
Event	7th JMC Meeting of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme
Date	11-12 April 2019 (12:00-16:10 & 9:05-14:35)
Location	Clarion Hotel Arlanda Airport, Stockholm-Arlanda
Language	The meeting was held in English.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

Members and Deputy Members

- Finland** Helinä Yli-Knuutila, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (joined the meeting 11.4. at 12:07)
 Birgit Autere, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 Hilikka Halonen, Regional Council of Lapland (left the meeting 12.4. after lunch)
 Olli Mourujärvi, Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
 Timo Rautajoki, Lapland Chamber of Commerce (joined the meeting 11.4. at 13:09)
 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
 Elin Eikeland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Remi Strand, Finnmark County Council
 Irene Dahl, Troms County Council
 Arve Knutsen, Nordland County Council
- Russia** Anna Popova, Ministry of Economic Development (present 12.4.)
 Syuzanna Vatfa, Ministry of Economic Development (present 12.4.)
 Igor Kapyrin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (present 12.4.)
 Ilya Ostapchuk, Murmansk Region
 Sergey Kungurtsev, Nenets Autonomous District
 Elena Demidova, Arkhangelsk Region
- Sweden** Maria Eriksson, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
 Johan Antti, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten
 Glenn Berggård, Region Norrbotten
 Sarah Karlsson, Norrbotten Association of Local Authorities
 Malin Ylinenpää, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Luleå office
- Other participants**
 Marcello Mori, EC, DG NEAR (joined the meeting 11.4. at 13:35)
 Lyubov Zarubina, Northern Arctic Federal University, Russian RAG member (observer in the meeting)

Iiris Mäntyranta, Norrbotten County Council, Swedish RAG member
(observer in the meeting)
Gunnhild Aasmoe, Nordland County Council, Norwegian RAG member
(observer the meeting)
Päivi Ekdahl, Regional Council of Lapland
Anna-mari Ruisniemi, Luleå Branch Office
Jan M. Solstad, Vadsø Branch Office
Linda Mosand, Vadsø Branch Office
Olga Klisheva, Arkhangelsk Branch Office
Riikka Oittinen, Managing Authority
Katri Niska-Honkonen, Managing Authority
Marjaana Lahdenranta, Managing Authority
Renata Musifullina, Managing Authority
Svetlana Peltoperä, Managing Authority
Katja Kursu, secretary of the meeting, Managing Authority

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday 11.4.2019

1. Opening of the meeting, approval of the Agenda of the meeting

The Chair of the JMC Maria Eriksson opened the meeting at 12:00 (Swedish time). The participants of the meeting presented themselves and the meeting agenda was presented. The Chair noted that there was no quorum because Russian national authorities were missing.

Decision:

- Participants of the meeting were notified
- Declarations of impartiality and confidentiality was handed out
- Meeting agenda was approved.

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

- Status of the contracting and launching of the projects.
Riikka Oittinen told that all standard projects (18) and LIPs (3) are contracted, the first ones in October 2018 and the last two ones the 1st of March 2019. All except for four projects have had their kick-off meetings, the last four will have them in April-May. The first interim report is coming probably in May 2019. Every project has a named contact person in the MA.
- Financing committed and available.
Katri Niska-Honkonen gave a presentation on the committed and available financing (**Annex 1**). Possible transfers of the available EU financing between the Thematic Objectives will be decided during the meeting. There are 5,4 MEUR EU financing left to be allocated in this meeting.
- Overview on the Branch offices' work.
Anna-mari Ruisniemi told that she acts as the deputy BO representative after Kairi Pääsuke left for another post. They are looking for a new permanent employee to Swedish BO. During the spring, the BO's work has focused on the organization of project evaluation and the RAG meetings.
Jan M. Solstad, Programme Coordinator, BO Norway told that Norwegian BO has concentrated on approved/ongoing projects. During the 3rd call for Proposals Kolarctic Norway tried to inform non-public sector by direct emails. One common info meeting was held for all types of interests.
Olga Klisheva told that Russian BO's work has focused on organization of RAGs meetings in February 2019, consulting of ongoing projects, translating Programmes documents and website updating.

Decision:

Presentations and information were noted by the JMC.

3. Monitoring of the implementation of the Programme by using progress indicators. Presentation on monitoring results.

Renata Musifullina gave a presentation on Programme progress indicators (**Annex 2**). Report on indicators will be presented after all the Grant Contracts from the 3rd Call are signed.

Decision:

Presentation and information were noted by the JMC.

4. Presentation and preliminary discussion of the Programme documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2019 – 30.6.2020:

- Work Programme 2019–2020

Olli Mourujärvi announced about having a conflict of interest concerning the lines about LIPs, and left the room for the discussion on the Work Programme.

Riikka Oittinen told about updates in the Work Programme. The focus of the Programme activities is on the ongoing projects.

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2019–2020

Olli Mourujärvi announced about having a conflict of interest concerning the lines about LIPs, and left the room for the discussion on the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

Renata Musifullina told about updates in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The impact/result evaluation will be made probably in 2021. On the spot checks concern each of the four countries.

- Risk Management Plan 2019–2020

Riikka Oittinen told about the updates made in the Risk Register.

- Information and Communication Plan 2019–2020

Marjaana Lahdenranta told about the updates made in the Information and Communication Plan.

The Programme's website was updated in spring 2019. The information is no more focused on how to apply for financing, but on the activities and results of the financed projects. The target group is no more potential applicants, but stakeholders and larger audience.

- Technical Assistance budget 2019–2020

Katri Niska-Honkonen presented the rough frame of the Technical Assistance budget. More detailed information will be included in the materials to the Written Procedure in June.

Johan Antti pointed out that even though there will be a half-time employee in Swedish BO from now until the end of this programme period, there will be one full time employee in the next Programme 2021 – 2027.

Riikka Oittinen asked the Russian National Authority to give comments on Murmansk Stakeholder Conference preparation, since it has an influence on the Work Programme, Information and Communication Plan and especially the Technical Assistance budget.

Decision:

The JMC discussed and commented the documents, and was asked to send possible additional comments to the documents to the MA by the end of April. The MA will update the documents according to the JMC's comments, and they will be approved in the 9th Written Procedure in June 2019. The presentation of the MA on the Programme documents is enclosed to the Minutes (**Annex 3**).

5. Update information on the Arctic Programmes' co-operation.

Riikka Oittinen gave an overview on the Arctic Programmes' co-operation. There are five programmes included in the cooperation: Interreg Botnia-Atlantica, Interreg Nord, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, Karelia CBC and Kolarctic CBC. The 2nd Arctic Clustering Project Call is open until the end of April 2019. The Arctic Awards competition is open until April 26. More information about both calls on www.interreg-npa.eu

The 1st Arctic Cooperation Conference will be held on 18th September 2019 in Copenhagen. It will be a high-level invitation only event, targeting to the decision makers on international, EU, national and regional level, as well as organisations dealing with the Arctic from a policy perspective.

Arctic cooperation will be presented at the Interreg annual event in Bucharest in May, and, according to the preliminary plans, also in the EU Arctic Forum in Umeå in October this year.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

6. Update information on Post2020 preparation.

Maria Eriksson told that the new sector regulation and the new CBC cooperation regulation are under preparation and negotiated in the Council. There will be a General Affairs Council meeting dedicated to Cohesion Policy Post2020 in June 2019. For the moment there are no 'trilogues' between the Council, the Parliament and the Commission due to the upcoming election to the European parliament. The discussion will be re-established in autumn 2019.

Helinä Yli-Knuutila added that there is a very intensive discussion on Interreg regulation going on. External CBC cooperation is an important part of the negotiations, the discussion has been quite difficult, but from the Finland's perspective it looks rather good.

The next president of the EU Council after Romania is Finland in the autumn this year, and Croatia will take the presidency in January 2020.

Marcello Mori told that there has been some progress in the Council level concerning the transfer of the management of the ENI CBC Programmes from DG NEAR to DG REGIO: The transfer will take place in January 2020. All the measures related to the closure of the ENPI Programme will be taken with DG NEAR, it will approve the ENPI Annual Reports and Final report in the summer this year. The preparation of the next programme period is made under the responsibility of DG REGIO. The Programme staff will start to write the Annual Report 2018-2019 in October 2019 under DG NEARs management, but will submit it to the Commission in February 2020, under DG REGIOs management. The reporting system, templates and instructions should be updated in time. The next Annual Conference will be arranged by DG REGIO. Mrs Simone Pavlova is a new CBC team leader in DG REGIO. TESIM will continue to operate until October 2022.

CBC Programmes are the only ones with shared management, and there are separate regulations for internal and external programmes. The new regulation for the new programme period will replace the current ones. Preparations are going on and the stakeholders are involved in it. TESIM will send to the programmes a questionnaire in the nearest days, and the results will be discussed in the Interreg Annual Event in Bucharest in May 22-23. The regulation must be ready by January 2020.

Norwegian delegation added that Norway's participation in the negotiations is still open. Helinä Yli-Knuutila raised up the importance of participation of the partner countries in the discussion. Maria Eriksson added that Sweden has to choose the programmes in which it will participate, due to diminishing financial possibilities.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

7. Information on participation in the ENI CBC Consultation and Coordination Group meeting and the ENI CBC Annual Conference held in Rome 9-10 April, 2019.

Riikka Oittinen gave an overview on the 4th meeting of the ENI CBC Consultation and Coordination Group.

First, the State of play of the 15 ENI Programmes was presented: all the FAs are signed, ratified and in force, 10 out of 15 MAs are designated, all the 53 LIPs are approved by the Commission and 20 of them are contracted. The transfer of the management of the ENI CBC Programmes from DG NEAR to DG REGIO was discussed (overview was given by Marcello Mori earlier in the meeting), preliminary results of the ROM missions to the Programmes (overview given by Marcello Mori, notes in latter paragraph in this point of the Minutes), Harmonised Implementation Tools (discussion with Interreg and CBC programmes is going on, FI-RU CBC Programmes work together in this, working groups are established), Post2020 (overviews were given earlier in the meeting).

After the common meeting there were bilateral meetings between the programmes and the Commission representatives. The FI-RU Programmes had a common bilateral meeting, with the following topics:

- In Kolarctic CBC, the planned Swedish national co-financing will most probably not be realised. This will however not reduce the EU financing, because there is own contribution from the partners in the projects.
- Transfer of EU financing from one TO to another in Kolarctic CBC: transfers of 20% can be made with notification to the Commission; transfers bigger than 20% need an amendment in JOP, the Commission's approval takes as minimum three months.
- Payments from the EC to the Programmes (concerning all the three FI-RU Programmes): the amounts that haven't been applied because of the delayed start of the Programme's implementation, can be applied within latter payment requests.
- Use of the Technical Assistance for the preparation of the next programme. The Commission will send to the programmes a letter with alignment and instruction.

There was also a common meeting between the seven EU-Russia CBC programmes and the Russian National Authority, represented by Syuzanna Vatfa, about organising the functions of the Russian Control Contact Point. The meeting served as a preliminary exchange, the discussion will continue.

Marcello Mori gave an overview on the report of the ROM mission made in October 2018 in Kolarctic CBC Programme. The draft was sent to the Managing Authority for comments a week before the JMC meeting, the late deliver of the report was because of human factors faced in the Commission. Having received the Managing Authority's comments, the Commission will make the revised final report, which will be sent to the JMC by the Managing Authority.

In general, the results of the ROM missions are as follows: All 15 Programmes got good results. The delay in the FAs' stepping into force affected in the timetable of signing the Grant Contracts, but the programmes still have time to meet the objectives. 80% of the questions are marked with a "green flag", which is a positive feedback. There are a few specific notes, for example on choice of partners in the region, small number of eligibility partners and new partners, weak geographical presentation, target values and indicators.

Birgit Autere and Marcello Mori reflected the Annual Conference, the topics were mostly the same as in the Consultation and Coordination Group meeting.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

Coffee break 14:55-15:36

8. Transfer of the available EU financing between the Thematic Objectives (TO).

Due to the unbalance of the available financing in different TOs, the MA proposes to make transfers of 20% of the EU financing from TO7 and TO10 to TO1 and TO6. According to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 897/2014, Article 6, cumulative changes up to 20% of the original EU contribution can be made between

the TOs by the MA, with the prior approval of the JMC, i.e., without Commission's prior approval.

Furthermore, the MA proposes to the JMC to make as many project selection decisions as possible within the financial frame revised with the 20% transfers, and having made these decisions, to assess the necessity for larger transfers of funds, which require an amendment in JOP.

Annex 7 presents tables on financing committed and available, as well as the effect of the 20% transfers between the TOs.

Katri Niska-Honkonen presented the possibilities for the changes to the financial frame (**Annex 4**). Due to a quorum missing in the first day of the meeting, the JMC discussed the transfers, but the decisions were made on the second day of the meeting.

Meeting on 11th April was closed at 16:10 (Swedish time).

Friday 12.4.2019

Igor Kapyrin, Anna Popova and Syuzanna Vatfa joined the meeting. The quorum was established.

The Chair of the JMC Maria Eriksson opened the meeting for decisions at 9:05 (Swedish time) and reminded the participants of signing the Declarations of impartiality and confidentiality and notifying the conflicts of interests.

Katja Kursu gave a presentation on the results of the 3rd Call for Proposals (**Annex 5**). 64 applications were received by the deadline 21.12.2018. Nine (9) applications were rejected during the administrative and eligibility check carried out by the MA, and thus 55 applications that had passed the administrative check were evaluated by the RAGs.

Decision:

Presentation was noted by the JMC. The JMC decided to make decisions concerning transfers of available EU financing during project discussion.

9. Decision on the approval or rejection of the standard projects submitted during the 3rd Call for Proposals 21.9. – 21.12.2018.

The application material has been available to the members of the JMC in PROMAS, and the overviews are presented in Annex 8 Summary of applications, Annex 9 List of RAG scores and Annex 10 Evaluation Grid for the 3rd Call for Proposals.

Riikka Oittinen reminded about the so-called 'red flags' projects, that did not get enough scores in exclusive sub-sections and thus should be rejected.

Decision:

The JMC decided to discuss the applications with higher scores than the average 72,46, and to reject all the applications with lower scores than the average. Of the ones above the average, the JMC decided to reject five projects with too low scores in exclusive sub-sections: KO4080, KO4021, KO4036, KO4114 and KO4014.

Of the applications with scores higher than the average, the following eight (8) projects were approved:

- KO4012 From Idea to Printing of Metal Products.
Norwegian delegation asked to take into account that Norwegian partner is a private company.
- KO4178 Conserving our Atlantic salmon as a sustainable resource for people in the North; fisheries and conservation in the context of growing threats and a changing environment.
- KO4068 DeConcrete: Eco-efficient Arctic Technologies Cooperation.
Lyubov Zarubina informed about having a conflict of interest and left the room.
- KO4035 ArcticSkills.
Remi Strand informed about having a conflict of interest and left the room.
- KO4058 Cross-border innovations in Arctic aquaculture.
A recommendation to reduce the budget.
- KO4159 Northern Axis - Barents Link.
- KO4096 Disruptive Information Technologies for Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

Coffee break 10:28 – 10:55

- KO4040 Adapting management of Barents forests to future climate and economy conditions.

Project KO4094 Arctic fox - reconnect lost connectivity between populations of North Calotte was rejected, with the justifications given by the Russian delegation: The project is not in line with the strategies of Russian Federation, there is an irrelevant Russian partner, the budget of the project is not balanced.

Iiris Mäntyranta and Johan Antti informed about having a conflict of interest and left the room.

Project KO4038 Barents ITS Project was rejected, with the justification given by the Russian delegation: The budget of the project is oversized, no value for money.

Projects 4022 New Natural Kolarctic Products for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, KO4111 Resource efficient and sustainable coniferous feed and KO4235 Development of rural areas via culture and intentional tourism were rejected, because they were applied in the TO1, in which there was no financing left after the decisions made.

All the other applications above the average scores 72,46 were rejected, due to the lack of available financing: KO4136, KO4099, KO4086, KO4185, KO4199, KO4201, KO4032, KO4095, KO4027, KO4016, KO4013, KO4177.

The JMC authorized the MA to calculate the shares of financing sources in each project. If there is a need for larger transfers of financing between the TOs, which would require an amendment in JOP, it will be decided by the JMC in (expedited) Written Procedure. The MA was asked to make a proposal of using the remaining EU-financing (769 541 €) for the next JMC meeting.

Lunch 11:30 - 12:58

Break 14:03 - 14:18

10. Any other business

Requested information on allocated financing and the number of Lead Partners and Partners per countries will shortly be send to the JMC.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

11. Next meeting

Decision:

Next meeting will be held on 25-26 of November in Luleå, Sweden.

12. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 14:35 (Swedish time).

Maria Eriksson
Chair of the JMC

Katja Kursu
Secretary of the JMC

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1** Financing committed and available
- Annex 2** Programme progress indicators
- Annex 3** Updates in the Programme Documents
- Annex 4** Possibilities for the changes to the financial frame
- Annex 5** Results of the 3rd Call for Proposals