

KO4035 ArcticSkills project update 07.09. 2020

Status of this report

This report is part of a project update for the period September 2019-September 2020. The period does not coincide totally with the actual project period as described in the Activity planner, starting January 2020, but since some activities were planned and implemented during the autumn of 2019, they will be included in this report. These activities are not financed by the EU Grant, but by private co-financing such as The Norwegian Barents Secretariat and Nordplus junior, or by own financing.

In accordance with MA, the first interim report is postponed until December 2020. This report will therefore focus mostly on the activities. A full evaluation of the goal achievements so far in the project will be part of the coming interim report.

Goals not achieved

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the ArcticSkills Tournament 2020 was cancelled. Consequently, the following goals from the logframe were not achieved in the project period 2019-20:

The overall objectives

- RI 2 By increasing the number of young vocational skilled workers with knowledge of work-conditions in the Barents region, SME's will have better possibilities of recruiting workers from border regions.
- RI 4 The project will develop a common didactical method to be integrated in national curriculums. Furthermore, the competitions will contribute to develop international standards in job execution and education. The project will also contribute to develop "arctic" environmental demands.

Expected outcome

- Oc1. Competition as a didactical method in teaching in the participating colleges is established
- Oc2. An increased number of participating colleges and regions in the Tournament
- Oc5. Contracts with associated enterprises for involvement in the Tournament and students exchange.

Achieved Goals

Expected outcome

- Oc3. Establish networks of experts/teachers from participating enterprises and colleges.
- Oc4. Establish a completion plan for the tournament. Including career guidance, a fair and a conference/hub for businesses, educators and politicians
- Oc6. Make a plan for cross border exchange of students and apprentices.
- Oc7. Supervision and steering by an appointed Board representing the partners and associated enterprises
- Oc8. Establish project management and regional coordinators.
- Op 9.1. Project management will work out plan for Visibility and Actions by the end of 2019

Accomplished activities

The following activities were accomplished in accordance with the Activity planner:

1. Presentations of the project in October-December 2019

The project management presented ArcticSkills on several occasions during the autumn 2019. Kolarctic gathering in Luleå, meeting with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, the Barents secretariat, the Board of the Barents Institute.

2. Kick-off AS. September 23, 2019

Arranged in Övertorneå, Sweden in the presence of the Board and the professional networks. Forty-five experts from Russia, Sweden and Norway attended the gathering. The experts from Finland could not attend because the kick-off collided with planning of FinnSkills. The Board attended in full. The most important results of the meeting were the signing of a new Partnership agreement, discussion and approval of preparatory documents for the Grant Contract, planning of tasks for AS20, and an excursion on the Competition arenas. Riikka Oittinen and Linda Mosand attended from MA, and gave a presentation of aims and terms of the CBC programme. Minutes from the meeting in the board is attached to this report

3. Establishing a local steering committee October 2019

The steering committee included members from Utbildning Nord, Gränelvsgymnasiet and Tornedalsskolan. As main responsible for the Tournament, the principal of Utbildning Nord, Leif Lahti, led the committee.

4. Participation in the Kolarctic Gathering. November 2020

Robert Flatli and Trond Hansen represented the project management and lead partner. Christer Borg represented Tornedalsskolan. The most important outcome of the gathering was networking and knowledge of project management. Financed by the MA and Norwegian BO.

5. Board- and network meeting in Murmansk. December 2019

The Board and the professional networks were invited to take part in the regional final WorldSkills Russia in Murmansk. The activity was not part of the Activity planner, and only 30 experts from Murmansk and Finnmark were able to attend. Members represented the Board from Lappi, Finnmark and Murmansk. The meeting was important for discussing the plan of exchange and the progress in the negotiations of the Grant Contract.

The participants also had the opportunity to observe the regional final of WSR, and got valuable knowledge in planning and performing of Russian professional competitions

6. Grant Contract. December 2020.

The Grant Contract negotiations were conducted by Riikka Oittinen from the Managing Authority in Rovaniemi and Linda Mosand from Finnmark BO. They are also appointed consultants and contact persons for ArcticSkills. Øystein Hansen on behalf of the Lead Partner signed the Contract in late December. The grant contracts consists of two documents. One from the Kolarctic CBC program, the other from Kolarctic Finnmark.

7. Gathering of regional co-ordinators in Rovaniemi. February 2020.

The purpose of the gathering was to review the routines and procedures of reporting in Promas. The gathering was held in Rovaniemi in the Kolarctic office, and we got very important help from the office.

8. Meeting in the Board in Tornio. February 2020

The meeting was arranged at Kemi-Tornionlaakso Municipal Education and Training Consortium Lappia. We had presentations and discussions of:

- The Grant Contract
- The draft of a plan for Monitoring an Evaluation
- The draft of a plan for Communication and Visibility
- Student's exchange.
- The plan for completion of the Tournament was approved.

9. Regional qualifications. February 2020.

Completed by regional schools and colleges. These qualifications results in the national teams of finalists to the ArcticSkills final, but the regions conduct this process in different ways. The teams were ready in February, A total of 66 finalists and 64 experts were waiting for the main event.

10. Completion of tasks and assessment criteria. March 2020.

Digital meetings in the networks to summon up the work

11. Cancellation of ArcticSkills 2020. March 12, 2020

Covid-19 struck us in late February, and during the first weeks of March, the authorities in Finnmark, Murmansk and Lappi strongly advised the schools to avoid all travelling and excursions abroad. Although the Swedish schools were working as scheduled, the Board decided that they had no other options than to cancel AS 20, and immediately informed all

schools and benefactors about the decision. The benefactors fully understood the situation, and gave us necessary support and instructions to handle the situation.

12. Digital meeting in the Board. June 16, 2020

The Board arranged the meeting on Teams, and experienced that the digital platform was well suited for presentations and debate. The agenda was as follows:

- 11/20 Project ArcticSkills 2020-2022 (2023) Preliminary plans for tournament in the period 2021 -2022 (2023).
- 12/20 Changes to the partner consortium of ArcticSkills project – adding partners by Sanna Laihinen
- 13/20 Update,
Activity planner including meeting structure by PM and Trond Hansen
- 14/20 Information
- 15/20 Update, Exchange program
- 16/20 Information and update from MA

Minutes from the Board meetings will be attached to the update

13. Revision of the Activity planner

Attached to the project update you will find a revision of the Activity planner for activities in 2020 and the rest of the project implementation. The Board has discussed a possible prolonging of the project implementation with one year, and are working to find financing for a Tournament in 2023. The most urgent task now, is to plan for a new Tournament in Övertorneå 2021, which means that Murmansk will host the tournament in 2022 and intentionally a grand final in Rovaniemi or Tornio in 2023. All sources of financing are, or will be involved in this process.

Status

The cancellation of this year's tournament has been a temporary setback for the project. However, the work has been carried on, and we are determined to implement the project and in the end achieve our goals. As indicated in this report, we have created a solid platform for the implementation. Our main achievements are as follows:

- A strong partnership based on realistic expectations and common understanding of the Partnership agreement
- An elected Board with representatives from all partners
- 16 professional networks with 64 experts
- Four regional coordinators
- Each partner has signed a contract with an auditor
- A common understanding of the Grant contract
- We have established a plan for Evaluation and monitoring
- We have a plan for Exchange of students and experts
- We have a plan for Communication and Visibility
- We have established good communication routines and the information seems to be working well, both within the partnership and with the MA and BO's

Although the progress is seemingly well at this stage of the project, there are matters which need revision and improvement. These are:

- Better and more precise description of goals and indicators in the Logframe
- More precise understanding of the role of the co-financers
- More professional approach to the visibility work
- A plan for cooperation and involvement with the businesses

Kirkenes 8th of September 2020

Robert Flatli
Project manager

Trond Hansen
Project Consultant