

***The Regional Partnership on Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in The North invites to an Event for EWRC in Brussels, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

***“Boosting smart innovation in remote regions for all of Europe”***

**14:30-17:00, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017, followed by a reception**

Scotland House, Rond-Point Schuman 6, Brussels, Belgium

The **European Week of Regions and Cities** will take place in Brussels between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The theme this year is **Regions and cities working for a better future**.

The Regional Partnership on **Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in the North**, consisting of northern Sweden, Finland and Norway in the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA), and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, hereby invites to the workshop on **Boosting smart innovation in remote regions for all of Europe**, hosted by Scotland Europa at Scotland House.

The debate will **demonstrate the common ground for how to set up innovation and regional development in remote, less urban areas**, considering the unique potentials and assets of the European Arctic and north Atlantic regions as global front-runners; while still facing challenges and being in many ways at the start of a systematic coordinated approach, in which the EU’s role is vital.

The framework is to **open a debate** with different regional perspectives, rising from the **key-notes on strategic aspects of smart specialisation and innovation strategies** in remote, less urban areas.

The foundation of the discussion will be **the OECD** report on the NSPA and the Regional Outlook on growth in less urban areas, pin-pointing that growth happens outside the larger cities and that smart specialisation strategies are especially suitable for less densely populated areas; recent **Nordregio** studies on smart specialisation in the European Arctic will also deliver a basis for the debate. A fresh study from Luleå University of Technology in northern Sweden on innovation strategies in less densely populated areas will also be put forward, together with comments from the **European Commission** on smart regional specialisation as a tool for the future. Regional examples from Scotland and the NSPA will furthermore add to the outcomes of the event.

Invited speakers to deliver key-note interventions for this debate include:

- **Chris McDonald**, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD
- **Jukka Teräs**, Nordic Council of Ministers research centre Nordregio
- **Katja Reppel**, Competence Centre, Smart and Sustainable Growth at the European Commission

**You are cordially invited** to register at: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/regions-and-cities/2017/register.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/regions-and-cities/2017/register.cfm). The event code for this workshop on the registration website is: **11B100**.

While opening the floor for a debate, **we invite you to make a prepared contribution, delivering your regional experience and view**. Feel free to get in touch to participate as “front row” commentator. Welcome to the workshop and to take an active part, making an interesting and interactive debate.

*For further information, please contact **Martha Bahta** at the lead partner North Sweden:*

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