

Event **8th JMC Meeting of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme**

Date **26.11.2019**

Location **Clarion Hotel Sense, Lulea Sweden (Skeppsbrogatan 34)**

Language The meeting was held in English.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

Members and Deputy Members

Finland Tuulia Väliheikki, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
 Birgit Autere, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 Leena Ruokanen, Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment
 Timo Rautajoki, Lapland Chamber of Commerce

Norway Lisbeth Nylund, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation
 Remi Strand, Finnmark County Council
 Irene Dahl, Troms County Council

Russia Denis Moskalenko, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 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

Simona Pohlova, EC, DG NEAR
 Iveta Puzo, TESIM
 Gunnhild Aasmoe, Nordland County Council
 Natalia Karlsen, Finnmark County Council
 Marita Thelin, Luleå Branch Office
 Jan M. Solstad, Vadsø Branch Office
 Linda Mosand, Vadsø Branch Office
 Julia Korshunova, Murmansk Branch Office
 Olga Klisheva, Arkhangelsk Branch Office
 Riikka Oittinen, Managing Authority
 Katri Niska-Honkonen, Managing Authority
 Marjaana Lahdenranta, Managing Authority
 Renata van Boeschoten, Managing Authority
 Svetlana Peltoperä, Managing Authority
 Joonas Holopainen, Secretary of the meeting, Managing Authority

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Tuesday 26.11.2019

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

The Chair of the JMC Maria Eriksson opened the meeting at 09:04 Swedish time. The participants of the meeting presented themselves, and the meeting Agenda was presented.

Decision:

Participants of the meeting were notified and the quorum was established. There has been some changes in the JMC members and deputy members after delivering the list to the JMC, the MA will send the updated list to the JMC after the meeting. 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

Riikka Oittinen (Programme Manager, MA) gave an overview on the status of the contracting and launching the projects from 1st, 2nd and 3rd calls. First interim reports of the projects approved in the 1st and 2nd Call have been received. In the 3rd Call for Proposals, the JMC accepted eight (8) projects. Four (4) of them are contracted, and the rest of them will be contracted during this year.

Joonas Holopainen (CBC Coordinator, MA) presented a summary and statistics of the contracted/selected projects (**Annex 1**).

Renata van Boeschoten (CBC Expert, MA) gave a presentation on the subject of monitoring of the implementation of the Programme by using progress indicators (**Annex 2**).

Marita Thelin (Senior Expert, Swedish Branch Office) gave an overview on the Swedish Branch Offices' work. Marita has replaced Anna-mari Ruisniemi in August. She works 50% to Kolarctic CBC and 50% to Interreg Nord.

Jan M. Solstad (Programme Coordinator, BO Norway) gave an update on the Norwegian Branch Office's work. Norwegian Branch Office has been occupied with project follow-up, financial decisions and calculation work.

Julia Korshunova (Head of the Russian BO) and Olga Klisheva (Coordinator for the Arkhangelsk Region and Nenets Autonomous District) gave an overview on the Russian Branch Office's work. Individual project consultations were held in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk. The Branch Office in Murmansk has been visited by the Ambassador of the European Union to Russia, the Consulate General of Finland and the Consulate General of Norway. Russian Branch Office has also taken part in eight (8) project meetings and worked on updating the webpage.

Decision:

The JMC took note of the presentations and information. JMC also discussed the project "get-together" -event, which is going to be held in Kulturens Hus, Luleå in 28.-29.11.2019.

3. Presentation of the conclusions and the final report on Result Oriented Monitoring.

Simona Pohlova (ENI CBC Team Leader, DG NEAR, European Commission) presented the final report and conclusions of the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM, **Annex 3**). The ROM report includes 32 questions for the programmes, and the purpose of the report is to steer the current way the Programme is progressing and, at the same time, to provide with some input on how the programmes should be in the future.

According to the ROM report, Kolarctic CBC was one of the best performing programmes. The only question that did not receive the highest scores was about indicators, which got critical comments in all the programmes. In the meeting it was pointed out that the result indicators measure only after projects are finalized.

Decision:

Presentation and information were noted by the JMC.

4. Information on the non-significant changes made in the partnership of the approved projects.

After the JMC's approval/during the Grant Contract negotiations, the Managing Authority received few requests from the Lead Partners for amendments in the partnerships of the approved projects.

Referring to the JMC Meeting Minutes 24.4.2018, point 3, the MA has assessed if the requested changes are substantial, if they call into question the compliance with one or more of the exclusion, eligibility or selection criteria, and if the changes affect the assessment of the award criteria laid down in the call for proposal. The MA has assessed every request case by case, and considered them to improve the quality of the projects in question. The changes made in the partnerships are presented in **Annex 3** of the agenda.

Decision:

Changes in partnerships concerning the two projects: KO1017 - Salmonid Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel and KO4159 Northern Axis - Barents Link were noted by the JMC.

5. Decision on the use of the remaining financing

Renata van Boeschoten gave a presentation on comparison analysis of program target values (SOIs, COIs) to planned results of ongoing and contracted/selected projects (**Annex 4**).

Information on the amounts of financing committed and available was given by Katri Niska-Honkonen (Financial Manager, MA) (**Annex 4 of the agenda**). Indicative amounts available for commitments, and possibilities for a call for micro projects were presented.

Riikka Oittinen presented the MA's proposal to use the remaining financing. The proposal is to open a call for micro scale projects, either for TO1 and TO6, or to all four (4) thematic objectives. Maximum duration of a project will be 12 months, and maximum total budget 50 000 euros without a Norwegian partner, or 100 000 euros with a Norwegian partner involved. Application will be simplified.

The amended JOP, will be approved by the JMC in a Written Procedure in 13.1.-24.1.2020, and submitted to the European Commission by 30.1.2020.

Decision:

The JMC decided to transfer the financing from TO7 and TO10 to TO1 and TO6, and to open a Call for Proposals for micro-scale project proposals to TO1 and TO6. A substantial amendment to JOP is needed for this, it was noted that the required European Commission approval for amendment will take 3-4 months. The Written Procedure for approval of the amended JOP will be launched 13.1.2020. The Call can be launched while the JOP amendment is in process in the Commission, but the selected projects cannot be contracted before the Commission's approval of the JOP amendment. Therefore, the Call will be opened as conditional.

6. Presentation and preliminary discussion of the Annual Report 2018-2019

Riikka Oittinen gave a presentation about the technical part of the Annual Report 2018-2019 (**Annex 5**) and Katri Niska-Honkonen presented the financial part of the Annual report 2018-2019 (**Annex 6**).

The Programme documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2019–30.06.2020 (Work Programme 2019–2020, Technical Assistance action plan and budget 2019–2020, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2019–2020, Risk Management Plan 2019–2020, Information and Communication plan 2019–2020), to be annexed to the Annual Report 2018-2019, were approved by the JMC in its 9th Written Procedure in June 18, 2019.

The Annual Report 2018-2019, Technical Part and Financial Part, will be approved by the JMC in a Written Procedure in January 2020, and submitted (with its annexes) to the European Commission by February 15, 2020.

Decision:

The JMC suggested the Annual Report to be developed with some examples of projects, bearing in mind that during this reporting period the projects have just started, but to make of this a good practice for the forthcoming Annual Reports. The Report will be updated according to the JMC's comments, and the missing information will be added. The non-significant changes to the JOP, decided by the JMC in its meeting in April 2019, will be reported on a template of Explanatory Note for Modification, annexed to the Annual Report. The Written Procedure for approval of the Annual Report will be launched late January – early February 2020.

7. 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.

In September 2019, the Arctic Cooperation Conference was carried out in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Programmes managed to get the wanted speakers and guests, for example decision makers on different levels in all countries taking part in the programmes. The experience and received feedback was good. The guests liked especially the practical approach and the presentation of the projects going on in the programmes. Kolarctic CBC projects did not take part in the Arctic Awards competition, since they had just started at the time of launching the competition. The programmes have also more actively exchanged information on received applications, aiming at finding synergies and avoiding overlapping.

The Arctic Awards competition will be organised next year as well, but so far, there is no decision made on organising common events in 2020. Arctic Cooperation will be visible until the end of this programme period, but at the moment, in the eve of the new programming period, it's difficult to make long term plans for the cooperation.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

8. Information on participation in events in Strasbourg and Brussels

Riikka Oittinen told about the events in Strasbourg (29.-31.10) and Brussels (6.-7.11).

The event in Strasbourg was a side event during the meeting of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, organised by the seven CBC Programmes implemented between EU and Russia. The event offered the CBC Programmes an excellent opportunity to bring out the outcomes and extent of the cooperation, as well as the unique nature of these Programmes.

There was a 3-day exhibition, and a reception, with audience of around 300 persons. On the second day, there was a presentation of the Programmes, organised on the initiative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with around 40 participants. The programmes considered the event as good and useful. Kolarctic CBC was represented by Riikka Oittinen, Marjaana Lahdenranta and Renata van Boeschoten.

The meeting in Brussels 6.11. was organised by DG REGIO. It was about the transfer of the management of the CBC Programmes from DG NEAR to DG REGIO from 1.1.2020. The second meeting in Brussels 7.11., organised by InterAct, was about the draft Interreg Regulation for Post2020 period. Riikka Oittinen and Katri Niska-Honkonen participated in the meetings in Brussels.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

9. Update information on Post2020 preparation. Discussion on starting the programming and establishing a joint programming committee.

Riikka Oittinen gave a presentation on behalf of Päivi Ekdahl, about the programming process of Kolarctic ENI CBC Programme (**Annex 7**). Iveta Puzo gave a presentation on programming process of the forthcoming programming period (**Annex 8**).

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC. Deadlines related to programming, the flat rate model of the Technical Assistance in the future programmes, as well as the requirement of establishing a Joint Secretariat, were discussed.

10. Any other business

No other information was brought up.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Russia, indicatively in June 2020. The exact date and place will be decided later.

12. Closing of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 15.30 (Swedish time).

Maria Eriksson
Chair of the JMC

Joonas Holopainen
Secretary of the JMC

List of Annexes:

Annex 1 Summary and statistics of the contracted/selected projects (Joonas Holopainen)

Annex 2 Monitoring of the implementation of the Programme by using progress indicators (Renata van Boeschoten)

Annex 3 The final report and conclusions of the Result Oriented Monitoring (Simona Pohlova)

Annex 4 Comparison analysis of program target values (SOIs, COIs) to planned results of ongoing and contracted/selected projects (Renata van Boeschoten)

Annex 5 Technical part of the Annual Report 2018-2019 (Riikka Oittinen)

Annex 6 The financial part of the Annual report 2018-2019 (Katri Niska-Honkonen)

Annex 7 The programming process of Kolarctic ENI CBC 2014-2020 Programme (Presented by Riikka Oittinen)

Annex 8 Programming process for the programming period 2021-2027 (Iveta Puzo)