Virtual Workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation

28-29 July 2020
Finnish Lapland and its basins

- Three neighbour States: Norway, Russia and Sweden
- Sparsely populated area with a lot of pristine nature and clean waters
- Three bilateral agreements between Finland and the countries in the basins
  - The Finnish-Russian Transboundary Water Commission
  - The Finnish-Swedish Transboundary River Commission (River Torne, 2010)
- ...and one trilateral
  - The meeting of Representatives on the regulation of the Lake Inari (River Paatsjoki, 1959, Finland, Norway and Russia)
Finnish - Swedish Transboundary River Commission

- The Agreement between Finland and Sweden entered into force on October 1\textsuperscript{st} 2010
- The purpose of the Agreement is to promote cross-border cooperation in water and fisheries issues and ensure equal opportunities for the two countries to use transboundary rivers for the benefit of the frontier region
- The Agreement seeks to joint programmes and plans, and to coordinated objectives in the status of aquatic environment, contributes to the efforts to prevent floods and oblige to common monitoring
- By the Agreement has been designated supervision authorities for the public interest (in both countries)
- The Commission is chaired by regional authorities (Johan Antti (Sweden, County Administrative) and Timo Jokelainen (Finland, ELY Center)) and the members represents local communities (municipalities/other stake holders)
Challenges

- Changes in the environment (for example the climate change)
  - the agreements are needed to modify by time. How to do it in an efficient way?
- To gain results in difficult issues takes very long time
  - How to create a system that keeps its aims in long term working?
- “Equal opportunities” – what does it mean for example in a case of mining and its waste waters in shared river?
- Regulation and systems differs between the States

Lessons learned/recommendations

- Need for a long term and regular cooperation
- Suitable roles for the State level and for the local level
- Local commitment is necessary for sustainable results
- Need for (a continuous) evaluation of the agreement
Thank you for your attention!