

Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in the North

Boosting smart innovation in remote regions for all of Europe

14:30-17:00, 11th 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 less densely populated regions - The case of 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