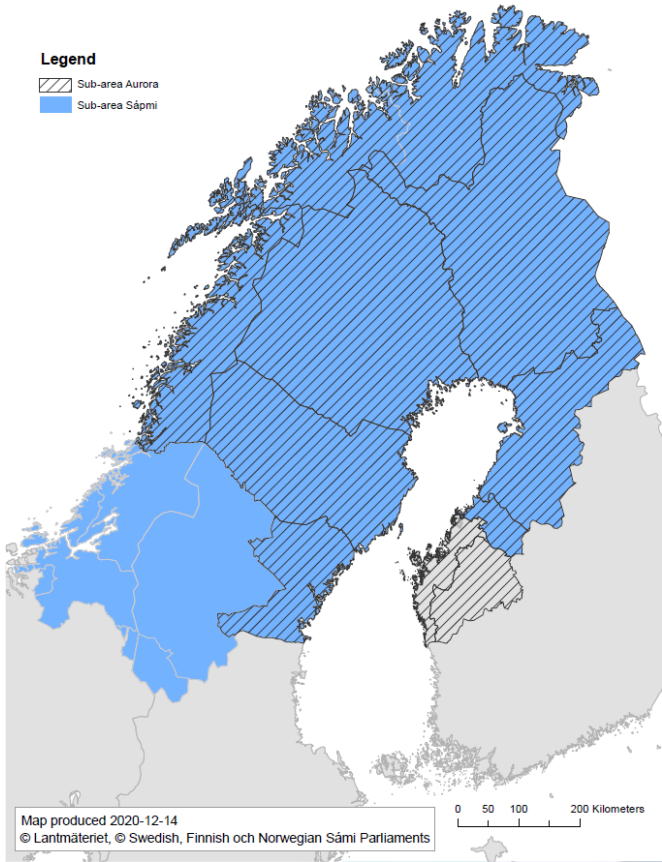


Interreg Aurora



Region	Area (km ²), land (total)	Population	Population density (population per km ²)
Programme area	435 854	2 279 001	5,2

Interreg Aurora



Programming process in Interreg Aurora

1. Analysis of the programme area (SWOT, socio-economic, issues + needs) (Include all the existing strategies (regional, sectoral, etc.)
2. Consultation with stakeholders and civil society
3. Reflect together and make clear choices (priorities+ resources)
4. Draft a clear document (including shorter for citizens)
5. Political support

Objectives of the The European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) 2021-2027)

- To promote social and economic integration across national borders through regional cooperation
- Interreg is one of the key instruments in the EU that supports cross-border cooperation through project financing.
- The goal is to meet common challenges and find common solutions in health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more.

Discussions in the programme process (2021 – 2027)

1. Stronger focus on reducing cross-border obstacles and developing joint services across borders
2. People to people cooperation
3. English as the programme language
4. Several different project types:
 - Micro-projects (preliminary project, simplified application / reporting)
 - Small projects (local and civil society the ability to set up small projects using simplified cost alternatives)
 - Main project (simplification and harmonization of regulations)
4. One joint application - a joint application portal for EU partners and Norwegian partners
5. Equal footing - Norwegian partners also in the role of project manager (Lead partner)

Five main objectives will drive EU investments in 2021-2027

PO1: **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses

PO2: a **Greener, carbon free Europe**, implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change

PO3 a more **Connected Europe**, with strategic transport and digital networks

PO4: a more **Social Europe**, delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights and supporting quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare

PO5: a **Europe closer to citizens**, by supporting locally-led development strategies and sustainable urban development across the EU.

Interreg: removing cross border obstacles and supporting interregional innovation projects

The new generation of interregional and cross-border cooperation (“**Interreg**”) programmes will help Member States overcome **cross-border obstacles** and develop **joint services**.

Two Interreg-specific objectives:

ISO1. **A better Interreg governance**

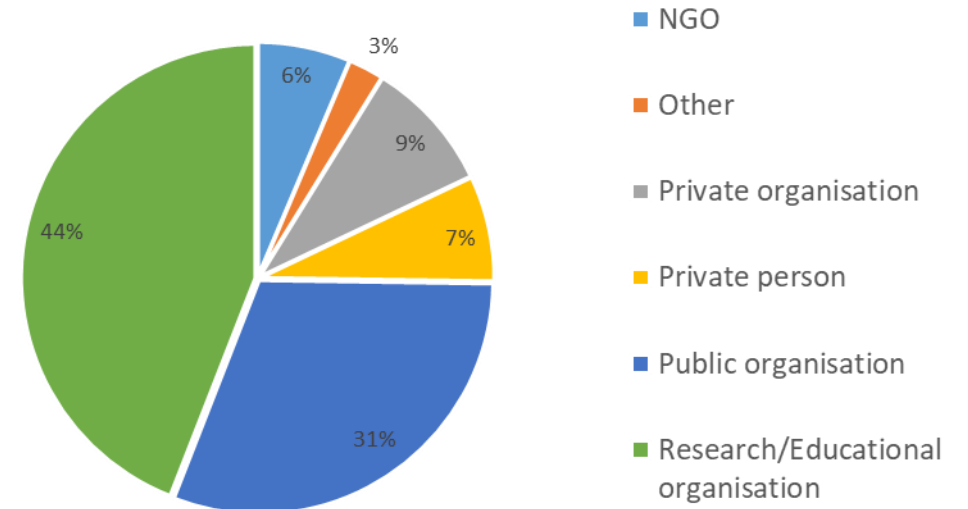
- support for capacity building, addressing cross-border legal and administrative challenges
- support for institutional capacity to support macroregional strategies-support for trust-building, people-to-people, civil society

ISO2. A safer and more secure Europe external borders:

- support for border crossing management, mobility and migration management, including the protection of migrants

Survey autumn 2020

- 329 responses in total
- Top three thematic areas for collaboration:
 - Competitiveness and competence of SMEs
 - Research and Innovation
 - Use of digitalization
- Four main development challenges were identified:
 - Issues related to climate change adaption and mitigation
 - Competence issues in SME/business/livelihoods
 - Ageing population and relocation trend towards urban south
 - Sami related challenges



Socio-economic analysis

- The program area presents a combination of an abundance of natural resources and high level of knowledge.
- The variety of geography, economy, and culture opens up possibilities for joint transregional learning and new cross-border initiatives.
- Major challenges include infrastructure and connectivity, unlocking the full potential of the natural resources as well as human capital, and attracting competent labor force.
- The challenges differ considerably within the program area regarding e.g. demography and long distances.
- Climate change, green transition, and sustainable use of natural resources are high in the agenda
- The COVID-19 pandemics has changed the economic and social landscape with dramatic changes in the outlook of e.g. tourism. Recovery as well as building up resilience for potential future shocks, needs to be given attention.

Policy Objective 1: **Smarter Europe**, through innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and support to small and medium-sized businesses

Specific objectives under PO1, Smarter Europe

Policy objective 1: A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation (*ERDF*)

SO 1. Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

SO 2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments

SO 3. Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs

SO 4. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Activities in PO1

SO1) Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	Research and innovation activities in SME in cooperation with research institutes and higher education
	Research and innovation activities between research centres, higher education and centres of competence
	Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and higher education sector
SO3) Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs	SME business development and internationalisation
	Enhance activities to support Innovation cluster and business networks benefiting SMEs

SO2 and SO4 in the programme

SO2 – Digitisation to be implemented in SO1 and SO3

SO4 – Technology transfer to be implemented in PO1. Skills and competence development will be covered under PO4.

- Digitalization and sustainability - as a horizontal criteria in the programme?
- E-health will also be implemented under PO1

Dealing with logistics under PO1: an example

Infrastructure/logistics – Development of sustainable logistics chains
by focusing on digital solutions and services and low carbon
transport technologies (*includes e.g. connections, concept
development, ecosystem development, electrification*)

Housekeeping guide



You are invited to make short comments to the chat box.



The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.



All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora – Thank you!

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

- You are invited to make short comments in the chat box.
- The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.
- All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora

- Which are the **challenges** (in your field) that could be solved by cross border cooperation within Interreg Aurora?
- Do you know of any **organized cross-border cooperation** within the presented themes? If yes, could you name those, please.
- Do have an intention to **create a cross-border cooperation**? If yes, in which field?
- Is there **anything missing** in our approach?
What would you like to add?
- Do you have any **cross-border cooperation Interreg experiences**?
Would you like to share some of those with us?

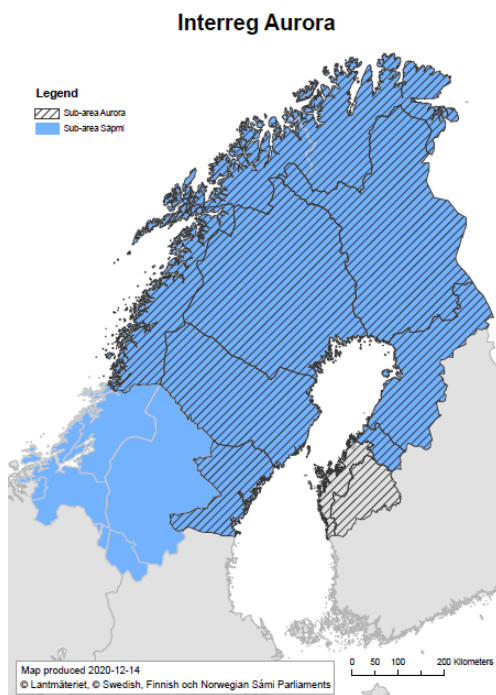


Thank You for sharing your thoughts and
ideas with us today!
Nikki & Mina, how does the mind map look?

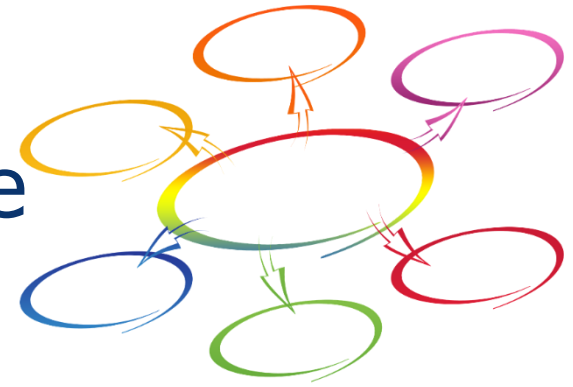


PO2: A greener, low-carbon Europe

Implementing the Paris Agreement and investing in energy transition, renewables and the fight against climate change



PO2: A greener, low-carbon Europe



- SO 1. Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- SO 2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive
- SO 3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage
- **SO 4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches**
- SO 5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management
- SO 6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy
- **SO 7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution**
- **SO 8. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy**

Specific objectives that are **not** chosen

Research and innovation issues under PO1 (SO1). Development of business models under PO1 (SO3).

SO 1. Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

SO 2. Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive

SO 3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage

SO 6. Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Industry related issues could be managed under SO 4 and/or SO 7.

SO 5. Promoting access to water and sustainable water management

SO 4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

- Focus on population benefiting from protection measures against floods, forest fires, and other climate, as well as technically, related natural disasters.
- Climate change is not dependent on country borders.
- Important theme from a Sami perspective.
- Themes such as risks analyses, common planning schemes, search and rescue activities, building on and sharing traditional knowledge, enhancing resilience, development and implementation of monitoring systems and best practices are important from a cross-border aspect.



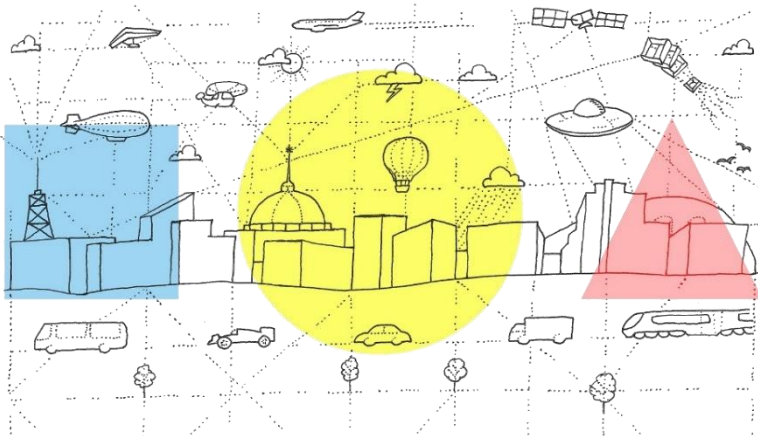
SO 7. Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution

- Focus on measures for air quality, green infrastructure, noise reduction and rehabilitation of land areas.
- Important theme from a Sami perspective.
- There are many successful projects on this theme in the current programs but a lot of work still to be done.
- Themes of interest could for example be management of nature, restoration of wetlands, forestry planning from a green infrastructure perspective, common management of fishery etc.



SO 8. Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy

- Focus on enhancing the number of persons using public transport and dedicated cycling infrastructure.
- There is a great need for multimodality, reducing CO2 footprint, cross border transport planning etc. in the program area.



Housekeeping guide



You are invited to make short comments to the chat box.



The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.



All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora – Thank you!

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

- You are invited to make short comments in the chat box.
- The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.
- All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora

- Which are the **challenges** (in your field) that could be solved by cross border cooperation within Interreg Aurora?
- Do you know of any **organized cross-border cooperation** within the presented themes? If yes, could you name those, please.
- Do have an intention to **create a cross-border cooperation**? If yes, in which field?
- Is there **anything missing** in our approach?
What would you like to add?
- Do you have any **cross-border cooperation Interreg experiences**?
Would you like to share some of those with us?



Thank You for sharing your thoughts and
ideas with us today!

Nikki & Mina, how does the mind map look?

PO 4 A more social Europe

Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure /

Improving access to and the **quality of education, training and lifelong learning** across borders with a view to increasing the educational attainment and skills levels thereof as to be recognised across borders

Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

PO 4 A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (ERDF)

PO 4 A more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (IR Specific)

1. Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure

2. **Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure**

3. Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;

4. Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care

5. **Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation**

1. Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure

2. **Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure**

3. Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services;

4. Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care

5. **Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- RSO 4.2 Education and training infrastructure
- ISO 4.2 Improving cross border access to education and training

Questionnaire to region's stakeholders showed that **competence** was one of the top concerns, competence issues in SME/business as well as **education and life-long learning**.

Socio-economic analyse pointed out: The Program area is likely to experience an overall **population decrease** – but also the population is **ageing**. The demographic development in the Sámi area follows the same pattern as other rural areas in the north. Labour market participation in program area is somewhat **lower** compared to the country average. **Unemployment rate** in the program area is on par with countries as a whole. The Sámi area is in need of a more diversified competence and business structure to provide jobs for the young Sámi population.

There is a large need of an increased and educated workforce in the region. Ageing population, high dropout rates, high number of people with “**basic**” education level, long distances to high schools and universities in the region, outmigration; development of an attractive and high-quality education area/joint education we can attract people from other parts of the world to come and stay.

Sápmi – transferring the knowledge within Sami businesses and livelihood which is linked to the traditional Sami livelihood. The central part in this transformation is also the Sami language and the interaction with nature. **The need for knowledge and training** in different fields is similar for all the countries in Sápmi.

Border Orientation paper: Facilitate cross-border cooperation between educational institutions, especially in higher education and research but also between **schools at secondary and primary levels, support greater visibility of the Sami and their contribution to the economy and culture of the cross-border area**. This could be done **through educational and promotion projects targeted at schools, higher education institutions, visitors and the general public**, promote multilingualism (Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Sami languages) in a structured manner throughout the whole education system starting with basic education. This might require **engaging institutions with education competence at national level**.

Actions under education & training?

- We should concentrate activities to **short term education measures for demand driven and needs-based education** to create more opportunities for the cross boarder education and trainings possibilities, as well as lifelong learning. There should be a possibility to use existing courses and building different packages suitable for different needs.
- **E-solutions for education** (vocational, upper secondary, high) (joint tailor-made programs between educational institutions (probably on demand from private sector)
- Enhancing of **cooperation** between educational institutions and private sector/companies/businesses
- To better **matching** between education offers and needs of workforce/skills/competence in the region. Facilitate **platforms** for joint learning. Create **joint arenas** and provide necessary instruments for cross-sectoral collaboration
- To create **lifelong learning** and **career transitions models**/suitable for the region
- **Benchmarking** and **exchange of experience, developing** and **piloting good models** based on existing practises in different regions; even adapting examples from previous national/transnational projects. **To study/exchange experience/competence, best practices**
- Developing **training** and training models/ways of provision for special target groups like immigrants, long term unemployed

Actions ?

- **Quality, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems**, to support acquisition of key competences including **digital skills**
- Develop **cross-border exchange programs** for teachers, employees, and students of regional educational institutions
- Cross border vocational educations and trainings **raising common skills in the area and working methods** which makes easier for exchanges labour markets over the borders. It also important that the cross border and cross sectoral education and trainings are made with the cooperation of the regional business life where the needs for the labour come.

Actors ?

Educational institutions (universities, high schools, upper secondary schools, on-line schools)

Competence centres

Study centres

Career centres

Adult training centres

Small private companies providing educational services

IT-companies (e-solutions)

CULTURE AND TOURISM

- RSO 4.5. Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

Questionnaire: Culture in the program area is already transnational, created by and continuously modified by cross-border networks. The perception of society is the same vertically, despite the national borders.

Socio-economic analyse: Aurora program area is characterized as a multiethnic and multicultural melting pot. The Sámi culture and language are an important part of this heritage, that needs to be sustained and developed for a functional area. The area has a rich and unique natural and cultural heritage. Traditional livelihoods and [traditional] utilisation of the nature are integral part of cultural values, and loss of traditional knowledge are seen as prominent. The new geography of the program area sets the cultural heritage in a new situation. Due to vast distances and lacking tradition, the knowledge on areas across borders need be strengthened. At the same time, the rich variety of cultural heritage will be even richer when combining e.g. cultural tradition and heritage of coastal Finland to the northernmost parts of Norway. These are great assets for developing tourism. Efforts to develop a common integrated tourism. Program area provide for developing sustainable tourism concepts while at the same time respecting and promoting cultural heritage, involving and engaging local stakeholders.

Border Orientation paper: Develop a common competitive and sustainable tourist region based on natural and cultural heritage products and services.

Previous good results in cultural Interreg projects, it is logical to choose this.

We are still waiting more information from RSO 4.5

Action under culture and tourism?

Facilitation for increased artistic and cultural value creation in the region: **Facilitating culture businesses development**, where **internationalization** is a particular focus area

Focus on **networks for competence exchange and marketing/promoting of art** from the northern regions on the international arena.

Developing new sustainable industries in the creative field, such as **art and cultural production** and the festival industry (also with indigenous dimension)

Development of **clusters and networks needed**.

Benchmarking and **exchange of experience, developing and piloting good models** based on existing practises in different regions; even adapting examples from previous national/transnational projects.

Open mind work together.

Culture cooperation connected to tourism is important

The development of **sustainable tourism**, meaning activities and products offered by companies, and also transport (means of transport, developing local travel chains) is essential. Considering that a part of program area has the UNESCO World natural heritage status, it is important to increase the awareness of sustainable tourism when we also see an increase in numbers of visitors.

Action under culture and tourism?

- Using **digitalisation and A.I.**, we will make our culture more visible and it will be easier access for the users, without of course too much harm for the nature. It is important to be aware our rich culture and there are still needs for revitalisation and for further development.
- **Encourage cooperation** between different groups of professionals in order to utilize personnel resources in a reasonable and most efficient manner; promote cross-fertilization between different groups of professionals, for example the **creative sector and IT-professionals**, in order to secure/develop the provision of cultural and social services in rural areas with the **help of digital solutions**; arrange **training for cultural pedagogues** so that they can work with vulnerable groups such as people with mental disorders; clarify the financing mechanisms for preventive cultural services / digital cultural services;
- **Culture & creative issues and social innovations areas** in which we could find opportunities
- How to **support business development** within the culture heritage sector
- **Language, arts and music integral part of sapmi culture. Traditional knowledge, culture heritage**
- Our stakeholders should create **networks, organise activities together, learn** together and from each other whether it is **to create together** or to find out how culture and art can provide a living and even become a business.
- support culture-based industries because facilitate cross-border networks, **branding and marketing** of the regions (program area) to the outside world; bring more visibility, **cultural meeting arenas** for children and youth - *important role of culture and youth in the development of civil society*, festivals (people-to – people actions);

Actors?

- Artists and all other people/professions of the culture sphere
- Municipalities
- Educational institutions
- Tourism companies/entrepreneurs (developing their products in a sustainable direction)
- Culture institutions, centres
- Museum
- Festivals
- Cultural actors and tourism industry with their education providers and development organisations, tourism organisations
- Sami organisations
- Sami communities
- The local community, if jobs can be created (especially to younger people), inhabitants
- Transport, could lead to new business models
- Public and private organisations
- Youth groups
- Stakeholders, CSO, special interest groups (e.g. horsemanship)

Housekeeping guide



You are invited to make short comments to the chat box.



The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.



All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora – Thank you!

1. Which are the **challenges under PO4 (education/training/culture/tourism)** that could be solved by cross border cooperation within Interreg Aurora?
2. Is there any organized cross-border cooperation within the presented themes? If yes, could you name those, please. Or do have an intention to create a cross border cooperation in your field? If yes, in which field?
3. What is missing in our approach? What would you like to add?
4. Do you have any cross-border cooperation Interreg experiences? Would you like to share some of those with us?

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

- You are invited to make short comments to the chat box.
- The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.
- All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora – Thank you!



Thank You for sharing your thoughts and
ideas with us today!
Nikki & Mina, how does the mind map look?

ISO1: Better cooperation governance

- Objective: to facilitate cross-border cooperation
 - *Institutional capacity of public authorities*
 - *Legal and administrative cooperation*
 - *People-to-people actions for increased trust*
 - *Institutional capacity to manage macro-regional strategies*
 - *Other actions to support better cooperation governance*

Why ISO 1?

- Improving governance is of key importance for the EU – the heart of cooperation
- Governance has a structural nature = high potential to lead to real change

- Administrative regulations, for ex in health issues, labour market issues etc
- Planning, coordination, common strategies and guidelines for ex in connectivity issues, in Sami

Housekeeping guide



You are invited to make short comments to the chat box.



The chat moderator and session leader will screen the comments and ask complementary questions from the participants.



All the contributions made to the chat will be collected to support the further programming of Aurora – Thank you!



Which are the challenges in your field that could be solved by using cross-border cooperation within Interreg Aurora?



Is there any organized cross-border cooperation within the presented themes? If yes, could you name those, please. Or do have an intention to create a cross-border cooperation in your field?
If yes, in which field?



What is missing in our approach?
What would you like to add?



Do you have any experiences with cross-border cooperation within the framework of Interreg? Would you like to share some of those with us?



Thank You for sharing your thoughts and
ideas with us today!
Nikki & Mina, how does the mind map look?