

Event: 11th JMC Meeting of the Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 Programme

Date and time: 3rd June 2021 (10:00 – 15:10 Finnish time)

Location: Online, using conference tool Microsoft Teams

Language: The meeting was held in English.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

Members and Deputy Members

Finland

Tuulia Väliheikki, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Jatta Jämsén, 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

Tarjei Jensen Bech, Troms and Finnmark County Council

Kari Anne Bøkestad Andreassen, Nordland County Council

Jan Edøy, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation

Russia

Vsevolod Vovchenko, Ministry of Economic Development

Ilya Ostapchuk, Murmansk Region

Sergey Kungurtsev, Nenets Autonomous District

Elena Demidova, Arkhangelsk Region

Denis Moskalenko, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Maria Astakhova, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden

Isabella Palomba Rydén, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Bror Martin Karlsson, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Johan Antti, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten

Nils-Olov Lindfors, Region Norrbotten

Malin Ylinenpää, Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Luleå office
(from 10:35 onwards)

Other participants:

Heikki Erkinaro, project *Salmonid Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel – Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity in the Green Belt of Fennoscandia, SALMUS, KO1017*
(points 1-3)

Simona Pohlova, EC, DG REGIO

Iveta Puzo, TESIM

Päivi Ekdahl, Regional Council of Lapland

Riikka Oittinen, MA

Laura Mäki, MA

Katri Niska-Honkonen, MA

Svetlana Peltoperä, MA

Ekaterina Sujala, MA

Marjaana Lahdenranta, Secretary of the Meeting, MA

Kairi Pääsuke, Swedish BO

Linda Mosand, Norwegian BO

Jan M. Solstad, Norwegian BO

Julia Korshunova, Head of the Russian BO, Murmansk

Olga Klisheva, Russian BO in Arkhangelsk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Chair of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) in 2021 Lisbeth Nylund opened the meeting at 10:00 Finnish time. The participants of the meeting and changes to the list of JMC Members and Deputy Members were notified.

Decision

Participants of the meeting were notified and quorum was established, the changes in the list of JMC Members and Deputy Members were noted and the proposed meeting Agenda was approved.

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

- Riikka Oittinen (Programme manager, MA) presented the changes in the programme staff:
 - Ekaterina Sujala started in April 1st as the second Financial Officer.
 - Kairi Pääsuke replaced Marita Thelin in the Swedish BO in May 5th.
 - Joonas Holopainen has resigned as CBC Coordinator from the beginning of June. The MA received 30 applications for the open vacancy (the call was open 19.5. – 2.6.).
- Progress and implementation of the projects were presented:
 - Katri Niska-Honkonen (Financial Manager, MA) presented the current state of payments to the projects and the realization of the projects' budgets (**Annex 1**).
 - Marjaana Lahdenranta (CBC Expert, MA) presented the latest Addendums made to the Grant Contracts, according to the Annex 2 of the Agenda.

- Simona Pohlova (EC) and Vsevolod Vovchenko (MFA of the Russian Federation) presented the status of modification of the Financing Agreement related to the modified Implementing Regulation.
- Laura Mäki presented the current situation in contracting and launching of the micro projects, according to the Annex 3 of the Agenda).
- Katri Niska-Honkonen presented the current situation in realisation of the financial frame of the Programme and the possibilities of contracting the micro projects on the reserve list, according to the Annex 4 of the Agenda).
- Laura Mäki (CBC Expert, MA) presented the events and project support activities carried out by the MA and BOs (**Annex 2**).
- Riikka Oittinen told about the communication with the EC.
 - Exchange between the EC and MA works well. The most discussed issue during the past year has been the verification procedure of the TA costs. The question came up during the process for approval of the Annual Report 2018-2019, and as a result of the discussions with the Audit Authority and DG REGIO, the MA changed the procedure so that the segregation of tasks is more clearly visible. The AA and EC have approved the updated description of the procedure.
 - In May 31st the MA received an announcement about the EC comments to the Annual Report 2019-2020. The deadline for the supplements is June 28th.
- The Branch Offices gave an overview on their work.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

The EC representative asked about the cases when the MA pays grant directly to partners, although according to the set rule the payments should be made always to the Lead Partner only. The MA and EC representatives agreed to discuss the question separately.

The Russian BO asked for a justification for the changed verification procedure of the Russian BO TA costs, and differences in the procedures in different programmes. It was agreed that the MA will continue the discussion with the RU BO and RU NA.

3. Project presentation

Project Manager Heikki Erkinaro presented central contents of the project SALMUS (Salmonid Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel - Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity un the Green Belt of Fennoscandia (**Annex 3**).

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

4. Approval of the Programme documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2021 – 30.6.2022

The MA presented each document, concentrating on changes and updates made:

- Riikka Oittinen presented the draft Work Programme and Risk Management Plan 2021–2022 (**Annexes 4-6**).

- Laura Mäki presented the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2021-2022 (**Annexes 7-8**).
- Marjaana Lahdenranta presented the draft Information and Communication Plan 2021-2022 (**Annex 9**).
- Katri Niska-Honkonen presented the draft Technical Assistance budget 2021-2022 (**Annexes 10-11**).

Decision:

The JMC approved the documents for the budgetary year 1.7.2021 – 30.6.2022 with no requested additions or changes. The documents will be delivered to the EC in February 2022, alongside with the Annual Report 2020-2021.

5. Discussion on the visibility of the Programme.

Riikka Oittinen told about the general situation with the visibility and changes in the visibility actions due to the COVID-19 restrictions. For more than a year, all events have been organised online, which has highlighted the importance of electronic communications and online visibility, at both project and Programme level. Marjaana Lahdenranta presented some examples on how the projects have been visible online, in workshops, lectures, and videos (**Annex 12**).

Vsevolod Vovchenko proposed that the projects should in their communication use a Kolarctic CBC logo with the flags, instead of the logo which is now instructed to be used by the projects.

Decision:

The presented experiences were noted by the JMC.

The JMC decided that the MA will change the instructions given to projects concerning the logo which the projects use in their communication, to indicate the Kolarctic CBC financing. The projects must in the future use the same logo which the Programme bodies use, the one including the national flags of the participating countries. The instructions will be changed in the Project Implementation Manual and the Kolarctic CBC Communication and Visibility Instructions to projects, and thereafter the changes will be communicated to projects.

6. State of play of the preparation of the 2021-2027 Programme

Riikka Oittinen presented the programming process and expected timetables (**Annex 13**). Simona Pohlova shared information on the status of preparation of the EU Regulation and the Financing Agreement between the European Union and Russian Federation, with an update information from the Russian Federation.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC

7. Update information on the cross-programme cooperation.

Riikka Oittinen gave an overview on the Arctic Cooperation, collaboration within Northern Cluster network and between the Finnish-Russian CBC Programmes.

Decision:

Information was noted by the JMC.

8. Any other business

Riikka Oittinen informed the JMC that the MA has purchased a Zoom licence and it's now possible to arrange JMC meetings also in Zoom. The information was welcomed by the JMC.

9. Next meeting

Next meeting will be held on the 1st of December, 2021. If it will be possible to meet face-to-face, the meeting will be held in Northern Norway. If not, the meeting will be arranged in Zoom.

10. Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 15:10 Finnish time.

Lisbeth Nylund
Chair of the JMC in 2021

Marjaana Lahdenranta
Secretary of the meeting

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1 – Financial state of play
- Annex 2 – Project events and support activities
- Annex 3 – Presentation of project SALMUS
- Annex 4 – Presentation on Work Programme and RMP 2021-2022
- Annex 5 – Approved Work Programme 2021-2022
- Annex 6 – Approved Risk Management Plan 2021-2022
- Annex 7 – Presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2021-2022
- Annex 8 – Approved Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2021-2022
- Annex 9 – Approved Information and Communication Plan 2021-2022
- Annex 10 – Presentation on TA 2021-2022
- Annex 11 – Approved TA action plan and budget 2021-2022
- Annex 12 – A look at visibility
- Annex 13 – Programme preparation