



The Barents Working Groups

Annual Report

Name of the Working Group:

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region (WGIP)

The current Chair and the Chairmanship period:

Christina Henriksen, Sámi, 2015-2017

1. Priorities of the Chairmanship

- Implementation of indigenous peoples' perspective in all levels of the Barents cooperation
- Implementation of the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the BEAR
- Implementation of an indigenous peoples' event in cooperation with the BEAC chair

2. Meetings (meetings held, main topics and outcomes of the meetings)

- Stockholm, May, 2016
- Girkonjárga, September 2016
- Murmansk, March 2017
- Stockholm, June 2017
- Girkonjárga, October 2017
- Additional Skype meetings

The main topics have been the adoption, update and implementation of the Action Plan, and the planning and implementation of the first Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit in the Russian Federation.

3. Other activities (projects, events, programmes etc.)

The WGIP appoints representatives to other Working Groups within the Barents cooperation. The WGIP is continually considering the participation in other Working Groups, as it is of high importance that indigenous peoples' rights and perspectives are included in all development of activities, projects and programs.

The WGIP participated in the first joint meeting of the BEAC Working Groups in Moscow on 27 April 2017.

Please see the Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples of the BEAR for more information on the priorities of the WGIP.

4. Results of the year (decisions, new initiatives, improvements)

The first Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit was held in Moscow, April 28 2017.

For a list over indigenous peoples' cooperation projects, please see www.barents.no, as the Norwegian Barents Secretariat annually funds several indigenous peoples' projects in the Barents Region. The Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office in Murmansk (BIPO) facilitates cooperation between indigenous partners in the Russian and Norwegian side of the Barents Region.

5. Evaluation of the work (What went well, what needs improvement)

The Barents Indigenous Peoples' Summit in Moscow is considered a success, and the WGIP will encourage future Chairs of the BEAC to continue hosting an indigenous peoples' event, in cooperation with the WGIP.

There is a need to enhance the implementation of the indigenous peoples' perspective in the Barents Cooperation, and the WGIP suggests arranging a conference for all Barents Working Groups, focusing on implementing the Action Plan and its priorities in the work, activities and programs of other working groups.

The WGIP has achieved permanent financial support from all four Barents national states, and has by that secured funding of its activities. The WGIP members are appointed by indigenous peoples' organizations in the Russian side and by the Sámi Parliamentary Council in the Nordic side. Observers are the Saami Council, The Association of World Reindeer Herders, the Sámi Women's Forum and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON).

All WGIP meetings are currently conducted in English and Russian, due to language challenges, and that requires interpretation.

6. Other