

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-Honkosen, Managing Authority
 Marjaana Lahdenranta, Managing Authority
 Renata Musifullina, Managing Authority
 Mari Lämsä, Managing Authority
 Marja-Riitta Lukkari, secretary of the meeting, Managing Authority

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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 Arctic 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 maximum 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.

- Sub-section 12: Multilaterality / Bilaterality: the coefficient is raised to 4 for the 3rd CFP.
- Sub-section 13: How good is the Lead Partner's and Partner's capacity: The evaluation scores are 1–5. This will be an exclusive sub-section. If the average score of the RAG:s is less than 3, the project should be rejected.

The JMC agreed that letter of supports annexed to the applications can be taken into account when appropriate.

The JMC asked the MA to update the Guidelines for 3rd Call for Proposals with the information about co-financing from other sources as the JMC decided in the Agenda point 2. Guidelines should also encourage projects participating in Priority axis 2, TO7 and TO10.

6. Discussion about the Programme documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2018–30.6.2019

The essential Programme documents are:

- Risk Management Plan 2018–2019 (**Annex 11**)
- Information and Communication plan 2018–2019 (**Annex 12**)
- Work Programme 2018–2019 (**Annex 13**)
- Technical Assistance budget 2018–2019 (**Annex 14**).

Ms. Renata Musifullina (CBC Expert, MA) gave a **presentation** on the Progress Indicators. Presentation related to the updating of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2018–2019.

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 11** Risk Management Plan 2018–2019
- 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