

Notification of decision EU-support

The Managing Authority has on the 2025-01-22 made a formal decision to allocate 204 190 EUR from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to the project. The support from ERDF is 65,00% of eligible costs.

Project name	Roots and Future - Empowering Minority Language Education and Communities
Reference number	20370341
Priority	Education, culture and sustainable tourism
Specific objective	Education and lifelong learning
Type of project	Regular project
Sub-area	Aurora
Lead Partner EU	Oulun Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy
Lead Partner Norway	ALTA KOMMUNE
Project partners EU	SVERIGEFINSKA FOLKHÖGSKOLAN
Project start date	2025-02-01
Project end date	2027-01-31

Justification for decision

The Steering Committee of sub-area Aurora has on 2025-01-21 selected the project to be financed by Interreg Aurora.

The project meets the requirements set by the programme regarding cross-border cooperation, specific objective, sustainable development, partnership, logical, value for money and relevance for target group.

Project summary

The main objective of the Roots and Future -project is to advance the collaboration in minority language education across the borders and strengthen the language skills and confidence to speak neighbouring languages. The project inspires to use and study languages and raises the interest in and appreciation for minority languages. Increased awareness of the region and its history, culture and job opportunities also increases regional attractiveness. From the regional point of view the project will also support regions ability to retain residents and employees.

The projects activities focus on four languages: Kven, Meänkieli, Finnish spoken in Sweden and Swedish spoken in Finland. Knowledge about the history, status and culture relating to these languages and information about working, studying and

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internship opportunities are increased, language skills enhanced, and cross-border networks strengthened by digital language cafes, webinars, lectures and study visits.

The project is carried out by Oulu University of Applied Sciences in Finland, Alta kvensk språksenter in Norway and Sverigefinska folkhögskolan in Sweden.

Activities

Workpackages / Activities	Start date – End date	Cost
WP1- Introduction to Meänkieli and Kven	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	178 000
<p><i>Description</i> Work package 1 increases knowledge of the history, status and culture relating to Kven and Meänkieli and their connections to other neighbouring languages in the region as well as strengthens the language skills in Kven and Meänkieli and cross-border networks.</p> <p>The work package consists of lectures and webinars that increase cultural and historical knowledge, digital language cafes of Kven and Meänkieli, study visits to Torne River Valley and Northern Norway and communication activities.</p> <p>The work package is coordinated by Alta kvensk språksenter. Sverigefinska folkhögskolan and Oulu University of Applied Sciences participate in its implementation.</p>		
1.1- Increasing cultural and historical knowledge about Meänkieli and Kven	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	16 000
<p><i>Description</i> The awareness of Kven and Meänkieli, their history and status, cultural knowledge and connections to neighbouring languages is increased. Interesting and relevant themes and speakers are introduced and webinars and introductions relating to language cafes are organized. Four webinars /lectures concentrating on Kven and Meänkieli and their history are organized during the project beginning in spring 2025 and others during language cafes.</p>		
1.2- Study visit to Torne River Valley	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	35 000
<p><i>Description</i> The study visit will offer inspiration and motivation for language learning, knowledge of neighbouring countries and their languages and opportunities to learn languages in practice and build cross-border networks.</p> <p>The study visit will include also information about job opportunities across the border and visiting potential employers.</p> <p>The activity includes planning the program, arrangements of the study visit and carrying out the visit. Study visit participants consist of students and teachers from all three project organizations (approximately 25-30 persons). The study visit to Torne River Valley and Haparanda is organized in spring 2025, lasting approximately 3-4 days, and is hosted by Sverigefinska folkshögskolan.</p>		
1.3- Language cafes in Meänkieli	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	34 000
<p><i>Description</i> Language cafes include planning and implementing digital language cafes in Kven</p>		

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<p>language. The structure and themes of language cafes will be planned and learning material will be created on a digital platform.</p> <p>Digital language cafes are organized as a period lasting 6 weeks with 6 online meetings that are arranged weekly. Participants also have access to self-learning materials on the digital platform. Themes of language cafes can handle for example phrases in different topics, culture (for example literature, movies), history, working cultures in different countries or applying for a job (writing a CV or a job application). Feedback is collected during the language cafes and it is used to plan new sessions.</p> <p>Language cafe period of Meänkieli is organized in September and October 2025. Meänkieli language cafes are coordinated by Alta kvensk språksenter, and language cafes are offered to target groups through all participating organisations. Co-teaching is utilised in the planning and implementating language cafes. Joint language cafe period of Kven, Meänkieli, Finnish and Swedish is organized in October and November 2026 coordinated by all the participating organizations.</p>		
1.4- Language cafes in Kven	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	34 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Language cafes include planning and implementing digital language cafes in Kven language. Structure and themes of language cafes will be planned and learning material will be created on digital platform.</p> <p>Digital language cafes are organized as a period lasting 6 weeks with 6 online meetings that are arranged weekly. Participants also have access to self-learning materials on the digital platform. Themes of language cafes can handle for example phrases in different topics, culture (for example literature, movies), history, working cultures in different countries or applying a job (making a CV or job application).</p> <p>Feedback is collected during the language cafes and is used to plan new sessions. Language cafe period of Kven is organized in February and March 2026. Kven language cafes are coordinated by Alta kvensk språksenter, and language cafes are offered to target groups through all participating organisations. Co-teaching is utilised in the planning and implementating language cafes. Joint language cafe period of Kven, Meänkieli, Finnish and Swedish is organized in October and November 2026, coordinated by all participating organizations.</p>		
1.5- Study visit to northern Norway	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	45 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>The study visit will offer inspiration and motivation for language learning, knowledge of neighbouring countries and their languages, and opportunities to learn languages in practice and build cross-border networks. The study visit will include also information about job opportunities across the border and visiting potential employers.</p> <p>The activity includes planning the program, arrangements of the study visit and carrying out the visit. Study visit participants consist of students and teachers from all three project organizations (approximately 25-30 persons). Study visit to Northern Norway is organized in spring 2026, lasting approximately 4-5 days, and is hosted by Alta kvensk språksenter.</p>		
1.6- Communication and dissemination	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	14 000
<p><i>Description</i></p>		

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Communication includes marketing the events of the work package (language cafes, webinars, study visits) and communicating the content and results of the project to the target group and relevant stakeholders. At least one publication together with other work packages will be carried out, concerning minority language education.		
WP2- Finnish spoken in cross-border area	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	97 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Work package 2 increases knowledge of the history, status and culture relating to Finnish spoken in Sweden and its connections to other neighbouring languages in the region. The work package also strengthens the language skills in Finnish and cross-border networks.</p> <p>The work package consists of lectures and webinars that increase cultural and historical knowledge, digital language cafes of Finnish, study visit to Oulu Region, and communication activities.</p> <p>The work package is coordinated by Sverigefinska folkhögskolan, and Alta kvensk språksenter and Oulu University of Applied Sciences participate in its implementation.</p>		
2.1- Increasing cultural and historical knowledge about Finnish spoken in Sweden	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	15 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>The awareness of Finnish language spoken in Sweden and cross-border area, its history and status, cultural knowledge (for example literature) and connections to neighbouring languages are increased. Interesting and relevant themes and speakers are found out and webinars and introductions relating to language cafes organized. Two webinars concentrating on Finnish in Sweden and cross-border area are organized during the project (first in spring 2025).</p>		
2.2- Language cafes in Finnish	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	34 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>Language cafes include planning and implementing digital language cafes in Finnish. Structure and themes of language cafes will be planned and learning material will be collected on digital platform. Digital language cafes are organized as a period lasting 6 weeks, with 6 online or hybrid meetings that are arranged weekly. Participants also have access to self-learning materials on digital platform.</p> <p>Themes of language cafes can handle for example phrases in different topics, culture (for example literature, movies), history, working cultures in different countries or applying a job (making a CV or job application). Feedback is collected during the language cafes and is used to plan new sessions.</p> <p>The language cafe period of Finnish is organized in November and December 2025. Finnish language cafes are coordinated by Sverigefinska folkhögskolan, and language cafes are offered to target groups through all participating organisations. Co-teaching is utilised in the planning and implementing language cafes. Joint language cafe period of Kven, Meänkieli, Finnish and Swedish is organized in October and November 2026 coordinated by all participating organizations.</p>		
2.3- Study visit to Oulu region	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	35 000
<p><i>Description</i></p> <p>The study visit will offer inspiration and motivation for language learning, knowledge of neighbouring countries and their languages, and opportunities to learn languages in</p>		

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<p>practice and build cross-border networks. Oulu European Capital of Culture year will be taken into account in the program of study visit. The study visit will also include information about studying opportunities in Oulu region.</p> <p>The activity includes planning the program, arrangements of the study visit and carrying out the visit. Study visit participants consist of students and teachers from all three project organizations (approximately 25-30 persons). Study visit to Oulu regions is organized in winter 2026, lasting approximately 3-4 days, and is hosted by Oulu University of Applied Sciences.</p>		
2.4- Communication and dissemination	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	13 000
<p><i>Description</i> Communication includes marketing the events of work package (language cafes, webinars, study visit) and communicating the content and results of the project to the target group and relevant stakeholders. At least one publication together with other work packages will be carried out concerning minority language education.</p>		
WP3- Swedish spoken in Bothnian Arc	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	141 238
<p><i>Description</i> Work package 3 increases knowledge of the history, status and culture relating to Swedish spoken in Finland and its connections to other neighbouring languages in the region. The work package also strengthens the language skills in Swedish and cross-border networks.</p> <p>The work package consists of lectures and webinars that increase cultural and historical knowledge, digital language cafes of Swedish, study visit to Bothnian Arc, and communication activities.</p> <p>The work package is coordinated by Oulu University of Applied Sciences, and Sverigefinska folkhögskolan and Alta kvensk språksenter participate in its implementation.</p>		
3.1- Increasing cultural and historical knowledge about Swedish spoken in Finland	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	18 000
<p><i>Description</i> The awareness of Swedish language spoken in Finland and cross-border area, its history (for example meaning of the language and its relation to history of Oulu), cultural knowledge (for example literature) and connections to neighbouring languages is increased.</p> <p>Interesting and relevant themes and speakers are found out and webinars and introductions relating to language cafes are organized.</p> <p>Six webinars / lectures concentrating on Swedish in Finland and cross-border area are organized during the project, first in spring 2025 and others during the language cafes.</p>		
3.2- Language cafes in Swedish	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	71 000
<p><i>Description</i> Language cafes include planning and implementing digital language cafes in Swedish. Structure and themes of language cafes will be planned and learning material will be collected on digital platform.</p>		

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Digital language cafes are organized as a period lasting 6 weeks with 6 online or hybrid meetings that are arranged weekly. Participants also have access to self-learning material on digital platform. Themes of language cafes can handle for example phrases in different topics, culture (for example literature, movies), history, working cultures in different countries or applying a job (making a CV or job application). Feedback is collected during the language cafes and is used to plan new sessions.

The language cafe period of Swedish is organized three times during the project: first time in November and December 2025, second time in March and April 2026, and third time in September and October 2026. Swedish language cafes are coordinated by Oulu University of Applied Sciences, and language cafes are offered to target groups through all participating organisations. Co-teaching is utilised in the planning and implementating language cafes. Joint language cafe period of Kven, Meänkieli, Finnish and Swedish is organized in October and November 2026 coordinated by all participating organizations.

3.3- Study Visit to Botnian Arc	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	37 000
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Description

The study visit will offer inspiration and motivation for language learning, knowledge of neighbouring countries and their languages, and opportunities to learn languages in practice and build cross-border networks. The study visit will include also information about job opportunities across the border and visiting potential employers.

The activity includes planning the program, arrangements of the study visit and carrying out the visit. Study visit participants consist of students and teachers from all three project organizations (approximately 25-30 persons).

Study visit to Luleå and Botnian arc is organized in November/December 2026, lasting approximately 3-4 days, and is hosted by Sverigefinska folkhögskolan.

3.4- Communication and dissemination	2025-02-01 – 2027-01-31	15 238
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Description

Communication includes marketing the events of work package (language cafes, webinars, study visit) and communicating the content and results of the project to the target group and relevant stakeholders. At least one publication together with other work packages will be carried out, concerning minority language education.

Contributions to the output indicators

Output indicators	Target value
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	1
Organisations cooperating across borders	5

Contributions to the result indicators

Result indicators	Target value
Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	1
Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	2

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Budget EU

Cost categories	Oulun Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy	SVERIGEFINSKA FOLKHÖGSKOLAN	Total
Staff cost	122 880	67 850	190 730
Office and administrative costs 15%	18 432	10 178	28 610
Travel and accommodation costs 15%	18 432	10 178	28 610
External expertise and service costs	50 989	15 199	66 188
Sum total costs	210 733	103 405	314 138

Financier	Oulun Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy	SVERIGEFINSKA FOLKHÖGSKOLAN	Total
Oulun ammattikorkeakoulu	22 127	0	22 127
Lapplands förbund	51 629	0	51 629
SVERIGEFINSKA FOLKHÖGSKOLAN	0	12 194	12 194
REGION NORRBOTTEN	0	23 998	23 998
EU-support	136 977	67 213	204 190
Total financing	210 733	103 405	314 138

Appeal

This decision can not be appealed.

Decision-making officer

Tina Nilsson has made the decision after a presentation by Christoffer Björkman.

Reporting and payment applications

The payment application regarding the EU-funding is submitted in Min Ansökan by the Lead Partner EU with a joint progress/final report for the whole project. For instructions on how to report, please see www.interregaurora.eu

Period	Start date	End date	Date for submission
1	2025-02-01	2025-07-31	2025-09-30
2	2025-08-01	2026-01-31	2026-03-31
3	2026-02-01	2026-07-31	2026-09-30
4	2026-08-01	2027-01-31	2027-03-31

Questions

For questions regarding this decision, please contact Johanna Liikamaa.

Lead partner EU is responsible for distributing this notification to all project partners.

ANNEX:

General conditions – support from Interreg Aurora (EU - ERDF)

All partners shall make sure the project is implemented in accordance with the regulations of the European Union, the national laws, any other provisions and documents applicable to the EU support, as well as the programme manual for Interreg Aurora and in particular:

- keep separate accounts for the project (not applicable to flat-rates)
- pay the expenditures of the project within deadlines for reporting
- follow the regulations regarding public procurement
- keep all project documents and accounts available for a period of seven years following the end of the calendar year when the project was formally closed by the Managing Authority, or longer if it is stipulated in other rules applicable to the project partner
- repay to the Lead Partner any amounts unduly paid
- highlight the support from EU, and upon request, make communication and visibility material available for use by Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies.

The Lead partner shall, in particular:

- conclude a partnership agreement with all partners of the project,
- ensure implementation of the project within the project period,
- ensure that the expenditure presented by all partners has been paid in implementing the project and corresponds to the activities in the decision of EU-support to the project,
- deliver progress- and final reports regarding the implementation of the project
- make payment applications regarding the EU-support for the project
- ensure that the other partners receive their part of the EU-support
- as soon as known, inform about any changes regarding the implementation of the project
- repay to the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid.