

Interreg



Co-funded by  
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Aurora

# INTERREG AURORA



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**Aurora**

# THE GOAL OF INTERREG AURORA 2021-2027

To encourage cross-border collaboration, and thereby strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and attractiveness of the programme area through social inclusion, digitalisation and green transition.



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## Aurora

### SUB-AREA AURORA

#### FINLAND

Lappi

Pohjois-Pohjanmaa

Keski-Pohjanmaa

Österbotten/Pohjanmaa

Etelä-Pohjanmaa

#### SVERIGE

Norrbotten

Västerbotten

Västernorrland

#### NORGE

Troms og Finnmark

Nordland

### SUB-AREA SÅPMI

#### FINLAND

Lappi

Pohjois-Pohjanmaa

Keski-Pohjanmaa

#### SVERIGE

Norrbotten

Västerbotten

Västernorrland

Jämtland

Idre Sameby, Dalarna

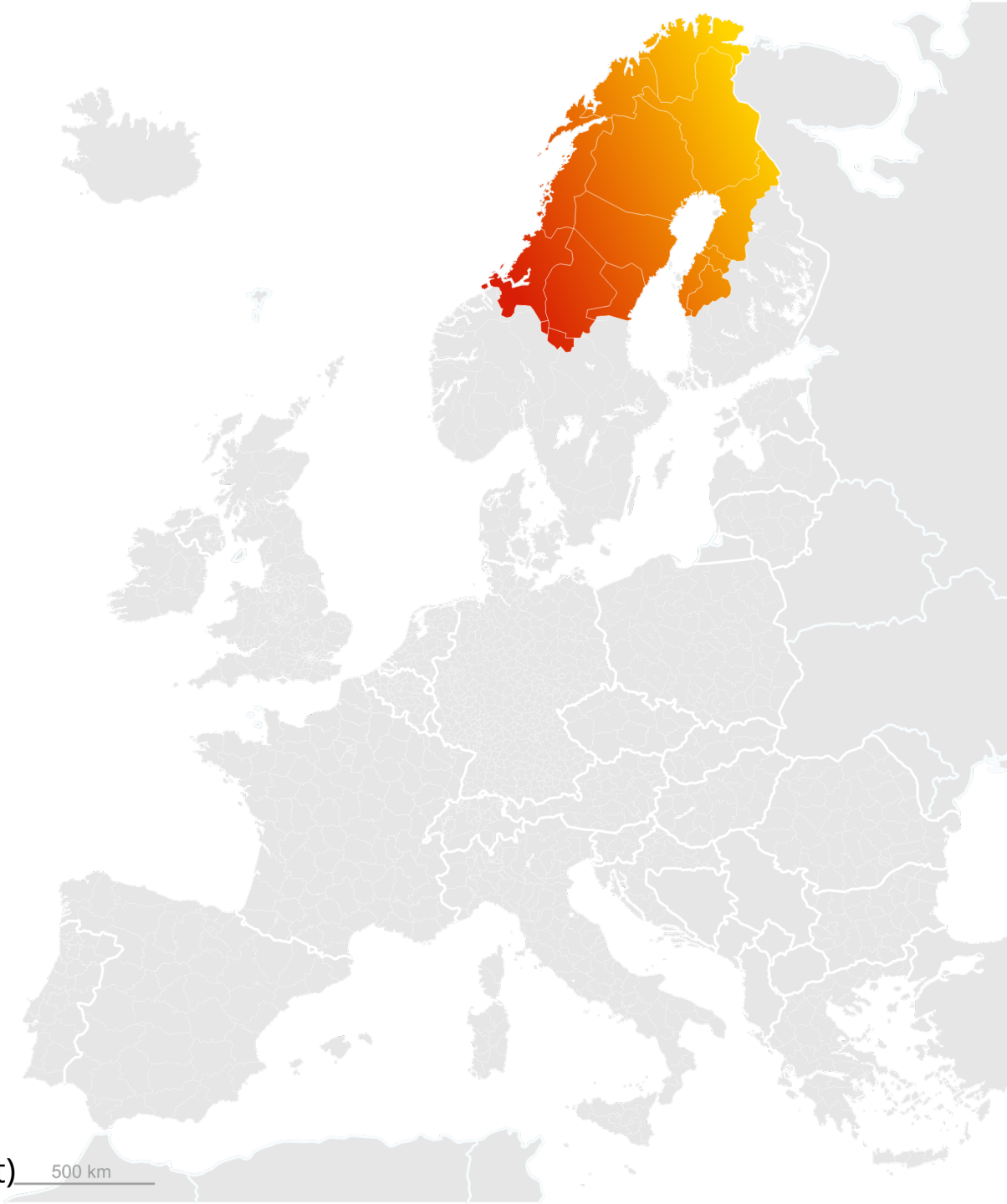
#### NORGE

Troms og Finnmark

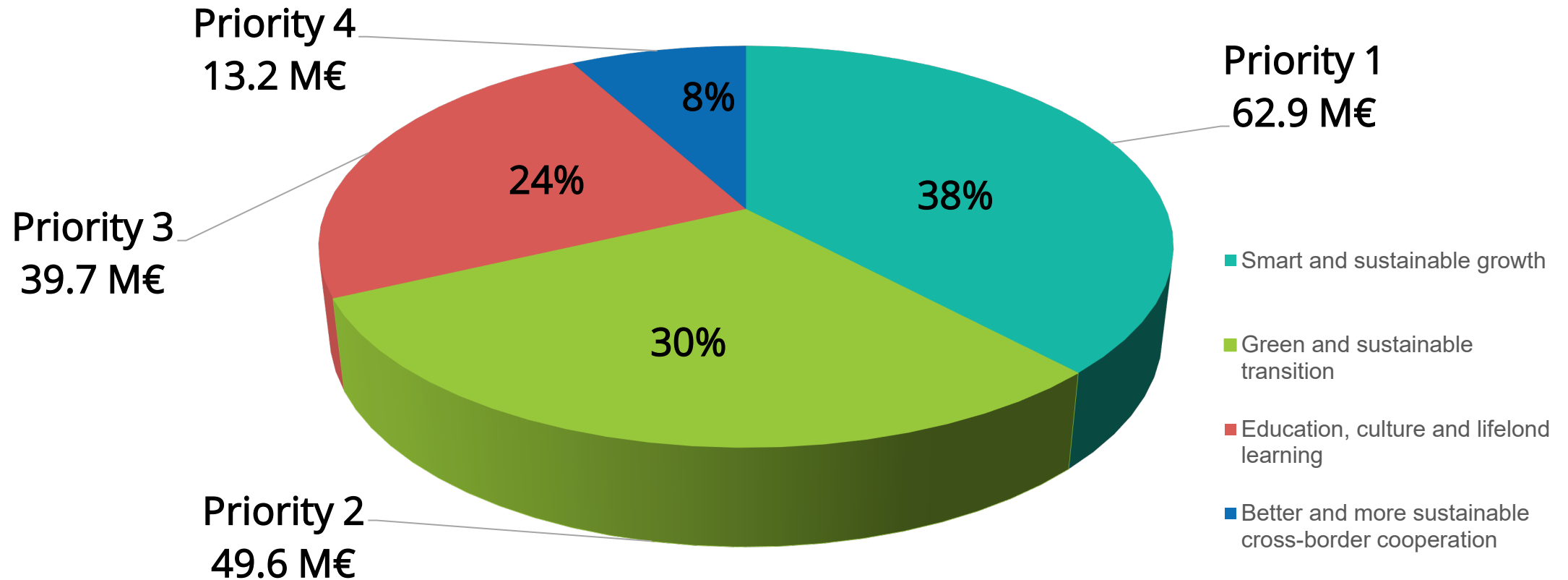
Nordland

Trøndelag

Innlandet (Elgå Reinbeitedistrikt)



# Total Budget Allocation 165 M€



# Key Findings - Socio-economic analysis

- Declining population leading to fewer people of working age. Natural resources need to be used sustainably
- Strong key industries create jobs directly as well as through the need for skills and support structures
- Differences in language and culture make cooperation challenging
- MSME and start-ups are the key to a green transition, decent jobs and prosperous communities
- The twin transition to a sustainable & digital economy is fundamental for the Aurora region
- Major challenges include infrastructure and connectivity, unlocking the full potential of natural resources and human capital as well as attracting a competent labour force
- The rich variety of geography, local economies and culture provides opportunities for joint trans-regional learning and new cross-border initiatives
- Climate change, green transition and sustainable use of natural resources, including new international initiatives are highly prioritized in Aurora
- Recovery from COVID-19 as well as building up resilience for potential future shocks needs to be given extra attention

# Project Types and EU-Financing Rates

## Project Types

### Small-scale projects

- Lump sums
- Max 20 000 Euro/country
- Duration 6-12 months

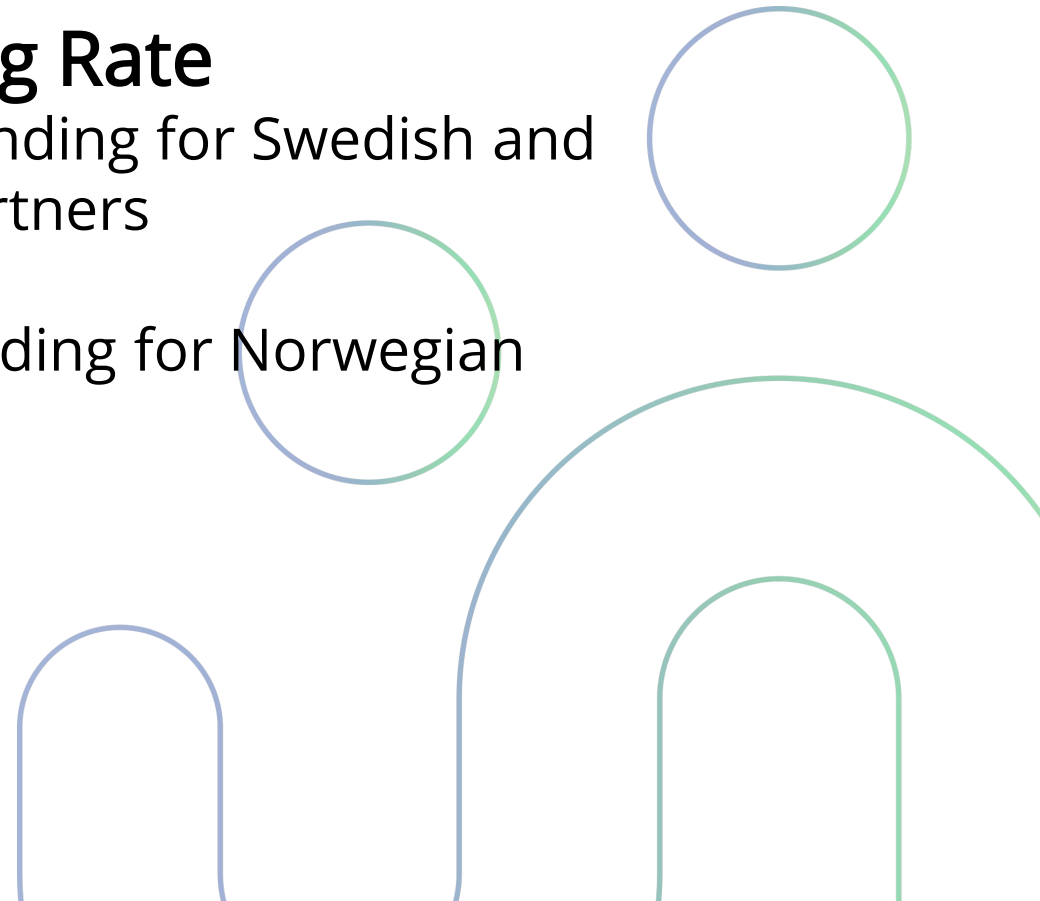
### Regular Projects up to 200 000 Euro

### Regular Projects over 200 000 Euro

## Financing Rate

65% EU-funding for Swedish and Finnish partners

50% IR-funding for Norwegian partners





### **Priority 1 - A smarter Europe** **Smart and sustainable growth**

Specific Objective 1.1 Smart specialization, research and innovation  
Specific Objective 1.2 Competitiveness of SMEs



### **Priority 2 - A greener Europe** **Green and sustainable transition**

Specific Objective 2.1 Climate change adaptation  
Specific Objective 2.2 Nature protection and biodiversity  
Specific Objective 2.3 Sustainable mobility



### **Priority 3 - A more social Europe** **Education, culture and sustainable tourism**

Specific Objective 3.1 Education and lifelong learning  
Specific Objective 3.2 Culture and sustainable tourism



### **Priority 4 - A better Interreg Governance** **Better and more sustainable cross-border cooperation**

Specific Objective 4.1 Cross-border capacity building

# **Priority 1**

## **Smart and sustainable growth**

**Specific Objective 1.1**  
**Smart specialisation, research and innovation**

**Specific Objective 1.2**  
**Competitiveness of SMEs**

**GREAT  
IDEAS  
KNOW NO  
BORDERS.**





# **SMART SPECIALISATION**



- **Industry**
- **Space technology**
- **Energy technology**
- **Test activities**
- **Health and healthcare**
- **Digitalisation**
- **Transport**

# SMART & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 1.1 Smart specialisation, research and innovation

- Create knowledge networks and cooperation between higher education institutes, businesses and the public sector
- Shared research infrastructures to enhance the uptake of advanced technologies
- Development of innovative products, services, and methods as well as new business models
- Development of arenas, programmes, tools, and methods for supporting technology transfer
- Stimulation to create a critical mass in the region that can reach out to EU Programmes such as Horizon Europe

## Specific Objective 1.2 Competitiveness of SMEs

- B2B cooperation strengthening the use of technologies and advanced systems
- Knowledge building activities and advice increasing the preparedness of SMEs to internationalize and grow
- 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 and start-up hubs

**SMART  
& BEYOND**

## **Priority 2**

### **Green and sustainable transition**

**Specific Objective 2.1**  
**Climate change adaption**

**Specific Objective 2.2**  
**Nature protection and biodiversity**

**Specific Objective 2.3**  
**Sustainable mobility**

**CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
KNOWS  
NO  
BORDERS.**



# GREEN & BEYOND


## Specific Objective 2.1 Climate change adaptation

- Awareness raising and communication about climate changes
- Designing, adapting methods and methodologies
- Experience exchange and learning as a result of joint implementation
- Development of climate adaptation strategies and plans, risk, and vulnerability analyses
- Increased cooperation between research and locally based monitoring
- Implementation of technologies, digital solutions, tools to cope with climate change



# GREEN & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 2.2 Nature protection and biodiversity

- Data collection, surveys, inventory
- Designing and adapting methods
-  Joint plans and strategies
- Knowledge and best practice building and exchange, joint implementation
- Harmonisation of working methods, guidelines
- Restoration, conservation, and increased connectivity
- Methods for including stakeholders with traditional knowledge in nature management and decision-making

# GREEN & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 2.3 Sustainable mobility

- Analysis, simulations, and surveys
- Strategy development
- Plans, drawings, and designs
- Coordination of plans
- Planning and implementation 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

## **Priority 3 Education, culture and sustainable tourism**

**Specific Objective 3.1  
Education and lifelong learning**

**Specific Objective 3.2  
Culture and sustainable tourism**

**COMPETENCE  
KNOWS NO  
BORDERS.**



# SOCIAL & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 3.1 Education and lifelong learning

- 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
- Develop cross-border education and training supporting entrepreneurship and business skills
- Joint cross-border products, services and marketing or accessibility and mobility solutions
- Language nests/baths

# SOCIAL & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 3.2 Culture and sustainable tourism

- Joint cross-border products, services and marketing or accessibility and mobility solutions
- Activities to reinforce the resilience and diversification of tourism and culture sectors
- Development of nature-based tourism by enhancing common and cross-border solutions
- Strengthen the development of cultural tourism by making available and visible the culture and cultural heritage
- Develop culture and creative industries through refined or new cross-border products, methods services and networks



# **Priority 4**

## **Better and more sustainable cross-border cooperation**

**Specific Objective 4.1**  
**Cross-border cooperation capacity building**

# **MOTIVATION KNOWS NO BORDERS.**





# COOPERATION & BEYOND

## Specific Objective 4.1 Cross-border cooperation capacity building

- Feasibility studies for large cross-border regional investments
- Cross-border governance projects for better regional functionality and enhancing capacity
- Clustering participation in the Arctic Cooperation
- Data and statistics related to the regions and Sami groups
- Long term statistical solutions
- People to people projects in trust building
- Institutional capacity building





	EU (quantity)	EU (%)	IR (quantity)	IR (%)
Received	59		35	
Withdrawn	10	17%	7	20%
Non admissible/eligible	0	0%	0	0%
Rejected by SC	17	29%	14	40%
Approved by SC	27	46%	11	31%
Still under assessment	5	8%	3	9%

Priority area	Budget (MEUR)	Applied amounts (MEUR)	Total allocation (amount in MEUR and % of budget)	Available funds (MEUR)
1	33,3	24,7	12,8 (38%)	20,5
2	26,3	5,0	2,8 (11%)	23,5
3	21,0	9,8	3,8 (18%)	17,2
4	7,0	0,1	0,05 (<1%)	7,0
Total	87,6	39,6	19,5 (22%)	68,1

Priority area	Budget (MEUR)	Applied amounts (MEUR)	Total allocation (amount in MEUR and % of budget)	Available funds (MEUR)
1	2,4	4,4	1,4 (59%)	1,0
2	1,9	0,9	0 (0%)	1,9
3	1,5	1,3	0,09 ( 6%)	1,4
4	0,5	0,0	0 (0%)	0,5
Total	6,4	6,6	1,5 (24%)	4,9



# Interreg Aurora, Call 1

	Priority	Approved applications	EU support (MEUR)	IR support (MEUR)
	1. Smart and sustainable growth	16	12 822 732	1 448 800
	2. Green and sustainable transition	2	2 830 599	0
	3. Education, culture and sustainable tourism	7	3 828 973	93 422
	4. Better and more sustainable cross-border cooperation	2	52 000	0
	Total	27	19 534 304	1 542 222

# National co-funding – What changes?

- Regional Council of Lapland (Aurora and NPA) and Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (BSR) make the co-funding decisions and administer the payment applications
- No more pre-commitments towards the programmes
- Application submission only after the EU funding decision (within 4 months of the official decision)
- One application on behalf of all Finnish project partners
- National co-funding can be up to 70% of the non-EU portion of the budget 4 900€ and max 200 000€ **per project**

## Regional Council of Lapland

- Interreg Aurora
- Interreg Europe
- Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic

Interreg  Euroopan unionin osarahoittama

**INTERREG-HANKKEEN KANSALLISEN VASTINRAHOITUKSEN RAHOITUSHAKEMUS**

VALITSE INTERREG-OHJELMA JOLLE HAKEMUS OSOITETAAN

☐ Aurora ☐ INTERREG EUROPE ☐ Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA)

☐ Muu

**HANKKEEN JA HAKIJAN PERUSTIEDOT**

Hankkeen nimi \_\_\_\_\_

Hankkeen alkamispäivämäärä \_\_\_\_\_ Hankkeen päättymispäivämäärä \_\_\_\_\_

Hakijaorganisaation virallinen nimi \_\_\_\_\_ Sähköisen järjestelmän antama tunnus tms. hankkeen lyhennetty nimi, koodi \_\_\_\_\_

Jakeluosoite: postinnumero, postitoimipaikka \_\_\_\_\_ EU-päätöksen päivämäärä \_\_\_\_\_ EU-päätöksen diaarinumero \_\_\_\_\_

Sähköposti \_\_\_\_\_ Y-tunnus \_\_\_\_\_

Hankkeen vastuuhenkilö \_\_\_\_\_ Hakija \_\_\_\_\_

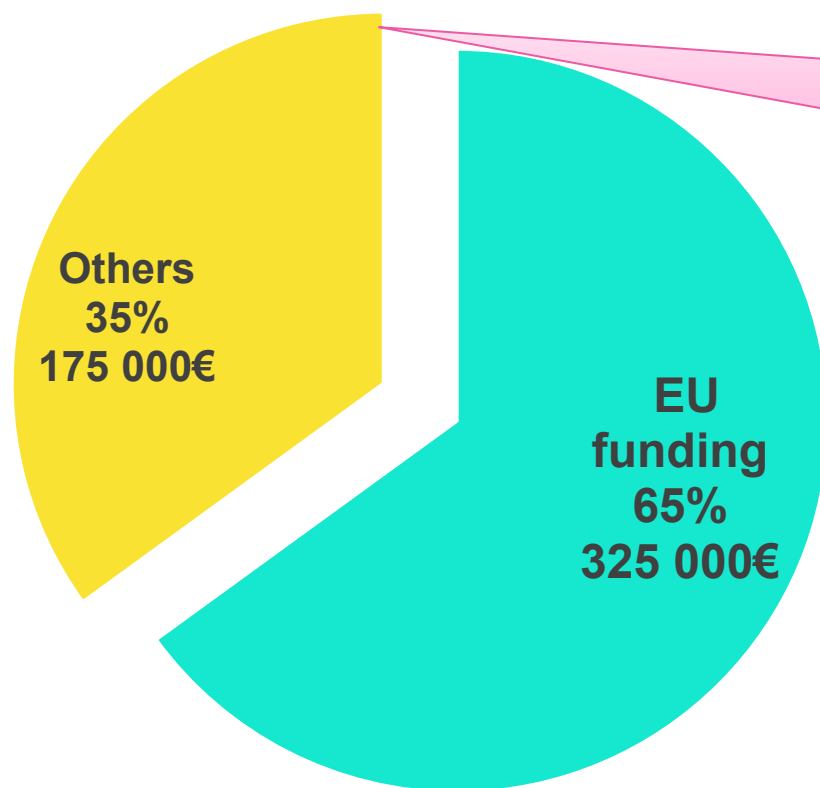
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# Example for NPA and Aurora:

The total budget of the Finnish partners 500 000 €



**70 % national co-funding**  
30% other (own, private etc funding)

National co-funding:

$$175\,000\text{ €} \times 70\% = \mathbf{122\,500\text{ €}}$$

Other funding:

$$175\,000\text{ €} \times 30\% = 52\,500\text{ €}$$

# Co-financing practises in Sweden?

- Each participating region responsible their own co-financing. Regional differences in the practicalities, timelines and rules.
  - Region Norrbotten
  - Region Västerbotten
  - Region Västernorrland
- Regional co-financing only for the budget portion of the Swedish partners.
- Partners are encouraged to contact the regional contact points already during the project preparation phase.
- **Region Norrbotten**: The same application deadlines as the Interreg programmes, platform used: [minaansokan.se](http://minaansokan.se).
- **Region Västerbotten**: continuous calls for financing under 500 000 SEK (app. 6 week processing times), additionally few application rounds per year.
- **Region Västernorrland**: continuous calls, [stina.nilsson@rvn.se](mailto:stina.nilsson@rvn.se)



# Co-financing practises in Norway?

- Partners from North Norway (Nordland, Troms & Finnmark and the Sapmi area) may seek regional co-financing.
- Regional co-financing only for the budget portion of the Norwegian partners.
- Partners should seek co-funding also from other regional actors like Innovation Norge or enterprise developers.
- Co-funding up to 20% of the budget.
- Application deadlines similar to the Interreg programmes
- [More info: www.regionalforvaltning.no](http://www.regionalforvaltning.no)



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# Control functions



- Finland moves to centralised model, no more private auditors.
- Regional Council of Lapland will conduct the controls and on-the-spot verifications.
- Note in the budget preparation! **No costs to the project partners.**