteatern, Christer Lindelöv-Lidzélius, headmaster of the KaosPilot School, and KaosPilot students Maja Brita Hauan, Kristian Schwarz, Mette Elmgård Pedersen. Some intense days spent with developing the workshops and the pilot project as a whole. The film crew from Filmpool Nord in Luleå consisting of Kim Miell, Caroline Olsson and documentary producer Adam also joined us in Århus. The crew has joined us since and filmed every workshop during the pilot project.

January – April

Syktyvkar

Round tables and debates on the international cooperation, including the Barents Region and its problems. Participants: students, NGO representatives.

January

Syktyvkar

Julia Lapshina organised the Youth Cooperation Club that arranges youth events and makes its own projects. They will become a “Local branch” of BRYC and help in promoting BRYC in Komi and get more volunteers involved.

January

Petrozavodsk

Anna Rybalova took part on the meeting between The State committee on Youth Affairs of Republic of Karelia and Department of North Savo Regional Economic Development of transport and the Environment, youth and sports issues

10 -12 February

Tromsø

The KaosPilot Students Maja Brita Hauan and Kristian Schwarz joined RRR as workshop facilitators. The workshop had 17 participants aged 17-18 from Tromsdalen Videregående Skole, and 9 signed up to become co-creators. Singer/songwriter Tonje Unstad from Nordland held a concert for the whole school at the canteen.

12 February

Tromsø

Halvard, Ylva and the RRR documentary team met with Karl Kristian Hansen and Viktor Enoksen, working at the youth house Tvibit.

18 February

Umeå

BRYC & RRR had a stand at the Future and Education Fair in Umeå, where we handed out flyers about the tour and met high school students from Västerbotten. A great opportunity to inform and create interest around Barents cooperation as there was 3000 visitors and 84 stands at the fair.

24 February

Luleå

Meeting with the Barents cooperation structures Working Group for Youth Policy (WGYP), Regional Working Group for Youth Issues (RWGYI) and Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) in Luleå.

25 February

Luleå

Meeting with the Barents Regional Committee in Luleå.

26 – 28 February

Murmansk

Irina Karmazina and Ylva Pavval participated in the second gathering of Barents Builders in Murmansk. The Barents Builders is a course in realising Barents projects, organised by Tvibit in Tromsø.

1 – 3 March

Murmansk

Ylva and Halvard and Irina Karmazina held a RRR workshop at the youth club Krilataya Guardia in Murmansk. Maria Petrova from BYCO helped out with planning, implementation and interpreting. 8 of the 15 participants aged 14 – 25 signed up to become co-creators.

4 March

Kirkenes

Halvard and Ylva held a presentation for the staff at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. We also met with Lars Miguel Utsi working with indigenous peoples and youth at The International Barents Secretariat.

12 March**Umeå**

Adam and Ylva presented BRYC & RRR for Petter Mahrs, Sofia Mörtlund and Tore Andersson from the Nordic Associations Youth Section (Föreningen Nordens Ungdomsförbund) in Umeå and planned future cooperation.

22 March**Stockholm**

Halvard, Robert and Ylva met with Maria Östenson, Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten and Eva Theisz, Ungdomsstyrelsen in Stockholm to discuss the national youth event during the Swedish chairmanship of the Barents Council. The event will take place in Umeå in May 2011 and the aim is to involve BRYC & RRR in both planning and realising of the event.

23 March**Umeå**

Jens Choong was workshop facilitator for the RRR workshop with 12 participants from Dragonskolan in Umeå, studying to become electricians, aged 16 - 17. Three of them signed up to become co-creators.

Two youth representatives from Umeå municipality, working to increase the influence and participation among youth in Umeå, also participated in the workshop.

The cultural analytic and independent evaluator, Elfrida Bergman, evaluated the workshop.

24 March**Umeå**

Drug and alcohol free concert. RRR arranged a concert with free entrance at Källar'n in the city centre of Umeå. We served snacks and soft drinks. Approximately 70 people came to enjoy the Barents bands Sideshow Stringband and Funksnatchers. DJ's for the night was the soundsystem Gaiakollektivet.

The concert was arranged in cooperation with Bilda and Studieförbundet.

26 March**Umeå**

Ylva met with the two youth representatives from the municipality of Umeå, Johan Miranda Holmgren and Rebecka Jacobsson to inform them about BRYC & RRR.

March 4**Petrozavodsk**

Anna Rybaova made a presentation about BRYC for students in Petrozavodsk State University and Karelian State Pedagogical Academy. It was 70 participants.

March 27-28**Murmansk**

Anna Rybalova took part in a study seminar for youth worker, financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers it was arranged in Murmansk.

April 6-12

Hamburg

Anna Rybalova and Jugendpresse Deutschland implemented a International youth workshop for journalists, financed by Stiftung Deutsch-Russischer Jugendaustausch. It was 20 participants from Russia, Latvia and Germany.

April 24-25

Murmansk

International volunteer youth forum in Murmansk gathered youth leaders from Troms, Lappland, Murmansk and Karelia. Youth NGO`s from Karelia took part in conference and presented our region. Anna Rybalova helped the participants from Karelia. Financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

April 23-27

Petrozavodsk

Anna Rybalova implemented international workshop on Human rights financed by Norwegian Helsinki committee. 20 young participants learned about human rights, and 5 teacher learned how to promote human rights at school.

April-May

Nenets

The students theatre "Ulibka" (Smile) took part in the International Children-and Youth Theatre festival in Kirkenes in April-May 2010. The festival was organized by the Samovar theatre, Kirkenes. Andrey Vokuev assisted with visa getting, translation, transport and other organization things.

May

Kainuu

Youth forum and panel in Sotkamo was arranged and Isa Tolonen represent BRYC and Kainuu`s Youth Council.

May

Naryan Mar

The photo exhibition of the Norwegian photographer Asbørn Nilsen "Colours in water" was opened in Naryan-Mar in May. The exhibition took place at the Naryan-Mar Children Art School. The exhibition was oriented mostly for pupils and teachers of the school. A.Vokuev assisted with transportation of the pictures, carried on the correspondence with A.Nilsen.

May 14

Petrozavodsk

One day of Norway. In the central library was a lesson about Norway, presentation about cooperation between Norway and Russia.

1 April

Umeå

Ylva met with Petra Rantatalo, working at the municipality of Umeå with "Umeå Capital of Culture 2014" to present BRYC & RRR.

15 April
Stockholm

Ylva met with Eva Theisz, Lotta Jarvenius – Rössner and Maria Östensson planning the national youth event during the Swedish chairmanship of the Barents Council.

26 – 28 April
Tornio

Halvard, Jens and Ylva held a successful RRR workshop with 18 participants aged 15 – 17 years. All of them signed up to become co-creators.

26 – 29 May
Jokkmokk

Halvard and Ylva held a RRR workshop on identity together with the Jurist Ellen Blind. The 16 participants were 16 – 18 years, sami youth from Norway, Sweden and Finland, all of them attending the “Sáme Nuora” project. 5 of them signed up to become co-creators.

28 May
Jokkmokk

Drug and alcohol free concert, Jokkmokk

RRR arranged a concert with free entrance at Ájtte, where DJ's Gaiakollektivet and the Barents band Mertzi & Terno Drom playing. This was also the opening night of an exhibition made by the participants at the “Sáme Nuora” project, where the youth held presentations on different subjects. Approximately 100 persons attended the concert night. We served snacks and soft drinks.

The concert was arranged in cooperation with Ájtte, Studieförbundet, Sparbanken Nord and Kultur & Fritid Jokkmokk.

June 4
Petrozavodsk

The international Conference "Cross-Border Cooperation: Russian Federation, European Union and Norway. Focus - the Republic of Karelia" was arranged during the 90th anniversary of Karelia. Karelias representative in the Barents Regional Youth Council, Anna Rybalova, had a presentation about youth cooperation in the Barents Region.

June 6
Petrozavodsk

Anna Rybalova take part of implementation the International Touristic Forum «Karelia – 2010. Tourism and modernisation of Russian economy». The Forum, research and practice conference «The role of tourism in modernisation of the economy of Russian regions » and the X specialized exhibition «Touristic Karelia-2010» are included in the official programme of the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Republic of Karelia.

9 – 10 June
Tromsø

Halvard presented the RRR Documentary and held a presentation of BRYC & RRR at the Barents Regional Committee meeting in Tromsø.

June 22-25**Petrozavodsk**

The Second International Workshop Conference Wooden Architecture as a Phenomenon of National Culture was held in Petrozavodsk. More than one hundred scientists have taken part in the conference. Anna Rybalova helped to organize the event for the representatives from Norway and Sweden.

18 – 26 July**Manchester**

Ylva held RRR workshops at the international youth theatre festival Contacting the World in Manchester. The festival had approximately 200 participants from England, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, South Africa, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, United States and Germany.

27 July**Manchester**

Ylva held RRR workshops at the Leadership Summit in Manchester. The Leadership Summit had 150 participants from Europe and England, a mix of politicians, officials and youth.

July 1-8**Seliger**

Seliger 2010 is an international project aimed at uniting the world leaders of tomorrow. Around 3 000 people took part in the event spending a week together in Tver region in Russia, from July 1 to July 8 to build a global network. Anna Rybalova organized a group of young Russian leaders.

July**Nenets**

Young dancers from Maimbava group took part in the Youth gathering within the Riddu Riddu festival in Kåfjord, Norway. Andrey Vokuev assisted with visa getting, transport and other organization things, carried on the correspondence with the festival organizers.

August**Nenets**

1 young handicapped girl took part in the Handicamp in July-August 2010. This is international summer camp for handicapped youth (www.handicamp.no). The camp was organized by the Rotary Club, Norway. A.Vokuev assisted with visa getting and transport.

August 2010

Kainuu

RaunioROCK was arranged and Isa Tolonen took part

August 3-9**Petrozavodsk**

Anna Rybalova was International coordinator in the implementation of The II International innovative forum "Hyperborea: youth in action". This year 638 people from Karelia, 19 Russian districts and 21 foreign countries took part in the forum.

September 3-4**Karelia**

The International cooperation and national diplomacy as a civil society and territory development factor international conference was arranged in September. The last day a workshop on project management was arranged by Anna Rybalova and she also had a presentation about Barents region cooperation, and BRYC.

The seminar hosted about 450 participants, among them representatives from the regional administration and the university of the Republic of Karelia, representatives from other regions in the Russian Federation, media and non-governmental organisations.

September 11-19**Brussels**

Anna Rybalova took part in a study trip to Brussels of the Young Russian Leaders 2 Brussels program, financed by NDI and Heinrich Boell Foundation. It included meetings with Belgian NGOs and political parties, conversations with members of European Parliament, trainings, and site visits. We also spent a full day in the city of Brugge to get acquainted with its thriving civic participation traditions.

October 14-16**Petrozavodsk**

Anna Rybalova took part of international youth NGO`s Expo Forum.

September 2010**Syktvkar**

Julia Lapshina made a presentation on Barents Regional Youth Council in the Syktvkar State University

6 September**Umeå**

Ylva met with Ida Östensson, social entrepreneur working with Crossing Borders and informed her about BRYC & RRR.

7 September**Umeå**

Ylva met with Helena Lindvall, Norrbottens Riksidrottsförbund, who are planning a big sports/youth/entrepreneurship Barents project.

17-19 september

Stockholm

The BRYC & Sáminuorra project "Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi" trained the first 10 mentors for the mentor programme. The training was held at Fryshuset in Stockholm and was very successful.

23 September

Umeå

Ylva held a presentation of RRR and had a workshop in Umeå with the participants from the Joint Working Group on Culture in the Barents Cooperation. Approximately 16 participants.

24 – 26 September

Luleå

RRR & Niejda – Chicks in Sápmi was presented at a conference for organisations representing the national minorities in Sweden. The projects were brought up as best practice examples and we shared our methods to work with successful cross-border projects. The conference was held in Luleå and had approximately 50 participants.

7 October

Stockholm

Ylva & Ola Möller held a presentation of the BRYC project Barents Stories at the WGYF meeting in Stockholm.

22-24 Oktober

Årrenjarka

Gathering in Årrenjarka, Norrbotten, for all 10 mentors and 10 adepts in the mentor programme "Niejda – Chicks in Sápmi". Theme for the weekend was self esteem and self confidence, and the participants did exercises to have fun and get to know themselves and the group.

27 – 31 October

Barents Passion Week!

October

Syktyvkar

Julia Lapshina was holding a workshop on international youth projects in the Barents Region within the frameworks of Youth Educational Forum. Results: outstanding project proposals and the growth of interest in BRYC's work among youth.

November- December

Syktyvkar

Julia Lapshina and the Komi Youth Union arranged the International Photo-media exhibition OBJECTIVE LIFE "People & Feelings". Participants: Norway, Sweden, Russia. Outcomes: promotion of BRYC and Euro-Arctic youth cooperation. Articles in newspapers and sites. Interviews and a report in the Komi Republican TV broadcast

November 9-10

Petrozavodsk

Anna Rybalova took part in the meetings of Working Group on Environment On behalf of the Swedish Chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council Working Group on Environment. Sustainable urban development and investments in environmental technologies in the Barents region were topics given special focus when participants from the Barents countries and regions met in Petrozavodsk.

November 12-20

Arhangelsk

Anna Rybalova took part of implementation of conference on human rights financed by Norwegian Helsinki Committee. The seminar hosted about 40 participants, among them teacher and youth representatives from Republic of Karelia, Murmansk and Arhangelsk.

November 25-27

Petrozavodsk

Anna Rybalova took part of International Conference Harmony of the North: Man and Nature. Youth View. Support, coordination and promotion of the efficiency of scientific, educational, non-governmental, youth, political and commercial organizations and bodies in their activities dealing with topical problems of the North, the Arctic and border regions. In first working day it was presentation about Barents youth cooperation, and BRYC by Anna Rybalova.

2 – 4 November

Lycksele

Future Conference arranged by the Saami Parliament in Sweden. Halvard, Ylva and Jens held a RRR workshop in Lycksele. Approximately 150 people attended the conference and 40 the RRR workshop.

9. November

Tromsø

Halvard had another meeting with FN-Sambandet in Tromsø. They want RRR to have workshop with several of their co-operators and they also want to hold a "FN-Sambandet"-workshop with RRR methods and workshop leaders. Plans are in the making for 2011.

20 November

Stockholm

Ylva and Ola Möller met in Stockholm to work on the first applications for Barents Stories.

10 – 12 December

Krokom

Gathering for all participants of Niejda – Chicks in Sápmi in Krokom, Jämtland. Theme for the weekend was power and the participants did exercises to empower themselves and the group.

December 7 Petrozavodsk

Workshops on project management, presentation about Barents region youth cooperation and BRYC by Anna Rybalova.

The seminar hosted about 30 participants, among them representatives from the university of the Republic of Karelia and non-governmental organisations.

December Helsinki

Isa Tolonen had meeting with members of Finland`s parliament and discussed the situation for Kainuu`s youth and the future of the region.

BRYC IN MEDIA

- news about the new Murmansk region representative election at BRYC was published in local newspaper "Vechernii Murmansk", where BRYC presentation was greatly highlighted.
- Zhanna Gusenko have written a descriptive article about my first participation in the BRYC event - Barents Passion Week - on the Murmansk youth site.
- Isa Tolonen had newspaper interview, talking about BRYC and We <3 Finland tour next year
- Articles about BRYC, published in local newspapers and internet sites of Komi, presentation in the Syktyvkar State University.
- Nordlys article from Passion week
- Sør-Varanger article from Passion week
- Radio intrview from Passion week
- Regional TV from Passion week

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PLANS

Turnover

The turnover among the members in BRYC is high due to the migration of youths out of the region. This creates a situation that makes it necessary for the counties to look for potential future members constantly. The different youth structures in the counties also make difficulties for recruitment of members. Some members are appointed while others are elected.

Information

More effort must be done to ensure the information flow to regional NGOs, politicians and media to show the activities within the youths sphere in Barents. The website www.barentsyouth.org has been developed in 2006 and have been translated into Russian language since 2007.

Training

To increase the member's skills for international cooperation and coordination of activities, BRYC is arranging project management and leader training seminars. They also take part in courses arranged by others.

There was arranged one training course in 2010 and the summary is enclosed. The main aim was to find good work methods for BRYC and make sure that the meetings and cooperation is fruitful and efficient.

Special focus in 2011

BRYC will in 2011 focus on active citizenship and concentrate on getting closer cooperation with the other youth structures in the Barents region.

Youth participation

The UNs Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children and youths have the right to be heard in all matters that concerns them. This demands that the adults take the responsibility to create the structures and arenas where this takes place.

The Convention acknowledges that children and youth have the right to express their opinions and to have those opinions heard and acted upon and that they have the right to take part in decisions. It is of major importance that we show that we take this seriously and that we show and act according to our attitudes whether it comes to rights of the child, human rights or equality of genders in the Barents cooperation.

Youth are a priority group in the Barents cooperation and it is about time that BRYC is invited to all the arenas where decisions are made- The Regional committee and the Barents regional council. Furthermore it is important that the youths have a vote there to make sure they have real influence and don't participate only as observers.

Enclosures:

1. BRYC members 2009
2. Report from Workshop with Jens Choong
3. BRYC meeting Luleå February 2010
4. Annual meeting Luleå February 2010
5. Board meeting Tromsø June
6. Board Meeting Umeå September
7. BRYC meeting in Kirkenes October
8. Board Meeting Helsinki December
9. Plan of action 2011
10. Regulations for BRYC

BRYC Members in 2010

Name	County
Aleksander Steinvoll	Troms
Kristine Iversen	Nordland
Viktor Inge Paulsen	Nordland
Matti Kemi	Oulo
Ville Meskus	Oulo
Risto Ukkonen	Lapland
Anette Sankala	Lapland
John Asle Somby	Finnmark
Rosa Oikarinen	Kainuu
Isa Tolonen	Kainuu
Irina Karmazina	Murmansk
Zhanna Guzenko	Murmansk
Anna Rybalova	Karelia
Olga Nikonyk	Komi
Ksenia Kipurova	Arkangelsk
Svetlana Averyanova	Arkhangelsk
Andrey Vokuyev	Nenets
Ylva Pavval	Norrbotten
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tjoWorkshop with Jens Choong

Luleå 2010-02-25

YMP Report

Time: 13 – 18

Venue: Kulturens hus, Luleå

Participants: BRYC and Maria Östensson, Lars Miguel Utsi from RWGYI

1. Energizers and creativity boost

We started off with some energizers, The Perfect Triangle and Hunter/protector and then did an exercise called Only suggestions or YES! to boost each others positive feedback on creativity. We also did an impro-exercise in pairs. Good fun! When we were all warmed up and comfy with each other we continued with a Creativity Workshop. During the workshop we came up with some guidelines for a creative sessions:

Guidelines

- Never say no
- Be open
- Easy to be creative in small groups
- Be supportive, don't make anyone feel silly
- Give and take space. If you feel that you are a person that have a lot of creativity and a lot of energy, and if you feel that someone in the group isn't at that level try to lift that person and help that person to come to that level.

2. Me and the world

The next exercise was Me and the world, where we used 15 minutes to write down what we are good at, what gives us inspiration and things we want to happen. Then we sat down in pairs with someone that we felt we hadn't talked to much enough, and told them about our thoughts.

Then we did the same thing in the big group, but for BRYC. We listed what BRYC was good at, what inspires us (who are BRYC) and what we want to happen.

Good at:

- Making things happen
- Be happy
- Trying new things
- Include new people
- Feedback
- People to people contact
- Driving long distances

Inspiration

- Each other
- Laila
- People
- The north
- The BRYC event
- Having fun
- Singing

- Getting engaged
- Smiles
- Motivating
- Our longing for each other
- Being a part of the group

Things we want to make happen

- Funding, economic independence
- Next BRYC event
- Get rid of borders
- For the people around me to be happy
- Making new friends
- Have a family
- New toilet in LMUs bathroom
- Two applications written by tonight
- Creating awareness about prejudice
- Be better
- Peace

The reason for this exercise was to find out what the representatives in BRYC wants. For us to work for BRYC, BRYC need to do something for us. It is important to include something that everybody wants in their life in BRYCs work.

Jens said: "Do this often as individuals and in groups. It's a good way to find out what resources there are in the group. It is important as we often are good at blocking ourselves out – and see other peoples skills."

3. Make up our own meeting rules

There are different categories in a meeting. Divide the agenda in certain areas/categories:

- Creative
- Discussion
- Info
- Decision
- Debate

Each category has its own set of guidelines to make the meetings more effective. Try to make it superefficient as we have such a long agenda, and we will be so if we tag each topic on the agenda to a category. It is also good to send out this set of guidelines with the meeting agendas, and to go through it in the beginning of each meeting so that everyone are up to date with the rules BRYC have agreed on.

Guidelines for a discussion:

The point with the discussion: to reach a decision. Hear the different arguments. Open for change. A discussion is a tool to help me formulate an opinion. If I enter the discussion with a firm belief then it is an argumentation or debate.

After the discussion is over you can reach a decision. If you decide before then maybe the discussion isn't needed at all.

If it is a difficult task to discuss then try to keep it alive in between the meetings, through email or skype or facebook.

Make sure everyone get the same amount of time – that means that the ones who talk a lot must leave time and space for others. It also means that everyone needs to take his or her responsibility to talk. For example through an open circle.

Tagline: separate the topic from the person. Maintain an equal structure (make everyone feel included in the structure).

One at a time

Respect the others

Listen

Stick to the topic

Take part in the discussion

Structure

Establishing how the meeting should be before the meeting, like passing out the guidelines before

Guidelines for information:

Tagline: short and precise, consequences of the information, what it means.

Short description.

Pay attention

Topic oriented

Sources

It depends/discussion no discussion

Concrete

Relevant

Important that everyone get the same information so nobody know less or more than the others

Guidelines for decisions:

Tagline: It's ok to disagree. That everybody's on board (understands).

Bee hives/cluster – divide yourselves in small small groups and discuss before making the decisions

Anonymous voting

A common ritual

If the other things have been set then the decision making shouldn't take long time

Distribute responsibility. Schedule, date for follow-up or half time check.

Make sure that everybody has been heard

Suggestion on a common thing to say: It's BRYCed.

Guidelines for a debate:

Hard to reach a common goal, often gets emotional. Reach a common, vote or something. But after that try to repair the split actively. Acknowledge the split and see how to connect to each other.

4. Resources

We started to go through BRYC's resources in Money, Time, Inventory and Networks/Human Resources.

BRYC have a lot of things to do. Maybe we can engage every representative's network – who we are cooperating with in each region and each person.

We want to allocate time and money to the things BRYC wish to work with.

Rights now: the BRYC event 2010. We tried to estimate how much time we needed for the preparations of Barents Passion Week in Kirkenes.

Barents Passion Week in Kirkenes

Time spent: 30 days Laila, 5 days BRYC

Network: Local youth club "Basen" – Halvard/Laila

Jens: "Try to do this exercise when you meet and keep track of your resources and your goal. It's a good way of making it really concrete."

5. Ending and followup

We ended the day with some singing and dancing and agreed that we have only just started this work and to let all of this sink down and talk about it the next time BRYC meet. ·