

Report from Interreg Nord conference,
Borderless opportunities for Sápmi,
March 11-12, 2020 in Jåhkåmåhkke – Jokkmokk

Annex 1; Conclusions and summary-statement,
Annex 2; Final Program.

Stefan Mikaelsson, chair of Saami Parliament Trades,
-Ávddåulmusj Sámedikke Ealáhuslávdegoddi-

ANNEX I.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, Sisters and brothers.

Welcome to the closing statement which I have received the honour to address. My name is Stefan Mikaelsson and I am a longtime member of the Saami parliament plenary assembly and also current chair of Saami Parliament Trades.

Every river has its people. And here in Jåhkåmåhkke the long time presence of the saami indigenous people have given the name to the river; lullij, meaning "those who do lives in the east". So this is our river. And today the saami people are acknowledged as a people of its own in the swedish constitution.

So what will be a positive development during the coming 10 years so we can appreciate that in 2030? The approaching programperiod will affect the sami nation in a stronger way than all the previous periods. Let me mention some aspects.

The population of Norrbotten has decreased, from 266 thousand inhabitants in 1995 down to 250 thousand in 2019.

The only village to grow here in Jokkmokk municipality despite 15 power plants in the Lule River, 8 of them being within Jokkmokk municipality, is Goabddalis-Kåbdalis. The reason for this is a ski slope with associated cottage village, restaurants, parking lots for caravans etc.

Unlimited extraction of natural resources is no longer a credible alternative with a short operating time and a large ecological impact. If these mega projects already implemented were not more sustainable and did not become foundation for a growing population base seen in a longer time perspective, why were they be implemented at all?

The OECD report was presented briefly by ms Ingela Nilsson yesterday. And in my eyes, the report is like red apples on a silver plate. There are small-scale indigenous activities, with little or none impact on the local environment, food production without antibiotics and growth hormones, etc. This is all described in the report and its importance to our selves and the surrounding society, are extremely high. We must avoid that the report becomes a shelfwarmer or a dustcollector at the state agencies or at the Saami Parliament.

Global warming is twice as strong in the Arctic as in other parts of the world. And with logical consequence, the measures to prevent the escalating climate change should then be twice as strong in the Arctic as compared to Africa or the Amazonas.

The UN-FAO claims that: Indigenous peoples are 5 percent of the world's population, indigenous peoples defends 22 percent of the Earth's surface, which contains 80 percent of the worlds biodiversity.

And that is the best way to combat the escalating climate change, maintaining the inbuilt resilience in an unfragmentized nature.

If it goes as planned, will the common day of election to the Saami Parliaments located in nordic states, be held possible in 2028. We do also look forward when the

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Saami Parliament located in Kola peninsula could be available in 2032. 40 years after that the Nordic Saamicouncil accepted a Saami organisation as full member and thus changed the name to Saami Council since the Saami family finally were united.

And yes, you heard right. It was in 1992 in that the Nordic Saamicouncil congress in Helsinki that the Kola Saami association was represented, and became elected as a member organisation. Thus the umbrella-organisation changed name to the Saamicouncil. A small step for world society but a giant leap for the Saami nation. And thanks to such a small change will we be able to strengthen the Saami region within the boundaries of four national states.

And as it was said by Matti Nykänen; "Life is the best time for humans". And that do feels like it is so today, the first day of the rest of our lives. At the same time, I would also like to emphasize that it is very good that so many of the resources from Nordic society are present here. We have the capacity and position that can provide the development opportunities for a living Sami business that we need. In the Arctic it's the humans who are the most valuable resource, and not anything else.

Indigenous peoples are not part of the problem, we are part of the solution, the solution that also benefits the surrounding society. Together we can go to the future with increasing business and employment even in remote areas that are far away from residential resorts and coastal areas. Solid land, clean water and a living cultural heritage. In many cases this is also supported in Agenda 2030:

Goal 2 is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

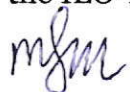
Subgoals such as 2.3: "By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment".

It could be added that the continuation in indigenous culture by choice of children and youth are important initiative.

The EU program Interreg Nord supports cross-border cooperation with the intention of strengthening economic and social development during the period 2014-2020. The Northern Program covers northern Sweden, Finland, Norway and Sápmi.

This is in practice creating a Sami region within Europe and makes it possible to limit the negative aspects of the national borders. It's one of the best examples of bordercrossing activities in Europe.

And it is just as with love as with human rights, one cannot get too much and it is not harmful to one's neighbors. And when talking about Human Rights,, There are 5 obelisks in Jåhkåmåhkke municipality that configure Human Rights-instruments and the need for such also in a remote small-numbered domestic municipality like Jåhkåmåhkke. The obelisk closest located to us can you see thro the window to the right, as well as on the webpage of jokkmokk.se. This nearby obelisk is honouring the ILO-169 and all of the 5 of them have been made by artists Eva Stina Sandling.

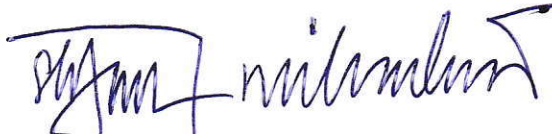


We, in what the EU names for NSPA, do have more in common in east-west bordercrossing cooperation than north-south dito. It is of high importance that we avoid any sort of polarisation in the north but instead enhance different cultures, languages & history, for the benefit of our societies and ourselves.

You, all of you, have been very succesfull in that so that we all now can unite in the wish for improvements for the coming programperiod.

In conclusion I would like to wish you a good health, a long life and safe travels.

Thank you very much for your attention.

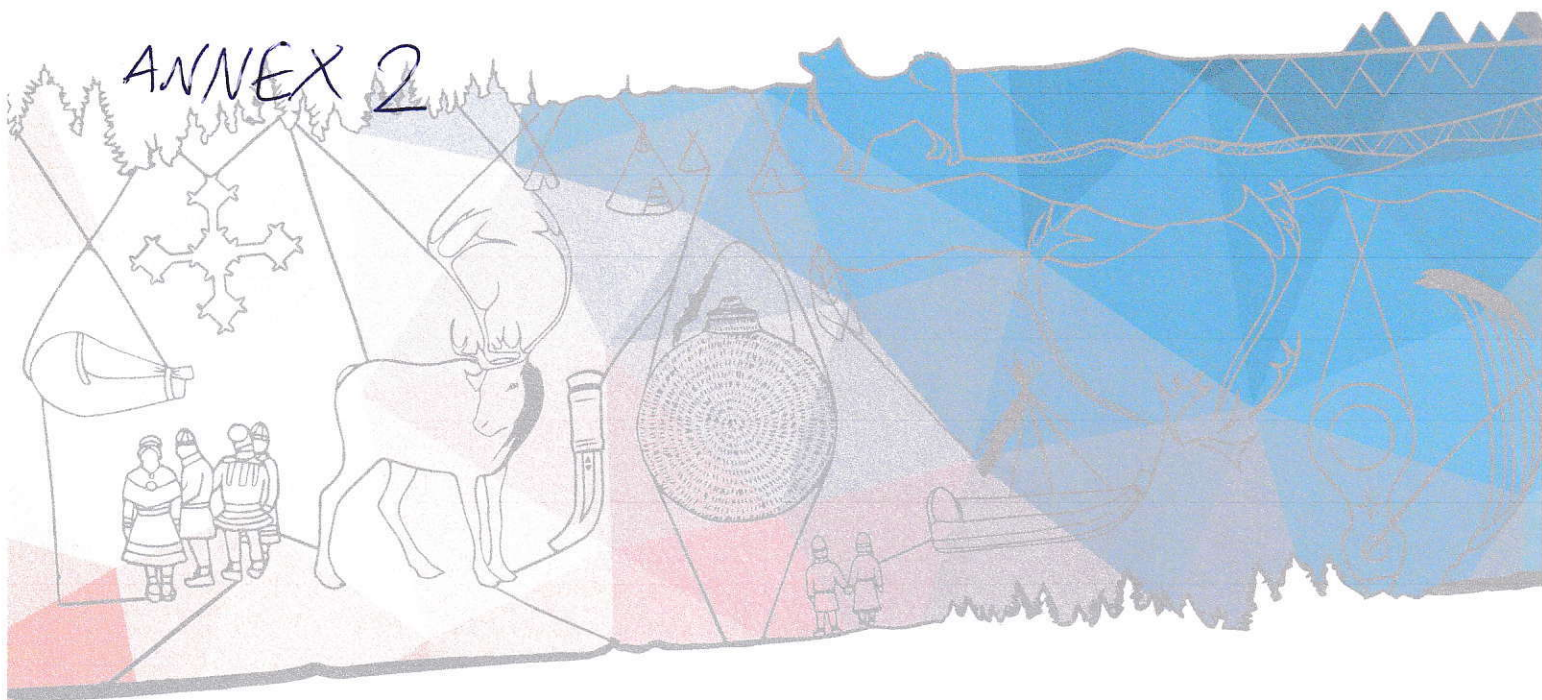


/Stefan Mikaelsson.

Chair of Saami Parliament Trades

Interreg Nord conference,
Borderless opportunities for Sápmi,
March 12, 2020 in Jokkmokk

ANNEX 2



Borderless opportunities for Sápmi

Venue: Jokkmokk, Ájtte museum, Sparbankssalen

Moderator: Jonas Nuldén, Europa Direkt Norrbotten

March 11

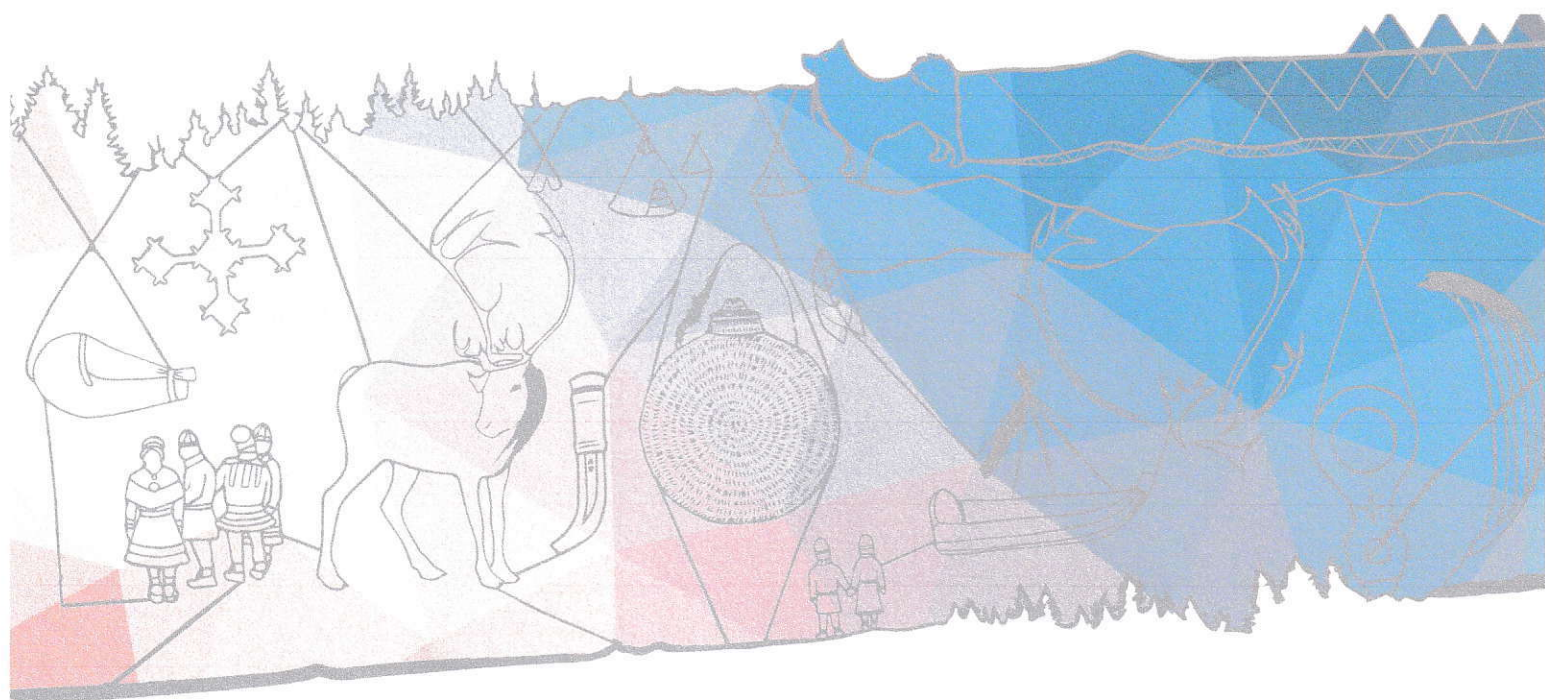
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| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch, Project exhibition in the lobby |
| 13.00 – 13.10 | Welcome to Jokkmokk
<i>Sanna Vannar, Sáminuorra</i> |
| 13.10 – 13.20 | Introduction Interreg Nord
<i>Iris Mäntyranta, Interreg Nord</i> |
| 13.20 – 13.40 | Presentation of the project "Sámi Musihkkaakademiiija" |
| 13.40 – 14.20 | The Future of Interreg - by video link
<i>Pascal Boijmans, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy</i> |
| 14.20 – 14.40 | Presentation of the project "Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps"
<i>Niila Inga, Saami Council</i> |
| 14.40 – 15.15 | Coffee, Project exhibition in the lobby |
| 15.15 – 15.45 | Inspirational speech
<i>Eva Nordfjell, Rösosrein</i> |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | Inspirational speech
<i>Slincraze</i> |
| 16.00 – 16.20 | OECD report "Linking Indigenous Communities with regional development"
<i>Ingela Nilsson, Swedish Sami Parliament, Head of the Department for Sami Trades</i> |
| 16.20– 16.30 | Summary of day 1 |
| 19.00– | Dinner at Hotell Åkerlund
<i>Entertainment by Slincraze</i> |

**Interreg
Nord**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION



March 12

- 09:00 - 09:10** Welcome to day 2
Jonas Nuldén, Europa Direkt Norrbotten
- 09:10- 09:40** Presentation of the project “Giellágaldu”
Marko Marjomaa, Finnish Sami Parliament
- 09:40- 10.00** Inspirational speech
Anna Kuhmunen, Silba Siida
- 10.00 –10.20** Presentation of the project “Beavnardahke”
Erika Omma Unnes, Gaaltije
- 10.20 - 10.40** Presentation of the project “AIDA”
Anna Westman-Kuhmunen, Ájtte museum
- 10.40 – 11.15** Coffee, Project exhibition in the lobby
- 11.15 – 11.35** Jarnŋa, Arctic Pulse
- 11.35 - 12.00** EU and the Arctic – how is EU working with Arctic regions and how can Arctic indigenous people participate in the work? - by video link
Louise Floman, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy
- 12.00 – 12.45** Panel discussion with representatives for the three Sami Parliaments – Why is Interreg important for Sápmi? The future of cross-border cooperation?
Niila Inga, Saami Council
Lars Miguel Utsi, Swedish Sami Parliament
Tor Gunnar Nystad, Norwegian Sami Parliament
Nilla Tapiola, Finnish Sami Parliament
- 12.45- 13.00** Conclusions, summary of the conference
Stefan Mikaelsson, Chair of the Swedish Sámi Parliaments trades
- 13.00–** Lunch