

Status for the Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Development and Planning

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BY 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS – FROM THE THEMATIC GROUPS WITH INPUTS
FROM THE NORDREGIO THEMATIC GROUP SECRETARIATS

With this Nordregio provides a status of the professional work for the activities across and within the Thematic Groups after three years and three months of the Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Development and Planning (NCP-RDP). An overview of how the objectives of the programme are followed-up on is also included.

Status of the professional work in the TGs

The work within and across Thematic Groups and Nordregio have for the first 3 years and 3 months (from the beginning of 2017 until end of March 2020) included 2-3 meetings within each TG per year, two large meetings involving all TGs and Nordregio, a meeting on sharing knowledge between the Chairs of the TGs and Nordregio. In 2020 the meetings held have mainly been carried out as virtual meetings. Also, Nordregio has monthly contact with the Chairs of the TGs as well as knowledge exchange per email with the members of the TGs. The dialogues and discussions involve both specific project issues as well as more administrative aspects.

The meeting on sharing knowledge between the TG Chairs and Nordregio in June 2018 on the processes for running the TGs was much appreciated among the participants. Further also examples of cross-thematic learnings were raised and found rather important.

In March 2019 a mid-term seminar for all the three Thematic Groups was organised at NCM in Copenhagen. The overall objectives with NCP-RDP were to exchange knowledge across TG's on professional learnings, about potential synergies, discuss how to disseminate and how to be policy relevant as well as learn to know each other.

From a professional point of view, the TG's are functioning well both with respect to involvement in the project processes and in the general cooperation between the TG's and Nordregio. A number of external partners from different countries are involved in several projects.

Dissemination activities

Each TG has a dedicated contact person at the Nordregio Communications section, who follows the work of the group, keeps the group informed and looks after the dissemination of the work. A vast number of dissemination activities has already been carried out from all TG's in both oral and written form and for different audiences. Nordregio has established a News mail format for more targeted dissemination. TG members and subscribers receive News mails directly to their emails, and the purpose is to advertise new publications and relevant events. Publication downloads are increasing and more and more visitors are finding the Nordregio website. News mail subscriptions lists are thematic, so people are free to choose the topics they are interested in and the topics Nordregio provides includes same thematic areas as the TGs: e.g. Rural and Urban Development plus Regional Innovation. Subscription lists are organically growing which shows interest towards our work and now we can reach approximately 5000 people through different lists. Each TG group also has its own internal Newsletter that keeps the members up-to-date.

Reports and policy briefs are planned for most TG projects and activities. For the finalised activities there are published reports and several reports and policy briefs to be published during 2020 and preferably also the first half of 2021. Nordregio also introduced a new format called Executive summary to replace Policy Briefs in some research projects where policy recommendations are hard to include. A list of published publications can be found at the end of the report.

Nordregio's communication team puts a lot of effort into marketing, with good results: downloads, social media interaction and subscriber numbers are increasing. Nordregio has also become part of the OECD library, which will enhance the visibility of our publications and also the referrals to our articles and reports. Nordregio has presented results and TG work in numerous events including annual stakeholder event Nordregio Forum. In 2019, Nordregio expanded presentations and dissemination material with webinars as a form of presenting results more frequently and cost-efficiently, and this has opened doors for more efficient TG communication within the group, and to TG national stakeholder groups. Generic PPT-presentations and fact sheet about the work of the TGs and their projects have been produced and translated to all five national

languages. More details regarding dissemination for the individual projects are specified under each activity and dissemination subheadings below.

Webinars, videoclips and storymaps are new tools that Nordregio started to master in 2019 and continuous improvements are bringing good results to the TG dissemination work. TG1 Rural Attractiveness project was Nordregio's flagship project on storymaps and they were well received in respective case study areas (e.g. used as promotional material) as well as by the Finnish Parliament, for example. Since then Nordregio has expanded the storymaps format to several different TG projects. Combined with interactive webinars Nordregio has successfully improved stakeholder engagement and reached out more to remote areas and successfully co-created events with project partners.

The Nordregio Magazine is published every second month, and it features articles from the TG-work in almost every issue. The magazine is sent to almost 2200 relevant stakeholders and magazine subscribers and advertised through all Nordregio's social media channels. The first issue 2019 published in March "Regional Development in Action" was dedicated to TG work, and all the articles described the work and projects the TGs are currently involved with.

A vast number of oral presentations have been provided by Nordregio in different fora, both academic and policy fora at different levels, and in many different geographical constituencies. TG-projects have been presented for policymakers at EU-level, for national ministries, for regional authorities and for municipalities.

The many case studies where interviews are carried out have provided good opportunities for local media coverage of the Nordregio work, e.g. in the Rural Attractiveness project, Youth unemployment "NEETS" project, and the Resilience project have lead into several media articles e.g in the larger Icelandic and Finnish medias and smaller regional articles in almost all of the Nordic countries.

The Nordregio Forum each year is an important international stakeholder event for TG dissemination. Nordregio organises the forum in collaboration with the TG groups, taking turns in each of the Nordic countries and thematic group.

Moreover, preparation of academic articles related to several TG in-depth studies is also under way.

At the end of this paper a detailed overview of the dissemination activities is presented.



Thematic Group 1: Sustainable Rural development

From January 1st 2018 Patrik Johansson (SE) is the chair of TG1 following Sigurdur Árnasson (IS) who now serves as vice chair. Anna Karlsdottir is head of the TG1-secretariat at Nordregio.

In 2017 and 2018 meetings with the whole TG-group were held in Stockholm at Nordregio, in Copenhagen, Hamar, Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands, in Copenhagen, and in connection with Nordregio Forum 2018 in Lund. In 2019 the group met in March in Copenhagen, in September in Åland and in November alongside Nordregio Forum in Reykjavik and the West of Iceland. The Reykjavik meeting was held as a webinar so people could also participate from distance. A webinar was also organized to the members in spring 2019 to disseminate the results of two finalised projects. For 2020 an online meeting was held the 3rd and 4 march in Stockholm with 21 participants. A Teams virtual meeting is planned June 9th. For the autumn, a meeting is planned in the North Calotte region and/or a virtual Teams meeting. Finally a meeting in connection to Nordregio Forum is planned in November in Vingsted, Denmark.

In addition, there is monthly contact between the chair of the TG and Nordregio secretariat. Most of the members in TG1 are actively engaged and a process on decision on new projects are now finalised.

The objective of the TG1

An overarching focus of the thematic group for Sustainable Rural Development in the Nordic Region is on all dimensions of social, economic, and environmental sustainability in the rural, remote, and sparsely populated regions. The rural regions comprise an abundance of natural resources which are important sources of agricultural products. Sustainable development of these rural regions is important not just for the current residents but for all residents of the Nordic countries. There is a long tradition among Nordic residents of spending time in nature, thus the rural areas are an important part of the countries' national identities. As the Nordic countries developed and industrialized in the twentieth century, there was a large-scale migration from rural areas to the larger urban settlements, a process which continues to the present albeit at a slower pace. The development of rural,

sparsely-populated, and remote areas is important for the cohesive development of the Nordic Region as a whole. However, there is a growing regional imbalance between urban and rural areas in terms of population growth, economic growth, access to services, and social outcomes. The potential of the Nordic rural areas also varies widely depending on population concentration, distance to major markets and cities, and natural and human resources.

The work of the 2017-2020 Nordic thematic group for Sustainable Rural Development is organized around four themes. The first is Demographic challenges where key issues in rural regions are declining and aging populations and gender imbalances resulting from higher female outmigration. The second is Social innovation which involves new ways for delivering social services and innovative means for coping with demographic change as means for addressing the widening gaps between urban and rural areas. The third is Supply of skills which is necessary to boost economic growth and encompasses increasing labour force participation, retention and increased participation of youth, and the integration of immigrants. A fourth area is strengthening Cross-border cooperation as there are common issues in the Nordic rural regions resulting from remote and peripheral location where cross-border cooperation from pooled services could help solving some of these challenges. Related are regional and municipal reforms which address the proper level of government for delivery of services.

Status and outcomes for past, on-going and planned activities

The finished and ongoing projects include:

450101: Rural Norden in 2050 (2017-2018)

The purpose of this project is to provide policy makers at the national, regional, and municipal levels an idea of what the size, composition, and geographic distribution of the rural populations in the Nordic countries might look like in 2040. It does this by compiling the population projections done by the

national statistical agencies of the Nordic countries to examine the size, regional concentration, age distribution, and other characteristics of the rural populations in the Nordic countries in the future. The future size of both the urban and the rural populations are examined to provide context for the expected population trends in rural areas. A report was published early 2019, and an executive summary has been published as well. A newsmail has been sent to the rural subscription list and several columnists in Nordic medias have cited this publication. The budget has been closed with a small deficit.

450102: A rural perspective on spatial disparities in education and employment outcomes (2017-2019)

Showcases have been carried out in Norway, Finland, Sweden and Greenland. Fróðskaparsetur in Faroe Islands is involved. The findings show that the living conditions that mainly influence displacement among young people are poor physical health, poor mental health, lack of income opportunities, unemployment and limited social contact.

Reasons for mismatch rest within combination of cultures, increase in mental illnesses, school reforms and non-intended outcomes, school closures and disengagement in dialogue between labor market and school system. We have identified three ways of re-engaging marginalized youth: Creative, Empowering/activating and Caring. Re-engagement Programs most often target 15-24 year old, while the 25-29 year old are the ones in most danger to become permanently dependent on the social system. Programs preventing permanent disability need to be mobilized. A policy brief was published in 2018, a report in spring 2019 and a guidebook – 15 good ways to re-engage vulnerable youth in rural Norden is being prepared for layouting. Press release and a NewsMail have been sent out and the results have been disseminated in Almedalen, in Nordic newspaper (national and regional) and in radio programme. On budget, and the project is finalized. However, additional funding is needed for forthcoming dissemination.

450103: Rural Attractiveness (2017-2020)

Traditionally people follow jobs but jobs also follow people and different drivers and motivations for demographic change and change in job development are seen around in the Nordic regions and municipalities - in particular those of young people,

initiatives and policies for municipalities and businesses. Maps and data analyses on demography, labour market and 14 case studies in each country were carried out. Statistics combined with storytelling show why case study municipalities do well. Positive population change, the reasons behind strong employment development / insights from businesses. Resources used in a smart way and actors cooperate across sectors. Local administrations collaborate with local industries, schools & educational institutions. The project gave voice to many locals: Many positive & probably unexpected stories told from rural municipalities; things to learn & things of concern; pride in local resources, industry and culture; collective action makes the real difference => "It ain't what you have but how you use it".

Results have been presented at seminars and regional meetings as well as in local and regional newspapers. The project leader presented the results at the Finnish parliament in February. The final report was published in March. The project has a separate subsite (a Nordregio project website) published including a link to the final report, 14 case study reports and – for the first time during Nordregio history – 14 story maps. Some of these story maps are also used by case municipalities for marketing reasons. Newsmail was sent out and advertised in the Social media. A webinar was planned and moved to autumn due to Corona. A joint seminar with Tilväxtverket was moved to the autumn as well. If the crisis allows, further outreach activities / seminar / roadshow shall be organised in different parts of the Nordic region including Faroe Islands, Denmark etc. This would require further outreach budget. We had a slot at the Nordic Ruralities Conference in Tahko, FI, but this was moved due to Corona.

450104: Nordregio Forum 2018 "Changing Ruralities"

The highlight of the ongoing period was the Nordregio Forum 2018, held in Lund 28-29 November with several activities and events enabling us to reach out to national, regional and local stakeholders. Parallel sessions and keynotes included:

- Your look great today! Good practices and measure of rural attractiveness in the Nordic countries.
- Tourism and Sustainable Regional Development
- Young People and Educational choices in Rural Areas
- Youth

- Keynote on TG1 State of Nordic Rural Region and beyond – people, policies and perspectives
- Keynote and panel on Regional and Municipal Reforms.

450105: Tourism in the Rural Regions of Norden (2018-2020)

This project focuses on rural Destination Management Plans (DMP) and tourism policies and how they contribute to sustainable rural tourism development. It includes a scoping analysis of the status of regional destination management plans, a comparative analysis of Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts in order to analyse the economic impacts of tourism, focus chapters on all 8 countries and works on cross cutting themes; regional planning, transport, maintenance of attraction and security, landownership/Allemansrätten and land-use issues.

The project is done in collaboration with Center for Regional- og Turismeforskning Bornholm and Aaland Statistics. Drafts of papers are produced, one on the Commons (presented at NESS conference in Luleå 2019) one on Sustainable perspectives in regional destination management plans titled: Planning for a more sustainable tourism? A Pan Nordic analysis of Regional Tourism Strategies for rural areas in cooperation between CRT and Nordregio (presented at the Nordic Tourism and Hospitality Symposium in Roskilde and other venues in 2019 & 2020), and another on Tourism Satellite Accounts (in editing phase before layouting).

The DMP part of the study was presented at Nordregio Forum i November 2019 in Iceland and also in a Nordregio webinar on sustainable tourism in March 2020. There will be two international peer review articles, one on The Commons: The Right to Roam and another on the analyses of Destination Management Plans and sustainable tourism in the Nordic rural regions. Two Nordregio reports will be published, one on the Destination Management plans and another on Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts. These papers are well underway although the Corona crisis has changed the outlooks for the tourism sector as a whole, affecting some of the project's scope which has resulted in the need for some revisions. When ready, these final products will advertised in a newsmail and SoME channels along with a press release and maps. The project is on budget and external partners paid (Åsub and CRT, DK), leaving some

budget for the final phase of the process and dissemination. Planned presentations for the project include Arctic Circle summit in Reykjavik in October 2020 and Nordic Ruralities (planned for May 2020 but now postponed until later) and ICASS/ International Circumpolar Arctic Social Science Summit (postponed till June 2021) along with publishing the peer review articles. The DMP part of the project has already gathered much interest and more invitations for presenting the results are expected.

450106: Rural housing challenges (2018-2020)

Housing is a core issue for rural communities, in particular how to balance the supply for current and potential inhabitants which in some cases are met with empty houses and a lack of adequate housing. The project looks at the challenge of market prices considerable under constructions costs, which leaves a financial gap for those wanting to construct. The role of the municipality in mitigating the housing challenge and which type of housing that is presently in need in the studied rural areas are in focus for the project. The project will be completed in end of May 2020. Case studies have been conducted autumn 2019. Preliminary results have already been presented at the Nordic Housing Ministerial meeting 10th October 2019, and for the organisation committee of the ministerial meeting. The project has also been in dialogue and planned meeting with the Danish restructuring committee on housing issues for rural areas and Center for Landdistriktforskning but it was postponed due to sickness of the chairman. A report and policy brief will be published and advertised in a newsmail.

450107: Cross-border cooperation Regional Reforms (2018-2019)

This project brings together responsible bodies and concerned interest groups to three joint events addressing the potentials and opportunities to develop joint cross-border solutions. The events offer an opportunity for actors from neighbouring border areas to meet face-to-face and to discuss particularly implications of recent and envisaged reforms. North Calotte council will contribute to the implementation and provides a down-to-earth cross-border perspective on the potentials and challenges of municipal (and regional) cooperation. Themes around education; labour market

and health care are in focus. Main target groups are civil servants and politicians in border municipalities, but also other actors may be invited. Results will be shared with the TG1 and will inform the MUSE-PRO project. These seminars and their dialogues will feed into the project below. Implementation remains slightly below budget since planned meetings with municipalities, cross-border organisations and other relevant actors have been several times postponed, latest due to the Covid-19 pandemia.

450108: Regional disparities and the geography of service (2019-2020)

Territorial cohesion and balanced development are key goals within regional development policy in the Nordic countries. In order to better understand progress towards the goal of a more balanced regional development, this project analyses regional disparities in the Nordics from the perspective of access to services. A GIS-based approach is used to map, analyse and visualise the degree of regional differences in relation to different public and private services.

The project will deliver two main outputs: 1) An interactive web mapping platform that allows the user to comparatively examine differences and disparities in access to services throughout the Nordic Region at different geographic levels with different aggregation depending on zoom-in scale. Planned to be launched in September 2020. 2) A research report focusing on Regional disparities and the geography of service to be published in November 2020.

Nordregio will conduct the accessibility calculations in-house and the web mapping platform will be developed by a company named Ubigu who have been contracted for the task. Additionally, there is ongoing collaboration with Tillväxtverket within the project. Among the dissemination activities that lie ahead is the seminar series on rural development with Tillväxtverket in November 2020.

450109: Municipal and regional cooperation on service provision – MUSE-Pro (2019-2020)

The broader focus of this project is on new and innovative forms of service provision, which are co-created through different types of inter-municipal and inter-regional collaborations and including non-governmental organizations / non-profit or-

ganizations. The geographical focus will be on small and remote rural areas in different parts of the Nordic Region. Among the objectives is to identify and analyse good practices that serve as examples for learning and finding tools, methods and approaches to improve service provision.

The project's main aim is examining inter-regional, inter-municipal & cross-border collaborations in the Nordic region and their impact on the delivery of public services.

Types of services and case studies encompass, EDUCATION: Bergö (FI), Den Forberedende Grunduddannelse (DK), HEALTH: Bergö (FI), Vältel (NO-SE) TRANSPORTATION: HentMeg (NO) / Distriktsmobilen in Vevelstad (NO), ELDERLY CARE: Bergö (FI), INFRASTRUCTURE / INTERNET: #Fulltäckning (SE). INFRASTRUCTURE ROAD / TUNNELS: Tunnel in Isafjörður (IS). Started summer 2019 with literature review and careful reflection of suggested cases. The project has been kicked off late autumn 2019 and most activities will happen during Summer and Autumn 2020.

450110: Sami Youth Cross-border project (2019-2020)

The purpose of the analysis is to provide insight into the priorities and initiatives of Sami youth and Sami education institutions regarding economic development. The findings will be discussed in a comparative perspective, considering the differences and similarities between Sami youth perspectives and education institutions in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The analysis will address the following questions:

1. What are the perspectives and initiatives of Sami youth associations regarding regional economic development?
2. How do Sami education institutions consider and design education programmes to support the linkages between the Sami indigenous culture and regional and rural economic development?

This work will follow up on the Swedish chairmanship initiative with the OECD Rural Policy Review, Linking the Indigenous Sami People with Regional Development in Sweden, published in 2019 by focusing specifically on youth. The project started 1st of October and the field work was done during winter 2019-2020. The report will be published during summer 2020, in English and in Sapmi languages (with applied funding from Sametinget) and advertised via newsmail and SOME as well as

specially targeted national and regional authorities working with Sapmi Issues. In addition, there will be a webinar, in relation to the TG1 meeting in June, presenting the main findings of the project.

450111: Unlocking the potential of silver economy in the Nordic Region (2019-2020)

This project is focused on the concept of silver economy. This term refers to all economic activities that are linked to older citizens. Many older people continue to make valuable economic and societal contributions beyond official retirement age through paid or unpaid work, such as by providing informal care to other older people, grandchildren or adult children. In this regard, promoting health and activity in older age is vital as it may not only improve economic productivity and competitiveness but also increase wellbeing and inclusion while minimizing the risk of social isolation. In addition, a growing number of older consumers also means that there will be an increased demand for new types of services and products.

This project examines what types of policies there are to promote silver economy and other related concepts such as healthy and active ageing in the Nordic countries. This study seeks to uncover what types of policy action has been taken at the national level during recent years, but also what types of regional and local initiatives there are to promote economic and social participation among older people. The interest in particular is to examine how the promotion of silver economy could help rural regions that are facing significant population ageing, and in some cases depopulation, cope with these demographic challenges.. Project timeline is from November 2019-October 2020. A report and NewsMail with SoMe activities will be produced when the time comes. The project has recently kicked off and therefore has its main activities ahead of it. Dissemination activities are to be determined at a later stage.

www.nordregioprojects.org/rural

Thematic Group 2: Innovative and Resilient Regions

From January 1st in 2019 Birgitte Wohl Sem, NO has taken over as Chair of TG2 from Mikko Huuskonen, FI who now serves as vice chair. Jukka Teräs is head of the secretariat at Nordregio.

In 2017 and 2018 meetings were held at Nordregio in Stockholm, and in Brussels with the whole TG-group. In 2019, the first TG2 meeting was held in conjunction with the joint TG meeting in Copenhagen in March that year. Two other TG2 meetings were organised for TG2 during 2019, one in Stockholm (September 2019) and one in Reykjavik (November 2019). In 2020, the first TG2 meeting was held online on March 26th, 2020. This meeting replaced the planned visit to Åland, which was cancelled due to the escalating situation related to Covid-19. There is regular and ongoing contact between the chair of the TG and the Nordregio secretariat. The TG-members are engaged and the collaboration between TG members and the secretariat has worked very well. The revised programme for TG2 was approved

in November 2018 and the priority areas are listed below:

Priority areas for TG2

The Nordic co-operation programme for regional development and planning 2017-2020 outlines three priority areas for the work of the thematic group for innovative and resilient regions: Resilience, smart specialisation, and digitalisation. The thematic group deems these priorities as important sub-themes with a significant potential and impact for contributing towards innovative and resilient regions across the Nordic countries. However, the thematic group also wishes to underline the inherent interlinkages between the three priority areas and therefore highlights its ambition to create projects

and activities working at the interface and around the synergies of these sub-themes.

While topics such as circular business models, bioeconomy, blue growth and smart energy systems are of importance for advancing regional resilience and specialisation, the thematic group also looks into the profound Nordic challenges and opportunities related to policies, innovation systems and global interdependencies. These challenges and opportunities impact on our capacity to advance the resilience and sustainability of Nordic regions. This requires a comprehensive mapping of existing policies and the identification of new policies and measures that could drive regional resilience and innovation in Nordic regions. Understanding these factors from a Nordic regional development perspective is a prerequisite for proposing appropriate policies at the regional and national level.

The three prioritised sub-themes for the thematic group for innovative and resilient regions, which are defined by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic Co-operation Programme for Regional Development and Planning 2017-2020, and the key regional development issues related to them are described below.

Besides the three prioritised areas, TG2 puts a significant emphasis on the analysis of Nordic competence development and skills policies, with an in-depth study in 2019-2020 (see more on this later on in this document).

Status and outcomes for the finalised, ongoing and planned projects

The research period of three major in-depth studies started in 2017: Nordic Resilience, Nordic Smart Specialisation, and Nordic Digitalisation. All three projects published Discussion Papers in early 2018 to allow for a broader input and debate from outside the thematic group. This also allowed the thematic group to demonstrate outputs throughout the period, and demonstrate the group's emphasis on the need to stay up to date. Final reports of all three in-depth studies were published early 2019, with policy briefs related to the three in-depth studies published in spring-summer 2019.

450201: Resilience and the Nordic Regions (2017-2018)

The study has researched the ability of Nordic regions to prevent and respond to shocks and disturbances. The risk landscape in Nordic regions

has been mapped from potential abrupt shocks to 'slow-burn' cases. An analytical framework to deal with regional resilience in the Nordic regions was developed. The Resilience study has been able to highlight not only acute regional shocks, but also "slow burn" situations in which regions slowly but surely end up in difficult situations. The study has identified both reactive and proactive measures to deal with regional resilience. The project report & policy brief were published in 2019.

450202: Smart Specialisation in the Nordic Regional Context (2017-2018)

The smart specialisation study identified a rich variety of Nordic national and regional approaches to smart specialisation. In identifying good practice cases of Nordic smart specialisation (S3) such as e.g. how to work with 'de facto S3', the report emphasised the benefits of increased transregional learning. Smart specialisation can be found in Nordic regions both inside and outside the EU. It uncovered the potential existence of regional "optimal size" for adopting S3 and furthermore, highlighted the need for stronger multi-level governance also involving the national levels for enabling S3 regardless of EU-membership. . The project report & policy brief were published in 2019.

450203: Digitalisation in Nordic regional development (2017-2018)

In this empirical study the regional aspect of digitalisation is highlighted with cases ranging from bigger Nordic cities to more peripheral Nordic regions. According to study, digitalisation is primarily about a the human processes of changed management practices in regions and municipalities and that technology in itself plays a minor role in the digitalisation process. Digitalisation requires people to acquire new skills (not necessarily technical) to enhance efficiency in the public sector and improve quality of services; it is also in the cases where the public sector needs change that digitalisation first takes foothold.

There has also been interest for TG2s Nordic digitalisation study from e.g. the Baltic States, resulting in a TG2 co-funded project with the Nordic Council of Ministers MR Digi on Rural Digitalisation in Nordic and Baltic regions. The project is investigating how to facilitate uptake of digital technologies and innovations by SMEs in rural and sparsely populated areas, considering both challenges and opportunities. A baseline study was produced 2019,

followed by six workshops in the Nordic countries and Latvia. The workshop in Greenland in 2020 was unfortunately cancelled due to the Corona situation. The Rural Digitalisation project furthermore organised a webinar series on four thematic areas throughout March 2020. The final report and a policy brief, as well as thematic 'digital stories' will be published in spring, 2020.

450204: Building capacities for resilient regions (Skills policy project) (2019-2020)

The indepth-study on skills policies in the Nordic region was initiated in spring, 2019. The study aims to analyse skills policies and strategies in Nordic regions. The study investigates how governments and regional actors work with skills policies and how strategies are operationalised. To adequately account for the operationalisation of skills policies for the purpose of this project, the study takes into account the regional labour market, the education sector and regional development policies. A discussion paper outlining the framework for the project was published in August 2019. The draft Final report on Skills Policies in Nordic regions was sent to TG2 members in April, 2020. The Final report will be published by August, 2020. The report will also be accompanied by a webinar towards the end of August, 2020 and a policy brief in September 2020.

4502011: The Bothnian Arc Cross-border Resilience study (2018-2019)

The Bothnian Arc Cross-border Resilience study border complements the Resilience study and identifies the common challenges on both the Finnish (Oulu) and Swedish (Luleå) side of the border, as well as identifying the cross-border elements strengthening the greater region' potential. The project report was published in 2019.

4502041 Skills and Labour Mobility in the Bothnian Arc Cross-Border Region

This study assesses the situation with skills supply and demand, and skills development in the Bothnian Arc cross-border region. Mobility is given particular attention as both a mechanism for supplementing labour and skills in complementing labour markets across the Finnish/Swedish border, as well as a threat through brain-drain. Emphasis is placed in identifying place-specific considerations to skills development in the region and possible actions for securing employment and economic

competitiveness in the future. This project is in its finalisation stage, and will be published during the summer 2020.

4502031: Digitalisation as a tool for blue and sustainable Nordic regional development (2018-2019)

This report was written in conjunction with the Svinesundskommittén border committee and complements the in-depth study on digitalisation. The study is about the role of digitalisation in supporting blue growth in the cross-border region Sweden/Norway and the role collaboration plays in strengthening the marine industries in Västra Götaland and Østfold. The report's empirical findings revealed that although digitalisation may be supporting cross-border cooperation on blue growth in the future, micro – and SMEs are struggling with issues surrounding time, risk and cost when it comes to digitalisation. The findings also indicated that understanding what digitalisation means for the specific business is key to unlocking the potential of digitalisation for blue growth, as this is not always self-evident. The project report was published in 2019.

Cross-border Svinesund 2 (2019-2020)

The aim of this study is to explore the current and future role of the administrative platform Samförvaltning Norra Bohuslän as a collaborative framework designed to promote regional learning and resilience, as well as increase policy legitimacy and accountability through consensus-based decision-making. Background research has already been conducted into the concept of collaborative governance and a contextual overview of the platform's makeup, functions and role. We have conducted interviews with members of the platform focusing on identifying the main drivers of the platform, the challenges it faces, the potential for further cross-border cooperation and what we can learn from the platform about collaborative governance in the Nordic region. The preliminary findings will be delivered at a workshop in May 2020 organized by the Svinesund Committee, with the final results outlined in a Nordregio policy brief in June 2020.

Cross-border 2020 Bothnian Arc & Svinesund collaborative activity

We will be synthesising the findings from the previous reports in the cross-border areas undertaken in this TG-period and share these findings through

two seminars/ conferences where we invite other cross-border committees in the Nordic region (one in the Bothnian Arc and one in Svinesund). These conferences will be carried out in collaboration with the AEBR.

450205: Roadshows (2019-2020)

Dissemination has been important for TG2. In 2019, both national and international dissemination activities were undertaken, responding to external requests for presentations of TG2 reports (includes e.g. Ministries in Norway and Finland, and presentations and lectures in Columbia, Split, Washington D.C., Moscow and Malta). For 2020, the focus will be on regional and national events to communicate the group's research findings. These will also be important arenas to receive feedback on the report. TG2 will use national, regional and local partners in the respective Nordic countries to co-host the Roadshow events in 2019-2020. The dissemination activities will result in a final 'Roadshow report', modelled on the format of a similar report from the Nordic working group on Green Growth 2013-2016. Due to the current pandemic, any dissemination activities connected to TG2 have been postponed until further notice. It is however TG2s intention to plan and execute our Roadshow as soon as the travel ban lifts. If the situation continues into the late autumn of 2020, TG2 will host a webinar series on each of the topics with guest lecturers from across the regions visited during our field trips in 2018-2020.

450206: Synergy project (2019-2020)

There are clearly synergies and interlinkages found between the in-depth studies on resilience, smart specialisation, digitalisation and skills policies. This project aims to identify and further develop these connections, which in turn will help tie TG2s work further together in the wake of the final synthesis

report. To identify these connections, the TG decided to engage an external consultancy, namely Gaia, a Finnish consultancy firm. A workshop hosted by Gaia and the TG2 Secretariat was held on the 6th of November, 2019, and a report from Gaia was delivered in December 2019. A final report on Synergy project will be delivered by October, 2020.

Nordregio Forum 2019

Nordregio Forum 2019 was held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 26th -27th of November. The theme was 'Skills for Resilient Regions' and was co-funded by the TG2. TG2 contributed substantially towards the preparation and execution of the Forum. Parallel sessions and keynotes connected to TG2 at Nordregio Forum included:

- Keynote on TG2: How to build and strengthen regional resilience?
- Panel session on Skills and Resilience in Nordic regions
- Parallel session "The Right Skills?"
- Parallel session "What is Smart Specialisation – And how to maximise this policy tool?"
- Parallel session "Working with digitalisation: A journey not a destination"

Final Report 2017-2020: TG2 Work

A final report will be written by the TG2 team at Nordregio, reflecting on the work undertaken and lessons learned throughout the period of 2017-2020. The report will be a summary of the individual TG2 projects in 2017-2020, and will be complemented by an analysis of major results. The report will also include recommendations for the future. The final report will be delivered by November, 2020.

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Thematic Group 3: Sustainable Cities and Urban Development

From January 1st 2019, Kristian Elleby Sundquist, DK has taken over as Chair of TG3 from Guro Voss Gabrielsen, NO who now serves as vice chair. Moa Tunström has been head of the secretariat at Nordregio but has been replaced by Ryan Weber for 2020.

In 2017 and 2018 meetings were held at Nordregio, in Reykjavik, Oslo (in connection with the Forum), Nordregio (again) and Oulu with the whole TG. In 2019 there has been one meeting in Copenhagen, one in Bergen, and one in Malmö. We will have three meetings in 2020 (planned for January, May and November). The January meeting took place as scheduled, and was synched with a successful workshop in association the project, Visions for the Green and Recreative City (55 participants). The May meeting will take place digitally in early June due to the COVID-19 related travel restrictions, and the November meeting is still planned to take place alongside the Nordregio Forum. At each meeting the members exchange "News from the Nordics"; have field visits and workshops, get oral reports from the researchers in ongoing projects and discuss ideas and challenges related to the work programme. In addition, there is regular contact between the chair of the TG and Nordregio secretariat via mail/phone/skype. The secretariat has worked hard to engage, motivate and involve the TG-members in the activities, and the collaboration with the chair and vicechair is working very well.

The leader of the secretariat has been out in different contexts to introduce the Nordic cooperation on regional policy, the TGs and the activities in TG3 on occasions organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (twice) and Chalmers university. The effects of this kind of dissemination are hard to measure, but there is interest in both the Nordic cooperation, the policy context and in the topics of our activities. And it is rewarding to get feedback on the work.

Objective

The thematic group for Sustainable cities and urban development will help to improve national, re-

gional, local and cross-border strategies for sustainable cities.

The overarching purpose of the group is to contribute to the implementation of the Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Development and Planning 2017-2020. This means to initiate and carry out activities that add value through their implementation at a Nordic rather than a national level, including projects that contribute to the exchange of knowledge and experience, as well as to policy development. In addition, the thematic group will contribute to the strengthening of co-operation between the sectors and institutions of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The activities and projects initiated and carried out by the thematic group take the priorities in the co-operation programme as a starting point. These are: 1) social sustainability and gender equality, 2) spatial planning, 3) urban qualities in small and medium-sized cities, and the urban-rural relationship, and 4) the growth and development of Arctic cities.

Status and outcomes for the finalised, on-going and planned projects

450301 The compact city of the North (2017-2018) (Original name: "What's on in small and medium sized Nordic and Arctic cities?")

This activity was been organized in two phases. During 2017 we reviewed a number of Nordic municipal planning documents and interviewed TG members to get an overview of current and upcoming sustainable urban development issues of policy relevance in small and medium sized Nordic and Arctic cities. This resulted in the choice to, in the second phase in 2018, focus specifically on city centre development in the context of densification and competition from external shopping, under the new title The Compact city of the North. Many small and medium-sized Nordic cities are dealing

with challenges related to the role and development of their city centres. They use strategies related to urban planning, governance and business development, to aim for greater compactness, attractiveness, economic development and sustainability.

Case studies were done, including field visits and interviews in Bodø, Sorø, Mariehamn, Kokkola, Västervik and Mosfellsbær. Among the results we can observe that despite the strong urban sustainability discourse, issues of parking spaces, car use and car accessibility are of high importance in city centre development. Also, there is an awareness of the need to make the city centre into an "entertainment space" to create the urbanity that is so much longed for today. The project resulted in both a policy brief and a report.

450302 Small and medium-sized cities in the Nordic and Arctic regions (2017-2018) (Original name: "What is a small and medium sized Nordic city?")

How can grid data provide a deeper understanding of spatial development in the Nordics? The project discusses how to categorise and define small and medium sized cities and uses population data at grid level as a point of departure. Nordregio has harmonised grid level population data (1,000 m x 1,000 m) for analysing population change at a more detailed level than the municipality and investigating population increase and decrease in cities as well as in the urban-rural continuum. The project report addresses grid data as a spatial analysis tool and discusses of analyses demographic change occurring at a local grid level in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The grid level data used in the study reveals development patterns that are less evident, and in some cases not visible at all, at more general levels of analysis. The database will be useful for further analytical work after the project is finished. For instance, the TG1 project "Regional disparities and the geography of service" uses this dataset as a starting point for studying regional differences and inequalities in access to services. The project resulted in a report that got a lot of attention, probably due to the fact that the grid level data could provide new insights into the municipal statistics.

450303 Long-term planning for inclusive cities: (2018-2020)

The project addresses different "barriers to inclusion" related to urban planning. The Finnish and

Norwegian study is a policy and practice exposé of area-based neighbourhood regeneration since the 1980s until today, and the Swedish case is an investigation on the challenges in creating housing for newly arrived immigrants in Swedish municipalities during recent years. The Icelandic case focuses on the town of Reykjanesbær, a very particular case where both demography and urban development issues relevant for inclusion are on the agenda now, and the Danish study focus on the Danish "ghetto" policy discourse. Together, this will expand the knowledge base on strategies for inclusive cities and planning processes. The activity is not strictly focused on the integration of foreign immigrants as an urban planning project, but also on socio-economic segregation. In relation to urban planning it is impossible to separate them. The work is organized as separate thematic studies for each Nordic country, instead of parallel local case studies. There is a slight delay in the publication of the final report and minor overspending compared to the budget. This has mainly been caused by the scale and complexity of the project, which consists of five separate but interlinked sub-studies. The report is set to be published during May 2020.

Nordregio Forum 2017: Nordic Cities – Connecting the Urban and the Rural (2017)

The Forum was held 29-30 November 2017 at Vulkan in Oslo. Thematic Group 3 contributed to Nordregio forum by organising an appreciated round table discussion session on topics such as digitalisation, transport planning and inclusive urban public spaces. The topics were selected by the members of the TG, and were all connected to our working programme, and TG members and Nordregio researchers acted as discussion chairs. Among other was discussed: Risks and opportunities with digitalisation; Who are "smart cities" for? Digital divides; What if growth no longer is the main mission or driver; The importance of public spaces for different purposes and people and Temporary urban spaces. The discussions have been documented and shared among the TG members. The documentation of the round tables is also a resource for the TG onwards. The Forum attracted approximately 145 people from all of the Nordic countries.

450304 TRIBORDER: Transport for Regional Integration in Border regions (2018-2020)

In three subprojects of public investments in border

regions and the local and regional development effects are investigated: a fast train vision for Oslo-Sthlm (2018), the effects of the ferry connection Umeå-Vaasa, and connectivity (2019-2020) and urban planning in relation to the public transport network in the Greater Copenhagen region (2019-2020). The first subproject is finalized with a policy brief and a background report. During 2020 a synthesis publication for the project as a whole will be published, and a digital dissemination seminar will take place, preliminary in September 2020. The project expects minor underspending, due to reduced need for travel caused by COVID-19, and due to the efficient delivery of research tasks. This surplus will be allocated to cases of planned overspending in other TG3 projects.

From the results of the first subproject: The main impacts of a faster train service that would positively affect the territorial development in Karlstad, SE are: Better accessibility seen as a potential for growth (e.g. skilled population); Demographic growth; Regional integration (eastwards) and cross-border integration. The main impacts of a faster train service that would negatively affect the territorial development in Karlstad, SE are: Higher housing prices in Karlstad; Might strengthen the regional population imbalanced distribution.

Subproject 2 studies cross-border cooperation in the Kvarken region with a focus on the ferry link between the cities of Vaasa and Umeå, located on opposite sides of the Gulf of Bothnia. This activity seeks to understand what role the ferry link plays for cross-border cooperation and integration in the region, and what types of direct and indirect regional effects the re-establishment of the ferry connection in 2013 has had in Kvarken. The findings of the study show that the ferry is not merely a transport connection, rather it plays a crucial role in facilitating exchange and joint activities across the national border in various ways. Although there is a long history of cross-border cooperation in Kvarken, this findings show that new forms of cross-border cooperation are emerging and that these are largely made possible by the existence of the ferry. The project report from subproject 2 will be published in June 2020.

Subproject 3 focuses on the integration of small and medium sized-cities within the cross-border region of the Greater Copenhagen. A mapping exercise illustrating travel time by trains from both Copenhagen and Malmö across the cross-

border region corresponds to the first part of this subproject. This exercise contributes at highlighting commuting possibilities. It is followed by an analysis of connectivity and urban planning in relation to public transport in four case study cities. The analysis would provide new insight on what are the characteristics of transit-oriented development (TOD) in the selected four SMS-cities cases, with a specific attention at station vicinity areas.

450305 Urban-rural linkages and seasonal tourism (2018-2020)

This project has synergies with topics addressed in TG1. The project addresses seasonal tourism as a municipal planning challenge. In the Nordic region there are several locations that are attractive for seasonal tourism. This means that the small cities and villages are subject to urban-rural flows of people, people with similar needs and desires as the local residents. Off season, without the seasonal "residents" the locations change character. They lose population, and thereby also demand for public transport, housing, care, commercial goods and services, culture etc. On the one hand, tourists and second home owners bring in lots of new business, but on the other hand they do not pay any income tax and the often very significant seasonal change in residents pose huge challenges for local planning.

Results and planning challenges concern the following: Adaptation of the welfare system to annual population using it; Income taxes from seasonal workers do not reach municipalities with tourist destinations; Local administrative planning models do not formally promote participation of seasonal residents and therefore difficult to get seasonal population engaged in spatial planning; a need to change the focus in policy and planning to adapt to current AirBnb-situation. Case study municipalities are Odsherred, DK, Pargas, FI, Grimsnes og Graftsningshreppur, IS, Nore og Uvdal, NO, Härjedalen, SE. A webinar which attracted a large number of participants was held in September and the report was published in November 2019. A policy brief was also published in Spring 2020. Due to COVID-19, the planned conference presentations for the project team have been cancelled. Instead, results from the project are planned to form the basis of a book chapter in Routledge Handbook of Small Towns, the publication is planned to February 2021.

450307 Urban visions of the green and recreative city (2019-2020)

The purpose of this activity is to bring forward new planning and design visions and proposals for the green and recreative Nordic city, and thereby contribute to the development of the sustainable city of the future in a Nordic context. Through research and a workshop new proposals for the preservation and design of green spaces and public spaces for recreation in Nordic cities will be discussed and developed by invited architects, landscape architects, urban designers, students, researchers. Five Nordic experts have drafted a "state of the art" paper for each Nordic Country, which include descriptions and reflections on recent urban design, landscape architecture practices and planning tools facilitating urban greenspace development/preservation in a national context. Each paper includes documented feedback by external discussants from the practitioner and academic communities. The main activities are taking place in 2020. A Nordic workshop was held in Stockholm in January, and was attended by more than 50 participants and 40 online participants. The workshop presented provided feedback for the drafts of the national manuscripts and brainstormed future visions of urban greenspace planning and design in a Nordic context. The results of the project will be published as a book, including seven chapters: Synthesis, National Reviews (5) and an international outlook. The book will be published by Arvinus & Orfeus (SE) during winter 2020-2021.

450308 Housing construction in the market periphery (2019-2020)

The housing markets in the Nordic countries differ regarding available tenure forms and financing systems and are therefore interesting to compare. This project examined housing policies and planning strategies in the housing "market periphery" on the national and municipal level in the Nordics, i.e. housing for students, elderly, newly arrived immigrants etc. The purpose of this activity was 1) to describe the "market peripheries" in all Nordic countries, and 2) to pinpoint suitable measures and tools for to strengthen the positions of the mentioned groups on the housing market. The focus was primarily on the governance and financing of construction of new housing, but it was necessary to also be aware of other relevant policy areas. One expert per country was commissioned to write a short text on the topic of "housing con-

struction, market peripheries and interesting solutions" for their own country. The following experts were contracted: Anna Granath Hansson KTH (SE), Berit Irene Nordahl NIBR (NO), Jón Rúnar Sveinsson, Reykjavik Academy (IS), Curt Lilien-green, Boligøkonomisk Videnscenter (DK), Antti Kurvinen, Tampere university/Chalmers (FI). The project was finalized on budget in the Spring of 2020, including the publication of a final report.

450309 Planning and designing the inclusive smart city (2019-2020)

The purpose of this project is to evaluate implementations of strategies related to universal design, accessibility and disability issues in urban planning. We will investigate such as: public transport solutions for a person with disability; the organization of planning for accessibility and mobility for all, barriers to implementation etc. The empirical focus is urban public space and planning and design for accessibility and mobility for all. This includes universal design of public spaces and public buildings, policies for access to public transport and taxi service, digital services for information and accessibility. The project is being done in collaboration with the Nordic Welfare Center.

At the start of the project the idea was also to investigate the "smart" city in a disability perspective. After looking more closely at the work and initiatives going on in Nordic cities, it became clear that very few digital solutions are implemented in this area. The focus of the report is instead on how different Nordic cities work with universal design and accessibility and how the development of the concepts have been in the national and local context. In the project, representatives from national and local level from six cities in the Nordic region have been interviewed.

In addition, a workshop with the Council of Nordic cooperation on disability was held in 2019. As preliminary findings we see that the countries are interpreting and using different concepts to reach a similar outcome of increased accessibility. For example, Norway is the country that with strongest emphasis has pushed for the concept universal design and it has been implemented top down from the national level to the municipalities. We also find that representatives in the different Nordic cities are working with these questions from the different preconditions of resources, history, environment and general awareness from national governments and society, which impact the

policy approach. The final report of the project will be published in August 2020. The working name of the report is "The right to access the city. Nordic urban planning from a disability perspective".

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Photo: Pontus Ohlsson / Unsplash



Evaluation of the follow-up on NCM-RDP horizontal perspectives and priorities for each of the TG Work Programmes

NCM promotes the conditions and opportunities for children and young people, and economic, social, and environmental sustainability as cross-sectoral topics that must be considered in the co-operation programme. The gender equality perspectives must be integrated in all activities.

In addition are integration and demographic development fundamental conditions for the Nordic Region's regional development and should be considered in all three focus areas.

Regions in the Arctic often have specific conditions and challenges and it is important that all focus areas include and relate to the Arctic regions and their development in the projects and activities undertaken.

TG1 - relationship to the NCP-RDP

The horizontal perspectives and priorities within TG1 are followed up in this way:

- Demographic Challenges, i.e. declining and aging populations and gender imbalances This is prioritized in the studies Rural Norden 2040
- Integration and demographic development are related to the topics in all TG1s project
- Social innovation, social services delivery and means to cope with demographic change will be at the core in the project Regional cooperation on service provision and social innovation (2019 & 2020)
- Supply of skills to boost economic growth and increase labour force participation, youth and in-

tegration of immigrants is prioritized in the project Rural perspectives on regional disparities of education and labour market outcomes where focus is on young people out of work, education and training (NEETs). Gender perspective is prioritized and children and youth. The youth perspective is also prioritized in the project Adaptive planning and Rural Attractiveness

- Strengthen Cross-border cooperation, i.e. pooled services to solve challenges. This is prioritized in Cross border perspectives on regional and municipal reforms. This project also has a special Arctic perspective.

- Regional and municipal reforms addressing the level of government for service delivery is both addressed in the project Regional cooperation on service provision and social innovation as well as Cross border perspectives on regional and municipal reforms.

- Sami Youth has an Arctic dimension

TG2 - relationship to the NCP-RDP

TG2 studies included an analysis of aspects related to the green transition, blue bioeconomy, gender and sustainable development issues. For example, the cross-border study on digitalisation as a tool for blue growth in the Svinesund region considered the blue bioeconomy, the report on smart specialisation considered the role of smart specialisation in bringing green growth to the fore in the implementing regions, and the resilience

report touched on the connection between jobs and gender in certain regions. Digitalisation is also considered a driver for green growth and responds to sustainable development issues. Moreover, TG2 expertise on regional development and green transition is shared with several Nordic institutions. As an example, a session on Circular economy in the Nordics was held on April 11th, 2019 at Tillväxtverket (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth) in Stockholm, with a specific focus on Sweden.

The Arctic aspect is covered by all three in-depth studies published by TG2 by means of ensuring case studies in the Arctic region. The following regions were considered:

- Regional Social and Economic Resilience and cross-border study: North Sweden/North Finland
- Smart Specialisation: Nordland county in Norway
- Digitalisation: Finnmark.

The in-depth study 2019-2020 on skills and competence development focus on e.g. youth, life-long learning. Additionally, both of the digitalisation reports (incl. cross-border) emphasised the role of digital skills as part of their findings. Issues concerning gender will be further considered in the skills policies study. Gender was also highlighted as part of the best policy practices in the smart specialisation report, referring to the smart specialisation strategy devised by the Swedish region of Värmland.

TG3 - relationship to the NCP-RDP

The overarching goals for our activities 2017-2020 are urban design oriented as well as addressing the relation between the "urban" and the "rural". The horizontal perspectives and program priorities are considered in the following way:

Social sustainability is considered through

focus on: city centre development, integration as an urban planning issue, accessibility to services and public transport, the challenge of seasonal housing, the relation between built environment and social inclusion, affordable housing, planning for people with disabilities and promoting urban greenspace development as a means of enhancing social capital (health and wellbeing).

Spatial planning is integrated throughout the TG3 projects, including both a built environment focus and a focus on governance and planning policy. Perhaps we are leaning more towards the built environment than the planning process, which makes sense in relation to earlier programme periods, where policy and process had more attention than the built environment. Planning is a primary focus in the Compact City project, the Seasonal housing project and the Inclusive cities project. Knowledge on planning and design in the development of urban greenspace is emphasized in the Green Visions project.

Urban qualities is a normative term, but implies a focus on urban design, built environment and urban life. This focus is well covered in several projects.

We are aiming to focus on small and medium sized cities geography in most of our activities, where it makes sense. It means to turn our attention away from the capital regions and the bigger cities in the Nordic region.

The urban-rural relationship is in focus in TRI-BORDER, in the project on Seasonal housing and the Grid-data project.

The TG3 has prioritized other issues than the Arctic focus, and many Arctic cities in the Nordics struggle with the same planning and development issues as other small and medium sized cities in the Nordics. Our approach is to include arctic examples or cases in our project, where it makes sense.

An overview of dissemination

TG subsites

All results from the Thematic Groups' work are now available in the thematic subsites which builds the bases for the roadshow activities:

TG1 <https://nordregioprojects.org/rural/>

TG2 <https://nordregioprojects.org/innovation/>

TG3 <https://nordregioprojects.org/urban/>

Reports and Policy Briefs

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- Tunström, M, Lidmo, J 2019: Bringing attention back to the city centre - six Nordic examples, Nordregio Policy brief 3 2019 <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1293915/FULLTEXT01.pdf>
- Grunfelder, J, Wøien, M & Norlén, G 2019: The value of high-speed trains in intermediate regions - a cross-border perspective along the Oslo-Stockholm corridor, Nordregio Policy brief 2019:10 <http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1347730/FULLTEXT02.pdf> (See also more background material here: <https://www.nordregio.org/publications/the-value-of-high-speed-trains-in-intermediate-regions/>)
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TG1 articles

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- "Närpes en av få kommuner där invånarna ökar – lyckad integration och duktiga företagare några av förklaringarna" <https://svenska.yle.fi/artikel/2019/10/01/narpes-en-av-fa-kommuner-dar-invanarna-okar-lyckad-integration-och-duktiga>
- "Därför är Närpes så framgångsrik – kan visa väg för andra orter" <https://www.vasabladet.fi/Artikel/Visa/318551?shareID=111654-2fea48874e>
- interview broadcasted at Rás 1 in a show called Samfélagið (The society): "Hjördís Rut Sigurjóns-

- dóttir sérfr. hjá Nordregio: Af hverju gengur sumum sveitarfélögum betur að nýta auðlindir sínar, laða til sín fólk og skapa ný störf? Þetta var lykilspurningin sem fjallað var um í greiningu á aðdráttaraflí fjórtán sveitarfélaga á Norðurlöndum." <https://www.ruv.is/utvarp/spila/samfelagid/23617/7hl5d7?term=samf%C3%A9lagi%C3%B0&rtype=radio&slot=14>
- Päättös lähikoulun säilyttämisestä voi pelastaa kylän <https://www.hs.fi/mielipide/art-2000006283914.html>
- Fleira fólk og tak-markað rými <https://www.visir.is/g/2019191019962/fleira-folk-og-tak-markad-rymi>
- TG 1 NEET and Youth unemployment
- Austur Frett (17.8.2019) Gunnar Gunnarsson: Ungmennin í dreifbýli dragast aftur ur
- Nuorisotakuu menestyjiin ja kotona istujiin, kaupungit hiljenevät autoista: viisi vaikuttajaa kertoo, millaista elämä voi olla Pohjoismaissa vuonna 2030 <https://www.hs.fi/ulkomaat/art-2000006162462.html>
- Vasabladet 1.10.2019. Bergös servicelösningar visas upp i nordisk studie – "Man blir lätt hemblind". <https://www.vasabladet.fi/Artikel/Visa/319608?shareID=111654-9a7517d1a5>

TG 2 media articles

- TG2 Article in Vestmannaeyjar: <http://eyjar.net/read/2019-03-14/eyjaandi-og-samheldid-samfelag-mikilvaegasti-thatturinn-i-seiglu/> 14 March 2019,
- <https://www.midjan.is/eiga-allt-undir-fiskinum-og-utgerdunum/?fbclid=IwAR3Uzhg8YXg8D4eqLuTcioGKH6Y-OYwpW44IsPbCzj5wSa0b-CY4RLtS-k4>
- TG2 Norrbottens Kuriren och Norrländska Socialdemokraten: Hoten mot Norrbotten article x2 (photo captures of the articles) 25 March,
- TG2: News story in KALEVA on regional resilience, 9 March, 2019
- TG2: Teräs J. & Turunen E (2019) Rakennemuutos voi ohjata uuteen kasvuun. Kaleva 8.4.2019 (About regional resilience)
- "Kuka saa vallan maakunnissa?" Interview/ Jukka Teräs on Nordic regional development at YLE Ykkösaamu 2018 on March 25, 2018

NewsMails

Early 2019 Nordregio developed NewsMail format and templates for each TG group and TG theme.

Templates are used for internal TG communication, but more importantly these thematic NewsMails are used to reach Nordregio stakeholder groups who have signed up to hear from us. NewsMail format is more receiver oriented than a Newsletter, and so they are carefully targeted to each stakeholder group. Each NewsMail reaches about 1000 recipients. From the beginning of 2018 until 12 April 2019, Nordregio has sent 17 TG related NewsMails. From 13 April until 1 December of 2019, Nordregio sent 16 external and 13 internal (only to TG members) NewsMails. The NewsMails have increased the number of subscribers and downloads for Nordregio reports and created interaction and interest.

Oral Presentations

Generic PPT-presentations and fact sheet about the work of the TGs and their projects have been produced and translated to all five national languages. More details regarding dissemination for the individual projects are specified under each activity and TG.

TG1

- TG1 Potential and Challenges across Nordic Rural Regions: Nordic research conference on Nordic rural research Vingsted, DK, 2018
- TG1 People, jobs and attractive places: Mariehamn, August 2018
- Kull, M. (2018) You Look Great Today! Good Practices and Measures of Rural Attractiveness in the Nordic Countries Presentation at Nordregio Forum Lund, 29.11.2018
- Refsgaard, K. & Kull, M. with inputs from Julien Grunfelder, Anna Karlsdottir, Nora Sanchez-Gassen, Jukka Teräs (2018) State of Nordic Rural Region and beyond – people, policies and perspectives, Keynote Speech delivered at Nordregio Forum Lund, 28.11.2018.
- TG1/TG2: Attractive municipalities and S3.
- Hällefors kommun, SE: (February 2019)
- Dalvik Kommune, IS:
- TG1 presented to Regional Associations (KL in DK, KS in Norway, Samband in IS). (2019)
- Reglab Danmark TG1: Rural attractiveness (hand-out dissemination) (April 2019)
- TG1/TG2 Attractiveness project presented for Landdistrikternes Fællesråd og Sydansk Universitet, Middelfart, DK. (april 2019)
- TG 1 Attractiveness together w. TG2 presented at Nordregio-Seminarium i Närpes / Finland

1.10.2019

- TG1 Attractiveness & MUSE-PRO projects presented at the Finnish Parliament 25.2.2020
- Video on the TG1: NEETs project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pcw48s9-PM8&feature=youtu.be>
- TG1 projects: Board of North Calotte Council – a short written summary of all TG1 projects, their coordinators and publications so far, as well as information about TG1 home page. (Dec 2019)
- TG1 work: Arktisk mat, Mosjøen, Nordland (Høsten 2018)
- TG 1 / TG2 joint seminars with Tilväxtverket planned for Spring / Summer / Autumn will be moved to Autumn 2020
- TG 1 Attractiveness webinar planned 4.3. moved to autumn
- TG 1 Sami Youth webinar will be organised 9.6.

TG2

- A special session on TG2 Nordic resilience, smart specialisation, and Digitalisation together with DG REGIO and Committee of Regions was arranged in Brussels, 2018 and attended by high level EU officials and experts (March 2018)
- Presentation of TG2 Discussion papers for Norwegian Secretariat for Interreg, Stockholm (March 2018)
- Presentation of Nordic smart specialisation study at Näringsdepartementet, Stockholm, Sweden (Nov 2018)
- Presentation on cross-border digitalisation: Status update, at the Blue Growth workshop hosted by Svinesundskommittén (Feb 2019)
- Key note & learning seminar on TG2 Resilience and smart specialisation, Jokkmokk, Sweden (March 2019)
- Presentation of TG2 in-depth studies: digitalisation, resilience and smart specialisation, Dalsland, Sweden (April 2019)
- Presentation of all three TG2-in-depth studies at the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway (May 2019)
- Special session on TG2 Nordic resilience at an international conference in Split, Croatia (May 2019)
- Presentation on Regional Resilience UNDP, Colombia (May 2019)
- Presentation and learning seminar on TG2 in-depth studies at the Mittnorden Annual Conference, Örnsköldsvik, Sweden (May 2019)
- Presentation on Smart specialisation: Lessons

- from the Nordic Region at the RSA Annual Conference, Santiago de Compostela (June 2019)
- Presentation of the TG2 Resilience report, University of Zaragoza, Spain (July 2019)
- TG2 Resilience presentation, Innovation Norway event "Omstillingskonferanse", Trondheim, Norway (August 2019). Presentation on Digitalisation, Insular Conference, Malta (Oct 2019)
- TG2 Presentation & roundtable discussion, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland (Oct, 2019)
- Lecture on Smart specialisation with a special focus on lessons from Norway at the Skolkovo School of Management in Moscow, Russia (October 2019)
- Lunch seminar on the digitalisation report and the cross-border digitalisation study at the University Centre Of The Westfjords, Ísafjörður, Iceland (Nov 2019)
- Web seminar for the University of Split, Croatia on post-covid and Resilience (April, 2020)
- TG2 video: Resilience (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FHFOV7yTG4&t=4s>)
- TG2 video: Smart Specialisation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QShKGGxAzS8&t=5s>)
- TG2 video: Digitalisation (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOWpHtclUV4>)
- TG2 video: Skills (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHcHy-Xswhs&t=4s>)

TG3

- TG3 What's on in small and medium sized cities in the Nordics? At Norwegian Presidency Project "Attractive Towns in Nordic urban regions. Towns that provide a good life for all", Oslo Sept 2017.
- TG3 presentation and workshop: TRIBORDER Oslo-Stockholm in Oslo, Norway Oct 2018
- TG3 Sustainable Cities and Urban Development: At Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Stockholm March 2018.
- TG3 Det rurbanda Norden träder fram: Rurban Planning talks, Mariestad Sept 2018.
- TG3 Det "rurbana" rummet som kommunal planeringsutmaning: At Rurban Planning talks, Mariestad Sept 28 2018.
- TG3 Presentation on harmonization of Nordic grid level statistics at Statistics Sweden's SBT Conference. Lidingö, 8 October 2018.
- TG3 Det rurbanda Norden träder fram: Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, Östersund November 8 2018.
- TG3 Working in the research/policy interface,

presentation at the symposium on Research and the Action Plan for Nordic Co-operation on Disability 2018 to 2022 at the Nordic Network on Disability Research Conference NNDR 2019, Copenhagen May 9 2019

- TG3 Urban-rural flows of seasonal tourists, Presentation for visitors from Technische Hochschule Ostwestfalen-Lippe at Nordregio, June 12, 2019
- TG3 Urban-rural flows of seasonal tourists – planning challenges and strategies, Folkemødet, Bornholm, June 15, 2019
- TG3 Seasonal tourism and second homes in the Nordics – planning challenges and strategies in use. Presentation at 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting, Trondheim, June 16-19 2019. Session: W.37 Geographies of Second homes.
- TG3 Population Change Dynamics in Nordic Municipalities – grid data as a tool for studying residential change at local level. Presentation at the Nordic Forum for Geography and Statistics conference. Helsinki, 15 May 2019.
- TG3 Webinar on Sept 12, 2019: <https://www.nordregio.org/research/urban-rural-flows-of-seasonal-tourists-local-planning-challenges-and-strategies/>
- TG3 Key-note presentation based on Mats PhD and the Finnish case in the Inclusive Cities project at housing seminar organized by the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA). Helsinki, 16 October 2019.
- TG3 The value of high-speed trains in intermediate regions A cross border perspective along the Oslo-Stockholm corridor. Presentation at the seminar on "Cross-border Infrastructure in the Nordic Region (IBCROSS)" in Örebro. November 8th, 2019.
- TG3 The value of high-speed trains in intermediate regions A cross border perspective along the Oslo-Stockholm corridor. Presentation at the seminar "Infrastruktur och nordisk transportpolitik" organized by the cross-border committees at NCM, Copenhagen. January 28th, 2020
- TG3 Overcoming barriers for inclusion – Protesting against housing for refugees – how do municipalities respond? Presentation at workshop "Vad var flyktkrisen", Galleri BOX, Göteborg 10.11.2019
- TG3 Green Visions Project. Workshop and online webinar. Stockholm. January 28th, 2020.
- Slätmo, E. (2020) Presentation om Nordregio och Urban-Rural flows challenge the myth of Nordic urbanisation för Nordiska Skärgårdssamarbetet under deras styrelsemöte på Nordregio, 2020-01-21.
- TG3 video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=I5wiBapqPUw

watch?time_continue=2&v=I5wiBapqPUw
- TG3 video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olq>

Social Media

	1/1/2018 to 12/4/2019	1/1/2018 to 12/4/2019	1/4/2018 to 12/4/2019
	Facebook	Twitter	Linkedin
Number of posts	24	27	17
Likes	471	176	293
Shares	61	119	42
Comments	14		6
Video views	886	291	903
Reach		41950	17269
Clicks / conversions to site		140	607

	13/4/2019 to 1/12/2019	13/4/2019 to 1/12/2019	13/4/2019 to 1/12/2019
	Facebook	Twitter	Linkedin
Number of posts	35	31	28
Likes	622	142	430
Shares	87	74	56
Comments	23	5	4
Video views	0	0	0
Reach	32100	31569	24423
Clicks / conversions to site		119	800

	1/12/2019 to 30/4/2020	1/12/2019 to 30/4/2020	1/12/2019 to 30/4/2020
	Facebook	Twitter	Linkedin
Number of posts	11	9	7
Likes	146	27	98
Shares	43	18	20
Comments	2	1	3
Video views	0	0	0
Reach	10225	8221	4755
Clicks / conversions to site		25	171