
Event 3rd JMC Meeting of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme
Date 8.–9.6.2017
Location Scandic Victoria Oslo
Rosenkrantz' gate 13, 0121 Oslo, Norway
Language The meeting was held in English.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

Thursday 8th June 2017

Members and Deputy Members:

Norway

Skjerpen Arve, the Chairman (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation)
Strand Remi, (Finnmark County Council)
Dahl Irene (Troms County Council)
Aasmo Gunnhild (Nordland County Council)
Lisbeth Nylund (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation)

Finland

Väliheikki Tuulia (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment)
Autere Birgit (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)
Halonen Hilikka (Regional Council of Lapland)
Ruokanen Leena (Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment)
Rautajoki Timo (Lapland Chamber of Commerce)
Penders Elisa (Service Union United for the private service sector PAM)

Russia

Bibichkova Svetlana (Ministry of Economic Development)
Kapyrin Igor (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Smirnov Yuri (Murmansk Region)
Kalinin Alexey (Arkhangelsk Region)
Kungurtsev Sergey (Nenets Autonomous District)

Sweden

Eriksson Maria (Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation)
Lindvall Kristian (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)
Antti Johan (County Administrative Board of Norrbotten)
Berggård Glenn (Region Norrbotten) *joined the meeting at 10:30 in Agenda point 3*
Waara Peter (Norrbotten Association of Local Authorities)
Ylinenpää Malin (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Luleå office)

Other participants:

Kock Matthias, Finnmark County Council
Ekdahl Päivi (Regional Council of Lapland)
Oittinen Riikka (Managing Authority)
Lahdenranta Marjaana (Managing Authority)
Musifullina Renata (Managing Authority)
Lukkari Marja-Riitta, secretary of the meeting (Managing Authority)

Niska-Honkonen Katri (Managing Authority)
Solstad Jan Martin (Vadsø Branch Office)
Pääsuke Kairi (Luleå Branch Office)
Korshunova Julia (Murmansk Branch Office)
Repullo-Grau Anna (EC, DG NEAR)
Puzo Iveta (TESIM)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday 8th June 2017

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chairman of the JMC Arve Skjerpen opened the meeting at 9.10 am. All participants introduced themselves. The updated list of JMC members and deputy members was presented (**Annex 1**) and the meeting Agenda was presented.

The Chairman informed participants on the signing the Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality handed out to Members, Deputy Members and Observers.

Decision:

Participants of the meeting were notified and the quorum was established. Notification on the changes in the list of JMC members and deputy members were noted. Meeting agenda was approved.

2. State of Play of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme

Ms. Anna Repullo-Grau (EC) gave an overview of the status of closing ENPI programmes 2007–2013, including the ex post evaluation study which has been commissioned to learn from the previous programming period and provide recommendations for the current and future periods, as well as on the current status of the ENI CBC Programmes from the EC perspective with a particular focus on the mid-term review which is to be conducted in 2017.

Ms. Svetlana Bibichkova gave an overview of the current status of the Financial Agreement (FA) ratification in Russian Duma. Russian Federation and EC have negotiated how to proceed with correction of the technical mistakes in the FA signed in December 2016, and the procedure (including signature by the other Parties) should be approved before the summer break. Ratification of the FA will be done before end of the year (2017). Igor Kapyrin pointed out that process is purely technical and not aiming to renewing the FA but only correcting the technical mistakes.

Ms. Renata Musifullina (MA) gave presentation (**PP1**) on the results of the 1st Call for Proposals. JMC discussed about the outcomes of the call. Norwegian members pointed out the need to attract financing from the private organizations, since the Programme supports projects under the TO1 (Business and SME development) e.g. encouraging SME's to apply more. JMC also noted that there is lack of applicants from Arkhangelsk and Nenets Regions and maybe by providing more services and information to those areas could be solution to increase the number of applicants from those areas.

Ms. Julia Korshunova, Ms. Kairi Pääsuke and Mr. Jan M Solstad gave an overview of Branch offices' work. Russian BO is legal non-profit entity called "Center for Arctic Project Development" which have been established purely to deal with Kolarctic CBC programme issues. Russian BO has 2 offices, one is located in Murmansk and 2nd will be established in Arkhangelsk in August 2017.

New personnel at MA was introduced to the JMC. Ms. Riikka Oittinen starts as a Programme Manager on 1 August 2017 and Ms. Marja-Riitta Lukkari started as a CBC Coordinator on 1 May 2017.

Decision:

Presentations and information were noted by the JMC. The MA collected comments from the JMC members/deputies to take into notice during 2nd Call for Proposals.

3. Overview of cross-programme collaboration on Arctic issues.

Ms. Päivi Ekdahl (MA) and Ms. Lisbeth Nylund (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway) gave presentation **(PP2)** on the collaboration within Arctic region (NPA).

Ms. Marjaana Lahdenranta (MA) gave presentation **(PP3)** on the participation in the Arctic Project Clustering Event, 10.05.17 Skellefteå, Sweden.

Decision:

Presentations and information were noted by the JMC.

Coffee break 11:00-11:30

4. Information on invitation of applicants to deliver the full application of Large Investment project (LIP)

The JMC made a shortlist of LIP summaries during its 2nd meeting on 27.–28.10.2016 in St. Petersburg and delegated the MA to request clarifications on certain issues and deliver the shortlist of LIP summaries to the EC for consultation.

Following internal consultation, after receiving responses to some complementary information requests, the EC approved the following 3 LIP summaries on 10.04.2017 **(PP4)**:

- Raja-Jooseppi BCP development and reconstruction; traffic arrangements, building and technology;
- Reconstruction of the road Kaamanen – Kirkenes;
- General furnishing and surface infrastructure and surface infrastructure development of the Kola – Vehrnetulomsky – BDP Lotta road.

The MA will request a full application for each approved shortlisted LIP summary. The MA shall carry out the administrative check of LIP full applications. The eligibility and quality check will be performed by MA or external experts in accordance with the criteria of the Administrative and eligibility check of LIP full application **(Annex 2)**. The JMC will approve the LIP full applications on its 4th meeting.

The summary of the fourth LIP proposal, Construction of innovative off-grid power supply system for Arctic conditions, was not approved. Justification to that is two-fold:

Firstly, the partner, *OOO Transzapadstroj*, does not clearly comply with the criteria of award listed in Art 41.1 of the ENI CBC Implementing Rules on (1) de jure or the facto monopoly or (2) actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body based on its technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power and

Secondly, the condition included into the JOP creates an obstacle for the approval of the project, as there are other LIP proposals that should be handled prior to continuing the process with this application. Time constraints are so severe that the process is

impossible to handle by the end of 2017, which is the final deadline of submitting the Full Application to the European Commission.

MA will ask Raja-Jooseppi BCP development and reconstruction; traffic arrangements, building and technology –project to submit full application for total amount of 10,3 M€ programme financing but to divide the application into 2 separate and individually implementable packages (6 M€ and 4,3 M€). This because only after the completion of the mid-term review exercise will be known if the Kolarctic CBC will get the additional financing and without additional financing the whole Raja-Jooseppi LIP cannot be financed. The MA will ask the LP to provide information on the capacity to implement the second packages (4,3 M€) in case the additional financing is not available. Anna Repullo-Grau (EC) pointed out to the need to make sure that the project delivers on all the objectives which were initially foreseen with the funds which are currently available.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC. JMC discussed and approved Administrative and eligibility check of LIP Full applications (**Annex 2**).

Lunch break 12:00 – 13:00

5. Decision on the approval or rejection of the standard projects applications submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals of the Kolarctic CBC Programme

The MA presented an overview to the applications' materials (**Annex 3, Annex 4, Annex 4.1. and Annex 4.2.**). JMC had comments on how to modify Annex 4 for the 2nd call.

The JMC discussed on basic issues and procedures concerning the decisions to be made. JMC agreed that they will discuss the applications in 3 parts. First JMC will discuss on projects that scored over 100 in RAG evaluations, secondly JMC discuss on projects that scored over the average 91.5 points but under 100. In third phase JMC will have discussion on projects that scored less than 91.5 points.

Juhan Antti had conflict of interest on projects KO1017, KO1029, KO1078 and therefore he left the meeting room and did not participate in conversation and decision making of those projects.

Timo Rautajoki had conflict of interest on projects KO1157 and KO1082 and therefore he left the meeting room and did not participate in conversation and decision making of those projects.

Coffee break 14:35–15:00

Decision:

JMC approved following 8 projects that scored more than 100 points to be funded

- KO1001 Arctic Coast Bioremediation
- KO1017 Salmonid Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel– Riverine Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in the Green Belt of Fennoscandia – SALMUS
- KO1029 Barents Region Transport and Logistics
- KO1030 Supporting Environmental Economic and Social Impacts of Mining Activity
- KO1078 Ecological Restoration of Arctic Rivers

- KO1110 Cross-border dialogue and Multi-Use Planning in the Pasvik and Grense Jakobselv catchments
- KO1115 Geo-Bio Hazards in the Arctic Region
- KO1157 Agroforestry in Barents region

JMC approved above mentioned projects with recommendation to diminish the budgets, especially in projects that RAGs have made comments about the size of the budget, and with recommendation that MA will take into account RAG comments during Grant Contracts negotiation phase with Lead Partners.

Meeting for 8th June was closed at 16:35.

18.30 Joint dinner, at 2nd floors restaurant

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

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Skjerpen Arve, the Chairman (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation)
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 Smirnov Yuri (Murmansk Region)
 Kalinin Alexey (Arkhangelsk Region)
 Kungurtsev Sergey (Nenets Autonomous District)

Sweden

Lindvall Kristian (Ministry for Foreign Affairs)
 Antti Johan (County Administrative Board of Norrbotten) *left the meeting at 11:30 in Agenda point 7*
 Berggård Glenn (Region Norrbotten) *left the meeting at 11:30 in Agenda point 7*
 Waara Peter (Norrbotten Association of Local Authorities) *left the meeting at 11:30 in Agenda point 7*

Ylinenpää Malin (Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Luleå office) *left the meeting at 11:30 in Agenda point 7*

Other participants:

Kock Matthias, Finnmark County Council
Ekdahl Päivi (Regional Council of Lapland)
Oittinen Riikka (Managing Authority)
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Niska-Honkonen Katri (Managing Authority)
Solstad Jan Martin (Vadsø Branch Office)
Pääsuke Kairi (Luleå Branch Office) *left the meeting at 11:30 in Agenda point 7*
Korshunova Julia (Murmansk Branch Office)
Repullo-Grau Anna (EC, DG NEAR)
Puzo Iveta (TESIM)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Friday 9th June 2017

The Chairman of the JMC Arve Skjerpen opened the meeting at 9:10 am. Participants of the meeting were notified and the quorum was established. The JMC continues to decide on approval and rejection of the applications on the Agenda point 5.

5. Decision on the approval or rejection of the standard projects applications submitted during the 1st Call for Proposals of the Kolarctic CBC Programme

The JMC continued to decide on approval and rejection of the applications on the Agenda point 5.

Timo Rautajoki had conflict of interest on projects KO1082 and therefore he left the meeting room and did not participate in conversation or decision making of that project.

Decision:

JMC approved following 2 projects that scored more than 100 points at RAG evaluation to be funded

- KO1087 Facility Management of Residential Buildings in Barents region
- KO1089 Green Arctic Building
- By 16th June 2017 at the latest, both projects need to deliver the decision from the Nordland County on the availability of the Norwegian national co-financing for the whole projects' implementation period.
- JMC requires that the Lead Partner of these 2 projects needs to optimize the administrative costs and diminish budgets.

JMC gave two "positive rejections" for projects that got over 100 score in RAG evaluations. The JMC wanted to encourage the partners to come up with an updated project in the next call for proposals

- KO1082 Arctic Railway, with recommendations to take into account in the updated application that project partnership in Russia has to be improved, and

the planned activities must have a clearer impact to the core programme area in Russia

- KO1168 Arctic Connect, with recommendations to take into notice in the updated application that project partnership in Russia has to be improved by ensuring that the Russian partner has the support from the national level of Russian Federation, and the activities of the project have to be elaborated better to show the importance and impacts of the project activities to the programme region.

JMC approved one project that scored more than average point 91.5 but under 100

- KO1013 BRIDGE - Barents Region Initiative for Developing Growth and Employability. JMC required that project needs to decrease the project budget.

JMC rejected all projects that scored less than average 91.5 points in RAG evaluations.

6. Approval of the updated documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2017–30.6.2018

Programme documents have been approved in the 1st JMC meeting in Murmansk for the year 2017. MA has updated the documents for budgetary year 1.7.2017–30.6.2018. Ms. Päivi Ekdahl presented the Work Programme 2017–2018, including the indicative schedule to open the 2nd and 3rd Calls for Proposals in 2017 and 2018 and the indicative Programme financing to be allocated for the Calls (**Annex 5**). The JMC also received prior to the JMC meeting Information and Communication Plan 2017–2018 (**Annex 6**), Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2017–2018 (**Annex 7**), Risk Management Plan 2017-2018 (**Annex 8**) and Technical Assistance budget 2017–2018 (**Annex 9**).

Decision:

The JMC discussed and approved the Program documents. Work Programme 2017–2018 was approved with amendment to the schedules of 2nd and 3rd Call for Proposals. The 2nd all will be open from the last week of June to end of September 2017 and the 3rd call is open from beginning of April to end of June 2018.

The 2nd Call is open to Priority Axes 1 and 2, and to Thematic Objectives TO1 Business and SME development, TO7 Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate-proof transport and communication networks and systems and to TO10 Promotion of border management and border security, mobility and migration management.

The JMC discussed about the possibility to include information on Cooperation with projects financed from other Arctic programmes (both EU-financed and other, i.e. national programmes) to guidelines of the 2nd Call for Proposals. In addition the JMC pointed out the need to promote the TO1 Business and SME development during the 2nd Call for Proposals.

Combined Programme financing (EU-financing, Finnish and Russian state co-financing) at 2nd call was increased up to 8,045,000 euros because of the savings from the 1st call. Norwegian Kolarctic financing remained same than decided in the 2nd meeting of the JMC 1,897,600 euros. Total financing for the 2nd Call for Proposals is 9,942,600 euros.

The remaining programme funding for TO6 Environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation will be available at the 3rd Call for Proposals.

Coffee break 10:15-10:40

7. Discussion of the Application pack for the 2nd Call for Proposals

The JMC discussed about the Application pack for the 2nd Call for proposals.

- Application form (**Annex 10**) and its annexes:
 - Budget specification (**Annex 10.1**);
 - Logical Framework Matrix (**Annex 10.2**);
 - State Co-Financing Or Norwegian Kolarctic Financing Form (**Annex 10.3**);
 - Partnership statement (**Annex 10.4**);
 - Result indicators (**Annex 10.5**);
- Guidelines for the 2nd Call for Proposals (**Annex 11**);
- Eligibility evaluation checklist for the MA and BOs (**Annex 12**);
- Evaluation grid for RAGs (**Annex 13**).

Decision:

The JMC discussed the Application pack of the 2nd Call for Proposals and approved evaluation GRID.

8. Any other business

Decision:

No any other business.

9. Next meeting

Decision:

Next meeting will be held in Tromsø 7th-8th December starting at 2 pm.

10. Closing of the meeting at 12:05

Decision:

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:05 Norwegian time.

Mr. Arve Skjerpen
Chairman of the JMC

Ms. Marja-Riitta Lukkari
Secretary of the JMC

List of Annexes

- Annex 1** JMC Rules of Procedure (RoP) including list of Members and Deputy members of the JMC
- Annex 2** Administrative and eligibility check of LIP full application
- Annex 3** Evaluation Grid for RAGs, 1st Call for Proposals
- Annex 4** Summary of applications
- Annex 4.1** List of RAG scores and comments to applications
- Annex 4.2** Ranking of RAG scores from highest to lowest
- Annex 5** Work Programme 2017–2018
- Annex 6** Information and Communication Plan 2017–2018
- Annex 7** Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2017–2018
- Annex 8** Risk Management Plan 2017-2018
- Annex 9** Technical Assistance Action plan 2017-2018
- Annex 10** Application form
- Annex 10.1** Budget specification
- Annex 10.2** Logical Framework Matrix
- Annex 10.3** State Co-Financing Or Norwegian Kolarctic Financing Form
- Annex 10.4** Partnership statement
- Annex 10.5** Result indicators
- Annex 11** Guidelines for the 2nd Call for Proposals
- Annex 12** Administrative and eligibility checklist
- Annex 13** Evaluation grid for RAGs

PowerPoint presentations

- PP1** Results of the 1st Call for Proposals
- PP2** Presentation on Arctic activities
- PP3** Arctic clustering event
- PP4** LIPs