

Welcome to the launch of the OECD Territorial Review on the NSPA regions in northernmost Europe

The network for Northern Sparsely Populated Areas, NSPA, cordially invites to the official launch of the study on the NSPA, conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD. The unique study captures 14 regions in three countries, two within the EU and one in the EEA. Although there are great differences between the NSPA regions, there are also many issues and challenges in common and a need to gather critical mass for innovation. The report delivers analysis and recommendations for each region and primarily for the NSPA as a whole, but also at national and at EU level. This is to generate true adapted support for regional development in northernmost Europe, furthermore interlinked to a broader perspective on growth and innovation in less densely populated areas. The launch event will be followed by a reception.

Monday 13th March 2017 at 15:00 to 18:00

European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels, Belgium

14:30 *Registration*

15:00 Welcome words and keynote speakers introduction

Erik Bergkvist, NSPA representative, Chair of Region Västerbotten, Sweden

15:10 Keynotes

Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD, Paris

Normunds Popenis, Deputy Director-General, DG REGIO, European Commission, Brussels

15:40 Presentation of the OECD territorial review on the NSPA

Chris McDonald, Policy Analyst, Regional Development Policy, OECD, Paris

16:05 *Coffee break*

16:25 Introduction by the moderator for the panel discussion

Abel Schumann, Economist, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD, Paris

16:35 Introductory statements

Søren Kissmeyer, Senior Expert, DG AGRI, European Commission, Brussels

Jens Nilsson, Member of European Parliament, REGI and TRAN Committees, Sweden

Tomas Norvoll, NSPA representative, President of Nordland County Government, Norway

Elisabeth Backteman, State Secretary, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden

Kaisa-Leena Lintilä, Director, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland

Grete Ellingsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway

17:05 Panel discussion

Panel also including **Chris McDonald**, **Erik Bergkvist** and **Pentti Mäkinen**

17:50 Closing Remarks

Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD, Paris

Pentti Mäkinen, NSPA representative, County Governor South Savo, Finland

18:00 *Reception with welcoming addresses from NSPA representatives*

Satu Vehreävesa, Chair NSPA network, Regional Development Director Pohjois-Savo, Finland

Cecilie Myrseth, Chair of Troms County Government, Norway

Robert Uitto, Chair for Regional Development, Region Jämtland-Härjedalen, Sweden