

# Top 10 Regions



BSR RPI main ranking



Intermediate regions



Demographic potential



Rural regions



Labour force potential



Economic potential



Nordic and German regions feature heavily in the first half of the ranking



Regions with the best scores are mostly – but not only – capital city regions and large urban regions



Troms



Sør-Trøndelag 8



Møre og Romsdal



Sogn og Fjordane



Hordaland 7



Rogaland



Vest-Agder

The region of Oslo ranks first in the overall BSR-RPI. It ranks 1st in the ranking on demographic potential, 4th in labour force potential and 4th in economic potential



Akershus 2



Oslo 1



Østfold



Åland



Stockholm 3



Uppsala



Pöhhja-Eesti



Västra Götaland



Hovedstaden



Hamburg 6



Bremen



Sankt-Peterburg



Helsinki Uusimaa



Österbotten



The region of Pöhhja-Eesti ranks in the Top 10 for all three indicators that make up labour force potential, resulting in an overall 1st place for labour force potential



The region of Stockholm has the 1st rank in total R&D investments and the 3rd in GRP/capita



Berlin 9



Hamburg 6



Bremen



The region of Berlin ranks 1st in population density and 2nd in net-migration

## Territorial Monitoring in relation to the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy

BSR-TeMo (Territorial monitoring system of the Baltic Sea Region) is a monitoring system that measures progress towards economic, social and territorial cohesion in the BSR. At the core of the TeMo system is a set of quantified indicators at different scales. Originally focused on spatial development and developed by ESPON and VASAB, the BSR-TeMo system was designed in line with the policy perspectives and, as such, delivered new, policy relevant, insight relating to spatial development of the BSR. The TeMo system is also a useful tool initiating debate and discussions across national boundaries on the future development of the BSR. This is particularly useful in the context of the EU Strategy for the BSR (EUSBSR). The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth initiated an extension of the BSR-TeMo, connecting it to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. In summary, effective linking of the TeMo system to the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region would make it a useful tool for assessing whether we are moving in the right direction, point at missing linkages between the EUSBSR and the TeMo system and locating key risks and challenges.

## BSR-TeMo Territorial Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Region



www.nordregio.se/temo

### Save the Sea

Achieving good environmental status by 2020 is one of the key objectives of policy actions in the Baltic Sea Region. Two major areas of environmental action in the BSR are the air quality in cities and the quality of the Baltic Sea water. The latest figures for BSR cities show, that air pollution is no longer a concern for Scandinavian cities, but still is for Polish ones. There are currently problems of eutrophication in the Baltic Sea, mainly caused by agricultural phosphate entries.

**“The City of Kraków has by far highest air pollution in the BSR in 2013”**

### Connect the Region

Good internal and external transport connections are vital for the exchange of goods, people and knowledge. Most of the regions within the Baltic Sea Region suffer from relative low accessibility potentials, putting them at a relative disadvantage when it comes to increasing their economic activities. Over the last decades, the potential for prosperity within the BSR's growth pole cities has increased. This

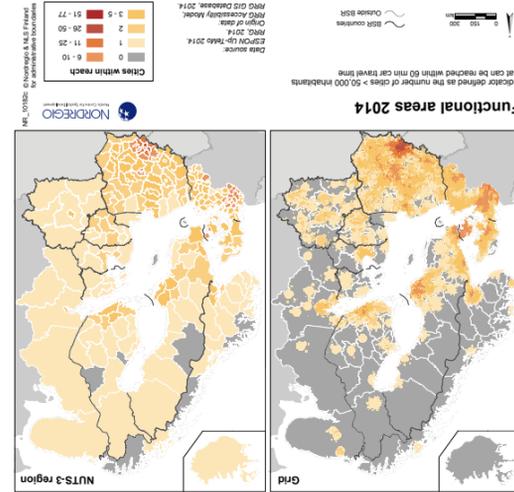
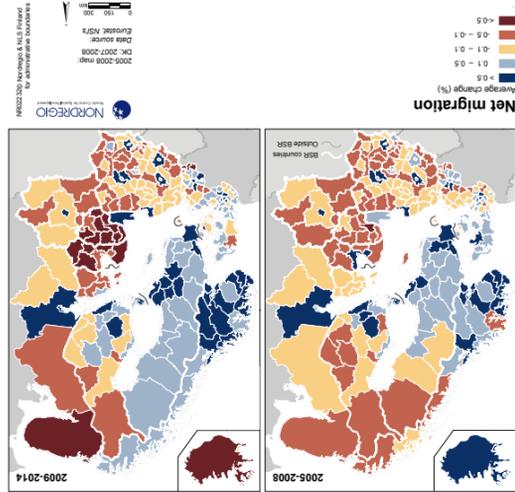
**“The east-west economic divide in the BSR has been closing rapidly, but all countries are experiencing increased polarisation at sub-regional level”**

has been largely at the expense of rural and peripheral areas, leading to increased spatial disparities and territorial polarisation. While the growth poles might benefit from in-migration, at the same time they face the risk of collapsing transport systems, particular with respect to roads. The penetration rate of household broadband access shows large inequities, both between the countries, and within them.

**“Compared with central Europe, many regions of the BSR represent peripheral areas”**

### Increase prosperity

Promoting the competitiveness and attractiveness of the BSR is one of the principal objectives of the EUSBSR macro-regional strategy. The overall com-



unevenly distributed clearly dividing the region between winners and losers. Since 2010, the long standing population drain of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and large tracts of Brandenburg has shifted to modestly positive growth. A number of peripheral regions in Norway, Sweden and Finland have seen a similar shift. In Poland, the number of urban areas that are growing has increased in the past five years. Out-migration is increasing in all regions in Latvia and Lithuania and has now reached alarming proportions. In the Baltics, the previously negative trend in Tallinn has reversed. In BSR Russia the development in St Petersburg and Leningrad oblast is also improving year by year, whereas the opposite holds true for e.g. Murmansk and Karelia

**Functional areas**  
Residents of local municipalities and of rural areas depend on functions and services offered in large cities. The more of these large cities that are within reach, the higher the freedom of choice is for the people. They can choose between several cities to visit for shopping, leisure trips, employment, or administrative tasks. For large areas of the Nordic countries and of the Baltic States, no city at all is within reach, or a significant share of the territory is only connected to one large city.

**Net migration**  
Since 2010, the population of the region has been growing constantly. This growth is however

**“The sharpest divide today can be found within the social spheres of development, for example, poverty and health”**

petitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region is increasing at the European level, largely due to a comparatively fast growth in the eastern parts of the region. Diminishing services combined with lack of education and work opportunities in rural and/or peripheral regions, renders the overall migration pattern of the region highly unsustainable. Such agglomerative trends also result in a heavier economic burden for those who are employed, particularly in these less dynamic areas of the region. Overall trends in well-being are pointing in the direction of reduced disparities. A trend towards longer and healthier lives is discernible in the eastern parts of the region. In line with the EU2020 objectives, absolute poverty in the region has been reduced. However, relative poverty is not improving as fast as, for example, unemployment rates.

**“The temporary slowdown of internal economic polarisation is unlikely to continue once the global economy recovers”**

**The purpose of the BSR-RPI, an index based on demographic, labour force and economic indicators, is to:**

- highlight the current performance of the 115 regions of the BSR countries;
- identify regions with high potential for future development and their common denominators;
- identify regions where further support and policy measures are required to strengthen their potential and meet existing challenges;
- provide policy makers with insight into regional strengths and weaknesses;
- be a stimulating example for further discussion on how regional performance could be measured in the BSR.

The BSR-RPI ranking provides insight into the relative performance of each region within the entire BSR macro-region. The BSR-RPI reveals that regions with the best scores are mostly – but not only – capital city regions and large urban regions. The region of Oslo takes the lead, followed by its neighbouring region of Akershus. Both regions come out well ahead of the rest of the Top 10 where four capital regions of Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Finland, as well as three other Norwegian regions, namely Rogaland, Hordaland and Sør-Trøndelag, and the region of Hamburg are found. The rankings of the three categories that make up the BSR-RPI (demographic potential, labour force potential and economic potential) as well as the rankings based on regional typologies (intermediate regions and rural regions) highlight some additional pieces of information.

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## BSR-RPI An Index on Regional Potential for the Baltic Sea Region



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