

Statutes for Barents Regional Youth Council

Adopted by BRYC on 15.02.2019 in Joensuu, Finland

§ 1. Name and affiliation

1.1 The name of the structure is "Barents Regional Youth Council" and it has the abbreviation BRYC.

1.2 The Barents Regional Youth Council reports to the Barents Regional Committee and is the closest collaborator to the BEAC Joint Working Group on Youth (JWGY).

§ 2. Purpose

2.1 BRYCs core values are: tolerance, cooperation, reliability, fairness and respect.

2.2 Our vision is to make the Barents region more attractive for youth and to encourage them to choose to stay in the region or return to it after completing their education.

2.3 Our mission is to strengthen the youth cooperation in the Barents region and empower young people to be active participants of the societies in which they live.

2.4 Our aims are:

- To increase youth participation in the cooperation networks in the Barents Region by giving young people increased influence and possibilities for cross-border activities
- To contribute to a good reputation of the regions, promote the good quality of life in the High North, the inhabitants' pride towards the region and awareness of its qualities.
- To strengthen young people's Barents identity as members of the region by establishing contact over cultural and geographical borders
- To encourage young people to play an active role in strengthening civil society and democracy in the Barents Region
- To encourage free expression among young people and support the fight against racism and xenophobia
- To strengthen the position and rights of indigenous youth and minorities through increased multilateral and multicultural cooperation

§ 3. Structure

3.1 The structure of BRYC is detailed in the organizational chart which was adopted at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Oulu, Finland. It is up to the Annual Meeting to amend it. Barents Regional Youth Council consists of one representative from each of the administrative units in the Barents Region:

1. Troms
2. Nordland
3. Finnmark
4. Norrbotten
5. Västerbotten
6. Lappland
7. Oulu
8. Kainuu
9. North Karelia
10. Murmansk
11. Arkhangelsk
12. Komi
13. Karelia
14. Nenets Autonomous Okrug

In addition, there shall be one representative from one of the indigenous peoples of the Barents Region.

3.2 The Council is administered by a board, which consists of five five main and five substitute representatives from each of the four Barents countries: Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the indigenous representative. The board is led by a Chair and an assistant Deputy Chair.

3.3 The BRYC Board shall organize its work and responsibilities based on the projects/activities planned within a given year, and with regard to the members' experiences or interests.

§ 4. Representatives

4.1 The representatives are either elected or appointed from their respective administrative unit in the Barents Region. The Barents Euro-Arctic Working Group on Indigenous Issues elects the representative for indigenous youth.

The current Board of BRYC shall adopt any changes in BRYC's composition if they occur between the Annual Meetings. The Board has the power to suggest other candidates to regions, if deemed necessary.

4.2 Representatives must meet the following criteria:

- Be between the age of 18 and 30 years old
- Have knowledge about youth issues in their region
- Be interested in international cooperation
- Must speak English

The members of the council are elected for two years with the possibility for re-election. After finishing their term, members who are not re-elected may still be active in BRYC, either as substitute representatives or as members of a BRYC project committee.

In cases when a new regional representative is not assigned by the time its predecessor finishes their term, the predecessor may choose to temporarily stay active in this position until a new regional representative is assigned.

4.3 Representatives must fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Shall participate in meetings called by the Chair
- Shall be available to answer requests in due time regarding the activity of the Council
- Shall act as link between their region and BRYC. This means staying informed about international youth events in their regions and inform about such events taking place in other regions
- Shall refrain from illegal activity

4.4 The board has the power to suspend a representative that has repeatedly failed to fulfill his or her responsibilities. The suspension shall follow after two formal warnings issued by the board. The decision to suspend a representative have to be by unanimous votation.

§ 5. The Board

5.1 The board consists of five representatives, one from each country and one from indigenous people. The Board substitute representatives should be from the same country as he or she is substituting for.

5.2 The Annual Meeting elects the Chair, Deputy Chair and the 3 other board members by normal majority votes. In the case that there is only one candidate, acclamation is used.

5.3 The same procedures that applies to the Annual Meeting shall apply to the board meetings. If the main board representative is unable to attend, it's substitute board member is called.

5.4 The board meets physically at least 3 times a year. If necessary, additional meetings can be held using electronic communication tools. The Chair shall distribute the meeting agenda to all board members at least one week prior to the meeting. A protocol of the meeting of the board shall be kept.

§ 6. Annual Meeting

6.1 The Annual Meeting is the highest decision-making body of BRYC. The Annual Meeting shall be arranged during the first quarter of the year.

6.2 All decisions are made by majority vote. If there is a tied vote then the Chair shall have a second vote. Each region has one vote, so participation with more than one representative does not give extra votes.

6.3 The Chair shall send the invitation to the Annual Meeting to all representatives no later than 4 weeks prior to the meeting. The invitation shall contain the dates of the

meeting, details on travel arrangements and a draft agenda for the meeting. All members can propose issues for the agenda. Such proposals should be delivered no later than 1 week after the invitation was sent.

6.4 The Annual Meeting shall have the following functions and tasks:

- adopt work plan
- adopt budget for the following year and approve accounts
- evaluate BRYCs work and approve annual report
- adopt amendments to the statutes
- elect the board

6.5 Rules of procedure of the Annual Meeting:

- At least 10 representatives must be present
- A protocol shall be kept. Normally it is the duty of the Deputy Chair to write the protocol

6.6 An extraordinary Annual Meeting shall take place:

- At the request of the board
- At the request of 1/3 of the members

§ 7. Annual Event

7.1 The Annual Event is BRYCs main activity organized for youth in the Barents region. The location of the event rotates between the four countries Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden.

7.2 The planning of the Annual Event is the responsibility of the Board of BRYC or whoever it selects to do so.

§ 8. Statutes

8.1 The Annual Meeting can change the statutes by majority vote. Amendment proposals must be submitted in writing to the Chair or Deputy Chair before the meeting agenda is distributed.

§ 9. Dismantling of the organisation

9.1 Dismantling the organisation can only be done by 2/3 of the votes in the Annual Meeting. The decision should be made in consultation with the Barents Regional Council (BRC).