



INPUTS FOR THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

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Key Indicators in NSPA Regions

- An most key indicators, NSPA regions are among the best performing remote rural regions in OECD countries!
- Per Capita GDP in NSPA regions close to country averages
 - Difference is less than 8 per cent when Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm are excluded
- This is less than half the typical gap!



Key Indicators in NSPA Regions

- There is a net outflow of working age population. But the dependency ratio is 3 per cent higher than national average.
 - NSPA regions perform much better than comparable OECD regions
- In particular, there is a net outflow of working age women
 - But again; share of women still significantly higher than the OECD average of rural regions



Key Indicators in NSPA Regions

- First of all, this is good news!
- But:
 - Typical challenges of remote rural regions remain!
 - Already strong performance means that catch-up growth is not possible anymore. Individual strategies for growth are required!



Economic Diversification

- Economies in rural regions typically depend on resource extraction
 - Diversification is important to protect regions from fluctuations in resource prices
 - Employment in the service sector is very high in NSPA regions compared to other remote rural regions
 - Employment in industry is below the OECD average of comparable regions
- ➔ Scope for further diversification!



Research and Development

- In NSPA countries, R&D expenditures per capita are 13 per cent higher than the country averages
 - But this does not translate into patents. The number of patents per 1000 inhabitants is 20 per cent lower than the country averages
- Can the economic effectiveness of R&D expenditure be increased?



Cooperation particularly important!

- Public sector 6 percentage points larger than in other Nordic regions and 4 percentage points larger than in comparable OECD regions
 - Very low population density implies that it is hard to achieve economies of scale in public governance
- ➔ In what fields can improved cooperation among regions lead to more efficient governance?



Cooperation particularly important!

- Travel distances are much larger than in most OECD countries
- This implies that functional border regions are probably much larger than in other countries
- → Cross-border cooperation particularly important



Contact and Further Information

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