

Focus on indicators

Collecting and reporting Indicators in Kolarctic CBC Projects



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Project's Indicators in Kolarctic CBC Programme

THEMATIC INDICATORS (see PROMAS / your project plan)

- Common Output indicators for ENI CBC (COI)
 - COI's are indicators for all ENI programmes. Programmes have chosen the indicators that suit their needs
 - The purpose is to achieve better communication about programme achievements
- Programme-specific output indicators (SOI)
 - Programme-specific output indicators (SOI)
 - Indicators created specifically for the programme (e.g. kolarctic). Meaning SOI's are different for each programme

PROJECT SPECIFIC INDICATORS (see PROMAS / your project plan)

- Tailored to tell the story of your project

RESULT INDICATORS (see your logical framework Annex B and Result indicators Annex F; **does not concern micro projects**)

- Matching the project impact to the Programme objectives

Thematic indicators: Programme Common Output Indicators – Why and What for?

Background: Besides the Kolarctic 2014-2020 Programme which co-financed by EC*, Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway, there are more six CBC Programmes funded by the Member States and Russia. Here is the full list:

- 1) Kolarctic Programme
- 2) South-East Finland-Russia Programme
- 3) Karelia Programme
- 4) Russia-Estonia Programme
- 5) Russia-Latvia Programme
- 6) Russia-Lithuania Programme
- 7) Russia-Poland Programme

In order to **coordinate** these Programmes by the EC and participating countries and **to ease aggregation of achieved all Programmes' results**, there were defined **Common Output Indicators** which are shared by all the Programmes.

Indeed, a number of SMEs, female and male participants, project events, km of surface covered by improved shared environmental monitoring capacity or joint monitoring actions etc. are something which is in common and related to **each** Programme.

** - in total, the EC co-funding over 25 Programmes all over the Europe and at its external borders*

Thematic indicators: Programme Specific output Indicators – Why and What for?

Background: Having known that there are many Cross Border Cooperation Programmes and all of them are located in their **specific territories** and have **their own particular needs**, the EC has defined the list of the Specific output Indicators from which **every Programme selected their own specific output indicators**

- For example, the major part of the Kolarctic Programme area is located on the sub- Arctic and Arctic territories and their needs can be different from those Programmes which are located down to the South
- The same with the assessment of the needs of the Programmes' territories – the project aimed at development of e-health system in hard-to-reach areas are more relevant to the Kolarctic Programme due to low density of population and a big number of remote areas in the North which is not the normal case for the southern part of Europe

Thematic indicators (COI, SOI) in practice

Common definitions for both **projects** and Kolarctic CBC **programme** (see *Project Implementation Manual*)

- **Programme** has set target values (expected achievement of all projects, total)
 - Purpose: Guidance of design of calls for proposals, evaluation criteria, activities..
- **Projects** have set target values
 - Monitoring of the achievement, steering of the project, correcting the course, putting emphasis on delays...
- **Projects** will report the achieved values
 - How well did the project deliver the outputs and outcomes? Assessment of the project
- **Programme** compares the **programme target values** to **projects' cumulative target values** (expected achievement of all projects, total)
 - Steering CfPs, project selections...
 - Monitoring the project achievement from interim reports, directing calls for proposals
- **Programme** will compile the values from project reports, and report to EC:
 - How well did the programme deliver the outputs and outcomes in relation to the target values? Assessment of the programme



Programme Result Indicators – Why and What for?

Why indicators are so important to Programme?

- The European Commission together with participating countries Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway have agreed that they want jointly develop our programme regions which are located far away from big wealthy cities and capitals and thus are needed extra support from the countries
- The above mentioned parties have defined Thematic Objectives (TOs) which are primarily needed to be improved in the Programme area and defined the amount of money allocated for these TOs: 63,4 MEUR/Kolarctic 2014-2020
- The EC and participating countries have defined **Programme Results Indicators** which are meant to serve as the main **justification and evidence that the Programme really reached its settled goals**. How does it go in the Programme:
 - Experts from all the countries got together before the launching of the Kolarctic 2014-2020 and through **peer-to-peer discussion made an assessment** of the selected Programme Results Indicators.
 - The group of experts will make a **midterm assessment in 2021** to see how the Programme implementation goes and there will be a **final assessment** after the Programme's closure.

If you are interested in Programme Result Indicators, you can find them in Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, available on Kolarctic.info website.

Result indicators in practice

Projects and Kolarctic CBC **programme** have own sets of result indicators, therefore the **calculation methods and/or definitions are different**

- **Projects'** result indicators tell about projects' contribution in the sector the chosen RIs are measuring. You are not expected to use the Programme calculation methods. **The values will not be compiled on programme level.**
- **Programme** result indicators measure the overall societal change in the programme region
- **Combining the data from project result indicators, and comparing it to the programme's targets, the programme aims at assessing the impact of all the projects' contribution to the programme region.**
- **Programme** will compare the target values and realised values at the end of the programme period, and provide an overview of the projects' contribution to the numbers.



Thematic indicators, reporting



Reporting the thematic indicators, PA 1 1/2

Indicator	Description	Reporting
SOI 1. Number of participating institutions/organizations cooperating across borders for viability of Arctic economy, nature and environment	Number of organizations or enterprises that have cooperated or started cooperation across borders with the help of your project's support during your project time. The outcome of cooperation is expected to enhance viability of Arctic economy and / or nature and environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of organisations / institutions • The name of organisations / institutions • Their role in the project (should be connected descriptive part of your project activities / results) • Method of counting
SOI 2. Number of participating young entrepreneurs/SMEs cooperating across borders for business cooperation and development	Number of SMEs or new entrepreneurs participating in cross-border cooperation across borders with the support of you project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of SMEs / young entrepreneurs / young enterprises • The name of SMEs / young entrepreneurs / young enterprises • Their role in the project (should be connected descriptive part of your project activities / results) • Method of counting
SOI 1.1 Number of males	...working or participating in the project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of males • Number of females • Number of others, if relevant • Method of calculation (e.g. number of active participants from organisations reported in SOI 1 and SOI 2)
SOI 1.2 Number of females	...working or participating in the project activities	
COI 2. Number of enterprises substantially and actively involved in projects as final beneficiaries	Number of enterprises directly involved as final beneficiaries in cross-border activities organized by the project. Substantial and active involvement: To be counted as an enterprise "substantially and actively involved" in the activities produced by the projects, the enterprise belongs to the target group of the project and/or has been a direct beneficiary of support of any kind (incl. all forms of non-financial support such as such as guidance, consultancy, etc).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of enterprises • Names of enterprises • Their role in the project (should be connected descriptive part of your project activities / results)

Reporting the thematic indicators, PA1 2/2

Indicator	Description	Reporting
SOI 3. Number of participants in cross-border activities implemented by projects enhancing the culture and/or traditional livelihoods of indigenous people	Number of participants in project-organized cross-border activities that enhance the culture and/or traditional livelihoods of indigenous people to strengthen their competence, maintain and develop their traditional livelihoods and create new source of income.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of participants in your activities fitting the description Please remember to include a description of activities in the descriptive part of report
SOI 4. Population benefiting from cross-border activities in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions	Indicator covers the population of a certain area expected to benefit from carried out cross-border activities in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. The cross-border activities in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions must be a direct consequence of the Programme support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people (size of population) benefiting from the activities you have carried out on this specific field The methodology for calculating the value
COI 16. Surface area (km2) covered by improved shared environmental monitoring capacity or joint monitoring actions	Surface area covered by joint monitoring actions, or actions and leading to an improved capacity in joint monitoring as a direct consequence of the support. May e.g. include setting up compatible data, information exchange systems, new equipment, etc., in the fields of biodiversity loss, pollution, environmental risks, climate change and ecosystems transformation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of km2 <p>As activities in this field vary, please indicate the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> calculation method and the type of monitoring action. Please focus on the areas that are directly being monitored or documented in your project.
COI 17. Number of persons actively participating in environmental actions and awareness raising activities	Number of citizens/students/pupils etc. actively participating in environmental actions and awareness-raising activities (e.g. promotion of energy efficiency) that are organised with the Programme support / organised by the programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of participants Please remember to include a description of activities in the descriptive part of report (we should also know what was the activity about, what was it's scope and contribution to project outputs or outcomes)

Reporting the thematic indicators, PA 2 1/2

Indicator	Description	Reporting
SOI 5. Number of participating institutions/organizations cooperating across borders	Number of institutions, organisations or enterprises have cooperated or started cooperation across borders with the help of your project's support during your project time. The outcome of cooperation is expected to enhance viability of Arctic economy and / or nature and environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of organisations / institutions • The name of organisations / institutions • Their role in the project (should be connected descriptive part of your project activities / results) • Method of counting
SOI 5.1 Number of males	...working or participating in the project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of males • Number of females • Number of others, if relevant • Method of calculation (e.g. number of active participants from organisations reported in SOI 1 and SOI 2)
SOI 5.2 Number of females	...working or participating in the project activities	
COI 27. Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads, km	The length of roads where the capacity or quality of the road (including safety standards) was improved as a direct consequence of the support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of km
SOI 6. Population covered by developed transport and communication networks as the direct consequence of the Programme support, number of persons	Population of a certain area that benefit from cross-border activities targeted to development of transport and communication networks. The developed transport and communication networks must be a direct consequence of the Programme support. Indicator includes improvement of existing transport and communication networks or introduction of new transport and communication networks as a direct result of activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people (=size of population) benefiting from the activities you have carried out on this specific field • The methodology for calculating the value

Reporting the thematic indicators, PA 2 2/2

Indicator	Description	Reporting
COI 29. Number of additional ICT based tools developed supporting cross-border cooperation	ICT based tools developed to support cross-border cooperation. May include new joint databases, information exchange portals, other joint logistics or decision-support systems, etc. The developed tools must be a direct consequence of the Programme support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of ICT based tools • From the report it must be clear which kind of tools these are
SOI 7. Number of participants in cross-border activities implemented by projects improving the border management and border security, mobility and migration management	Number of participants in cross-border activities that aim to improve the border management and border security; mobility and migration management;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants • Please remember to include a description of activities in the descriptive part of report (we should also know what was the activity about, what was its scope and contribution to project outputs or outcomes)
COI 35. Number of border crossing points with increased throughput capacity	The number of border crossing points with increased throughput capacity as a result of new or improved efficiency and security measures, improvement of infrastructure and/or equipment at the border crossing points, improvement of border management operations, customs and visas procedures, etc. Also includes newly constructed border crossing points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of improved border crossing points • A crossing point implies in general the crossing points on both sides of a particular border and should be counted as one crossing point. Improvements at a particular crossing point resulting in improvements in throughput capacity for several modalities in parallel (e.g. both for road and rail) must still be counted as only one crossing point.
COI 36. Increased throughput capacity of private cars on land border crossing points	Estimated additional increase of the throughput capacity of private cars during 24 hours. The indicator measures the additional estimated theoretical maximum 24 h capacity and not actual traffic flows. The increase in capacity must be a direct consequence of the support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of private cars / 24 hours • Increased capacity in two directions over a border should be reported as summated throughput capacity increase for the entire crossing point.
COI 38. Increased throughput capacity of persons on land border crossing points	Estimated additional increase of the throughput capacity of persons during 24 hours. The indicator measures the additional estimated theoretical maximum 24 h capacity and not actual flows of persons. The increase in capacity must be a direct consequence of the Programme support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of persons / 24 hours • Increased capacity in two directions over a border should be reported as summated throughput capacity increase for the entire crossing point.

Common notions

- When talking about **activities**, we refer to events, consultations, gatherings, campaigns, trainings, conferences, workshops etc. that are organized by the projects with Programme support. In other words, please count in only the activities, which would not have been carried out without the project.
- When calculating **participants** (either juridical or natural persons), please focus on the active participants. In case your project organizes a sub-event (e.g. a thematic workshop in a big forum), please calculate the participants in your session, only.
- Please accompany your data with description of **data-collection methods**. You are also encouraged to specify indicators and add qualitative remarks if needed for reporting your project's reach and impact properly. We have a large variety of projects with very different types of activities, and therefore combining the information to report the Programme Outputs and Results in a reliable way will require some background information.
- Avoid **multiple counting** whenever possible
- Values should be **verifiable**, and **directly resulting from** your project activities

- The thematic indicators don't catch all outputs and results?
 - MA: Use project specific indicators! You are free to develop them along the way, if there is a need
- Your data coverage is wider / narrower than in the presented thematic indicators?
 - MA: You can make sub-categories to thematic indicators when it is important for portraying your project
 - MA: Project specific indicators give you a chance to report important values such as total number of people / organisations your project has reached (audience in seminars, workshops etc.)
 - Use all the relevant information 😊
- Your target values for indicators in project plan seem unrealistic
 - MA: Discuss with your contact person in the MA

Q&A

- **Covid-19 impact on collecting indicators:** *Indicators, related to personal meetings and panel statements (offline) – shall it be changed for the web tool (online) ones?*
 - MA: Yes, this is okay
- **COI 2.** Number of enterprises substantially and actively involved in projects as final beneficiaries – *should the enterprises that are not project partners but actively involved to the project implementation, including sub-contractors be counted in this COI2?*
 - MA: Final beneficiary: the legal and natural entities that are affected by the problem your project is solving, and who will thus benefit your project activities (“end users”)
 - MA: Enterprise: Organisation producing products or services to satisfy market needs in order to reach profit. The legal form of enterprise may vary (also incl. self-employed persons, partnerships, cooperatives, etc.). Subcontractors of business development organisations are not counted as enterprises.
- **COI 16.** Surface area covered by improved shared environmental monitoring capacity or joint monitoring actions – *what is the measurement methodology was applied to calculate a number of km and shall a project applies the same methodology or it can develop its own?*
- **SOI 4.** Population benefiting from cross-border activities in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions – *how the **data** represented by projects will **be measured/verified** if population is counted by thousands of people?*
 - COI 16 and SOI 4: The project is expected to use its own methodology (preferably the same as used for setting the target value), as the activities reported under this indicator vary. The harmonization will be made on Programme level whenever it is possible. Please keep in mind, that this indicator measures outcomes (change observable at the end of project), not impact (a prospect for change in long term)
 - SOI 4 Indicator covers the population of a certain **area expected to benefit from carried out cross-border activities** in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. So the question is about the **capacity of your solution to benefit population**. The solution must be in place, at it must be available for the calculated population in the moment of reporting.
 - Verification: the evidence (e.g. building with energy efficient solution; district heating using bioenergy in use, energy distributed to a certain area; cameras / sensors; new geospatial data with common standards) should be in place, and having provided your methodology, the calculation can be repeated by external auditors

- **SOI 3.** Number of participants in cross-border activities implemented by projects enhancing the culture and/or traditional livelihoods of indigenous people – *should the **speakers** of seminars and workshops be counted in this SOI3?*
 - **MA: This is okay (unless they are calculated in SOI 1.1 / SOI 1.2 (PA 1 projects) or SOI 5.1 / 5.2 (PA 2 projects))**
- **SOI 6.** Population covered by developed transport and communication networks as the direct consequence of the Programme support – *should a project **count those who is crossing by** territories of the project implementation targeted at improvements of transport network and how it can be **measured/counted**? The number of local people can be taken from the statistics, but what to do with the **one-time travelers/network users**?*
 - **MA: Focus is on population of the region, so those who live in the area of your solution's (road construction, installation of broadband...) influence should be calculated. However, there may be multiple approaches, and if your industry has a standard way of calculation (e.g. road users), you can use that as long as you describe the methodology.**

- **COI 36.** Increased throughput capacity of private cars on land border crossing points – *how can the technical maximum of capacity be checked?*
- **COI 38.** Increased throughput capacity of persons on land border crossing points – *how the project data/indicators can be verified?*
 - MA: Please cooperate with the crossing point's personnel to determine the methodology – how has the capacity been measured before? The same methodology should be applied before and after your project activities, as the information must be compatible.
 - MA: Verification: a) checking that the improvements made by your project are in place, and b) by applying the same methodology in “after project” conditions.

Reporting result indicators



REPORTING THE RESULT INDICATORS (measuring impact, mostly)

- **Not applicable to micro projects!**
- They will not be compiled on Programme level! **Programme result indicators are different from your project-specific result indicators!**
- “What are my result indicators and how should I count them?”
 - Please check your project plan: Result indicators (Annex F). You have chosen the fields where you are contributing, and will use your chosen methods for collecting information and calculation.

Name of the Programme Result Indicator	Name of the <u>Project</u> Result Indicator		Quality of ICT services and infrastructure (RI8)
RI1. Expert panel statement on the cooperation between economic and environment fields within common interest			Enhanced the equal living standards by developed ICT services throughout the Programme area (RI 8)
	Baseline value and measurement unit:		Baseline value and measurement unit: 0 (2016) and in 2020: 1 (number of ITC services developed) pcs
Describe on how the project is going to contribute to this Programme Result Indicator:		Describe on how the project is going to contribute to this Programme Result Indicator:	
RI2. Number of young people employed in the Programme area	Number of young people employed in the Programme area		
	Baseline value and measurement unit: 0 people; target value: 3 people		
Describe on how the project is going to contribute to this Programme Result Indicator: The project is going to involve the work of young researchers and PhD students throughout the entire duration of the project.		The Project enhances understanding of current/planned, public/private ITS projects and applications (like GPS, GLONASS and autonomous vehicles) relevant to the Barents region, an implemented ICT tools supporting the cross-border cooperation. The Project is going to (1) find the ICT based tools developed or being developed supporting cross-border cooperation in the Barents region and (2) participate at least in one of the cross-border ITC based activities being implemented by ongoing projects improving the border management and border security, mobility and migration management.	

- Is the plan realistic?
- The Grant Contract does not oblige you to continue monitoring and report the values after the project implementation time has ended. In most cases, your result indicators actually measure outputs or outcomes.
- Strong recommendation to keep a track on the impacts!
- **EXCEPTION LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS! The infrastructure component should be in place for at least 5 years**

- RI2. Number of young people employed in the Programme area – *does the Programme consider youth people aged between 15 and 24?*
 - MA: Yes. If your country has another definition, and you would like to use that, please indicate it in the final report
- RI7: Estimated travel time on the reconstructed or upgraded roads – *should be counted by hours or minutes?*
 - MA: Either way, as long as you state your unit. However, no need to report this unless you have stated you will do so in the Annex F.
- RI8: Qualitative survey regarding quality of ICT services/infrastructure, conducted among a sample of population in the Programme area – *are there recommendations how to develop a qualitative survey and how the results of it will be verified?*
 - MA: Please use whatever serves the reporting your project results the best. Please keep in mind your target audience.



COVID 19, misunderstandings and CHANGES in target values?

- Possible drivers for change:
 - Changes in the operational environment
 - Changes in the project activities
 - Very rarely, requires an approval from JMC: Changes in the project objective
- Adaptation activities may be necessary due to the changes -> are your indicators still relevant for measuring outputs, outcomes?
- **Officially**, the target values of thematic indicators will not change.
- **Operationally**, the project can request a change to update the expected target values by updating the logical framework.
- Changes must be well-justified
- Quality! focus on things that are relevant for your project goals!

Being (as) practical (as the MA can be):

- Lacking behind in outreach?
 - Check your project's objectives, and planned outcomes (changes your project is going to make)
 - Check your monitoring data: What activities are failing to deliver? What outputs are failing to deliver? Why?
 - Do I have to change something about the plan to reach the objectives (e.g. modify / add activities)?
 - How does the change influence your indicator values?
- Ask peer support from other (Kolarctic) projects: brainstorming, common planning, common events? Ask your contact person about projects on same field.

- [illegible]

How does the MA monitor and evaluate the projects?

- Monitoring: communication with the contact person!
- Checking project updates, interim reports, final reports...
- Possible on-the-spot verifications
- Result oriented monitoring