**Frequently asked questions and answers regarding** **Nordic Arctic Cooperation Program 2018-2021**

**If I consider my project to be interdisciplinary can I choose more than one theme as a priority?**

No, it is not recommended. The projects applied must be clearly thematically focused which means that you only choose one of the priority themes; planet, peoples, prosperity and partnership based on your perception of the focus of your project.

**I have a project that has Arctic relevance but does not necessarily involve partners in the region. Can I still get support?**

It is unlikely that the project will be approved for support, as it is a priority that the supported projects should involve stakeholders, populations and organizations in the Arctic region. This includes those who focus on the indigenous population. One of the criteria is that local and regional ownership of the project is secured by involving the local population.

**How important is additional financing?**

It is expected that additional or co-funding is sought out, but it is not an absolute requirement. It also depends on the type of project applying for financing. We would therefore like to assess whether self-financing is crucial for an individual project and assess the importance in each individual case. We would also like to have insight into other co-financing sources and which those might possibly be. It is therefore important to be clear in the application about how the project is to be financed.

**What are the rules for budgeting?**

For larger, as well as smaller projects it is compulsory to make a detailed budget. The budget form is at the end of the application document. The budget must contain all expenses related to the project and this shall be done in the most transparent manner possible. It is also good to keep in mind that it makes the assessment of the application simper if the budget is clear and easy to review. Overheads are generally not covered for project in the Arctic Co-operation Programme and salaries cannot exceed 50% of the funds provided. More details regarding this are provided in the application form.

**It is stated that one can apply for projects that are planned for a term of up to three years. Can you apply more than three times for the same project?**

It is not possible for the same project to receive a grant extending beyond three years.

**Does Nordic Arctic Cooperation Program support projects already under way?**

The program does not support projects that have already begun.

**You can apply for a project that has a duration of up to three years, why do you then have to apply each year if you must secure funds throughout the whole period?**
The Nordic Council of Ministers decides annually whether funds will be allocated to the NACP program. This means that it is not possible in advance to guarantee that projects can have funding for a total of three years. Firstly, project managers for the selected projects must submit progress reports that will form an assessment basis together with the application the following year. It must thus be documented whether the project is progressing as planned. Secondly, if there are many very qualified applications for funding the following year, the Nordic Arctic Assessment may conclude that the quality and results of a previously funded project does not meet the standards compared to a new project. The consequence may be a decision not to continue funding a certain project that does not meet the assessment standards and instead fund a new project.

**With the risk of not being guaranteed financing for a project that will take more than one year, how can you ensure that the project will none the less generate results that can benefit both applicants, local communities and the Council of Ministers?**

When applying for a project that is expected to extend over several years, it is important to make a clear schedule of project progress. Each year should have clearly defined results that both document the progress of the project and which at the same time have a clear and unique value in relation to fieldwork, publishing, organization of workshops, conferences, etc.

**Which criteria are the most important to consider in the application?**

The following criteria are most considered when evaluating applications:

* If the application contributes to ensuring sustainable development in the Arctic and how it will do so.
* If the application is clear about equality and improvement of the conditions for children and young people in the Arctic region.
* If the application specifically targets one of the priority themes.
* If the application is in line with other work in the Nordic Council of Ministers (working groups, presidencies and regional policy).
* If the applications contain self-financing and are consistent with other financial instruments under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers.
* If the applications have local/regional ownership in the form of participation in the project or that the project creates local or regional benefits.
* If the applications contribute to new knowledge and/or special professional insight and development in the current field.
* If the applications create Nordic benefits, including strengthening Nordic and Arctic networks.
* If the project has at least three Nordic countries as project participants, a Nordic project manager and fulfills the Nordic Council of Ministers' current rules for project activities.

**One of the criteria is the requirement that the project creates Nordic benefits and strengthens the Nordic and Arctic networks? How?**

The grant shall contribute to Nordic benefits. At least one of the following criteria must be met:

* Activities that would otherwise be carried out at national level, but where detectable positive effects are achieved by common Nordic solutions;
* Activities that manifest and develop Nordic cohesion;
* Activities that increase Nordic competence and competitiveness, and
* Activities that contribute to strengthening the overall Nordic influence internationally

**If you submit an application before the deadline 1st February 2021, when can you expect to know the outcome of the application and when should you be able to start the project?**

The normal project year for the Arctic Cooperation Programme is from May - April each year. It is wise not to schedule a project launch before May, as the assessment process and the final approval of projects takes up to a few months. Opportunities for answering questions regarding the assessment of individual applications can therefore not be given before the assessment process is finished. Similarly, contracts with awarded projects are made during that period, and when the contracts are signed by Nordregio and the applicant, the project can begin.

**Can you apply to others responsible for the program than the email address** arctic@nordregio.org?

No. Projects sent to other than the above address and those who are sent after the application deadline will not be eligible.