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REINDEER
food
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a livelihood
for
the whole family

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BIRGEN

TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE AND
EDUCATION IN
REINDEER
HUSBANDRY

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The Reindeer Herding Women’s Network was officially created in 1999 and has placed at the forefront of its efforts the preservation and development of traditional knowledge in reindeer husbandry.

The intention of the network has been to strengthen family based reindeer herding and education of children and young people. In 2002, the network began working towards the creation of a dedicated educational centre for reindeer husbandry.

In 2008 project BIRGEN was established as a collaboration between the Reindeer Herding Women's Network and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

Project's purpose:

- To strengthen and develop family-based reindeer husbandry.
- To document traditional knowledge and skills in reindeer herding.
- To strengthen the value and visibility of women's work and herding tasks in reindeer husbandry.
- To further develop the Reindeer Herding Women's Network within reindeer husbandry, promote their work with traditional knowledge and training, and liaise externally with the relevant bodies.

Project tasks:

- Maintaining a focus on traditional knowledge and education in reindeer husbandry with special focus on women's participation, in various events such as conferences, workshops and meetings.
- Organising and conducting seminars
- Network Development: Maintaining and expanding the current Reindeer Herding Women’s Network and developing cooperation between various networks in different regions of reindeer husbandry.
- Knowledge development: to gather and systematize information on Reindeer Husbandry such as reports, audiovisual material, teaching materials etc.
- Education: Investigate measures to improve the conditions for traditional knowledge and education in reindeer husbandry, including the development of learning materials.

“Herding has traditionally been a family-based industry. The Gaohti was our home, migrating with reindeer was our life and our means of transportation. Reindeer herds and the siida were at the core of our lifestyle and workplace, and the whole family was present all year round” (Ellen Marie Turi Gaup)

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