

1st meeting of the Programming Committee (national level) of Kolarctic 2021-2027 Programme

Date and time: Wednesday, 17 June, 2020 at 12.00 -> (EEST)

Location: Teams meeting hosted by the Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 MA

Language: English

Delivery to the Members and Deputy Members of the Committee (X= present):

(X) Tuulia Väliheikki	() Helinä Yli-Knuutila
(X) Birgit Autere	() Toivo Martikainen
(X) Lisbeth Nylund	(X) Jan Edøy
() Katrine Osland Netland	() Marte Lauvhjell
() Vsevolod Vovchenko	(X) Syuzanna Vatfa
(X) Igor Kapyrin	(X) Denis Moskalenko
(X) Isabella Palomba Rydén	() Maria M Eriksson
() Bror Martin Karlsson	() Kasper Andersson

Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Managing Authority:

(X) Päivi Ekdahl
(X) Riikka Oittinen
(X) Joonas Holopainen
(X) Svetlana Peltoperä

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. Opening of the meeting

The Managing Authority of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme opens the meeting.

Decision:

Development Director Päivi Ekdahl from the Regional Council of Lapland, representing the Managing Authority (MA) of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme, opened the meeting at 14:05.

2. Identification of those present

The participants of the meeting are noted.

Decision:

The participants of the meeting introduced themselves. It was announced that Jan Edøy from the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation in this meeting represents the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

3. Organisation of the meeting

The Committee selects a Chair for the meeting among the Members of Programming Committee (PC). The MA of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme acts as a secretary of the meeting.

Decision:

On proposal of the MA of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme, Tuulia Väliheikki was selected as the Chair of the meeting.

4. Approval of the agenda for the meeting

The meeting agrees about the agenda for the meeting.

Decision:

The Agenda for the meeting was accepted.

5. Managing Authority's mandate to launch and coordinate the programming process; Financial resources for the programming work

The Committee decides about the mandate for the current Programme's MA to launch and coordinate the programming process.

The European Commission's letter on the use of the Technical Assistance under 2014-2020 ENI CBC Programmes for the preparation of the next 2021 – 2027 programming period, Annex 1 to the Agenda.

Decision:

The Chair noted that the Programming Committee decides about giving a role to support the programming process. In addition, she told that at the Finnish political level it has been stated that the Regional Council of Lapland, acting as the MA of the current Programme, may continue as the MA in the new Programme. The representatives of the National Authorities (NAs) expressed their support for the MA of the current Programme (from now on: the MA).

Riikka Oittinen, Programme Manager of the Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme, gave a summary of the European Commission's letter allowing to use the Technical Assistance (TA) of Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Programme for the preparation of the 2021 – 2027 programming period, and told about the state of the current Programme's TA.

The PC took note of the information and gave the MA the mandate to launch and coordinate the programming process.

6. Composition of the PC, nomination of regional representatives

The MA has in June 3, 2020 sent to the regional level organisations, recognised by the NAs, a request to nominate representatives to the PC by June 24, 2020.

List of PC members according to the current situation, Annex 2 to the Agenda.

Decision:

The representatives of the NAs repeated the names of the nominated national level members and brought out the future changes known at the moment, and named the regional organisations to be represented in the PC. The NAs and the MA disclosed the names of the regional level members as they were known.

The PC took note of the shared information. The full list of PC members is in **Annex 1** to the Minutes.

7. Draft workplan and timeline for the programming process

The Committee discusses and updates the draft workplan and timeline for the programming process (Annex 3 to the Agenda), to be developed for the first full-fledged meeting of the PC in September.

Decision:

The MA presented the draft workplan and timeline for the programming process. In the discussion it was pointed out that all the participating countries will publish their Arctic strategies updated in late 2020 - early 2021, and emphasized that e.g. the Financial Agreement (FA) negotiations and ratification process should be done in parallel with the programming process. The importance of stakeholder consultations and coordination with other, especially Arctic programmes was underlined.

The PC agreed to start the analysis with the current Arctic strategies, and update the draft text as the updated strategies are published. The Ministries for Foreign Affairs will prepare some preliminary information about the expected changes in the Arctic strategies for the PC meeting in September. The timeline will be updated during the work as needed, taking into account i.a. the FA negotiations and ratification process. The plan will be updated according to this discussion and presented in the first full-fledged meeting of the PC in September. The workplan and timeline for the programming process updated according to the discussion is in **Annex 2**.

8. The National Authorities and MA's comments to the Commission's Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT strategic programming and geographical cluster document

The representatives of the NAs and the MA shares and pulls together the comments given to the Commission's Joint Paper and geographical cluster document (Annex 4a and 4b to the Agenda), for basis of the strategic discussion in the first full-fledged meeting of the PC in September.

Decision:

The MA gave a summary of the purpose of the Commission's Joint Paper on Interreg NEXT strategic programming and geographical cluster document and the comments given to it by the MA and the BOs (**Annex 3**).

The Chair proposed to share the comments given to the Paper, in the following order: the Russian Federation (RF), Norway, Sweden, Finland.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the RF:

- Important to maintain the BOs;
- Large Infrastructure Projects are supported;
- RF has since spring 2019 been asking the Commission for FA negotiations, the aim stands in the autumn 2020.
- The MA designation process has been removed which is good, no delays due to that;

Norwegian NA:

- The Paper is a good starting point for the discussion;
- Importance of coordination and synergies between the programmes in the High North;
- Important that the programme supports regional and local goals;
- Kolarctic is an important tool for the cooperation in the Barents Region.

Swedish NA:

- The Paper is a good starting point for the discussion;
- People-to-people cooperation is supported;
- Importance of the principle of continuity;
- To keep up the work with the good cooperation spirit.

Finnish NA:

- PO2 is supported;
- People-to-people cooperation is supported;
- To avoid the time gap between the programmes;
- The management system with the MA and the BOs has proved to be functioning.

During the discussion Igor Kapyrin added that that RF is ready to coordinate the preparation with Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation (BEAC), and to bring the project proposals of BEAC as one priority to the programme. This, as well as the programme management structure (MA+BO/JTS) would be good to be discussed in the coordination meetings.

Lisbeth Nylund added that Norway supports people-to-people cooperation, as well as digitalisation.

As a summation the Chair noted that we are standing at a really preliminary stage only. The following step will be drafting the territorial analysis, and the PC meeting in September will take the matter forward on a concrete level.

9. Next steps

The Committee agrees the next steps of the programming process.

Decision:

It was stated, according to the draft workplan and timeline, that the territorial analysis will be drafted during the summer, and the PC will have its next meeting in September. The following meetings after that will be defined more detailed in the meeting in September.

10. Any other business

Decision:

No other issues came up.

11. Next meeting

The national level Programming Committees and the MAs of the three Finnish-Russian CBC Programmes (Kolarctic, Karelia and SEFR) will have a common coordination meeting in August 25, 2020 (online).

The first full-fledged meeting of the PC is preliminary agreed for early September 2020, week 36. The Committee agrees date and time, as well as topics to be discussed in the meeting.

Decision:

As the PC regional members are nominated, the MA will start looking for a meeting date on the first week of September (week 36). The meeting will be held online and chaired by Sweden.

It was agreed to rotate the presidency of the PC, according to the following:

2nd PC meeting in Sep 2020 – Sweden

3rd PC meeting in Dec 2020 – Russia

4th PC meeting in March 2021 – Norway

5th PC meeting in June 2021 – Finland

12. Closing of the meeting

Decision:

The Chair closed the meeting at 16:00.



Tuulia Väliheikki
Chair of the meeting
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment



Riikka Oittinen
Secretary of the meeting
Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1** Full list of Kolarctic PC 2021–2027 members
- Annex 2** Workplan and timeline for the programming process
- Annex 3** MA's summary of Joint Paper and comments

