

2018

BRYC ANNUAL REPORT



**BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH
COUNCIL**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the chairperson	1
Who we are	2
2018 Members and Board	3
The Barents Youth Perspective	5
BRYC 2018 Activity report	7
BRYC 2018 Financial report	11
Partners	14
Impact	15
Photo credits	16
Map of the Barents Region	17



Message from the BRYC Chair

Dear all,

For BRYC, 2018 was an important year. We finally managed to secure a long-term funding from the Barents Regional Council after a long and hard work done by many. The lack of funding of course creates a sort of stalemate that BRYC was a victim of for some time. But I hope that you all can feel that we are starting to rev our engines once again. The Board of 2018 has proposed an ambitious plan for 2019, which involves many different projects targeting youth that might not be naturally interested in international cooperation.

For me personally, it has been the greatest honor to serve as a BRYC chairperson for 2018. To be able to channel the voice of youth in the higher reaches of civil servants and the political level of the Barents Cooperation has been my great achievement when I look back. We now have a clear role in the Barents Cooperation, as we are now also a working group on level with the rest of them. This gives us leverage.

My continued goal for BRYC is to continue to make this organisation grow. I have talked to some of you already about ideas to involve more people in BRYC, and I hope with the project BRYC Sexual Health this will be achieved. And of course, I also dream of an organisation that is alive and vibrant on each level of the organisation. Where small groups of youth create something in favor of international cooperation. We still have some ways to get there. But I hope that I have managed to create something good for all of us.

On behalf of BRYC, I wish to thank all the persons involved in some way during 2018. And wish for all of us a successful 2019, where BRYC manages to climb even higher.

TIM ANDERSSON
BRYC CHAIR



WHO WE ARE

The Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) was established in 2004 to promote the interests of young people living in the Barents Region. It's main purpose is to work towards new opportunities and good living conditions for youth in fields like culture, education, youth politics, young entrepreneurship, environment, as well as health and social issues.

BRYC consists of 15 young volunteers from Sweden, Finland, Russia and Norway, including one representative from each of the 14 member counties/regions defined as the Barents Region (see page 17), as well as 1 person representing indigenous youth.

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

Our main activities include the BRYC Annual Meeting, usually taking place in the spring, and the BRYC Annual Event, usually taking place during the last quarter of the year. Both of these activities are organized by BRYC in cooperation with various stakeholders on the local, regional and national level. Every year BRYC picks a new location for these activities. BRYC also actively engages in other youth projects and events across the Barents Region.

OUR MISSION:

To strengthen the youth cooperation in the Barents Region and empower young people to be active participants of the societies in which they live.

2018 MEMBERS AND BOARD



BRYC MEMBERS 2018-19:

SWEDEN	1.	Norrbottn	Alexandra Möller / Katarina Lindmark
	2.	Västerbotten	Tim Andersson / Hanna Blåhed
FINLAND	3.	Lapland	Jolanda Magga / Jaakko Joentakanen
	4.	Oulu region	Riikka Karppinen / Miikka Touvinen
	5.	Kainuu	Silja Inkamo / Kaisa-Reetta Seppänen
	6.	North Karelia	Jere Juntunen / Oskar Mannelin
RUSSIA	7.	Murmansk Region	Daria Makhotina
	8.	Arkhangelsk Region	Anastasia Oparina / Irina Zhiganova
	9.	Republic of Karelia	Maksim Mashin
	10.	Republic of Komi	Alexander Terentev / Ekaterina Konevskaya
	11.	Nenets AO	Alena Safonova
NORWAY	12.	Nordland	Jone Måsøy / Bisma Aleem Baloch
	13.	Troms	Embla Kirkemoen
	14.	Finnmark	Mikhail Krotov / Anna Oliva Taksgård / Marie Sommernes
INDIGENOUS	15.	Nordland	August Sjøvoll



BRYC BOARD 2018-19:

SWEDEN	Tim Andersson	Chair
INDIGENOUS	August Sjøvoll	Deputy Chair
RUSSIA	Alexander Terentev	Board member
FINLAND	Jolanda Magga	Board member
NORWAY	Mikhail Krotov	Board member

BRYC YOUTH COORDINATOR:

Elizaveta Vassilieva (Norwegian Barents Secretariat)

OTHER YOUTH VOLUNTEERS:

Anna Kuznetsova (International Barents Secretariat)



THE BARENTS YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

by KATARINA LINDMARK
Norrbotten, Sweden

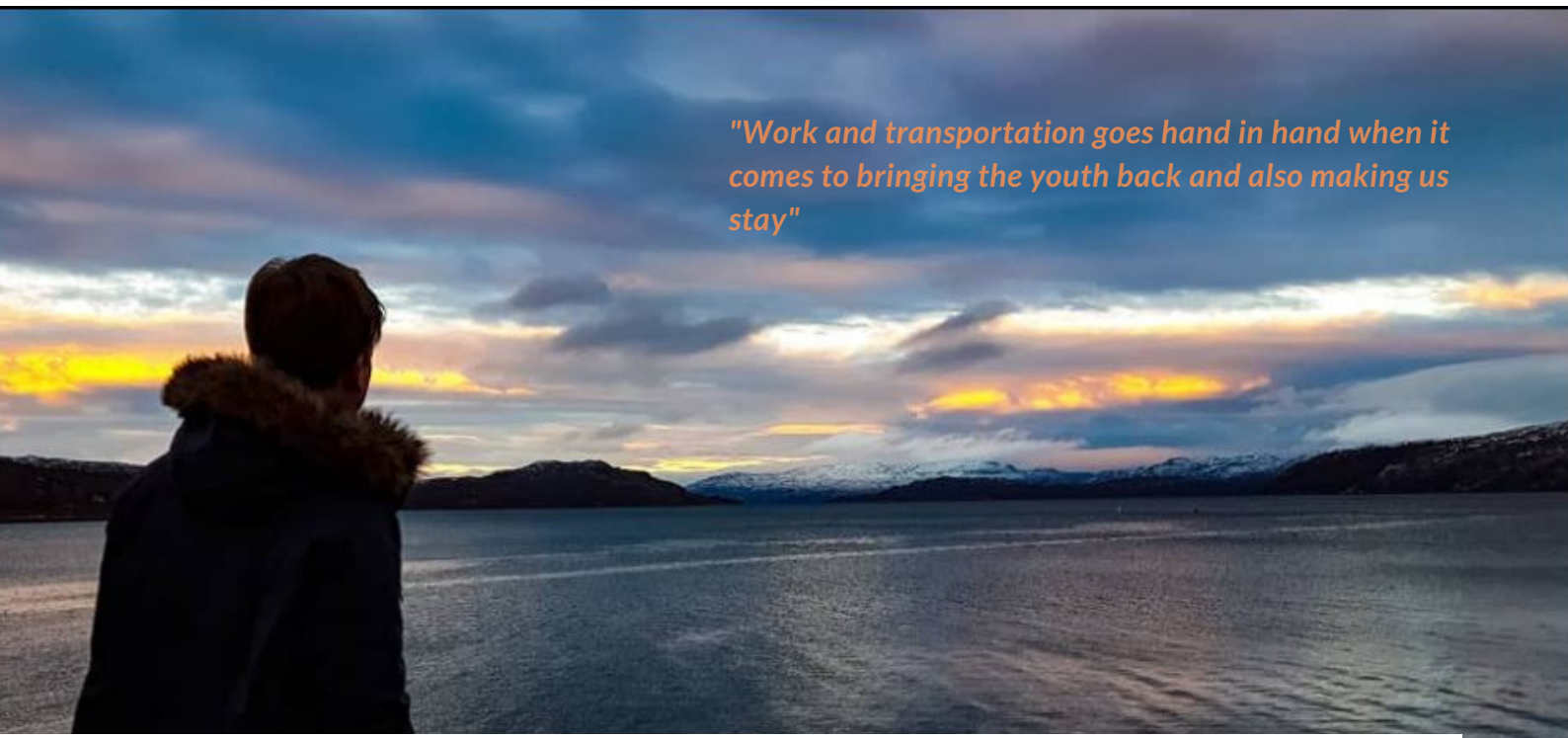
"As we grow up and go out into the world, for exploration or education, or maybe both, we still don't know if we can return"

I was born in Västerbotten and grew up in Arvidsjaur, Norrbotten. I have been living in the Barents Region my whole life. So the Barents Region has a very big place in my heart. Since I am currently in the last year of Upper Secondary, I am supposed to go out in the world and explore. And that is something common between many people my age.

Us young people in Barents are curious and social. We want to go out in the world. We want to be able to travel and explore, grow and see new perspectives on life. At the same time, we also share this love for our home region. Many of us want to move back here in the future, or at least live here once we grow older, because of the safe place that it is to grow up in and for the unique conditions in which we live.

As we grow up and go out into the world, for exploration or education, or maybe both, we still don't know if we can return. Let's say, I have finished my studies at the university, which might be outside of this region, and then want to move back. Is there any work for me up here? Does the job I am interested in exist? Or can I still live here, while having an opportunity to travel to my workplace every week or so?

Transportation hits very close to me, because from all the BRYC events and other Barents events I have attended, I have met people from all over the region. I have made friends from Norway, Finland and Russia, but I can't really visit them often. First of all, because it is a big region, of course, but the travel options are also pretty bad. We want to be able to visit each other and explore this whole region that we hold in our hearts as our home. We want to be able to show our homes, and travel across the region without having to worry about being stranded somewhere for a day or two just because we missed that one bus or flight that goes every other day.



"Work and transportation goes hand in hand when it comes to bringing the youth back and also making us stay"

The ability to freely move around for both work and simple travel without any bigger worries would make the region all the more attractive for more young people. Attracting even people that were not born here. It would also open up more possibilities for companies and businesses that bring work and experience to the region.

Work and transportation goes hand in hand when it comes to bringing the youth back and also making us stay, and that is what we have to think about as we walk into the future of our beloved home.



Katarina Lindmark giving a speech on behalf of BRYC at the conference "25 years of Barents Cooperation - Youth Perspective for the Future", April 2018 in Luleå, Sweden

BRYC 2018: ACTIVITY REPORT

Youth projects and initiatives in 2018

1-5 February	Inversia: Digital North – Visual arts festival for youth, organized in Murmansk, Russia
26-29 September	Uncapitals: Nature Fragility – Art camp for young artists, programmers and historians, organized in Kjøllefjord, Norway
8-11 November	BRYC Annual Event: “Across Cultures”

Meetings and events in 2018

12 April	JWGY* Meeting in Umeå, Sweden
16-17 April	BRYC Annual Meeting 2018, in Luleå, Sweden
17-18 April	“25 years of Barents Cooperation: Youth Perspective for the future” conference in Luleå, Sweden
11 May	Seminar on Indigenous Youth, Urbanization and Cultural Heritage, Moscow, Russia
21 May	1st BRYC Board meeting in 2018, held via Skype
23 May	Barents Regional Council and Regional Committee Meetings in Rovaniemi, Finland
19 June	JWGY Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden
4 July	Almedalen Week 2019 (political, social and business forum in Almedalen, Sweden)
17 August	2nd BRYC Board meeting in 2018, held in Kirkenes, Norway
24-26 August	Nordic Regional Youth Camp, in Helsinki, Finland
15 September	Lapland Youth Forum in Rovaniemi, Finland
26-27 September	Barents Regional Council and Regional Committee Meetings in Syktyvkar, Russia
5-12 October	Arctic Youth Summit in Rovaniemi, Finland
10 October	3rd BRYC Board meeting in 2018, held via Skype
26-28 October	2018 Nordic Youth Council’s session in Oslo, Norway
7 November	JWGY Meeting in Kirkenes, Norway
8-11 November	BRYC Annual Event 2018: “Across Cultures”, held in Kirkenes, Norway
10 November	BRYC Council Meeting, held during the Annual Event
12-15 November	Murmansk Business Week, Murmansk Russia
29 November	Skype meeting with KAMK** (regarding upcoming projects)
5 December	Skype meeting with Joensuu Chamber of Commerce
7 December	Cooperation meeting with Finnmark County Council

ACTIVITY REPORT

Youth policy

2018 was an interesting year for BRYC. A closer cooperation was developed with the Barents Regional Council (BRC), Regional committee (RC), and the Joint working Group on Youth (JWGY). BRYC participated in both BRC/RC meetings this year, in Rovaniemi (May) and Sykttyvkar (September). BRYC had a good cooperation with the Finnmark county, which currently holds the chairmanship in the BRC, through the organization of the BRYC Annual Event 2018 in Kirkenes.

Throughout the year, BRYC also had a good cooperation with the Swedish BEAC Chairmanship. Both parties were involved in the organization of the Barents anniversary conference “25 Years of Barents Cooperation – Youth Perspective for the Future”, which took place Luleå, in April 2018. The conference brought together around 150 participants from governments, counties and local administrations, young people and experts. The objective was to put the youth perspective at the heart of discussions and explore opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in the Barents Region. On July 4th, BRYC's representatives from Norrbotten represented the council in a panel discussion/seminar at Almedalen Week in Sweden (political week which happens every year). BRYC Norrbotten was the moderator and the seminar was called "Can I as a youngster stay in my sparsely populated home town or do I have to move?". Transportation and infrastructure were stressed as the key factors for the rural-countryside's relevance in Sweden as a nation and the seminar ended with young people demanding a voice in Sweden's future societal planning.

In 2018, BRYC managed to secure a long-term funding from the Barents Regional Council. The BRC meeting in May, in Rovaniemi, decided that each member region will allocate the annual grant of 5000 EUR to BRYC in the next three years (2018-2020). Regions that are legally prevented from allocating the annual grants, are expected to support BRYC with an in-kind contribution of an equivalent value.

Annual Meeting

The BRYC Annual Meeting 2018 was held in Luleå, Sweden, 16-17 April, back-to-back with the Barents anniversary conference. The meeting elected a new Board and Chair for 2018-19. Also, a total of six new members, from all four Barents countries, were added to the Council. The annual meeting set an ambitious goal to develop BRYC as a project initiator, and created two new project ideas: “Career



Youth projects

The “Career development” project was initially planned to be implemented in January 2019, during the Arctic Frontiers conference in Tromsø. However, due to a number of practical issues, the committee did not manage to finish its work in time, and the project was put on hold.

The gaming project faced another difficulty. Due to low activity in the project committee resulted in slow work progress and an uncertain timeline. Despite these difficulties, BRYC managed to do a lot of research on the implementation possibilities, potential project partners and experts, and still aims to implement the project in 2019.

BRYC’s project collaboration with the Murmansk art organization “Fridaymilk” continued in 2018 with youth projects “Inversia: Digital North” (1-5 February) and “Uncapitals: Nature Fragility” (26-29 September).

The project “Inversia” is a digital and media art festival with a focus on the High North. In 2018, the project was implemented for the second time, after a big success in 2017. This year, the project expanded its territories and included young artists from the Barents Region and North, as well as the Netherlands. The festival program included: audio and visual performances, artists’ talks, public exhibitions and discussions, workshops and films show. The major effect was to show the innovative methods of performing art, the digital way, which caused positively overwhelming effect especially on the elder audience. The overall audience during the three-day project was approximately 1500 people, aged from 16 to 60.

“Uncapitals” is a creative camp for young people who specialize in photo and video, music and sound, and dance performances from the Nordic countries. The purpose of this project was to explore the vast territories of Northern Norway and, through collaboration, create a common product inspired by the integrity of nature. This year, the project explored the small village of Kjøllefjord in Lebesby municipality, Northern Norway, and the phenomenon of “Northern fragility”. The objective was to research this small Northern town through two creative formats – moving people and moving images. The moving people group consisted of young dancers, performers, choreographers, whereas the moving images group included young professional videographers, photographers, sound artists and VR-developers. There were 296 applications not only from the Barents Region, but also from other parts of the world, which showed the great interest to the project theme and the North as an attractive destination for young creative people.

Both Inversia and Uncapitals were implemented with the help of external funding from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, the Nordic Council of Ministers, as well as other sources.

Annual Event

BRYC held its 12th Annual Event 8-11 November, 2018, in Kirkenes. The theme of this year's event was cultural diversity in the Barents Region, a topic which also highlighted the 25th anniversary of the Barents Cooperation. A total of 64 youths from Norway, Russia, Sweden and Finland gathered in Kirkenes for the weekend. They participated in networking activities, group discussions on cross-border cooperation, and interactive workshops on cultural diversity. The event also brought together BRYC and the JWGY in a plenary discussion on future cooperation.

The BRYC Board

The BRYC Board worked closely together throughout 2018. The Board members worked mainly online – via group chat and video meetings – but also had two physical meetings, in August and November. During these meetings and interactions, the Board discussed topics such as the BRYC structure, the annual event, youth projects, communication etc.

Communication

Members of BRYC promoted the Barents Cooperation and the Barents Youth community on several occasions throughout the year, including presentations in various forums, in the press and social media.

BRYC was presented at more than 10 different events, including the Barents anniversary conference in Luleå in April, the BRC/RC meetings in May and September, the Nordic Regional Youth Camp in Helsinki in August, the Lapland Youth Forum in Rovaniemi in September, the Arctic Youth Summit in Rovaniemi in October, and Murmansk Business Week in Murmansk in November.

The BRYC Snapchat “takeover” was initiated at the beginning of the year. Each region was responsible for posting content on BRYC’s Snapchat account for a week. After each week, a new region would take over. This resulted in a lot of activity and many new followers on this social media platform. The BRYC Instagram account had some minor adjustments in 2018, but did not manage to attract a significant number of new followers. On Facebook, the activity was not particularly high this year, although BRYC reached 900 Facebook followers. In 2018, BRYC decided to try using Facebook ads to promote the annual event. This turned out to be extremely effective and increased BRYC’s visibility considerably during that period. The annual event also ensured good media coverage, and was also mentioned on regional television in Norway.

In 2018, BRYC continued working on the new Barentsyouth website. The new website is planned to be launched in 2019.





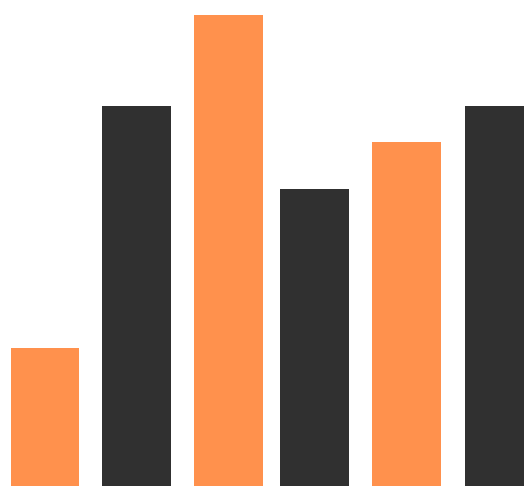
BRYC 2018:
**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

INCOME

BRYC's main source of income is the annual regional grants. As agreed in the Barents Regional Council (BRC) and the Barents Regional committee (RC) in Kajaani May 2016, each region shall allocate 5000 EUR to support BRYC's meeting activities and youth event every year.

During the BRC/RC meeting in Rovaniemi May 2018, it was decided that BRYC will be granted financial support from the member regions of the BRC over the period 2018-20.

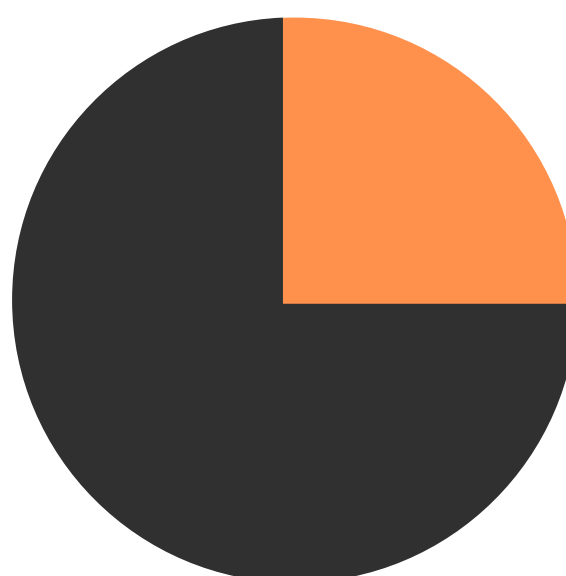
BRYC also applies for grants from other sources to cover project activities beyond the council's running costs. This year, BRYC received project grants from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, as well as the counties of Finnmark, Norrbotten and Västerbotten.



EXPENSES

BRYC's expenses be divided in three main categories: 1) travel, 2) accommodation and meals, and 3) other costs (the latter including costs like remuneration fees for workshop leaders, rent of meeting premises, meeting equipment, promotional materials and unexpected costs.

Being a project grant recipient, BRYC is often expected to co-fund its projects. This cost is usually accounted for in the budget, but not limited to a specific category.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	Budget 2018	Actual 2018
Regional grants:		
Nordland 2018	5 000 EUR	-
Troms 2018	5 000 EUR	4 933 EUR
Finnmark 2018	5 000 EUR	14 717 EUR (2018-20)
Västerbotten 2018	5 000 EUR	-
Norrbottn 2018	5 000 EUR	4 867 EUR
Lapland 2018	5 000 EUR	-
Oulu region 2018	-	-
Kainuu 2018	5 000 EUR	-
North Karelia 2018	5 000 EUR	-
SUM Regional grants 2018	40 000 EUR	24 517 EUR
Delayed transactions (grants) from 2017:		
Nordland 2017	5 000 EUR	5 288 EUR
Finnmark 2017	5 000 EUR	4 906 EUR
Lapland 2017	5 000 EUR	4 931 EUR
Kainuu 2017	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
North Karelia 2017	5 000 EUR	4 886 EUR
SUM Delayed grants 2017	25 000 EUR	25 011 EUR
Surplus from external project grants	-	2 857 EUR
SUM Income	65 000 EUR	52 385 EUR
Running costs	Budget 2018	Actual 2018
Travel costs:		
Annual meeting 2018, travel	- 7 000 EUR	- 7 678 EUR
Annual Event 2018, travel	-	- 9 951 EUR
Annual meeting 2019, travel	- 7 000 EUR	-
Board meetings 2018, travel	- 5 000 EUR	- 1 436 EUR
Participation in other meetings/events	- 4 000 EUR	- 3 928 EUR
SUM Travel costs 2018	-23 000 EUR	- 22 992 EUR
Accommodation and meals:	-21 000 EUR	- 15 513 EUR
Other expenses:	- 6 000 EUR	- 7 934 EUR
Additional project expenses (own contribution)	- 12 000 EUR	- 401 EUR
SUM Expenses	-62 000 EUR	- 46 840 EUR
RESULT (Income - Expenses)	3 000 EUR	5 544 EUR

PARTNERS



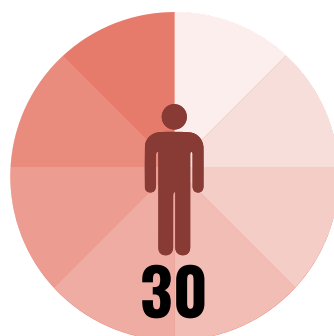
In 2018, BRYC cooperated with the following partners.

Partner	Region	Context
Norwegian Barents Secretariat	Kirkenes, Norway	Administrative and financial partner
Sør-Varanger municipality	Kirkenes, Norway	Annual event partner
Joint Working Group on Youth	Umeå/Stockholm, Sweden	Annual event partner
Fridaymilk	Murmansk, Russia	Project partner: Inversia, Uncapitals, BRYC Annual Event 2018
Finnmark County Council	Vadsø, Norway	Co-host and financial contributor of the BRYC Annual Event 2018
Swedish BEAC Chairmanship 2017-2019	Stockholm, Sweden	BEAC partner
International Barents Secretariat	Kirkenes, Norway	Communication partner and co-organizer of the annual event
Kirkenes Secondary School	Kirkenes, Norway	Project partner: BRYC Annual Event 2018
Scandic Kirkenes	Kirkenes, Norway	Project partner and host of the annual event.

BRYC 2018: IMPACT



YOUTH REACHED



YOUTH VOLUNTEERS



NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS



NUMBER OF MEETINGS
AND EVENTS



NUMBER OF CROSS-
BORDER YOUTH PROJECTS



TOTAL PAGE
LIKES

917

AVERAGE
POST REACH

449

NUMBER OF
FOLLOWERS

384

WEEKLY
REACH

25



BRYC APPROVED AS AN OFFICIAL MEMBER
OF THE BARENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL



BRYC GRANTED ANNUAL FUNDING FOR THE
UPCOMING PERIOD (2018-2020)



RE-ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE BEAC
JOINT WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH (JWGY)



9 PARTNERS INVOLVED IN BRYC'S
ACTIVITIES IN 2018

BRYC ANNUAL REPORT 2018:

PHOTO CREDITS

Photo description	Page	Photographer
Group photo: BRYC Annual Event 2018, 10 November 2018, Kirkenes, Norway	Front page	BRYC
Group photo: BRYC Board and JWGY. From the JWGY meeting in Kirkenes, November 2018	Photo gallery, 1. row, left side	International Barents Secretariat
Fridaymilk at the BRYC Annual Event	Photo gallery, 1. row, right side	Jolanda Magga / BRYC
Opening ceremony of the BRYC Annual Event	Photo gallery, 2. row, left side	Jolanda Magga / BRYC
Group photo from the annual meeting in April, Luleå	Photo gallery, 2. row, right side	Alexandra Møller / BRYC
Group photo: BRYC Annual Event 2018	Photo gallery, 3. row, left side	BRYC
BRYC Annual Event 2018: Speed dating	Photo gallery, 3. row, right side	Jolanda Magga / BRYC
Anniversary/Youth conference in April, Luleå	Photo gallery, 4. row, left side	BRYC
Anniversary/Youth conference in April, Luleå	Photo gallery, 4. row, right side	BRYC
Tim Andersson / BRYC Annual Event group photo	Pages 1 and 2	BRYC
Group photo from the annual meeting in April, Luleå	Page 3	Alexandra Møller / BRYC
BRYC Board in Kirkenes, August 2018 (2 photos)	Page 4	Elizaveta Vassilieva / BRYC
Annual Event participants in Kirkenes, Nov 2018	Page 5	Artem Bilchuk
Sunset in Kirkenes, Nov 2018, annual event	Page 6	Jere Juntunen
Katarina Lindmark at the youth conference in Luleå	Page 6	Elizaveta Vassilieva / BRYC
Jolanda Magga and Jaakko Joentakanen introducing BRYC at the Lapland Youth Forum in Rovaniemi	Page 6	BRYC
Inversia, February 2018, Murmansk, Russia (2 photos)	Page 8	Fridaymilk
Uncapitals, September 2018, Kjøllefjord, Norway	Pages 9, 12 and 14	Fridaymilk



Map of the BARENTS REGION

1. Nordland (NO)
2. Troms (NO)
3. Finnmark (NO)
4. Norrbotten (SE)
5. Västerbotten (SE)
6. Lapland (FI) 
7. Oulu region (FI)
8. Kainuu (FI)
9. North Karelia (FI)
10. Murmansk region (RU)
11. Arkhangelsk region (RU)
12. Nenets Autonomous Okrug (RU)
13. Republic of Karelia (RU)
14. Republic of Komi (RU)

