

# Get to know the Interreg cooperation

Interreg NPA and Interreg Aurora

Interreg NPA Annual Event, 8th November, Skellefteå, Sweden

**Interreg**



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# The idea behind Interreg

## Main objectives

- To help regions and cities achieve their potential.
- To allow regions to work together across borders, sectors, levels of government.
- To jointly address common challenges and find shared solutions

## Facts & Figures

- Interreg started in 1990
- Funded by the European Regional Development Fund.
- The budget for the period 2021-2027 is approx. 10 billion Euros
- 86 programmes: cross-border, transnational, interregional, outermost regions

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# Interreg NPA

- Building on a 20-year legacy
- Cooperation delivering innovative approaches to improve peoples' living and working conditions in remote, sparsely populated areas
- Focus on place-relevant, tangible outputs and results
- Transnational added value
- Arctic Cooperation

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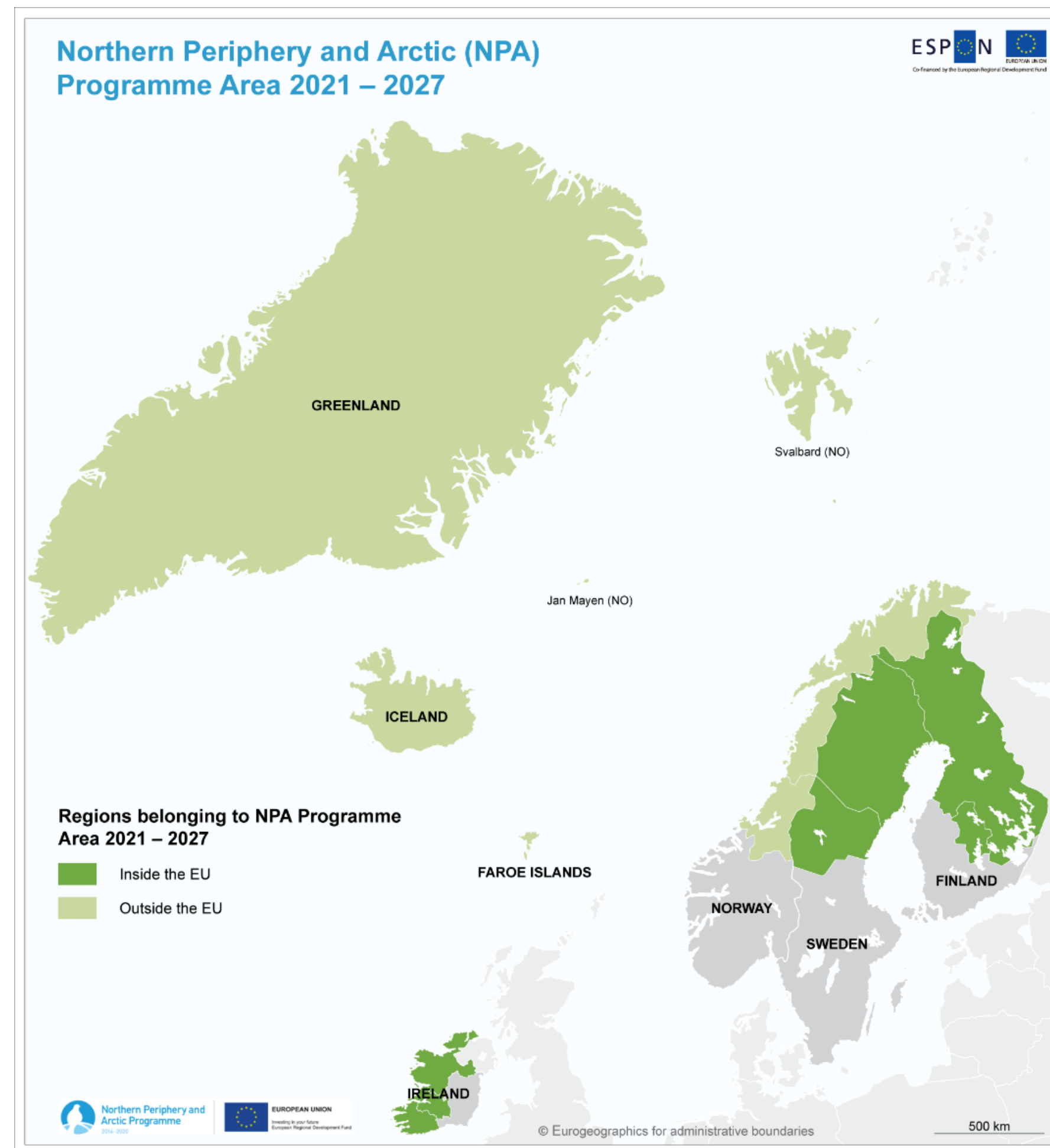
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# Programme Area

Finland  
Ireland  
Sweden  
Norway  
Iceland  
Faroe Islands  
Greenland



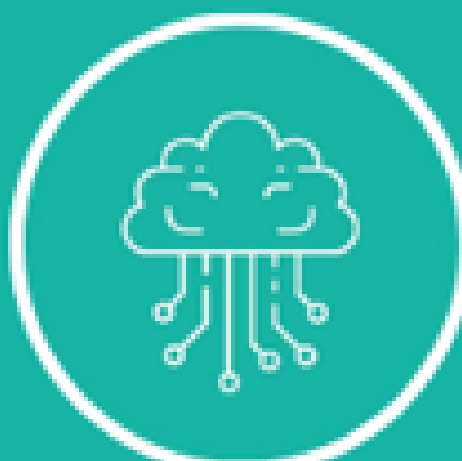
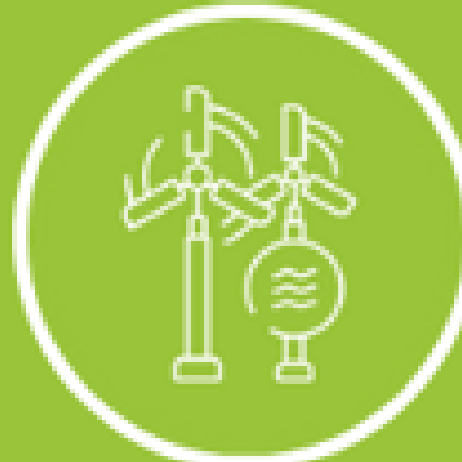

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# Priorities

| Priorities  | Contributing to skills  |
|---|---|
|  <p>Priority 1<br/>INNOVATION<br/>CAPACITY</p>                              | <p>1.1 Developing and enhancing <b>research and innovation capacities</b> and the uptake of advanced technologies</p> <p>1.2 Reaping the benefits of <b>digitisation</b> for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities</p> <p>1.3 Enhancing sustainable <b>growth &amp; competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs</b>, including by productive investment</p> |
|  <p>Priority 2<br/>CLIMATE<br/>CHANGE and<br/>RESOURCE<br/>SUFFICIENCY</p> | <p>2.2 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches - making use of <b>local knowledge</b></p>  |
|  <p>Priority 3<br/>COOPERATION<br/>OPPORTUNITIES</p>                      | <p>3.1 Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies – building the <b>capacity to make use of cooperation opportunities</b></p>   |



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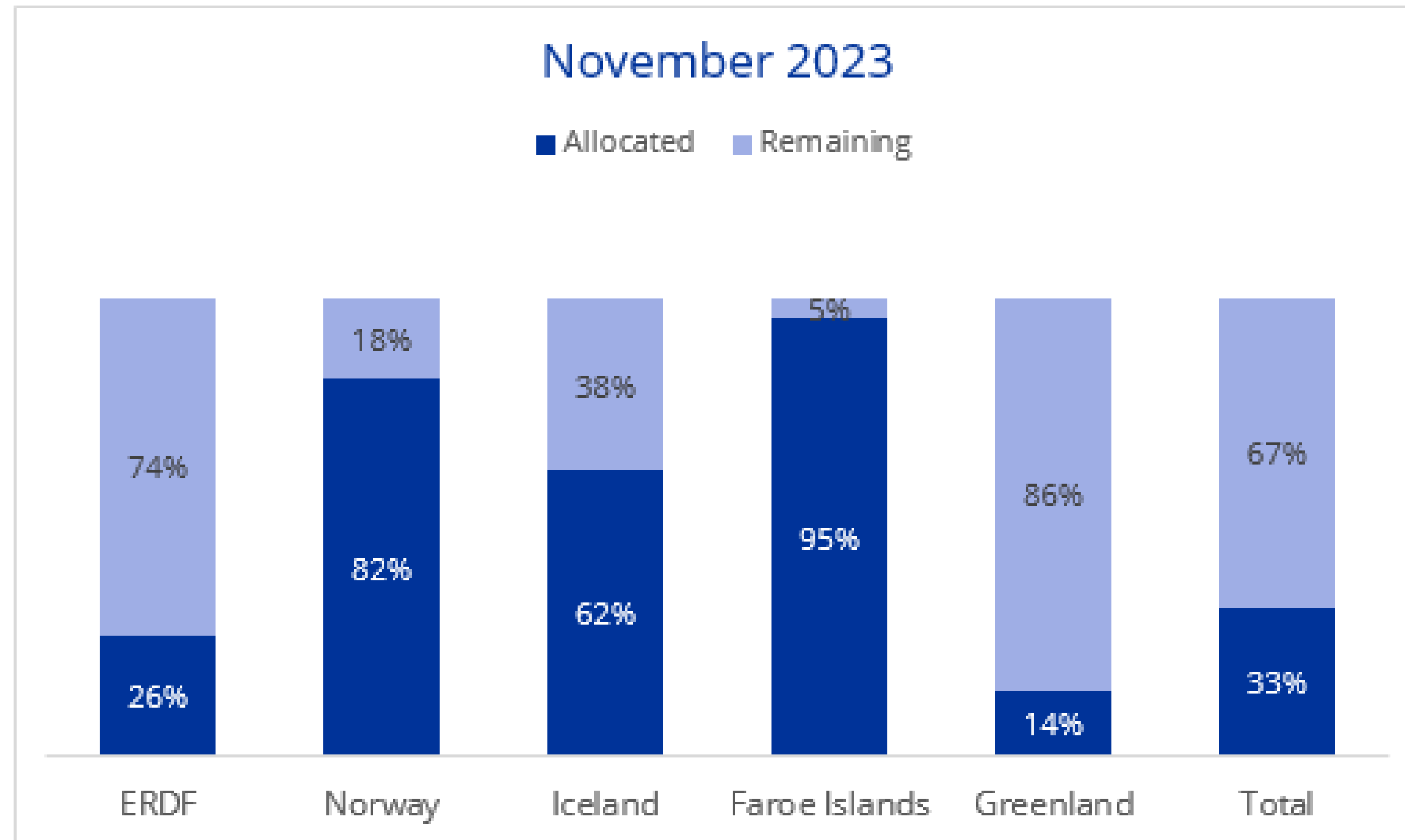
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# Financing and Implementation

Total budget for projects

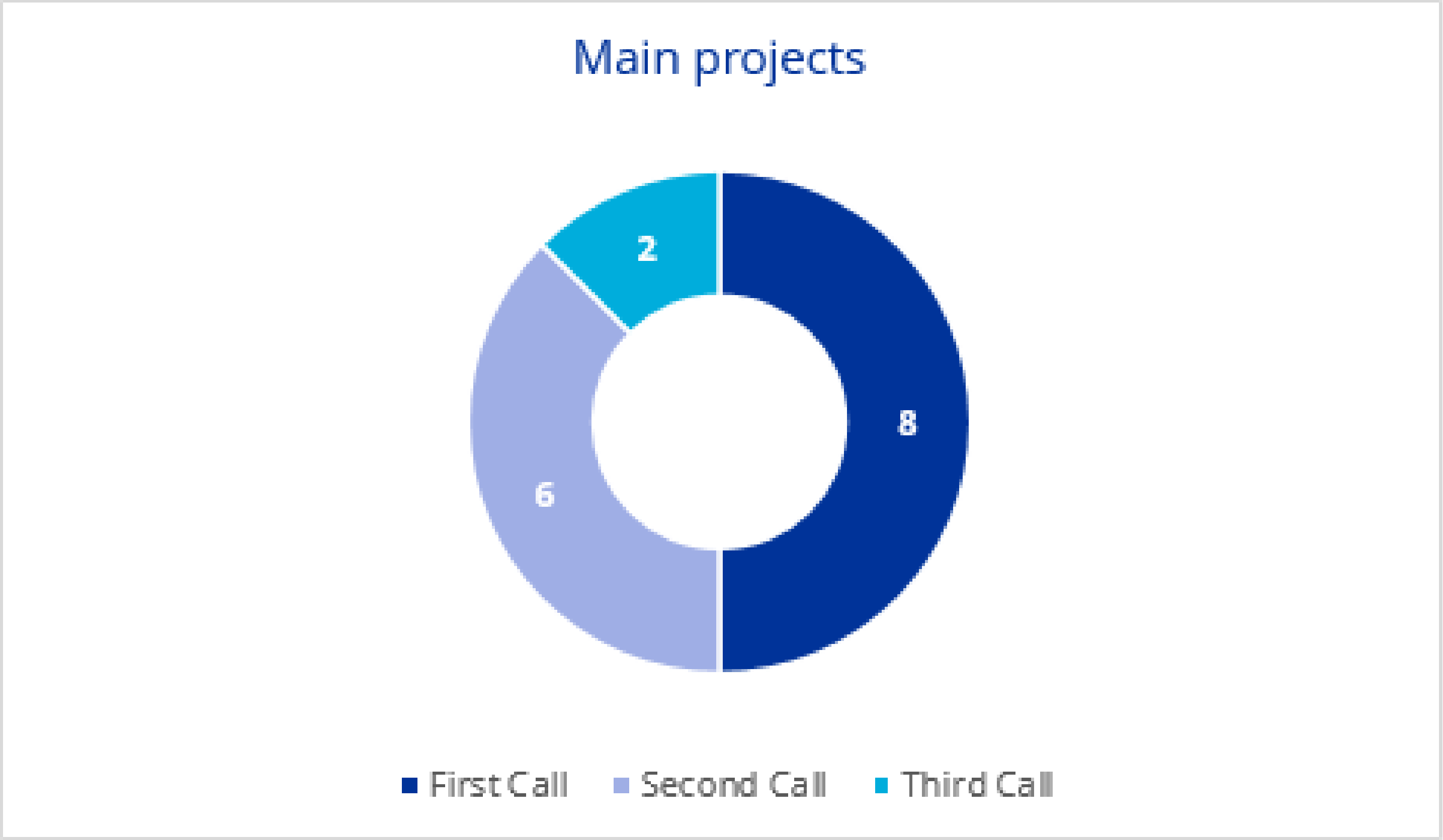


# Funding status

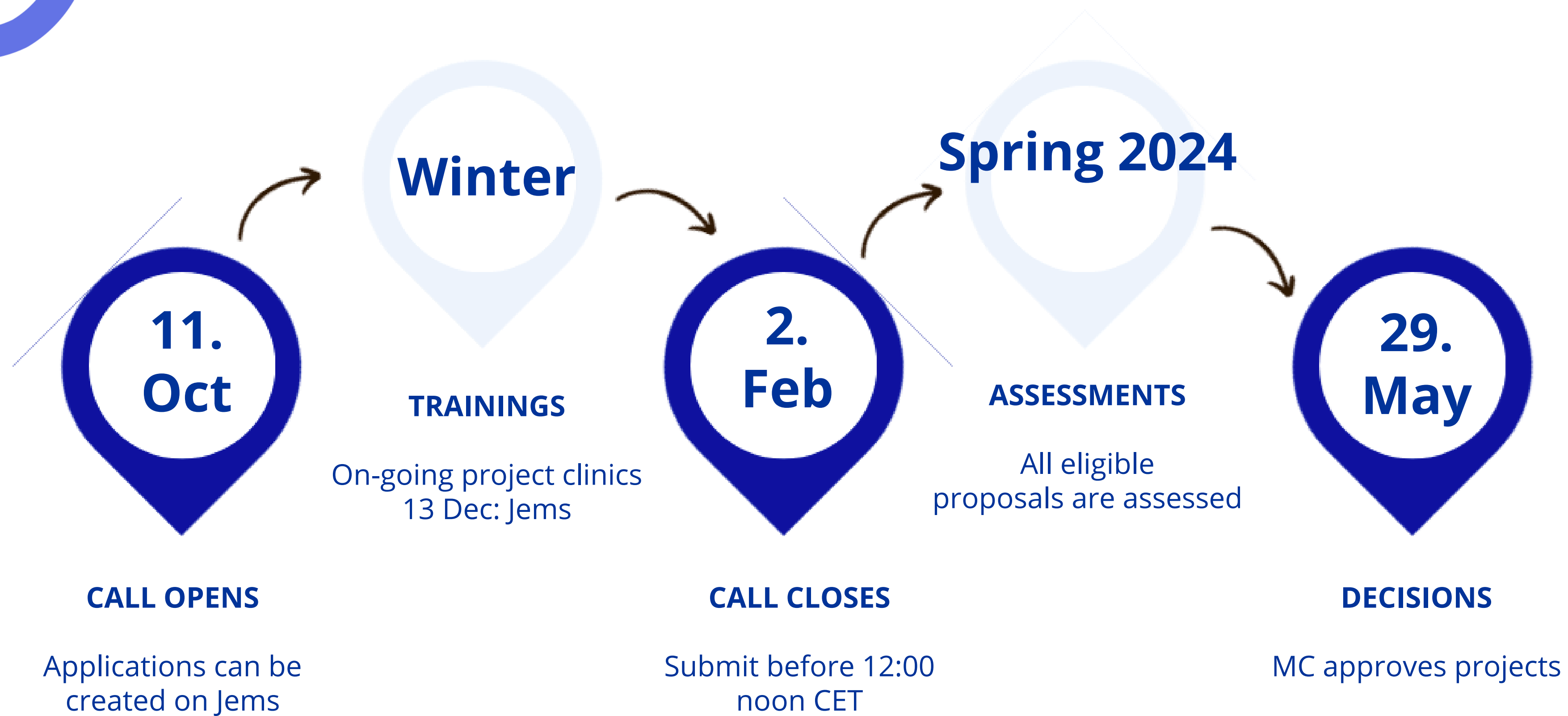




# Approved projects



# Fourth Call



# Types of projects

## MAIN PROJECTS

Priority 1:  
Strengthening the innovation  
capacity for resilient and attractive  
NPA communities



Priority 2:  
Strengthening the capacity for climate  
change adaptation, and resource  
sufficiency in NPA communities



36 months  
Average 1.500.000 Euro  
Real cost reimbursement

## SMALL SCALE

Priority 3:  
Strengthening the organisational  
capacity among NPA communities to  
make use of cooperation opportunities



18 months  
Up to 200.000 Euro  
Lump sum

# Types of projects

MINIMUM

3

PARTNERS  
from programme  
partner countries

FROM

2

ZONES  
of the programme

AT LEAST

1

from an  
EU MEMBER STATE

The Lead Partner must be a  
**PUBLIC ORGANISATION**

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# Thematic focus of Priority 3



1. Increase preparedness and resilience of NPA communities
2. Preserve and experience the unique heritage of the NPA regions
3. Increase the wellbeing of people living in the NPA regions
4. Attract skills and talents needed in the NPA regions
5. Enable youth to shape the NPA regions

# Target groups of Priority 3



1. **RESILIENCE:** Municipalities and networks of municipalities
2. **HERITAGE:** Networks of Sámi and Inuit communities
3. **WELLBEING:** Underrepresented groups such as young people, vulnerable people, and indigenous communities
4. **TALENTS:** Broad involvement of different stakeholders is expected
5. **YOUTH:** Youth organisations, and organisations working with youth engagement
6. ...and more

# Arctic Cooperation Interreg NPA and Interreg Aurora

Kirsti Mijnhijmer – Gabriel Bölske

# Arctic Cooperation – why we work together

- Network of Arctic EU cooperation programmes since 2016
- Contributing to the EU Arctic policy from a regional development perspective.
- Exchanging experiences between our management organisations and sharing results and best practices
- Raising the profile of projects, giving visibility to Arctic topics on EU and national level
- Opportunities for networking, reaching wider group of stakeholders, capitalising on results



# Arctic Cooperation – similarities and differences

## Similarities

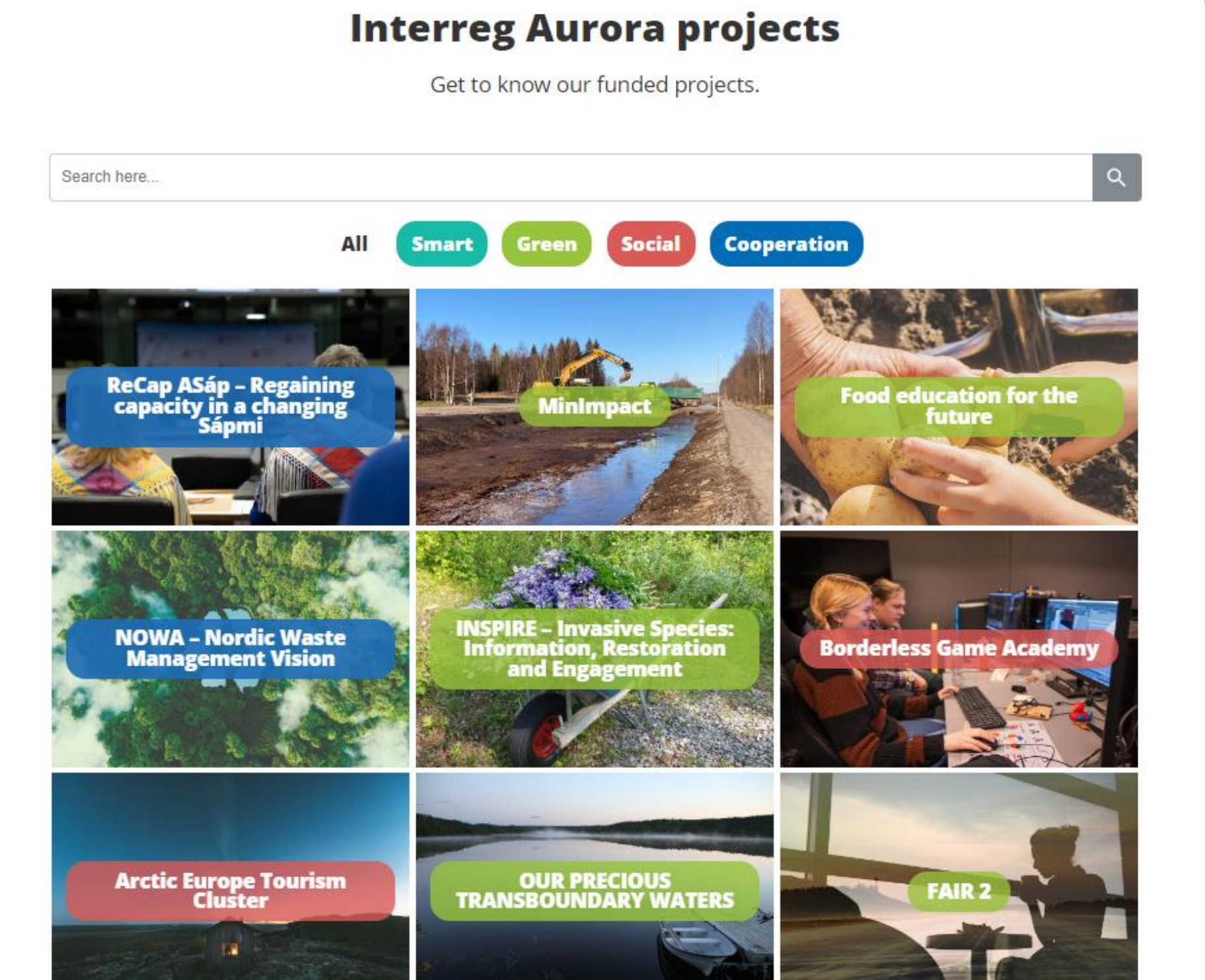
- Part of Interreg family, focused on cooperation for practical solutions
- Overlap in geography, including many of the characteristics (sparse population, long distances, harsh climate)
- Overlap in themes: enhancing research and innovation capacities as well as sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs, promoting of climate change adaptation and offer possibilities for a better cooperation governance.

## Differences

- One programme is transnational with a wide reach around the Arctic Circle, and one is cross-border, addressing specific obstacles experienced by communities in border regions
- Geographical differences: NPA also includes Ireland, and North Atlantic. Aurora is divided into two geographical sub-areas – Aurora and Sápmi
- Thematic differences: NPA focuses on digitization and energy efficiency. Aurora promotes protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity, and sustainable mobility. Aurora also improves access to education, training and lifelong learning

# Interreg Aurora – some key messages

- 57 projects approved
- Continuous call for small-scale projects
- Call 4 open February 5th – March 5th 2024
- Visit us at [interregaurora.eu](https://interregaurora.eu)
  - Project database for inspiration
  - Flipbook programme summary
  - Partner search and networking (website and LinkedIn)
  - Programme manual to support applicants



# Interreg Aurora – new regions about to join!

## SUB-AREA AURORA

### FINLAND

Lappi  
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa  
Keski-Pohjanmaa  
Österbotten/Pohjanmaa  
Etelä-Pohjanmaa  
Kainuu  
Pohjois-Karjala

### SVERIGE

Norrbotten  
Västerbotten  
Västernorrland

### NORGE

Finnmark  
Troms  
Nordland

## SUB-AREA SÅPMI

### FINLAND

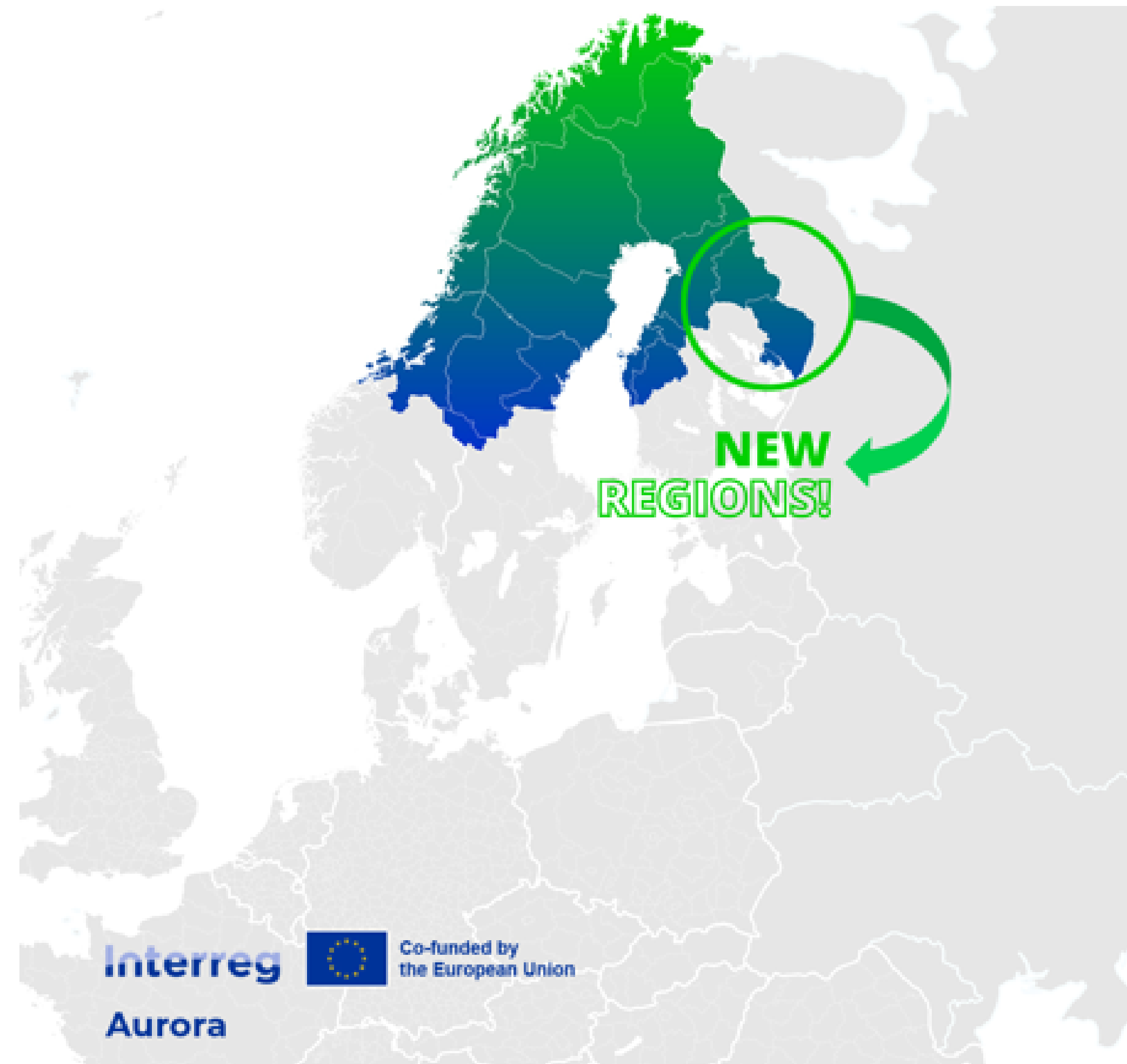
Lappi  
Pohjois-Pohjanmaa  
Keski-Pohjanmaa

### SVERIGE

Norrbotten  
Västerbotten  
Västernorrland  
Jämtland  
Idre Sameby, Dalarna

### NORGE

Finnmark  
Troms  
Nordland  
Trøndelag  
Innlandet (Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt)



# Ongoing and planned activities

- Raising awareness of the programmes' role within the EU Arctic Policy and other joint communication efforts  
→ giving visibility to projects at higher level
- Facilitating synergies and clustering among Arctic and near-Arctic stakeholders, between the two Arctic Interreg Programmes  
→ Plan for clustering call in early 2025. Next year, a joint partner search event
- Taking part in joint initiatives and joining forces at (Arctic) events  
→ next year, focus on promoting the clustering call
- Coordinating, exchanging (and inspiring) on programme management level



Thank you  
for listening!

[www.interreg-npa.eu](http://www.interreg-npa.eu)

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