



BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Barents Regional Youth council

BRYC

Report 2012

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 2012 the meetings were held in Tromsø, Norway and in Murmansk, Russia

Meetings in the council in 2012:

*Annual Meeting back to back and jointly with the Barents working group on youth
20th -21st of April 2012
Tromsø, Norway
(enclosure 1 and 2)*

*Council Meeting
16th December
Murmansk, Russia
(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 2012:

Johan Miranda, Sweden
Zhanna Guzhenko, Russia
Mari Kovala, Finland
Kristine Andreassen, Norway
Halvard Rundberg, Indigenous People

Meetings in the Board for BRYC 2012:

There were several attempts to implement a meeting for the board during the spring, but due to several changes in the members and a lot of exams and other tasks the members were not able to meet. There were some mail exchanges and one Skype meeting where the members agreed to meet during the Youth Conference on Hurtigruta in October 2012. BRYC took part in the planning committee for the hurtigrute conference.

Training course

Presentation techniques and media

During the annual meeting for BRYC in Tromsø we arranged a media training workshop for BRYC with Hanne Sofie Roaldsen from HSR Management and Ann Karina from Kirkens Bymisjon.

Ylvas notes from Workshop with Ann Karina from Kirkens Bymisjon.

Never forget the purpose of the medias.

What is the angle? Why should they be talking to you?

If you are not present in your face you are boring. It is easy to put up a face that stops you from communicating with medias.

Know your own message!

Be nice and sympathetic. Greet them.

Never forget to say thank you for coming. If you don't thank them you communicate that it is not so important.

Think about timing and tuning. Is this the right time for this message? How do I tune it?

Is it necessary to give all information at one time? Keep secrets! Can you divide it and tell some now and some in two weeks?

Tune your face med the message they are giving. If you are going to speak about something sad or serious – dont laugh.

Dont use humour, because you might not know what someone else think is funning. Be careful.

If a journalist calls you have to react immediately. If you cannot answer straight away: tell them Im sorry but I need to leave this room to be able to answer you, can I call you back in two minutes?

Operate in the magic of the moment!

Otherwise they might ask someone else about their opinion, and then yours is not important anymore. And there might be a follow-up.

If you know something that you don't want to put in the media yet, think about what to answer if they ask anyway.

Boring pictures are boring for photographers also! Have an idea for how to make the picture exciting.

If you say to call them back – call them back.

If you don't know the answer check it up, buy time and never answer straight away unless you have prepared for it.

Think about quotable sentences. It is really important. "Love Barents" f eks. It puts the message into one little sentence.

BRYC Event 2012

Barents Now and then

The Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC) initiated a new annual event which took place in Murmansk during the 14th -17th of December in 2012. It has been a challenging year for the BRYC. In a relatively short time there have been done changes in already approved plan of the annual event implementation, however, it does not influence the projected results. According to the circumstances it was decided to hold an annual BRYC event in Murmansk, Russia.

The aim of the project is to inspire the youth to stay in the Barents region therefore it is necessary to know the youth interests and expectations of staying in the Barents. This project gives a chance to create a vision for the future of the Barents region, implemented through different creative works. There is going to be musical, art, media and dancing presentations of the Barents future. Along with a creative work there is a disputing and educating part of work where the participants can learn the history of the Barents region and some interesting facts, and take part in discussions and make their contribution to the common future vision.

Despite the history of the Barents region cooperation is not that long it is rather bright and full of different projects. The history demonstrated a strong wish from the each Barents country to work cooperative and achieve more results than it could be done alone. 2013 is the year of 20-years anniversary of Kirkenes declaration which laid the official foundation of the Barents cooperation, therefore it's time to start new directing point to strengthen and improve Barents cooperation. The project "Barents NOW&THEN" is a good form to analyze the obstacles which the youth have met and present new visions of Barents life. Kirkenes declaration – II is creating at least for the next 20 years, and it means that the today youth would be the potential human resource during the next 2 decades. That's exactly why this project is aimed to detect the interests of the Barents youth and to find the answers for the most vulnerable questions they have.

Objective: to inspire and attract the Barents youth to stay and make the region attractive for the people in and outside of the region.

Goals:

to introduce the past-present-future life overview of the Barents region by different art approaches;

to discuss and analyze the most burning issues that the Barents youth is interested in;

to strengthen young people's Barents identity and increase youth participation in the Barents regional cooperation.

Methodology

The learning process was based on shared responsibility between participants and facilitators.

Space is provided for both individual and collective learning.

The programme involves a combination of outdoor and indoor educational methods.

Open Space method focuses on a specific and important purpose or task—but beginning without any formal agenda, beyond the overall purpose or theme.

Icebreakers and Energizers help to loosen up, to get people chatting and exchange personal information and to help memorize or review names.

On basis of these methods these exercises and games were used:

Joint shouting exercise to warm the cords.

Mixer energizer: the leader ask the players to show mixer, toster or washing mashine quickly.

Rock-paper-scissors game in life, instead of famous names we used princess-dragon-samurai. All player are divided into two teams, each team dicides what figure to show and in one moment both teams perform the figure they choose.

Get - to- know discussions in groups of 5-6 people.

The beginning of the event was more informative and theoretical where most of the presentations and master classes were performed. Here open space methodology was used: everybody who wanted to make a presentation could do that. Later started work in groups where the participants were working in a team according to their preference or characteristics.

Workshops

Media workshop was the most mobile, the main task was to make a history of on-going processes in other workshop using the new methods in photo and video recording, besides media workshop rented a professional photo studio for its work.

Dancing workshop has invented a dance performance which combined different styles of dancing elements. Arty - and - crafty workshop was fitted with necessary instruments and materials which helped to progress in implementing the idea of beautiful living in the Barents region. Musical band had chosen the compositions suggested by Timur Mizinov, the leader, and had rehearsals most of the time. All works were presented at the final show in the pub Pinta, where the participants were given diplomas for participation and presents and evaluation was made.

The Barents Youth Conference 2012

As Chair of the Youth policy area during the Norwegian presidency, the Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, invited youth from all over the Barents Region to share and discuss their visions on youths' future in the Region. The Conference was located on the Norwegian Coastal ship (Hurtigruten) Trollfjord from the 22nd to the 24th of October.

The main objectives of the Conference was:

To incorporate the voice of young people in the region, in the future development of the Barents cooperation, through the New Kirkenes -declaration.

To incorporate proposals from young people in the Reigon to the future Action Plan and Programme of the Joint Working Group on Youth of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Barents Regional Council.

Discussion on the child and youth cooperation in the Barents Region in a European perspective

Viewpoints of young people to the future work of the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO).

In order to obtain these objectives, the Norwegian presidency invited key speakers on the Barents cooperation and on the Youth Policy issues to stimulate fruitful discussions about the future of youth in the Barents Region. Furthermore, the presidency organised the participants in three working groups to discuss and promote their views and proposals on what is necessary for the future of the Region.

Key speakers

Mr Alf-Åge Hansen, representative of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented the Norwegian presidency's objectives and priorities. Mr. Hansen also informed about the drafting process of the New Kirkenes - declaration.

Mr Pål Christian Bergstrøm, Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Northern Norway, informed about the Children and Youth at Risk (CYAR) programme. The purpose of the CYAR programme is to increase

cooperation efforts aiming at improving life conditions for the most vulnerable group of the child population in the Barents region.

Ms Seija Astala, representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Youth Policy Division, Finland, and Chair person of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on youth, informed about the European Dimension in the Barents cooperation.

Ms Sari Roininen (Regional Council, Norrbotten) spoke about the outputs of the Barents 2020 Youth Workshop in Tornio, Finland, in June 2012. She presented the films of each subject that the youths identified as important for the future Barents cooperation.

Maria Petrova from the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO), informed about the work of BYCO. Ms Petrova says that BYCO has acquired great knowledge about financing and initiating projects over the years, and that there are a lot of enthusiastic and well-informed youth who wants to do something locally and in their own region. Ms Petrova also talks about the importance of young people taking up residence in their region. According to Ms Petrova, new projects should have a focus on young people needs as their point of departure.

Ms Lotta Jarvenius Rössner, Ms Jaana Salla Viirimäki and Ms Gry Nesse from the National Agencies of the EU programme “Youth in Action” in Sweden, Finland and Norway, informed about the programme and its priorities.

Ms Zhanna Guzenko informed on the work of the Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC). Ms Guzenko reported that depopulation from the Region southwards is a great challenge in the Region. BRYC want to meet this challenge by showing young people the many and unique opportunities that life in the North has to offer. Ms Guzenko also informed about BRYC’s 10 year jubilee in 2012.

Ms Laila Dalhaug from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat (NBS) informed about the Youth programme. The programmes aim is to increase the attractiveness of the Region for young people. The Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion finances the Youth programme. The webpage of the NBS has an overview of the possibilities the Youth Programme has to offer.

Mr Eirik Mofoss, informed about his experience as an exchange student in Murmansk, Russia. Mr Mofoss stressed the importance of exchange programmes to enlightening young people about the Region and the possibilities for work in the different countries and regions in the Barents Region. Mr. Mofoss suggested that the national authorities should finance exchange programmes.

Input to the New Kirkenes - declaration and the JWGY Plan of Action

During the Conference, youth from Russia, Sweden, Finland and Norway discussed different aspects on important issues as education, entrepreneurship, mobility, culture and environment with great interest and involvement.

The JWGY held a back-to-back-meeting and concluded on drafting a text based from the conclusions of the workshop to the New Kirkenes Declaration and the JWGY Plan of Action.

Conclusions from the workshop groups

The following chart displays the participants conclusions from the workshops.

Mobility	Inclusion
Improve east-west transportation/infrastructure	Information about the Barents cooperation to young people
Easier cross-boarder travel	Equal access and possibilities
Easier access to working permit	Participation in decision making processes
Open boarders	
Easier access to visa / Barents Youth Visa	Activities for cross-boarder communication
	People-to-people contact
Education	Barents Exchange program
United Barents College / International Barents University	Increase sport cooperation/competitions
Barents Summer College	
Innovation	Labour
Entrepreneurship	Youth employment
	Internship
Environment	
Sustainability, climate, ecology	

Summary

The Youth of the Barents Region are passionate about the future of their Region. They want their voice to be heard and to have the possibility to influence their future. Youth are the most important resource of the Barents Region. They are the future of the Region.

Spin-Offs active in 2012

Young Innovative Entrepreneurs

BRYC is an associated partner in the ENPI financed project Young Entrepreneurs in barents and has taken part in the the developement of the project.

The project runs for three yeras and involved 100 young entrepreneurs from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia.

The overall objective of Young Innovative Entrepreneurs project is to support economic and social development of the Barents region by facilitating young innovative entrepreneurial initiatives in order to contribute to the development of the employment and entrepreneurship in the region.

The specific objective of the project is to create a region wide support system that will enhance the development and implementation of innovative business ideas across the borders by young entrepreneurs in the Barents Region.

The support system will be formed by several key components:

Business Network

Establishment of Cross-border (CB) business and innovative project development network will support CB interactions and contact development for the target groups. This will be ensured by organising a set of match-making conferences, Barents business Festival, and virtual communication platform and network database.

Training and Education

Development of regional innovative entrepreneurial competence will be supported by the tailor made trainings delivered jointly by the business and academia, through mentoring programmes and coaching.

Awareness by all regional actors

Dissemination of project results to wider public in the region will support the development of multilateral involvement of the regional actors and thus securing the support for the project activities and its sustainability

Regional Youth Forum “Team 29”, International Section

Forum “Team 29” is annually organized by the Arkhangelsk Region Government and the BRYC member Svetlana Averyanova have been involved in the planning and implementation of the international forum. The event attracts hundreds of young active people aged 18-25 y.o. and interested in politics, leadership, civic studies and active citizenship. From July 27 till August 1, 2011, two youth camps on the south of Arkhangelsk region were swarming with crowds of joyful young people. The third Regional Youth Forum “TEAM-29” gathered more than 700 students, young scientists, businessmen, government members and other socially active inhabitants of Arkhangelsk region. And not only from Arkhangelsk region, in fact – this year, for the first time in the Forum’s history, there were guests from the USA and Norway. The International Section’s participants learned how to work, communicate and cooperate in multicultural environment, shared their ideas and experience of participation in community service and politics in Russia and abroad, got acquainted with Project Cycle Management basics and then worked out some ideas of joint youth projects, took part in the role-play “Student Government Day” with political debates and imitation of elections for the Mayor position.

The youth forum “Alive Village” 2011 in Kholmogory district

The youth educational forum “Alive Village” was held in Kholmogorskiy district of the Arkhangelsk region from 11 to 14 of August 2011. Twenty young active participants from six municipalities of Kholmogorskiy district were involved in the work of the Forum. During four days the participants got knowledge about how to work on social and business projects: became familiar with tools of business ideas’ support; studied “step-by-step” system of business planning; learned how to launch a project and find partners.

The forum had been organized with support from Ministry of youth, sport and tourism of Arkhangelsk region, the Administration of Kholmogorskiy district, members of Youth Government, Norwegian partner Tor Gjertsen (the Leader of the Thematic

Network “UARctic Thematic Network in Local and regional development of the North”), business and youth’s NGOs from Arkhangelsk region.

At the end the head of Kholmogorsky district Pavel Ryabko gave useful recommendations to each project and promised to support them. After the Forum 5 projects from participants had been realized during half a year.

Media Camp 2011

From the 7th to 9th of November 2011 the II International Youth Camp «MediaCamp2011» was held in Petrozavodsk in the framework of the project “The Year of Fridtjof Nansen in Karelia.” The organizers are the International Youth Club “Solveig”, the Karelian Social Movement of Friendship “Karelia-Norway”, National Park “Vodlozersky”.

That is 3 informative and entertaining days dedicated to the main theme – environmental life in the North. That is a huge number of meetings with people from whom we can learn a lot. Media Camp is a variety of master classes on EcoMass Media convergence and on the basics of journalism, which resulted in children’s presentations of their own articles and interviews. This is a live broadcast in the radio “Europe Plus» studio. This is a presentation of various media projects, programs and festivals of the Youth Council of the Barents, the review of Norwegian short films created by young people. It’s a virtual game in which everyone can try the role of the mayor and solve environmental problems. This is a heated debate, “Is there a future for the North? The choice of young people. “The list of the activities is endless!

The participants plunged into the world of media with journalists of the newspaper “Karelia” and «Karjalan Sanomat», TRC “Sampo” and students from Tampere (Finland), learned of the protected areas of Russia and the environmental technologies in business. They discussed the problems of ecology, city, life in the North with the representatives of the youth policy in Karelia, heard about the impressions of Dmitry Mitkovza (he is from Petrozavodsk) from the expedition to the Arctic, they saw the video. Under the guidance of Paul Petrov, a representative of the NCM, they learned to complete project proposals to international funds in the Nordic countries in «Nordic Climate Day» and a lot more other activities.

The camp program was very full, diverse, and most importantly interesting. For example, the second day «One Day on Earth», the participants visited a children’s home № 2 to share their journalistic experience with the pupils. And if at the beginning we felt some uneasiness and constraint, by the end of the meeting all the pupils were talking with great interest, they took each other’s interviews, and found common interests and hobbies. This meeting resulted in the journalistic newspaper, “One day on Earth.” At the same time another group of campers was engaged in fotocross, the results of which turned into a series of pictures representing the

original view of Petrozavodsk. It was particularly interesting to see how the guests grasped the city. By the way, some participants in the «MediaCamp» came even from Murmansk, St. Petersburg, Tula, and reserve «Yasnaya Polyana».

The closing of «MediaCamp2011» was held in the Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Karelia, where the results of the project “Year of the Fridtjof Nansen in Karelia “ were summed up and announced. «MediaCamp2011» was held in the framework of this project. The concert of Norwegian music was the completion of the project, but «MediaCamp» does not say goodbye to the participants. The experience that they have acquired during these 3 days, the sea of emotions and impressions, meeting new people, fresh ideas for projects, articles and photo reports – everything stays with them. And, of course, all of us are looking forward to «MediaCamp2012!»

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

Ylva Pavva, Norrbotten

January 11 - 13, K-UNG12, a workshop on youth involvement in Kiruna. BRYC initiated the contact between the youth council in Kiruna and Tromsø. Two of the youth council members + me went from Tromsø to Kiruna to participate in the workshop. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/K-Ung/199157836821168>

Alexander Falck, Västerbotten

I was present as BRYC-representative from Västerbotten at Barents Youth Conference in October.

I was BRYC-representative at Barents Regional Committee meeting in Rovaniemi the 14 February. I said a few things about BRYC and participated in a workshop about the Barents culture.

Mari Kovala, Lapland

I took part in the Barents Youth Conference at the Hurtigruten in October. In the Lapland Youth Seminar in October I told about BRYC and the outcomes of the Barents Youth Conference.

Hei Laila. 8 - 10 February in År so var jeg med og organiserte ledersamling i Kirkenes for ungdomsrådene i Finnmark. Jeg er rimelig sikker på at jeg nevnte BRYC og Barentssamarbeidet ved en rekke anledninger. Jeg var med som representant for Ungdomspolitisk Utvalg Finnmark.

Activities held in Komi Republic in 2012

February - September-December 2012 - lectures about BRYC at Syktyvkar State university delivered by Julia Lapshina

December 2012- a presentation of the annual BRYC event held in Murmansk (Syktyvkar)

January-December 2012 - articles regarding BRYC's activity to local newspapers and university newspapers.

Report from Arkhangelsk region

Events where Barents Regional Youth Council was presented:

X youth forum of Primorsky district of Arkhangelsk region (June 2012)

II International Youth Forum “Team 29” (June 2012)

Youth social forum about rural areas development “Alive Village” (November 2012)

Youth forum of Novodvinsk city “Perspectiva” (November 2012)

- 1) http://www.narfu.ru/upload/uf/ae9/AV_2012_16.pdf
- 2) В Мурманске прошел молодежный семинар Баренцева региона «Barents NOW&THEN»
http://www.molarh.ru/?news_show&id=2874
- 3) Молодежь Архангельской области приглашают принять участие в молодежном международном двухдневном семинаре Баренцева региона «Баренц: СЕЙЧАС&ПОТОМ» (Barents NOW&THEN)
http://www.molarh.ru/?news_show&id=2717
- 4) Делегация Архангельской области приняла участие в формировании новой Киркенесской декларации
http://www.molarh.ru/?news_show&id=2660
- 5) Молодежь Архангельской области приглашают на конференцию в Норвегию
<http://molarh.ru/?comments&id=212>
- 6) Начат прием заявок на участие в выборах представителя области в Баренцев региональный молодежный совет
<http://www.narfu.ru/university/news/52691/>

Karelia

Petrozavodsk

20 of February 2011

Meeting with youth NGO from Karelia and Norway. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth cooperation in Barents.

Meeting was organize from “Solweig” and Think Mental Fshion.

Petrozavodsk

23 of February 2011

Meeting with Youth NGO Council in Karelia. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth cooperation in Barents.

Petrozavodsk

20-24 of April 2011

“EcoCup” is the only festival in Russia, which familiarizes Russian viewers with a foreign ecological film. The uniqueness of EcoCup is in the synthesis of creative approaches to the concept of “ecology of life”. Environmental protection is a conscious choice, an action that brings results. The film festival doesn't just state facts, but shows the problems, it provides with an opportunity to speak out, make plans, plan events and, of course, make movies. All the films at the festival will be shown in Russia for the first time. These films have participated in international festivals, they won the prizes and were shown in cinema houses around the world.

Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth cooperation in Barents on seminar of future cooperation.

Petrozavodsk

1 – 6 of May 2011

Human Rights school for youth and NGO. Difference trainings, discussions, games and another activity of Human Rights issues. The organizer is the International Youth Club “Solveig

Was organise special days for project management and human rights foundations. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth HR cooperation in Barents.

Helsinki

19-20 of May 2011

Human rights seminar for NGO in North-West Russia. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth HR cooperation in Barents.

Petrozavodsk

August 3-9

The II International innovative forum “Hyperborea: youth in action”, organized by the State Committee of the Republic of Karelia on Youth Affairs and The Karelian regional youth center with the assistance of Karelian Government took place from 3rd to 9th of August in The Republic of Karelia. The goals of the forum were youth attraction to the planning of the future of own city, region and country; development of youth activity including partnership between regions and countries and development of international youth cooperation. The motto of the educational program is “Start with yourself”. It means that every young man can contribute to the world improvement through the easiest way – working on themselves and self-improvement.

Petrozavodsk

September

Study tour to nature reserve territory in Russia directors of natural reserve from Sweden. Was organize big seminar of exchange experience and knowledge for

future management of natural reserve in Russia and Sweden. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth ecological cooperation in Barents

Petrozavodsk

13 of November 2011

Youth NGO Forum in Petrozavodsk. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth cooperation in Barents at youth NGO exhibition.

Petrozavodsk

24-25 of November 2011

Anna Rybalova take part in a venue for the international forum Investments in the Future. The idea of the forum was offered by the Government of Karelia and supported by the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev. The major task of the forum is to present Karelia's potential and involve investors for implementation of new projects.

Among the forum participants there are heads and representatives of the federal ministries and departments, Office of the Plenipotentiary of the President of the Russian Federation in Northwest federal district, heads of regions, as well as the largest enterprises of the country, representatives of cultural, scientific, public and religious organizations, foreign visitors.

The motto of the forum is «Investments in the future – investments in persons».

During the round table discussion of the subject of Spiritual and Moral Potential of the Region as the Term of Mobilization of Investments public and religious organizations of Karelia was present their projects focused on preservation and development of spiritual and moral potential of the region.

All the round table discussions will be summed up at the plenary session where participants will adopt a resolution of the forum Investments in the Future.

Svanvik

December 2011

Study trip for youth from Petrozavodsk to Pasvik Folkehøgskole. Youth had meeting in Barents Secretariat.

<http://solveigclub.wordpress.com/2011/12/>

Tromsø

December 2011

Study trip to Tromsø for to increase more cooperation between karelian and kvensk youth people. Anna Rybalova had a presentation about BRYC activity and youth HR cooperation in Barents.

Petrozavodsk

December 2011

Christmas event for youth people with results 2011 year.

KOMI

Syktyvkar

April - September-December 2011- lectures about BRYC at Syktyvkar State university delivered by Julia Lapshina

Syktyvkar

May 2011- musical Makrell together with Harald Settervoll

MURMANSK

Murmansk

Zhanna has implemented her own project the Barents Youth NGO & Volunteers Forum 2011 on September, 15-18.

Murmansk

Zhanna has participated in workshop conference Civil society in Murmansk region: experience, problems and perspectives with my presentation about the BRYC and a youth policy in the Barents region on December, 5

Kirkenes

Zhanna Guzenko was a speaker at the 7th Annual Conference 2012 “European Border Dialogue” arranged by the Network of Eastern External Border Regions, Kirkenes (Norway) 6th – 8th of February 2012. My presentation called Barents Regional Youth Cooperation. She told a lot about the BRYC and about some on-going and implemented Barents youth projects.

Västerbotten

Augusti

BRYC got a new member, Västerbottens representative Johan Miranda Holmgren

15-18 september

BRYC NGO YOUTH FORUM

The first arrangement by BRYC that the new BRYC-member from Västerbotten attended. Youths from Norrbotten were the Swedish participations along with the BRYC-member from Västerbotten. It was a couple of days in Murmansk, Russia with amazing discussions about NGO's in the Barents-area.

16-20 november

ExpLode BRYC-event in Rovaniemi, Finland. Along with 12 Swedish youths we meet in rovaniemi for some fantastic days filled with inspiration, love and an amazing show. After the event many participations have meet again with their new friends from all different parts of the Barrens area.

BRYC in media

Interview with BRYC-member Johan Miranda Holmgren in local news in rovaniemi at the BRYC-event

Nordland

UFT has got information about BRYC and BRYC activities. In January 2011 Viktor took part in a youth conference where he presented BRYC for the other participants. Told about BRYC at the UFT gathering in September for 80 youths from local youth councils and others.

Arkhangelsk

Report by Averyanova Svetlana 2011

http://www.molarh.ru/?news_show&id=1200
(data on youth portal of Arkhangelsk region)
Let's join in the musical in the Barents region

http://vkontakte.ru/note1308182_11384154
(news in the Russian social network "vkontakte")
Youth of Arkhangelsk region are welcome to be participant in the Barents musical "ExpLoDE"

http://www.molarh.ru/?news_show&id=1623
(data on youth portal of Arkhangelsk region)
Youth musical in Rovaniemi

<http://www.barentsyouth.org/cppage.4967788-71662.html>
Also I made several presentation of the BRYC:
1. International Youth Section of the youth forum "Team 29" in Arkhangelsk region (Arkhangelsk region, July)

BRYC IN MEDIA 2011:

Zhanna Guzenko had an interview about the BRYC and the Barents Youth NGO & Volunteers Forum 2011 on Radio Rossiya on September, 19.

Zhanna Guzenko has written an article about the Explode event in Rovaniemi on the Murmansk youth web-site, <http://4erdak.ru/news/9317/>

Anna Rybalova interviewed by local TV programme NEWS (Vesti-Karelia) about Media Camp, EcoCup; Explode and another

Anna Was in program for youth people in famous radio station "Europa pluse" and had informed about BRYC and Explode".

Anna Rybalova was referred in article of the basic details of BRYC in "Youth magazine" in biggest newspaper for youth in Karelia.

Anna has provided A lot of articles in youth internet portals "Youth Karelian portal" and "Youth in Petrozavodsk", "International Young journalism"

Julia Lapshina November 2011- article to Barents Saga (The IBS newsletter)

Johan Miranda April-December 2011 - articles regarding BRYC's activity to local newspapers and university newspapers.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PLANS

Turnover

The turnover among the members have been high for some of the member regions, but there have been a quite stable group for some time now. For some of the regions it been necessary to look for potential future members constantly. The different youth structures in the counties and within the respective countries also make difficulties for recruitment of members. Some members are appointed while others are elected. Its necessary not to have rigid rules, but to be flexible.

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.

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 crate 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 weather 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 2011
2. BRYC meeting Umeå March 2011
3. Annual meeting Umeå March 2011
4. Board meeting Rovaniemi June
5. Board Meeting Murmansk September
6. BRYC meeting in Rovaniemi October
7. Board Meeting Helsinki December
8. Plan of action 2012
9. Regulations for BRYC

BRYC Members in 2011

Name	County
Kristine Andreassen	Troms
Viktor Inge Paulsen	Nordland
Mari Kovala	Lapland
Sunna Kokkonen	Lapland (stand in)
John Asle Somby	Finnmark
Isa Tolonen	Kainuu
Zhanna Guzenko	Murmansk
Anna Rybalova	Karelia
Julia Lapshina	Komi
Svetlana Averyanova	Arkhangelsk
Andrey Vokuyev	Nenets
Ekatherina Burdikova	Nenets (stand in)
Ylva Marie Pavval	Norrbotten
Johan Miranda	Västerbotten
Adam Zetterquist	Västerbotten (stand in)
Halvard Rundberg	Indigenous repr.

The regional administration of Norra Österbothnia has still not elected a member for BRYC after the previous left the region at the end of 2010. BRYCs suggestions for memebbers has not been accepted by the regional administration.