



# Northern Sweden on top of which Europe?!

Mikael Janson / 2019-10-17



# North Sweden = [(Nb+Vb)x3H]

*\* = Our owners*

- Region Västerbotten\*
- Region Norrbotten\*
- County Administrative board Norrbotten\*
- Norrbotten Municipalities
- University of Umeå\*
- Luleå Technical University\*
- Business Federation Västerbotten\*/Norrbotten\*
- Chambers of Commerce Norrbotten\*/Västerbotten\*

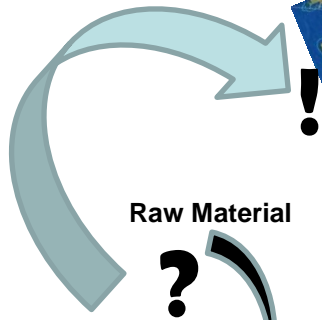
*All regional Political bodies*

*The Academia*

*And the Business*

# Turning the map around!

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



Raw Material



→ *There is not least innovative people creating glocal added value also for Europe and the EU!*

*...with also need of some little help from our friends (EU)!*

# Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

~ 2,6 million people (0,5% of EU28) on ~ 532 000 square km (10% of EU28 area)

**Average of about 5 inhabitants/square kilometer** (116 for EU in average)

*= As if spreading the population of Rome over entire Spain*



Consists of 14 regions in northern Sweden and Finland within the EU and Norway within the EEA.

Mostly rural (forests and mountains), but also consisting of some larger cities between 50.000 and up to 200.000 inhabitants.

A main part of the European Arctic and also being the **Arctic regions within the EU.**



- **Vulnerable societies** due to lack of critical mass, demography and small economic trade/export dependent base (= *need of external support*)
- Accounting for the **higher unit costs** of delivering public services and **key growth factors below national levels**; such as infrastructure, skills and capital market (= *need of investments*)
- NSPA is of increasing economic and geo-political importance and deliver substantial contribution to the countries net export (= *Raw Materials, Arctic, Russia*)
- National and EU policies need to overall be better adapted to each regions specificities (= *truly contribute to the unique innovation system*)
- Identify absolute advantages in tradeable niches to step up in the value chains, using regional **Smart Specialisation**, making challenges to opportunities (= *natural assets, winter test, tourism, e-health, process-IT, bio economy...*)



OECD regional study visits, northern Sweden February 2016 (Finland & Norway 2015)



Approval of NSPA study, OECD HQ Paris, November 2016



Launch of the OECD report on NSPA, CoR Brussels, March 2017

# The words mean something!



***"For the EU, Arctic is not a frontier, it is a gateway!"***

## **Federica Mogherini**

The High representative for EU foreign affairs and security policy  
*at the EU High Level event on An Integrated European Union Policy for The Arctic;  
"A sustainable Arctic - innovative approaches", Oulu, Finland 15 June 2017*



# EU communication 2016

## An integrated EU Arctic policy:

- **Climate and environment**
- **Sustainable regional development**
- **International engagement**

2012: Sustainable use of the Arctic raw material assets

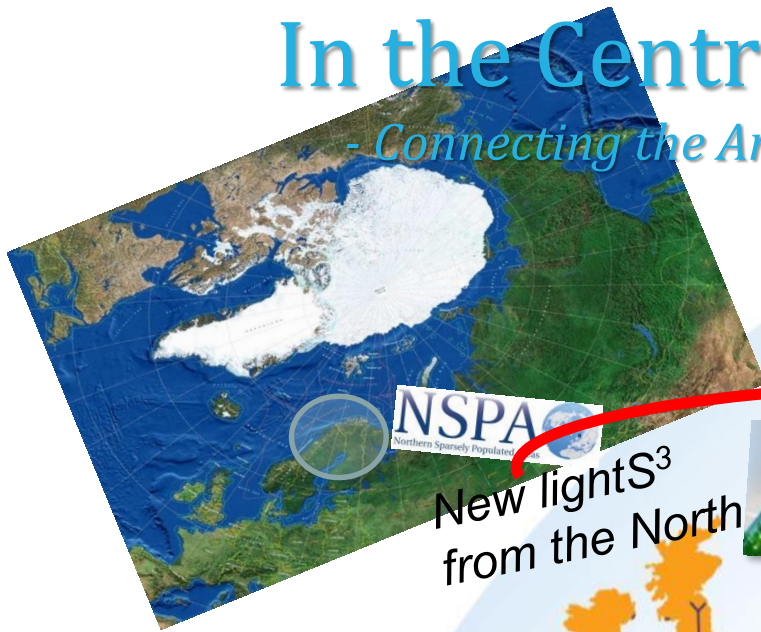


The own EU Arctic Regions very much in focus

*Many different Arctic :  
The European Arctic is the close, populated, connected, high-tech and innovative Arctic!*

# In the Centre of the Periphery

- Connecting the Arctic by investing in the Arctic!



**NSPA**  
Northern Sparsely Populated Area

New lights<sup>3</sup>  
from the North



EU-funds, programmes & platforms

Arctic Investment Platform

East and West  
Meet the hot Arctic

norske forsvars kartinjeneste

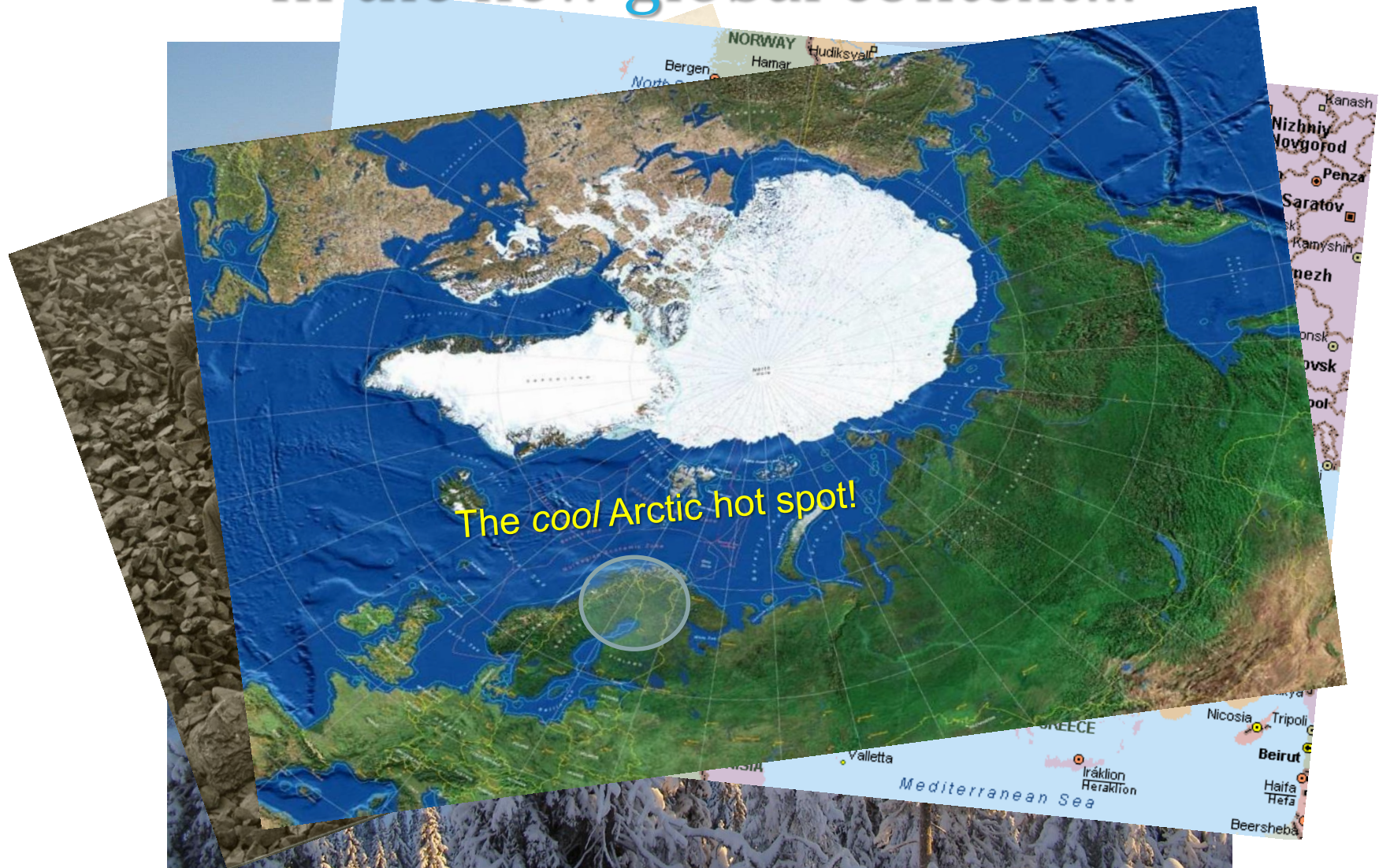
Resources for Europe

Need of what we can offer

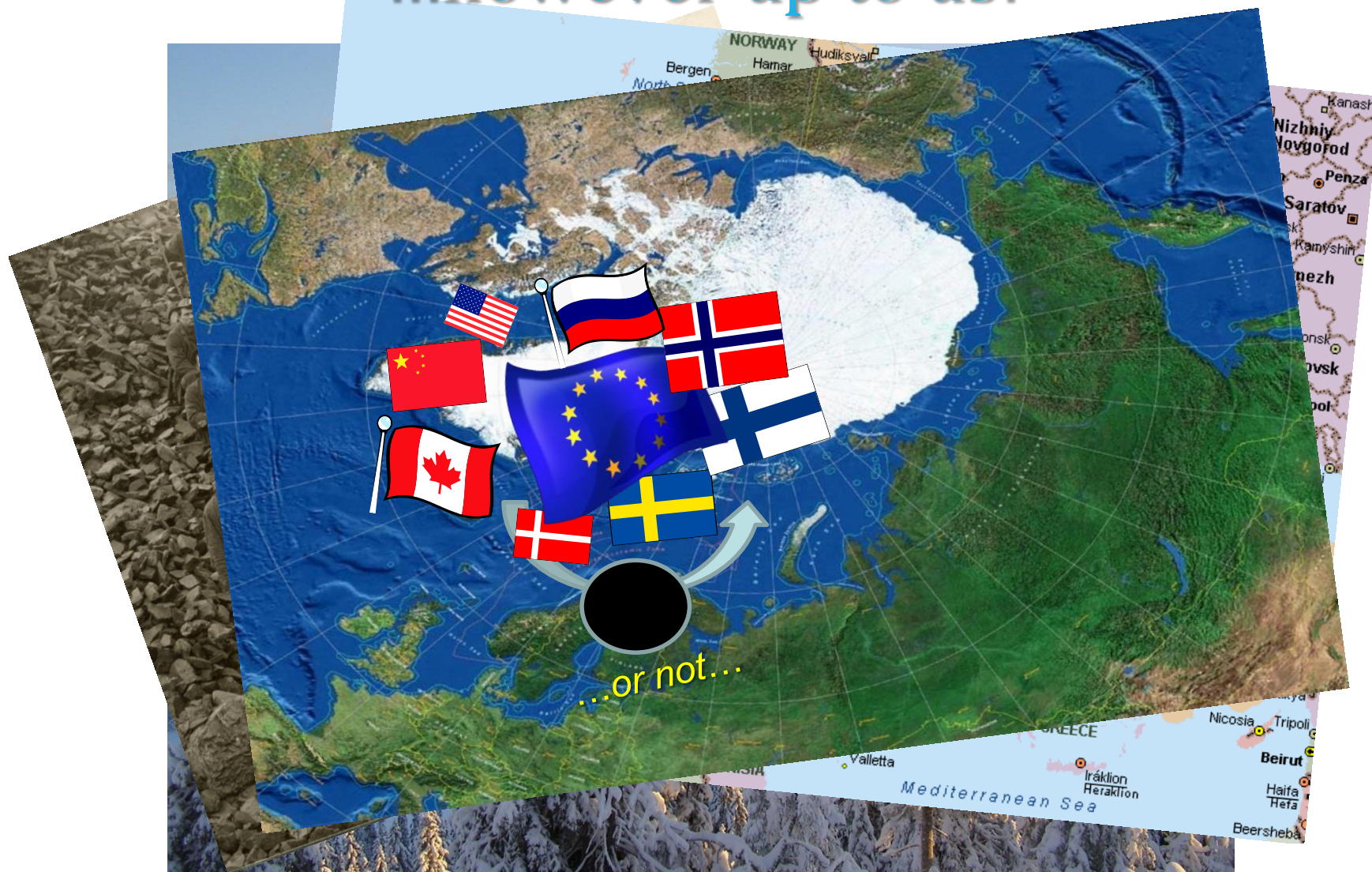
**EU Arctic Forum in Umeå 3-4/10**



# In the new global context...



# ...however up to us!



# It's a brand old new World out there!

*"Finn Fem Fel!" (= spot the difference game!)*



*EU  
1900 - 25%  
of world population  
2015 - 6%*

***So called "Strong Men" weakening the multilateral world the EU is so dependent on.  
EU today only having soft power in the toolbox, over time becoming relatively smaller.***

# Don't mess with EU; that we do ourselves!

"EU = A debating club/compromise machinery that also – in the end – makes decisions!"

Brexit  
Migration  
Security  
Democracy

→ Negotiations/Agreements ←

## Ministerial Council

→ Proposals/Debate/Voting ←

Co-decisions

## European Parliament

New in  
town

Proposals

## EU Commission

↑  
White book  
Green book  
Non-paper

Soon in  
new  
regime

"Trialogues" → Law

# It's all about the Money!

SE!

## ”Better Spending”

EU budget > 1,16% of BNI today except UK

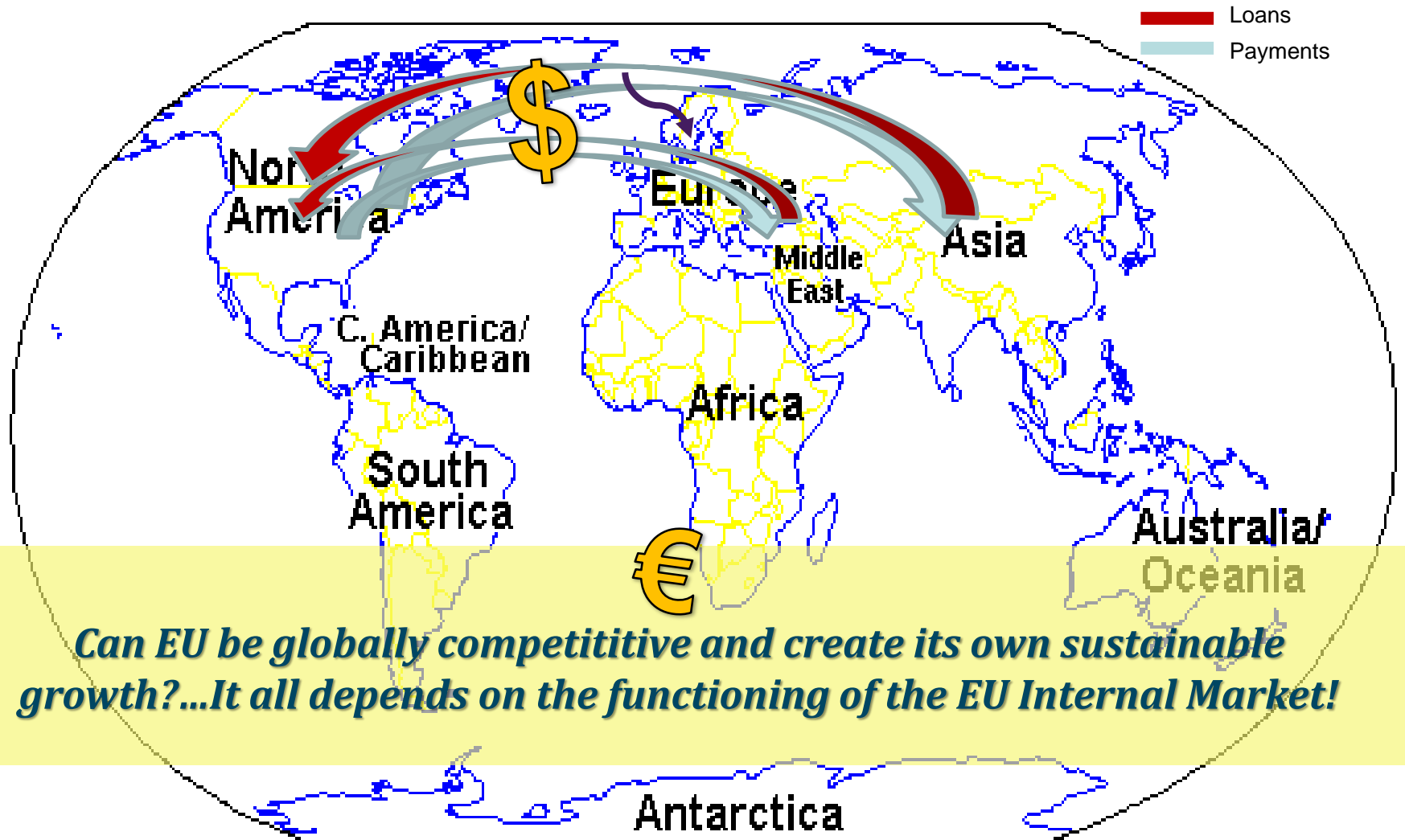
**Vs**

EU budget < 1% of BNI  
EU budget EC proposal 1,11% of BNI

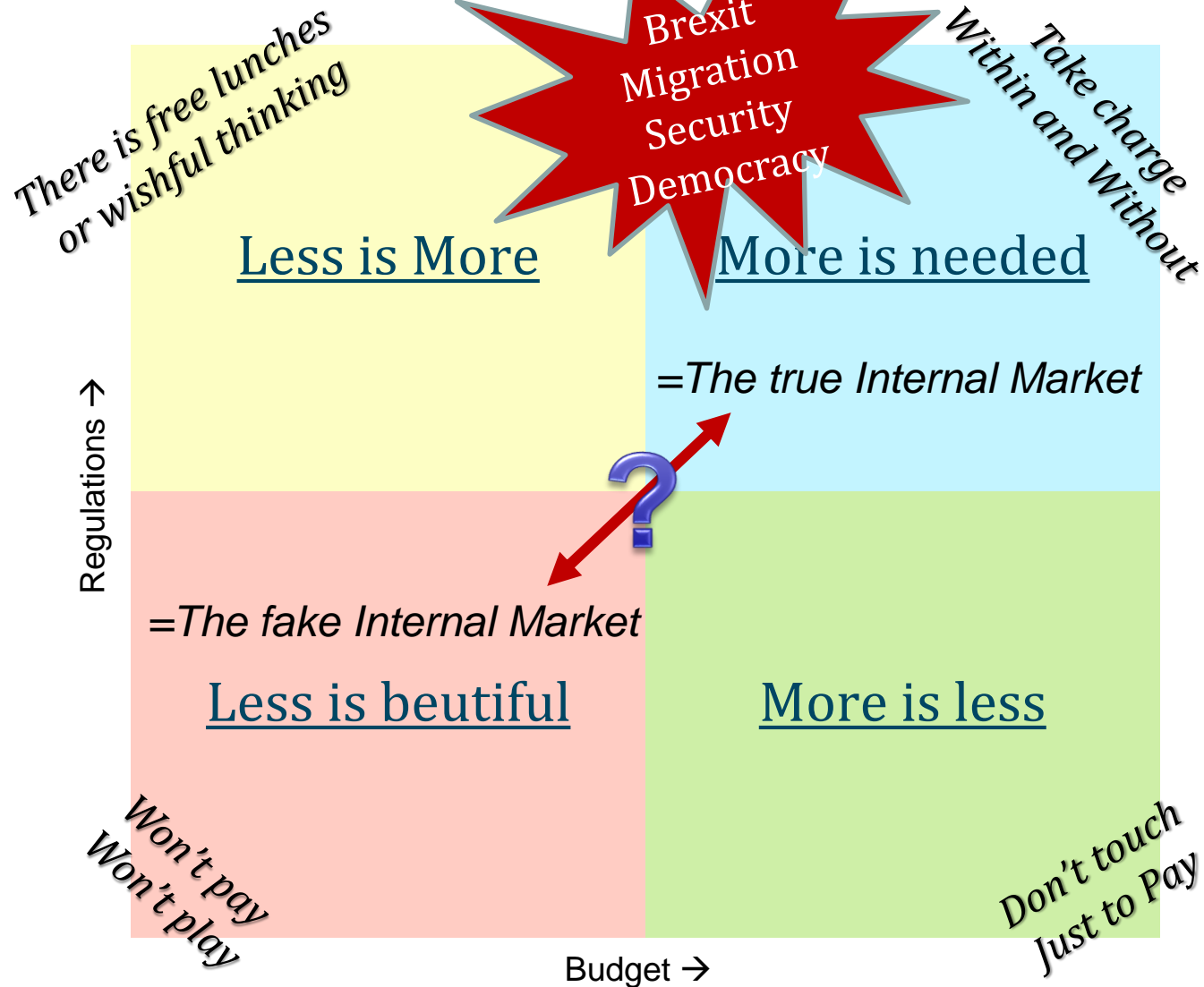
## ”Friends of Cohesion”

EP: EU budget > 1,3% of BNI

# The true challenge



# Squaring the EU put in a corner





*lubrication*

# Europe 2020 strategy

Regional  
Capacity building

EU Structural funds &  
Research funds etc

European  
Excellence

*innovation*

*specialisation*

*cluster*

**SMART**

**growth**

**SUSTAINABLE**

**INCLUSIVE**

*Sectorial funds*

Global  
Competiveness



# EU innovation score board



# Why for the EU to invest in us?

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...

Added value for all of EU!

Innovation!

Exchange among  
competence clusters

Creative  
sector

Raw  
Materials

Natural  
Resources

Cross-  
border

Exchange over  
geographical borders

EU-funds, programmes & platforms

Macro-  
regional

Globally

oxygenation from  
the outside ↑

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

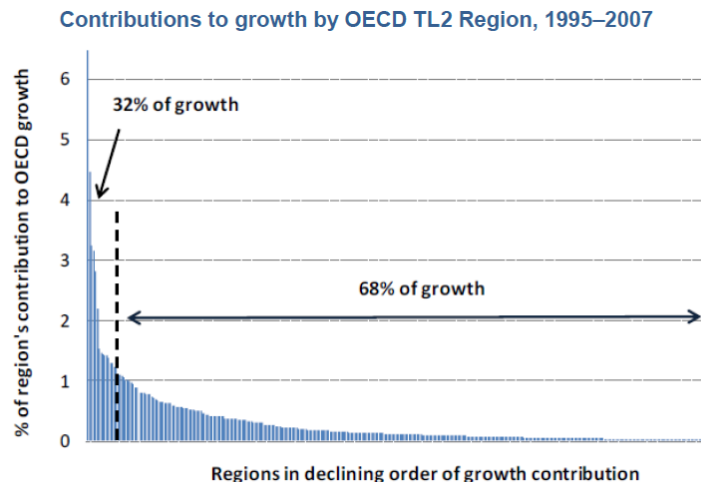
# Umeå University is a driver for sure

→ Arctic Five →  
& more...

Umeå Lighthouse City within the EU platform for Smart Cities

# Horizon Europe is more than research horizons!

- The local ecosystem is even more a part of the EU global research aim
- It is all about the strategic synergies between all EU tools
- Remember to know your impact because it is what EU wants to see
- Coordinate yourself over the disciplines to be playable for the EU
- **Adress the rural-urban linkage for smart cities in also smart regions**



Source: OECD Regional Database (Territorial Level 2 regions).

**Mind the gap!**

# Back to basics for the EU do mean what?! & European Values



**We decide the path by taking part - or not!**

Democracy and multilateral Bureaucracy  
= *To the protection of the small & minority!*  
→ **Politicians, Bureaucrats & Corridors**

The "strong man (/woman)" in bilateral Anarchy  
= *For the big powers to decide and divide!*  
→ **Generals, Soldiers & Trenches** ....but a double edged weapon in the era of social media!

*The pen is sharper than the sword!*  
*....but a double edged weapon in the era of social media!*





# TACK!

*Besök vår hemsida för att se vad som är aktuellt & anmäla till vårt Nyhetsbrev!*

*[www.northsweden.eu](http://www.northsweden.eu)*

*Följ oss via vår Facebooksida!*

*[www.facebook.com/NorthSweden](http://www.facebook.com/NorthSweden)*