

# CYAR Steering committee meeting – June 8th, 2017, OULU

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## **MEETING PARTICIPANTS present:**

### **Norway**

Pål Christian Bergstrøm

Chair of the Steering Committee of the program "Children and Youth at Risk in the Barents region"

Director General, Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufetat) in Northern Norway

Marina Zyryanova

Secretariat of the CYAR programme, project manager

Regional Office for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufetat) in Northern Norway

### **Russia**

#### **Arkhangelsk Region**

Svetlana Viktorovna Lomaka

Advisor to the Deputy Head of the Government of the Arkhangelsk region

### **Komi Republic**

Ilya Vasilievich Semiashkin

Minister of labor, employment and social protection of the Komi Republic

### **Sweden**

Annika Nordström

Research Leader / Research & Welfare, Region Västerbotten

## Finland

Vappu Sunnari

University lecturer, Department of Gender and Women's studies Faculty of Education,  
University of Oulu

Suvi Pihkala

PhD, project coordinator, Department of Gender and Women's studies Faculty of Education,  
University of Oulu

Interpreter Irina Kopteva

### **1. Welcome speech. Opening the meeting. – Chair of the CYAR Steering committee**

The chair welcomes the participants of the meeting; Murmansk region and the Republic of Karelia could not attend the meeting, as well as the representative of the indigenous people who has been absent for a long time.

The meeting participants present themselves:

- From Finland both Vappu Sunnari and Suvi Pihkala are present; changes might occur, the further representation is not sure, so both are present.
- From Sweden, Region Västerbotten sits in the SC: Ms. Nordström informed on the discussion on further representation, gets back to the SC.
- The chair underlines the importance of continuity in the Steering committee.

It is the first meeting for the last two years, since the Kolarctic-project finished. The Chair summed up the passed period:

- CYAR has been and remains the most sustainable and largest cooperation programme on children and families: 800 specialists were trained and 4500 children and families received help within CYAR
- Success criteria:
  - o Anchorage in the Steering committee
  - o Established common grounds on knowledge-based interventions
  - o Secured substantial funding for the activities
- Since 2015 – little activity:
  - o The framework has changed: Kolarctic programme ended
  - o Collaboration on child protection was damaged by mass media on cases of child protection services – wrong (negative) representation
  - o The geopolitical situation has changed – the relationships between Russia and the west.

- The purpose of the present meeting is to form the common framework for the present situation:

- o What frames exist
- o What resources are available
- o What direction we want to go

The chair informed the steering committee on the following matters:

- two project applications submitted. The Steering committee members expressed the unanimous will to continue the collaboration but at a smaller scale
- the chairmanship in the Steering committee and the secretariat remains with Norway.

*Comments:*

- With the new Ombudswoman in Russia the negative attention in the media towards western child care services has considerably decreased
- September 6-8, Murmansk region – a national conference on best practices arranged by the Foundation of Gordeeva

*Decided:*

- **The current co-chair Murmansk region has been little involved – the co-chair position stays unoccupied; in case projects start up, the Steering committee will get back to it.**
- **The Secretariat sends a request to participate at the conference in Murmansk in September and present the CYAR programme – the request is to be sent to Mr. Semyashkin.**
- **The Steering committee/The Secretariat will work for arranging a meeting with the Russian Ombudswoman.**

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The Chair and the representative from Sweden have to leave the meeting earlier to catch their flights.

Marina Zyryanova then continues as the chair of the meeting.

*Decided:* **The agenda is adopted**

## **3. Adoption of the protocol of the 14<sup>th</sup> SC meeting from June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Murmansk (Russia).**

The protocol from the last meeting was sent to the members of the Steering committee immediately after the meeting in June 2015: all the comments and corrections were included in the version distributed to the Steering committee before the current meeting.

**Decided:** The protocol is adopted

#### **4. Status report – Chair**

The Secretariat reported on the work done since the last meeting in June 2015. The presentation is published on the [CYAR web-site](#).

The Secretariat presented members of the Steering committee information on the contents of the project applications: two knowledge-based programmes – AudTrain and “From Violence to Caring”

##### **a) News from JWGHS**

Zyryanova informed the SC member on last meeting in the BEAC Joint Working Group on Health and related Social issues that took place in March 2017, particularly on the change in the Russian legislation regarding decriminalization of family violence.

The Chair invites the SC members to a discussion on the consequences for the implementation of the UN CRC and the principle of non-violence.

##### **Comments:**

- Regarding the perspective of safety of children, the protection has improved: if the social services oversaw violence towards a child, the social services and parents/guardians are under criminal responsibility
- The criminal article on child abuse is valid.
- Regional legislation: includes articles on cruelty/child abuse
- There are 12 entities of prevention in the system of child protection in Russia
- The reason for such a legislation change is an attempt to prevent false allegations/accusations
- Since the first occurrence of the violence in the family is administrative offence; the further occurrences are subject to criminal responsibility. More cases have been revealed since people are less afraid.
- The question should be risen on the impact witnessing family violence has on the child`s mental health
- The changes will not affect the CYAR collaboration

##### **Decided:**

- **Though the articles on child abuse are still in place, these legislation changes seem to be for the benefit of grown-ups, not children.**
- **A request should be forwarded to the Ombudswoman on whether an assessment of the consequences of decriminalization of domestic violence**

##### **b) News about the new Kolarctic programme 2014 – 2020**

Zyryanova presented the new Kolarctic programme

- No social perspective - a tendency for all larger programmes

## 5. CYAR Activity plan further

The Chair proposes the following:

- Return to possibilities for project activities when the submitted project applications are processed

### *Comments:*

- A proposal to establish and develop the collaboration with the CBSS Expert group on children at risk
- An intentional meeting with the Secretariat of the CBSS EG on Children at Risk (in case of available financing)
- The Swedish partner earlier informed the Secretariat and the chair on the ongoing reorganization and wonders whether two persons can represent Sweden in the SC.

### *Decided:*

- **The Secretariat informs the members of the Steering committee on the results of the submitted application**
- **The Swedish partner extends an application to the JWGHS on two members in the SC from Sweden**

## 6. Information from the regional representatives

Members of the Steering committee submitted regional reports before the meeting. The reports are published on the [CYAR web-site](#).

### Norway

- Strong focus on user involvement – introduction of Family Group Conferences as an obligatory procedure in child welfare.
  - From the age of 7 – right to be heard
  - From the age of 11 – must be taken into consideration in cases concerning them
  - Development of talking to a child – “Barnehus”, based on the Swedish BBIC model, a standard for the whole country; 3 “barnehus” in Norway

*Comment:* Vappu would like to receive more information on “barnehus”/BBIC.

14:30 The chair leaves the meeting

### Arkhangelsk region

- Mediation develops actively in the region
- Work continues on “Incredible Years”, “ART Aggression Replacement Training”, Family Group Conferences

### Sweden

- Foster care – lack of foster families: training, support group, small communities establish “banks”
  - mismatch child-family; lack of competence among personnel
  - the child`s voice is not heard
  - small communities/municipalities (lack of options/resources)

- Unaccompanied children asylum seekers
- Alcohol and psychiatric illness among children and unaccompanied children

*Comment:*

- the Finnish member suggests considering cooperation on unaccompanied children
- Russia introduces professional families – foster families with parents with relevant qualifications (teachers for example)

**Finland**

- EU financing through CBSS for programme against corporal punishment
- Special focus on the Sami population – issues of loneliness; girls in residential care
- Possibilities to apply for funding for research on youth in industrial cities in Finland and Russia – deadline September 2017.
  - The Russian SC members will forward this information to respective universities in Arkhangelsk and Komi

**Komi**

- Implementing early prevention systems on child neglect. Komi - the only region in Russia
  - several entities involved
  - “Family project manager” coordinates necessary activities/interventions across the sectors
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year - 10 districts will join.
- “Green room” opens in September 2017 – an equivalent to “Barnehus”
- Special challenge – groups of death in social networks
  - Combatting this challenge – possible cooperation?
  - A law under development on criminal responsibility for encouraging to suicide in social media
  - A lot of preventive work – Information campaign “I choose life”
  - Enforcement of child-parents relations
  - A special request to the SC members: Technologies/ methods on suicide prevention.

**7. Planning of next SC meeting: proposal from the Chair. Closing the meeting.**

Next meeting in the Steering committee – February 2018 (in case external financing is available).

- Host: Umeå, Region Västerbotten, Sweden (until the new Swedish SC member is appointed)