

NSPA – linking the Northern Sparsely  
Populated Areas to the European arena  
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**NSPA**  
Northern Sparsely Populated Areas



# NSPA

- Collaboration network of 14 regions which share common circumstances: sparse population, harsh climate and long distances
  - Sweden: Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Jämtland, Västernorrland
  - Finland: Lapland, Northern Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, North Karelia, Pohjois-Savo and Etelä-Savo
  - Norway: Finnmark, Troms and Nordland
- Main activities: raising awareness of the NSPA on the EU level, influencing EU policies and providing a platform for collaboration and exchanging best practise

# NSPA Structure

## Steering Group

### Politicians:

- Runar Sjästad
- Tytti Tuppurainen
- **Satu Vehreävesa**
- Erik Bergkvist
- Robert Uitto

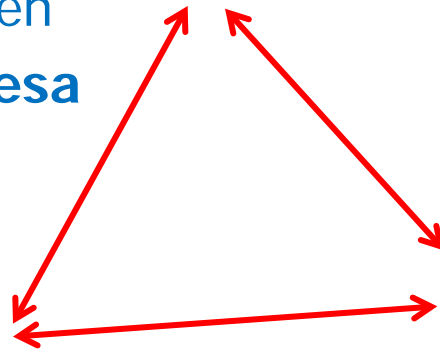
### Civil servants:

- Marthe Svensson
- Raimo Holster
- Riitta Koskinen
- Fredrik Gunnarsson
- Hans Wiklund

## Coordination Group

### Brussels Offices

- East and North Finland EU Office  
**Kari Aalto**
- Mid Sweden EU Office  
Kerstin Brandelius
- North Sweden EU Office  
Mikael Janson
- North Norway European Office  
Trond Haukanes



# Current priority themes

- Demographic change
- Arctic issues and knowhow
- Natural resources and their refinement
- Sustainable and smart solutions and regional development
- Accessibility, transport and logistics
- Russia
- Implementation of 2014-2020 EU programming period

# NSPA & Arctic

- Broad concept of Arctic
  - Not all of the 14 NSPA regions identify themselves as arctic regions
  - NSPA approach to Arctic issues thematic rather than geographic
- Arctic window of opportunity is now open – global interest
  - Taking ownership of issues that are relevant for the northern regions
  - NSPA actively involved in the Arctic discussion on the EU arena – voice of the regions

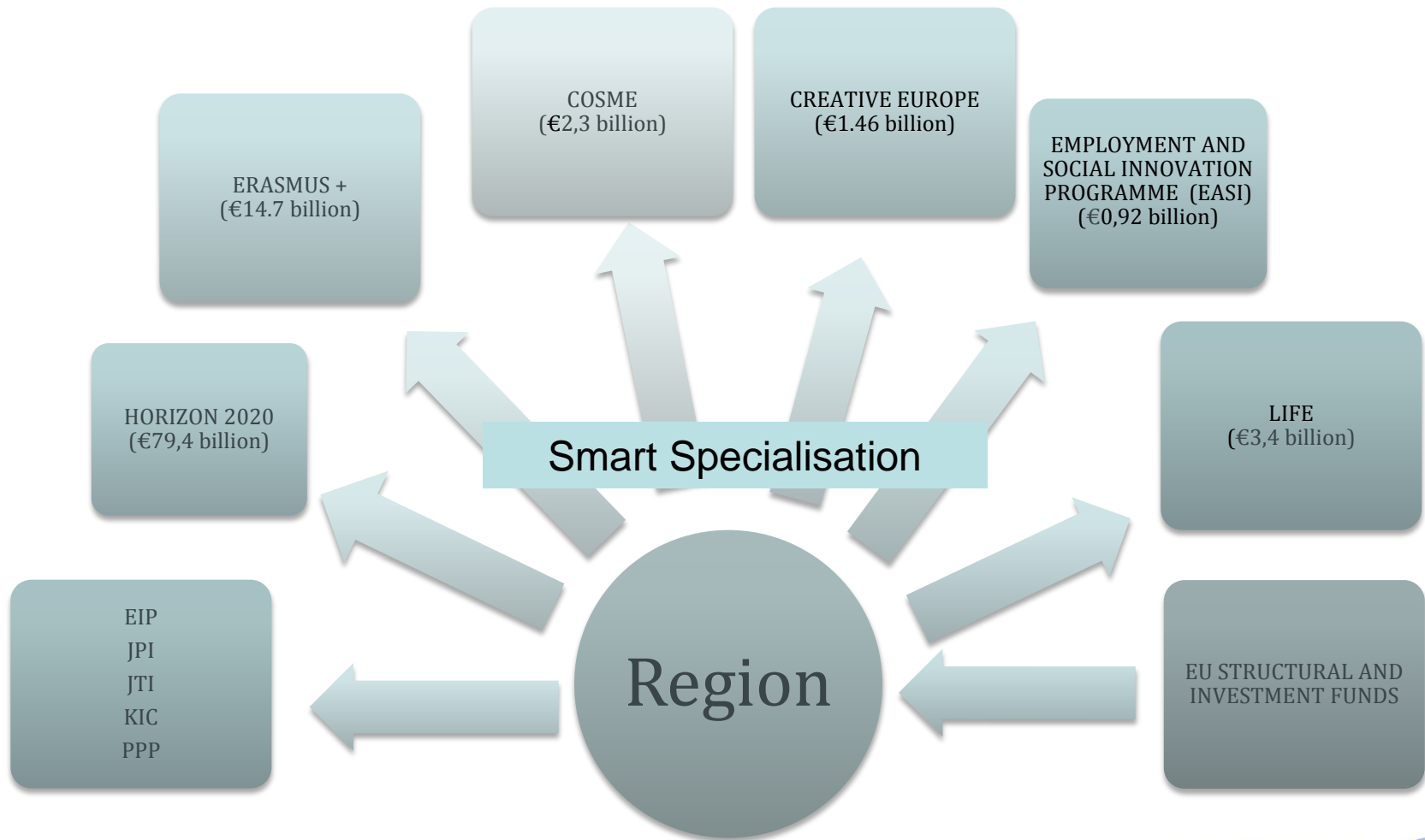
# NSPA tools to link the northern issues to the EU arena

- Smart Specialisation in the NSPA
- NSPA commitment in the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities
- OECD territorial review process

# Smart specialisation

- Outward looking positioning of the region
  - smart specialisation strategy as an instrument for international cooperation
- Possibilities for NSPA cooperation
  - Common specific challenges and characteristics: similarities in existing dominant industries and regional skills base
    - Potential for diversification and knowledge spill-overs within related sectors → complementarities
  - Specific knowledge sectors: common branding to obtain visibility and attract international investment
  - Building critical mass via cooperation of which the NSPA regions already have a long tradition

# Smart specialisation as a tool to pool resources and find synergies





# Using synergies for strategic cooperation

- NSPA's common specific challenges, characteristics and knowledge sectors as a basis to identify the potential initiatives and programmes
- Possible scenarios for synergies:
  - **Sequential, parallel or joint projects in e.g. smart specialisation fields:** Horizon 2020, opening OPs to cross border activities, using INTERREG to replicate and develop further local/regional best practices
  - **Human resources & Mobility:** EIT-KICs, Marie Curie/COFUND, Erasmus for All, ERA Chairs
  - **R&I in and for SMEs:** H2020-SME instrument, COSME (EEN), Creative Europe (Culture/Media),
  - **Public-Public Partnerships and Transnational cooperation/coordination initiatives:** Joint Programming, ERA-NET, Art. 185 Initiatives, EUREKA/EuroStars, European Territorial Cooperation
  - **Research infrastructures:** ESFRI Roadmap, major ERDF projects, ERIC, EGTC
  - **Stimulation of demand:** pre-commercial public procurement, procurement of innovative solutions
  - **New forms of innovation support:** Prizes, social innovation, non-tech. innovation, European Innovation Partnerships

# European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs)

- EIPs act across the whole research and innovation chain, bringing together all relevant actors at EU, national and regional levels to:
  - step up research and innovation;
  - coordinate investments in demonstration and pilots;
  - anticipate and fast-track regulation and standards;
  - mobilise 'demand' in particular through better coordinated public procurement to ensure that any breakthroughs are quickly brought to market.
- EIPs are not funding instruments, but different funding instruments are exploited for their implementation
- EIPs influence calls launched within EU funding instruments

# The NSPA-lead consortium – close to 50 partners

– Arctic Power, Castilla y León, Castilla y León Innovation, Financing and Internationalisation Agency, Castilla y Leon Regional Energy Agency (EREN), Center for Internet Excellence (Oulu), Centria University of Applied Sciences, City of Joensuu, City of Kuopio, City of Lappeenranta, City of Luleå, City of Mikkeli, City of Oulu, City of Rovaniemi, City of Skellefteå, City of Umeå, City of Östersund, Cyberlightning Ltd, Dataföreningen i Norr, Federation of municipalities, enterprises and provinces of Aragón (FAMCP), FREE initiative, Joensuu Sciencepark, Kainuun Etu Oy, Kajaani University Consortium, Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Kemi Digipolis Oy, Kiruna Municipality, Kuopio Innovation, Lapland University of Applied Sciences, LTU Business, LTU-CDT-Botnia Living Lab, Luleå University of Technology, Measurepolis Development, Mikkeli University of Applied Sciences, Municipality of Piteå, Municipality of Sundsvall, Municipality of Örnsköldsvik, Piteå Science Park, RIC Lower Silesia-consortium (Climate-KIC Regional Centre), Rovaniemi Development Agency, Savonia University of Applied Sciences, TECNARA (Aragón's ITC, Electronics and Telecommunications Companies Cluster), Teruel Province, Troms county council, Umeå University, University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium, University of Lapland, University of Oulu

→ **17 cities or regions, development agencies, 13 universities, Science Parks...**

# The NSPA commitment to the EIP Smart Cities

- Priority: Sustainable districts/built environment
- The NSPA carry out many ongoing Smart City-type actions: the FIREBALL FP7-project, Smart Hiukkavaara-district, Digital Mikkeli, Östersund Green Highway... and many more
- Through the EIP commitment, the NSPA will strengthen collaboration and share existing, integrated Smart City solutions and concepts amongst the NSPA partners and other consortia of the EIP Action Cluster Sustainable Districts
- The consortium will organise workshops and meetings and deliver reports, publications and policy recommendations
- The consortium will actively contribute to the Action Clusters of the EIP and to possible revisions of the OIP

# Short overview of NSPA commitment

- **To map communities' plans for future neighborhoods**, use indicators of the CONCERTO and Smart City-projects for analyzing how to optimise existing and planned neighbourhoods, develop tool kits facilitating integrated planning and infrastructures
- **To map research organisations' common and complementary research and innovation excellence** and capacities in the Smart City areas
- **To map viable existing business models** with viable pay-back time
- **To map existing sustainable urban/mobility transport plans**, facilitate the transfer of successful models across the NSPA and beyond
- **To study and analyse best examples related to horizontal, integrated ICT solutions and infrastructures**, existing Living Labs, Open Data, Service Design, wireless smart measurement systems and digitalization of services
- **To map local and regional initiatives related to resource efficiency and circular economy**, transfer and replication of best concepts and solutions.

# What is an OECD Territorial Review for the NSPA?

- Socio-economic analysis based on case studies of all the regions, recommendations for development strategies and initiatives, governance
- Specific themes e.g.:
  - Improving regional competitiveness
  - Addressing demographic challenges
  - Strengthening human capital and its link with the private sector
  - Achieving policy complementarities with transport policies
  - Addressing challenges related to climate change

# Showing added value for the whole of Europe

- Specific characteristics have equipped the NSPA with a specific know-how on issues such as climate change, energy dependence and demographic change
  - ability to play an active role and be in the forefront of providing solutions
- Using EU programming period 2014-2020 and the instruments available to cooperate
  - To realise the potential special attention and specific status is needed to allow sparsely populated areas to benefit from a variety of EU instruments and development actions in the future as well

# Future NSPA events can provide platforms to meet and establish collaboration

- EIP Smart Cities – meeting & brokerage for the NSPA commitment stakeholders, 11th February 2015 Brussels
- NSPA Forum, 1st half of 2015 Etelä-Savo Finland
- Raw materials event, 2nd half of 2015 Brussels

Others? NSPA open for suggestions



[www.nspa-network.eu](http://www.nspa-network.eu)

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