

The Future of Youth Cooperation in the Barents Region

BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Tim Andersson, BRYC Chair

Joensuu 2019



BARENTS REGION POPULATION (2017):

5.2 million

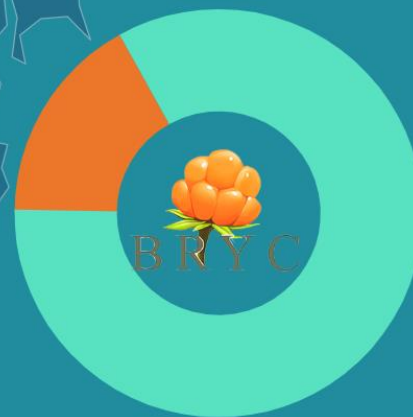
POPULATION UNDER 30

Population aged 16-29 (35.20%) Remaining population (64.80%)

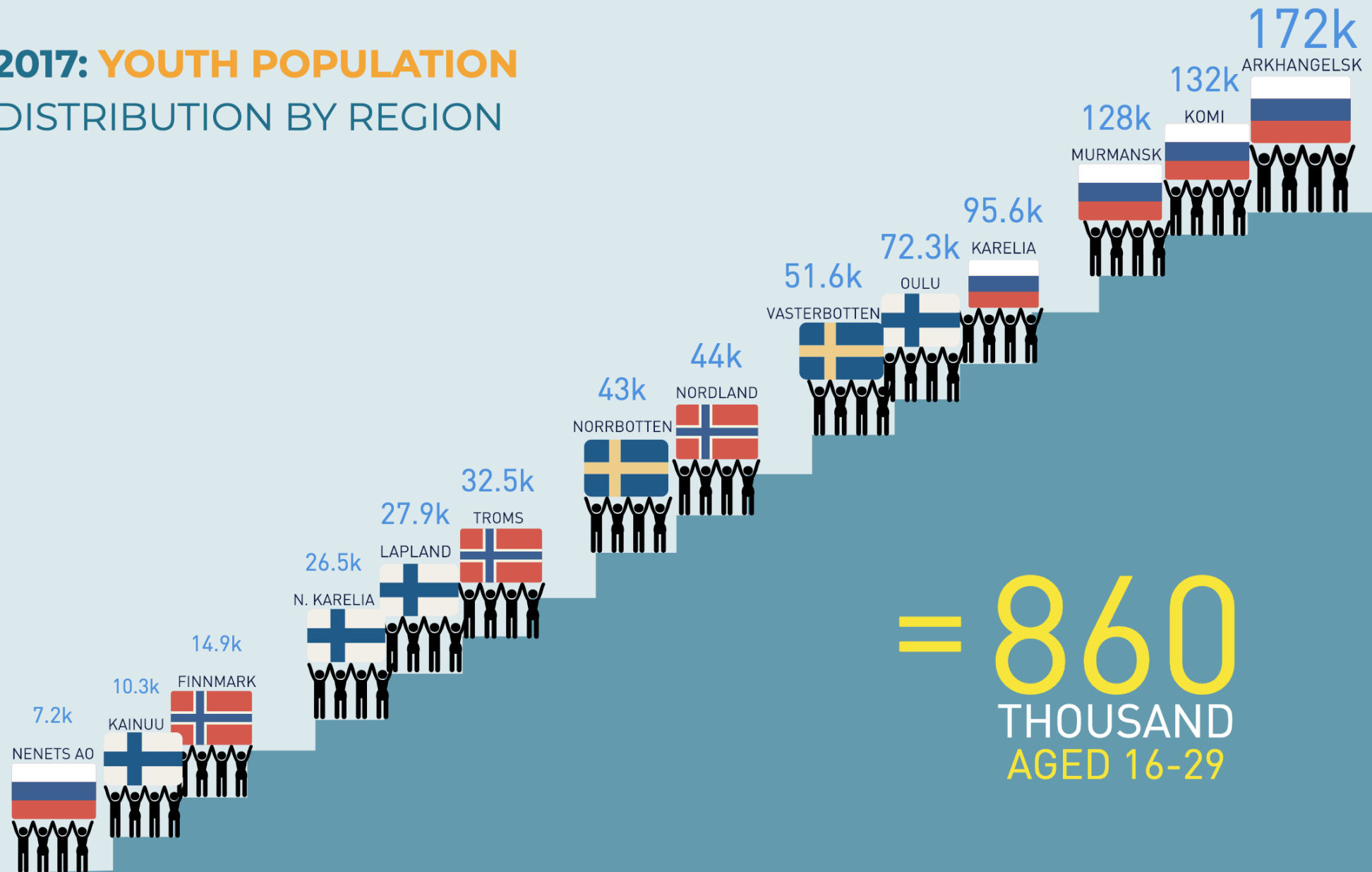


"BARENTS YOUTH" - POPULATION AGED 16-29

Population under 30 (16.90%) Population over 30 (83.10%)



2017: YOUTH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

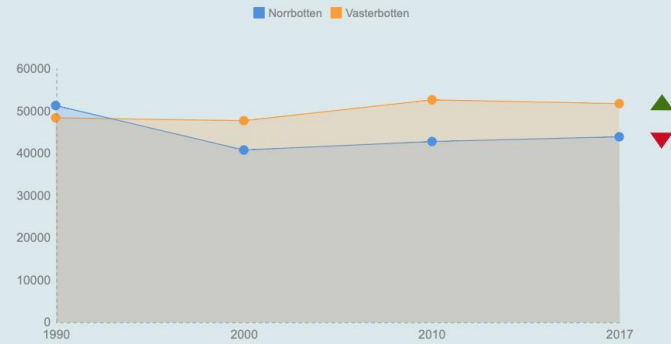




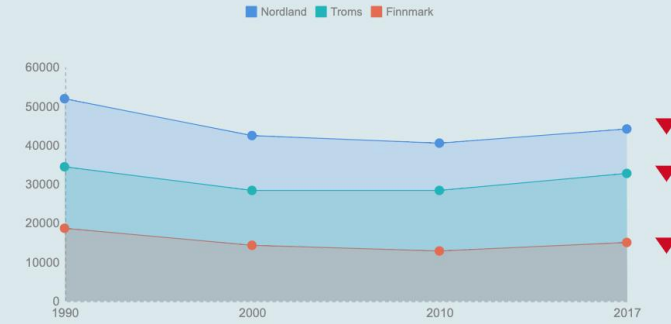
"In the period between
1990 and 2017, the young
population of the Barents
Region (aged 16-29) has
decreased with more than
500 000."



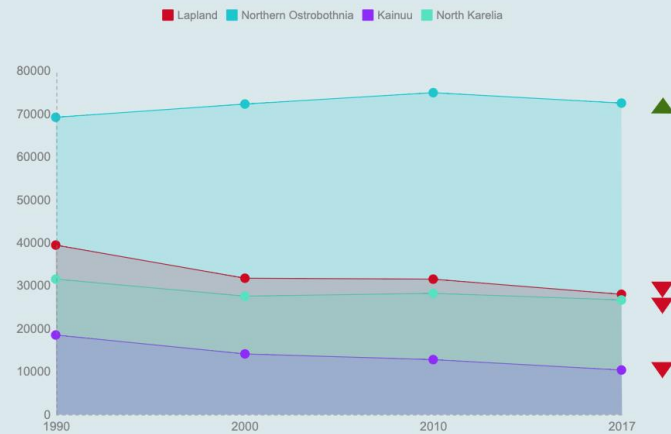
NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS SWEDEN



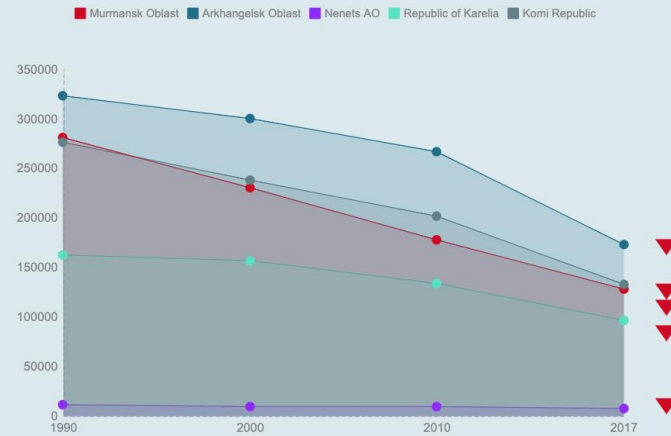
NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS NORWAY



NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS FINLAND



NUMBER OF YOUTH IN BARENTS RUSSIA

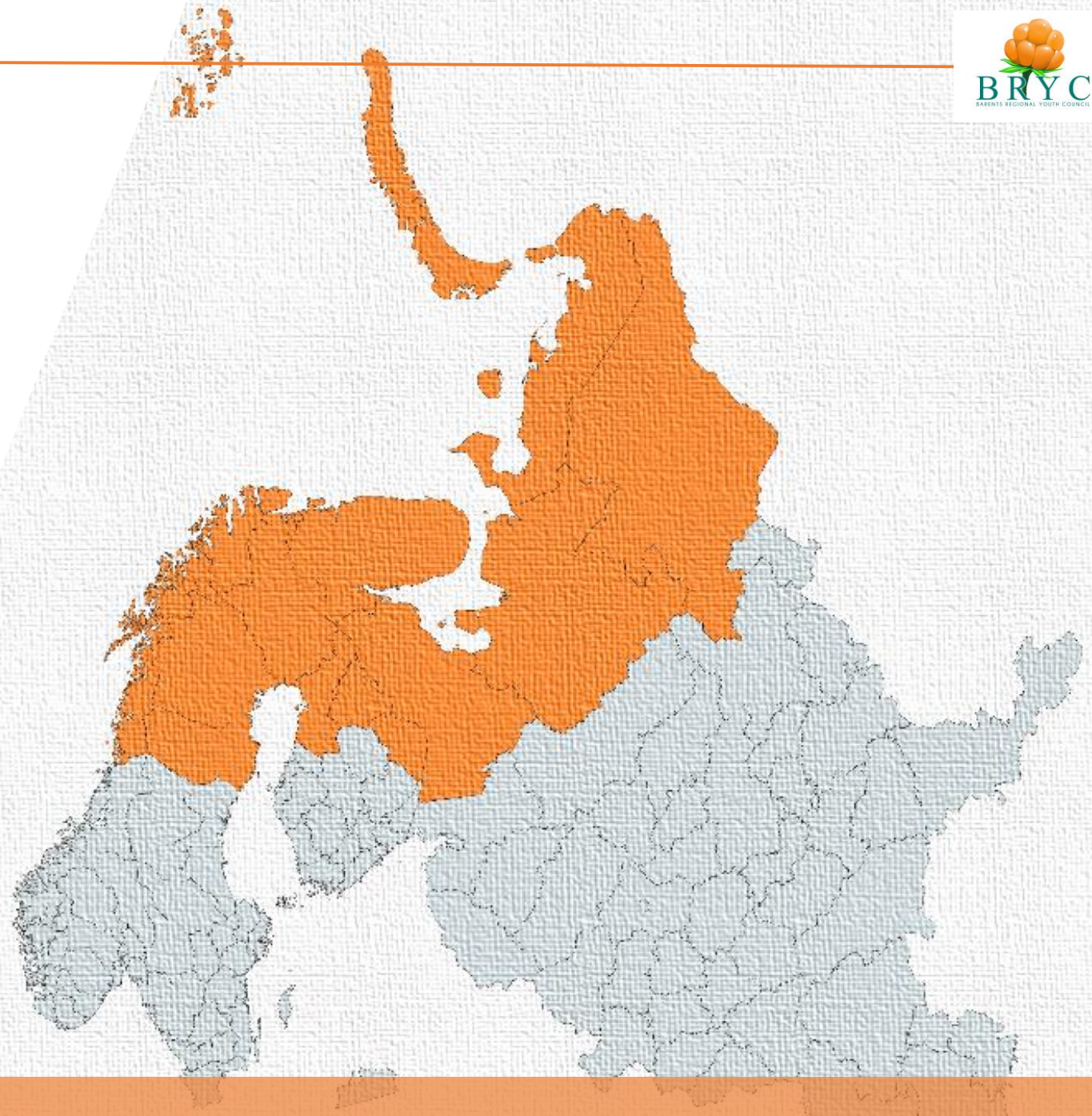




"The only regions where the number of young people has **increased**, are **Vasterbotten** (Sweden) and **Northern Ostrobothnia** (Finland). These regions host two of the largest **universities** in the Barents Region."

YOUNG IN BARENTS

- Understand the Region
14 regions across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia
From Syktyvkar, Komi to Tromsø
From Kirkenes to Petrozavodsk
- 860 000 Youth in the region
- Large industries, natural resources extraction
- Large cities such as Murmansk, 307 257 and Arkhangelsk 348 783
- Small cities Pajala, Sweden 1 958
- Vast differences
- Local youth initiatives, local councils mandated by regulation to student organisations
- No (or little) local youth initiatives in some regions
- A interest for International Cooperation, especially on the Russian side





BARENTS REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

- Established in 2004
- 15 representatives of their local youth community and one representative from the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples
- Meets twice per year
- The Council elects a board which manages the day to day activities
- Funded jointly by all regions in the Barents Cooperation
- Completely voluntarily
- Main goal:
Prevent youth emigration and brain drain of the Barents Region

Trough projects make the region interesting to youth

Addressing important topics which affects youth in the Region

WHAT WE DO

ANNUAL MEETING (spring)

- The meeting is the highest decision-making body of BRYC
- All the 15 council members gather
- Adopts the action plan and budget for the given year (where to participate/what project to initiate)
- Defines the date, theme and location of the upcoming annual event
- Elects a new board and (every 2nd year) a new chair

ANNUAL EVENT (autumn)

- Gathers around 60-70 participants from 4 Barents countries (aged 18-30)
- Program involves plenary discussions, workshops, as well as social and cultural activities
- 3-4 days
- Held in a new Barents location every year
- Promotes the Barents Region
- Aims: barents friendship, improvement of language skills, inspiration from workshops and fun!

OUR PAST AND FUTURE PROJECTS

- Annual Events hosted annually with a specific theme
- Partners in a wide array of projects
Uncapitals, Inversia Media Festival
- Current projects
BRYC Career Development (early 2020)
Barents Gaming Event 2019
Barents Sexual Health Conference 2019-2020
BRYC Indigenous Conference 2019





YOUTH POLICY

- We are the joint voice of youth in the Region
- We are the future of the Region
- Infrastructure of Peace

THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION

- Ideas and interest at an all time high
- Barents Model as a model of peace
- The connected generation
- The generation of change
- Language barrier are decreasing
- Gaming and social media is inherently a cross border activity
- Create a stable environment of cooperation and project/initiatives support



PROJECTS

- Future projects 2020-
De-urbanizing – harnessing
technology for a diverse regional
development

Barents Youth Musical Festival

BRYC Offices

Local projects in Regions



uncapitals: digital heritage

CHALLENGES

- Legislation
- Funding
- Lack of interested youth to lead
- Lack of outreach to a wider audience
- Finding common ground

BRYC BOARD 2018-19



TIM ANDERSSON

SWEDEN

Chair



AUGUST SJØVOLL

INDIGENOUS

Deputy Chair



ALEXANDER TERENCEV

RUSSIA

Board member



JOLANDA MAGGA

FINLAND

Board member



MICHAEL KROTOV

NORWAY

Board member



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@joliennnz



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IN CONCLUSION

YOUTH

860 000 YOUTHS

THE REGION

VAST, RICH IN NATURAL
RESOURCES

BRYC

YOUTH COOPERATION IN
BARENTS

CHALLENGES

FUNDING AND
LEGISLATION

FUTURE

BRIGHT, what else?

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION



barentsyouth

www.barentsyouth.org