



# BARENTS EU CENTRE

## NEWSLETTER №9

January - June 2016



# About Barents EU Centre

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The EU Centre in Barents Region was founded on the basis of the EU Information Centre of Petrozavodsk State University in December 2011.



**Overall Objective:** to improve overall awareness and knowledge on EU related issues (structure, policies, economy, law, the European integration, the EU-Russia relations, etc.) among lecturers, students, officials, CSIs and general public in the Republic of Karelia and the Barents area of Russia.

## Specific Objectives:

- to upgrade skills and knowledge of lecturers of the institutions of higher education;
- to improve the existing courses on the EU issues and to develop new courses on the EU issues;
- to improve knowledge of students and schoolchildren on EU related matters;
- to promote better knowledge of the EU and cooperation between the EU and Russian regional officials and CSIs;
- to provide information and consulting services and events on the EU issues;
- to stimulate the EU research;
- to develop functioning of the informing and training structure.

## Main Activities:

- Gathering, exchanging and spreading information on the EU;
- Organization of conferences and seminars;
- Support of the research and educational cooperation on the study of the EU;
- Creation of educational programmes, study courses on the EU issues;
- Training of lecturers and staff members of organizations that cooperate with the EU;
- Assistance in the implementation of students' and lecturers' exchanges;
- Provision of consulting services on the opportunities of academic mobility and project activity.

## Target groups:

- Group of schoolchildren and students of the Barents area of Russia
- Group of lecturers of the Barents area of Russia
- Group of officials and CSIs of the Barents area of Russia
- General public of the Barents area of Russia

## The EU Research Club

The Club is the platform for development of the EU research. It is established for all people who are interested in the development of research activities on the EU and who want to gain new knowledge and exchange opinions with specialists, experts, researchers and just interested people. It



presupposes regular meetings about topical issues of the EU in such forms as round-table discussions, presentations, lectures, seminars, etc. The club is oriented, first of all, on graduate and postgraduate students who develop research on the EU issues, but it is open for all representatives of the general public. It provides the possibility to get consultations of lecturers and experts, to discuss scientific topics, urgent news and the issues of the EU and to communicate with each other. It assures scientific, professional and personal development of the EU Research Club participants. The club will develop the EU research in the Barents area of Russia and provide its profound, interdisciplinary and multi-approach nature.

On February 24, 2016 EU Center in the Barents region of Russia held a meeting within the framework of the EU research club. The meeting took place in a form of group discussion of the topic "Gender policy in the EU". Institute of International Programs staff, students of the Institute of History, political and social sciences and different city organizations staff members took part in the meeting.



Students majoring in the "International relations" program prepared reports on EU's gender policy and on how Germany, Baltic countries, Denmark and Sweden tackle challenges which appear when it comes to gender inequality. The topic was of a huge interest to all participants, who

discussed various controversial questions, such as determining one's gender, using right terminology, positive sides of setting quotas in workplaces, giving men the same right to take parental leave on the same conditions as women, whether some gender inequality problems are real or made up, typical "men's" and "women's" jobs. Differences between gender policy in Russia and EU were compared as well.

Content of the meeting was exciting, and the participants had a chance to discover some new information on the EU, as well as share their opinions on different aspects of gender policy.

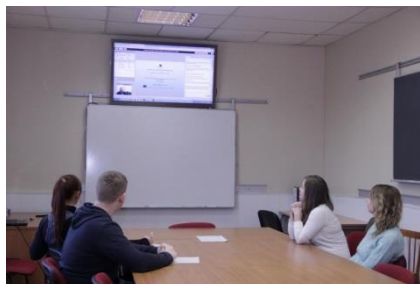
## Webinar with Center of European Studies of Carleton University

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On January 21, 2016 the Barents EU Centre held a webinar with the Center of European Studies in Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada). Institute of International Programs staff took part in that webinar.

The topic was "Remembering and forgetting: current EU policy on electronic data storage devices". Ira

Wogman, associate professor of Carleton University, School of journalism and Communication, shared her knowledge on the topic. EU initiatives on protecting personal data were presented during the webinar. In particular, the question on the



right to 'be forgotten' was discussed. This measure allows deleting or changing personal data if it happened to be false or no longer up to date. This right was viewed in the context of the modern world, where people and companies have tremendous opportunities to store data with the help of electronic data storage devices. With regard to how widespread such technologies are, we need to think of more nuanced understanding of what is called 'Policy in the field of mass media'.

## Competition among schoolchildren of Barents region of Russia

On March 17, 2016 EU Center in the Barents region of Russia granted awards to the winners of the online contest “What do I know about the European Union?”



The contest was held in online quiz format, where students from Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Murmansk and Arkhangelsk answered questions related to the history of the EU integration, its current state of being, EU institutions and symbols. There was also a question on the motto of the EU and whether it reflects the EU's essence.

47 works were submitted from Petrozavodsk, Segezha, Medvezhjegorsk,

Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. All pupils received certificates of participation.

19 schools took part in the contest:

Petrozavodsk: school № 20, № 43, № 38, Gymnasium № 37 and № 17, Petrovskaya school and Derzhavinsky lyceum.

Segezha: school № 5, № 6

Medvezhjegorsk: school № 2 and № 3

Murmansk: gymnasium № 6

Arkhangelsk: school № 11, № 8, № 62, № 20, gymnasium № 21 and № 24,

Since there was only one work from Murmansk, it was decided to determine 3 winners among Petrozavodsk students and 3 winners of the Republic of Karelia. The winners are:

Petrozavodsk:

1. Antipin Aleksandr, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Petrovskaya school
2. Panteleeva Daria, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, school № 38
3. Kruglova Alisa, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, Derzhavinsky lyceum

Republic of Karelia:

1. Lazarev Sergei, Medvezhjegorsk, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, school № 2
2. Denisova Polina, Medvezhjegorsk, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, school № 2
3. Osipova Anna, Segezha, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, school № 6

Arkhangelsk:

1. Laponogov Ivan, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, school № 11
  2. Antrushina Darina, 10<sup>th</sup> grade, gymnasium № 24
  3. Badikov Iliia, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, gymnasium № 24
- Murmansk
2. Malyshkina Anna, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, gymnasium № 6

Students showed outstanding knowledge about the EU. Many wrote comments to their answers and thus showed that they wanted to find out even more information about the EU. All participants used different approaches when answering the question about the EU motto. They also said that answering quiz questions helped them to learn more about this organization, which means that the contest stimulated the interest towards European research and developing knowledge about EU among youth.

## Courses on EU by European experts

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From 14 to 16 March 2016 Matthias Hartwig taught a course “Introduction to the European Law” at PetrSU Faculty of Law. Matthias is a recognized specialist in the area of comparative law; he holds a Doctor's degree in Law and is a professor and a senior research fellow at the Max Plank Institute of comparative public and private law. He was invited as the EU expert on legal issues, and he is also the author of such research works as “Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's Declaration of Independence – background and critique of judicial decree”.



The course was taken by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students. Total amount of hours in the course was 20 hours, 12 of which were contact and 8 were left for individual work. The course covered the following topics: history of the EU and its goals, EU institutions, European law, interaction between national and EU law, European citizenship, freedom in the EU and legal aspects in the relationship between Russia and the EU.

Thanks to the course read by Matthias Hartwig PetrSU students acquired new knowledge about the EU, could ask questions on European law and exchange opinions on different subjects.



Dean of the Faculty of Law Sergey Chernov and Matthias also discussed the opportunities of future collaboration in the area of studying the European law.

Matteo Fumagalli, head of the Department of

International Relations in Central European University (Hungary), gave a course “Russia-EU relations: Syria, Iran and new world order perspectives after the Cold War” at the Institute of History, Social and Political Science from 22 to 24 March. The course was taken by 3rd and 4th year bachelor students and 1st year master students majoring in “International relations”. Total amount of course hours was 20, 12 of which were contact and 8 were left for individual work. Topics like foundations of the world order after the Cold War and EU-Russia relations from the viewpoint of modern challenges in Northern Africa and the Middle East were covered.

Thanks to the course read by Matteo Fumagalli students got new knowledge about the EU. All lessons were held in an interactive format, and all participants could exchange their opinions and ask different questions. Matteo pointed out that PetrSU students have a high level of preparation and willingness to acquire new skills and knowledge in the area of European studies.



Youngmi Kim, associate professor of the Department of International Relations in Central European University (Hungary), gave a course “European integration and management” at the Institute of History, Social and Political Science from 22 to 24 March 2016. The course was taken by the 3rd and 4th year bachelor students and 1st and 2nd year master students majoring in “International relations”. Total amount of course hours was 20, 12 of which were contact and 8 were left for individual work. Topics like European integration, EU enlargement, democracy and crisis in the EU were covered.

Thanks to the course the students acquired new knowledge about the EU. During the course the students prepared presentations on topics related to the course theme, as well as held a debate on migration problem in the EU.

Youngmi pointed out a high level of knowledge and working capacity among PetrSU students, as well as a great interest in the area of EU studies and a quick acquisition of new material.



## The EU Days

The EU Days at PetrSU included three events.

A conference of young researchers, working in the field of contemporary European problems, was held on May 6, 2016 as a part of the EU Days. The program was organized by the EU Center in the Barents region of Russia and Karelian Department of European studies association. Anastasia Kuznetsova, director of the EU information center and coordinator of the Barents EU Centre, and Jury Kilin, DSc in history, head of PetrSU chair of history, political science and international relations, head of the research center of the WWII problems in the European North, chairman of Karelian Department of the European Studies association were the moderators of the conference. Students and lecturers from the Institute of History,



Political and Social Sciences, as well as Institute of International programs staff took part in this conference. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year bachelor students and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year master students were giving their presentations on various topics, such as cross-border cooperation, securitization of migration problem, neutrality policy, indigenous people,

Euroscpticism in the EU. All presentations were assessed, many questions were asked and comments were made. The conference has shown that the interest towards EU studies is very high among young researchers at PetrSU, and students



demonstrate a high level of knowledge in EU-related questions. All participants received certificates and prizes. Collection of articles, based on students' presentations, will be issued as a result of the conference.

EU Countries Day took place at Petrozavodsk State University on May 13, 2016. During the day university students, teachers and university staff members, as well as school children and city residents could visit one or more lessons dedicated to a country-EU member and its language: Polish, Swedish, French,



German, English, Spanish and Finnish. Each lesson lasted for 45 minutes and consisted of a presentation of an EU country and language practice. Lessons were taught by native speakers (Karolina Pyka, Polish teacher at PetrSU and Polish Institute in Saint Petersburg, and Niina Juntunen, an exchange student from the University of Eastern Finland), a manager of the PetrSU International Education Center Kristina Kapleeva (Spanish) and PetrSU students.

“EU Days have been held since 2012 and focus on informing general public about the EU and generating interest towards the EU and its studies. EU Countries Day is aimed at introducing the participants to EU countries, their languages and culture”, noted Anastasia Kuznetsova, director of the EU Information Center, Barents EU Center coordinator.

Role play “EU Model” took place on June 18, 2016 on the camp side “Raduga”. 20 students, PetrSU staff members and international students from Finland and Brazil took part in the role play. PetrSU students were from different faculties and institutes, such as the Institute of History, Social and Political Sciences, Institute of Foreign Languages, Institute of Forestry, Engineering and Construction Sciences, the Faculty of Mining and Geology and the Faculty of Law. Anastasia Kuznetsova moderated the event.



The topic of the role play was decision making process in the EU by the example of decision on sanctions. Each participant had a role – he/she was European Commission member, EU Council Member or an observer. Among observers there were journalists, Russian minister of Foreign

Affairs, Governor of the Italian region of Liguria and a Slovak citizen, head of the Slovak patriotic organization “Charter 2015”. Students had personal cards with the information on their character and his/her position on the extension of sanctions, as well as tasks the participants had to accomplish during the play. They have to use their speech and argumentation skills to work out reasons and strategy for or against decision on extension of sanction period. However, neither the EC nor the EU Council could make a final decision and both parties had an equal amount of supporters.

The key feature of the event was to enable students from different faculties to get involved and actively participate in the role play, even if their educational



programs do not involve any EU or political studies. Barents EU Centre thinks that raising awareness and fostering interest on EU among students from technical and humanities departments is very important. Students' evaluation forms showed that despite its game format, the event allowed them to acquire knowledge about EU institutions, policies and

opinions of different countries on EU-Russia relations. It was interesting for them to get into their character and develop their speaking and strategic abilities.

## International Summer School in Karelia

From 16 till 20 May 2016 International Summer School in Karelia “Arctic Council, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States: regional cooperation and policy-shaping with the EU” took place at Petrozavodsk State University.

More than 40 people from Russia, Finland, France, Yemen, Italy and Japan took part in the School. Lecturers at the School were: Lassi Heininen, DSc, professor of the Arctic policy at the University of Lapland, Tapani Kaakkuriniemi, director of educational programs at Aleksanteri Institute of the University of Helsinki, Jussi Huotari, researcher at the University of Helsinki,



Gerald Zojer, researcher at the University of Lapland, Ilya Solomeshch, PhD, assistant professor at the chair of History, Political Science and International Relations, Gleb Yarovoy PhD, assistant professor at the chair of History, Political Science and International Relations, and Anton Lapshin, senior lecturer of this chair.

School's program consisted of 2 main work forms: lectures and discussion in working groups. In the groups students and lecturers discussed questions, which



covered the topic of the day and were interesting to the participants. This work form allowed to address important questions from different perspectives and exchange opinions among all participants.

During the week students of the Faculty of Law, Institute of History, Political and

Social Sciences, Institute of Foreign languages of PetrSU, as well as students from the University of Tampere, University of Helsinki, University of Oulu, University of Turku, University of Laval attended lectures on such topics as regionalism in the Northern Europe, historical background and lessons of regional cooperation in the North of Europe, Arctic Council, Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States, cooperation between the Arctic Council and the EU, etc.

On May 20, 2016 a seminar was held at the Karelian research center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dmitry Sergeevich Kislov, deputy minister of the economic development of Karelia, and Daniel Aleksandrovich Martsenyuk, interim representative of the Ministry of foreign affairs in Petrozavodsk, and Igor Nikolaevich Shevchuk, director of NPO "Sever-Centre" participated in it. Daniel Martsenyuk was talking about Russian chairmanship in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and Dmitry Kislov was talking about cooperation in the Arctic region in general. Speakers were answering participants' questions, and the



students could get more information on the subject, as well as have a dialogue with authorities' representatives.

A survey held among school participants showed positive feedback about school's organization, content and format. They pointed out that the school also had practical importance for them, and this week was very beneficial for their future studies and career.

## Barents EU Centre Open Days

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Barents EU Centre Open Days took place from June 15 to June 17, 2016. EU Center visitors could have a look at the presentation about the EU and get acquainted with its activities, goals, areas of focus, as well as past and future activities. They asked questions about European scholarship funds and programs, which they can apply for in order to study, do research or do an



internship in Europe. Participants showed great interest in EU Center activities, and they would like to take part in them in the upcoming academic year. Among visitors were PetrSU staff members, a guest from France, PetrSU students from different faculties and institutes (Institute of History, Social and Political Sciences, Institute of Foreign languages, Faculty of Ecology and Biology and Faculty of Philology). Exhibition on EU and European programs was open as well.

Participants gave positive feedback on Barents EU Centre Open Days. They noted that the Center carries out very important activities both for the university and region. According to their opinion, it contributes to the development of cooperation, raises awareness on EU activities and promotes interest in European research.

## Lecturer's training programme

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5 lecturers from the Institute of History, Political and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Ecology and Biology have accomplished the training program, which was aimed at acquiring knowledge on the EU, its policies and European integration in general.

The program featured an interdisciplinary course on the European Union and consisted of 72 hours of work, 40 of which were contact and 32 were left for individual work. The course covered various topics, such as history of European



integration, EU institutions, decision making process in the EU, areas of politics and EU-Russia relations. During the course the participants had a chance to learn about EU development, theories, which pushed the process of

European integration, and gain understanding about EU institutional structure. Current situation in the EU, supporters and opponents of EU strengthening, possible scenarios for the EU development, as well as EU-Russia relations were also subject to discussion.

Besides that, the course experts laid emphasis on the issues that were interesting for participants and contributed to their future work. New methods and technologies of teaching on EU topics were presented to participants within the course. After completing the program they will develop their own courses on the EU topics on the basis of acquired knowledge.

## Jean Monnet seminar

Moscow office of the Delegation of the EU to Russia hosted a Jean Monnet seminar on May 27, 2016. The meeting was organized by the EU Delegation of to Russia together with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Representatives of Russian universities, which have ongoing projects within this program, took part in the meeting. Seminar's objective was to discuss practical questions of implementing Jean Monnet projects, including exchange of experience and information on the most successful practices.





The seminar was opened by Sven Olov Karlsson, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation of to Russia. Ute Haller-Block, Head of Unit in EACEA, reported about program's activities. Olga Nikolaevna Oleynikova, director of the national Erasmus+ office in Russia, presented Erasmus+ activities in Russia and statistical data on the projects. Snezhina Nikolova, project adviser in EACEA, gave detailed information on operational and financial management of the project. Anastasia Kuznetsova, Barents EU Centre coordinator, shared her experience as well.

She reported about past and ongoing projects, gave her recommendations on achieving project sustainability and strengthening connections between Russian universities and organizations.



Other universities' representatives shared their experience as well: Larisa Valerjevna Deriglazova from Tomsk State University, Oksana Sergeevna Karnaukhova from Southern Federal university, and Alla Vladimirovna Akulshina from Voronezh State University. All participants exchanged their opinions and proposed different ways of collaboration and network development among participating universities and organizations in Russia, as well as asked questions on writing applications and reporting to EACEA representatives.

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The project is co-financed by the European Union. The content of this newsletter is the sole responsibility of PetrSU and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.