



BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL

BARENTS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Mandate for the Joint Working Group on Culture (JWGC) 2019-2022

1. Introduction

The overarching mission of the JWGC is to advocate for and promote the role of culture and cultural policies in meeting the overall objective of the Barents Programme on social and economic growth through a knowledge driven economy and the sustainable development of the region's natural and human resources.

2. Priority areas of cooperation

The JWGC will prioritise cooperation within the field of:

- Culture and sustainable development
- Cultural exchange, intercultural dialogue and diversity
- Conditions for and access to creativity
- Cultural and creative industries, innovation and tourism

3. Method of work

The JWGC shall choose the working methods, which are the most appropriate in order to meet a particular objective and which are in line with financing possibilities. This may include a number of different actions such as appointing consultative expert groups/task forces, using experts, organising conferences or seminars and involving educational and scientific institutions, cultural and non-governmental organisations, etc.

The JWGC shall meet at least twice per year. If desired, sub-groups or task forces may be formed in order to manage tasks between meetings of the group or perform special activities.

The Chairmanship is responsible for convening the meetings of the JWGC, sending out a save-the-date no later than two months and a provisional meeting agenda no later than one month before the meeting. The Chairmanship is responsible for the meeting arrangements. The Chairmanship is also responsible for taking and sending out minutes for approval by the JWGC. Well in time before a JWGC meeting, the Chairmanship shall contact the International Barents Secretariat in order to explore possible synergies (for example with other Working Groups) related to the meeting. The chairing national and regional actors shall between themselves allocate the chairing responsibilities.

The JWGC, and especially the Chairmanship, shall explore possible synergies with other regional cooperation bodies regarding for example the possibility of arranging back-to-back meetings or co-arranging events.

4. Decision-making

Decisions by the JWGC are taken with consensus.

5. Language

English is the working language of the JWGC.

6. Membership

As set out in the Operating Guidelines for the Barents Working Groups, national/regional member authorities have the right to decide on the appointment of the members, which should be experienced experts in their field. In case of change of members, the institution in question has the responsibility to appoint a new member and communicate about the change to the International Barents Secretariat. Each region or state can only have one formal member, but can send additional observers to the meetings of the JWGC. The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples may nominate a member to the JWGC. Regional or international organisations may be represented upon invitation.

7. Chairmanship

The Chairmanship of the JWGC shall be joint (one regional and one national member) and follow the rotation of the BEAC and BRC chairmanships as set out in the Operating Guidelines for the Barents Working Groups.

8. Financing

The Chairmanship shall, if nothing else is agreed upon, ensure that the costs necessary for the meeting to be able to take place are covered. Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the members.

9. Communication

The internal communication of the JWGC shall be facilitated by the Chairmanship and carried out mainly via e-mail, ensuring that all members, and possible observers, are given the same information.

The JWGC shall, primarily via the Chairmanship, communicate regularly on its activities to the International Barents Secretariat as well as inform the Secretariat on any changes in the composition of the group. The JWGC Chairmanship may report on the activities of the group at the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's Committee of Senior Officials' meetings and the Regional Committee meetings.

10. Reporting

The Chairmanship is responsible for submitting an annual report of the JWGC to the International Barents Secretariat by the end of December each year and before the biennial Ministerial Meeting. The annual report should describe the activities, which have been undertaken during the past calendar year. The focus should be on the issues discussed, the results achieved, possible challenges encountered by the group as well as a work plan for the next calendar year. The report ahead of Ministerial Meetings should describe activities and results during the Chairmanship period.

11. Duration

The mandate covers the time span 2019–2022.

12. Amendment and review

The mandate is to be reviewed during 2022 with the aim to adopt a revised mandate before 2023.

This mandate has been approved and accepted by **NAME**. on the **DATE**.