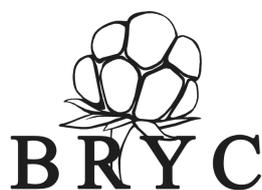




**BARENTS REGIONAL  
YOUTH COUNCIL**



[www.barentsyouth.org](http://www.barentsyouth.org)

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# 01 MESSAGE FROM THE BRYC CHAIR

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The global policy framework is increasingly acknowledging the importance of youth engagement. The current Finnish presidency is not an exception, prioritising youth cooperation and taking over the steering role right after the COVID-19 pandemic. We have mapped out our future plans, and the expertise of the BRYC members provided advisory support to working groups within the BEAR. Our ambitious plans significantly inspired our “grown up” colleagues to collaborate closely with Barents and Arctic initiatives of the European Union.



In October, we organised a Youth Summit within the framework of the Arctic Frontiers conference. We have proven to the Foreign Ministers that the future of sustainable development of the High North must include a meaningful involvement of Barents youth voices if we want to be as successful as possible in our endeavours.

Environment and climate change continues to be an area of special concern for young people, and especially indigenous youth, as a part of their heritage. This topic is often addressed in both regional and national youth gatherings. We actively engage young people to participate in the ICE event, the topic of which last time was "The Green Arctic Innovation Challenge", where youth developed business ideas aimed at promoting sustainable waste management.

We held the Annual Event in the digital format, devoted to the topic of the Indigenous youth and their participation in decision making. We believe that indigenous knowledge is invaluable and continue to support the most innovative participatory practices that ensure transparency and inclusivity.

We believe that the Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation has always been playing a key role in the overall prosperity of the region and we hope that a bright future awaits everyone who is tirelessly working for the construction of a better life for the future Arctic generations.

Please enjoy 2021 edition of BRYC Annual report and stay tuned!

**DARIA MAKHOTINA**  
**CHAIR OF BRYC**



## 02 ABOUT BRYC

Photo: BRYC

BRYC (the Barents Regional Youth Council) was established in 2004 to promote the interests of young people living in the Barents Region. Our mission is to strengthen people-to-people cooperation among youth and empower young people to be active participants of their societies.

BRYC's five core values are cooperation, tolerance, reliability, fairness and respect.

The youth council consists of 15 members from Sweden, Finland, Russia and Norway. These youths represent each of the 14 member regions of the Barents Cooperation as well as 1 person representing indigenous youth.

The council meets 2 times a year to discuss youth activities in the Barents Region, inform other representatives about the news from their regions and plan and arrange a big youth event every year.

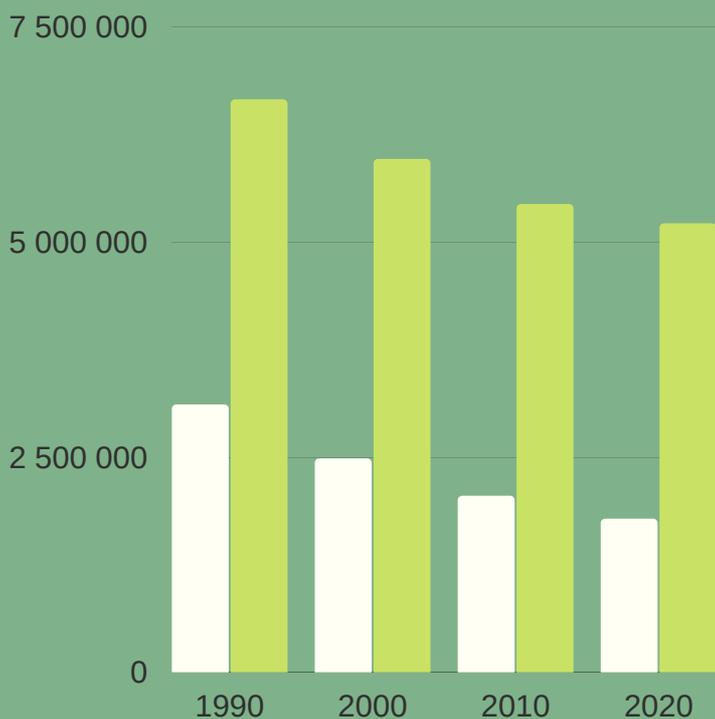
Our main activities include the BRYC Annual Meeting (for council members) and the BRYC Annual Event (open to all youths). These activities are organized by BRYC in co-operation with various partners. Every year BRYC picks a new location for these activities.

The youth council also actively engages in other youth projects and events across the Barents Region.

BRYC is (since 2018) seen as an official member of the Barents Regional Council (BRC). This platform is our most important way of promoting youth's interests to regional and national decision makers.

BRYC's activities are funded through annual regional grants, as well as project funding. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat functions as BRYC's financial manager and youth coordinator.

# BARENTS REGION



## POPULATION

**5.2 mill**

Total population (2020):

**1.8 mill**

Population under 30 (2020):

*BRYC Deputy Chair, Martin Gamst Johnsen, and BRYC Västerbotten representative, Maria Grånemo, at the Barents Youth Summit in Tromsø.*



## 03 MEMBERS 2021

Photo credit:  
Norwegian  
Barents  
Secretariat.

The Barents Regional Youth Council consists of one representative from each of the 14 member regions of the Barents Cooperation: Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Lapland, Oulu Region, Kainuu, North Karelia, Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, Nenets AO, the Republic of Karelia and the Republic of Komi. In addition, there shall be one representative from one of the indigenous peoples of the Barents Region.

BRYC members are either elected by the youth council in their region, or chosen by their regional administration based on the following criteria. A BRYC candidate must be aged 18-30, have good English language skills, have insight into the current youth issues in their home region and be interested in international cooperation. The indigenous representative in BRYC is chosen by the Working Group on of Indigenous Peoples.

BRYC is administered by a board, which consists of five five BRYC representatives elected within the youth council, representing each of the four Barents countries: Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, as well as the indigenous representative. The board is led by the BRYC Chair and the Deputy Chair. The board organizes its work and responsibilities based on the activities planned within a given year, and with regard to the members' experiences or interests.

# BRYC BOARD 2021

1. Daria Makhotina
2. Martin Gamst Johnsen
3. Karin Burman
4. Jonna Kyllonen
5. Nikita Ageev

Chair  
Deputy Chair  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

Russia  
Norway  
Sweden  
Finland  
Indigenous



# BRYC MEMBERS 2021

1. Karin Burman
2. Alexandra Möller
3. Maria Grånemo
4. Leevi Alakörkkö
5. Jolanda Magga
6. Kosma Rönkä
7. Jonna Kyllönen
8. Anna Komulainen
9. Jere Juntunen
10. Juho Räsänen
11. Daria Makhotina
12. Maksim Marchenkov
13. Anastasia Dmitruk
14. Mansur Mirzoev
15. Anastasia Romanova
16. Alexander Terentev
17. Anette Amalie Åbodsvik Bang
18. Martin Gamst Johnsen
19. Nikita Ageev
20. Tatiana Martyanova

Norrbotten, Sweden  
Norrbotten, Sweden  
Västerbotten, Sweden  
Lapland, Finland  
Lapland, Finland  
Oulu region, Finland  
Kainuu, Finland  
Kainuu, Finland  
North Karelia, Finland  
North Karelia, Finland  
Murmansk region, Russia  
Arkhangelsk region, Russia  
Nenets AO, Russia  
Nenets AO, Russia  
Republic of Karelia  
Republic of Komi  
Nordland, Norway  
Troms and Finnmark, Norway  
Murmansk region, Russia  
Republic of Karelia, Russia



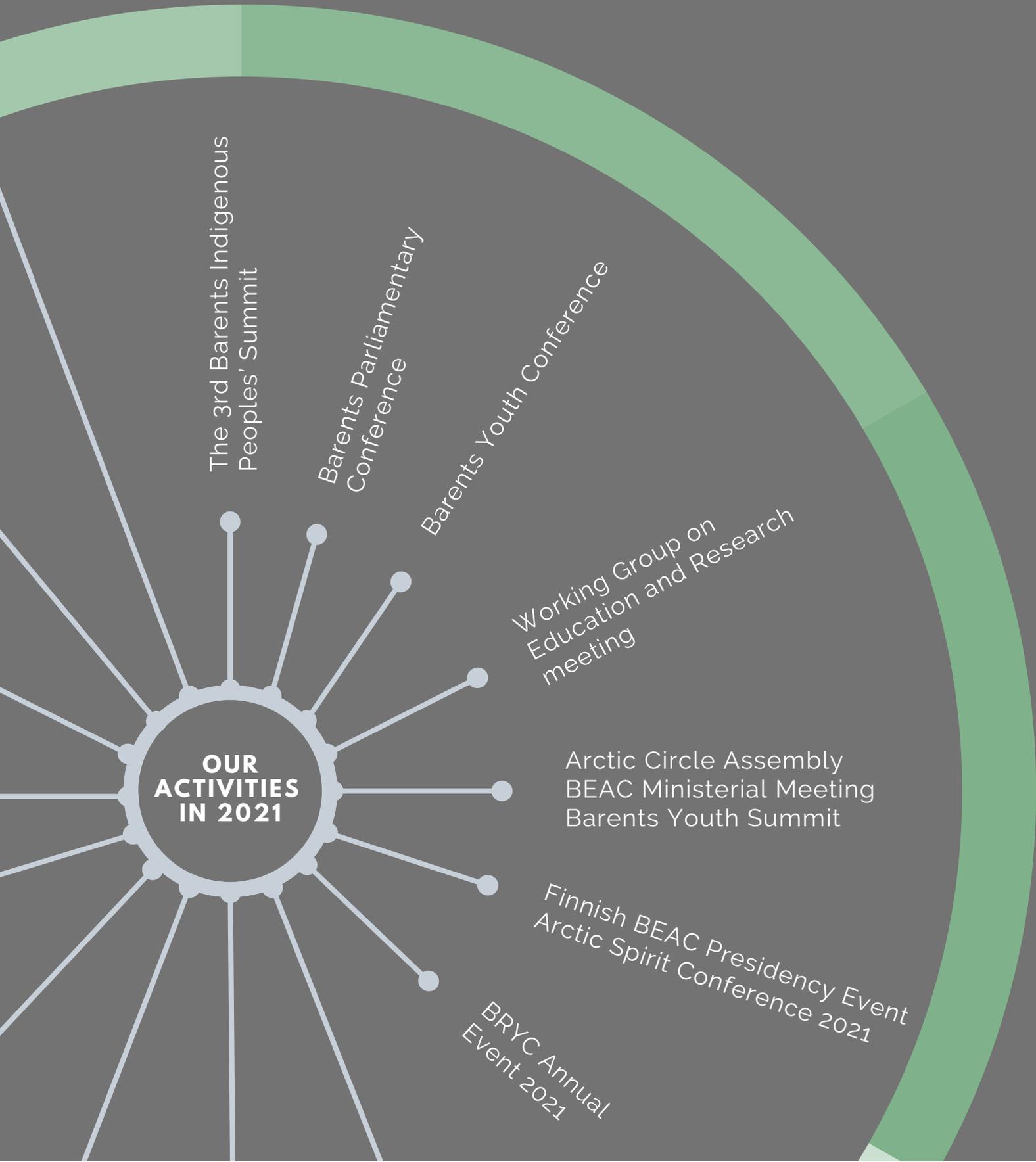
# OTHER VOLUNTEERS

We would also like to give a special thanks to our coordinators, as well as some other youth volunteers who have contributed to our work and activities this year.

1. Katarina Lindmark, BRYC Alumni member
2. Enni Similä, Saami Council
3. Audun Aanvik Mathisen, Young Leaders in Barents (YLIB)
4. Sondre Sætaberget, UKM Arctic
5. Emmi Vähä, Working Group on Environment
6. Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio, Saami Parliament Youth Council



# 04 ACTIVITY REPORT 2021





# Activity Report

Photo credit: Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

2021 was an important year for BRYC. The youth council continued to become more integrated in the overall work of the Barents Cooperation structure through various meetings and events, such as the Barents Foreign Ministers meeting, the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit, the Barents Youth Summit and the Finnish Presidency Event. By the initiative of the Chairmanships (Norway and Västerbotten), a new administrative system for BRYC was put in place by the end of 2021. In addition, the International Barents Secretariat (IBS) welcomed two new advisors on youth and indigenous issues, thanks to voluntary contributions by Finland and Norway. The strengthened administrative support has since then helped improve BRYC's work capacity and increased the number of meetings/activities.

A special task force was put together in 2021 to prepare an updated version of the Barents Youth Program, including policies and plans for the next three-year period. The task force consisted of representatives from BRYC, the Barents Euro Arctic Council Committee of Senior Officials, the Barents Regional Council/Committee, the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the International Barents Secretariat and the Joint Working Group on Youth. Other contributors have been involved in the preparation of this document as well. The final document was approved in the ministerial meetings in Tromsø in October and is now published on BRYC's website ([barentsyouth.org](http://barentsyouth.org)).

*BRYC Chair, Daria Makhotina, at the Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik.*



In 2021, particularly in the first half of 2021, BRYC's activities were still heavily impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns and travel restrictions made it difficult to meet in person, so the majority of meetings and events were held online. However, some members of the youth council were able to meet physically in the second half of 2021.

The new digital reality has made everyone more accustomed to online meetings. This, combined with a stronger administrative support from the IBS, allowed BRYC to hold a record high number of meetings this year. This included a total of ten board meetings. Three of these board meetings were held in the first half of 2021, while the majority was held in the second half. BRYC also held a number of additional planning meetings linked to specific events.

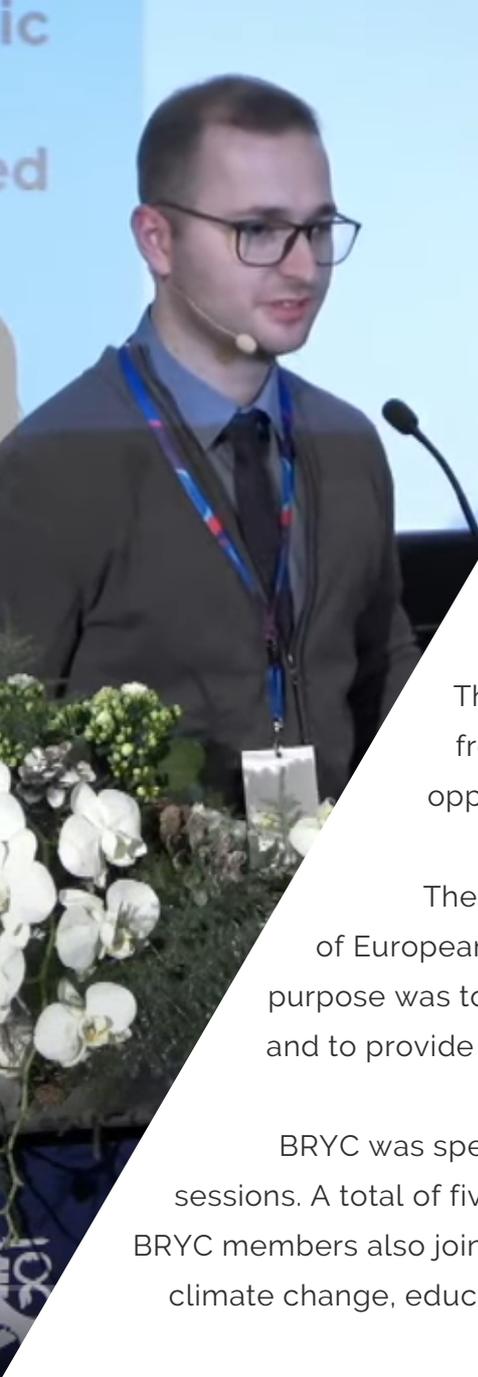
The youth council particularly aimed to strengthen their cooperation with the BEAC working groups in 2021. This was achieved within three different sectors: the working groups on education, environment and indigenous peoples. In April, BRYC participated in the Norwegian Chairmanship's Event: "Policies and investments for a Climate Smart Barents Region". In June, BRYC's indigenous representative held a speech at the 3rd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit. In September, BRYC also took part in the meeting of the Working Group on Education and Research.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, BRYC also took part in a number of other important events throughout the year, such as the Barents Parliamentary Conference (June), the Barents Youth Conference (September), Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik (October), the Finnish BEAC Presidency Event in Rovaniemi (November) and the Conference on the Future of Europe in Oulu (November). All of these events featured BRYC in their respective programs, either as speakers or as panelists, which gave the youth council access to many international platforms to promote the issues of the Barents Youth community.



Two events of particular importance for BRYC were the Barents Youth Summit in Tromsø and the Conference on the Future of Europe in Oulu. In connection with the XVIII BEAC Ministerial Meeting on October 26th, a Barents Youth Summit was held at the initiative of the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Summit gave young Barents citizens a platform to directly address ministers and high-level decision makers and present the key issues concerning youth today – education, environment, indigenous youth, culture and sports.

Photo credit: Norwegian Barents Secretariat.



BRYC was actively involved in the preparation of the youth summit and was also responsible for moderating it. A delegation of seven BRYC members were physically present at the event, while others watched it via livestream.

Members of BRYC were also actively involved in the work surrounding the Conference on the Future of Europe in Oulu. This conference was part of a series of events called "WeAreEurope", organized by the Finnish Government. It was held to give the youth a chance to have a say on the future of Europe. The event facilitated and enabled cross-border dialogue between youth from Finland, Norway, Sweden and Russia. The conference was a unique opportunity for youth to debate on challenges and priorities in their region.

The event series had around 20 events all over Finland, led by the Minister of European Affairs Ms. Tytti Tuppurainen with 11 other Government Ministers. The purpose was to give the youth a chance on making an impact on the future of Europe and to provide an opportunity to strengthen the youth's outreach to a European level.

BRYC was specifically invited to participate in the pre-discussions for the roundtable sessions. A total of five BRYC representatives joined the event physically in Oulu. One of the BRYC members also joined the panel discussion where they discussed issues like environment, climate change, education, how to create study- and work opportunities and how to prevent youth from leaving Northern areas.

**WE ARE EUROPE**

4. North, arctic and rural areas and their place in Europe

- Emigration of people (esp. youth!) from the Northern areas to bigger cities looking for opportunities.
- Education creates opportunities for young people. Education in the North should be developed.
- Arctic research is an opportunity to develop Nordic regions.
- Transportation should be developed. Public transportation? Aircrafts? Related environmental concerns?
- Importance of cooperation in various fields. (Erasmus+, UArctic, NEFCO, NBS, IBS, various EU's CBCs)

After a year with no physical BRYC events, and despite some remaining covid-19 restrictions, BRYC was finally able to organize their annual event in early December. The BRYC Annual Event 2021 was held in a hybrid format with livestream and people present in the Barents House in Kirkenes. A group of ten people – including the organizers, the BRYC Board, invited speakers and panelists – gathered physically in Kirkenes and moderated the event program. The event program featured speeches and success stories about the Barents youth cooperation, a Barents Youth panel discussion, and a workshop on indigenous youth projects. Around thirty participants followed the annual event online.

The BRYC Annual Meeting was initially planned on the day after the annual event. However, due to limited preparation time and work capacity, the annual meeting had to be postponed to 2022. This also meant that the election of a new BRYC Board was postponed to 2022, and that the current board shall be active until a new annual meeting is held.

In conclusion, this year has shown that a closer cooperation between BRYC and the formal structures of the Barents Cooperation has been very positive for the youth council's work and level of activity. BRYC has greatly improved its administrative capacity. Still, it is important to keep in mind that BRYC must also prioritize their own internal activities – such as the annual event and the annual meeting – before any external projects and events. This is because it helps strengthen the core, collective spirit, and the inclusiveness of members in BRYC. There is still great potential in improving the engagement among BRYC members, and this needs to be worked with continuously to make sure that every region is fairly represented and actively involved in the work of BRYC.

Photo: Norwegian Barents Secretariat.



# BRYC Annual Event 2021

It was the first time BRYC was hosting a virtual annual event, which was livestreamed and dedicated to indigenous youth. Aimed at young people living in the Northern parts of Norway, Russia, Sweden, and Finland. Moderated by Daria Makhotina and Martin Gamst Johnsen, chair and deputy chair of BRYC.

The event started with an introduction movie made by the youth house in Tromsø, "Tvibit". They made a pre-recorded video called "Barents Youth History". Followed by an interview of BRYC alumni ambassador Katarina Lindmark telling the importance of youth cooperation in the Barents Region.

Further on in the program there was a panel discussion. BRYC had invited young leaders with five different sectors of cooperation: culture, sports, education, environment and indigenous people. They discussed the most important issues concerning youth in the Barents Region such as education, job opportunities, leisure activities, environment, and climate change.

## PANEL:

- Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio, Chair of Saami Parliament Youth Council (Finland)
- Sondre Sætaberget, UKM Arctic (Norway)
- Audun Mathisen Anvik, Youth representative from Young Leaders in Barents sports (YLiB. Norway)
- Emmi Vähä, Working Group on Environment (Finland)
- Maksim Marchenkov, BRYC (Russia) participated digitally.

Photo: Norwegian Barents Secretariat.

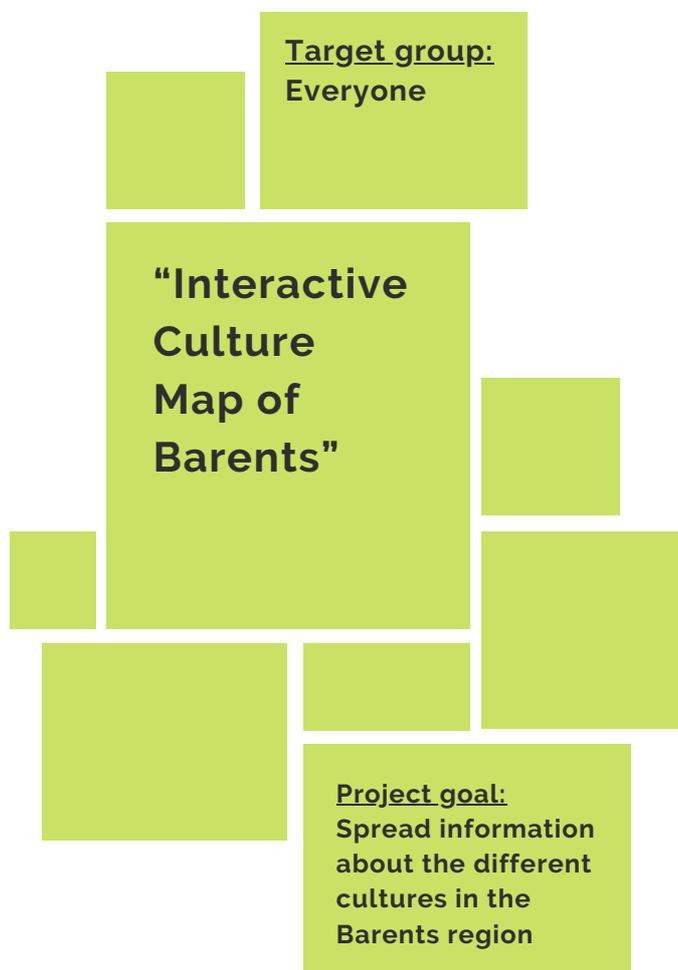


There was also a digital workshop moderated by Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio. The participants teamed up to solve a real-life challenge, linked to the theme of the event. To create possible future projects. They came up with two project ideas:

## Idea 1:



## Idea 2:



- Including indigenous peoples in youth councils
- Conferences/workshops at schools to raise awareness through more information about indigenous people
- Events focused on indigenous knowledge today and how it has evolved through time
- International indigenous projects around the world
- Arctic knowledge helping the environment
- E-sport events, competitions across national borders
- Further develop Barents skills

- Make an interactive map where you can click in and see videos/articles from the different places. Visually appealing; help by involving the universities and their design/art departments for helping to create this map.
- Events - concert, exhibition, workshops, panel discussions
- Exchange project with schools across the borders to share the culture.
- Indigenous awareness social media campaign
- Online library/database with art, music, and culture from the different indigenous groups in Barents.
- Include all three official indigenous groups: Sami, Veps and Nenets

The annual event was completed with greetings from Mr. Jari Vilen and the Finnish Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council by a pre-recorded movie and a pre-recorded movie from by Daniel Smirat chair of Barents Road International Organization.

Behind-the-scenes, the Norwegian- and International Barents Secretariat assisted with preparation-, technical- and coordination issues.

A total of 26 youths joined the event digitally, of which 3 people were BRYC members and the rest were other youths. The workshop in the second part of the program gathered 8 online participants.

## BRYC Annual Meeting 2021

The BRYC Annual Meeting was planned to be held in December, on the day after the Annual Event. Unfortunately, it was later decided to postpone the meeting to 2022, due to the lack of capacity.

## Youth projects

This year, the pandemic once again put its limitation on BRYC's capacity to implement any youth projects. Firstly, because it has been challenging for the council to meet and plan new projects, and secondly because it difficult to recruit participants, both in the digital and physical format. Despite this low level of project activity, BRYC members have often expressed their interest in starting new projects, and even discussed several specific project ideas throughout the year, which is very positive. In 2021, other stakeholders with invitations to collaborate on youth projects have also approached BRYC. This shows that BRYC is being noticed and acknowledged as a good partnership candidate.

Photo: Canva.



# 05 FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

Traditionally, BRYC has applied for additional funding through various regional programs and financial mechanisms targeting youth. This funding has been used to finance BRYC's own youth projects that go beyond the council's running costs. However, due to the pandemic and limited activity in the recent period, BRYC has not applied for any external project funding in 2021.

## FUNDING AND FINANCES

BRYC's main source of funding is the annual grants from the member regions. As agreed within the Barents Regional Council (BRC), and outlined in the "Barents Youth Program 2021-24", each of the Nordic member regions shall contribute with 5000 euros annually finance BRYC's activities. In addition to this, all member regions, including the Russian regions, shall contribute in the form of "in-kind contribution" agreed beforehand with the region in question.

In-kind contribution for the member regions may include covering costs related to travels, accommodation, meals, venues and administration fees whenever BRYC organizes events and/or meetings in a specific part of the Barents Region.

BRYC's finances are administered by the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. From January 2022, the administrative responsibility for BRYC will be moved to the International Barents Secretariat (IBS).

BRYC's expenses normally fall within six categories: travel, accommodation and meals, venues, administration and salaries, and other expenses. Other expenses may include costs like website maintenance costs, digital meeting platform fees, meeting equipment and promotional materials for youth events.

The financial overview on page 13 shows that BRYC's actual income in 2020 is significantly lower than expected. This is not specified in the financial report, because the annual grants are usually allocated after the annual report is written. This also implies that the full income for 2020 will be transferred in 2021.



Photo: BRYC..

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

Income	Budget (EUR)	Report (EUR)
<b>Regional grants 2020*:</b>		
Regional funding 2020: Nordland	5 000	0
Regional funding 2020: Troms	5 000	0
Regional funding 2020: Finnmark (prepayed)	0	0
Regional funding 2020: Norrbotten (prepayed)	0	0
Regional funding 2020: Västerbotten	5 000	5 042
Regional funding 2020: Lapland	5 000	0
Regional funding 2020: Oulu Region	5 000	0
Regional funding 2020: Kainuu	5 000	0
Regional funding 2020: North Karelia	5 000	0
<b>SUM Income</b>	<b>35 000</b>	<b>5 042</b>

*\*Regional grants for a given year are normally requested at the beginning of the upcoming year, when the annual report is ready. Due to the pandemic, and some uncertainties surrounding BRYC's activities, the regional payment for 2020 has not been formally requested in 2021. This explains why no grants were received this year from the majority of the regions.*

Expenses	Budget (EUR)	Report (EUR)
Workshops, webinars and training courses	10 000	0
Travel expenses	10 000	5 450
Accommodation and meals	10 000	4 618
Venues	5 000	0
Administration and salaries	10 000	7 453
Other expenses	10 000	744
<b>SUM Expenses</b>	<b>55 000</b>	<b>18 265</b>

## Result 2021

Income	35 000 EUR	5 042 EUR
Expenses	- 55 000 EUR	- 18 265 EUR
<b>Result (Income - Expenses)</b>	<b>- 20 000 EUR</b>	<b>- 13 223 EUR**</b>

*\*\*The low level of income (regional grants) this year did not have any significant implications for BRYC's finances, as the majority of the expenses in 2021 were covered by unspent funds from the previous year.*