



## Annual report 2015

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region  
Chair: Ms. Christina Henriksen (elected 08.02.2014)

1. **The period** of this annual report is from 01.01-31.12.2015. This annual report concerns status and activity for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in the BEAR.
2. **WGIP** held three (3) **meetings and Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress (BIPC)** and Conference during 2015.
  - Skype meeting, January 27
  - BIPC Tromsø, February 7-9
  - Inari, March 13
  - Oulu, October 13

Altogether 23 items have been discussed.

The Chair and the Secretariat have held numerous work meetings

- 27. January, Kirkenes, Norway
- Skype meetings
- Phone meetings

3. **WGIP** consisted from February 2014 of the following six (6) members:

The Sámi Parliamentary Council formally appoints the Sámi members from Finland, Sweden and Norway, after decisions from the respective Sámi parliaments. The Nenets member is appointed by Yasavey (The Regional Association of Nenets people in Nenets Autonomous Okrug), the Sámi member from Russia is appointed by III Kola Sámi People Congress, and the Veps member is appointed by the Vepsian Culture Society – Vepsän Kultursebr.

**Ms. Christina Henriksen**, Sámi Parliament of Norway.

**Ms. Ragnhild Melleby Aslaksen** is the substitute member.

**Ms. Kristina Nordling**, Sámi Parliament of Sweden.

**Mr. Lars-Anders Baer** is the substitute member.

**Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio**, Sámi Parliament of Finland.

**Mr Klemetti Näkkäläjärvi** was the WGIP member until he resigned (Spring 2015).

No substitute member was appointed before the upcoming election.

**Ms. Elizaveta Kharitonova**, Vepsän kultursebr/Vepsian Cultural Organisation.

**Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova** is the substitute member.

**Ms. Galina Platova**, Yasavey/Public Association of Nenets people in NAO.

**Ms. Galina A. Arteeva** is the substitute member.

**Ms. Domna Khomiuk**, Kola Sami Assosiationand .

**Mr. Andrey Ageev** is the substitute member.

WGIP has six (5) observers:

- The Saami Council
- The Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)
- RAIPON – The Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East
- Gáldu – The Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Sami Women’s Forum (decision 46/13)

4. **WGIP representation** in the formal structure of the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation

**Committee of Senior Officials (CSO):** Ms. Christina Henriksen represented the WGIP in the meeting of the BEAC. Representatives for the Nenets and Veps peoples have also participated. The WGIP secretaries, Ms. Anja Salo and Ms. Tatiana Egorova have represented the WGIP when necessary.

**Barents Regional Council:** The WGIP secretaries, Ms. Anja Salo and Ms. Tatiana Egorova represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Council, while awaiting the appointment of a WGIP representative to the Council. Domna Khomiuk was elected member of the Regional Council (decision 21/15)

**Barents Regional Committee:** The WGIP secretaries, Ms. Anja Salo and Ms. Tatiana Egorova represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee.

**Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues:** Ms. Tatiana Egorova (Sámi, Russia) is appointed WGIP representative (Decision 21/15)

**Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC):** Ms. Natalia Vaskova (Sámi, Russia) is appointed WGIP representative (decision 21/15)

**Barents Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues:** Ms. Hanna Sofie Utsi (Sami, Sweden) is appointed WGIP representative (decision 21/15).

**BEAC Working Group on Environment:** Ms. Anna Prakhova (Sámi, Russia) is appointed WGIP representative to the BEAC WGE (decision 26/11).

**Steering Committee on Children and Youth at risk:** Ms. Neeta Inari Jäskö (Sámi, Finland) is appointed WGIP representative (decision 21/15).

5. **WGIP Secretariat**

Two (2) secretaries serve the WGIP: Ms. Anja Salo, adviser at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Ms. Tatiana Egorova, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Murmansk.

6. **WGIP representation in 2014:**

**Ms. Christina Henriksen:**

*CSO-meetings*

- 19 March, Helsinki, Finland

- 8-9 June, Tornio, Finland
- 28 September, Helsinki, Finland

*Seminars, conferences and official meetings*

- 6 January, Kirkenes, Norway  
Meeting with the Sámi Parliament in Norway regarding the Sámi Parliament Proposition on International Cooperation
- 4-5 February, Tromsø, Norway  
III Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress and Conference
- 29 September, Helsinki, Finland  
The Barents Parliamentary Conference
- 14-15 October, Oulu, Finland  
15th BEAC Foreign Ministers Session

**Mr. Lars Anders Baer**

*Seminars, conferences and official meetings*

- 4-5 February, Tromsø, Norway  
III Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress and Conference
- 5-8. October, Storfoten, Sweden  
Conference Future of life in the Arctic- The Impact of Climate Change. Indigenous and Religious Perspectives.
- 17-19. November, Rovaniemi, Finland  
Seminar Social-Ecological Transformations: Human-Animal Relations under Climate Change in Northern Eurasia (HUMANOR)

**Ms Anna Prakhova**

*WGE-meetings*

- 15-16. June, Narjan-Mar, Russia
- 2-3. November, Syktyvkar, Russia
- 24.-25. November, Sortavala, Russia  
XII Ministers of Environment Meeting

**Ms. Hanna Sofie Utsi**

*WGH-meetings*

- 13.-14. October, Luleå, Sweden.

**Ms Natalia Vaskova**

*Barents Regional Youth Council meetings (BRYC)*

- 6-8 November, Inari, Finland  
Barents Roots
- 5-9 November, Inari, Finland

**Ms. Domna Khomiuk**

*Regional Council meetings:*

- 14. October, Oulu, Finland

*Conferences and meetings:*

- 4-5 February, Tromsø, Norway  
III Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress and Conference

**Ms Anja Salo**

*CSO- meetings:*

- 18.-19. March, Helsinki, Finland
- 28. September, Helsinki, Finland
- 16.-17. December, Moskow, Russia

*Regional Committee meetings:*

- 13. October, Oulu, Finland

*Regional Council meetings:*

- 14. October, Oulu, Finland

*Conferences and meetings:*

- 4-5 February, Tromsø, Norway  
III Barents Indigenous Peoples Congress and Conference
- 4.-5. March, Karasjok, Norway  
Norwegian Sami Parliament Session
- 25. April, Moskow, Russia  
Conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of RAIPON
- 4. September, Murmansk, Russia  
Meeting with Roman Hatsevich, leader of Committee on Youth and NGOs issues, Andery Ageev, leader of new kola sami organization- Union of Russian Saami and Maria Chuprova, Centre for Indigenous peoples of North
- 29 September, Helsinki, Finland  
The Barents Parliamentary Conference
- 14-15 October, Oulu, Finland  
15th BEAC Foreign Ministers Session

**Ms Tatiana Egorova**

*Regional Committee meetings:*

- 24. March, Umeå, Sweden

*Regional Council meetings:*

- 24. March, Umeå, Sweden

*CSO- meetings:*

- 18.-19. March, Helsinki, Finland
- 8.-9. Juni, Tronio, Finland
- 25.-26. Augusti, Kuusamo, Finland

*Work meetings (Secretariat and Chair)*

- 27. January, Kirkenes, Norway

*Conferences and meetings:*

Seminar “Between two fires: East and West Conceptions in Presentation of the Kola Sami Culture”

- February, Tromsø, Norway  
Norwegian Sami Parliament Session
- 4.-5. March, Karasjok, Norway  
All-Russian Meeting of the Indigenous Communities/obshina and Aboriginal Forum
- 20.-22 April, Moskow, Russia.  
Conference dedicated to the 25th anniversary of RAIPON
- 25. April, Moskow, Russia  
Meeting with Roman Hatsevich, leader of Committee on Youth and NGOs issues, Andery Ageev, leader of new kola sami organization- Union of Russian Saami and Maria Chuprova, Centre for Indigenous peoples of North
- 4. September, Murmansk, Russia  
Debate on the situation of NGOs in Murmansk region at Consulate General of Norway
- 5 September, Murmansk, Russia  
Debate ”Talking Barents” about Agent Law in Russia
- 25. November, Kirkenes, Norway

## **7. Activities**

The WGIP has focused mainly on the following issues during the period:

### **III Barents Indigenous Peoples’ Congress (BIPC) and Conference**

In February 2015 WGIP arranged the III Barents Indigenous Peoples’ Congress (BIPC) gathering delegates from the Veps, Nenets and Sami peoples, observers and partners. Member states, Sámi Parliaments and the three northernmost counties in Norway funded the congress.

There were three main agenda points: 1. The congress as discussion platform for the three indigenous peoples in the Barents region 2. Follow up on the Action Plan. 3. Resolution of the Congress. The text of the resolution is a continuation of the two previous resolutions and was prepared by Lars Anders Baer.

In the evening, after the congress, WGIP celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Barents indigenous cooperation. The Sámi week in Tromsø organized an anniversary concert with indigenous artists from the three people.

On February 5th WGIP hosted an international conference, in partnership with the Centre for Sámi Studies at the University of Tromsø, focusing on indigenous

languages and challenges connected to extractive industries. Speakers were indigenous and state politicians, as well as professionals within the themes.

### **Barents Indigenous Peoples Summit and Congress**

An indigenous summit was proposed by the BIPC, through the BIPC resolution, and was welcomed by the present representative of the incoming BEAC Chair, the Russian Federation. The BEAC Chair included the Indigenous Peoples' Summit in the Chairmanship Program, and it is to be held within the time frame of the chairmanship (2015-2017). The summit is suggested to be a meeting point between indigenous peoples and authorities, and it will take place within the Russian Federation.

### **The WGIP Action Plan**

The Action Plan 2013-2016 was adopted in Kirkenes in February 2012 by the 2nd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress. The Action Plan was discussed at the 3rd Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress in 2015. The WGIP has proposed to draft a new Action Plan for the coming two years (2016-2017) and to prepare a new plan for four years by the next Congress. Until then, the existing Action Plan will be the steering document for the WGIP work. The WGIP is to make a decision in 2016 on the issue of implementing the BIPC every 4th year, instead of every 2nd year.

### **WGIP Side-event at UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues**

The WGIP has suggested conducting a side event under United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) on best practices in cooperation between indigenous peoples and authorities in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

WGIP is in a dialogue with Russian BEAC chairmanship about a joint venture on this matter.

### **Roundtable discussion on Sámi democracy in Murmansk 2016**

Currently, the Sámi people are represented through Sámi Parliaments in Finland, Sweden and Norway, whereas the Sámi inhabiting the Russian Federation have no such political body representing them. An information gap and different perceptions regarding the establishment, role, tasks and legislation of the existing Sámi parliaments in the Nordic states indicate that there is a need for dialogue on this matter.

Already in 2009, the WGIP proposed for the Sámi Parliamentary Council (SPC) to hold a roundtable discussion on this matter, and it was again proposed at the SPC meeting in Oulu, Finland in September 2015. The SPC decided to host the meeting together with the WGIP, and the meeting ought to include representatives from both Sámi organisations and the Sámi parliaments in the Nordic states, as well as regional, local and federal authorities. The roundtable discussion will be held in Murmansk in April 2015.