

## Our framework

ArcticSkills is an ENI CBC project in the European Union development strategy. Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) is a key element of the EU policy towards its neighbours, i.e. the Russian Federation. It supports sustainable development along the EU's external borders, helps reducing differences in living standards and addressing common challenges across these borders. It was first recognised as such in the European [Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument \(ENPI\) regulation](#) for the period 2007-2013, and confirmed for the period 2014-2020 in [the European Neighbourhood Instrument \(ENI\) regulation](#). In the Kolarctic region, it includes Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, each with their national and regional financing. There are 15 regional programmes in the portfolio of CBC. Kolarctic is one of them, pursuing following mission:

*“The overall aim of the Kolarctic CBC 2014 - 2020 Programme is to promote a viable economy and attractiveness of the region, where inhabitants and visitors come to enjoy the arctic nature and where natural resources are used in a sustainable way.”*

The Kolarctic Cross Border Cooperation 2014–2020 Programme continues and strengthens cross-border cooperation between the countries in the North Calotte and Northwest Russia. Funding shall be granted to joint projects operating in line with the strategy and priorities jointly agreed by the Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian and Russian partners.

Kolarctic CBC 2014 -2020 has two Priority axis. ArcticSkills is designed for Priority **axis 1 Viability of arctic economy, nature and environment**, with the Thematic Objective **(TO1) Business and SME development**. The Programme has developed several **Common Output indicators (COI)**, which serve as indicators for all ENI programmes. Each programme has chosen the indicators that suit their needs. The purpose is to achieve better communication about programme achievements. In addition to the COI's we have defined how we can contribute to the **Programme-specific output indicators (SOI)**. These are indicators created specifically for the programme (e.g. Kolarctic). Meaning SOI's are different for each programme. Each project has to indicate how they can contribute to these indicators. The implementation of the project is based on a series of steering documents, which function as a road map for the partners. Kolarctic CBC has elaborated a **Project Implementation Manual** to help the projects in their efforts. Most of the documents are common for all Kolarctic CBC projects, but with project specific adaptations. One might say that all projects are obliged to contribute to the Programmes policies and objectives by accomplishing their own goals. In other words, the success of the project depends on how it has contributed to achieving the Programmes thematic objectives, and the evaluation process is designed for that purpose.

In the ArcticSkills Project plan, we have defined our **Project Specific Indicators**, tailored to tell the story of our project, and finally we have defined the **Result Indicators (RI)**, matching the project impact to the Programme objectives. In short, narrative reporting deals with all these indicators as well as the financial situation.

The objectives of ArcticSkills are a result of a common understanding between the partners of basic challenges in the field of vocational education and work life in the far North. These

objectives are described in the project's **Logical Framework**, which also describes the expected **outcomes** and **outputs** along with the planned activities and evaluation process. It also indicates the **impact** we expect these outputs and outcomes will have on the thematic objectives. Another important tool for the implementation is the **Activity Planner** and the **Work Plan**, which in detail describes the planned activities year by year, and provides the most important basis for the **Budget Specification**. The **Approved Budget** is part of the **Grant Contract and its Annexes**, which describes the commitments between Kolarctic CBC Managing Authority and the Lead Partner, Kirkenes Upper Secondary school, on behalf of all Partners. These commitments and guidelines are elaborated in the plans for **Evaluation and Monitoring** and **Communication and Visibility**.

The organizational structure and relations between the Partners are described in the **Partnership Agreement**, which was signed in Övertorneå 2019. Changes in this Agreement can be found as **Addendums** to the Agreement. To secure a successful implementation, ArcticSkills has developed plans for **Exchange of students and experts** and a **basic concept for arranging the Tournament**. To secure a fair competition, the judges and experts act according to the project's **Rules and Regulations, which** largely are based on the concept from WorldSkills tournaments.

In addition to the framework of Kolarctic CBC, ArcticSkills also have to contribute to the objectives described in the strategic documents of other substantial funders, such as The Norwegian Barents Secretary, Nordplus junior and The county of Troms and Finnmark.