

## 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Programming Committee (PC) of Kolarctic 2021-2027 Programme

**Date and time:** Wednesday, 26 May 2021, 10.00 – 15.05 (Finnish time)

**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) Jatta Jämsén           |   |
| (x) Päivi Ekdahl           | ( ) Mika Riipi                              |
| (x) Timo Jokelainen        | (x) Jaakko Ylinampa                         |
| (x) Lisbeth Nylund         | (x) Jan Edøy                                |
| (x) Marte Lauvhjell        |   |
| (x) Natalia Z. Karlsen     | ( ) <del>Silje Dalehaug</del> Bente Helland |
| (x) Eileen W B Zakariassen | (x) Stig Olsen                              |
| (x) Vsevolod Vovchenko     | ( ) <del>Alla Agapova</del>                 |
| (x) Igor Kapyrin           | (x) Denis Moskalenko                        |
| (x) Ilya Ostapchuk         | ( ) Olga Yumatova                           |
| (x) Sergey Kungurtsev      | ( ) Natalia Lysak                           |
| (x) Elena Demidova         | ( ) Maria Kropacheva                        |
| (x) Isabella Palomba Rydén | ( ) Maria M Eriksson                        |
| (x) Bror Martin Karlsson   | ( ) Kasper Andersson                        |
| (x) Ylva Sardén            |   |
| (x) Susanne Friberg        | ( ) Anna Degerman                           |

### **Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Managing Authority:**

- (x) Riikka Oittinen
- (x) Marjaana Lahdenranta
- (x) Laura Mäki
- (-) Joonas Holopainen
- (x) Maiju Jolma-Taylor
- (x) Katri Niska-Honkonen
- (x) Svetlana Peltoperä
- (x) Ekaterina Sujala

### **Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Branch Offices:**

- (x) Julia Korshunova
- (x) Olga Klisheva
- (x) Linda Mosand
- (x) Jan Martin Solstad
- (x) ~~Marita Thelin~~ Kairi Pääsuke

### **European Commission:**

- (x) Filip Chybalski
- (x) Debora Finotti

### **TESIM:**

- (x) Iveta Puzo

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation**

- (x) Maria Astakhova

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

### 1. Opening of the meeting, identification of those present, approval of the agenda of the meeting

The Chair Vsevolod Vovchenko opened the meeting at 10.00 Finnish time. The heads of the delegations presented the meeting participants and the changes in the Members and Deputy Members of the Kolarctic 2021-2027 Programming Committee (PC).

#### Resolution:

Participants of the meeting were notified and the quorum was established. Changes in the list of members and deputy members of the Kolarctic 2021-2027 PC were noted. The agenda of the meeting was approved.

### 2. Update on the state of preparation of regulatory and legal processes, incl. financing and FA

Filip Chybalski (EC) gave an update on the state of preparation of regulatory and legal processes. The final approval of the cohesion package including the Interreg Regulations is expected to take place in the last days of June. The Financial Agreement for the new programmes is under preparation. The EC will share the draft part of recoveries with the Russian Federation by the end of May.

Riikka Oittinen (MA) gave a briefing on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes, which are ongoing, both for the programme area in Finland, Sweden and Norway, and in the Russian Federation. The Scope of the Assessment for the EU countries and Norway is published and open for consultation until June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. For the Russian programme area, the kick-off meeting of the SEA process was held in 12 May. The consultants have a connection with each other and they coordinate the work mutually. The consultants are prepared to give an update on their work in the next Programming Committee meeting in June.

#### Resolution:

Information was noted and discussed by the PC.

### 3. Decision on the Specific Objectives (SO) to be selected under the Interreg Specific Objective 1 (ISO1), based on the proposal by the Task Force made on the ground of the feedback from and consultation with the PC members

In its meeting in April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the PC made decisions on the SOs to be selected under the POs for Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme. Under the ISO1 Better Governance, the Task Force (TF) had proposed two SOs: SO3 and SO6. PC unanimously selected SO3 People-to-people actions for increased trust, whereas SO6 Other actions was not considered to be clearly defined and justified.

Maiju Jolma-Taylor (MA) presented the process which has taken place since the previous Programming Committee meeting on the further development of the ISO1 related areas of interest for the 2021-2027 programme. The Task Force had an extended meeting in May with participation of PC members, to investigate more in

depth what type of activities and actions are identified as important for Kolarctic 2021-2027. As a result of the meeting, a list of areas which could not be funded under already agreed upon ISO1.3 *People to People actions for increased trust*, was developed (**Annex 1**).

The Programming Committee discussed the areas presented in this list, and the possibilities of either choosing another SO under ISO1, or trying to include the areas under chosen POs' scope.

On one hand, the opportunities offered by ISO1 to support governance collaboration between authorities and wider range of stakeholders, for instance in Arctic and Barents Cooperation and rescue services, were welcomed. On the other hand, it was pointed out that many SOs from different thematic areas (POs) have been agreed upon, and governance collaboration should be made possible under these chosen SOs. Furthermore, it was pointed out that many themes under ISO1 should be furthered at federal level, the regional level collaboration is not sufficient or the right way to proceed.

Resolution:

The Programming Committee re-confirmed the consensus on choosing SO3 under ISO1. The Task Force was given a mission to analyse the actions falling out from ISO1.3 and consider their importance for the implementation of the programme, and investigate if they can be implemented under chosen POs, or under other SOs under the ISO1, or to find other possibilities. The ISO1.6 is excluded.

#### 4. Decision on the priorities of the programme

The priorities of individual Interreg programmes are to be defined by each programme at the programming phase. A priority has to be linked to one Policy Objective (PO), and one priority can host several Specific Objectives (SO) under the same PO. The Task Force had earlier presented an option to have four (4) priorities in Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme. Based on the feedback received from the previous PC meeting and the further development of the SOs' content, the Task Force updated its proposal.

Maiju Jolma-Taylor presented the Task Force's updated proposal for the four (4) priorities (**Annex 1**). Each priority title had two options to be discussed from. The PC discussed about the amount and the naming of the priorities of the 2021-2027 programme.

Resolution:

The PC made the decision to choose four priorities for the programme. The first three priority titles were agreed on the meeting:

- 1) A **skilled, smart** and **innovative** Kolarctic area
- 2) A **green, responsible** and **resilient** Kolarctic area
- 3) An **attractive, vibrant** and **culturally diverse** Kolarctic area

The 4<sup>th</sup> priority title for ISO1 will be formulated once there is a final decision on the ISO1 SO selection. The current working title for the 4<sup>th</sup> priority is **Connected and inclusive societies for sustainable development of the Kolarctic area**.

## 5. Discussion on the budget allocation percentages by priorities, on the basis of the proposal made by the Task Force

According to the Interreg Regulation (Art. 17(3)(f)(ii)), each Interreg Programme shall set out a financial plan specifying the total financing allocation for each priority.

Maiju Jolma-Taylor presented the Task Force's initial budget allocation proposal by priorities for the Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme (**Annex 1**). The proposal of the Task Force was based on the ongoing programme's experiences and on the emphasis seen important for the upcoming programme period.

The representatives of the National Authorities presented their initial views for the budget allocation by priorities.

### Resolution:

The PC discussed the budget allocation percentages by priorities. The spectrum of the PC views in each priority is as follows:

1. A **skilled, smart** and **innovative** Kolarctic area: 30-35%
2. A **green, responsible** and **resilient** Kolarctic area: 30-35%
3. An **attractive, vibrant** and **culturally diverse** Kolarctic area: 20%
4. 4<sup>th</sup> priority on ISO 1: 10-20%

The discussion on the budget allocation will continue in the upcoming meetings.

## 6. Presentation and discussion of the first draft of the programme document

Maiju Jolma-Taylor presented the first draft of the programme document focusing on joint challenges of the programme region (Chapter 1) and specific chapters for each Specific Objective (Chapter 2).

### Resolution:

The PC discussed the first draft of the programme document and gave comments for its further development. Iveta Puzo (TESIM) made recommendations on how to re-structure and further develop the content of the chapter 1 draft text.

The PC decided that the draft will be developed based on the comments received from the Programming Committee members by 11 June in written format. The MA will circulate a word document format of the draft for commenting purposes.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the draft document will be shared with the consultants making the Strategic Environmental Assessments, and the draft scopes of the Specific Objectives will be presented in the stakeholder consultations in June.

## 7. Discussion on the management structure for the programme

Management structures for the NEXT programmes between Finland and Russia were preliminary discussed in the Coordination Group meeting in May 18<sup>th</sup>. Based on that discussion, the PC continued the discussion concerning Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme.

Laura Mäki (MA) presented the results of the feedback survey made for the JMC on experiences of the current structures (**Annex 2**).

Riikka Oittinen presented the discussion held regarding the management structures for the NEXT programmes between Finland and Russia in the Coordination Group meeting in May 18<sup>th</sup> (**Annex 3**). In the new Regulation, the Joint Secretariat (JS) with its Branch Offices (BOs) have an essential role in the programme implementation. The selection procedures of the new programme will affect the tasks of the JS and the BOs in all countries. The JS will be hosted by the same organisation as the Managing Authority, the Regional Council of Lapland.

The status and the tasks of BOs were discussed. It was noted that the role and purpose of the BOs shall be covered by the Financial Agreement (FA), as is the case in the current Programme, but since the tasks of the BOs might alter in different programmes, the tasks of BOs should be at rather general level in the FA. Filip Chybalski (EC) stated that EC does not see any alarming points in the current plans for setting the structures, and that EC will not intervene in how the BOs are legally set up both in Member States and in participating countries, as long as the BOs support the implementation of the programme and the MA's work.

### Resolution:

The PC discussed the management structure for Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme. The discussion will continue in the upcoming meetings. For further discussion the MA was given a mandate to draft a more detailed description of the tasks of the MA and JS+BOs.

## 8. Overview on the Arctic Cooperation and coordination of the preparation with other programmes

Riikka Oittinen gave an overview on the stage of the Arctic Cooperation and the coordination measures taken with other programmes. The coordination among the Arctic programmes has lately focused on ISO1 coordination, as well as on ways to include the enhanced and stronger Arctic Cooperation into the new programmes.

The three Finnish-Russian programmes have continuous exchange and the common Coordination Group. Coordination discussions concern i.a. management structures, simplified cost options (SCOs) and communication strategy, which is jointly developed for the 2021-2027 programme period.

The representatives of the MA and BOs have participated in events organised by TESIM and Interact, which have lately been for example about small projects and SCOs. Within

the Northern Cluster network there is exchange on i.a. names and visibility of the programmes.

Resolution:

The information was noted by the PC.

### 9. Any other business

The MA has obtained a Zoom licence for online meetings. It was agreed to use it in the upcoming Programme Committee meetings.

The Programming Committee members welcomed the possibility to participate in the briefing session on SCOs organised by the MA, with support of TESIM. The session will take place in June 18<sup>th</sup>, and recorded for those who cannot attend the agreed time.

Task Force meeting notes have not been sent this spring as the PC has met on monthly basis, and thus has been updated on the programming process regularly. The meeting notes will be gathered and sent to the PC members in bulk.

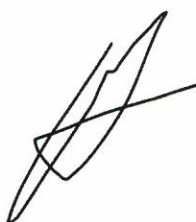
### 10. Next meeting


The next PC meeting will be held 29 June.

### 11. Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 15.05 (Finnish time).

Vsevolod Vovchenko  
Chair of the meeting  
Ministry of Economic Development



  
Maiju Jolma-Taylor  
Secretary of the meeting  
Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 MA

### List of Annexes:

- Annex 1** Presentation on ISO 1 discussion, priorities and budget allocation proposal (points 3-5, Maiju Jolma-Taylor)
- Annex 2** Results of the feedback survey for the JMC on experiences of the current programme structures (Laura Mäki)
- Annex 3** Management structures