



BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The Barents Regional Youth council

BRYC

Report 2011

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 2011 the meetings were held in Umeå, Sweden and in Rovaniemi, Finland

Meetings in the council in 2011:

Annual Meeting and Council Meeting

9th to 10th March 2011

Umeå, Sweden

(enclosure 1 and 2)

Council meeting

18th October 2011

Rovaniemi, Finland

(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 2011:

Ylva Maria Pavval, Sweden

Zhanna Guzhenko, Russia

Isa Tolonen, Finland

Viktor Paulsen, Norway

Halvard Rundberg, Indigenous People

Meetings in the Board for BRYC 2011:

Board Meeting June 2011

16-18 June 2011

Rovaniemi, Finland

(enclosure 4)

Board Meeting September 2011

16-17 of September 2011

Murmansk, Russia

(enclosure 5)

Board Meeting December 2011

14th-15th of December 2011

Helsinki, Finland

(enclosure 6)

BRYC Event 2011

EXPLODE, ROVANIEMI, FINLAND

One of the biggest challenges in the Northern areas and the one on top of the political agenda both on the regional and central level in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia is that many youngsters leave the region to live in the South and that there are very few young people from the other parts of the country who wish to live in the Northern areas. That is why it is important to make the region attractive for youth, emphasizing the high quality of life in the North through focusing on numerous opportunities and diverse nature of Barents.

Barents Regional Youth Council arranged a workshop "ExpLODE" 17.-21.November in Rovaniemi, Finland. The aim of the project was to show the Barents diversity, focusing on such questions as social equality and the quality of life in the North. The project gave youth an opportunity to discover the great perspectives of Barents region and work on creating and developing a positive image of the High North. It also gave the participants an opportunity to express themselves and communicate with their peers living in different parts of the region, realizing the diverse culture of Barents and therefore understand the importance of being tolerant and open minded.

During the workshops young people gained an amazing experience of teamwork. Since the project gathered youth from different countries, it was a platform for creating a wide youth network, giving participants a unique practical experience of teambuilding and cross cultural cooperation.

This was done by gathering together 80 youths aged 18-29 from the whole Barents region (20 from each of the countries Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia divided among 13 member regions of the Barents region) with different cultural and ethnical background for 3 days in Rovaniemi. There was arranged several parallel creative workshops that ended up in a joint musical.

The musical reflected the ideas on the matter of diversity and equality in the North, that participants had been generating during the workshops and become a conclusion of the 3 days work. Furthermore, it was an emphasize on the multicultural character of Barents region and the gathering contributed in questioning social and gender equality. The form of the musical was created through join young people into creative environment.

Barents Regional Youth Council is working under the motto "Diversity is the Barents Identity" and they ensured that there were representatives for indigeous people saami, nenets and veps.

BRYC spin-offs 2011

Barents NGO and volunteers forum

The Barents NGO and Volunteers Forum 2011 was carried out in Murmansk September 2011

The Barents Region participants were young people from 16-26 years old. It was not obligatory for them to be members of any organisations. The participants should be representatives of different groups in society and have different backgrounds.

The objective was to stimulate young people's contribution to the development of civil society, their participation in voluntary work and political organizations.

And through this give young people experience the positive results of voluntary work.

One of the goals was to give young people in the region the opportunity to attend a major conference on democracy and civil society in which they may attain the knowledge and build networks and encourage non-governmental organizations to cooperate internationally on organizational training.

The event was carried out by Zhanna Guzhenko, the Murmansk representative in BRYC, in close cooperation with BYCO.

Previous Spin-Offs active or ending in 2011

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour is a cultural tour about human rights for youth in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland and northwest Russia – the area we call Barents. The tour aim to raise awareness about human rights and to activate youth to work locally or internationally with the areas that interest them. The tour will through its unique concept give a taste of the richness of cultures in each region.

The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour will bring you:

School workshops aiming to raise the awareness about human rights. Are they current for us, youth aged 16-19 living in the Barents region? How do we want to use them? And is there something missing?

The greatest live music show providing a glimpse of the whole Barents region, including each country (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia) and their indigenous peoples (veps, nenets, sami).

A human rights festival, free and open for everyone. Good music will be playing, there will be stands with information from NGO's on how to get organised, good fun and a lot of people.

The pilot for this concept ended in 2011 and the final report was made.

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi

Niejda - Chicks in Sápmi is a mentoring program for Sami girls in Sweden. The project is soon to be launched and the project is looking for women aged over 20 that can become mentors.

The project is organized by the Barents Regional Youth Council, and the Sami Youth Parliament Sáminuorra. This autumn the project Niejda-up Sápmi Chicks will start. Now the project leaders need mentors to the project.

As a mentor you'll become a role model for girls and a human being who listens, encourages and plays an important role in young girls' lives.

The project ended in 2011

Barents Stories- The photo book about Barents

Photo is about seeing (and photographing) the world from new perspectives. The project emphasizes the view of the Barents region as a dynamic that takes advantage of young people's driving force, which acts as a catalyst for increased cooperation locally and internationally.

In order to change the Barents, we must first transform the image in and out of our region, from static to dynamic.

By early increase young people's image of their surroundings in the north from a national game plan to a regional Barents Identity creates future opportunities for increased business cooperation and trade between the countries of the region but also provide a living community.

Barents Passion week

After the Passion Week success in Kirkenes in 2010, some of the BRYC members Halvard Runberg and Ylva Pavval decided to arrange a new Passion week in Kirkenes. And during 2011 this has been planned more in detail and has applied for funding. They will arrange a workshop "Barents Passion Week" in Kirkenes, Norway in May 2012. The aim of the project is to emphasize the good life in the High North. The project will contribute to the increase of the desire to live in and the knowledge about the quality of life there. The project will give young inhabitants of the Barents region understanding of the significance of correct and positive information and communication about the life in the north and importance about being proud of the societies we live in. It is important to let the Barents youth realize all the advantages of the life in the North as well as to get rid of all the wrong images and stereotypes that exist among the rest of the population.

This would be done by gathering together 100 youths aged 18-29 from the whole Barents region (25 from each of the countries Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia divided among 13 member regions of the Barents region) with different cultural and ethnical background for 3 days in Kirkenes. There will be arranged several parallel creative workshops that will end up in a joint Barents menu. The menu will consist of different small cultural events, performances or experiences that will be presented for the people in Kirkenes at Barents Passion Café where the guest can order something from the menu. "The Barents Menu of Diversity" will consist of events that in different ways will show the good life in the north. The project is creative and exiting and involves the participants in important social and political questions in a new way through creative joint work.

We love Finland

We <3 Finland is a campaign to enthuse the Finnish youth for Barents cooperation. The campaign aimed to get a focus on Barents cooperation locally in three northern regions in Finland. The project included a tour of creative workshops to get local youth involved in Barents cooperation and gather local initiatives and ideas for the the annual BRYC event, which will take part in

Rovaniemi in fall 2011. Stops were in Kajaani, Oulu and Rovaniemi, where the workshop team will meet youth and regional council representatives. The campaign will make BRYC and the opportunities Barents cooperation brings wellknown in Finland.

Queering Sápmi - life stories from a minority in a minority

Queering Sápmi is a storytelling and democracy project about sami persons that challenge norms about gender, sexuality and identity. They can be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered, but also straight and having queer experiences. We think that everybody in their life challenge the surroundings expectations of how to be a "man", "woman" and sexual human being.

The project is managed by the Swedish youth sami organization Saminuorra and the theatre Ögonblicksteatern in Umeå, Sweden and in close cooperation with Noereh! - Norwegian sami youth. The purpose is to start the queer sami rights for equal possibilities to live and love and to break the prejudices. To do this we produce a book and an international exhibition with life stories and photographs about queer sami experiences. We also build up a network of sami organizations, lgbt-organizations and private persons who want to implement a queer perspective in the sami community, and a sami perspective in the queer community.

Vision

We want to increase the image of sami identity, among both sami and none-sami people. We want to start the fight for human rights among queer persons that happens to be sami. We believe that Sápmi only can get stronger if everybody are free to live their life as they really are, regardless of sexuality, gender expression or gender.

Our entrance in the subject is an interest for how it is to be a minority in a minority. Does these identities scuff or enrich each other? What are the consequences of different identities meeting and bumping in to one another? What space is there to break the norms in a group where norms and traditions are important to maintain and create belonging and unity?

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 Kholmogorkiy 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 Kholmogorsky 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

Ylvas Report

31st of January to 2nd of February
Jokkmokk Winter Conference in Jokkmokk, Sweden

9th of March
Barents Youth Stakeholders meeting in Umeå, Sweden
(the day before the annual BRYC meeting)

30 mars – 1 april
participated in the Indigee gathering in Enare, Finland

11 – 12 April
Meeting in Kirkenes about Barents Passion Week. Ylva, Halvard at Barents secretariat.

4th of May

Ylva and Halvard held a workshop with employees of FN-Sambandet in Tromsø, Norway

20nd – 22th of May in Soppero, Sweden

Ylva and Halvard held a workshop with Projekt Dievát in Soppero, using methods from The Reggae Rock and Rights Tour. It was a one day workshop with presentation of BRYC and the Barents Structures and idea development on local activities and attitudes about environmental issues.

26th – 29th of May in Kittelfjäll, Sweden

Niejda – Chicks in Sápmi held a workshop at the Sáminuorra annual meeting.

4th – 5th of October

Barents Youth Stakeholders Meeting in Kirkenes, Norway

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 “Solveig” 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 aforeign 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 memebers has not been accepted by the regional administration.

