

**Interreg**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Aurora**

# Interreg Aurora 21-27



# What is Aurora?

- ▶ One of the EU's funding programs. Totally Aurora's funding capacity is approximately 145 milion € to projects
- ▶ Aurora is belonging to large Interreg family. In EU, we have over one hundred Interreg programs
- ▶ Ir programs are helping gross border region's organisations/SMEs to solve together their challenges, to find common solotion, to build networks, to get to know one an other

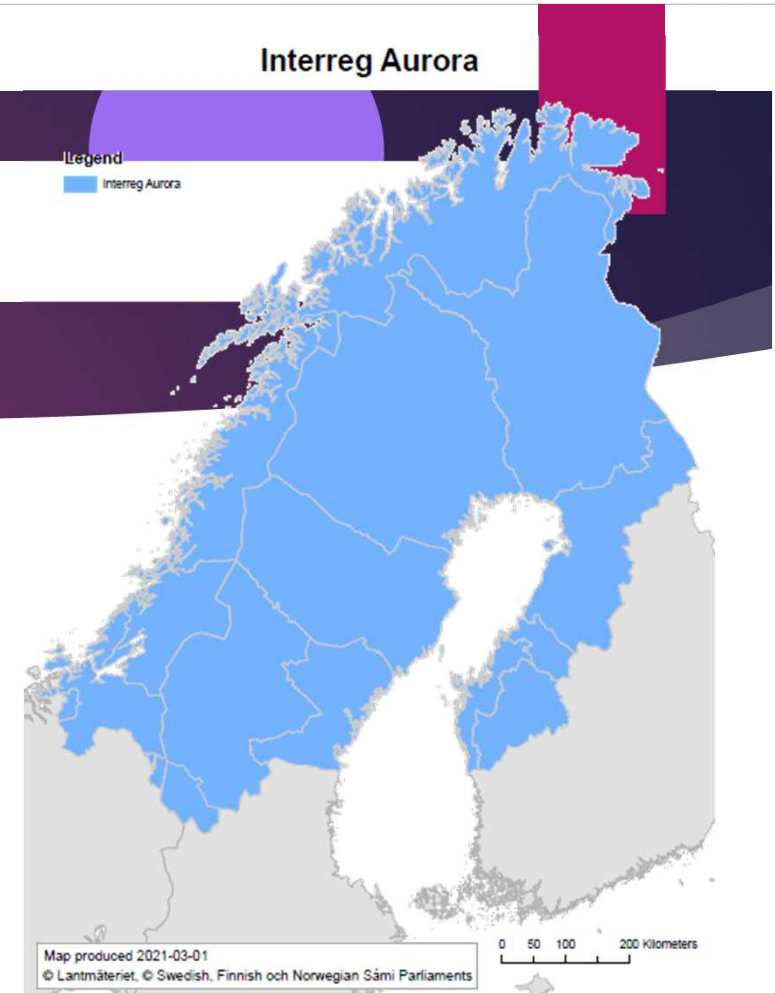
# Yhteinen ohjelma-alue

## Ohjelma-alue **Aurora**

- Lappi
- Pohjois-Pohjanmaa
- Keski-Pohjanmaa
- Pohjanmaa
- Etelä-Pohjanmaa
- Norrbotten
- Västerbotten
- Västernorrland
- Troms og Finnmark
- Nordland

## Ohjelma-alue **Sápmi**

- Lappi
- Pohjois-Pohjanmaa
- Keski-Pohjanmaa
- Norrbotten
- Västerbotten
- Västernorrland
- Jämtland
- Idre Sameby
- Troms og Finnmark
- Nordland
- Trøndelag
- Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt



Ohjelma-alueen koko noin. 570 000 km<sup>2</sup>



# Why to apply money from Aurora?

- ▶ If you have an idea you want to develop further, or if you have a challenge you want to solve together with your neighbouring country's regions institutions/SMEs
- ▶ You might have already developed your idea via national structural funds and you want to expand your network to your neighbouring countries regions
- ▶ You might have a dream to expand your cooperation in EU. Aurora – program is right place first to test your ideas forward cross bordely
- ▶ Working internally is fun, intresting, rewarding and applying money from Aurora is really easy





# When can we apply and how?

- ▶ Aurora will inform good time ahead via social media when the calls are opening and closing
- ▶ Approximately 2 calls per year, 2022-2025/26
- ▶ Aurora has MinAnsökan electronic system, you have to use to send your application, to apply EU-funding

# Priorities Interreg Aurora



## Smart and sustainable growth

- Research, development and innovation
- Entrepreneurship



## Green and sustainable transition

- Climate change adaptation and risk prevention
- Protection and preservation of biodiversity and green infrastructure



## Education, culture and sustainable tourism

- Education, training and lifelong learning
- Culture and sustainable tourism



## Better and more sustainable cross-border governance

- Building the fundamentals for cross-border cooperation



# Goal of the program

The overall goal of the Interreg Aurora programme is to encourage cross-border collaboration, thereby strengthening the programme area's competitiveness, sustainability and attractiveness through social inclusion, digitalisation, and green transition

# Chosen priorities and region's justification for selection

## Smart and sustainable growth: research&innovation, advanced technologies, SME's

- ▶ It's important **to strengthen** the development around R&D, but also important that SME's invest more in R&D
- ▶ To build **critical mass**
- ▶ Use each other's **competence and complementaries**, transfer knowledge and skill across the borders, develop and strengthen networks, build new knowlwdge and skill together to promote the transition to a green and sustainable economy
- ▶ It's importnat that public sector export-supporting organisations are able **to help businesses**
- ▶ To improve micro, small amd medium-sized enterprises **competitiveness** in the market, they need collaboration to gain access to know-how and other resources that they themselves lack



# Chosen priorities and region's justification for selection

## Green and sustainable transition: climate, protection&preservation, transport

- ▶ **Climate change** doesn't know borders. The **green transition** and **sustainable use of natural resources** and adaptation to a different climate are highly prioritised in the programme area and since the area is partly very industrial it has significant effect on the programme area
- ▶ To **prevent** and **adapt** to issues like the impact of climate change on biodiversity, traditional livelihoods, the risk of increased incidence of fires and extreme weather conditions and coherent risks, broad partnerships and cross-border cooperation and collaboration are needed
- ▶ A combination of sustainable utilisation of natural resources and initiatives to promote **advanced technology**
- ▶ There is a large number of designated **areas of protection**, including several important trans-border natural areas and connected cross-border ecosystems
- ▶ Multiple **rivers and water courses**
- ▶ **Changes in vegetation** and the presence of invasive **species** can lead to unforeseen changes
- ▶ Measures to **reduce the carbon dioxide** emissions from urban mobility and transport are needed



# Chosen priorities and region's justification for selection

## Education, culture and sustainable tourism

- ▶ The area is likely to experience an overall **population decrease**, and the population is also **ageing**
- ▶ There is a need for an increased and **educated** workforce and an entrepreneurial mind-set
- ▶ High dropout rates, high numbers of people with basic levels of education, long distances to high schools and universities, and outmigration
- ▶ The area is characterised as a multi-ethnic and multicultural melting pot
- ▶ The area has a rich and unique natural and cultural heritage
- ▶ The covid-19 pandemic brings new kind of challenges to tourism, particularly recovery, stabilisation and adjustment for a new reality



# Chosen priorities and region's justification for selection

## Better and more sustainable cross-border governance

- ▶ The Aurora program region is **new, large and composed** of two former Interreg program areas
- ▶ To build both a **common understanding** and shared strategies are important basic elements
- ▶ Increasing **trust and capacity building** in the region are crucial essentials for good collaboration, as well as the alleviation of cross-border obstacles

# Smart and sustainable growth


Examples of possible actions in selected specific objectives

## Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

- ▶ **Cooperation** between research institutes, higher education institutions, businesses and/or public sector **to create cross-border knowledge networks enhancing green and digital transitions**
- ▶ Usage of shared regional research infrastructures through cross-border cooperation to enhance **the uptake of advanced technologies** and the development of innovative products, services and methods as well as new business models and opportunities
- ▶ To **strengthen** the exploitation of **applied research** in SMEs and/or public sector
- ▶ Development of arenas, programmes, tools and methods **for supporting technology transfer, soft knowledge and cooperation**
- ▶ 'Stimulation **to create a critical mass** in the region that can reach out to **EU programmes** such as Horizon Europe

## Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs including by productive investments

- ▶ B2B cooperation strengthening **the uptake use of technologies and advanced systems**
- ▶ **Knowledge building activities and advice increasing the preparedness of SME's to internationalise and grow**
- ▶ Activities linking companies based **on complementarity competencies to enhance the innovation capacity and/or the formation of cross-border value chains**
- ▶ Cross-border cooperation between **clusters** adding complementary competencies
- ▶ Cross-border cooperation between start-up hubs and business accelerators and virtual incubators adding complementary competencies



# Technology & advanced systems



ROBOTICS  
IOT  
OPEN DATA  
CYBER SECURITY  
3D-PRINTING  
DATA-ANALYTICS





## Under PO1 project need's to benefit the following themes

- ▶ **Industry** connected to manufacturing and natural resources such as forestry and hydropower, bio economy and new products, sustainable mining, circular economy and smart food
- ▶ **Space technology** connected to remote sensing and retrieval of satellite data, drones in both industry and the public sector, services and products
- ▶ **Energy technology** such as energy storage, hybrid solutions, smart grid and energy production
- ▶ **Test activities** such as testbeds of know-how and technology in Arctic conditions
- ▶ **Health and healthcare** such as e-health, healthcare, health and wellness
- ▶ **Digitalisation** such as digital solutions, service and system solutions
- ▶ **Transport** such as developing sustainable logistics chains, digital solutions and services and low carbon transport technologies

# Green and sustainable transition

## Examples of possible actions in selected specific objectives

### Climate change adaptation and risk prevention

- Awareness raising and communication about climate change
- Designing, adapting methods and learning as result of joint implementation
- Exchange of best practices
- Development of climate adaptation strategies and plans, risk and vulnerability analyses
- Increased cooperation between research and locally based monitoring
- Implementing technologies, digital solutions,
- Measures on restoration e.g wetlands, peatlands, mires, rivers

### Protection and preservation of biodiversity and green infrastructure

- Data collection, surveys, inventory
- Analysis, scenarios, plans
- Designing and adapting methods
- Joint plans and strategies
- Knowledge and best practice building and exchange, joint implementation
- Harmonisation of working methods, guidelines
- Development of joint sustainable management strategies
- Restoration, conservation

### Transport and traffic chains

- A cross-border analysis, simulations and surveys on CO2 reduction
- Plans, drawings and designs for green and smart mobility solutions
- Coordination of plans
- Planning and implementing of digital solutions and processes
- Small scale pilot actions enabling lower CO2 emissions transport systems
- Experience exchange activities as joint seminars, study visits, surveys and trainings

# Education, culture and sustainable tourism

Examples of possible actions in selected specific objectives

## Education, training and lifelong learning

- ▶ Diversifying, updating or harmonising the different types of training provision and qualifications
- ▶ Benchmarking and improving services and methods of career counselling
- ▶ Joint efforts in the event of rapid changes in the labour market
- ▶ Encourage companies, workers, and educational institutions to participate in lifelong learning
- ▶ Common efforts to attract a diversity of labour to choose the region as a place to work, study and live in
- ▶ Developing new or transforming previous training to virtual format
- ▶ Develop cross-border education and training supporting entrepreneurship and business skills

## Culture and sustainable tourism

- ▶ Cross-border collaboration, partnership, knowledge exchange and joint solution and competence enhancing initiatives
- ▶ Joint cross-border products, services and marketing
- ▶ Joint cross-border accessibility and mobility solutions
- ▶ Cross-border activities to reinforce the resilience and diversification of tourism and culture sectors
- ▶ SME's cross-border activities which will strengthen social enterprises and social innovation
- ▶ Diversification of the tourism sub-sectors
- ▶ Cross-border activities which are contributing to the livelihoods of local and regional communities



# Better and more sustainable cross-border governance

Examples of possible actions in selected specific objectives

- Cross-border strategies that strengthen regional capacity
- Feasibility studies for large cross-border regional investments
- Action plans
- Cross-border governance projects for better regional functionality and enhancing capacity
- Initiatives on identifying and eliminating legal and administrative obstacles and implementing recommendations of these initiatives
- Clustering participation and find synergies within the Arctic Cooperation
- Data and statistics related to the region and Sámi groups
- People to people projects in trust building
- Institutional capacity building

# Valintakriteereistä

- ▶ Rajat ylittävyys
- ▶ Sopii ohjelmaan
- ▶ Kestävä kehitys
- ▶ Kumppanuus
- ▶ Tulokset
- ▶ Relevantti kohderyhmille
- ▶ Value for money
- ▶ Suunnitelma mitä tuloksille tapahtuu hankkeen päätyttyä

Lisäkriteereitä saamelais hankkeille:

- ▶ Edistää/vahvistaa Arbediehtua
- ▶ Edistää/vahvistaa Saamen kieltä/kieliä
- ▶ Luo pitkän ajan tuloksia saamelaisyhteisöön





Kiitos mielenkiinnostanne!

Lisää tietoa Interreg Aurorasta:

[www.interregnord.com/interreg-aurora/](http://www.interregnord.com/interreg-aurora/)

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