

## Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in the North

# 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

*Moderator: **Mikael Janson**, Director North Sweden European Office*

14:30 Welcome

**Mike Neilson**, Director Brussels, Scottish Government

**Erik Lövgren**, Chair of Region Västernorrland, Sweden

### Session 1

#### **Strategic aspects of smart specialisation and innovation strategies in remote regions**

14:40 Growth in low density economies: the case of the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

**Chris McDonald**, Policy Analyst, the organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD

15:00 Smart Specialisation in remote areas – The Case of the Nordic Arctic region

**Jukka Teräs**, Senior Research Fellow, Nordic Council of Ministers research centre Nordregio

15:15 The European Union view on smart regional specialisation for less urban areas

**Katja Reppel**, Deputy Head of Unit, Competence Centre Smart and Sustainable Growth, European Commission

15:30 Innovation system in remote rural regions – Research findings from northernmost Europe

**Håkan Ylinenpää**, Professor Emeritus Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden

15:45 Increasing competitiveness through investing in SME innovation

**Donna Chisholm**, Regional Head of Sectors, Innovation and Programmes, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland, UK

### Session 2

#### **Debate on smart specialisation and the role of the EU in remote less densely populated areas**

16:00 Regional statements and examples followed by a discussion

Regional interventions on experiences, lessons learned and future needs followed by an open debate between the speakers/panellists and the audience

16:50 Food for thought for further discussion on smart regions in all of Europe

**Erik Bergkvist**, Chair of Region Västerbotten and European forum Northern Sweden

17:00 Welcome to the reception

**Satu Vehreävesa**, Chair of NSPA network, Regional Council of Pohjois-Savo, Finland