

Ready – Network – ACTION!

FRIENDS CAN BE made by shooting news videos on an iPhone. This was proven by some 30 young journalists and media students from Barents countries who met in Kirkenes this year. Experts taught them how to tell stories with a camera and how to edit videos with smartphones.

Most importantly, the participants got to talk and to have fun. They also networked with senior colleagues in the Barents Press annual seminar.

“Young journalists are the future of cross-border communication. It’s important to give them a chance to meet and to learn together”, says Project Coordinator Virpi Komulainen.

The youth gathering was organised by Barents Mediasphere, a Kolarctic ENPI CBC project led by the Arctic Centre, with TV Murman and Barents Observer as partners. The aim of the project is to promote cooperation among journalists as well as the flow of information across borders.

Maija Myllylä



Some faces of the future.

Julia Kauppinen

Mapping the BIG PICTURE

WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON in the Arctic now and what is going to happen in the future? How can we deal with the climatic, environmental and socio-economic changes?

The Arctic Council is leading a project that tries to answer these crucial questions. Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) covers three pilot areas, one being the Barents Region – a natural choice since it has more inhabitants, livelihoods and activities than any other region in the Arctic. The extensive common effort started with regional assessments, soon to be followed by a pan-Arctic assessment.

Integrating information from the natural and social sciences with indigenous and local knowledge is essential. In the Barents Region experts in different fields have shown interest in the project. When identifying who could participate in writing the assessment, about 140 people volunteered. The experts are currently organising their work under different themes and their work includes future scenarios for the years 2030 and 2080.

What does the Arctic Council hope to gain from all this?

“Developing a comprehensive knowledge base will provide decision makers with resources they need to respond to the challenges and to prudently take advantage of opportunities.”

www.amap.no

Enjoy some Arctic TAKE-AWAY

BARENTS SPEKTAKEL
4-8.2.2015
KIRKENES, NORWAY

“CONTEMPORARY. BORDER-CROSSING. FUN.” This is how Lene Ødegård Olsen, one of the organisers, describes Barents Spektakel with only three words. The festival is arranged by Pikene på Broen, a group of curators and producers based in Kirkenes. It is a mix of culture and politics that includes performances, films, seminars and concerts. Last winter Barents Spektakel took a break after its 10th anniversary.

“Internally we discussed how to continue developing new ideas and

producing high-quality projects. We got feedback that people missed the festival and wanted it to continue annually. We debated whether to convert Barents Spektakel into a biannual event, but settled for having an annual festival.”

This winter’s slogan is ‘Arctic Take Away’, with the focus of the festival being to reflect upon different ways of viewing the Arctic. Until the early 19th century, the Barents Region was a borderless zone.

“The people living here moved freely,

bringing their culture and traditions with them, taking out what was needed, giving back whatever they had. ‘Arctic Take Away’ will reflect upon these topics in a nomadic way, amplifying the slogan, raising questions and inviting people to join in the dialogue.”

What about the future of Barents Spektakel? What does it look like?

“The future is bright and shiny like the Arctic landscape, never-ending and with loads of potential.”

Bernt Nilsen



*Barents
Spektakel
is back!*

Group work that WORKS

MR ARI SIREN, you have been working as head of the International Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes for three years and will soon leave your post. From your perspective, how does Barents cooperation look nowadays?

"In 20 years it has become established in the region. The Secretariat covers most spheres of human activity in its 15 working groups. On the whole, something is always going on: just look at the calendar of events on the website!

The four 'core' Barents member states have remained interested in this multilateral cooperation in spite of changes in the political situation in Europe. Fortunately, Barents cooperation has not been prone to fluctuations due to politics."

Is there something in particular that you have learned in this job or something that has surprised you?

"Despite the distinction between cooperation conducted at the government and regional levels, it seems that the best way to cooperate in practice is to have joint working groups representing central and regional authorities at the same time.

There are matters that concern mainly the northernmost regions of the member states even if the matters themselves are subject to government decision making because of international relations."

What themes should be given special attention in the future in Barents Euro-Arctic cooperation?

"Unless transport connections in the East-West direction develop significantly, one cannot reasonably expect cooperation to increase. Everything revolves around travel for business, culture and human contacts. What is, of course, the really big issue is when large economic projects can be launched that will tap the gas and oil deposits of the Barents Sea. Naturally, such things go beyond the scope of the land-based cooperation but undoubtedly this is exactly what people mostly think of when they hear the expression 'Barents cooperation'. At present the political situation in Europe is not conducive to high expectations."

Jenni Lintula

ELIMINATING HOT SPOTS

DO YOU KNOW how many environmental 'hot spots' we have in the Barents Region? At least 42, according to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Working Group on Environment.

These hot spots are significant environmental polluters and health risks in the Russian part of the Barents region. The Subgroup on Hot Spots Exclusion is leading the work to eliminate the hot spots, in cooperation with regional authorities and other stakeholders.

The work is related to improving the water supply and sewage systems, treatment of non-radioactive hazardous waste, saving energy and reducing airborne emissions, among other concerns. A total of six hot spots have been excluded from the list thus far.

www.beac.st/HS

Ari Sirén believes that joint working groups for central and regional authorities are the best way to cooperate.



Veili Kouri