

# Nordiska samarbetsprogrammet och status för temagrupperna



Gränsregionalt forum på Åland

Photo: Kjell Nilsson

5 September, 2018

# Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Policy and Planning 2017-2020

- TWG1: Sustainable Rural Development chaired by Patrik Johansson (SE), vice-chair Sigurdur Arnasson (IS)
- TWG2: Innovative and Resilient Regions chaired by Mikko Huuskonen (FI), vice-chair Birgitte Wohl Sem (NO)
- TWG3: Sustainable Cities and Urban Development chaired by Guro Voss Gabrielsen (NO), vice-chair Kristian Elleby Sundquist (DK)

# Gruppernas sammansättning

- Temagrupperna är sammansatta av 1-2 nationella representanter + en regional representant från varje land, samt en vardera från Åland, Grönland och Färöarna.
- Dessutom ingår två representanter för det gränsregionala samarbetet (TG1: Nordkalottrådet, Hedmark-Dalarna TG2: Svinesund, Arco; TG3: Kvarken, Värmland-Östfold, Greater Copenhagen).
- Nordregio är inte formellt en del av gruppen utan hanterar sekretariatsfunktionen, bidrar med strategiskt kunskapsstöd (genomförande av projekt) och har huvudansvaret för kommunikation och kunskapsförmedling.

# Sustainable rural development

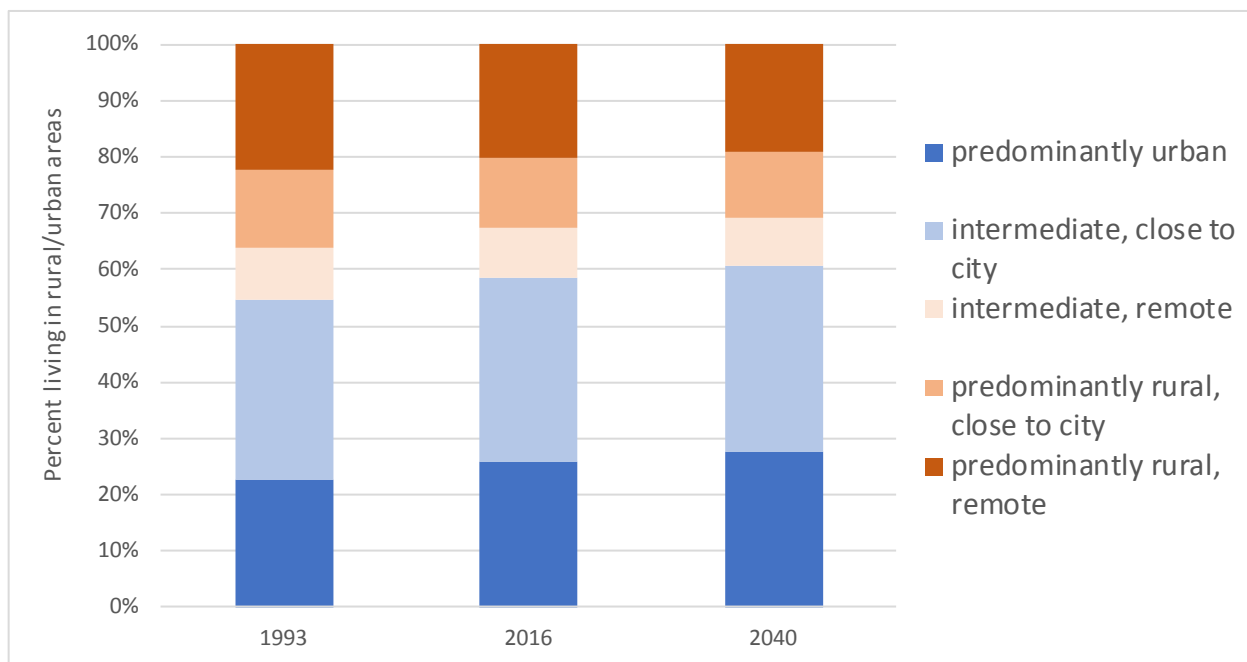
The thematic group for Sustainable Rural Development aims to contribute to the development of policies and new solutions to the challenges that the Nordic countries face with regard to sustainable rural development.

The group will focus on among other things projects on

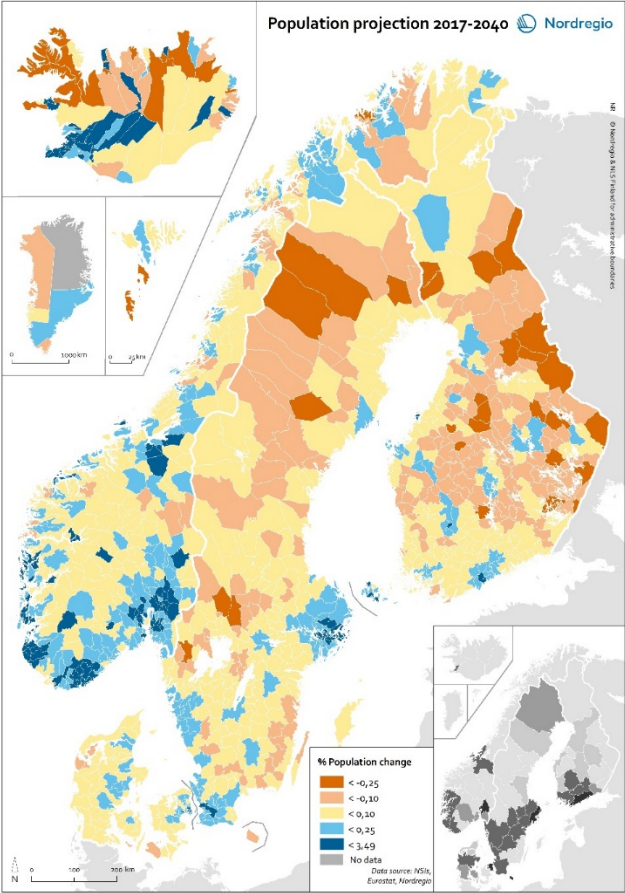
- “Rural Norden 2050: Demographic, economic and geographic futures”
- a new study o “Rural attractiveness”
- “A rural perspective on spatial disparities in education and employment outcomes”.



## Results from Rural Norden 2050: Demographic perspectives



## Demographic perspectives: Results from Rural Norden





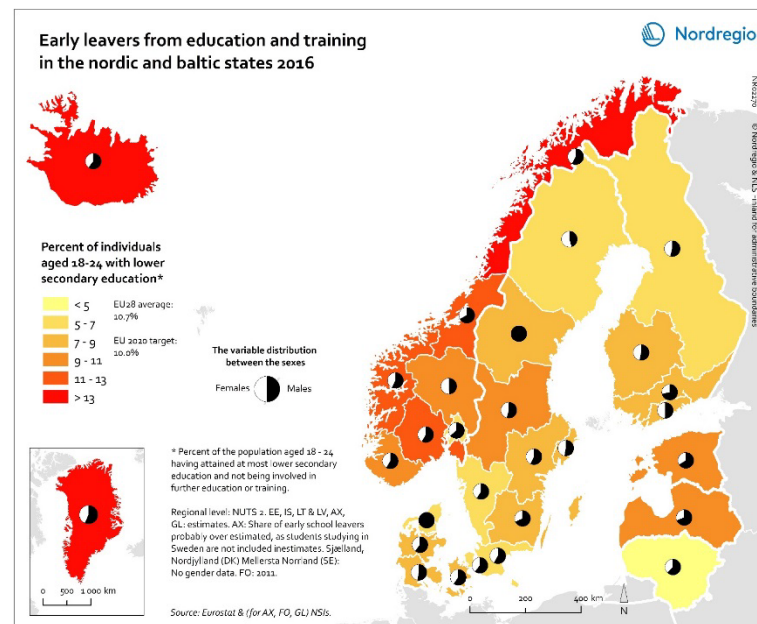
# *Results from a rural perspective on spatial disparities in education and employment outcomes*

Policy Brief on Good examples of Re-engaging marginalized youth (published September)

Participation with presentations : at Nordic Ruralities Conference, Billund Denmark, May 2018

Hela Norden Skal Leva, Annual Meeting and workshop, Dalvík, Iceland, 19 April, 2018

- Fieldwork in Finland September 2018
- Larger Nordregio report in the pipeline



### ***Suggested activities 2018-2020***

- *Tourism project*
- *Housing issues in rural areas*
- *Transport and mobility of elders and disabled in rural Norden*

### ***Activities with particular interest for the cross-border committees***

- *Regional reforms*
- *Regional disparities and the geography of services within the Nordic countries*





# Innovative and resilient regions

The thematic group for Innovative and Resilient Regions aims to provide the Nordic regions with updated knowledge, applicable tools and good practices regarding future competitiveness and well-being.

The group is particularly interested in the relations between the green transition, innovation and regional resilience.

It will focus on

- 1) Regional Resilience in a Nordic context,
- 2) Regional Smart Specialization Strategies,
- 3) The role of Digitalization in a Nordic context



# Major themes for 2017-2018 TG2 projects

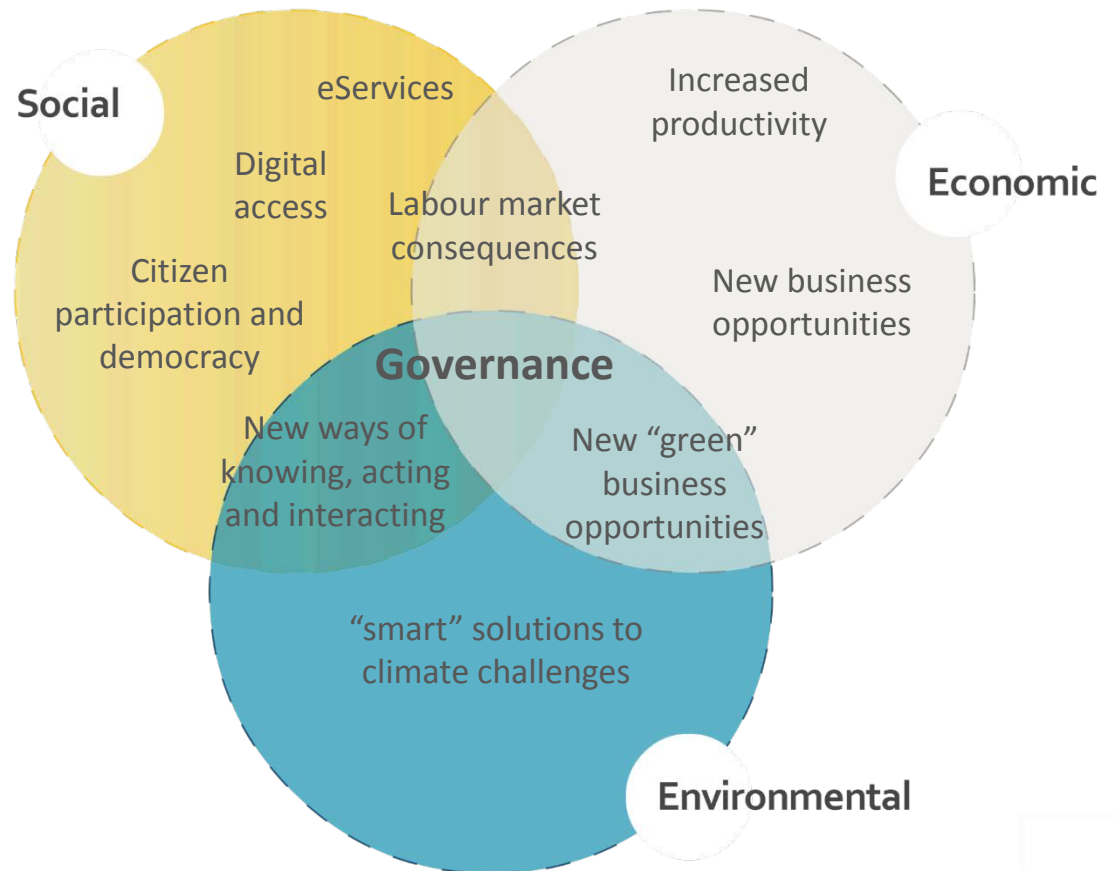
- Resilience – a conceptual study
- Smart specialisation in the Nordic regional context
- Digitalisation in Nordic regional development

## Cross-border initiatives :

Digitalisation as a tool for blue and sustainable Nordic regional development (contact: Elsie Hellström)

Cross-border project initiative of the Resilience study on Oulu in Finland and Luleå in Sweden (contact: Heikki Aalto, Bothnian Arc)

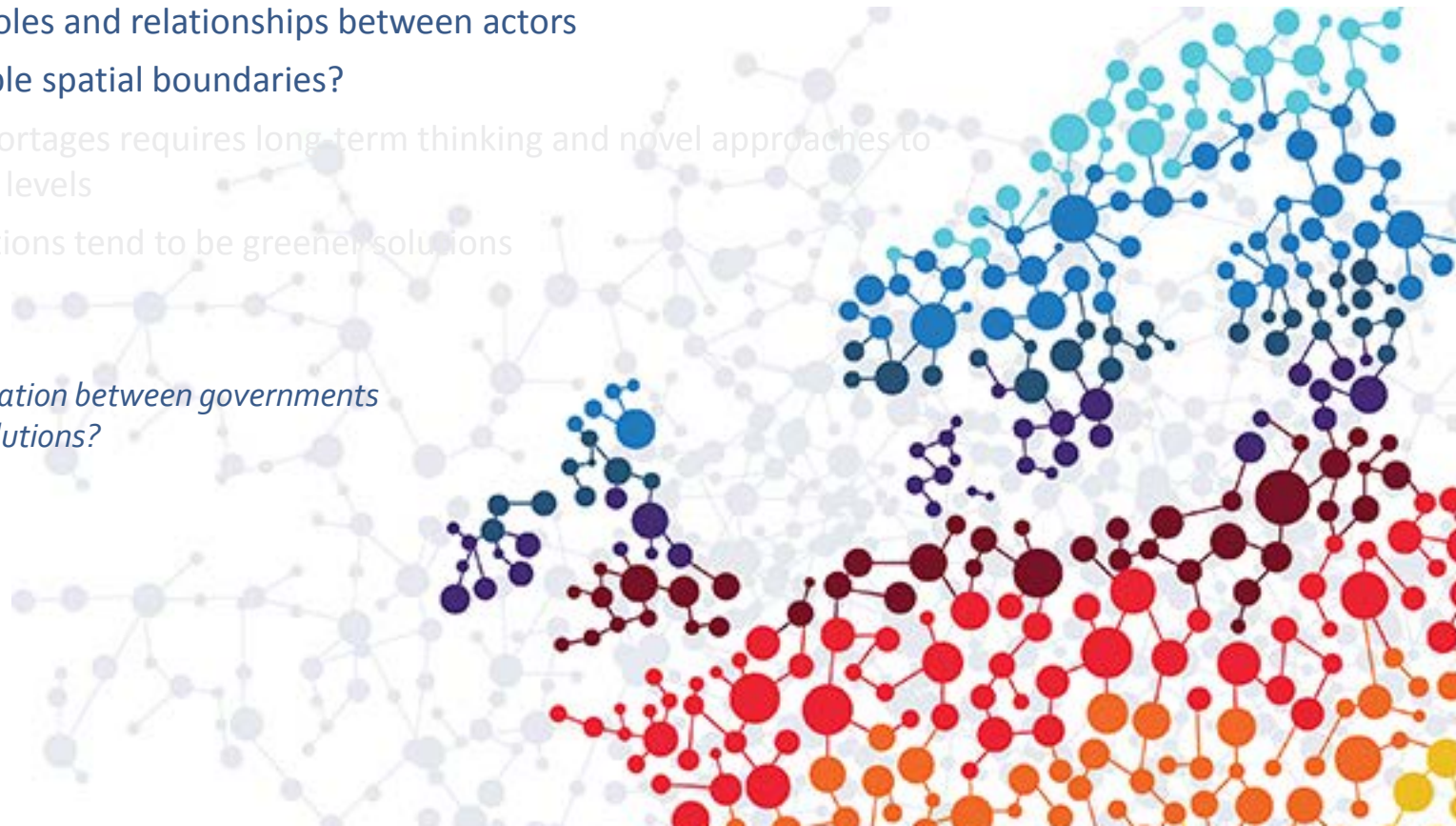
# Digitalisation and sustainable regional development



# Early findings

- Working with digitalisation in a local or regional development context has more to do with people than technology
  - Internal change management processes
  - Changing roles and relationships between actors
  - More flexible spatial boundaries?
- Solving skills shortages requires long term thinking and novel approaches to education at all levels
- “Smarter” solutions tend to be greener solutions

*- How is the coordination between governments on eGovernment solutions?*



# Early findings

- Working with digitalisation in a local or regional development context has more to do with people than technology
- Solving skills shortages requires long-term thinking and novel approaches to education at all levels
  - The role of life-long learning
  - More flexible approaches to skill development
  - Place-based initiatives as a site of innovation
  - Gender an important cross-cutting theme
- “Smarter” solutions tend to be greener solutions

*- How are different regions promoting gender equity in the technology sector?*





# Early findings

- Working with digitalisation in a local or regional development context has more to do with people than technology
- Solving skills shortages requires long-term thinking and novel approaches to education at all levels
- “Smarter” solutions tend to be greener solutions

*- How are new technologies supporting the green transition in Nordic regions?*



# Preliminary findings based on 2017-2018 Nordic TG2 Resilience study

Regions visited: Northern Ostrobothnia, Norrbotten, Vejle, Rogaland, Vestmannaeyjar

- Resilience is about reacting/anticipating to disturbances in a region - either a '*shock*' (e.g. abrupt drop in commodity prices) or '*slow burn*' - gradual loss of competitiveness with potential shocking results (e.g. important fishing company leaving the region)
- Some Nordic regions are more exposed to risks related to commodity prices, others are threatened by technological, natural and geopolitical risks.
- Effective resilience measures emerge from close collaboration across members of society, businesses and coordination between national and local public institutions. Individual actions are as important in strengthening resilience as far-reaching strategies.
- Few regions have a resilience strategy – our study with a framework of the components of economic and social resilience
- Regional resilience stories e.g. Rogaland and Bothnian Arc cross-border case raise considerable interest - what is to be learned out of the case stories?

# TG 2 Project ideas for 2019-2020

(subject to TG2 meeting decisions on Sep 14, 2018)

- Measures to ensure the supply of skills related to Nordic innovative and resilient regions
  - Identified by TG2 as one major theme to be studied in 2017-2020
- Synergy project, based on the outcome of three in-depth studies of digitalisation, resilience, and smart specialisation
  - cross-cutting & complementary & synergic elements of the three in-depth studies
  - Update on Nordic green transition to be included

**Cross-border study 2019 (to be discussed on Sep 14, 2018)**

# Sustainable cities and urban development

The Thematic Group for Sustainable Cities and Urban Development focuses on the conditions of planning and development for small and medium sized cities in the Nordic region.

The overarching objectives are: 1) to increase knowledge concerning local urban qualities and socioeconomic conditions, and 2) to help improve governance practices for sustainable development of small and medium sized Nordic and Arctic cities, based on their local urban qualities and socioeconomic conditions, and 3) to deepen the understanding of linkages and external relations (regional, national, global) with particular focus on urban-rural relations.



# Ongoing TG3 projects 2017-2019

- 1) **Small and medium-sized cities in the Nordic and Arctic regions** ("SMS cities"): How can the spatial development in the Nordics be described and analysed using grid data? (2017-2018)
- 2) **The compact city of the North - functions, challenges and planning strategies** :The city center in small land medium sized towns – planning challenges and development strategies (2017-2018)
- 3) **Long-term planning for inclusive cities**: Strategies for overcoming barriers to inclusion – in the city and the planning process. (2018-2019)
- 4) **TRIBORDER – Transport for Regional Integration in Border regions**: Public transport investments in border regions and the local and regional development effects (2018-2020)
- 5) **Urban-rural linkages and seasonal tourism – local planning challenges and strategies** (2018-2019)

(In addition to these research projects, we contributed to **Nordregio Forum 2017** by organizing the roundtable discussion session.)



# The compact city of the North - functions, challenges and planning strategies

Case studies of city center development in the cities of Västervik (Sw), Karleby/Kokkola (Fi), Mariehamn (Åland), Bodø (No), Sorø (Dk), Mossfellsbaer (Is) using key person interviews, observations and policy documents.

What is the role of the city center today? How should it be developed, and what are the challenges?

Among the results we can observe the decisive role of the car. In spite of the strong urban sustainability discourse issues of parking spaces, car use and car accessibility are of high importance in city center development. Also, there is an awareness of the need to make the city center into an “entertainment space” in order to create the urbanity that is so much longed for today.

Report and policy brief available in the fall 2018.



# Long-term planning for inclusive cities

The aim of the project is to increase knowledge concerning different ways that small and medium-sized Nordic cities seek to overcome barriers for social inclusion in their strategic work and in various projects concerning urban development.

Strategies for asylum housing, affordable housing etc. will be investigated via one topic per Nordic country, and presented as illustrations of strategies for overcoming barriers to inclusion.

- Area-based neighborhood regeneration since the 1980s – a policy and practice expose with examples from Finland and Norway (literature, statistics, interviews)
- Process and protest regarding refugee housing in Swedish municipalities 2012-2018 (news media, survey with municipalities)
- Social and spatial integration in Iceland (local case study in Reykjanesbaer, where both demography and urban development issues relevant for inclusion are on the agenda)
- The Danish urban policy discourse in relation to housing estates (policy documents, news media etc in order to discuss the so called “ghetto policy”, which is interesting in a Nordic comparative perspective)

The focus during 2018 is on empirical work, and a report and policy brief(s) will be published during the spring of 2019.

# TRIBORDER – Transport for Regional Integration in Border regions

Three different cases will be studied during a 3-year period: the vision of a new fast rail connection Oslo-Sthlm (2018), the effects of the improved ferry connection Umeå-Vasa (2019), and connectivity and urban planning in relation to improved bus network in the Greater Cph region (2020)

Case 1, the vision of a new fast rail connections Oslo-Sthlm:

Does high speed train service benefit urban development in small and medium sized cities? Literature and research on the European experience of effects of fast railway development, workshop and interviews with local and regional stakeholders.

Workshop in Oslo Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: What could be the effects of a fast rail connection Oslo-Sthlm for the small and medium sized cities in Värmland and Østfold? *Possibly also a second workshop together with Karlstad university.*

First report and policy brief available in the fall 2018.



# Urban-rural linkages and seasonal tourism – local planning challenges and strategies

What type of municipal planning challenges can seasonal tourism cause? What strategies have been implemented in Nordic municipalities to handle these challenges? Strategies of flexibility, short term contracts, subsidies, certain business strategies etc? How can the urban-rural flows of people be characterized?

In the Nordic region there are several locations that are attractive for seasonal tourism. This means that the small cities and villages are subject to urban-rural flows of people, people with similar needs and desires as the local residents. Off season, without the seasonal “residents” the locations change character. They lose population, and thereby also demand for public transport, housing, care, commercial goods and services, culture etc. This illustrates a planning challenge or even dilemma for these municipalities and regions.

NB – This project has just been started, and will be ongoing until after summer 2019.



# Project proposals for 2019-2020

*NB – these are suggested topics to be discussed at the NTG3 meeting sept 12-13. At the meeting we will decide which of the proposals we will include in our Working programme for 2019-2020.*

1. Urban development in Arctic cities
2. Shrinking cities in the Nordics?
3. Digitalizing the Nordic planning process
4. Mobility and disability in Nordic cities
5. Housing construction in the “market periphery”
6. Life quality indicators in small and medium sized cities
7. Gender equality and intersectional perspectives on urban planning
8. Smart city – planning for livability in Nordic cities
9. Recreative City – planning for urban environments with high recreational value
10. Dynamic City – Developing cities where things keep changing



# Follow us on the web:

For more information, maps, reports, news and events, subscribe to news at:  
**[nordregio.org/about](https://nordregio.org/about)**

Facebook: Nordregio  
Twitter: @Nordregio

Contact our researchers:  
**[nordregio.org/staff](https://nordregio.org/staff)**

Sign up for a free subscription of Nordregio Magazine and get all the information!

