



EU and the Arctic

How is the EU working with Arctic regions and how can Arctic indigenous peoples participate in the work?

*Louise Floman, European Commission
DG REGIO*



A European policy for the Arctic

- 2016 A communication on an integrated EU policy for the Arctic
- EU Arctic Stakeholder Forum
- Arctic Indigenous Peoples' dialogue
- The Green Deal

Communication on an integrated EU policy for the Arctic– 27 april 2016

Three joint priorities:

- Climate Change and Safeguarding the Arctic Environment
- Sustainable Development in and around the Arctic
- International Cooperation on Arctic Issues

Climate change and safeguarding the Arctic environment

- *Issues:*

Climate change more tangible in the Arctic summer sea ice decreasing, **livelihoods of indigenous peoples are being directly affected by climate change**, sensitive ecosystems affected.

- *Policy response:*

- Research & Innovation important – through Horizon but also the ERDF and Interreg
- 25% of Structural funds 2014-2020 dedicated to reach climate goals
- Preservation of biodiversity



“Do no harm” principle

- The Green Deal



Sustainable Development in and around the Arctic

- *Issues:* Specific challenges in the Arctic region such as sparse population and long distances
- *Policy response:* EU supports sustainable innovation in the Arctic region, including through Interreg
- Coordination between Interreg programmes
- ***EU Arctic Stakeholder Forum***



“Sustainable development (...) taking into account both the traditional livelihoods of those living in the region and the impact of economic development”

EU Arctic Stakeholder Forum 2016-2017

- Arctic actors gathered to jointly identify priorities for investments in the Arctic
- Process closed, but the actors continue to get together and discuss Arctic matters at the **EU Arctic Stakeholder Conference**

+ Arctic Indigenous People's Dialogue

Keep an eye out for the next conference and other Arctic initiatives!

Identified investment priorities:

- Digital infrastructure (e-government, health, distance learning etc)
- Transport
- Renewable energy
- Competence platform
- Sustainable tourism

→ Many priorities relevant for Interreg

How can I participate?

- Keep an eye out for the next Arctic Stakeholder Conference and Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue
- ... and for other relevant initiatives (e.g. open consultations)
- Participate **actively** in the preparations of the **new Interreg programmes**

Opportunities for Sàpmi in Interreg

- Participate in your region's **entrepreneurial discovery process** to be included in the Smart Specialization strategy → important for future projects in SME's and R&I
- A **coherent strategy** on cultural heritage and language preservation (and on sustainable tourism?)
 - Required for Policy Objective 5
 - Small Project Fund?
- **Small Project Fund** for SME's?



Thank you for your attention!