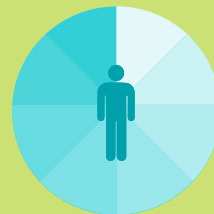




# BRYC Annual Report



**BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL**

[www.barentsyouth.org](http://www.barentsyouth.org)  
[elizaveta@barents.no](mailto:elizaveta@barents.no)







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01

## Message from the BRYC Chair

Dear all,

All in all, 2019 has been an interesting year for BRYC. With events being held in Norway, Sweden and Finland, dealing with various themes such as environment, female empowerment and sexual health. It is truly fascinating to see the engagement and passion among youths discussing these issues we meet in our daily lives in the Barents Region and, more importantly, this shows us that the will for a better future in the Barents Region is present among the youths. These are the moments that empower us in our endeavours towards something better. One moment worth mentioning took place during the "Switch" project in Vuokatti, Finland, where we held a workshop about innovating public events in the nature with help of modern technology. A workshop that led to many interesting discussions and ideas about our current life and how it could evolve into something greater through innovation.

We look forward to build on these experiences in the upcoming year, and continue uniting Barents youth in collaboration with the new BEAC and BRC chairmanships. A special thanks to all our partners who made 2019 such an interesting year!



AUGUST SJØVOLL  
CHAIR OF BRYC / INDIGENOUS  
REPRESENTATIVE





## 02 ABOUT BRYC

BRYC (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.





## YOUTH ISSUES

Migration continues to be a big concern when it comes to youth. A common trend in all four Barents countries is that young people leave the Barents Region. The main motives behind this youth migration is better educational and career opportunities, social connections or a warmer climate. Many of these people choose not to return after finishing their education, which causes a decline in the region's population, brain drain and a challenge to regional development. Official data shows that the region's population aged 16-29 decreased by more than half a million over the course of 27 years (1990-2017),

In the light of this development, BRYC works towards making the Barents Region more attractive for youth. Our aim is to create new opportunities within fields like culture, education, leadership, innovation, environment, health and social issues. We also want to encourage dialogue around important issues to help improve living conditions for young people in the region.

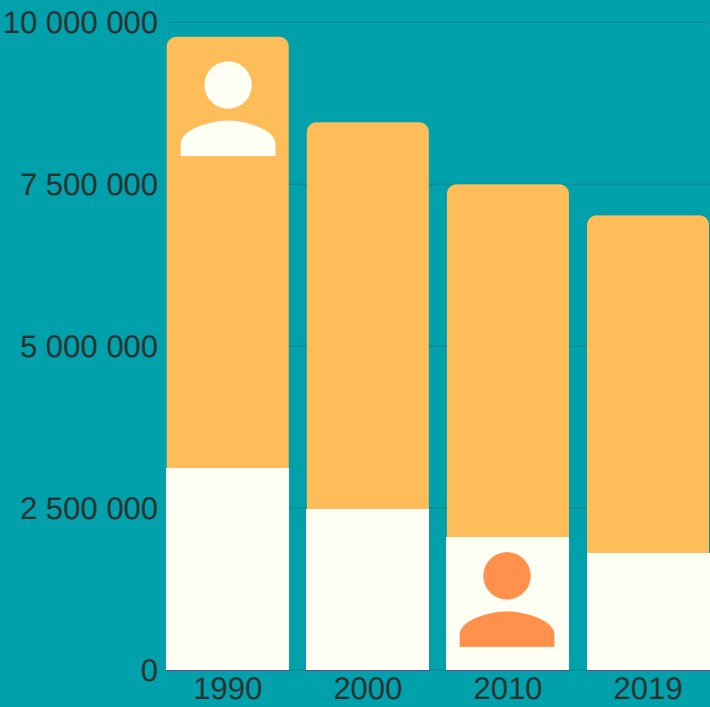
In 2019, BRYC raised awareness around three specific issues: Sexual health, equality and environment. In May, BRYC hosted a youth conference on sexual health (in Kiruna), which aimed to help improve the situation regarding sexually transmitted diseases, sexual education and sexual conduct among youth in the Barents Region. In July, BRYC organized a summer camp on female empowerment and equality (in Tromsø). For the annual event (in Vuokatti), BRYC focused on the topic of "nature vs technology", and how modern technology affects our relationship with nature.

## OUR MISSION:

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



# BARENTS REGION



Barents Region population (2019):

**5.2 mill**

Barents population under 30 (2019):

**1.8 mill**

# 03 2019 MEMBERS



## BRYC MEMBERS 2019-20

SWEDEN	1. Norrbotten	Alexandra Möller / Olivia Dyrind
	2. Västerbotten	Tim Andersson
FINLAND	3. Lapland	Jolanda Magga / Leevi Alakörkkö
	4. Oulu region	Riikka Karppinen
	5. Kainuu	Kaisa-Reetta Seppänen
	6. North Karelia	Jere Juntunen / Oskar Mannelin
RUSSIA	7. Murmansk region	Daria Makhotina
	8. Arkhangelsk region	Irina Zhiganova
	9. Nenets AO	Alena Safonova / Mansur Mirzoev
	10. Republic of Karelia	Anastasia Romanova
	11. Republic of Komi	Alexander Terentev / Ekaterina Konevskaya
NORWAY	12. Nordland	Jone Måsøy / Bisma Aleem Baloch
	13. Troms	Brage Bolstad-Andreassen / Martin Gamst Johnsen
	14. Finnmark	Michael Krotov
INDIGENOUS	15. Nordland	August Sjøvoll





## BRYC BOARD 2019-20

INDIGENOUS	August Sjøvoll	Chair
NORWAY	Michael Krotov	Deputy Chair
RUSSIA	Daria Makhotina	Board Member
FINLAND	Jolanda Magga	Board Member
SWEDEN	Alexandra Möller	Board Member

## OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Tim Andersson	BRYC International Secretary
Kaisa-Reetta Seppänen	BRYC Communication officer
Jere Juntunen	Regional coordinator, Annual Meeting 2019
Oskar Mannelin	Regional coordinator, Annual Meeting 2019
Elizaveta Vassilieva	Youth coordinator, Norwegian Barents Secretariat



# 04 ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

## Youth projects 2019

<b>21-24 May</b>	BRYC Sexual Health Conference - Kiruna, Sweden
<b>11-15 July</b>	"Glitter": Summer Camp on Female Empowerment - Tromsø, Norway
<b>15-18 August</b>	BRYC Annual Event 2019: "Switch" - Vuokatti, Finland
<b>24-27 October</b>	UnCapitals: Time Shift! - Haparanda, Sweden

## Meetings 2019

<b>15 January</b>	<b>BRYC Board Meeting #1 2019 (video meeting)</b>
<b>15 February</b>	<b>BRYC Annual Meeting 2019 - Joensuu, Finland</b>
<b>20-23 February</b>	Troms and Finnmark County Council meeting 2019 - Tromsø, Norway
<b>2 April</b>	Barents Regional Council (BRC) meeting - Tromsø, Norway
<b>3 April</b>	JWGY (Joint Working Group on Youth) meeting - Tromsø, Norway
<b>6 April</b>	<b>BRYC Board Meeting #2 2019 - Tromsø, Norway</b>
<b>25 June</b>	Barents Regional Committee (RC) meeting - Stockholm, Sweden
<b>25 June</b>	<b>BRYC Board meeting #3 2019 (video meeting)</b>
<b>17 August</b>	<b>BRYC Board Meeting #4 2019 - Vuokatti, Finland</b>
<b>2-3 October</b>	BRC and RC meetings + XVII BEAC Foreign Ministers' Session - Umeå

## Other events 2019

<b>14 February</b>	"Northern Potential in the Barents Region" - Joensuu, Finland
<b>12 June</b>	Barents Youth Follow-Up Seminar - Luleå, Sweden
<b>3 October</b>	Workshop on digitalization in the Culture Sector (by JWGC), Umeå
<b>15-17 October</b>	Barents Forest Forum - Umeå, Sweden
<b>14 November</b>	II International Session "Cooperation in the Arctic" - Murmansk, Russia
<b>19-20 November</b>	6th Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum - Bodø, Norway
<b>3 December</b>	Barents event at the Norwegian Embassy in Stockholm



## Activity Report

2019 was a busy and eventful year for BRYC. The youth council managed to be involved in a high number of activities, extending its visibility to new audiences across the Barents region.

When it comes to youth policy, BRYC promoted three main causes in 2019: Sexual health, equality and ecology. This work resulted in raised awareness around important youth issues in the Barents Region, a policy recommendation paper on sexual health, the exchange of knowledge on equality and female empowerment, the promotion of healthy lifestyle (nature) and cultural exchange.

The youth council's goal for this year was to increase the number of activities and become more visible in the Barents Region community. More specifically, BRYC aimed to implement six predefined youth projects: "BRYC Sexual Health Conference", "Glitter: summer Camp on Female Empowerment", BRYC Annual Event 2019 "Switch", Career Development Event, Gaming Event and the "Indigenous Network" project. Perhaps a bit too ambitious, by the end of the year the council only managed to implement three of these projects, while the other three were postponed to 2020. The main reason why these projects were postponed was the limited capacity to work with the projects. BRYC also implemented another project that was not initially planned, "UnCapitals 2019". Despite these deviations from the plan, the number of projects implemented this year still exceeded the previous years'.

In addition to BRYC's own projects, the council members also attended several other Barents-related events, where they took part in plenary discussions and promoted youth's interests. Among these events were the "Workshop on digitalization of the culture sector" in Umeå, hosted by the Joint Working Group on Culture, the "Barents Forest Forum" in Umeå, hosted by the Swedish Forest Agency, and the II International Session "Cooperation in the Arctic" in Murmansk, organized by the Government of the Murmansk region with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Another important event of 2019 was the XVII BEAC Foreign Ministers' Session in October, which concluded the Swedish Chairmanship period and launched the Norwegian Chairmanship period.

Throughout 2019, BRYC has maintained a good cooperation with the Barents Regional Council (BRC), Regional Committee (RC), and the Joint working Group on Youth (JWGY). Good relations were also maintained with the Swedish BEAC Chairmanship. In June, BRYC helped organize the Youth Follow-Up conference in Luleå by recommending panelists and youth participants. Throughout the year, BRYC also worked towards the involvement of youth in new areas of the Barents Cooperation.

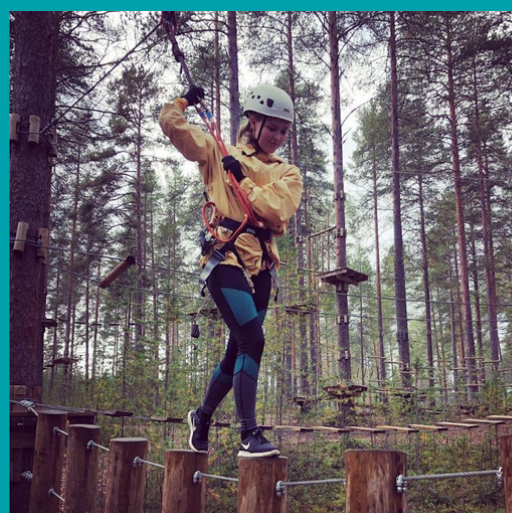
## Annual Meeting

The BRYC Annual Meeting 2019 was held on 14-16 February in Joensuu, Finland, back-to-back with the conference "Northern Potential in the Barents Region". The meeting elected a new Board and Chair for 2018-19. Also, a total of six new members were added to the Council. Regional reports on the youth situation were presented by each representative, and several project ideas for 2019 were presented. A total of six project ideas were supported by the council members and put up for implementation in 2019. Further details can be found in the protocol from the annual meeting.

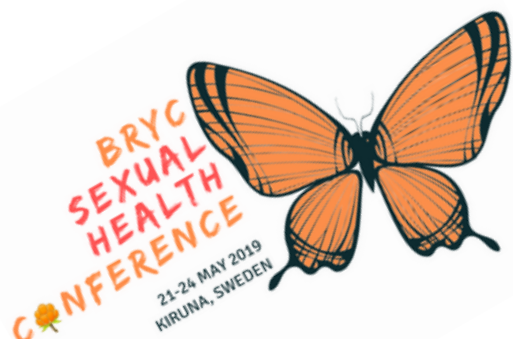
## Annual Event 2019: "Switch"

The BRYC Annual Event 2019 was held 15-18 August in Vuokatti, Finland (Kainuu region). BRYC received financial support from the Norwegian Barents Secretariat to organize the event. The region of Kainuu also provided good help with practical issues. Around 30 youths from Norway, Russia, Sweden and Finland participated in this year's event.

2019 was the UN's international year of Indigenous languages, while global warming is rapidly changing the environment and the field of technology is making steady progress. In the light of the current development, BRYC wanted to host a big youth event looking at how these changes affect us and whether we could learn something from the Indigenous philosophy of "living with the nature, and not off it". The theme of this year's annual event was therefore "nature vs technology", and the event title was "Switch", which referred to "switching on the technology versus switching it off". A large part of the event took place in the outdoors, and focused on teambuilding through physical activities such as orienteering. The event also included more educational workshops and group discussions. A more detailed report is available on BRYC's website ([barentsyouth.org](http://barentsyouth.org)).







## Youth projects

The Barents Region is vast, but the differences in regard to sexual health is small. Many youths are well aware of the lacking quality of sexual education or problems regarding binge-drinking culture that leads to borders being crossed. And the number of sexually transmitted diseases is rising once again. With an aim to address these issues, last spring BRYC hosted a conference aiming to help improve the situation regarding sexually transmitted diseases, sexual education and sexual conduct among youth in the Barents Region. During the two-day conference held in Kiruna, Sweden, youths from across the region with personal, political or other knowledge about the subject had plenary discussions in order to create concrete and viable solutions to problems regarding sexual health in the Barents Region.

**#BarentsSex**

**Funding: BRYC and MUCF**



In July, BRYC teamed up with the Murmansk-based non-governmental feminist organization Koster to host a collaborative summer camp "Glitter", devoted to female empowerment and gender equality issues among youth in the Barents Region. During the three-day camp in Tromsdalen, BRYC gathered around 20 youths from across the Barents Region interested in supporting gender equality, female solidarity and an understanding of the human rights paradigm. Together, the participants took part in panel discussions and workshops devoted to these issues, as well as social and teambuilding activities.

**#BarentsFemPower**

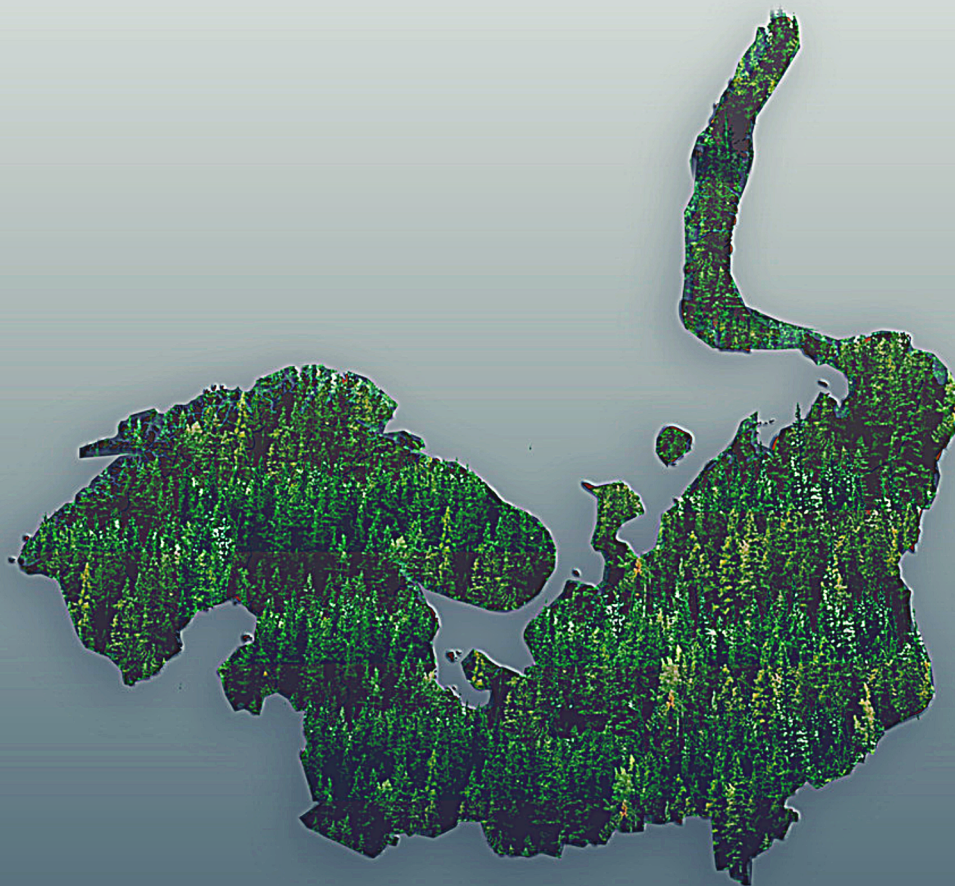
**Funding: BRYC and NBS**



In October, BRYC teamed up with the Murmansk-based culture organization Fridaymilk to host the fifth annual Uncapitals project. "Uncapitals: Time Shift!" was a digital art camp for youth in High North, which gathered 45 young people from the Nordic countries. Participants of the camp did research on the post-industrial community of a small Swedish town (Haparanda) in the most northern counties of Norrbotten and presented the research results on a digital web platform. **#UnCapitals**

**Funding: NORDBUK / other**





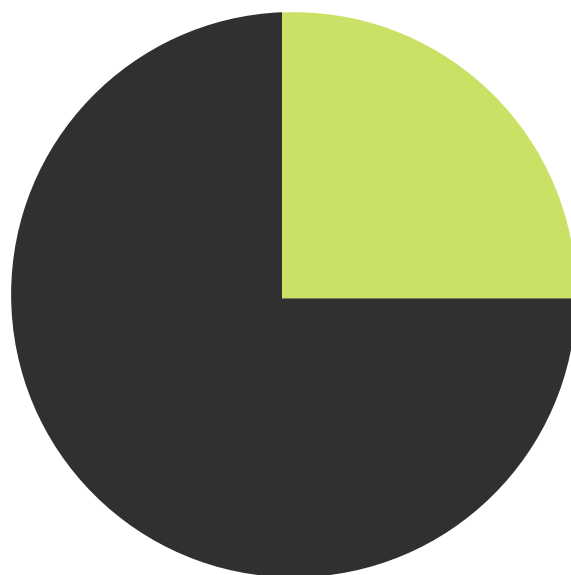
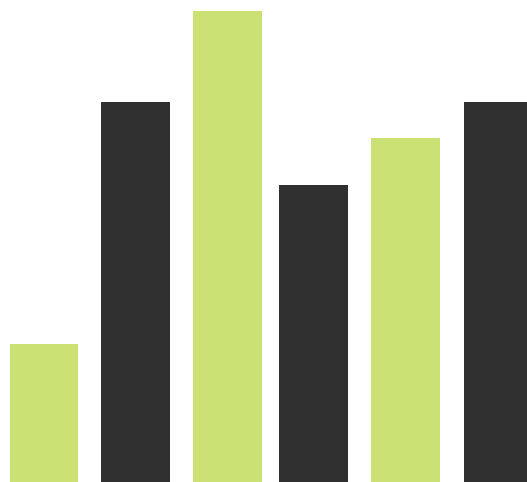
# **05 FINANCIAL REPORT 2019**

# 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 2018, each region shall allocate 5000 EUR to support BRYC's meeting activities and youth event annually.

During the BRC/RC meeting in 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. Regions that are legally prevented from allocatong such funding shall provide an in-kind contribution equivalent to the same amount.

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



# 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 receipient, 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.

## Comment:

The financial overview on page 13 shows that BRYC's actual income in 2019 is significantly lower than expected. This is not spcified 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 2019 will be transferred in 2020.



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

## Income

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019
<b>Regional grants:</b>		
Nordland 2019	5 000 EUR	0
Troms 2019	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
Finnmark 2019 (payed in advance for 2018-20)	-	-
Västerbotten 2019	5 000 EUR	0
Norrbotten 2019	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
Lapland 2019	5 000 EUR	0
Oulu region 2019	-	0
Kainuu 2019	5 000 EUR	0
North Karelia 2019	5 000 EUR	0
<b>SUM Regional grants 2019</b>	<b>40 000 EUR</b>	<b>10 000 EUR</b>
<b>Delayed transactions (grants) from 2018:</b>		
Nordland 2018	5 000 EUR	0
Västerbotten 2018	5 000 EUR	0
Lapland 2018	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
Northern Ostrobothnia 2018	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
Kainuu 2018	5 000 EUR	0
North Karelia 2018	5 000 EUR	5 000 EUR
<b>SUM Delayed grants 2018</b>	<b>30 000 EUR</b>	<b>25 011 EUR</b>
<b>Delayed transactions (grants) from 2017:</b>		
Nordland 2017	-	5 000 EUR
Finnmark 2017	-	5 000 EUR
<b>SUM Income</b>	<b>70 000 EUR</b>	<b>25 000 EUR</b>

## Running costs

	Budget 2019	Actual 2019
<b>Travel costs:</b>		
Annual meeting 2019, travel	- 9 000 EUR	- 10 929 EUR
Annual Event 2019, travel	- 10 000 EUR	- 0 EUR
Board meetings 2019, travel	- 7 000 EUR	- 2 720 EUR
Other meetings and events, travel	- 5 000 EUR	- 15 484 EUR
<b>SUM Travel costs 2019</b>	<b>- 31 000 EUR</b>	<b>- 29 132 EUR</b>
<b>Accommodation and meals:</b>	<b>- 30 000 EUR</b>	<b>- 15 779 EUR</b>
<b>Venues, lectures/workshops:</b>	<b>- 2 500 EUR</b>	<b>- 0 EUR</b>
<b>Remuneration (workshop leaders etc.)</b>	<b>- 2 500 EUR</b>	<b>- 3 009 EUR</b>
<b>Materials, project equipment</b>	<b>- 1 000 EUR</b>	<b>- 788 EUR</b>
<b>SUM Expenses</b>	<b>- 70 000 EUR</b>	<b>- 49 906 EUR</b>

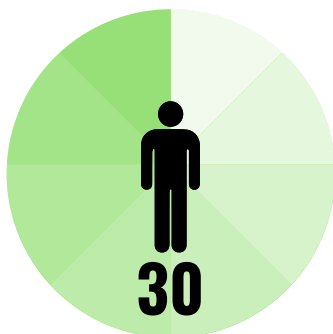
<b>RESULT (Income - Expenses)</b>	<b>0 EUR</b>	<b>- 24 906 EUR</b>
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# 06 2019 IMPACT IN FIGURES

**1,643**



WEEKLY REACH  
(FACEBOOK)



**30**

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

**300**



NUMBER OF  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**21**



NUMBER OF MEETINGS  
AND EVENTS



**4**

NUMBER OF CROSS-  
BORDER YOUTH PROJECTS



NUMBER OF  
FOLLOWERS

**1035**

AVERAGE  
POST REACH

**476**

NUMBER OF  
FOLLOWERS

**462**

WEEKLY  
REACH

**24**



BRYC IMPLEMENTED 4 NEW YOUTH PROJECTS



33 PARTNERS INVOLVED IN BRYC'S  
ACTIVITIES IN 2019



DEVELOPED POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS  
REGARDING SEXUAL HEALTH IN THE REGION



CONTRIBUTED TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN  
NEW AREAS OF THE BARENTS COOPERATION



# 07 PARTNERS

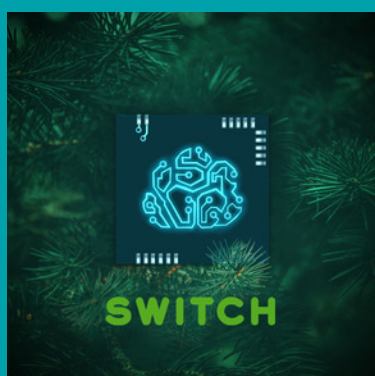
IN 2019, BRYC COLLABORATED WITH THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS:

## Partner

Barents Regional Council  
 Norwegian Barents Secretariat  
 International Barents Secretariat  
 Joint Working Group on Youth  
 Swedish BEAC Chairmanship 2017-2019  
 Finnmark County Authority 2017-19  
 Norwegian BEAC Chairmanship 2019-2021  
 Joint Working Group on Culture  
 Swedish Forest Agency  
 North-Karelian Chamber of Commerce  
 Youth Chamber International, Joensuu  
 North Karelia Youth Council  
 University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu  
 Tvibit  
 Tromsø Youth Council  
 MUCF (Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society)  
 Vasterbotten County  
 Norrbotten County  
 Kiruna Youth Health Clinic  
 Troms County and Municipality  
 Amnesty International, Tromsø  
 Red Cross, Tromsø  
 Koster  
 Ivalo Yoga  
 Ishavet Kajak  
 Kainuu Region  
 Launchpad Finland  
 Vuokatti Orienteering Association  
 Vuokatti Adventure Park  
 Takko Nordic - Yoga  
 Fridaymilk  
 Murmansk Regional Government  
 The Norwegian Embassy in Stockholm

## Country Context

International	Regional and financial partner
Norway	Administrative and financial partner
International	Information and communication partner
International	Youth policy partner
Sweden	BEAC partner
Norway	Regional partner
Norway	BEAC partner
International	Youth policy partner
Sweden	Youth policy partner
Finland	Annual meeting host and partner
Finland	Annual meeting partner
Finland	Annual meeting partner
Finland	Annual meeting partner
Norway	Project partner / Board meeting host
Norway	Project partner / Youth policy partner
Sweden	Project partner: Sexual Health Conf.
Sweden	Project partner: Sexual Health Conf.
Sweden	Project partner: Sexual Health Conf.
Sweden	Project partner: Sexual Health Conf.
Norway	Project partner: Glitter
Norway	Project partner: Glitter
Norway	Project partner: Glitter
Russia	Project partner: Glitter
Finland	Project partner: Glitter
Norway	Project partner: Glitter
Finland	Annual event partner: Switch
Finland	Annual event partner: Switch
Finland	Annual event partner: Switch
Finland	Annual event partner: Switch
Finland	Annual event partner: Switch
Russia	Project partner: Uncapitals
Russia	Murmansk Business Week host
Norway	BEAC partner



## 08 PHOTO CREDITS

Page	Description	Credits
Photo Gallery 1, 1st row left side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 1st row right side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 2nd row left side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 2nd row right side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 3rd row left side	BRYC Board Meeting, Tromsø	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 3rd row right side	Glitter camp, Tromsdalen	Daria Makhotina
Photo Gallery 1, 4th row left side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 4th row right side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 5th row left side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 5th row right side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Kaisa-Reetta Seppanen
Table of contents - illustration	BRYC pin	Liza Vassilieva
Page 1, background illustration	Indigenous theme	Amanda Aasberg
Page 1, photo of the chair	BRYC Chair 2019	August Sjøvoll
Page 2, illustration	BRYC family photo 2012 (archives)	BRYC
Page 3, illustration	Glitter camp, Tromsdalen	Daria Makhotina
Page 5, illustration	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, council	Oskar Mannelin
Page 6, illustration	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, board	Liza Vassilieva
Page 7, illustration	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Kaisa-Reetta Seppanen
Page 9, illustrations	Annual Meeting / Annual Event	BRYC
Page 10, illustrations	Project logo Sexual Health Conf.	Liza Vassilieva
Page 10, illustrations	Project logo "Glitter"	Oxana Loginova
Page 10, illustrations	Project logo UnCapitals	UnCapitals
Page 11, illustration	Barents map forestry	Liza Vassilieva
Page 15, illustration 1	Koster logo	Koster
Page 15, illustration 2	BRYC Annual Event 2019 logo	Liza Vassilieva
Page 15, illustration 3	Barents Forest Forum advertisement	Liza Vassilieva
Page 15, illustration 4	JWGC workshop advertisement	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 1st row left side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 1st row right side	BRYC Annual Meeting 2019, Joensuu	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 2nd row left side	BRYC pin	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 2nd row right side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Irina Zhiganova
Photo Gallery 1, 3rd row left side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Irina Zhiganova
Photo Gallery 1, 3rd row right side	BRYC Annual Event 2019, Vuokatti	Liza Vassilieva
Photo Gallery 1, 4th row left side	Youth Follow-Up Seminar, Luleå	Daria Makhotina
Photo Gallery 1, 4th row right side	BEAC Ministerial Meetings, Umeå	Irina Zhiganova
Photo Gallery 1, 5th row left side	BEAC Ministerial Meetings, Umeå	Irina Zhiganova
Photo Gallery 1, 5th row right side	Murmansk Business Week	Jonas Karlsbakk



