



# BARENTS EU CENTRE

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## NEWSLETTER №7

January-June 2015



## 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 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.

## The EU Research Club



On April, 21 2015 in the Barents EU Centre the EU research club meeting was organized.

This time the meeting format was discussion of the topic "Russia and the EU: history of relations

and prospects". Representatives of the Institute of international programmes as well as students of the Institute of history, political and social sciences participated in it. At the meeting the participants shared their knowledge of the history of development of relations between the EU and Russia and opinions on the current situation and future.

The general point of view is that dialogue and partnership are always win-win methods of achievement of mutual understanding and mutually beneficial goals.

## International Summer School in Karelia

From 18 till 22 May 2015 International summer school in Karelia "Resources and security in the Barents Sea area" was conducted at Petrozavodsk State University. It was organized by BEUC together with the Institute of history, political and social sciences.





About 40 people from Petrozavodsk, Saint-Petersburg and Finland took part in the school. PetrSU was represented by students from the Faculty of Law and the Institute of history, political and social sciences. The

lecturers of the school were Doctor of Sciences, Arctic policy professor of the University of Lapland Lassi Heininen, coordinator of educational programs of Aleksanteri Institute of the University of Helsinki Tapani Kaakkuriemi, researchers from the University of Lapland Jussi Huotari and Laura Olsen, professor of the Chair of Theory and History of International Relations of the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University Alexander Sergunin, head of the Laboratory on the problems of Nordic Countries and Finland Ilya Solomesch, associate professor of the Chair of foreign history, political science and international relations, candidate of political sciences Gleb Yarovoy, Acting Representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Petrozavodsk Daniel Martsenyuk and Vice-Chair of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Alexey Tsykarev.

The programme of the ISSK included two main kinds of work: lecturers and discussions within work groups. While working in the groups, students and lecturers could discuss all questions that were connected with the main topic of the day and 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. Within the



framework of the ISSK such issues as concept of security and its subject, international relations in the Barents Sea area, resources in international relations and the region history, situation with indigenous peoples, etc. were covered.

On 22 May 2015 at the premises of Karelian Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences the international seminar finished ISSK. The topic was Human Security and Socio-Economic Development of the Northern Periphery Regions. The organizers were Karelian Research Center of RAS, Center on the Problems of the North, Arctic and Cross-Border Cooperation, Institute of Economics of KarRC of RAS and Petrozavodsk State University.

The participants positively assessed organization, content and format of the school.

## The EU Days

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From 27 till 29 May 2015 in Petrozavodsk State University the EU Days were organized by BEUC. This year the topic was European history through cinema. The participants get acquainted with BEUC activities and watched 3 films that reflect the different periods of European history. "Troy" tells about the history of the XXII century BC. It presents the myth about the heir of the Troy throne Paris, who stole Helen, the wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta. His brother - king Agamemnon – defended the honor of Menelaus. "The Duchess" - a film dedicated to the life of the legendary Duchess Georgiana Cavendish, who

is often called "Princess Diana of the XVIII century." The events of "The Iron Lady" took place in 1982. The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher tried to save her career on the eve of the Falklands War. On the whole the EU Days were successful. The feedback of the participants was positive, they wait for new events.



## Cooperation with European organizations



On April, 24 2015 Anastasia Kuznetsova, BEUC coordinator, made a presentation at the annual meeting of the members of the Barents Regional Youth Council. She told about the Centre activity directions, about past and planned events and shared publications. The participants asked questions that were interesting for them and

discussed the possibilities of cooperation between BEUC and BRYC.

The countries in the Barents region have many common challenges when it comes to youth issues and this invites to increased cooperation about these matters. During an international youth seminar in Murmansk October 2003, the participants strongly signalled that young people want to participate more actively in the Barents cooperation. They concluded that the best way to ensure this would be to establish a new youth structure in the Barents cooperation, a council consisting of young people from the whole region. The establishment meeting for BRYC was held in Kirkenes during the festival Barents Spektakel 2004.

The council consists of one youth representative from each county, oblast, republic and okrug in the region and one representative for indigenous youths. The 14 members of the council will work towards a strengthening of the youth

cooperation in the Barents region. BRYCs secretariat is in the hands of the person responsible for the youth program at the Barents secretariat in Kirkenes. The Secretariat invites the members to the meetings, finds suitable meeting dates and arranges travel and accommodation for the



participants. The Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk has the responsibility to coordinate the participation of the representatives on the Russian side and make plans for travels, arrange visas and spread information BRYCs closest collaborator in the Barents cooperation is the Regional Working group on Youth Issues. (<http://www.barentsyouth.org>)

## Contact information

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## For notes



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