

2nd meeting of the Programming Committee (PC) of Kolarctic 2021-2027 Programme (full-fledged)

Date and time: Thursday, 3 September, 2020 at 14.00 – 17.30 (EEST)
Location: Teams meeting hosted by the Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 MA
Language: English

Present:

Members and Deputy Members of the Committee:

(X) Tuulia Väliheikki	() Helinä Yli-Knuutila
(X) Birgit Autere Jatta Jämsén	() Toivo Martikainen
(X) Päivi Ekdahl	() Mervi Nikander
(X) Timo Jokelainen	() Jaakko Ylinampa
(X) Lisbeth Nylund	(X) Jan Edøy (joined 14.12)
() Katrine Osland Netland	() Marte Lauvhjell
(X) Natalia Z. Karlsen	() Bente Helland -Silje Dalehaug
() Gunnhild Aasmoe	(X) Eilen W B Zakariassen
(X) Vsevolod Vovchenko	(X) Syuzanna Vafra replaced in this meeting by Alla Agapova
(X) Igor Kapyrin (joined 14.10)	(X) Denis Moskalenko (joined 14.10)
(X) Ilya Ostapchuk (joined 14.10)	() Olga Yumatova
(X) Sergey Kungurtsev	() Natalia Lysak
(X) Elena Demidova	() Maria Kropacheva
(X) Isabella Palomba Rydén	() Maria M Eriksson
() Bror Martin Karlsson	() Kasper Andersson
(X) Ylva Sardén	
(X) Susanne Friberg	

Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Managing Authority:

(X) Riikka Oittinen
 (X) Marjaana Lahdenranta
 (X) Laura Mäki
 (X) Joonas Holopainen
 (X) Katri Niska-Honkonen
 (X) Svetlana Peltoperä

Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Branch Offices:

(X) Julia Korshunova
 (X) Olga Klisheva
 (X) Linda Mosand (joined 14.20)
 (X) Jan Martin Solstad
 (X) Marita Thelin (joined 14.20)

European Commission:

(X) Simona Pohlova
 (X) Filip Chybalski

TESIM:

(X) Iveta Puzo (joined 14.28)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair Isabella Palomba Rydén opens the meeting.

Decision:

The Chair Isabella Palomba Rydén opened the meeting at 14.00 and welcomed all the participants, especially the regional PC members.

2. Identification of those present

The participants of the meeting are noted according to Annex 1 to the Agenda: The list of Kolarctic PC 2021-2027 members.

Decision:

The participants of the meeting introduced themselves.

3. Approval of the agenda for the meeting

The meeting agrees about the agenda.

Decision:

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

4. Rules of Procedures (RoP) for the Programming Committee

PC discusses and approves the Rules of Procedures (Annex 2 to the Agenda).

Decision:

The PC discussed the draft RoP point by point and approved it with the following changes:

- Cover page: EU flag to be replaced with the logo of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme.
- 1. Introduction:

Cross border cooperation programmes 2021-2027 at the external borders of the European Union are prepared by the EU Member States together with the Partner countries and other participating countries. In their meeting held in 23rd April 2020, the National Authorities of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 programme in Finland, Sweden, the Russian Federation and Norway made a joint decision to launch a process to set up a Programming Committee for the preparation of Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme.

To be replaced with:

In their meeting held in 23rd April 2020, the National Authorities of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 programme in Finland, Sweden, the Russian Federation and Norway made a joint decision to launch a process to set up a Programming Committee for the preparation of Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme. These rules of procedure define the principles for the work of the Committee.

- 2.2 Other participants and use of experts:

The representatives of the MA, Branch Offices and TESIM may participate in the meeting as observers.

To be replaced with:

The representatives of the Branch Offices should be invited to participate in the meetings as observers. The representatives of TESIM and INTERACT may participate as observers.

- 2.3 Role and Duties:

The PC shall establish necessary ~~workgroups~~ structures to support the preparation of the programme.

- 3.2 Languages:

Original of the key final document (programme document) shall be in English, and translations into Russian and Finnish shall be provided.

To be replaced with:

Original of the key final document (programme document) shall be in English, and translations into national languages Russian, Finnish, Swedish and Norwegian shall be provided upon request.

Concerning point 4.2 Information and publicity, the MA clarified that it's intended to use the webpage and social media channels of the current programme to reach wider audience, and e-mail, newspapers, personal contacts etc. to reach the stakeholders in each country and region. No changes into the text in the RoP.

Involvement of partners was discussed. It was decided that it will not be included in RoP, but will be taken into account in the programming process.

The approved RoP is set out as **Annex 1** to the Minutes, with the agreed changes highlighted in yellow.

5. Workplan and timeline for the programming process. Coordination of the programming work with other programmes.

The national level members of the PC discussed the draft workplan and timeline in their meeting in June 17, 2020 (Annex 3 to the Agenda).

The 1st meeting of the Coordination Group of Kolarctic, Karelia and South-East Finland – Russia 2021-2027 programmes took place prior to the PC meeting, in August 25. The programming work will be coordinated also within the Arctic Cooperation network, with the seven EU-Russia programmes (so called Northern Cluster), and Interreg BSR.

The PC updates the workplan and timeline for the programming process, and discusses the matters requiring coordination in each network and with each group of programmes.

Decision:

The MA presented the draft workplan and timeline for the programming process.

It was clarified that

- the preparation of the Arctic Programmes will be coordinated between the Programmes, the practices will be agreed with the Programmes;
- the work of the Regional Task Force or similar to be set up later at this meeting, which is not explicitly mentioned in the plan, is constantly advancing alongside the preparation process, with the Task Force and the PC meetings feeding each other;
- as the territorial analysis is an important input for the programme strategy, it will be developed between the 2nd and 3rd meetings;
- it will kept in mind that COVID-19 related challenges may affect the process.

The workplan and timeline for the programming process was accepted with no changes (**Annex 2**). The plan will be updated during the process.

6. Geography of the Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme. Start of the strategic discussion on the basis of the Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT strategic programming and geographical cluster document.

In January 2020, the European Commission delivered the Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT strategic programming (Annex 4a to the Agenda), including the geographical cluster documents (Cooperation between Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia: Annex 4b to the Agenda), to serve as a basis for programming of post 2020 cross-border cooperation on EU external borders with EU Members States and Partner Countries. Discussion on geographical cluster of Finland, Russia, Sweden and Norway took place in January 28, 2020, as part of the ENI CBC annual event in Brussels. Commission proposes to start programming from the existing geography.

In July 2020 the European Commission sent to the Managing Authority of Kolarctic 2014-2020 Programme a letter on the geography of the Interreg NEXT Kolarctic programme (Annex 5 to the Agenda).

PC starts the discussion on the programme strategy and makes a decision on the geography of the programme.

Decision:

Simona Pohlova confirmed that in the new programme there will be no core and adjoining regions but only the programme area, with a full possibility for any region, also from outside the programme area, to participate. The European Commission strongly encourages to concentrate on the current core region, because of reduction of financing. Major centres can take part in the programme's implementation but can not be part of the programme area.

As the result of the discussion, the National Authority of each country confirmed that only the current core regions will be included into the programme area. The importance

of the current adjoining regions for the programme area may be highlighted during the programming process.

The MA will response to the EC's letter by the given deadline of September 15; the extension of the deadline that was preliminary asked the EC by the Finnish NA is not needed. Troms and Finnmark merged into one county will be brought out in the response.

7. Territorial analysis

The Managing Authority of the current Programme has outlined the Arctic Strategies of Finland, Sweden, Russia, Norway, Nordic Council of Ministries and the EU (Annex 6 to the Agenda) and collected statistical information of the participating regions (Annex 7 to the Agenda).

The PC discusses the drafts and provides support to further develop the territorial analysis.

Decision:

The MA presented the outline of the Arctic Strategies and the regional statistics. The PC discussed the documents and noted that they serve as a good starting point for the work of the regional Task Force. The territorial analysis needs to reflect the regional level strategies, which will be the task for the Task Force.

8. Partnership

Based on the Interreg regulation (article 16) and Common Provisions Regulation (article 6), an Interreg Programme is prepared in cooperation with programme partners in participating countries:

- regional, local, urban and other public authorities;
- economic and social partners;
- bodies representing civil society such an environmental partner, non-governmental organisations etc.

According to the European code of conduct on partnerships (EU No 240/2014) the relevant partners should be involved during the programming process in the analysis, definition and selection of priorities, allocation of funding, definition of programme indicators, and the implementation of the horizontal principles. Procedures should also be established to involve the relevant programme partners to the implementation of the programme.

The PC discusses and decides the mechanisms for involvement of programme partners in participating countries.

Decision:

The MA told about the two alternative models used by Karelia and SEFR CBC programmes in their preparation work: Regional Task Force, or workshops. Päivi Ekdahl told that in the preparation of the current Programme, there was a Task Force which used also external experts. The PC decided to establish a Task Force.

9. Setting up necessary structures for the programming

In the preparation on the ongoing Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme, a Regional Task Force was used. The Task Force had an important role in strengthening regional ownership, ensuring full participation of each participating region to the programming process. Task Force also made it possible for different stakeholders in each region to be involved in the preparation of the Programme.

In the preparation of Kolarctic 2021-2027 a regional working group, Task Force or another, is also needed, to organise stakeholder hearings and regional events, to support the preparation of regional analysis and the programme strategy for the approval of the PC, to support writing process of the programme document. Each participating region should be represented in the group.

The PC sets up working group(s) for the programming work and gives the MA a mandate to coordinate the work of the group(s), as a part of the coordination of the programming process.

Decision:

The PC decided to establish a Task Force. The stakeholders will be involved widely, including i.a. regional and local communities, civil society, economical sector, Barents working groups, young people. The proposed flexible approach which would enable the MA and BOs to establish needed groups and use e.g. external experts was agreed. It was noted that TESIM has prepared a guidance on how to involve partners in the circumstances under COVID-19.

The MA and BOs will prepare a shortlist of stakeholders to be heard and/or invited to the work of the Task Force. The list will be sent to the PC by September 18, 2020.

10. Any other business

Decision:

No other business was brought up.

11. Next meeting

According to the draft workplan, and the decision made in the PC national level members meeting in June 17, the 3rd PC meeting takes place in December 2020 and is chaired by Russia.

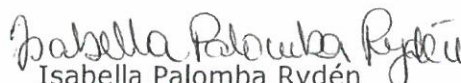
Decision:

The next PC meeting will take place in December, on week 50 or 51. As the Chair of the next meeting, the Russian NA will send a proposal on the exact date and time.

12. Closing of the meeting

Decision:

The Chair closed the meeting at 17.30.


Isabella Palomba Rydén
Chair of the meeting
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation


Riikka Oittinen
Secretary of the meeting
Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 MA

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1** Rules of Procedures for the PC
Annex 2 Draft workplan and timeline for the programming process