

Launching Interreg Aurora programme – Welcome to the stakeholder webinar

February 11, 2021

Interreg is one of the key instruments of the European Union supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Its aim is to jointly tackle common challenges and find shared solutions in fields such as environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more. Interreg Aurora is a new Interreg programme for the new EU programme period 2021–2027. It covers the northernmost parts of Finland, Sweden and Norway including Sápmi, and extends to South Ostrobothnia in Finland, Västernorrland in Sweden and Nordland in Norway.

You are welcome to discuss and influence which are the themes, which need the most financial support to strengthen our region and which are the topics where we can learn from each other and together make ourselves more attractive in the European market. Come and share how you would like to cooperate with your neighbours to make our region stronger.

[Register here](#)

08.50–09.00 **Technical rules** InterAct

Plenary

09.00–09.15 **Welcoming words** Anna Mari Auniola, Interreg expert, Regional Council of Lapland
Introduction of Interreg Aurora Ian Jawahir, Norwegian coordinator – Interreg Nord, Troms and Finnmark County Council
Presentation of the socio-economic analyses and the Public Stakeholder Questioner Ylva Sarden, Senior Adviser in Enterprise and Innovation, Regional Council of Norrbotten

09.15–09.30 **Expectations for the programme: EU – the big picture; New programme – what is new this time?**
Dorothea Witoldson, Programme Manager, European Cross-Border Cooperation, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

09.30–09.40 **Expectations for the programme: Cross-border cooperation** Gustaf Rehnström, Desk Officer, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden

09.40–09.50 **New opportunities in Sápmi: The importance of cross-border cooperation and experiences from earlier programmes and projects** Elle Merete Omma, Filling the EU-Sápmi knowledge gaps, project leader Sami Council

09.50–10.00 **The regional perspective: larger geographic area, new partners, new networks, new opportunities** Anne Sormunen, Manager of International Affairs, Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia

10.10–10.20 **Added value of cross-border cooperation** Jan Dølør, Alta Museum, former chair of steering committee of Interreg Nord, Norwegian Research Council

Plenary ending – Introduction for the next sessions

Coffee break

10.30–14.30 **Sessions for the policy objectives**

10.30–11.20 **Discussion on PO 1 Smarter Europe** Ian Jawahir, Norwegian coordinator – Interreg Nord, Dep. of International relations, Office of the Chief of Staff

11.30–12.20 **Discussion on PO 2 Greener Europe** Ylva Sarden, Senior Adviser in Enterprise and Innovation, Regional Council of Norrbotten

12.30–13.20 **Discussion on PO 4 More Social Europe** Anna Mari Auniola, Interreg expert, Regional Council of Lapland

13.30–14.20 **Discussion on ISO 1 Better Governance** Kairi Pääsuke, Kairi Consulting AB

Plenary starting 14.30

14.30–14.55 **Conclusions of the each PO sessions tbc.**

14.55–15.10 **Managing Authority presents the process of developing the new programme Interreg Aurora | SEA public consultations** Iiris Mäntyranta, Programme Director, Managing Authority, County Administrative Board of Norrbotten

15.10–15.20 **Conclusions and summery** Helinä Yli-knuutila, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland