

BARENTS EU CENTRE

NEWSLETTER №5

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About Barents EU Centre

The EU Centre in Barents Region was founded on the basis of the EU Information Centre of Petrozavodsk State University in December 2011. The Centre unites 5 leading universities of Barents Region of Russia, namely Petrozavodsk State University, Murmansk State Technical University, International Institute of Business Education, Syktyvkar State University, as well as North (Arctic) Federal University.



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

Main Activities:

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

Target groups:

- Undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students of the Barents area;
- Lecturers of the Barents area;
- Officials of regional and municipal administrations and civil society institutions of the Barents area dealing with the EU cooperation;
- General public of the Barents area interested in information on the EU, the EU studies, research, education and project activities.

New courses on the EU in the Barents universities

The knowledge that lecturers of partner universities obtained within the framework of training programme and study visit to Central European University in 2012 were used practically. 14 lecturers of PetrSU, 4 lecturers of IIBE, 8 lecturers of MSTU, 7 lecturers of NArFU and 6 lecturers of SyktSU developed new courses on the EU issues in the English language. As a result 39 new courses on various EU aspects were elaborated.



The spring 2014 at NArFU was marked by special courses in English for students from some institutes. The courses on the history, culture, and policy of EU countries were included into curricula of lawyers, local lore specialists and historians: «Problems of migration and migration policy in the EU», «Russia and the European Union: problems and prospects of cooperation», «Economics of the EU countries», «Information policy and information space development of the EU countries», «Protection of religious, ethnic, national minorities in EU. Legal status of the EU citizen», «Comparative family law of the EU countries», «European models of religious cultural communication».

Future lawyers were acquainted with family law and defense of rights of EU residents and students of the Institute of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences examined migration, economy, policy, religious and general aspects of relations



between EU countries. Students who completed the courses highly estimated the acquired knowledge which will be useful in their future professional activity. It is noteworthy that these courses have been also included into the curricula of the following year.

The courses in English devoted to the EU were also conducted for students at PetrSU. They were

elaborated by the lecturers from the Faculties of History, Philology, Law, Economics and the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. 14 courses were elaborated and delivered. Students gave positive response as they acquired new knowledge and linguistic practice. The lecturers had the opportunity to teach in English taking into account the acquired skills. The successful practical approval of the courses demonstrated the significant benefit and high effectiveness. They have been already included into faculties' curricula of the 2014/2015 academic year.

This academic year students of Murmansk State Technical University were also provided an excellent opportunity to deepen their knowledge about various aspects of the European Union activities. They were able to attend the courses developed by the lecturers of the Polytechnic Institute, Law Faculty, Institute of Economics, Management and International Relations, Faculty of Food Technology and Biology.

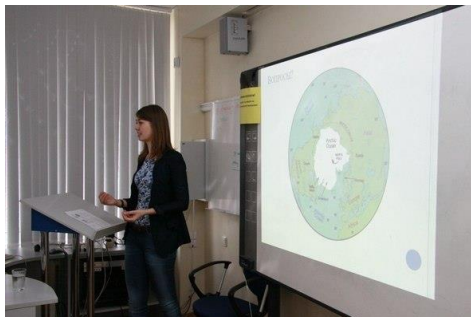


The courses offered to students vary in topics and cover the history of relations between Russia and the EU, the process of European cities formation and the impact of globalization and urbanization on the modern life in Europe, aspects of modern Russian-European intergovernmental relations and environmental challenges facing the EU countries, topical issues of European integration and European innovation policy, as well as a comparative analysis of the best management practices in EU fisheries industry. In total 8 courses were designed for different degree programmes.

It was the first time for many students, as well as for some lecturers, when they took and gave lectures in English. But such experience certainly proved to be very valuable for both parties of the process. Almost every lecture was accompanied by the students' questions flow that proves the relevance of the topics covered and the interest in such practice.

According to the students feedback, despite the language difficulties that some students had, most of them would like to be able to choose electives in English within their degree programmes in the future.

During the spring term of 2014 the lecturers of Syktyvkar State University tested the educational courses elaborated within the framework of the project “Establishing the



EU Centre in the Barents Region of Russia”, implemented under the financial support of the European Union. Irina Shvetsova, the head of Financial Management Department, delivered the course on the corporate finance in Europe (International Corporate Finance in the EU). Alexander Seryakov within the framework of the

course “Business Social Responsibility” for Bachelor’s degree students in Management delivered the module “Corporate Responsibility in Europe”. Zhanna Ivankova delivered the course related to Protected Natural Areas of Europe for students-biologists. Lubov Maksimova delivered the course Development of Educational Tourism in the EU for students with a major in International Relations. Students gave high estimation to the quality of education, opportunity to practice English with a usage of English terminology. They also acquired the new knowledge on the aspects.

Besides, within the continuation of the work on the project and introduction of additional courses related to the EU the new Master’s degree program on Foreign Regional Studies (EU direction) was approved during Academic Council of the University. The opportunity of the network educational program with participants of the project and European universities is now under consideration.

In June 2014 the courses elaborated by the lecturers of Murmansk Institute of Business Education were completed. The courses were delivered in English and were included to curricula of different educational directions – “Psychology”, “Linguistics and Intercultural Communication” and “Economics”. It is noteworthy that the lecturers took into account the requirements of European system of education. It also allowed to implement preliminary approbation of courses at the universities of Norway within teachers’ exchange. Besides, the course devoted to project



management elaborated for students with a major in Linguistics was also useful and interesting for students of other educational directions who actively participate in international projects. The lecturers who elaborated the courses pointed out that they had acquired interesting experience of academic activity responding to the modern international requirements. It is also noteworthy that in 2014-2015 academic year the courses “Cultural Diversity and Integration in the EU”, “Euroregions as Mechanism for Cross-Border Cooperation”, “Family Crisis in Europe: social-psychological aspect”, “International project management” were included into curricula of abovementioned educational directions.

Course on “The Regionalism, Regional Policy and Cross-Border Cooperation in the EU” in Petrozavodsk State University



The course “The Regionalism, Regional Policy and Cross-Border Cooperation in the EU” was organized by the Barents EU Centre. The course was delivered in English within the framework of the project “Open Module on European Integration” which was implemented

under the financial support of the European Union “LLP program”. The course included such issues as the notion of region and regionalism, its history, stages of development of EU regional policy, EU institutions, involved in its formation and operation, theoretical, legal and practical basis of cross-border cooperation. The duration of the course was 144 hours. The lecturer was Oksana Ermolaeva, PhD in History of Eastern Central Europe, senior lecturer of the Chair of Archival Science and Special Historical Disciplines, the Faculty of History, PetrSU. From March 24 to March 26, 2014 the part of the course was introduced by Mikko Vaha-Sipila, programs manager in Lithuania and Sweden, Regional and Urban Policy Directorate, European Commission. The audience had the opportunity to use in practice and improve their language knowledge and acquire information on the topic of the course. At the end of the course participants presented their projects. According to the results of studying the participants were awarded certificate of

completion with the number of credits (4 ECTS). The course was open for all comers, so the group included lecturers and Bachelor's degree and Master's degree students of PetrSU Faculty of Philology, History, Law, Medicine, Mining and Geology, Mathematics and Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. According to participants' responses the course provided the new and useful information for the personal and professional development. Besides, they acquired and improved the skills which will be useful for their future studying and profession.

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 5 March 2014 the space bridge "The EU Closer to You" was arranged in the Barents EU Centre. This time the meeting had the format of space bridge with the representatives of EU Delegation to Russia: Soren Liborius, head of Press and Information Department, Andrey Kasjyanenko, department member, Nicola Scaramuzzo, educational

programs coordinator and Nikolai, trainee of the department. The third secretary of Petrozavodsk Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Daniel Martsenuk, students of the Faculties of Law, Economics and Philology and public members participated in the meeting. Such variety of participants allowed to discuss the questions of EU development and relations between Russia and the EU from different points of view. The meeting was arranged during the interesting period when some questions related to the foreign policy of the EU and Russia were especially sharp. Thus the discussion was very active. The both sides came to conclusion that such meetings should be conducted more often as they allow to exchange the opinions and be informed about the first-hand positions of experts.

Schoolchildren and the EU research

On 14 March 2014 ceremonial announcement of results of the quiz on the history of the European Union for pupils from Murmansk and Murmansk region was arranged. The quiz was organized by International Institute of Business Education. 46 pupils from Murmansk and Murmansk region participated in the quiz. The prize winners are pupils of the 10th-11th forms



from gymnasium 3. The first place was shared by Karina Kovalivskaya (10th form "A") and Daria Tkatch (10th form "B"), the second place was shared by Karina Kirichenko (11th form "B") and Anne Zholobova (11th form "V"). The winners received certificates and small memorable prizes.

On 16 May 2014 the winners of pupils' competition "What Do I Know about the EU" were rewarded with memorable prizes and diplomas. The competition had the form of online quiz where the schoolchildren from Petrozavodsk and the Republic of Karelia responded to the questions connected with the history of European integration, EU institutions, its nowadays state and symbols. Besides, there was an analytical question: "What is the future of the European Union 20 Years Later?". In the category "Pupils from the 4-8th grades":

The 1 place – Uliyana Yevchenko, Segezha, grade 7A, school 5.



The 2 place – Liubov Bezmen, Petrozavodsk, grade 5A, school 20 and Daria Kosteva, Segezha, grade 7A, school 5.

The 3 place – Victoria Kannoeva, Petrozavodsk, grade 8A, school 29 and Anna Ashurko, Segezha, grade 7A, school 5.

In the category “Pupils from the 9-11th grades”:

The 1 place – Tatiana Bolotnikova, Petrozavodsk, grade 11A, school 10.

The 2 place – Daria Suboch, Segezha, grade 9B, school 5 and Turkan Gumbatova, Segezha, grade 9A, school 5.

The 3 place – Irina Yakovleva, Petrozavodsk, grade 10A, school 14 and Aleksey Nikiforov, Segezha, grade 10A, school 5.

92 pupils took part in the quiz: school 5, Segezha – 74, school 2, Medvezhjegorsk – 1, Louhi school – 1, Petrozavodsk: school 10 -1, school 36 – 2, school 14 – 2, school 29 – 5, school 2 - 1, school 11 – 2, school 20 -1, school 40 – 2.

The schoolchildren astonished us by their knowledge of the EU and by seriousness of their responses to the analytical question. They emphasized that while they were preparing the answers to the questions they learnt a lot of new information about the European Union. Therefore the competition encouraged interest in European research and development of knowledge about the EU among young people.

On 9 June 2014 at Syktyvkar State University the unusual quiz “The European Union” was arranged. The quiz was opened by the bright lecture-presentation devoted to the European Union. In the course of the quiz pupils of the 9-11th forms of Syktyvkar and Ezhva got the knowledge related to common, as well as to unpopular, but fascinating facts of establishing and existence of the EU as intergovernmental union. Then pupils were divided into teams and fulfilled different tasks. The most active and entertaining ones: to



recognize a country on the base of architectural sight which appeared on the screen partly in the form of puzzle; to recognize a country on the base of a fragment from musical composition and to do rebus with codified words related to the history of Europe. In the course of emotional battles for quick replies pupils got points in the form of stars – the symbols of the European Union. The final test was to draw and represent a booklet about one of EU countries as the attractive place for living, studying, job and tourism. Pupils could use all knowledge from the sphere of geography, policy, history, ecology and other school subjects. Pupils showed excellent results.

39 people took part in the quiz. All participants received participation certificates, the winners got memorable prizes. Joyful children expressed the wish to participate in such interesting arrangements annually.

International Summer School in Karelia

From 18 till 25 May 2014 International summer school in Karelia “Sovereignty in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region” was conducted at Petrozavodsk State University.

40 people took part in the school. Among Russian participants there were guests from Petrozavodsk and St. Petersburg, among foreign participants – guests from Finland, France, the USA, Hungary, Slovenia and Canada. PetrSU was represented by students from the Faculty of Law, Philology and Faculty of Political and Social Sciences. The lecturers of the school were doctor of science, Arctic policy



professor of the University of Lapland Lassi Heininen, head of educational programs of Aleksanteri Institute of the University of Helsinki Tapani Kaakkuriniemi, researcher from Lapland University Jussi Huotari and National School of Public Administration Joel Plouffe, professor of Department of Theory and History of International Relations of the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University Alexander Sergunin, deputy head of the Department of History of Nordic Countries of PetrSU Faculty of History Ilya Solomesch, associate professor, candidate of political sciences, International Relations Department of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of PetrSU Gleb Yarovoy.



The programme of the school included two main kinds of work: lecturers and discussions within work groups. While working in the groups, students and lecturers could discuss all questions connected with the main topic of the day and which were interesting for the participants. This kind of work allowed to examine the essential

questions from different perspectives and to share opinions in a free form.

In the framework of the school such issues as sovereignty and federalism, sovereignty in international relations, in the Arctic region, the issue of state sovereignty and energy, cross border cooperation, etc. were covered.

On 23 May 2014 the joint session of International summer school and the fourth international research and practical conference "Innovation and Safe Cooperation in the Barents/Euro-Arctic Region" was conducted at the premises of Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The organizers of the conference were the National Institute for the Research of Global Security, Karelian Research Center of RAS and non-commercial partnership "Center for the Problems of the North, Arctic and Cross-Border Cooperation". The conference was also supported by Diplomatic Academy, Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Russian Foundation of High Technologies, society "Znanie" (Knowledge) of Russia, Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the International and Norwegian Barents Secretariats.

The conference had three sections: "plenary papers", "The Barents/Euro-Arctic Region on the Modern Stage: from Contacts to Innovation Contracts" and "International Cooperation and Public Diplomacy in the Barents/Euro-Arctic Region".

Along with the participants of the school there were the following representatives: Jury Saveliev, vice-chairman of Karelian Research Center of Russian Academy of



Sciences, doctor of Economics, Anatoly Smirnov, president of the National Institute for the Research of Global Security, presidium member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Vladimir Soldatin, assistant of the head of the Republic of Karelia, Remi Strand, deputy of provincial assembly of Finnmark, Norway, Alexander Yevlakhov, deputy chairman of the Board of the Society "Knowledge" of Russia, Lev Voronkov, prof. of the Center for North European Research of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, doctor of historical sciences., prof. Vasiliy Koval', consul general of Russia in Kirkenes (1997-2001), Russian Federation minister extraordinary and plenipotentiary, candidate of legal sciences, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, Vladimir Masloboev, vice-chairman of Kola Research Center of RAS, director of the Institute of North Industrial Ecology *Problems of Kola Research Center of RAS, doctor of technical sciences, prof., academician of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences*, Volan Arild, managing partner of the company Arctic Development, David Aptekar, executive director of closely held corporation "Institute of Power Electronics", Markku Pirinen, manager of the project "Development of Technologies of Arctic Construction Materials", Lappeenranta University of Technology/ Central Research Institute of Construction Materials "Prometey", St. Petersburg, doctor of technical sciences, Daniel Martseniuk, Third secretary of the Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in Petrozavodsk, Igor Shevchuk, director of the non-commercial partnership "North-Centre".

Assessment forms showed that the participants of the school had positive attitude towards organization, content and format of school. They pointed out that it also had practical significance for them.

The EU Days

On 12-13 May 2014 "The EU Days" started in Syktyvkar. The workshop "Sakvoyazh-2014" was arranged for the first time. This event was devoted to Bilateral UK-Russia Year of Culture. For the first time the university used the format of culturological workshop when different people are united in one room and get a topic and then the participants can do whatever they want. The new format attracted students from Syktyvkar and they were glad to participate in such arrangement. The workshop was opened by the lecture about the European Union and its member countries. Further the workshop "Sakvoyazh" was composed of 4 sections: 1). musical art and dramatics, 2). dances, 3). arts and crafts, 4) media. All sections were working hard for two years, implementing definite tasks. The purpose of participants was to represent the cultural interrelations of Russia and Great Britain in the framework of their sections.



Along with the ordinary participants each section had the moderators who organized teambuilding for established groups and explained the tasks of each direction and targeted the work of participants. However the process of fulfillment of an assignment was organized only by participants. It's noteworthy that the format of workshop

doesn't include monitors and listeners – each participant is involved into collective work. As the majority of students didn't experience such format it was impossible to foresee how this arrangement would be embodied. But mostly the mysteriousness of the format attracted the participants of "Sakvoyazh". 35 students of different year of education, majors and universities took part in it. During the first day the participants got acquainted with each other, played different teambuilding games and then entered on the implementation of the main task. Here the participants gave rein to their imagination. Representatives of section of music and dramatics decided to stage musical based on the popular English fairy-tale "Alice in Wonderland" merging English classics with Russian flavours. So, suddenly Alice met the cat Matroskin who sang the touching romance and the famous Russian singer Michael Boyarsky. In the musical Alice also met much talked-of participant of Eurovision 2014 Conchita Wurst. The activity in other sections was also fruitful. For example, participants from the section of arts and crafts got a task to make the symbol for Bilateral Year from materials at hand. All guests were glad to see that the participants presented the symbol made up from the doll one half of which presented Great Britain and the other

– Republic of Komi (as a part of Russia). Besides, the participants worked out their own emblem with an English bulldog which is decorated with antlers. The section of dancing art also worked zealously. The participants decided to introduce the examples of folk dancing culture of both countries. It turned out that the Russian folk dancing music excellently went with the



Irish folk dance and songs of “The Beatles”. Firstly participants, divided into groups, introduced Russia and Great Britain but then merged into one foot tapping Russian-British dance. The section “Media” fulfilled another creative task. Students had a task to find the “traits” of Great Britain in Syktyvkar, take photos of these “traits” and then represent them in the form of collage. Besides, together with the participants the British guest went to search the “traits” of Great Britain in Syktyvkar. He also shared his impressions about Syktyvkar and told many interesting things about his country. The main goal of “Sakvoyazh” was the inclusion of young people to culture of another country, searching some common traits and interrelations between Russia and foreign culture. This how students from Syktyvkar celebrated the international event – Bilateral UK-Russia Year of Culture. No doubt, the reporting concert opened for all-comers made happy all guests. The audience heartily welcomed participants on the scene and gradually entered into the spirit of rich culture of both wonderful countries.

After the reporting concert the participants and moderators were awarded certificates and memorable prizes. So now we can take our traveling bags and bravely jump to 2015 – Bilateral Year of Culture of Russia and another EU country – Poland!

In the framework of “EU Days” in Syktyvkar on 17 June 2014 the lecture of the director of the Finnish Institute in St. Petersburg Elina Kahla “The Global Directions of Development of Higher Education and Finnish-Russian Cooperation” was conducted in Syktyvkar State University. In the course



of the lecture the issues of higher education global market, current trends and directions of its development, positions of Finland and Russia in the market of educational services were discussed. Ms Kahla also told about the perspectives of cooperation in the sphere of education, science and culture between two countries, possibilities of project activity and mobility. The audience represented by higher education institutions of Syktyvkar, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karelia, Finno-Ugric Centre, scientific and cultural organizations, could ask their questions related to the topic of interest.

On 24-25 June 2014 in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Komi a set of arrangements was conducted. The target groups were the first-time and successful entrepreneurs wishing to know about the development of their

business in accordance with the standards of the European Union and wishing to find contractors and come to European market. Within the framework of two-day arrangements the educational program “The Development of Entrepreneurship: the European Experience” (15 hours) was organized. It represented the issues related to innovation components of European economy, European quality standards, requirements to ecological production, intercultural aspects of business dealing, etc. In the course of the program businessmen shared their experience with foreign partners, told about their success and warned against wide-spread mistakes. Besides, the video bridge with regional representatives of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the EU and members of Business Council of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the Cooperation with European Countries. In the course of the video bridge representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry had the opportunity to discuss particularities of business dealing in some countries and entrepreneurs could ask questions related to the topic of their interest. At the end of arrangements entrepreneurs exchanged contacts with each other, the new interesting and promising ideas related to work with contractors from the European Union appeared. The participants expressed the wish to organize such programs more often. At the present moment negotiations between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Komi and SyktSU on establishing of joint scientific laboratory of cooperation in the sphere of entrepreneurship and entry to European markets are in progress.

From 21 till 23 May 2014 “The EU Days” were conducted in Archangelsk. On 21 May 2014 the presentation of the Barents EU Centre and the lecture in English on the cultural history of the European Union were arranged for the students of the program “Russian Studies”. The same lecture in Russian was also conducted on 22 May 2014



by the lecturers of the Institute of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences for future historians and diplomats. Within the framework of “The EU Days” the round-table discussion “Cultural Processes in the Countries of the European Union” was organized. European cultural trends were discussed by the lecturers and students from NArFU and the guests from Naryan-Mar.



The topic of discussion was chosen in connection with the questionable results of the contest “eurovision-2014”. Students touched upon the history of contest establishment and its role in the modern media-processes and show business, as well as

analyzed interrelation between the policy of the EU and the basic trends in the modern European culture. The main issue which kept its significance during all discussions was – is there future for European musical culture? Was Conchita Wurst's victory a new stage in cultural development or is this a herald of decline of European culture? The topic of mass culture quickly grew into hot discussions. The participants divided into two groups: supporters of moral freedom, usage of freaky characters and shock methods for attraction of attention and supporters of traditional values and academic approach. Using the examples of interrelations of different countries and nationalities, the organizers described the trends of the modern pop-culture and introduced to students the creative teams who took part in the contest “Eurovision”. Mostly the musicians participating in this contest are widely-known only in their own countries and only some of them manage to become the world stars. The exceptions are ABBA, Loreen, Dana International.

The participants of discussion tried to give a response to the question – why did Austrian singer Conchita Wurst took the first place and get such a great points? The perspectives for the contest were also analyzed. It was pointed out that the participants of “Eurovision” have surprised much for the last five years. Students discussed the criteria for defining a winner and taking into account the information about the leaders of previous years had a dispute devoted to selection of national representatives and forecasting of contest results.

International relations also were not left out in the cold. Students conducted analysis of voting results of the last three years and voting results given by neighbor countries who estimate each other. The most remarkable were the mutual estimation by Balkan States, countries of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. The second part of discussion gave all participants the opportunity to reestimate the nominees for the victory in the contest “Eurovision” and deliver a verdict related to the results of European song contest. The differences from the original results were

minimal. The objective voting allowed to conclude that our subjective visual perception prevents from seeing the true value of good musical performances.

On 26 May 2014 "The EU Days" began in Petrozavodsk.

Two arrangements were conducted at the touristic camp "Urozero": Interactive game-trip "The Map of Europe: Musical, Historical, Natural, Linguistic, and Cultural" and roundtable discussion "Higher Education in Europe and Russia. Personal Experience of Academic Mobility". Students and lecturers from Russia, France, Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, Norway, South Korea, Colombia and Costa



Rica, as well as representatives of PetrSU Institute of International Programs participated in them. Interactive game-trip was conducted by lecturer from the Institute of International Programs Marina Khazova. All participants were divided into teams who chose and told about their trip to Europe in accordance with a definite goal: active leisure, architecture, music, history, culture, languages, etc. Such form of the game allowed to broaden participants' knowledge about Europe, share personal experience and share opinions about different aspects of the development of Europe and the European Union. 2014 is announced as the Year of Science Russia-EU. As a result the Barents EU Centre raised the discussion of cooperation opportunities of Russia and the EU in the sphere of science and higher education. The role of moderator was taken by the head of the EU Information Centre, project coordinator Anastasia Kuznetsova. Within the framework of roundtable discussions



participants could compare higher education in Europe and Russia, mark similarities and differences, as well as estimate educational quality in different countries. Many students told about their educational experience in Europe and Russia. It gave way to deep discussion of agenda.

Representatives of the Institute of International Programs also presented information about European programs which allow to develop educational, academic and technological cooperation.

On 28 May 2014 two sessions of the presentation “European Educational and Research Programs” were conducted. 20 PetrSU students, lecturers and representatives took part in them. Head of the EU Information Centre, coordinator of the Barents EU Centre Anastasia Kuznetsova presented the Centre: told about its activity, arrangements which are open for all-comers: “EU Days”, the exhibition “EU Today”, “Open Days in the Barents EU Centre”. Anastasia provided information on the opportunities of studying in Europe, as well as about the programs of educational and scientific cooperation. After presentation the participants could receive the responses to their questions. It is noteworthy that the participants were rather interested in development of educational and scientific contacts with European countries and supposed that cooperation between Russia and the EU in this sphere has special significance.

On 31 May 2014 the training-team game “What Do I Know about the European Union?” was conducted. 13 people took part in the final event. It had the entertaining form, the goal for participants was to respond to the question of the moderator – head of the EU Information Centre, coordinator of the Barents EU Centre Anastasia Kuznetsova – and to fulfill some team tasks on different topics related to the EU: the history of the European Union, economy, institutions, members of the EU, cooperation EU-Russia, etc. The participants had only one helper – the brochure “Europe in 12 Lessons”. Right answers and successful fulfillment of tasks were rewarded with the yellow stars as a symbol of the European Union. This arrangement helped to find out that the participants have sufficient knowledge about the European Union and its activity. However, the quiz helped them to acquire the new information and together discuss issues related to the EU. The game form of the training encouraged significantly mastering and retention of new information about this organization.

The Barents EU Centre Open Days



From 23 till 25 June 2014 the Open Days were conducted in the Barents EU Centre. The visitors of the Centre could see the presentation of the project and Centre, to get acquainted with its goals and purposes, main directions of its activity, implemented and expected arrangements. Presentation of the European scholarship foundations was demonstrated. It allowed to get information on the opportunities for

people who want to study, implement internship or research in Europe. Besides, the visitors could listen to the lecture on the history of the EU. Within those Days the exhibition dedicated to the EU and European educational programs was opened.

The Open Days and the Barents EU Centre received positive responses from visitors. They singled out that there are no doubts that its activity is very important for development of cooperation between the EU and the Barents region of Russia in different spheres. It provides plenty of opportunities for its encouragement and is interesting for various representatives of society.

Barents EU Centre supports professional development and establishing cooperation with European organizations

Under support of the Barents EU Centre PetrSU took part in the international educational exhibition "Education and Career" in Skopje (Macedonia) from 10 till 12 April 2014.

Pupils and students had the opportunity to get acquainted with modern educational and scientific programs of different universities. More than 30 foreign universities



from Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Greece, Italy, the USA, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Turkey and Russia took part in the exhibition. The Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia Spiro Ristovski and other public officers visited the exhibition and welcomed all participants.

During the exhibition representatives of the Institute of International Programs described the activity of the Barents EU Centre, had the meetings with the delegations of Macedonian universities and discussed the questions of joint bilateral collaboration and participation in mobility program Erasmus+.



Under support of the Barents EU Centre PetrSU took part in the international educational exhibition "Education without Borders" which took place in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 27 till 30 March 2014.

Traditionally the exhibition gathered together the educational institutions and educational organizations from all over the world. This spring in the building of the National Palace of Culture representatives of higher educational institutions from 15 countries (Bulgaria, Denmark, Russia, Latvia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Austria, the Netherlands, Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Japan) presented their activity.

Russia was represented by 12 universities, including Petrozavodsk State University. A.A. Markaryan, the head of the Directorate of Scientific Cooperation, Youth and Communication Programs of Rossotrudnichestvo, successfully demonstrated the presentation "Education in Russia" and told about the opportunities for admission to Russian universities within the framework of the quota provided by the Russian Federation for foreigners and compatriots. Then participants presented their universities. PetrSU presentation and exhibition stand also included information about the activity of the Barents EU Centre.

In the course of the meetings with representatives of European universities the following issues were discussed: cooperation in scientific and educational spheres, student exchange, academic mobility, promotion of Russian higher school in Europe.

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