



**NPA 2021-2027 AREA
ANALYSIS: AREA POLICY
CONTEXT**

***Irene McMaster, Heidi Vironen,
Liliana Fonseca***

Report to the NPA 2021-2020 Content Drafting Committee





European Policies Research Centre
School of Government and Public Policy
University of Strathclyde
40 George Street
Glasgow G1 1QE

T +44(0) 141 548 4898
T +44(0) 141 548 3061
E eprc@strath.ac.uk
W <http://www.eprc-strath.eu/>

The place of useful learning
The University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland,
No SC015263



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	2
2	NPA Past experience	2
3	Arctic dimension	4
4	NPA Neighbourhood	7
5	NPA Programme Links.....	9
6	National Policy Priorities.....	11
7	Conclusions.....	12





1 INTRODUCTION

The NPA programme has extensive experience of adding value and working within the complex policy, programme and institutional networks in place across the programme area. The scope to work in ways that are complementary and develop synergies is valuable to the Programme to maximise impact. Equally, it is important for the programme to be aware of its own distinct role and avoid conflicting overlaps with other interventions.

An overview of the programme's policy environment is, therefore, an important element of the programme development process. This report begins with a review of lessons from past NPA implementation experience. Section three, reviews the Arctic dimension. Section four focuses on the NPA neighbourhood links. Section five charts possible programme links, in particular with other Interreg programmes in the area. Section six highlights areas of complementarity with national policy priorities. Section seven sets out conclusions for the future.

2 NPA PAST EXPERIENCE



- The 2014-2020 Programme has a good track record of effective and efficient programme management and implementation.
- The Programme is in a position where it adds a recognised 'regional development level' to EU Arctic Policy and, in so doing, reinforces and strengthens wider NPA activities, objectives and areas.
- The programme can continue to build its expertise in working with areas outside the programme area, particularly working to retain links with Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The current Programme has a strong rationale and is well supported. Following its approval in December 2014, the 2014-2020 Programme achieved a strong start, and has maintained robust performance. **The Programme has a good track record of effective and efficient programme management and implementation.** The small number of secretariat staff are supported by an engaged Monitoring Committee and active networks of Regional Contact Points (RCPs) and Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs). Issues arising, such as slow payment of claims, have been actively addressed and technical difficulties with online systems are commonly the result of the Programme being an early adopter/end user of new systems.

The Programme's Impact Evaluation¹ highlights, **clusters of impact in key thematic areas** including:



- improving the availability and accessibility of public (e.g. e-health) and commercial services in rural and remote areas; (this is also an area of growing potential see Covid briefing paper);
- safeguarding people living in remote communities and helping them to adapt to climate change;
- improving health and safety for elderly people;
- promoting cultural heritage;
- creating employment, socialisation and health improvement opportunities for hard-to-reach groups; and
- creating economic diversification and opportunities.

Figure 1: Areas of Programme Impact



The evaluation also revealed that there have been some challenges for the current Programme including:

- **developing direct engagement with SMEs.** This is a widely experienced challenge across Interreg programmes and is amplified in the NPA area where SMEs are fewer in number, more dispersed, more likely to be micro enterprises, and operating on finer margins. Although the programme has successfully worked to develop connections through other means, e.g. working with SME service providers and SMEs as associated partners
- **the scale at which impacts are apparent** is an issue, with many being 'local'.² The Programme has been at the forefront of moving transnational cooperation away from 'studies' and 'networking' to delivering tangible products and services and delivering impact. In part, the emphasis on delivering measurable impact demands a 'local' focus, **but the local impacts are also transnational in their origins and wider role.**





- the impact at local level would not have been possible without **transnational cooperation** with either localities in other areas with similar needs, or access to expertise in other areas.
- major transnational development concerns can be challenging for localities to engage with/find a voice in. The NPA programme has demonstrated a **valuable role in supporting community engagement, voice and capacity in specific development concerns**, breaking down the 'big' issues in ways that local stakeholders can engage.
- change and impact 'on the ground' and 'within communities' test and demonstrate concepts, ideas and approaches, paving the way for **ideas, approaches and methodologies to be more widely adopted**.
- interventions **build overall cooperation capacity and networks of engagement** within highly peripheral territories.
- wider impact will **take time** to develop as work is disseminated and taken forward.

3 ARCTIC DIMENSION

Cross-border cooperation in the Nordic countries and in the Arctic has a long history, and many institutions and organisations are involved, including the Arctic Council, Nordic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers, Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and Northern Dimension.³ Over the past decade, each of the Arctic states (and many regions within these states) have formulated and revised their Arctic strategies (see Annex 2). **Due to the political, economic and social importance of the Arctic, strategies** and approaches have also been developed by many near or non-Arctic countries⁴ and actors (e.g. EU). For example, Scotland, as the Arctic's nearest non-Arctic neighbour⁵, adopted an Arctic Policy Framework in 2019 as a step forward in reinforcing its existing cultural, social and economic links and the long history of involvement and engagement in the Arctic. Of the NPA countries, only Ireland does not have an Arctic strategy. Ireland has, however, been actively advocating for a closer dialogue with the Arctic and the wider northern periphery (e.g. the Irish Cabinet of Ministers took a decision on 2 December 2020 to submit an application as an Observer to the Arctic Council) and has a specific interest in the impact of climate change on coastal and agricultural areas.⁶

The EU has been conscious of the need for international cooperation on Arctic issues and has developed a specific approach. **The EU's Arctic policy, which has evolved since it was first outlined in 2008, is set to undergo further update to respond to new challenges⁷** and opportunities related to climate change and receding sea ice (and in consideration of the European Green Deal) and the increasing geo-political importance of the region.⁸ The outcome of the public consultation on the EU's Arctic policy confirms the continued relevance of the current Arctic priorities. It also underlines the important role of the EU in making the Arctic safe, stable, sustainable and prosperous, and

"The impact of climate change, security issues and rivalries are growing in the Arctic regions. So is the need for cooperation and multilateral agreements".

Josep Borrell



the role of enhanced international cooperation in this. Recommendations include: the adoption of a long-term view and discouragement of environmentally unsustainable practices; the creation of a stronger link between the climate policy, the European Green Deal and the updated EU Arctic Policy; and the safeguarding of science and research at the heart of EU policies and actions in the Arctic.⁹ The 2016 Joint Communication on an integrated EU policy for the Arctic is expected to be updated in the autumn 2021.¹⁰ Against the background of the Covid crisis, it is likely that themes such as economic development and job creation, as well as delivery of health care and more generally human security (vulnerable populations in remote regions) will feature as part of these discussions. For example, an in-depth analysis carried out for the European Parliament recommends that the updated EU Arctic policy should continue to focus on economic development and infrastructure measures, including the delivery of health care. In addition, it notes the importance of opportunities for sustained living and working in the Arctic for younger people.¹¹

In many countries, the Arctic strategies are being updated to respond to the new circumstances. In the Nordic countries for example, the **new generation of Arctic strategies are recognised as important to respond to the new climate and environmental changes in particular** (e.g. Finland, Sweden, and the joint strategy of Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland), and to consider the increased geo-political interest and security issues. In addition, there is also a strong emphasis on forming close partnerships and stronger dialogue between the traditional, experience-based knowledge (of people living in the Arctic) and scientific research (e.g. Finland). The development of the future joint Arctic Strategy for Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands underlines a stronger people-orientation focused on people living in the Arctic. In addition, other important future themes have been mentioned including business development, research, natural resources, environmental preparedness and maritime rescue, which are seen as practical cooperation themes in the Arctic. The strategy also recognises the increased geo-political issues.¹²

In the past, the strategies, which have traditionally been developed by the central administrations, have placed a strong focus on high policy topics rather than issues such as well-being and sustainable community development. Generally, those outside the Arctic tend to be concerned with issues such as environment, while the peoples living in the Arctic have different perspectives. Consequently, there have been some **calls for more regional and local perspectives in Arctic development policy**. Many Arctic regions have developed their specific regional Arctic agendas/strategies/platforms (e.g. counties of Västerbotten¹³ and Norrbotten¹⁴ in northern Sweden). The purpose of these sub-national Arctic documents is to set out how these regions can contribute to the Arctic cooperation and to a more sustainable and viable Arctic. **Given the complex challenges facing the Arctic, it is important that cooperation takes place across the local, regional, national and international levels**. While the different countries have a responsibility for delivering environmental and security policies in the Arctic, regions and communities are at the centre stage in the delivery of sustainable regional development in the Arctic.¹⁵ For example, the Nordic Working Group on Sustainable





Development in the Arctic encourages Nordic Arctic stakeholders to explore and take advantage of the different funding schemes and programmes (including ESIF) that support cooperation. The Working Group has made specific recommendations (grouped under the headings of transnational cooperation, national level, and, regional and local level) concerning the challenges and opportunities related to a range of areas including: job creation and business development; education and skills development; culture and social activities; demographic development; and youth perspectives.¹⁶

The NPA Programme has a strong basis upon which to build its contribution to the Arctic and the wider northern periphery neighbourhood.¹⁷

- The Arctic dimension was added to the programme title (Northern Periphery and the Arctic Programme) in 2014 as a result of the growing EU and international focus on the Arctic area. The programme remains, however, very broad and inclusive in its approach and covers the **Arctic** (European Arctic and sub-Arctic territories and Iceland and Greenland) **and the wider northern periphery neighbourhood** (Ireland).
- The programme has fostered cooperation in themes that are of specific importance to the Arctic and the northern peripheral regions and promoted changes that are of particular relevance to the people living in the area (e.g. including indigenous people).
- The European Commission's 'Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: An integrated European Policy for the Arctic' of 2016 stated that the **NPA programme will "lead a pilot activity aiming at bringing together a network of managing authorities and stakeholders from various regional development programmes in the European part of the Arctic."**¹⁸ In addition to the NPA, the network has brought together those cooperation programmes active in the Arctic or sub-Arctic, namely: Botnia-Atlantica, Interreg Nord, and the ENI cross-border cooperation programmes Kolarctic and Karelia.
- The resulting **network of programmes has proved to be a fruitful exchange mechanism supported by INTERREG CBC programmes** in the area, and one which is extending its influence to include ENI programmes. The cooperation facilitates:
 - exchange of information and dissemination of information (e.g. coordinated websites, plans for joint publications on results & post-2020);
 - joint/coordinated (project/programme) events and representation at larger Arctic and European conferences;
 - plans and coordinated calls for cluster projects;
 - the inclusion of EU Arctic policy objectives as project selection criteria; and
 - the running of an Arctic Award scheme.
- The programme has developed and strengthened its capacity for cooperation in the Arctic and the wider northern periphery region. In the future cooperation **could entail more involvement of programme and monitoring committees and extend participation**





to **relevant national** (e.g. regional programmes for investment and growth or other relevant national programmes) **and international financing instruments**, although this will need to consider changes in the wider context (e.g. budgets, other emerging priorities).

4 NPA NEIGHBOURHOOD

For the NPA, neighbourhood relations are of major developmental and programme significance.

Arctic – As noted in this report, the programme has a role in promoting cooperation and collaboration between Arctic Interreg programmes, participates in Arctic fora, and delivers interventions with relevance to the Arctic and the wider northern periphery neighbourhood (see also Section 3).

Expertise in external relations - The NPA has been able to build considerable expertise and experience in working in a range of ways and at a range of levels with non-EU Member States and territories. The programme itself comprises four non-EU Member States as full Members. It has pioneered practical steps in allowing non-EU Member State partners (Norway and Iceland) to lead projects. Looking beyond the programme area, the programme has been able to 'think outside the box' and pursue links that are functionally and territorially relevant for the development of the area. Links with the wider NPA neighbourhood remains an important aspect for the NPA to consider in the future. The 2014-20 programme has worked to maintain its links with, in particular, North West Russia, which are especially important in the context of Arctic regional cooperation. Russia has participated as an observer in the NPA 2014-20 Monitoring Committee and Programme Planning Group since the start of the preparation process in 2012. During the 2014-20 programme period, Russia has participated in two main projects, one Arctic clustering project, and taken part as an associated partner in a main project. Links with provinces in Northern and Eastern Canada have also been pursued with involvement of ten project partners and eight associated partners. There is a strong commitment to continuing these links also in the future programme period. The Russian Federation made a formal request to the NPA programme to be included in the programme geography in 2021-27. The request is being processed in parallel with the NPA programme preparations and subject to meeting all the modalities and requirements have been met.

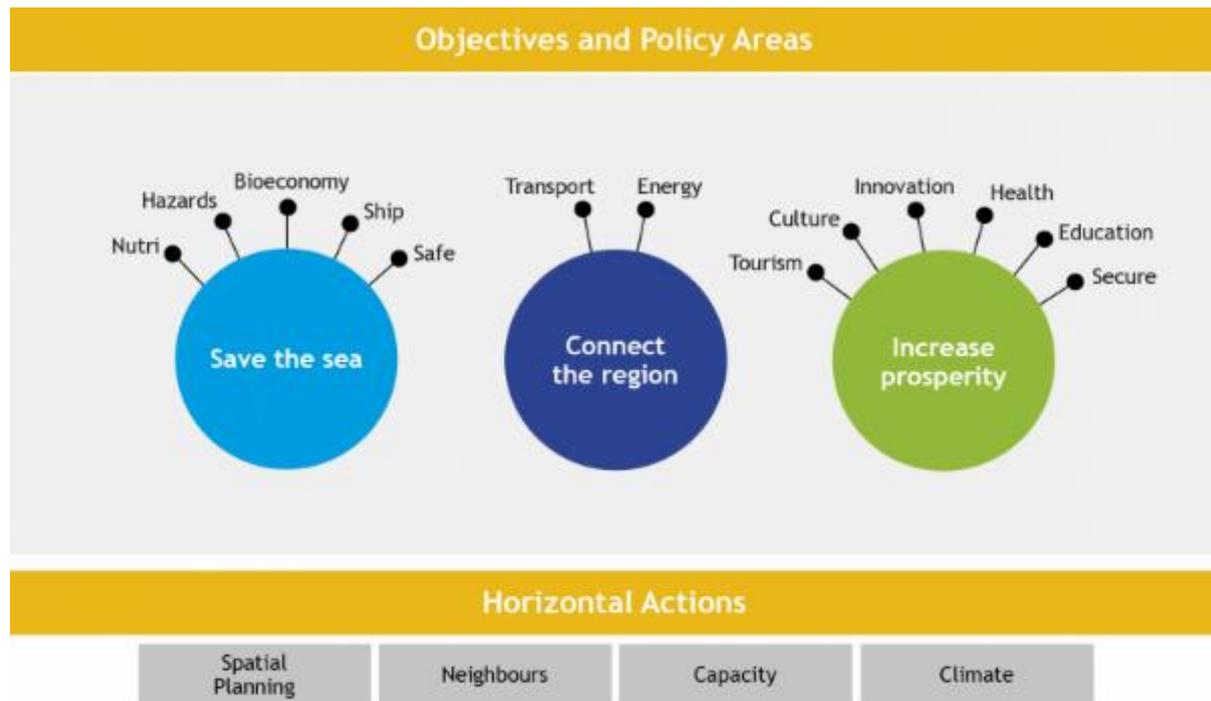
Brexit - Expertise in managing working relations across external borders is particularly important in the context of Brexit. The UK's departure from the EU, and the UK government's refusal to pursue on going participation in Interreg, has a huge impact on the NPA. The participation of Scotland (a founder NPA member) and Northern Ireland brought substantial financial resources to the programme as well as committed and experienced partners. Scotland and Northern Ireland both want to continue their links with the NPA, but how that can be managed is still uncertain.¹⁹ The NPA's reliable and pragmatic approach to cooperation along external EU borders, and the strength of relations with Northern Ireland and Scotland, mean that the





programme is well placed to take initiatives to maximise opportunities to work with partners in Scotland and Northern Ireland in the future.

Territorial strategies - The NPA area does not directly correspond to a specific macro-regional or sea basin strategy, but overlaps in some areas with: European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and accompanying Action Plan which comprises 13 Policy Area and 4 Horizontal Actions (applies to NPA regions in Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway); and EU Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic area (applies to NPA regions in Ireland), see Annex 3 and



Source: <https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/about/implementation>

Annex 4. Also of importance is the fact that partner regions have a tradition of cooperation and partnership which pre-dates and goes beyond their involvement in EU programmes. This means that, in addition to EU strategies, there are several external strategies that are relevant for the NPA area.



5 NPA PROGRAMME LINKS

The NPA Programme neighbours and overlaps with a large number of programmes due to its large geographic scale. There are a number of CBC and ENI CBC programmes of relevance to the NPA area:

Table 1: Relevant territorial cooperation programmes to the NPA**

INTERREG V A CBC programmes	Interreg B Transnational Programmes	ENI CBC programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interreg Aurora • Sweden – Norway • PEACE PLUS • Ireland-Northern Ireland-Scotland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltic Sea Region • North Sea Region • Atlantic Area • North-West Europe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kolarctic • Karelia

Notes: **These programmes have been included as they overlap with the NPA programme area. However, it is notable that the degree of overlap/coverage varies depending on the NPA country/region in question.

Preparations for the 2021-27 period are ongoing and many territorial cooperation programmes are expected to be submitted to the European Commission in the course of the autumn 2021. There is therefore at the time of writing, there **is limited information on the future themes of the other Interreg programmes**. Some indication of possible themes can be found in the European Commission's orientation papers (see Annex 5). However, these remain, as the name suggests, orientations for the discussions and intend to '*provide ideas, options and orientations on the thematic focus of the future programme*'. Preliminary discussions have also taken place (in June 2020 and in March 2021) amongst some of the Interreg programmes concerning the direction of the possible Policy Objectives of the future programmes (see Annex 6).²⁰ These are, however, indications of possible Policy Objectives rather than final decisions on the themes. Given the specific challenges and needs of the programmes, it is important that all relevant programmes are coordinated to ensure coherence and complementarity. The European Commission has noted that this coordination should take place during the entire cycle of the programmes from planning, to programming, and then to implementation²¹. Amongst the NPA countries and regions, such coordination takes place, for example, in the context of the Arctic cooperation meetings but also through ministerial level meetings between Sweden, Finland and Norway, which are looking at the different programmes collectively rather than programme by programme.

Looking to the future, the European Commission stresses the need for clear and focussed intervention logics. This will result in **differentiation between the programmes**. For example, some programmes will emphasise a specific geographic feature or the needs of particular communities e.g. coastal or Arctic. Similarly, some themes will be given more emphasis than



others e.g. the PEACE PLUS programme will contain a strong community relationship focus while the Baltic Sea will be expected to have a strong link to the Baltic Sea Macro Regional Strategy and work, in part, through the Interreg specific objectives. However, the broad themes outlined in the regulations, and the nature of the development challenges faced across Europe, mean that many of these broad themes are likely to remain the same, e.g. innovation, supporting SMEs, addressing climate change, protecting the environment. This allows not just for programmes to work for their own territories but collaborate and complement activities, building wider impact and results. More generally, the programme will be expected to fit within the wider range of policy interventions supported by the European Commission, such as tackling climate change, sustainable development goals and boosting competitiveness and growth (e.g. European Green Deal). The EU budget for 2021-2027 and the recovery plan support the recovery from Covid as well as investment in the green and digital transitions. The recovery plan is organised around three pillars, see Figure 2.

The EU's long-term budget for 2021-27 includes investment in themes categorised under different headings, e.g.: Heading 1 'Single Market, Innovation and Digital' (including e.g. Horizon Europe, InvestEU fund); Heading 3 'Natural Resources and Environment' (including e.g. CAP and Just Transition Fund); Heading 2 'Cohesion, Resilience and Values' (including e.g. Cohesion Policy, Recovery and Resilience Funds and Health programme). The presence of these funding streams and programmes mean key elements of the very large scale development challenges facing the NPA area, such as transport, accessibility, and energy transition, can be most effectively addressed through other instruments, giving the NPA scope to focus its activities and, where relevant, work in a complementary way to other EU funding programmes.

Figure 2: EU Recovery Plan



Source: European Commission



Source: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/eu-long-term-budget/2021-2027_en

6 NATIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Reformulation of national and regional policy objectives and priorities are ongoing in many of the NPA countries. However, for example in the Nordic countries, any changes, tend to be rather nuanced. In Finland, Sweden and Norway, for example, the regional policies have continued to focus on supporting the dual objectives of national growth and the reduction of regional disparities. The policies are, however, regularly analysed and reviewed, especially in preparation for a new Government's term of office or the start of a new EU programme period. Some new emphasises are therefore notable, as discussed below.

- In **Finland** and **Sweden**, regional priorities are being updated for 2021. In Finland, sustainable development and digitalisation feature as key themes across the five priorities (climate change and biodiversity; sustainable community development and connections; economic renewal and RDI; knowledge and education; and inclusion and well-being) of the new Regional Development Decision for 2020-23. Similarly in Sweden, where a new national strategy will be adopted for 2021, a challenge-driven approach (based on key societal challenges such as climate, environment and energy; social inclusion; demographic developments; globalisation and digitalisation) and the theme of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental sustainability) are at the centre stage.
- Similarly to Finland and Sweden, the overarching aims of regional policy in **Norway** tend to be quite stable. However, a number of concerns, especially the growing dependency ratio, underpinned the 2019 White Paper and has led to a reformulation of the specific goals of district and regional policy. These are now threefold: growing businesses in regions and districts; cross border cooperation and the High North; and capacity building and basic services in the districts.
- In **Iceland**, the integrated social and economic development plan for 2018-24 places a specific emphasis on the economically disadvantaged regions and has the aim of addressing issues such as: depopulation; lack of economic and industrial diversity; the support of technological changes; climate change; communication and access to services; and the response to increasing international competition.

More generally, broader common themes in the wider Nordic region can be summed up on the basis of the priorities of the Nordic Council of Ministers for 2024 which focus on a **Green** (green transformation, carbon neutrality, sustainable circular and bio-based economy), **Competitive** (green growth based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration), and **Socially Sustainable** (inclusive, equal, cohesive) Nordic region.

- In **Ireland**, the approach to regional development policy has undergone a period of transition towards a more long-term, cohesive and structured approach to promoting regional growth with strategies being prepared at national, regional and local levels.²² At national level, the National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040 (NPF) was published in February 2018.²³ It sets out national objectives and key principles, but at the same time, aims to 'empower' regions to lead planning and development of their own communities. The aim is to work towards more balanced development, with 75 percent of the growth to be outside Dublin and its suburbs, and a strong regional



dimension through, for example: targeting a level of growth in the country's Northern and Western and Southern Regions combined; improving regional accessibility, e.g. from the north-west to Dublin and the east and to Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford to the south; recognising the role of 'regional centres', e.g. Sligo in the North West; and reversing town/village and rural population decline.²⁴

More specific priority areas can be found in the regional/local level strategies/programmes and plans, which are developed on the basis of the national policy priorities. There are a number of different regional/local level documents which specify the circumstances and opportunities in relation to regional development (e.g. domestic regional programmes and EU's regional Structural Fund programmes). Themes such as business development, accessibility, well-being, attractive living environments, skills, and sustainability are prominent in many programmes (e.g. domestic regional programmes in Finland and Sweden). Other relevant programmes/strategies to consider include the Smart Specialisation strategies, which foster bottom-up policy approach for regional innovation and development on the basis of identified key regional strengths. In addition to the EU Member States, these have also become widely adopted in non-EU Member States of the NPA area (e.g. Norway and Iceland).²⁵ For example, Nordland was one of the first counties in Norway to apply smart specialisation as an instrument for innovation and regional development.²⁶ Ireland, Finland and Sweden of the NPA countries will also have to consider the Just Transition Mechanism (which includes Just Transition Fund, InvestEU, a public sector loan facility) and draw up (in dialogue with the Commission and with national, regional and local stakeholders) territorial just transition plans, which identify those territories that are expected to be most impacted by the transition towards a climate-neutral economy, their specific development challenges and the pathways for transition until 2030.²⁷

7 CONCLUSIONS



- NPA regions have a shared purpose and common development concerns/opportunities.
- The NPA has played and has the potential to play a key role with distinct added value in a complex policy environment
- The NPA is developing a valued role in supporting Arctic territorial development.

Working transnationally is key to enabling NPA communities to act and support their own development and brings an important **social inclusion/'people orientation'** to the programme including:

- demonstrating and enabling ways for local stakeholders and communities to take a role in addressing large scale/transnational issues such as marine plastic pollution;
- building critical mass and access to expertise;





- taking local solutions and up-scaling to a transnational scale; and
- allowing niche, place-specific activities to connect across wider, transnational spaces.

Part of this process involves:

- complementing and linking with the wider policy environment,
- recognising the potential to develop productive policy synergies and links,
- capitalising on results; and
- extending policy and practical networks.

In particular, the **connections between Arctic territories and 'near-neighbours' is a strength in the programme, and directly addresses issues linked to critical mass and the wider relevance of developments in and around the Arctic.** Thus, the programme geography and transnational dimension helps to foster cooperation and increase outward linkages, encourage cooperation to create critical mass in areas of very sparse population, and use exchange of experience to encourage community and local growth in situ across NPA area as a whole.

The Programme can continue to play a significant role supporting cross programme working. This work is highly valuable and widely supported and could be expanded/continued, e.g. *"...there is scope to examine how to maximise synergies and complementarities between different EU funded cross-border collaborations, particularly those supported by the ERDF"*²⁸. **The 'soft cooperation' approach taken by the Programme, and reinforced by the European Commission's Communication on Arctic Cooperation, has proved to be a sensitive, productive and proactive way forward.** This expertise and experience can also be extended to retaining and developing links with the Programme's wider neighbourhood, in particular Scotland and Northern Ireland, should they not be in a position to formally participate.





8 ANNEX

Annex 1: Regional development priorities

Country	(National) regional policy priorities
<p>Finland</p>	<p>A new Regional Development Decision was adopted on 19 March 2020 for the period of 2020-23. The Decision draws on the key principles set out in the Government Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin which state that regional development should be based on the strengths and special characteristics of the regions. Regional development focuses on the entire country and the aim of regional policy is to reduce differences between regions and within the municipalities.</p> <p>The Regional Development Decision sets out five priorities:²⁹</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mitigation of climate change and safeguarding biodiversity; 2. Sustainable community development and well-functioning connections; 3. Economic renewal and acceleration of RDI; 4. Knowledge and education as resources of regional development; and 5. Increasing inclusion and well-being and preventing social inequalities. <p>Sustainable development and digitalisation cut across all the five priorities, and as such are key themes in the Decision.</p> <p>A new Regional Development Law is under development and is set to come to force in 2021.</p>
<p>Norway</p>	<p>Regional development policy comprises <i>district</i> (or rural) policy focused on northern and other remote areas (covering most of the country but around a quarter of the population) and <i>regional</i> policy, focused on economic development in <i>all</i> regions.</p> <p>The objectives of regional development policy focus on maintaining settlement structures throughout Norway, assuring access to services wherever people live and creating jobs, addressing skills gaps and the age dependency ratio to support sustainable communities into the future.</p>
<p>Sweden</p>	<p>The regional policy approach has aimed to build on regional strengths in each region, whether in cities or in rural areas, and ensure opportunities to grow and develop on the basis of their specific regional conditions under a place-based approach. The new Government (in office since January 2019) continues to support the overall regional growth policy objective, but has included a specific ambition to increase the sustainable development aspect. Consequently, the overall policy objective is now phrased to 'support sustainable development of all parts of the country with strong local and regional competitiveness'.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Sustainable Regional Growth and Attractiveness will expire at the end of 2020 and a new strategy will be in place for 2021. The future strategy will identify key societal challenges, which are seen to affect regional growth policy work and the regions. A presentation by the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation (March 2020) suggested that the four challenges of the 2015-20 strategy will be included in the new strategy: (1) climate, environment and energy; (2) social inclusion; (3) demographic developments; and (4) globalisation. In addition, the challenge of (5) digitalisation is included.³⁰³¹ Although discussions are still ongoing, it is clear that the societal challenges (and the transition process) should form the direction for regional development (following the so-called challenge-driven approach) and the theme of sustainable development will be at the centre stage of the future strategy. In line with this, <i>Tillväxtverket</i>, the national agency for national and regional growth, has also recommended that the government shift the focus from regional growth policy to</p>



	<p>regional development policy. This is because regional growth policy is considered to be too narrow a concept, while regional development policy is seen to better reflect the new challenges, especially the focus on sustainability.³²</p> <p>The future priorities of the strategy are similarly still to be decided, will reflect the various studies and input, and place a specific focus on sustainability and Agenda 2030. The following basis has been set out for developing the future priorities:³³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equal opportunities for businesses, work, living, housing and welfare; • climate adaptation, energy transition and reduced environmental and climate impact; • sustainable accessibility through digital and electronic communications and transport systems; • skills supply and skills development; and • conditions for innovation, renewal and transition as well as entrepreneurship/businesses.
<p>Ireland</p>	<p>Irish regional development policy has undergone a period of transition towards a more long-term, cohesive and structured approach to promoting regional growth with strategies being prepared at national, regional and local levels.</p> <p>For example, at national level, the National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040 (NPF) functions as a planning framework to guide development and investment. It sets out national objectives and key principles, but at the same time, aims to 'empower' regions to lead planning and development of their own communities, e.g. through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • targeting a level of growth in the country's Northern and Western and Southern Regions combined; • improving regional accessibility, e.g. from the north-west to Dublin and the east and to Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford to the south; • recognising the role of 'regional centres', e.g. Sligo in the NorthWest ; • reversing town/village and rural population decline by encouraging new roles and functions for buildings, streets and sites; and • building 'compact growth' and making better use of under-utilised land and buildings.³⁴
<p>Greenland</p>	<p>The overarching goal for Greenland's economic policy is to create a framework for a self-sustaining economy (entailing independence from the block grant of Denmark).</p> <p>The 2016 Sustainability and Growth Plan (introduced by the previous Government) has been in place to support the delivery of the overarching economic goal, sustainable public finances and the creation of growth and employment in the public sector. The plan is based on four reform tracks: raise the level of education; promote growth and transition to a multi-faceted economy; modernisation of the public sector; and increased self-reliance via reform of welfare benefits, the tax system and the housing sector.³⁵</p> <p>The Greenlandic government supports increasing value growth in industries such as tourism, mineral resources and fishing as a way of achieving the goal of economic self-sufficiency as well as investment in the expansion of the telecommunications</p>



	infrastructure to provide high speed connections to individuals and business and expanding the airport and air transport structure.
Faroe Islands	<p>The Faroe Islands is a small open economy where the fishing industry plays a significant role. During the last decades, greater emphasis has been placed on economic diversification including industries such as financial services, petroleum related businesses, shipping, manufacturing, IT and telecoms, tourism, civil aviation and creative industries.³⁶</p> <p>Traditionally, regional development has been about connecting the islands and regions especially through investments in roads, bridges and sub-sea tunnels to create a coherent economic area.³⁷</p>
Iceland	<p>The Regional Policy of Iceland 2018-24 is an integrated social and economic development plan that provides a framework for regional support. It aims to³⁸:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• address depopulation;• address lack of economic and industrial diversity;• support technological changes and the development and adaptation of individual industries;• outline necessary adaptation measures to counter the impact of climate change;• ensure smooth communications and access to services; and• respond to increasing international competition for people and companies <p>Special emphasis is placed on economically disadvantaged regions.</p> <p>On the basis of the Regional Policy, the eight regions develop their own regional plan of action (<i>Sóknaráætlun</i>), which is financed through eight regional plan-of-action contracts.</p>



Annex 2: Arctic strategies/approaches, key priorities and future direction

Country/region		Arctic strategy	Key priorities (current strategies)	Future issues
Denmark	Joint strategy (Denmark, Faroe Islands & Greenland)	2008, 2011 (expires in 2020). New strategy expected to be published in 2021.	<u>2011 Strategy</u> Include Greenland & the Faroe Islands in policy-making Ensure sustainable use of living resources Prioritise the culture & needs of Arctic societies Increase economic incentives & opportunities Emphasis on the importance of the role of the Arctic Council	New strategy to be developed in close cooperation with Greenland & the Faroe Islands. Themes are still under discussion, but a focus is expected to be on people. Denmark promotes new strategy to include themes such as business development, research, natural resources, environmental preparedness and maritime rescue. ³⁹
	Faroe Islands	2013 (the Faroe Islands – a nation in the Arctic)	Outlines Faroese interests in relation to the joint Arctic Strategy (especially in terms of international cooperation, business, environment and research in the Arctic context).	See above.
Finland		2013, 2016 (revision), 2017 (action plan). New strategy to be published in 2021. ⁴⁰	<u>2016 Strategy</u> Arctic foreign and EU policy Business from Arctic expertise Sustainable tourism Infrastructure	Themes are being discussed with stakeholders. In line with new Government programme, FI aims to adopt a key role in strengthening the EU's Arctic policy & supports stronger Arctic Council. FI aims to be a key player with a focus on Arctic expertise (e.g. sustainable tourism & infrastructure solutions). ⁴¹ All work to give consideration to nature, climate, principles of sustainable development and rights of the indigenous people. ⁴²
Iceland		2009, 2011	<u>2011 Strategy</u> Work towards Iceland being recognised as a costal Arctic state Secure indigenous rights Educate & increase knowledge within & about the Arctic Business development & collaboration Emphasis on the importance of the role of the Arctic Council Prioritise a West Nordic approach in Arctic cooperation	During the Arctic Council chairmanship 2019-21, Iceland promotes four priorities: the Arctic marine environment; climate and green energy solutions; people and communities of the Arctic; and stronger Arctic Council. ⁴³





Ireland	N/a	To be updated	IE has relevant expertise especially concerning marine R&T. Department of Foreign Affairs undergoing a mapping exercise to set out how IE could contribute to Arctic Council's work.
Norway	2006, 2009, 2014, 2017. A new White Paper on the Norwegian Government's Arctic Policy was published in January 2021.	<u>2021 White Paper on Arctic Policy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace, stability and predictability • International cooperation and legal order • Integrated, ecosystem-based management • Increased job creation and value creation • Closer cooperation between the business sector and knowledge institutions • Effective welfare schemes and ensuring that North Norway is an attractive place to live 	-
Sweden	2011, 2016 (Memorandum – New Swedish Environmental Policy for the Arctic). An updated strategy is to be presented in 2020.	<u>2011 Strategy</u> Climate and the environment Economic development Human dimension	Update recognised as important to respond to the climate & environmental changes, and to consider increased geo-political interest & security. It is expected to have a broader approach & include a security policy dimension. ⁴⁴
Scotland	2019 Arctic Policy Framework	<u>2019 Policy Framework</u> lists themes in relation to: Education, research and innovation Culture Rural connections Climate change, environment and clean energy Sustainable economic development	-
Canada	2009 (Arctic Strategy), 2010 (Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy), 2019 (Arctic and Northern Policy Framework)	<u>2019 Arctic and Northern Policy Framework</u> Strong, sustainable, diversified & inclusive local & regional economies Resilient & healthy indigenous peoples Safe, secure & well-defended people Strengthened infrastructure The rules-based international order Knowledge & understanding guides decision-making Healthy & resilient ecosystems Reconciliation supports self-determination and nurtures mutually-respectful relationships between indigenous & non-indigenous peoples	-



<p style="text-align: center;">Russia</p>	<p>2008, 2013 (+ other policy documents / resolutions)</p>	<p><u>2013 Strategy</u> Integrated socio-economic development Development of science and technology Establishment of modern IT infrastructure Environmental security International cooperation Military security and protection</p>	<p>Basic Principles of the Russian Federation State Policy in the Arctic to 2035 have been drafted. This is a strategic planning document aimed at ensuring national security and protecting the national interests of the Russian Federation in the Arctic. The main national interests (concerning the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sovereignty and territorial integrity Preservation of peace and partnerships High quality living & prosperity Economic growth Northern Sea Route Protection of the environment and traditional way of living of the indigenous peoples
--	--	---	--

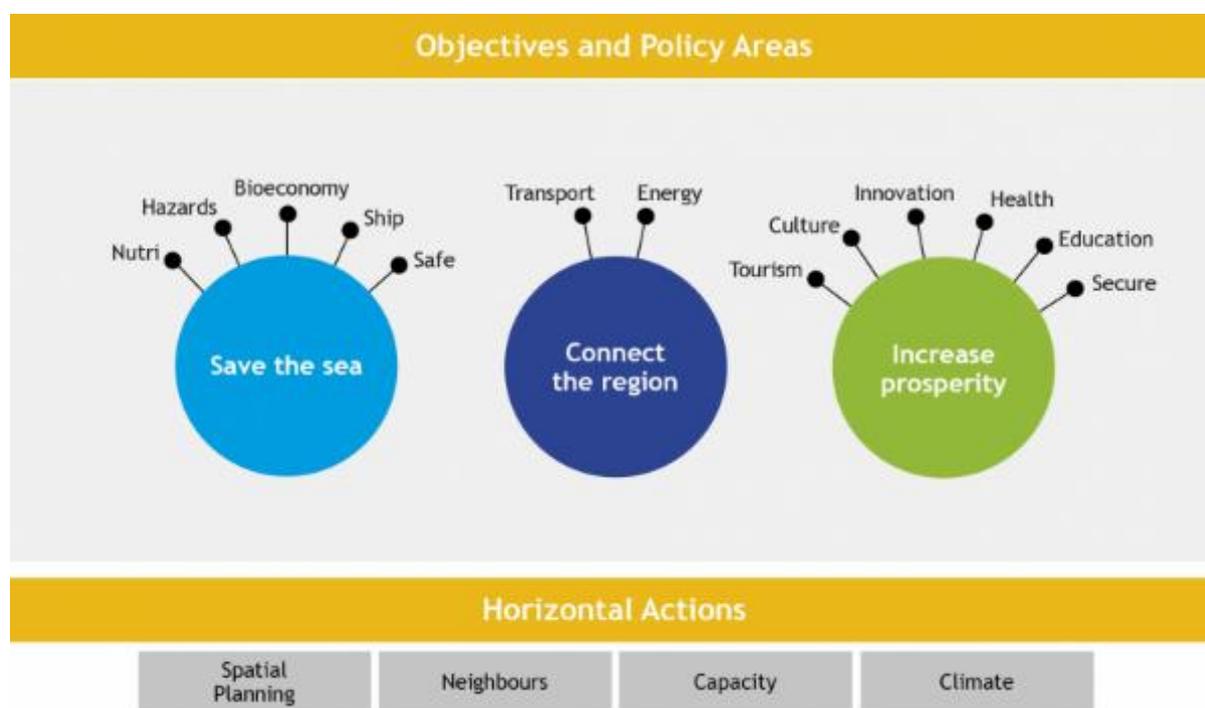
Notes: More detailed overview of the Arctic strategies is being developed by the Kolarctic CBC programme. This will be shared with other relevant Arctic programmes in 2020.

Sources: Based on 'overview of the year of adaption of the Nordic Arctic Strategies *Stakeholder analysis with the aim of positioning the countries in Arctic collaborations' <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1071726/FULLTEXT01.pdf> and Heininen L, Everett K, Padrtova B and Reissell A (2020) Arctic Policies and Strategies – Analysis, Synthesis, and Trends, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis http://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/16175/1/ArcticReport_WEB_new.pdf



Annex 3: EU Macroregional and sea-basin strategies

	NPA Partners involved	Regional Strategies
EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland	<p>The EUSBSR aims to provide an integrated approach to identifying needs and solutions, and match them to available objectives. The NPA area overlaps with some of the Baltic Sea Strategy programme area. The strategy addresses three challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save the sea <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clear water in the sea b. Rich and healthy wildlife c. Clean and safe shipping d. Better cooperation 2. Connect the region <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Good transport conditions b. Reliable energy markets c. Connecting people in the region d. Better cooperation in fighting cross-border crime 3. Increase prosperity <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Baltic Sea region as a frontrunner for deepening and fulfilling the single market b. EUSBSR contributing to the implementation of Europe 2020 Strategy c. Improved global competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region d. Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
Action Plan for the Atlantic	Ireland	<p>The NPA is also adjacent to and overlaps with the Atlantic Ocean Area Maritime Strategy. The high-level priorities for this strategy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atlantic ports 2. Blue skills and ocean literacy 3. Marine renewable energy 4. Coastal resilience and healthy ocean



Source: <https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/about/implementation>

Annex 4: External Organisations and Cooperation Arrangements



NPA links	NPA Partner country	Key Characteristics
NORA	Greenland, Iceland, Faroes Islands, Coastal Norway	NORA contributes to reinforcing regional cooperation with a view to making the North Atlantic a strong and dynamic Nordic region characterised by robust sustainable economic development. The organisation's initiatives include strengthening cooperation between the business sector and research and development bodies across national borders.
Barents	Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden	Cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region was launched in 1993 on two levels: intergovernmental Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC); and interregional Barents Regional Council (BRC). Working groups are in place for: Rescue Cooperation, Environment; Economic Cooperation; Transport Culture; Education and Research; Energy, Health and Social Issues; Tourism; Youth; and Working Group of Indigenous Peoples.
NSPA	Sweden, Finland, Norway	The network for Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) is a collaboration between regions which share many characteristics including sparse population, harsh climate and long distances.



Annex 5: Suggested themes in the European Commission's orientation papers in selected Interreg programmes

PO/Programme	Baltic Sea Region	Interreg NEXT (FI, SE, NO, Rus)	Nord
PO1	Promote RDI in challenge-driven themes related to PO2. Continue RIS3 eco-system work. Use open innovation & co-creation approaches.	Focus on innovation & entrepreneurship. <u>Innovation</u> Joint/complementary research infra; exchanges/joint R&D programmes to increase cooperation; spin-offs; living labs & technology centres; innovation advisory services. <u>Entrepreneurship</u> Creation/support to existing clusters/networks; Joint branding (e.g. trade fairs)	Focus on core areas (use & added value of natural resources, cold climate technology, tourism, creative industries, e-health – use regional specialisation strategies as a starting point). Support e-technologies & innovative partnerships (including Sami representatives).
PO2	Strongest focus in the programme ('Save the Sea' objective in particular). Develop transnational circular economy systems. Develop measures to reduce pollution of the Baltic Sea. Promote climate change-related investments.	Cooperation strongly encouraged concerning water availability, quality & pollution; circular economy & waste management; climate change & natural risks; biodiversity & natural resources; transition to low-carbon energy; and air quality.	Strengthen low-carbon energy production (especially based on wood biomass). Continue work on biodiversity. Continue work of an integrated cross-border market for nature.
PO3	n/a	Potential cooperation actions could include sustainable intelligent & intermodeal infrastructure.	n/a





PO4	n/a	Potential cooperation actions could include employment & education; health & social inclusion.	Harmonisation of certification & skills requirements. Integration of foreign migrants & youth into labour market. Cooperation between educational institutions. Support initiatives to further alleviate administrative & legal obstacles to cross-border healthcare. Support greater visibility of the Sami and their contribution to the economy & culture. Promote multilingualism.
PO5	n/a	E.g. sustainable tourism & culture can be funded through an integrated & multi-sectoral approach.	n/a
Interreg SO: better governance	Support governance of and coordination with EUSBSR. Foster cooperation between regions & programmes.	Most relevant areas of cooperation are local communities (e.g. joint studies, conservation, preservation & development of cultural heritage) & institutional capacity (e.g pilot projects, exchanges of public sector staff). Trust building through people-to-people activities should be supported as a horizontal priority.	Involve all relevant actors in dialogue to better integrate Sami objectives. Setting up small project funds for trust-building, increased cooperation between micro and SMEs, inclusion of under-represented groups, Sami research. Develop a sustainable way to finance cross-border data collection.
Interreg SO: safer & more secure	Explore whether to include in future programme.	Future investments in border-crossing infra & integration of the cross-border transport networks should be complementary.	n/a



Annex 6: Preliminary indication of Policy Objectives in the 2021-27 Interreg programmes (June 2020, March 2021)

Strand	Programme	PO1: a smarter Europe	PO2: a greener, low carbon Europe	PO3: a more connected Europe	PO4: a more social Europe	PO5: Europe closer to citizens	ISO1: A better Interreg governance	ISO2: A safer & more secure Europe
Transnational	Baltic Sea Region	+	+				+	
	Atlantic Area*							
	North Sea Region*							
	North-West Europe		+					
Cross-border	Interreg Aurora**	+ (SO1&3)	+ (SO4,7&8)		+ (SO2&5)		+ (SO6)	
	Sweden-Norway*							
	PEACE PLUS*							
ENI	Karelia**	+	+			+	+	





	Kolarctic**	+	+		+	(SO5)		+	
--	-------------	---	---	--	---	-------	--	---	--

Notes: (*) Indication of the POs was not available at the time of writing. (**) Information updated in March 2021.







Notes

¹ McMaster, I, Wergles, N, Vironen, H. (2019) Northern Periphery and Arctic Impact Evaluation, Report to the NPA Managing Authority, EPRC, University of Strathclyde

² McMaster, I. (2018) NPA Through the Generations, presentation to the NPA Annual conference, Eden Court Inverness, 20 September 2018

³ Within the Arctic region, the main international governance body is the Arctic Council; the Nordic council is an inter-parliamentary body made up of five countries (Denmark Finland, Iceland Norway and Sweden) and three self-governing territories (the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland). The Nordic Council of Ministers, an intergovernmental forum for cooperation, was established to complement the Council. The Nordic Council of Ministers consists of ten thematic councils of ministers which meet twice per year; The Northern Dimension (ND) is a joint policy which provides a framework for cross-border and external interaction between the EU, Norway, Iceland and Russia in the Baltic Sea and Arctic Sea area; and the BEAC provides a platform for intergovernmental and interregional cooperation. Thirteen counties from Finland (three), Norway (three), Russia (five) and Sweden (two) currently cooperate in the Barents Regional Council (BRC).

⁴ E.g. Arctic Germany, France, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, China, Poland, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, UK

⁵ Shetland is 643km south of the Arctic Circle and is as far north as Cape Farewell in Greenland.
<https://www.shetland.org/about/climate>

⁶ Ireland and Estonia's Arctic ambitions, an article by Dr. Michael Wenger in Polar Journal, 28 January 2021 <https://polarjournal.ch/en/2021/01/28/ireland-and-estonia-apply-to-the-arctic-council/>

⁷ Arctic cooperation will be important for many countries and actors, not least due to the environmental challenges and the opportunities linked to climate change. The public consultation of the EU's Arctic policy (20 July - 6 November 2020) will aim to re-examine the role of the EU in Arctic affairs, revise the three priorities of the current Joint Communication, and identify possible new policy areas to be developed. The public consultation provides an opportunity for the Programme countries, the sub-national level and the wider programme partners to contribute to the future direction of the EU's Arctic policy.

⁸ On 20 July 2020, a public consultation on the way forward for the EU's Arctic policy was launched.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1318

⁹ European Union External Action, Summary of the public consultation on the way forward for the European Union's Arctic policy, 26 January 2021 https://eeas.europa.eu/arctic-policy/eu-arctic-policy/92061/summary-public-consultation-way-forward-european-union%E2%80%99s-arctic-policy_en

¹⁰ European Union External Action Services (EEAS) (2021) The Arctic, a key region for the EU and global security, 3 February 2021 https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/92500/arctic-key-region-eu-and-global-security_en

¹¹ Dolata P (2020) A Balanced Arctic Policy for the EU, paper requested by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 2020
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/603498/EXPO_IDA\(2020\)603498_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/603498/EXPO_IDA(2020)603498_EN.pdf)

¹² Jeppe Kofod: Det vil vi med ny arktisk strategi, news item in the Altinget, 13 January 2020
<https://www.altinget.dk/arktisk/artikel/jeppe-kofod-ny-arktisk-strategi-med-fokus-paa-mennesker>

¹³ Region Västerbotten (2018) Region Västerbottens agenda för Arktis

¹⁴ Regional Norrbotten and Norrbottens kommuner (2017) Norrbottens politiska plattform för Arktis

¹⁵ OECD (2017) OECD Territorial Review of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas, *op.cit.*

¹⁶ Karlsdottir A, Smed Olsen L, Greve Harbo L (2018) Sustainable Regional Development in the Nordic Arctic, Policy recommendations https://www.nordregio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PolicyPaper_arcticFinalReport_digital.pdf

-
- ¹⁷ McMaster, I. van Der Zwet, A. et al. (2015) Arctic Collaboration Mechanism, Final Report to Scottish Government and Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, EPRC, University of Strathclyde
- ¹⁸ CEC (2016) Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Brussels, 27.4.2016, p. 11
- ¹⁹ McMaster I. (2019) European Territorial Cooperation in Scotland Post 2020, Scottish Enterprise, McMaster I (2018) EU Cooperation and Innovation - Delivering Value from our European Partnerships Report on the Conference organised by Scotland Europa and Scottish Enterprise in partnership with Royal Society of Edinburgh, 29 September 2017
- ²⁰ These discussions were organised at the meeting 'A coordinated approach to shared priorities – 2021-27 in the Baltic Sea Region' on 3 June 2020.
- ²¹ European Commission (2019) Orientation paper, transnational cooperation programme, Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021-2027, 20 November 2019
- ²² Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (2017), 'What is the National Planning Framework?' Available at <http://npf.ie/about/> (accessed 06 July 2017)
- ²³ Government of Ireland (2018) Project Ireland 2040, National Planning Framework, <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf>, accessed on 27/04/2018.
- ²⁴ Government of Ireland (2018) Project Ireland 2040, National Planning Framework, <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf>, accessed on 27/04/2018, p. 22.
- ²⁵ Nordregio (2019) Implementing Smart Specialisation strategies in Nordic regions, Policy Brief, July 2019 <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/pb2019-9.2001-3876.pdf?expires=1597330436&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=54E660C0D090E34F3D4C22C671F137D1>
- ²⁶ Teräs J, Nygård V, Myhr S and Karlstad S (2020) Kunnskapsgrunnlag/områdeanalyse, *op.cit.*
- ²⁷ European Commission (2020) Commission supports Member States in their transition to a climate-neutral economy, 7 May 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/05/05-07-2020-commission-supports-member-states-in-their-transition-to-a-climate-neutral-economy
- ²⁸ OECD (2017), OECD Territorial Reviews: Northern Sparsely Populated Areas, *op.cit.*
- ²⁹ Government of Finland (2020) Valtakunnalliset alueiden kehittämisen painopisteet 2020-2023 Kestävät ja elinvoimaiset alueet.
- ³⁰ Government of Sweden, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation (2020) Nationell strategi för hållbar regional utveckling 2021–2030 <http://www.reglab.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Na%CC%88ringsdepartementet-ny-nationell-strategi.pdf>
- ³¹ Tillväxtverket (2019) *Utvecklingskraft i hela Sverige 2030 – Kunskap om regionala förutsättningar för tillväxt*, Rapport 0892
- ³² Tillväxtverket (2020) *Förslag på hur hållbarhetsarbetet inom den regionala tillväxtpolitiken kan stärkas*, N2018/04488/RTS
- ³³ Government of Sweden, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation (2020) Nationell strategi för hållbar regional utveckling 2021–2030 <http://www.reglab.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Na%CC%88ringsdepartementet-ny-nationell-strategi.pdf>
- ³⁴ Government of Ireland (2018) Project Ireland 2040, National Planning Framework, <http://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/Project-Ireland-2040-NPF.pdf> (accessed 27/04/2018), p. 22.
- ³⁵ Government of Greenland (2019) Political and Economic Report 2019 <https://naalakkersuisut.gl/~media/Nanaq/Files/Attached%20Files/Finans/ENG/P%C3%98B2019%20EN.pdf#page=96&zoom=100,93,777>
- ³⁶ The Faroe Islands <https://visitfaroeislands.com/about/history-governance-economy/economy/>
- ³⁷ The Faroe Islands <http://www.globalislands.net/greenislands/index.php?region=8&c=21>
- ³⁸ OECD (2019) Regional Development Policy in Iceland <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/Iceland.pdf>



³⁹ Jeppe Kofod: *Det vil vi med ny arktisk strategi*, news item in the Altinget, 13 January 2020 <https://www.altinget.dk/arktis/artikel/jeppe-kofod-ny-arktisk-strategi-med-fokus-paa-mennesker>

⁴⁰ Government of Finland (2020) Suomi kokoaan suurempi arktinen maa – mahdollisuus ja haaste <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/-/10616/suomi-kokoaan-suurempi-arktinen-maa-mahdollisuus-ja-haaste>

⁴¹ Prime Minister's Office of Finland, Finland is an active and responsible partner <https://vnk.fi/en/arctic-issues/finlands-arctic-policy>

⁴² Government of Finland <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/marinin-hallitus/hallitusohjelma/suomi-kokoaan-suurempi-maailmalla>

⁴³ Arctic Council, Icelandic chairmanship <https://arctic-council.org/en/about/chairmanship/#:~:text=With%20sustainable%20development%20as%20an,and%20a%20Stronger%20Arctic%20Council.>

⁴⁴ Swedish Parliament (Riskdag) https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svar-pa-skriftlig-fraga/en-ny-svensk-arktistrategi_H7121014