



## ***Steering Committee of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme under the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues***

### **Progress Report 2009**

#### **Organisation**

In the beginning of 2009 STAKES and National Institute for Public Health (KTL) were merged into a new organisation called National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). This new organization took over all responsibilities of former STAKES and KTL, including coordination of the Steering Committee of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme.

The implementation of Barents HIV/AIDS Programme was organized so that the responsible organization THL and the Programme Co-ordinator (PC) operating under THL were holding primary responsibility. The PC was also acting as a Secretary and Drafter to the Steering Committee of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme under the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues (SC). Members of the SC have been appointed from countries or regions in the Barents region. The SC reports to the WGHS through an annual report. (SC members are listed in the **Annex 1**.)

#### **Development of the HIV situation in the Northwest Russia**

According to the Northwest District AIDS Centre, St. Petersburg, The cumulative number of HIV-infected people in Northwest Russia was 74874 by December 31, 2009. Altogether, 9200 HIV-infected people have died, and thus amount of PLWHA is 65674.

Transmission routes in NW Russia during 2008 were the following: IDU – 64%, sexual contact – 35%, mother-to-child – 1%. By the end of 2009, cumulatively 6875 children have been born to HIV-positive mothers. MTCT rate is 8.7% in 2008 and 7.1 – 2009.

**Registration of new HIV- cases and prevalence in the regions of Northwest Russia**

	<b>Region</b>	<b>Cases in 2005</b>	<b>Cases in 2006</b>	<b>Cases in 2007</b>	<b>Cases in 2008</b>	<b>Cases in 2009</b>	<b>Prevalence* per 100 000 1.1.2010</b>
<b>BARENTS REGIONS OF NW RUSSIA</b>	<i>Archangelsk Region</i>	49	62	62	68	71	26.4
	<i>Murmansk Region</i>	241	371	416	421	446	347.9
	<i>Republic of Karelia</i>	81	55	92	123	89	95.6
	<i>Republic of Komi</i>	135	147	134	140	115	123.4
	<i>Nenetsk Autonomous District</i>	2	2	4	7	3	42.9
<b>OTHER NORTHWEST REGIONS</b>	<i>Leningrad Region</i>	1094	973	1165	1212	1591	687.6
	<i>St. Petersburg</i>	4045	4459	4548	4727	4934	915.9
	<i>Vologda Region</i>	119	134	133	154	155	109.9
	<i>Kaliningrad Region</i>	414	454	501	434	431	490.1
	<i>Novgorod Region</i>	77	96	134	118	130	152.2
	<i>Pskov Region</i>	30	46	44	49	61	53.5
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6287</b>	<b>6799</b>	<b>7233</b>	<b>7453</b>	<b>8026</b>

Source: Northwest District AIDS Centre, St. Petersburg

\*Cumulative number of cases minus deaths per 100,000 inhabitants

**Activities in 2009**

The Steering Committee had two meetings in 2009, in Luleå in April 16-17 and in St. Petersburg in September 22. Three study tours were organised. An evaluation of Norwegian HIV projects in Archangelsk took place in the end of 2008 - in the beginning of 2009.

At the **Steering Committee meeting in Luleå** ongoing activities, the situation on HIV/AIDS and latest trends of illicit drug use and HIV transmission in the Barents Region were discussed. The results of the Archangelsk evaluation were reported to the Steering Committee.

In connection with the Luleå meeting, site visits were organised to to the Norrbotten County Council to get acquainted with prevention of HIV in Norrbotten and to the Infection Clinic at Sunderby Hospital. Prevention strategies and the system for quality follow up of HIV/AIDS patients were discussed at the site visits.

The Luleå meeting was hosted by National Board of Health and Welfare, Sweden and partly sponsored by the County Administrative Board of Norrbotten.

The second **Steering Committee meeting** was organised in **St. Petersburg** in September 22. The Russian Barents regions plus St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region were well represented. For the first time also a representative from Nenets Autonomous District took part and their representative presented structure of work and HIV situation in the Nenets AD. The meeting included some specific themes, such as chronic viral hepatitis in Northwest Russia and HIV+TB co-infections. Most vivid discussion was raised after Dr. Panteleev's presentation on dual infections of HIV and TB in St. Petersburg.

The meeting included the regular "tour-de-table" concerning HIV situation in Russian Barents Regions, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

After the meeting some members of the SC took part in the **8th Nordic-Baltic Congress on Infectious Diseases (NBCID)** in Saint Petersburg (September 23-26). The activities of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme and NDPHS HIV/AIDS Expert Group were reported in the presentation on regional collaboration in HIV prevention around the Baltic Sea.

#### **Evaluation of the Norwegian-Russian HIV projects in Archangelsk**

Norwegian Directorate for Health hired an outside expert, professor emeritus Pauli Leinikki, to make an evaluation of Norwegian-Russian HIV projects implemented in the Archangelsk Region. According to the ToR the aim of the evaluation was to get recommendations for the following project period and to assess the current situation in Archangelsk in the light of potential new projects. The evaluation was implemented in December 2008 - January 2009.

##### **The main findings of the evaluation were:**

- The work is well organised
- The regional Archangelsk AIDS Centre has a strong leading position
- The international collaboration has contributed significantly in developing the current capacity
- Archangelsk has two strong universities, whose capacity should be even more used in the collaboration
- The epidemiological situation is significantly better in Archangelsk than in most other regions in Russia
- The good situation may however have led to a "blind eye" where the opportunity to identify outbreaks among risk groups at an early phase are being missed

##### **According to the evaluator, the projects and activities to be continued or strengthened are:**

- Collaboration with the school of public health: support and expansion of current activities, search for new areas of collaboration
- Support to training and empowering of primary care nurses and doctors
- Youth education: Peer education and training should be promoted and supported. A link to Pomor University should be established
- Social support and rehabilitation to vulnerable people such as IDU:s, ex-prisoners, CSW:s

**Recommended new directions for activities are:**

- Projects linking the universities more closely to relevant epidemiological and preventive work: epidemiological research projects, research on, and evaluation of interventions
- Targeted prevention activities amongst vulnerable groups: training visits, outreach activities
- Project coordinator training programme
- Training in medical scientific writing
- Enhancing linguistic skills

*A project planning seminar by Logical Framework Approach* was organised in June 3-5 in Narva, Estonia. The theme of the workshop was prevention of HIV and early diagnosis of tuberculosis among IDUs. This was a combined effort of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme and HIV/AIDS Expert Group of NDPHS. Representatives of Russian Barents regions took part in the workshop, and the event was also used for training in project planning, as was recommended in the monitoring of the Programme as well as in the Archangelsk evaluation. Another Logframe workshop was organised in Murmansk in the beginning of June on the theme of HIV and tuberculosis.

**A study tour to Finland** was organised for experts from Archangelsk, Severodvinsk and Leningrad Region in May 13-15. The objective of the study tour was to present the Finnish low-threshold support services for drug users, sexual health education for youth, as well as primary health care system.

The second **study tour** was organised **to Finland and Sweden** in November 22-29. It was organised for experts from the Archangelsk Region in the frames of the project "Social partnership against drug addiction, HIV/AIDS in Northwest Russia", financed by NCM.

One more **study tour** was organised **from Kaliningrad to Finland**. Finnish low threshold services and activities of the Murmansk LTSC project were presented to the group. This was a joint effort of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme and HIV/AIDS Expert Group of NDPHS. The study tour was organised in the frames of the NCM project "Promoting testing for and treatment of communicable diseases among vulnerable groups in the Kaliningrad Region".

A poster on the activities of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme and HIV/AIDS Expert Group of NDPHS was presented at the **Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference** in Moscow (28-30 October).

Constant contacts were kept with the HIV/AIDS Expert Group of NDPHS, as can be seen in many activities above. The Barents activities were reported at the meetings of the Expert Group of NDPHS, and vice versa.

**Projects**

In the end of 2009, totally 12 projects were ongoing, 6 proposals under consideration and 16 projects completed within the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme:

### List of projects being implemented (in December 2009)

#### ONGOING FINNISH – RUSSIAN PROJECTS

1. "Controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Barents and Northern Dimension Partnership Programme Regions. Phase II." (2008-2010) Coordination: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland and Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Murmansk Region. Approximate budget EUR 600,000 (3 years). Financier: Finland.
2. "Further development of low threshold services in Murmansk and Kantalahti" (2008-2010). Continuation of the Pilot project of the above mentioned programme. Coordination: THL (Finland) and Murmansk Regional AIDS Centre. Approximate budget EUR 300,000 (3 years). Financier: Finland.
3. "Strengthening of inter-sectoral action to fight drug abuse and drug related harm in Murmansk Region 2008–2009". Coordination: THL, Finland and Anti-Drug Commission of the Murmansk Region. Approximate budget EUR 178,000. Financier: Finland through NDPHS project pipeline.
4. "Prevention of HIV infection in the Republic of Karelia in 2007–2009". Coordination: THL, Finland and Republican AIDS Centre of Karelia. Approximate budget EUR 300,000 (3 years). Financier: Finland.
5. TB/HIV collaboration in Murmansk. Project planning phase 2009. Coordination FILHA, Finland. Financier: Finland

*("Psychological and social support to HIV infected women in Leningrad Oblast 2007–2009". Coordination: THL, Finland and Leningrad Oblast AIDS Centre. Approximate budget EUR 300,000 (3 years). Financier: Finland. - Leningrad oblast is not officially Barents region)*

#### ONGOING NORWEGIAN – RUSSIAN PROJECTS

1. "Cross action between STI Clinic in Archangelsk and Olafia Clinic in Oslo". Coordination: Norway. Approximate budget for 2009: NOK 300,000. Financier: Norway (B504).
2. Vera". Development of international network of interaction between organisations dealing with women and adolescents, involved in commercial sex business and trafficking victims. Coordination: NGO Stellit, Russia (Pro Sentret, Norway). (No grants given for 2009.)
3. "Youth peer education in Archangelsk related to HIV, STI and communication skills. Coordination: Pertinax Group, Norway, three partners in Archangelsk Region. Financier: Norway (B808; NOK 125,000 granted in 2009).
4. Research project "The Governance of HIV/AIDS Prevention in North-West Russia". Coordination: Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Norway. Approximate budget: EUR 622,500. Financier: Research Council of Norway. Training and dissemination component of the project is financed by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs through NDPHS project pipeline.
5. Educational project "New View" in the sphere of the HIV/AIDS and drug addiction prevention, organization of voluntary group for the specialists, working with teenagers and young people, students of higher and special educational institutions. Coordination: Norwegian Sami Mission, partner "New Beginning", Murmansk Region. (Project B816; Grant 250 000 NOK in 2008; granted NOK 200,000 in 2009).

6. "HIV and co-infections in Murmansk region, seminar". Coordination: University Hospital of Northern Norway. Project region: Murmansk Oblast, Russia.

#### NCM PROJECTS

1. Social partnership against drug addiction, HIV/AIDS in Northwest Russia (2009–2010). (Archangelsk and other northwestern regions of Russia). Financing NCM and Archangelsk regional government.

#### **List of projects under consideration (in December 2009)**

1. TB/HIV collaboration in Murmansk. Project proposal by FILHA. Applied from Finland
2. Development of low threshold services in Leningrad Region. Project proposal by THL. (- *not officially Barents region*). Applied from Finland.
3. HIV prevention among women of reproductive age in the Republic of Karelia. Coordination: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland and the Republican AIDS Centre, the Republic of Karelia. Project proposal by THL. Applied from Finland.
4. Strengthening of municipal anti-drug networking in the Murmansk Region. Project proposal by THL. Applied from Finland.
5. "Face the problem". Training of specialists and volunteers in HIV, STI and drug use prevention in the Archangelsk Region. Project idea. Waiting for further development.
6. Prevention and management of HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections in Northwest Russia with particular focus on capacity and capability building of partner consortium and local government. Applied from Norway.

#### **List of completed projects**

1. "Controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Barents and Northern Dimension Partnership Programme Regions in 2005–2007" Coordination of the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme and support to EG on HIV/AIDS for the ND partnership. Coordination: STAKES, Finland. Approximate budget EUR 715,000 (3 years). Financier: Finnish Government.
2. Development of Low Threshold Support Centre in Murmansk region". Pilot project of the above mentioned programme. Coordination: STAKES, Finland. Budget EUR 247,905. Financier: Finland.
3. "Workshop of workers in LTC sites for IDUs". Coordination: National Public Health Institute, Finland. Approximate budget EUR 20,000. Financier: Finland.
4. "AIDS Alarm in North-West Russia". Coordination: Norway. Approximate budget NOK 151,000. Financier: Norway.
5. "Sexual and reproductive Health of Adolescents in Northwestern Russia" Coordination: Sweden, RFSU. Approximate budget SEK 16,091,000 (1997–2007).
6. "Activate patients at Murmansk Municipal HIV/AIDS Centre". Coordination: Norway and Murmansk AIDS Centre. Approximate budget NOK 16,000. Financier: Norway
7. "The Bus" for Republican AIDS Centre, Petrozavodsk. Approximate budget NOK 250,000. Financier: Norway (Humanitarian Fund of Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit).
8. "The ConTact Bus – Arkhangelsk Region". Coordination: Norway. Approximate Budget: NOK 280,000 (Continues with financing by the Archangelsk Region)
9. "Territory of Life. Mobile unit work for prevention of HIV in Murmansk Region"

Coordination: Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Approximate budget NOK 270,000.  
Financier: Norway.

10. HIV/STI and Drug preventive efforts in Murmansk, Archangelsk and Karelia". Coordination: Sweden - Noaks Ark Barents. Approximate budget – SEK 980 000
11. "Only for you". The ConTact Bus- Murmansk Region (B606). Coordination: Norway and Murmansk Regional AIDS Centre. Approximate Budget 34 700 USD
12. "Love your neighbour". Arkhangelsk region. Coordination: Norway. Approximate Budget 330 000 NOK
13. Youth peer education in Murmansk related to HIV, STI and communication skills (B710). Coordination: Pertinax Group, Norway, partner Murmansk Regional AIDS Centre. Approximate budget NOK 90,000. Financier: Norway. (Grant given in 2007, no grant received in 2008).
14. Assistance in development of palliative aid in Archangelsk Region 2007. Coordination: Norwegian Church Aid and NGO Rassvet. Approximate budget 214 000 NOK.
15. The Clinton HIV/AIDS initiative and Russia. Exchange of Russian and Norwegian clinicians". Coordination: Norway. Approximate budget - NOK 460,000.
16. "HIV: to be aware means to live". Coordination: Norwegian Church Aid and NGO Rassvet, Archangelsk Region. Approximate budget: 250 000 NOK.

**STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE BARENTS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME  
MEMBERS IN DECEMBER, 2009**

**Chair:**

**Murmansk**

Mr Arkady Dmitrievich Rubin  
Minister of Health and Social Development of the Murmansk Region  
20, Profsoyuzov, 183038 Murmansk, Russian Federation  
Tel.: (8 815 2) 48-89-55  
Fax: (8 815 2) 47-64-26  
E-mail: [rubin@gov-murman.ru](mailto:rubin@gov-murman.ru)

**Co-chair**

Mr Harald Siem  
Senior Adviser  
Secretariat International Cooperation  
Directorate of Health  
Universitetsgata 2  
PO Box 7000 St Olavs plass  
N-0130 Norway  
Tel. +47 24 16 35 63  
Mobile: +47 952 37 276  
Fax: +47 24 16 30 01  
E-mail: [has@helsedir.no](mailto:has@helsedir.no)

**Co-ordinator**

Ms Outi Karvonen  
Programme Coordinator  
National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)  
P.O. Box 30  
FI-00271 Helsinki, Finland  
Visiting address: Lintulahdenkuja 4  
Tel. +358-20-6107046  
Mobile +358-400-358011  
E-mail: [outi.karvonen@thl.fi](mailto:outi.karvonen@thl.fi)

**FINLAND**

Dr Marja Anttila  
International Affairs  
National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)  
P.O. Box 30  
FI-00271 Helsinki, Finland  
Visiting address: Lintulahdenkuja 4  
Tel. +358-20-610 7045  
E-mail: [marja.anttila@thl.fi](mailto:marja.anttila@thl.fi)



## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### **Arhangelsk**

Dr Vera Nikolajevna Utyugova  
Deputy Director  
Health Care Department of Archangelsk Region  
Prosp. Troickiy 49, 163004 Arkhangelsk, Russia  
Tel: +8-8182 21 14 99  
Fax: +8 8182 21 57 10  
E-mail: [utugova@dvinaland.ru](mailto:utugova@dvinaland.ru)

### **Karelia**

Mr Lev Volikovski  
Chief Doctor of Republican AIDS Center  
Vidanskaya street 17 A, 185 031 Petrozavodsk  
Tel.: +7 8142 746 562  
E-mail: [aidscentr@onego.ru](mailto:aidscentr@onego.ru)

### **Republic of Komi**

#### **Ministry of Health**

Mr Mikhail Albertovich Murashko  
Minister  
167981, 73, Lenin St, Syktyvkar, Russia  
Tel: +7 (8212) 44 07 77  
Fax: +7 (8212) 44 13 25  
E-mail: [minzdrav@hostkomi.ru](mailto:minzdrav@hostkomi.ru), [mzsozrk@hostkomi.ru](mailto:mzsozrk@hostkomi.ru)

Ms Evgeniya Grigorjevna Kotova  
Deputy Minister  
73 Lenina St., 167 981, Syktyvkar  
Tel.: +7 8212 21 62 37  
Fax: +7 8212 44 13 25  
E-mail: [minzdrav@hostkomi.ru](mailto:minzdrav@hostkomi.ru)

Mr Vitalij Mihailovich Chzhao  
Chief Doctor of Republican AIDS Center  
103 Pushkina St., 167 004 Syktyvkar  
Tel.: +7 8212 438 584  
Fax: +7 8212 211 824  
E-mail: [komiids@rol.ru](mailto:komiids@rol.ru)

### **Nenets Autonomous District (Okrug)**

Ms Natalja Melkonjan  
Chief Doctor of the Nenets District Hospital  
Lenin street, 4 (Pyrerka str. 13a)  
Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous District  
Tel. +7 81853 4 20 86, +7 911 5939239  
Fax +7 81 853 4 06 80  
E-mail: [mng2007@mail.ru](mailto:mng2007@mail.ru)

**North-West Federal Region (Okrug)****Representative of the Health Ministry of RF to the North-West of Russian Federation**

Dr Tamara Vasilyevna Sologub

Professor, Head of Infection Disease Department of the St.Petersburg State Medical Academy  
named after I.L.Mechnikov

Head Infectionist of Saint -Petersburg and Leningrad region

St. Petersburg State Medical Academy, Mechnikov Academy

Tel:+7 – 812 – 277 2707, mobile: +7- 921-314 7348, +7-963-322 1964

Fax: +7 - 812 - 140 1524

E-mail: [tomarasologub@rambler.ru](mailto:tomarasologub@rambler.ru), [mechnik@gmail.com](mailto:mechnik@gmail.com)

**North-West District AIDS Centre**

Ms Tatiana Timofeevna Smolskaya

Head of the Centre

St. Petersburg Pasteur Institute

14 Mira Street

197101 St. Petersburg

RUSSIA

Phone: +7 812 233 7336

Fax: +7 812 233 0847

E-mail: [smolskaya@ts2981.spb.edu](mailto:smolskaya@ts2981.spb.edu)

**SWEDEN**

Ms Gunilla Rådö

Unit for National Co-ordination of HIV/STI Prevention

National Board of Health and Welfare

SE-106 30 Stockholm

Tel: + 46 (75) 247 3642

Mobil +46 (70)162 3642

E-mail: [gunilla.rado@socialstyrelsen.se](mailto:gunilla.rado@socialstyrelsen.se)

Dr Anders Blaxhult, MD

Deputy State Epidemiologist

Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control

171 82 Solna, Sweden

tel +46 8 457 2379

E-mail: [anders.blaxhult@smi.ki.se](mailto:anders.blaxhult@smi.ki.se)

[anders.blaxhult@sodersjukhuset.se](mailto:anders.blaxhult@sodersjukhuset.se) - in 2009!

**NORWAY**

Dr. Hans Blystad

Senior medical epidemiologist

Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)

Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology

PO Box 4404 Nydalen

N-0403 OSLO

NORWAY

Phone: +47 22042404

Fax: +47 22042513

E-mail: [hans.blystad@fhi.no](mailto:hans.blystad@fhi.no)