RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL

Barents Cooperation in Science and Higher Education

Alexey Ivanov
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Head of Unit for Regional Cooperation
Networked-based activities of BEAR universities and research institutions

Mission: strengthening academic cooperation in the Barents Region and creating a regional educational space

Tool for regional policy development in the sphere of education and research

Providing expertise for regional development through advanced research and educating high-skilled graduates

Established 1993

2011-2013: Co-chaired NArFU, University of Tromsø

2014-2015: Co-chaired NArFU, Lapland University
## JWGER members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northern (Arctic) Federal University, Arkhangelsk, Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lapland University, Rovaniemi, Finland</td>
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<td>Nord University, Bodø, Norway</td>
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<td>University of Tromsø - the Arctic University of Norway</td>
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<td>Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, Kajaani, Finland</td>
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<td>Murmansk State Technical University, Russia</td>
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<td>Northern State Medical University, Arkhangelsk, Russia</td>
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<td>Ukhta State Technical University, Russia</td>
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<td>Syktyvkar Forest Institute, Komi Republic</td>
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<td>International Institute of Business Education (MIBO), Murmansk region, Russia</td>
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<td>Kola Science Center of Russian Academy of Sciences, Apatity, Murmansk region, Russia</td>
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<td>Petrozavodsk State University, Petrozavodsk, Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Komi Republican Academy of State Service and Administration, Russia</td>
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<td>Syktyvkar State University</td>
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Joint Working Group on Education and Research

The first Regional Working Group on Education and Research (BEAR WGER) was established in 2001 after the Barents Council had approved an Exchange Programme for Higher Education and Research in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region with a Programme Board consisting of representatives from relevant authorities in order to facilitate exchanges in higher education and research. After having a Programme Board was closed, and the activity of the Working Group on Education and Research began to develop.

In 2004 by the decision of the Committee on Education the Joint Working Group (JWGER). Several international forums on education and research activities and successful collaboration among the members of the Programme Board have been established.

The present work of the group is carried out through educational and research initiatives, supported by an advisory council representing the member countries.

JWGER overall objective

Further strengthening academic cooperation and response to growing international challenges in the human resources, research and innovation.
JWGER Mandate *(adopted 2009)*

- Promote education and research as the tools for regional and economic development
- Consolidate efforts for research-based education and interdisciplinary dialogue in fundamental and applied research
- Enhance the quality of education and training in the region
- Promote joint academic programs and training courses
- Use e-learning as an effective instrument of academic interaction among the actors
- Support academic mobility programs
- Provide debating arenas (BEAR forums on education and research)
- Support establishing and functioning educational consortia and networks
- Encourage partnership with other actors of the Barents cooperation, incl. regional authorities, industries, NGOs
- Share the experience and disseminate information about successful international projects in the field of education and research
**Priority 1**: Strengthening the JWGER membership and streamlining the strategy in response to new challenges and needs

**Priority 2**: Contributing to implementation of regional strategies (climate change, transportation)

**Priority 3**: Interacting and cooperation with other BEAC WGs

**Priority 4**: Enhancing academic cooperation and mobility in the Barents Region

**Priority 5**: Mapping out synergy with networks in the North (EU ND partnerships, UArctic, AC WGs and TFs)
Enhance collaboration in E&R

Contribution to the Kirkenes Declaration 2.0:

- Mobility of staff and students (PhD Barents School)
- Recruiting to public and private sector
- Transparency of national HE systems
- Indigenous issues
- The human dimension
- Research and education infrastructure
- Research and research-based education
- Smart regions and smart specialization

Nov. 2012, NArFU: International Conference “Cooperation in BEAR in the Field of Education and Research as a Resource of Regional Development”


2009-2014: Joint projects within Kolarctic ENPI CBC Programme 2009-2014
Develop communication in E&R

**JWGER meetings:**
- Nov 29, 2012 – NArFU, Arkhangelsk
- Nov. 19, 2013 – Brussels, Belgium
- Oct. 9, 2014 – NArFU, Arkhangelsk
- June 4, 2015 – Nord University, Bodø, Norway
- April 7, 2016, Arkhangelsk

**JWGER project** (April – August, 2015):
“Internationalization of Higher Education as a Resource of the Barents Region Development” (UiN – NArFU)
- priority areas in education and research;
- enhancing internationalization of HEIs;
- international conference “Internationalizing Higher Education: Barents Region and Beyond”

**JWGER project** (Summer 2016: 2 workshops)
BEAC Communication Development Project
Partners: IBS, NArFU, Syktyvkar SU, Lapland University, Kainuu Regional Council

**JWGER contribution**
- Finnish Chairmanship Communique on BEAC Chairmanship Results (2013-2015)
- RF Chairmanship Programme 2015-2017
Prioritize academic collaboration

- HEIs internationalization and creating a regional educational space
- Students and staff exchanges:  
  **the Barents PhD School** (UiT, Umeå, Oulu, NArFU)  
  Umeå University (Abisko, Sweden) (Aug., 2015)
- Joint educational programs (tourism, environmental risks, ICT in medicine, health care, circumpolar studies, social work, inclusive education)
- Participation of Barents HEIs in Intergovernmental Working Groups on Education (Russian-Norwegian, Russian-Finnish)
- Cooperation with business and industries (NRCC – Young Entrepreneurs Project)
Study Catalogue

http://education.uarctic.org/studies/

Study opportunities: search by country/university/disciplines/ Type of study/ academic level
The UArdtic Research Infrastructure Catalogue is an online database for searching and identifying research infrastructures and facilities located at and operated by the UArdtic member institutions. The infrastructures listed are also available for external users.

To enter your institution’s research facilities in the UArdtic Research Infrastructure Catalogue, follow the instructions here.

![Search for infrastructures: by country/institution/type/disciplines](http://research.uarctic.org/resources/research-infrastructure-catalogue/)
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<th>Thematic networks</th>
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<td>23 Northern Nursing Education</td>
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<td>2 Energy in New Time</td>
<td>24 UArctic World Ensemble</td>
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<td>3 Environmental Impact Assessment of Industry Contaminated Areas</td>
<td>25 Arctic Fisheries and Aquaculture</td>
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<td>4 Arctic Sustainable Arts and Design</td>
<td>26 Arctic Engineering</td>
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<td>5 Natural Hazards</td>
<td>27 Communicating Arctic Research</td>
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<td>6 Working in the Arctic</td>
<td>28 Commercialization of Science and Technology for the North</td>
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<td>7 Arctic Law</td>
<td>29 Digital Media and Media Arts</td>
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<td>8 Geopolitics and Security</td>
<td>30 Northern Food Security</td>
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<td>9 Local and Regional Development in the North</td>
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<td>10 Managing Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the North</td>
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<td>11 Northern Tourism</td>
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<td>12 Arctic Extractive Industries</td>
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<td>15 Health and Well-being in the Arctic</td>
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<td>17 Model Arctic Council</td>
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<td>18 Teacher Education for Social Justice and Diversity in Education</td>
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<td>19 Polar ice, climate and land dynamics</td>
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<td>20 Social Work</td>
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<td>21 Arctic Telecommunications and Networking</td>
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<td>22 Distance Education and e-Learning</td>
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**UArctic member institutions in Barents region (33)**

![Pie chart showing the distribution of UArctic member institutions across the Barents region.](image)
Development of cutting-edge knowledge and multidisciplinary research on:

- Environmental impact assessment, analysis of northern ecosystem dynamics;
- Causes and effects of changes in climate and environment;
- Biodiversity in sub-arctic ecosystems under conditions of climate change;
- Conventional and renewable energy production, black-carbon emissions;
- Permafrost studies;
- Impact of environmental and climatic factors on human body functions;
- Indigenous peoples’ competence, the challenges indigenous peoples face due to climate change, and how traditional knowledge can contribute to development;
- Adaptation to changing environmental, economic, social and cultural circumstances in order to promote a sustainable future;
- Scientific basis for sustainable management of ecosystems;
- Arctic marine system ecology;
- Emergency prevention and response;
- Space monitoring and remote sensing
JWGER – WGE / CPESC project (funded by Swedish Environmental Agency)

Objective: Introduce clean production methodology and UN standards to be included into education

Coordinators: Moscow Center for Clean Production, NArFU

Participants: NArFU, Murmansk State Technical University, Syktyvkar Forestry Institute

2013-2014: workshops Arkhangelsk, Syktyvkar, Murmansk
2014: new educational courses on CPESC (e.g. NArFU: “Ecology and Land Use”, “Heat Power Engineering and Heat Technology”)
2014-2015: publication “Methodology of clean production” (NArFU, MSTU, SFI, Karelian Chamber of Commerce)
2015: Presentation of the project outcomes at WGE meeting, Arkhangelsk)
2016: next stage planning (International Workshop Development RIO 2020/CPESC in specific sectors)

Inter-acting with BEAC WGs
Inter-acting with BEAC WGs

**JWGER – JWGY project** *(funded by the RF Ministry of Education and Research/Youth Federal Agency “ROSMOLODYEZH”, Norwegian Barents Secretariat / BRYC)*

**Project “Russian North – the Solovetsky Islands”**

**Dates:** Aug. 28 – Sept. 2, 2015, Arkhangelsk

**Objective:** promote youth cooperation in the Barents Region; study culture and history of the Russian North

**Participants:** members of BRYC

**Activities and results:**
- study trip to Solovetsky Islands
- workshop “Russian North – Solovetsky Islands”
- round-table “Best Practices of Barents Youth Governance”
- visits to the Youth House of Arkhangelsk Region
- participating in the ceremony of the academic year launch
Project “The 3rd International Belomorsky Students Forum” / Barents Bird Festival

- Panel Discussion International Cooperation in the Barents Region: Stories of Success and Opportunities for Youth (over 300 participants from 6 countries and 14 Russian cities of the BEAR)
- International Education Exhibition Barents EDU: promotion of Barents universities as study destination
- Open lectures for students
- International workshops: How to participate in exchange programs within the Barents region
- Students projects presentation: My Model of International Cooperation

The idea: support youth cooperation, promote the Barents Region as a successful model of cross-border cooperation and attractive destination for studies and life, inform about RF BEAC Chairmanship priorities
Tasks 2016 – 2017

• Strengthening membership / Rotation of chairmanship

• Contributing to Barents Transportation Plan implementation

• Draft of the Action Plan on Research and Education

• Promotion of Barents Region as an attractive study destination

• Arctic Studies Summer School

• Joint applications to Kolarctic CBC Programme 2016-2020
Prospects and challenges

• Research cooperation in the BEAR will benefit from scientific cooperation agreement in the Arctic (AC SCTF)
• Academic cooperation in the BEAR: support for mobility (undergraduate, graduate, research, internships, indigenous students)
• Regional development: what kind of expertise Barents universities can provide and what kind of resources are needed?
Thank you for your attention

Contacts
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Second European Department

Sergey Petrovich
Deputy Director, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials of the BEAC (spetrovich@mid.ru)
Phone +7 499 244 2697
Fax +7 499 244 1797

Alexey Ivanov
Head of Unit for Regional Cooperation (aivanov@mid.ru)
Phone +7 499 244 1572
Fax +7 499 244 1797

Inna Tarysheva
First Secretary of Unit for Regional Cooperation (itarysheva@mid.ru)
Phone +7 499 244 3096

Alisa Maslikhina
Secretary-Referent of Unit for Regional Cooperation (aimaslikhina@mid.ru)
Phone +7 499 244 3096

Facebook: Russian Chairmanship of the BEAC
Twitter: @Russia_in_BEAC