

NSPA – a Smart Region in the EU

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NSPA 
Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

The northern view from outside...



...or maybe this is us they think...



...but mostly like this, to be frank...

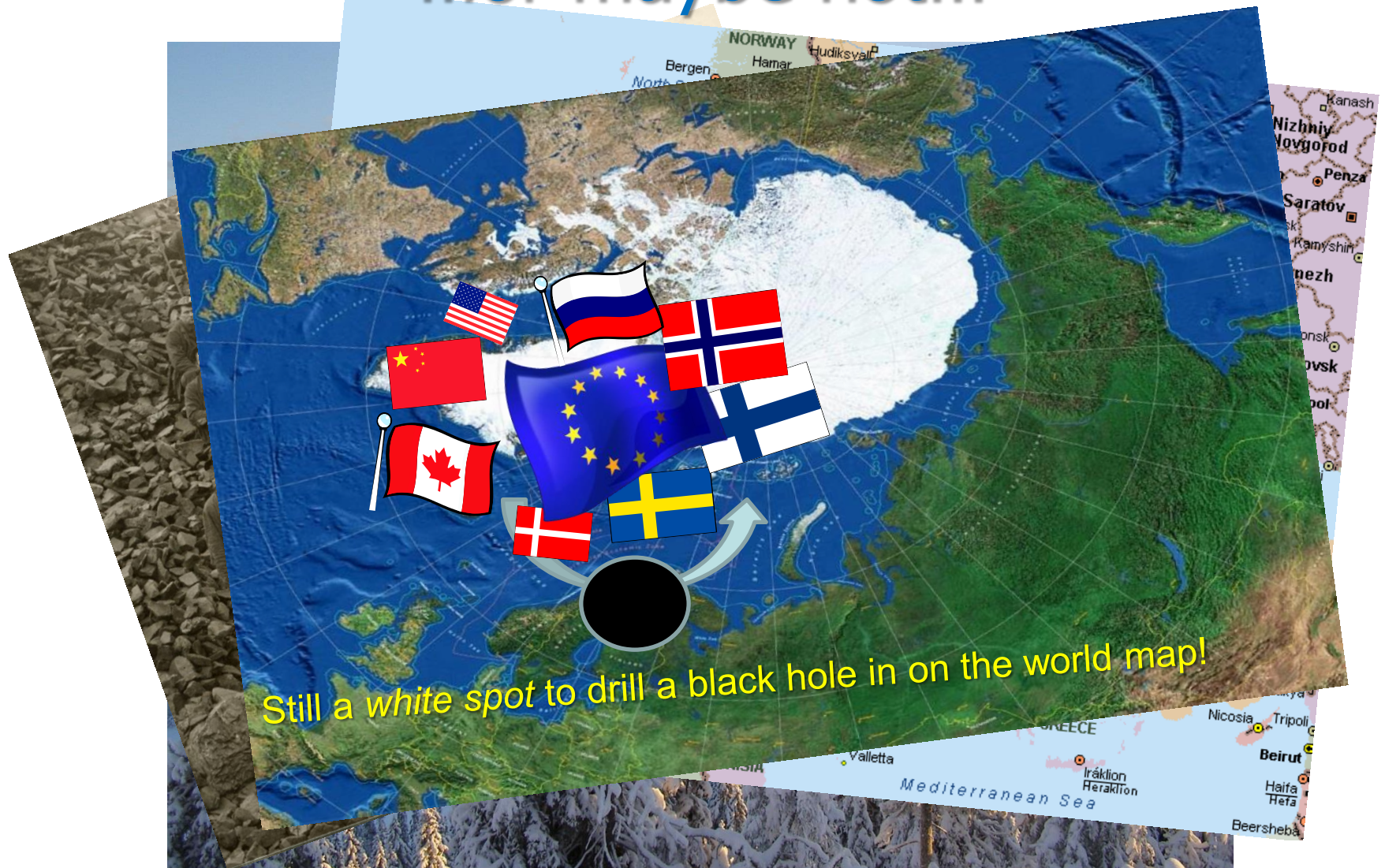


To be or not to be...on the map...

The cool Arctic hot spot!

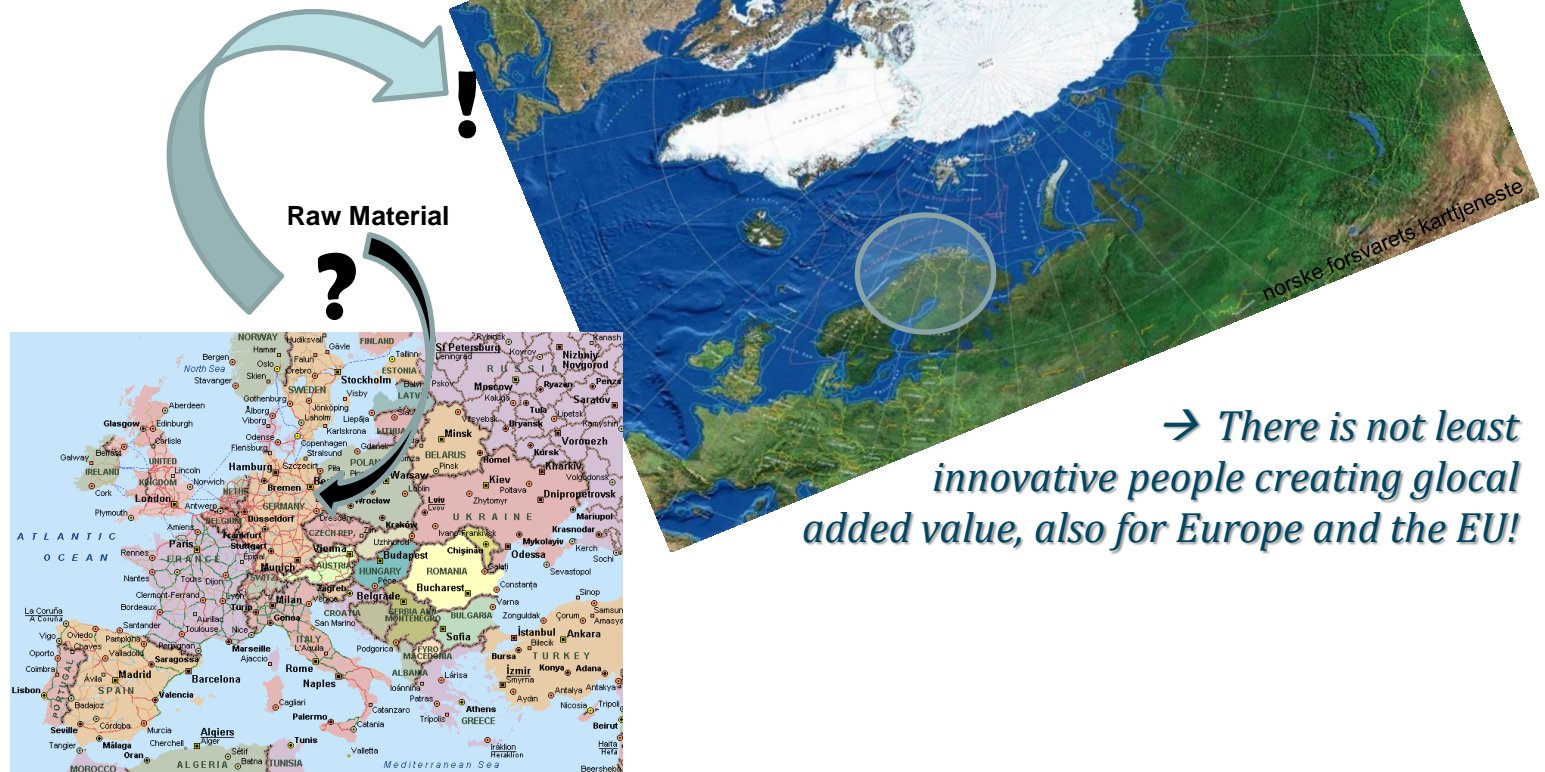
The cool Arctic hot spot!

...or maybe not...



...if not really turning the map around!

→ *There is more than cold dark forests and deep oceans and mining shafts where the map ends!*



NSPA

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas



EC: "Show us arguments!"

Strong, Specific and Promising



Development perspectives for the NSPA: Opportunities and Challenges

Erik Gløersen, Alexandre Dubois, Johanna Roto,
Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Jose Sterling

NORDREGIO WORKING PAPER 2009:5

"Misery"



Project: Northern Sparsely Populated Areas Foresight
Policy road map
Version:
Author(s): Erik Gløersen
Original date:
Previous update:
This update: 16/06/2009

Policy road map for the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

The Road Map for the NSPA is part of a series of studies and analyses. Its objective is to create the basis for a development strategy for the NSPA.

The NSPA have been defined on the basis of a series of criteria. The NSPA are those areas where the population density is low and the distance to the nearest urban area is high.

The NSPA may play an important role in the development of the Arctic region. The NSPA are a source of raw materials and energy. The NSPA are also a source of labour and services.



Strong, Specific and Promising Towards a Vision for the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas in 2020

Erik Gløersen

NORDREGIO REPORT 2009:2

"Vision"

In the same time

First innovation union scoreboard 2011!

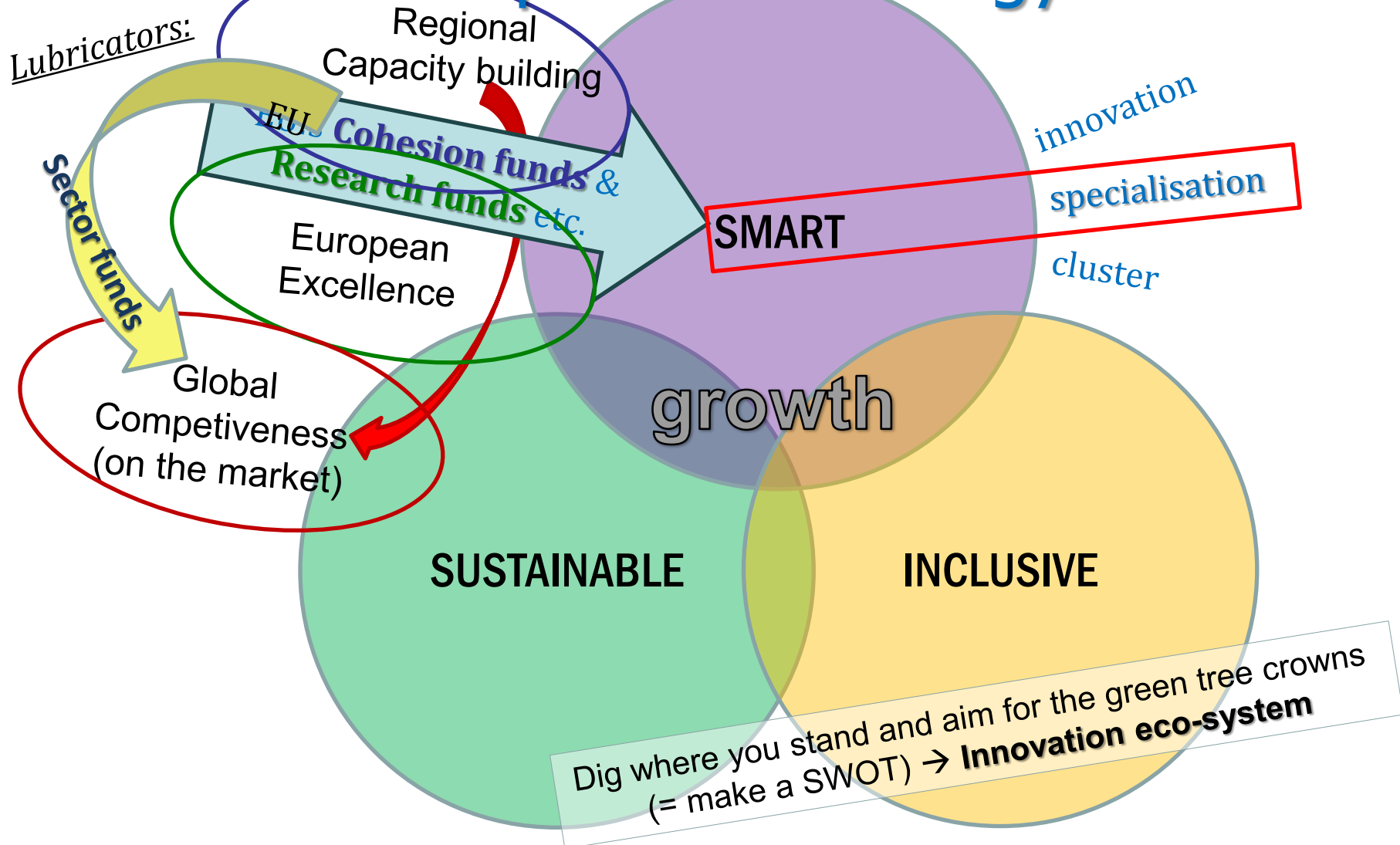
"This year's results are a clear warning that more efforts to boost innovation are needed."

If we want to close the gap with our main economic partners and to overcome the current crisis, innovation deserves all our attention. In particular I count on enterprises as they have proven to be the key to success in innovation. But successful start ups in other parts of the world show that some lessons are still need to be learnt in Europe."



**European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani,
Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship 2012-02-08.**

Europe 2020 strategy



Unleashing the regional EU-2020 potential

Smart specialisation by using the obstacles in an innovative way

- The center of the car industry winter testing
- The home of Santa Claus and the Ice Hotel and Arctic tourism
 - Arctic shipping, drilling and excavation expertise
 - The first site outside US for servers for Facebook and alike
- Few people in vast area far from big markets creates need to be creative and go global
 - Developing E-health and other tools is also know-how export possibilities

Smart specialisation as help in transition out of being pragmatic

- If we can move cities, we can also balance excavation with tourism and creative businesses
- Finding the growth spots to support taking advantage of each other (=critical mass)
 - Mining, forest and oil is mainly male business, so make it also a female business
 - If lack of people, make people from abroad come and live and getting job
- If we are few people, then let's work together with the whole NSPA-region and neighbors

Smart specialisation for strategic investments and expanding clusters

- Broadband to connect rural IT-companies and spread-out clusters to academy and the world
 - If functioning infrastructure, also small cities can be motors for surrounding regions
- Work strategically with knowledge in base industry for entrepreneurial growth/cross fertilization
- Use the big outdoor areas as global spots for climate research, wind parks and niche tourism

NSPA

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas



Strong, Specific and Promising

EC:
"Now, show that you really exist to create the common critical innovative mass you need!"

**Development Perspectives
for the NSPA:
Opportunities and Challenges**
Erik Gløersen, Alexandre Dumas, Jose Sterling
NORDREGIO WORKING PAPER 2009:5



Project: ...
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Strong, Specific and Promising
Towards a Vision for the Northern
Sparsely Populated Areas in 2020
Erik Gløersen



Next step to prepare for 2021→ OECD Territorial Review of NSPA

- Socio-economic analysis
 - Trends
 - Potentials for growth
- Development strategies and initiatives
 - For example innovation clusters and the role of higher education
- Governance
 - Strategic planning
 - Horizontal cooperation
 - Partnerships with private sector and civil society
- Case studies
 - Approx. 10 pages per region
 - Will be the basis for the analysis of the whole NSPA area

Why then an OECD review?

- OECD is a respected authority with experience conducting this kind of exercise
- A transnational review can identify political obstacles to cooperation
- The study can help the regions in their individual development efforts
- **A tool for lobbying**
 - The reasons the bonus to sparsely populated areas was extended were strong arguments backed up by research → Now furthermore work on-going to align to Arctic funding

Also shift EU-focus from Smart Cities...

- European programmes and platforms for Smart Cities focus strongly on continued urbanisation (= large cities).



...to Smart Cities and Regions:

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- The unique innovation potential for Europe is the blend of some few mega-cities, a wide range of medium/small cities and the interaction, the “eco-system”, between the cities and surrounding rural areas and sparsely populated areas (SPA).



Smart ~~Cities~~ and Regions

- European programmes and platforms for Smart Cities focus strongly on continued urbanisation (= large cities).
- The unique innovation potential for Europe is the blend of some few mega-cities, a wide range of medium/small cities and the interaction, the “eco-system”, between the cities and surrounding rural areas and sparsely populated areas (SPA).
- The long distances in NSPA create a need for innovative ways to increase connectivity to reduce the cost in time, money and environmental impact. This is however as true for urban areas, due to congestion, crowded space and need to lower the carbon footprint. For example innovative ICT services developed and tested in smaller scale in SPA may therefore be replicated in larger scale in urban areas.



Three northern cooperation-triangle nodes

Cooperation in Three Dimensions ("C3D")

Exchange between sectors

Society/
Public sector

Academy

Business

Time to unleash
the Smart Region
potential →!?

A test bed and unique
innovation eco-system
for Europe!?

Innovation!

Exchange among
competence clusters

Creative
sector

Raw
Materials

Natural
Resources

...oxygenate from
the outside →

Cross-
border

Macro-
regional
(NSPA)

Globally

Exchange over
geographical borders

"Long distances, but close between people create unique innovation potentials!"

www.northsweden.eu



www.nspa-network.eu