

8th meeting of the Programming Committee (PC) of Kolarctic 2021-2027 Programme

Date and time: Thursday, 23 September 2021, 10.00 – 14.45 (Finnish time)
Location: Zoom meeting hosted by the Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 MA
Language: English

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

(x) Tuulia Väliheikki	(-) Helinä Yli-Knuutila
(x) Jatta Jämsén (joined 10.46)	
(x) Päivi Ekdahl	(-) Mika Riipi
(x) Timo Jokelainen	(-) Jaakko Ylinampa
(x) Lisbeth Nylund	(x) Jan Edøy
(x) Kristian Svanes Marte Lauvhjell	(-) Marte Lauvhjell
(x) Helen Andersen Natalia Z. Karlsen	(-) Bente Helland
(x) Stig Olsen Eilen W B Zakariassen	(x) Eilen W B Zakariassen
	Stig Olsen
(x) Vsevolod Vovchenko	()
replaced in this meeting by Alisa Yaresko	
(x) Igor Kapyrin	(x) Denis Moskalenko
(x) Ilya Ostapchuk	(-) Marina Shekhtman
(x) Sergey Kungurtsev	(-)
(-) Elena Demidova	(x) 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 Holster
(x) Marjaana Lahdenranta
(x) Laura Mäki
(x) Maiju Jolma-Taylor
(x) Katri Niska-Honkonen
(x) Ekaterina Sujala
(x) Svetlana Peltoperä
(x) Sari Peltoniemi

Kolarctic CBC 2014-2020 Branch Offices:

(X) Olga Klisheva
(x) Jan Martin Solstad
(x) Kairi Pääsuke

European Commission:

(x) Simona Pohlova

TESIM:

(x) Iveta Pužo

Others:

(x) Maria Astakhova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
(x) Gisle Eriksen, Secretariat for Norwegian Regional High North Forum (joined 10.11)
(x) Natalia Karlsen, Troms and Finnmark County Council (joined, 10.16)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Chair Tuulia Väliheikki opened the meeting at 10.00 Finnish time. The heads of the delegations presented the meeting participants and changes to the list of members and deputy members of the Kolarctic 2021-2027 PC.

Resolution:

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

2. State of play of the preparation, including programme financing frame and SEA process

Simona Pohlova (EC) gave an update on the regulatory processes concerning the EU Regulation and the Financing Agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation. Full packages of ERDF, Interreg and NDICI regulations entered into force the 1st of July 2021. The adoption of Implementing Acts on regional coverage, budgets and multiannual strategy is delayed, which will affect also the adoption of programmes, as the programmes cannot be adopted by the Commission before the adoption of the Implementing Acts.

The level of the NDICI funding is in internal consultation in the Commission. The consultation is delayed, and the Commission will communicate the funding level as soon as there is an approval.

The Commission is working on the Financing Agreement and the draft is due to be submitted for discussion as soon as possible. Liability on the Russian Federation for private parties is not in accordance with the Russian legislation, so the chapter on liabilities and recoveries needs to be looked at in particular.

Lisbeth Nylund (Norwegian NA) informed the meeting about the Norwegian national budget proposal for the year 2022, which suggests to decrease the Norwegian contribution to Interreg programmes. The final figures are expected to be available by the end of 2021. Norway has written to the Commission requesting a meeting on the matter.

Riikka Holster (MA) gave a progress report of the SEA processes. In August–September, the draft Environmental Report of the SEA for Finland, Sweden and Norway has been in public consultation, and the one for the Russian programme area in expert consultation. The draft Report for Russia is now ready to be published for public consultation. The consultants will finalise the Reports according to the comments received in the public consultations, aiming at the public hearing at the same time with the programme document. The consultants work on good cooperation with each other, which makes the reports co-dimensional.

Resolution:

The information was noted by the PC.

3. Decision on the title of the 4th Priority (Interreg Specific Objective 1)

Maiju Jolma-Taylor (MA) presented two draft proposals (**Annex 1**) for the 4th priority name, reflecting the decision made by the PC in the meeting in June 29th to include no other specific objectives (SO) under Priority 4 (ISO1) but SO People to People actions for increased trust. PC members highlighted the importance to include the notion of people-to-people action clearly in the priority title and developed the draft names in the meeting accordingly.

Resolution:

The Programming Committee decided to name the 4th priority of the Kolarctic 2021-2027 programme as *People-to-people cooperation for connected and active communities in Kolarctic area*.

4. Introduction of the 2nd draft of the Programme document (expedited WP for comments foreseen)

The Managing Authority gave a presentation on the 2nd draft programme document (**Annex 2**), in which the PC members' earlier comments had been taken into account in further developing the chapter 1 on challenges, and 2 on detailed information on the each chosen specific objective. New chapters on financing plan (ch.3), partnership (ch.4), communication and visibility (ch.5), support to small-scale projects (ch.6) and implementing provisions (ch.7) were introduced.

The PC discussed the draft document chapter by chapter, giving comments and ideas for further development of the document. It was acknowledged that co-financing and project assessment and selection procedure are not decided yet and thus descriptions on them shall not be included in the draft for public hearing. The public hearing will focus on the chosen priorities and specific objectives. The administrative part of the document (chapters on financing, small-scale projects and implementing provisions) is not necessary to be included in the material to be published for public hearing.

Riikka Holster presented the possibility to conduct an expedited Written Procedure to collect all the feedback on the 2nd draft programme document and opinions on the material for public hearing.

Alisa Yaresko (RU NA) reminded that for public hearing purposes a Russian language version of the chapters included has to be provided.

Resolution:

The Programming Committee discussed the presented draft and the next steps before the public hearing and after. The expedited Written Procedure was decided to be held 24-30.9., to gather all the comments from the PC members in written, and to approve the parts of the draft programme document and other materials to be published for public hearing. For the purpose of public hearing, a shortened version of chapter 7 on implementing provisions will be introduced in the WP. The updated programme

document, together with the Minutes of the expedited WP will be under PC's review and approval 8.-14.10.

5. Discussion on the Programme's name and visual appearance

Tuulia Väliheikki (Chair, Finnish NA) gave an update on the content of discussions in the coordination group meeting related to the programmes visual appearance and branding. EC is in collaboration with Interact on the matter, and the plans to publish a branding manual followed by a seminar on programmes' visual appearance. The nature of the CBC programmes has unique features which should be recognised in the branding of the programmes.

The requirements of all the co-financiers are needed for the development of the programme's visual appearance.

Riikka Holster presented the draft map of the programme area (**Annex 3**). First comments were taken on board.

Resolution:

The PC discussed the conditions and general principles of visual appearance and the first impressions on the draft map of the programme area. It was decided that the MA will process the draft map in line with the PC comments, and bring an alternative draft map to the expedited WP, asking the PC to give its preference.

6. Discussion on the Performance Framework Methodology

Laura Mäki (MA) gave an introduction to the Performance Framework (PF) Methodology and its role in the programming process (**Annex 4**). The PF Methodology includes the criteria for selection of indicators, description of data and calculation method used, as well as risk factors which may influence the achievement of the chosen milestones and targets.

The PC members gave comments to the presentation, content of the outline and planned context of the PF Methodology. The draft document will be circulated unofficially to the PC members.

Resolution:

The information was noted by the PC.

7. Overview on the programming coordination within the Arctic Cooperation and other networks

Riikka Holster told that as Interreg Aurora and NPA have already reached the stage of national approval, the focus of the discussions in the Arctic Cooperation network is no more programming, but already the cooperation in the period 2021-2027. The network has collected for the future cooperation testimonials, which will be introduced in the Lessons Learnt Paper that is under preparation, and taken into account in the future collaboration.

The Finnish-Russian CBC programmes have continued active collaboration on several common interests in the programming, such as liabilities, establishment of JS and BOs, and questions of visual appearance. The Coordination Group meets regularly, to discuss the common interests. The Programmes cooperate also on the new monitoring system (Jems), which will be chosen commonly by all the three programmes. The new monitoring system aims for common solutions and alignments which is crucial as the beneficiaries overlap partly in these programmes.

Northern Cluster, which means the EU-RU CBC Programmes, will need to coordinate in upcoming months on the questions of the programmes' names and visual appearance.

Resolution:

The Information was noted by the PC.

8. Any other business

Further discussion points were not raised.


9. Next meeting

The next PC meeting will be held online on Monday 13 December, starting at 11.00 RU time, 10.00 FI time and 9.00 SE/NO time.

10. Closing of the meeting

The chair closed the meeting at 14.45 (Finnish time).

Tuulia Väliheikki (sign.)
Chair of the meeting
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
of Finland



Maiju Jolma-Taylor (sign.)
Secretary of the meeting
Kolarctic CBC 2014–2020 MA

List of Annexes:

- Annex 1** 4th priority title proposals
- Annex 2** Presentation of the 2nd draft programme document
- Annex 3** Draft map of the programme area
- Annex 4** Draft outline of the Performance Framework Methodology