

**18th EUROPEAN WEEK of
REGIONS and CITIES**

05>09 OCTOBER 2020

12>16 OCTOBER 2020

19>22 OCTOBER 2020



Programme Cooperation in the Arctic

How to Cooperate across Programmes: Experience from the Interreg-ENI CBC Arctic Collaboration

Q&A session – EU Regions Week

14th October 2020, 11:00-12:00 CET

[14Pitch1539V](#)

Context

The cooperation programmes in the European Arctic started working together in 2016, mandated by the Joint Arctic Communication¹. The cross-programme collaboration is coordinated by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. Participating programmes are Interreg Botnia-Atlantica, Interreg Nord, Kolarctic CBC, and Karelia CBC.

The European Commission has put a focus on avoiding undesirable duplications in programmes with overlapping geography and themes. This will be even more relevant in the 2021-2027 period, when programmes have a shorter list of themes to choose from, increasing the occurrence of such geographical and thematic overlaps. At the same time, the overall budget for territorial cooperation funding will decrease, and programmes will have to focus on those actions where they will have the biggest impact. Benefitting from synergies with other programmes will result in a more efficient use of the funds.

No macro-regional strategy or sea-basin strategy exists for the Arctic, and no dedicated funds were made available for supporting the cooperation. Despite these apparent limitations, the cooperation between these 5 cooperation programmes of different strands and funds has worked very smoothly. The cooperation is based on goodwill, and the joint activities are in line with the objectives and expertise of the individual programmes. All programmes are dedicated to continuing and intensifying the cooperation in the next period.

Objectives

We would like to use this session explain how we have achieved this kind of "soft cooperation". Although cooperation is our daily business as programmes, we have realised that it is not self-evident that programmes can work together too, especially if there is no overarching macro-regional or sea-basin strategy. We have demonstrated that this can be done with existing resources.

¹"An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic", 27th April 2016, The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EU Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs. [Link](#)

The focus of the Q&A session is sharing best practice in achieving a cross-programme collaboration between Interreg/ENI programmes, and how to benefit from synergies.

Target group: Interreg/ENI programme practitioners, such as Joint Secretariats and Managing Authorities, as well as colleagues in DG Regio working with Interreg/ENI. The session could also be relevant to national and regional representatives on programming committees, and representatives from Arctic regions, or those working with the EU Arctic Policy.

Structure of the session

- 11:00 **Welcome by the moderator**
Christopher Parker, Programme Manager for Project Development Support, Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
- 11:04 **Introduction video** – Arctic Cooperation Conference 2019 [Link](#)
- 11:10 **“A Brief History of the Arctic Cooperation”**
Ms Kirsti Mijnhijmer, Head of Secretariat, Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme
- 11:17 **“The benefits of Cross-Programme Cooperation – a Programme’s Perspective”**
Mr Marko Ruokangas, Programme Director, Karelia CBC ENI Programme
- 11:25 **“The benefits of Cross-Programme Cooperation – a Project’s Perspective”**
Mr Antti Haapalahti, Project Leader N-EEC - North-European Energy Cluster, formerly from Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- 11:32 **“The Success Factors of the Arctic Cooperation – an Evaluator’s Perspective”**
Dr Irene McMaster, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
- 11:40 **Moderator opens the floor for questions**
- 12:00 End of session