



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018**

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

On top of Europe

- with some specific challenges delivering some unique potentials...

Mikael Janson

North Sweden European Office

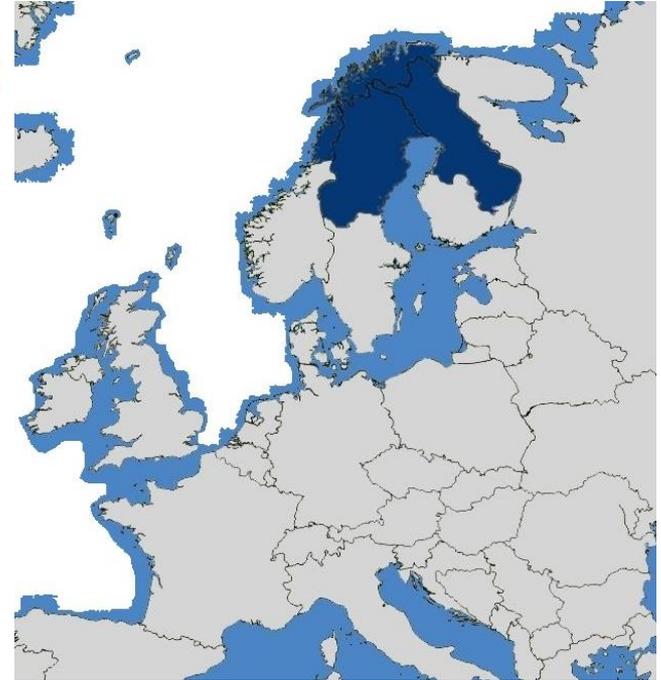


REGIONS
& CITIES

European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018



- Regional network in the northernmost Europe
→ 4 Swedish (EU), 7 Finnish (EU), 3 Norwegian (EEA)
- Average of 5 inhabitants/sq.km. (117 for EU)
→ *As spreading Rome over all of Spain*
- The EU's European northern borderland
→ *North Atlantic Arctic and Russia*
- At the same time also the populated Arctic
→ *2,6 million; Cities 5-200.000 inh., Land of Sapmi*



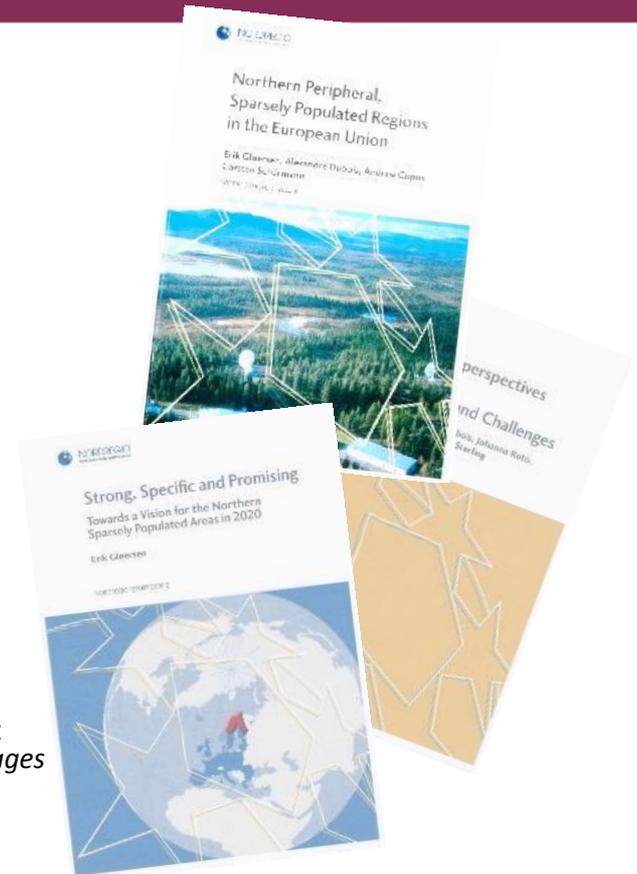


**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018**

The Challenge

- **Remote** in many directions
Long distances within the region and long distances to the markets
= *extra costs for communication and local/regional/external trade*
- **Arctic conditions** with huge differences over the Year(s)
Harsh climate and long dark nights during long winter
= *extra costs for heating, lighting and making/keeping roads and waterways open*
- **Sparsely populated** at an European extreme
Very few people on a very large area delivers lack of critical mass in many ways
= *extra costs for infrastructure and public/social/commercial service per inhabitant*
- **Raw material dependent** economies
Big natural exploitable resources such as minerals, forests, water and wind power
= *vulnerable enterprise structure and revenue not coming back to the local society*
- **Demographic decline** in global frontline
Young people and especially women searching for education moving to the cities and out
= *More elderly left behind even more scattered and to be supported by fewer in working ages*



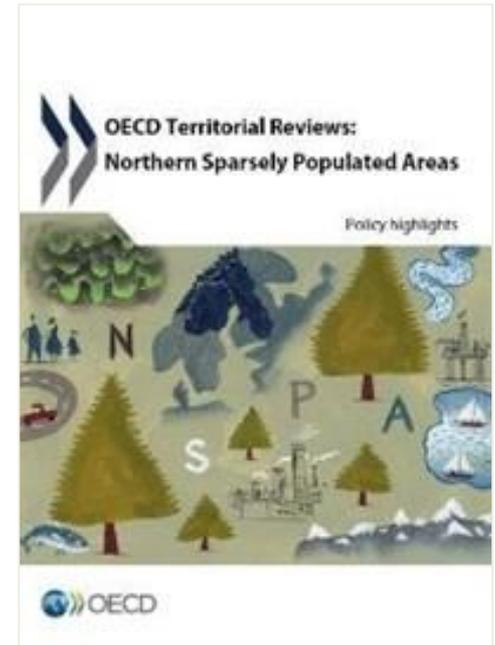


REGIONS
& CITIES

European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018

OECD Territorial Review on NSPA

- The regional **growth** is very much **due to fewer working more**, NSPA overall performing well in productivity (by implementing new methods), **less in job growth**
- **Vulnerable societies** due to demography and small economic trade/export dependent base (to be rich in raw materials is not the same as being a rich society)
- **Key growth factors below national** levels, such as infrastructure (transport and broadband/ICT), skills and capital markets, **render need of more investments**
- **National and EU policies** and support need to be **better adapted** to each NSPA regions specificities, **having similarities but also big differences within and between**
- **Identify absolute advantages using smart specialisation** to step up in value chains is a very suitable approach, also **coordinated between the NSPA regions**
- **Addressing barriers for business growth**, such as access to finance, and deliver support for SME's (in NSPA = **micro companies [in symbiosis with some few larger]**)
→ *Arctic Investment Platform & S3 (Competence) Collaboration on-going activities!*





REGIONS
& CITIES

European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018

Some smart strategic investment needs

- **Broadband/ICT** can connect rural actors/companies and scattered clusters to foster **incremental innovation** via academy to the world
- Functioning **transport infrastructure** makes it possible for **also small cities to be engines** for surrounding regions in a global context
- Strategically **cross fertilize** knowledge in “**old**” **base industry** and **academy** into **other sectors and new “base industry”** such as ICT



REGIONS
& CITIES

European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018

Strong, Specific & Promising by obstacles to be potentials

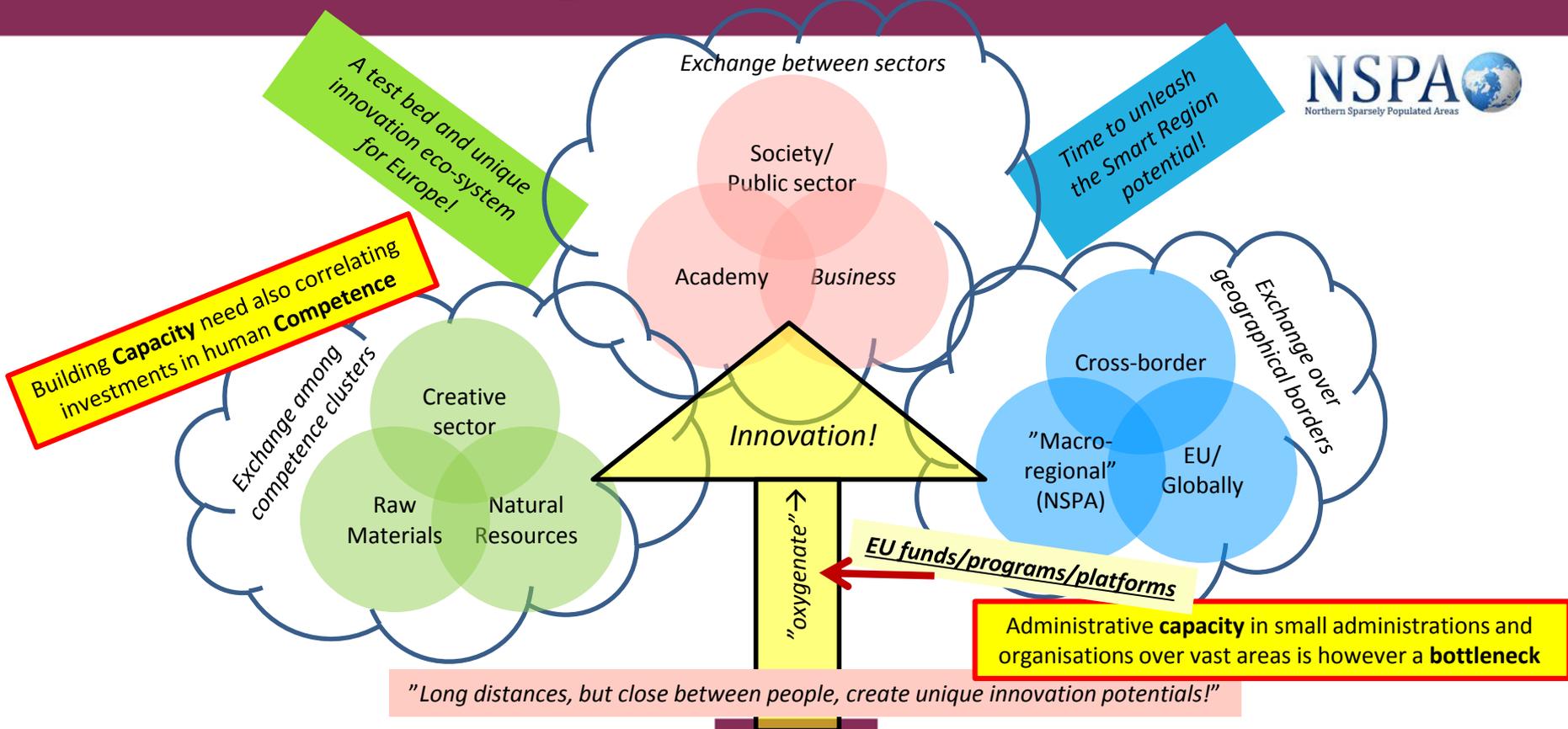
- ✓ Tourism expansion because wilderness, dark cold winters and long light summer
- ✓ Datacenters because cooling and process industry needs with clean secure energy
- ✓ Green energy shift for export because vast areas, forests and critical minerals
- ✓ World-leading e-health knowledge due to need in remote areas with elderly people
- ✓ Small home market and distances forces to be competitive globally in niches
- ✓ Even if lack of capital small investments can do big difference in small societies
- ✓ Lack of critical mass fosters need and closeness to cooperation over borders & sectors

→ *EU support DO deliver long-term strategic difference of outward looking added value!*



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018**





**REGIONS
& CITIES**

**European Week
Brussels 8-11 October 2018**

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas

On top of Europe

- *with some specific challenges delivering some unique potentials...
...given a little help from our friends!*

Thank you!

Mikael.Janson@northsweden.eu

NSPA-network.eu