

Narrative report

Project title: Enforcing rights of the indigenous peoples of the Russian North: via education towards augmented youth movement capacity and international Arctic youth school

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Stilling: Enkeltpersonforetak

Project overall objective was to promote the process of democratization of the Russian society through education and socialization of young representatives of indigenous peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and the Far East, promote their integration in decision-making process at local and regional levels, and develop partnership and cultural relations with Saami people.

Project specific objectives:

- To increase awareness of Russian indigenous young leaders of indigenous rights by means of specially developed educational program;
- To promote practical application of the newly received knowledge into the practical activities of the decision making at local and regional levels;
- To promote access to relevant information for indigenous peoples living in remote territories and creating the indigenous youth information network.
- To create a new platform and venue of partnership between Russian IP youth and Saami youth representatives and institutions.

The educational component of the project included educational course, training program for representatives of indigenous youth on the following themes: leadership, PR, social partnership, conflict science, basis of political science and law, traditional economy and innovations, high education and access, international policy, indigenous rights and self-determination.

The Information component of the project included creation of the youth information network on the basis of existing regional indigenous peoples' information centers as well as creation of Internet forum for indigenous youth.

The general idea of the project was increasing capacity of indigenous young leaders, promote civic and political indigenous rights among indigenous youth of Russian North and promote their links with Sami youth of Norway and Finland.

During the fall 2015, the project partners: Arctic Consult (Norway), the Russian Centre for the Support of indigenous Peoples of the North (Moscow) and the Foundation of Sami heritage and development (Monchegorsk) in cooperation with the Sámi Education Institute (Finland) organized a one day workshop to organize a meeting of young indigenous representatives of Russia, Finland and Norway to exchange views on the indigenous life experience in circumpolar region. During the meeting participants presented the best practices of indigenous peoples from different regions, new ideas, innovations and activities in different fields. The workshop “Arctic Echoes – Northern youth meets in Moscow” was organized 20.11.2015 in Moscow in the premises of the Embassy of Finland in Russian Federation. See **attachment 3.1** – the program of the workshop.

There were several topics discussed during the project including Indigenous peoples’ rights and the youth issues; Traditional livelihoods, economy and innovations; Education; Indigenous peoples’ voices in international politics; visualization and documentary; indigenous languages and culture.

From Finish side, there were 6 representatives of Finish embassy in Moscow, including Mr. Hannu Himanen, the Finish ambassador in Russia and 8 representatives of the Sámi Education Institute including Ms. Liisa Holmberg, the rector, and Mr. Aslak Holmberg, Vice Chair of the Association "The young Sami of Finland". Two students also represent Norwegian Sami youth organization “Nuereh” – Anna Kaisa Eriksen Partapuoli and Isalill Simonsen Kolpus. (See **attachments 3.3; 4.16**)

From Russian side, there were 20 persons including 16 of indigenous youth from different regions of Russia including 3 Sami participants from Murmansk region. The special competition was organized among Russian indigenous youth to participate the workshop. To participate the workshop, they had to describe the situation of indigenous youth in their regions and their vision of problem solving as answer the question - why do you want to participate in the seminar? (See **attachment 3.2**)

Key recommendations and initiatives discussed and approved for further cooperation (See **attachment 3.4**):

- Education for reindeer herders and students exchange
- Cultural cooperation and dialogue development through festivals of music and films, creation of common portals
- Conducting youth seminars on various aspects and capacity building
- Joint letter campaigns on issue of indigenous peoples and industrial companies. Creating a map of "hot spots"
- Expansion of the educational network, exchange of programs and methodology, including issues of preservation and development of languages
- Climate change and indigenous peoples
- Create a general mailing list for communication and discussion
- Selection of focal points for thematic areas

After the workshop projects participants agreed to participate the Second International Conference “Local and Global Arctic: In the spirit of Rovaniemi process 2015” which was

organized by University of Rovaniemi 25 November 2015. Two Sami youth participants - Aleksandr Slupachik and Milana Sapelnikova as well as Dmitry Berezhkov participated the conference where they presented presentation on indigenous youth problems in Russia. That was a good experience to discuss the issues of indigenous youth with international participants of the conference. (**See attachments 3.5 and 4.17**)

After that, project coordinator, Dmitry Berezhkov, participated the Climate Summit in Paris, where he was one of the coordinator of the work of the Indigenous Pavilion. Some participants of the youth project also participated there they participated in several indigenous youth meetings.

Next year project partners agreed to visit Norway with a return visit. Several letters were sent to different organizations including Sametinget, Sami Council, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, youth organization Noereh, Sámi University College, Galdu center.

There was a discussion among indigenous network Aborigin Forum whom will participate the visit to Norway. The members of the network agreed that it will be representatives of the Russian and Norwegian partners: Rodion Sulyandaziga (represents Russian Centre for the Support of indigenous Peoples of the North), Dmitry Berezhkov (Arctic Consult) as well as two representatives of indigenous youth – Alexander Slupachik (Muramansk oblast – Sami) and Yana Tannagasheva (Kemerovo region – Shor people).

Russian delegation met in Alta, rent a car and then made a field trip to Kautokeino and Karasjok.

During the visit to Norway the Russian delegation met with representatives of Sami University college: Gunvor Guttorm (the rector of the University college), Line Kalak (deputy rector), Mikkel Ole J. Eira (information officer). During the meeting parties discussed approaches of cooperation and mutual interests. Sami University college presented their education program of the Sami language and other education facilities. Parties agreed that during the 2016 fall semester some Russian students will apply for the Sami languages course.

Also, Russian delegation met with representatives of the Galdu human rights center. The parties discussed human rights work and potential for joint publications on indigenous peoples' rights issues. Representatives of Galdu describe the history and activities of Galdu center especially connected with indigenous peoples of the Russian North, including Murmansk Sami.

After visit to Kautokeino the delegation went to Karasjok. Russian representatives participated the session of the Sami Parliament, participated the official meeting with the president of the Sami Parliamen Mrs. Aili Keskitalo (see **attachment 4.10**) and met with representatives of NSR, including president Mr. Beaska Niillas (see **attachments 4.8 and 4.9**) Delegation also met with Sami Council of Norway president Mrs. Aile Javo (see **attachment 4.13**) and representatives of the Sami youth organization Nuereh. During the meetings parties describe the general situation with indigenous rights in their countries, situation with indigenous youth and general perspectives of cooperation.

During the meetings in Moscow and Norway project partners agreed that the current project ***“Enforcing rights of the indigenous peoples of the Russian North: via education towards augmented youth movement capacity and international Arctic youth school”*** could be considered as a pilot one. Project partners agreed to organize a joint database on indigenous peoples rights for the Russian indigenous peoples. Such database was created in the Internet see web-site Arctic Consult - <https://arcticconsult.wordpress.com>

Also parties agreed to not organize a special network of Russian youth indigenous but create a special working group on youth issues within the current indigenous network “Aborigin Forum” which is successfully functioning in several Russian regions.

Today Aborigin Forum work as an informal network of independent experts, activists, leaders and indigenous organizations from the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation. The mission of Aborigin Forum is to protect and realize the rights of indigenous peoples, by tracking and analysing legislation, monitoring the state of land rights, through national and international partnerships and dialogue with authorities at all levels. The secretary of the Aborigin Forum is Gennady Schukin. The leader of the youth group within the AF network is Yana Tannagasheva.

The other important result of the project was the applying of several Russian Sami for the Sami language course in Sami University college next fall. At least two students: Igor Volov and Aleksandr Slupachik (who was a participant of the all project activities including Moscow workshop, visit to Finland and visit to Norway) successfully received the scholarship and enter the course.

Project partners received a deep knowledge of the Sami organizations, their structures, aims and responsibilities in Norway and Finland. Russian indigenous youth participants of the project events share their knowledges and experience with their Sami partners from Norway and Finland. Youth participants of the Aborigin Forum received the possibility to gather and discuss their joint aims and future plans. Norwegian project partner Arctic Consult received a knowledge how to organize international projects in Russia. Russian partners received a knowledge how to apply to Norwegian education facilities like Sami University college.