Status for the Nordic Cooperation Programme for Regional Development and Planning

May 11th, 2020
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BY 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS – FROM THE THEMATIC GROUPS WITH INPUTS FROM THE NORDREGIO THEMATIC GROUP SECRETARIATS
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 some 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’s dissemination 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 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

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 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 in Reykjavik and the West of Iceland.

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 newsletter has been sent to the rural subscription list and several columnist in Nordic media 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 development are seen around in the Nordic regions and municipalities - in particular those of young people, and different drivers and motivations for migration is needed for forthcoming dissemination. 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 construction 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 restructuration 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.


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 munici-
palities, but also other actors may be invited. Re-
sults will be shared with the TG2 and will inform the MUSE-Pro project. These seminars and their
dialogues will feed into the project below. Imple-
mentation remains slightly below budget since
planned meetings with municipalities, cross-bor-
der organisations and other relevant actors have
been several times postponed, lately due to the

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 re-
gional development, the 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 re-
gional 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 and their impact on the
delivery of public services.
2) How do Sami education institutions consider
linkages between the Sami indigenous culture and
design education programmes to support the
promotion of silver economy and other re-

types of regional and local initiatives there are to
promote silver economy and other re-

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 exam-

inference 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 eco-
nomic development. The findings will be discussed in
a comparative perspective, considering the dif-
ferences and similarities between Sami youth per-
spectives 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 eco-
nomic 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 chair-
manship initiative with the OECD Rural Policy
Review. Linking the Indigenous Sami People with Re-

gional Development in Sweden, published in 2019
by focusing specifically on the youth. The project start-
ed 1st of October and the Field work was done dur-
ing winter 2019-2020. The report will be published
during summer 2020, in English and in Sami lan-
guages (with applied funding from Sametinget) and
advertised via newsmail and SOMe as well as
specialty targeted national and regional authorities
working in Sápmi in the first. In addition, there will be
a webinar, in relation to the TG2 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 econ-
omy. This term refers to all economic activities that
are linked to older citizens. Many older people con-
tinue to make valuable economic and societal con-
tributions 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 activ-
ity in older age is vital as it may not only improve
economic productivity and competitiveness but
also increase wellbeing and inclusion while minimiz-
ing 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 ser-

Thematic Group 2: Innovative and Resilient Regions

From January 1st in 2019 Birgitte Wohlf Sem, NO has taken over as Chair of TG2 from Mikko
Huuskonen, FI who now serves as vice chair. Jukka Teräsn 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 conjunc-
tion 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 on-
line 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-mem-
bers 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 region-
al 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 the-
matic group deems these priorities as important
sub-themes with a significant potential and impact
for contributing towards innovative and resilient re-
gions across the Nordic countries. However, the the-
matic group also wishes to underline the inherent
interlinkages between the three priority areas and
therefore highlights its ambition to create projects

This project examines what types of policies
there are to promote silver economy and other re-
lated 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 exam-
ine how the promotion of silver economy could help
rural regions that are facing stagnation 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 SaMe 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.

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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 achieving regional resilience and specialisation, the thematic group also looks into the profound Nordic challenges and opportunities linked 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 that could drive 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 the human processes of changed management practices, new technologies and that technology in itself plays a minor role in the digitalisation process. Digitalisation requires people to acquire new skills (not necessarily digital) to create 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, revalidating the need for transregional digitalisation and that technology in itself plays an important role in the digitalisation process. The project report & policy brief were published in 2019.

450204: 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 Arctic 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 on identifying places 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 furthered 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.

450205: 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 in August 2020. The report will also be accompanied by a webinar towards the end of August, 2020 and a policy brief in September 2020.


The Bothnian Arc Cross-border Resilience study project report was published in 2019.

Cross-border SVinnesund 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 platform for cross-border resilience and innovation in the cross-border region. The study has been able to document and analyse the co-operation and collaboration in the SVinnesund 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 SVinnesund 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 Svinensund). 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 TG2’s 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 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 Reykjavík, 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 Guru 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 Nordic”; 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, regional, 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 cooperation 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, ongoing 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, Soro, Mariannham, Kokkola, Västervik and Måsfellsøi. 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 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 demograph- ic 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. 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 Reykjavik, as a 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.


The Forum was held 29-30 November 2017 at Vulkan in Oslo. Thematic Group 3 contributed to the Nordregio forum by organizing 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 Nordregio researchers acted as discussion chairs. Among other was discussed: Risks and opportunities with digitalisation; Who are ‘smart cities’ for? Digital divide; 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 ef-
serts are investigated: a fast train vision for Oslo-
\textit{Smooth the ferry connection Umeå-Vasa, 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 syn-
thesis publication for the project as a whole will be published, and a digital dissemination seminar will take place, preliminary in September 2020. The project’s minor under spending, 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 over-
spending in other T03 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 po-
tential for growth (e.g. skilled population); Demo-
graphic 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 strength-
ness, but on the other hand they do not pay any tax 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 busi-
ness, 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 fully consider the impact of the national manuscripts and brainstormed fu-
ture regional 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 inter-
national outlook. The book will be published by Ar-
vins & Orfeus (SE) during winter 2020-2021.

450307 Urban visions of the green and recrea-
tive city (2019-2020) This project has as its activity to bring forward new planning and design visions and proposals for the green and recreational Nordic city, and thereby con-
tribute to the development of the sustainable city of the future in a Nordic context. Through research and a workshop new proposals for the preserva-
tion and design of green spaces and public spac-
es for recreation in Nordic cities will be discussed and developed by invited architects, landscape architects, urban designers, students, research-
ers. Five Nordic experts have drafted a “state of the art” paper for each Nordic Country, which in-
clude descriptions and reflections on recent urban design,landscape architecture practices and plan-
ning tools facilitating urban greenspace development/ preservation in a national context. Each paper includes documented feedback by external discusants from the practitioner and academic communities. The main activities are taking place in 2020. A Nordic workshop was help in Stockholm in January, and was attended by more than 50 participants and 40 online participants. The work-
shop presented provided feedback for the drafts of the national manuscripts and brainstormed fu-
ture regional 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 inter-
national outlook. The book will be published by Ar-
vins & Orfeus (SE) during winter 2020-2021.

450308 Housing construction in the market pe-
riphery (2019-2020) The purpose of the project in the Nordic countries differ regarding available tenure forms and financing systems and are therefore interesting to compare. This project examined housing policies and plan-
ning strategies in the housing “market periphery” on the national and municipal level in the Nordics, i.e. housing for students, elderly, newly arrived im-
igrants 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 fo-
cus was primarily on the governance and financing of construction of new housing, but it was neces-
sary, to have an overview of all other relevant poli-
cies. One expert per country was commissioned to write a short text on the topic of “housing con-
struction, market peripheries and interesting solu-
tions” for their own country. The following experts were contracted: Ann Forsvik (SE), Birgit Irene Nordahl NIBR (NO), Jón Rúnar Sveinsson, Reykjavík Academy (IS), Curt Lilien-
green, Boligakonomisk Videnscenter (DK), Antti Kuvivinen, 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 imple-
mentations of strategies related to universal de-
sign, accessibility and disability issues in urban planning. We will investigate such as: public trans-
port solutions for a person with disability, the or-
ganization of planning for accessibility and mo-
bility for all, barriers to implementation etc. The em-
pirical focus is urban public space and planning and design for accessibility and mobility for all. This includes urban design of public spaces and public buildings, policies for access to public trans-
port and taxi service, digital services for informa-
tion and accessibility. The project is being done in collaboration with the Nordic Welfare Center. As the start of the project the idea was also to investigate the “smart city” in a disability perspec-
tive. 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 con-
text. 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 in 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 differ-
ent Nordic cities are working with these questions from a different perspective. We find a diversi-
ty, environment and general awareness from na-
tional governments and society, which impact the
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 related to the topics in all TG1’s 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 integration 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
The Arctic aspect is considered 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.


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**

- …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 and cases in our work, where it makes sense.

**An overview of dissemination**
• Mäenpää, A & Teräs, J 2018: In Search of Doo Peer reviewed Articles and Books port: Policy and literature review. Discussion paper vative and Resilient Nordic Regions. Preliminary re-
• Cuadrado, A, Lundgren, A, Wøien, M, Teräs, J Preliminary report: Policy and literature review. Dis - ning innovation and resilience in Nordic regions. Pre-
• Kristensen, I, Teräs, J, Wøien, M & Rinne T 2018: Regional Economic Transition in the Nordic Regions. ISSN: 2001-3876
• Giacometti A., Teräs J, Perjo L, Wøien M, Sigur - talisation as a tool for sustainable Nordic regio -
• Wøien, M, & Teräs, J 2019: Implementing Smart Specialisation strategies in Nordic regions. ISSN: 2001-3876

Media coverage TG1 articles
• TG1: Ledebys näster ros fra forskningspros- jekt. Interview with NRK-Finnmark https://radio. nrk.no/serie/districtsprogram-finnmark/ DKF01022318/07-11-2018#t=3h1m02s 7 Novem - 3rd party tracking

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 lan - guages. More details regarding dissemination for the individual projects are specified under each ac - tivity and TG.

TG2
• Nuoriso jakautuu menestyjiin ja kotona istu -
• Austur Frett (17.8.2019) Gunnar Gunnarsson: Un

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 stakeholders groups who have signed up to hear from us. NewsMail For - mat is more receiver oriented than a Newsletter, and so they are carefully targeted to each stake - holder 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 mem - bers) NewsMails. The NewsMails have increased the number of subscribers and downloads for Nor - dig reports and created interaction and inter - est.

TG1
• TG1 Potential and Challenges across Nordic Rural Regions: Nordic research conference on Nordic ru - ral research Vingsted, DK, 2018
• TG1 People, jobs and attractive places: Marie - hinn, August 2018

Nordregio TG Status Report 2020
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 the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway (May 2019)

TG3
- TG3 Presentation on harmonization of Nordic grid level statistics at Statistics Sweden’s SBT Conference, Lidingö, 8 October 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, Folkemadet, Bornholm, June 15, 2019
- 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 – Protestating against housing for refugees – how do municipalities respond? Presentation at workshop "Vad var flyktingkrisen", Galleri BOX, Göteborg 10.11.2019
- TG3 video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=time_continue=2&v=5swiBaqPUw - TG3 video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iq

11.0.2019
- TG1 Attractiveness & MUSE-PRO projects presented at the Finnish Parliament 25.2.2020
- Video on the TG1: NEEt’s project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pcw485s9-PMB8&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, Mosjaen, Nordland (Hasten 2018)
- TG 1 / TG2 joint seminars with Tolvåkerket 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.
### Social Media

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