**Event**  
5th JMC Meeting of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme

**Date**  
24.04.2018 (10:05 – 17:27)

**Location**  
Cumulus Resort Pohjanhovi  
Koskikatu 23, Rovaniemi, Finland

**Language**  
The meeting was held in English.

### PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

#### Members and Deputy Members

**Finland**  
Petri Haapalainen, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment  
Birgit Autere, Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Markus Korjonen, Regional Council of Lapland  
Olli Mourujärvi, Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment  
Jari Koivumaa, Trade Union Confederation AKAVA for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland, regional office of Lapland

**Norway**  
Lisbeth Nylund, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation  
Stephanie Bjøro, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Remi Strand, Finnmark County Council  
Sonja Alice Steen, Nordland County Council

**Russia**  
Anna Popova, Ministry of Economic Development  
Igor Kapyrin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ilya Ostapchuk, Murmansk Region  
Sergey Kungurtsev, Nenets Autonomous District  
Elena Demidova, Arkhangelsk Region

**Sweden**  
Kristian Lindvall, Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Glenn Berggård, Region Norrbotten  
Peter Waara, Norrbotten Association of Local Authorities

#### Other participants

Julia Savkina, Ministry of Economic Development  
Axel Rød, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation  
José Antonio Gómez, EC, DG NEAR  
Iveta Puzo, TESIM  
Päivi Ekdahl, Regional Council of Lapland  
Kairi Pääsuke, Luleå Branch Office  
Jan M. Solstad, Vadsø Branch Office  
Linda Mosand, Vadsø Branch Office  
Julia Korshunova, Murmansk Branch Office  
Riikka Oittinen, Managing Authority  
Katri Niska-Honkonen, Managing Authority  
Marjaana Lahdenranta, Managing Authority  
Renata Musifullina, Managing Authority  
Mari Lämsä, Managing Authority  
Marja-Riitta Lukkari, secretary of the meeting, Managing Authority
The morning plane from Helsinki to Rovaniemi was cancelled and the Finnish members at the central government level, including the chair of the JMC Petri Haapalainen, were therefore not present when the meeting was supposed to begin. Ms. Päivi Ekdahl chaired the organisation of the meeting in this exceptional circumstance. The JMC agreed that Mr. Kristian Lindvall acts as a chair for the JMC until Mr. Petri Haapalainen arrives.

Mr. Kristian Lindvall opened the meeting for discussion at 10:05. The Participants of the meeting were notified but the quorum was not established. The changes in the list of JMC Members and Deputy Members were noted. The JMC discussed about additions to the partnerships of projects KO2011 and KO2100 (Agenda point 3), Evaluation Grid and Application pack (Agenda point 5), Programme documents (Agenda point 6) and Project Implementation manual (Agenda point 7). The decisions on discussed agenda points were made after the quorum was established, under the chairmanship of Mr. Petri Haapalainen.

The JMC had a break 12:30–14:30. Mr. Petri Haapalainen and Ms. Birgit Autere joined the meeting at 14:30.

1. Opening of the meeting, approval of the Agenda of the meeting
   The Chairman of the JMC Mr. Petri Haapalainen opened the meeting for decisions at 14:30. The updated list of JMC members and deputy members (Annex 1) and the meeting agenda were presented.

   **Decision:**
   The Participants of the meeting was notified and the quorum was established. The amended meeting Agenda was adopted. The Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality was not handed out because no funding applications were discussed at the meeting.

2. State of Play of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme
   Ms. Anna Popova (Deputy Head of Department for Development and Regulation of External Economic Activities, Ministry of Economic Development of Russia) gave an overview of the ratification process of the Financing Agreement in Russian Duma. Ratification shall take place in State Duma during the spring session that ends on 29.07.2018. The Financing Agreement shall be in force on the first day of the second month after ratification.

   Mr. José Antonio Gómez (Head of Sector Cross Border Cooperation, EC, DG NEAR) gave an update concerning the designation of the Managing Authority and the situation of LIPs. European Commission has carried out a system audit of the MA for the designation. EC has provided its comments and recommendations, which do not question the designation of the MA of the Kolarctic Programme. LIPs are on process in the EC and EC will deliver its comments for Kolarctic CBC LIPs during summer.

   Mr. Gómez told also about some changes in the administrative level of the CBC ENI Programmes. Mr. Lucian Jega will be in charge of the Kolarctic CBC Programme. There has been made an agreement in principle that ENI CBC Programmes will move from DG NEAR to DG Regio from the beginning of 2019. Formal decision will be made later. Mr. Gómez also reminded that gender issues are important for the CBC Programmes. There will be Consultation and Coordination Group Meeting for the MAs in Brussels.
12.06.2018 on various topics. Preparation of the next programming period has started and the Multi-annual Financial Framework post 2020 is under debate.

Overview of Norwegian and Swedish co-financing. In the JMC meeting held in Troms 07–08.12.2017, the Russian and Finnish delegations pointed out the need to address why some applications with high scores from the RAG evaluations do not seem to succeed in getting Norwegian national co-financing. After the JMC meeting in Troms, the gained experience, current practice, and the possibilities for improvements of practice on the Norwegian side have been discussed. Ms. Lisbeth Nylund (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation) gave a short overview of the suggested adjustments of practice. The Norwegian participating regions and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation have agreed, that the Norwegian co-financing for the entire project period must be confirmed in writing to the MA at least 4 weeks before the application is processed in the JMC. This will be explained and clarified in the guidelines for the 3. and coming calls. The MA and Norwegian BO will actively inform and guide the applicants to secure this practice to be implemented.

Ms. Riikka Oittinen (Programme Manager, MA) gave an overview on approved projects and presentation on committed financing.

Ms. Riikka Oittinen (Programme Manager, MA) gave an overview on status of the contracting of the projects from the first and second Calls for Proposals. The budget negotiation are planned to be finished before the summer break.

Ms. Kairi Pääsuke (Senior Advisor, BO Sweden), Mr. Jan M Solstad (Programme Coordinator BO Norway), Ms. Julia Korshunova (Head of Russian BO) gave an overview on the Branch offices’ work.

Ms. Lisbeth Nylund (Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway) gave an update about the Arctic Cooperation pilot, lead by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The Arctic ETC/CBC Programmes NPA, Nord, Botnia Atlantica and Kolarctic have developed a road map for cooperation, based both on project and development of strategic cooperation. So far, there has been practical cooperation like clustering activities between projects, an Arctic (project) Award and joint participation in programme annual events. The Arctic Award 2017 was chosen from projects funded by the Arctic EU programmes. Ms. Nylund made a request that the JMC could play a more active role in cross programme Arctic issues e.g. participating the events, being aware of themes/projects of interest in other programmes and networks in the Arctic, to contribute even more to the Arctic cooperation.

Ms. Päivi Ekdahl (Regional Council of Lapland, Finland) told that Artic Awards will be organised also in 2018 and the winner will be announced during the European Week of Regions and Cities 2018 in Brussels in reception organised after the NSPA-workshop. Cooperation of the Arctic Programmes is active also in other fields, i.e. clustering event for the stakeholders is planned to be organised in autumn 2018, Kolarctic CBC-programme is carrying the main responsibility of the organisation.

Decision:
Presentations and information was noted by the JMC. The JMC decided that in cases the applicant has applied for co-financing from other sources, this must be confirmed by the recipient. The confirmation about the financing decision must be delivered written to the MA latest four (4) weeks before the JMC meeting.
3. **(a) Approval of addition to the partnership of the project KO2011 Arctic Railway Infrastructure in Kolarctic II to be financed by the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme.**

The Managing Authority during the Grant Contract negotiation has a request for an amendment from the Lead Partner Northern Research Institute Narvik (Norway) to add the Finnish Transport Agency (Finland) as a Partner to the project KO2011 Arctic Railway Infrastructure in Kolarctic II (ARINKA II) to be financed by the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme. The project in question was approved by the JMC on 07th–08th of December 2017 in Tromsø with a condition: *The role of the Finnish Transport Agency must be included in the project.*

The requested addition to the project partnership would not change the total budget of the project. The role of the Finnish Transport Agency and the new division of the project costs between the Finnish partners was presented in [Annex 16](#).

**(b) Approval of addition to the partnership of the project KO2100 Ice Operations to be financed by the Kolarctic CBC 2014 – 2020 Programme.**

The Managing Authority during the Grant Contract negotiation has a request for an amendment from the Lead Partner Northern Research Institute Narvik (Norway) to add the Finnish Meteorological Institute (Finland) as a Partner to the project KO2100 Ice Operations (ICEOP) to be financed by the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme. The project in question was approved by the JMC on 07th–08th of December 2017 in Tromsø.

The requested addition to the project partnership would not change the total budget of the project. The role of the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the new division of the project costs between the Finnish partners was presented in [Annex 17](#).

**Decision:**
The JMC approved proposed changes to the project KO2011 Arctic Railway Infrastructure in Kolarctic II and project KO2100 Ice Operations.

For future requests for modification of projects proposals after the award decisions the JMC asks the MA to assess if the requested changes are substantial and call into question the compliance with one or more of the exclusion, eligibility or selection criteria or if the changes affect the assessment of the award criteria laid down in the call for proposal. The JMC will make the decision according to the assessment.

The MA must bear in mind:
- the principle of equal treatment of applicants in the light of the pre-determined criteria;
- the principle of transparency;
- the obligation to state reasons for any decision that is taken after changes have been brought to their attention.

The MA can use the European Commission’s note to the attention of the Joint Managing Authorities of ENPI CBC Programmes 2011 (Annex 18) as a general guidance or as a reference together with other considerations when making the assessment. The JMC wants to highlight that changes made after the award decision are assessed case by case and the changes made to the project proposal must improve the quality of the project.
4. **Opening the 3rd Call for Proposals**

In the previous meeting in Troms 07.–08.12.2017, the JMC decided that the 3rd Call is open from 3.5.2018 until 28.9.2018, and authorized the MA to allocate the remaining financing to the 3rd Call for Proposals.

**Decision:**

The Joint Monitoring Committee decides that the 3rd Call for Proposals will be postponed and will be open from 21.9.2018 until 21.12.2018 because the designation of the Managing Authority and the ratification of the Financing Agreement are still on process. There will not be any limit for the budgets of applications. The JMC authorizes the MA to define the amount of funding to be allocated in the 3rd Call when opening the Call.

5. **Approval of the Evaluation Grid and discussion about the Application pack for the 3rd Call for Proposals**

In the previous meeting in Troms 07.–08.12.2017, the JMC decided to approve the Application pack for the 3rd Call for Proposals in the meeting held in Rovaniemi 24.04.2018. The JMC recommended the MA to involve the RAGs in the updating of the Evaluation Grid.

The MA and the BOs made a common proposal to the JMC on the Evaluation Grid, taking into account the comments of the RAGs.

Ms. Marja-Riitta Lukkari (CBC Coordinator, MA) gave a short presentation on the effect of the multiplier in the subsection Multilaterality / bilaterality to the project ranking.

Ms. Renata Musifullina (CBC Expert, MA) gave a presentation of the internal monitoring towards Programme objectives. Results of the internal monitoring show that there are lack of projects under Priority axis 2, TO7 and TO10.

Application pack for the 3rd Call for Proposals includes:

- Evaluation Grid *(Annex 2)*
- Application form annexes: *(Annex 3-8)*
  - Budget specification form
  - Logical Framework Matrix form
  - State co-financing or Norwegian Kolarctic financing form
  - Partnership statement form
  - Result indicators form
  - Financial capacity figures form
- Guidelines for the 3rd Call for Proposals *(Annex 9)*
- Administrative and eligibility checklist for the MA and BOs *(Annex 10)*.

**Decision:**

The JMC approved the Evaluation Grid by following changes:

- Changes to the text on the first page: The RAG must (not should) give written (not verbal) comments whenever the given scores are less than 3 or when the application get maximus scores 5. Written comments are highly recommended in every score.
- Sub-section 6: The project’s impact on the development of equality between the genders: a footnote about the meaning of “gender stereotypes” will be added.
- Sub-section 11: What is your estimation about the total size of the project budget: amendment to the question … to the total size and headlines of the project budget.
6. **Discussion about the Programme documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2018–30.6.2019**

The essential Programme documents are:

- Information and Communication plan 2018–2019 *(Annex 12)*
- Technical Assistance budget 2018–2019 *(Annex 14).*


**Decision:**

Information was noted by the JMC and the JMC discussed about the documents. Progress indicators will be sent to the JMC for consultation in 14th May 2018. The Programme documents will be updated according to the conversation and the updated documents will be approved in a Written Procedure 07.06. – 21.06.2018.

7. **For information to the JMC**

Project implementation Manual draft *(Annex 15)*

**Decision:**

The JMC discussed about the document. The JMC asked the MA to ask comments about the implementation manual from National Authorities and Control Contact Points before publishing the manual.

8. **Any other business**

Nomination of the Control Contact Points. Names from the Russia and Finland exists. In the meeting the Norwegian delegation gave the names of the Norwegian Control Contact Point: Ingebjørg Fiskum and Blaga Riiser. The Managing Authority is still waiting for the names from Sweden.

The JMC wants to see project introductions in the next JMC meeting.

9. **Next meeting**

Next meeting will be held in Helsinki in the last week of November.
10. Closing of the meeting
The Chair closed the meeting at 17:27 Finnish time.

Petri Haapalainen
Chair of the JMC

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  Evaluation GRID
Annex 3  Budget specification form
Annex 4  Logical Framework Matrix form
Annex 5  State co-financing or Norwegian Kolarctic financing form
Annex 6  Partnership statement form
Annex 7  Result indicators form
Annex 8  Financial capacity figures form
Annex 9  Guidelines for the 3rd Call for Proposals
Annex 10 Administrative and eligibility checklist for the MA and BOs
Annex 12  Information and Communication plan 2018–2019
Annex 13  Work Programme 2018–2019
Annex 14  Technical Assistance budget 2018–2019
Annex 15  Project implementation Manual draft
Annex 16  Addition to partnership of KO2011
Annex 17  Addition to partnership of KO2100
Annex 18  Note to the attention of the Joint Managing Authorities of ENPI CBC Programmes 2011