

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

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

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

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

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| 14:30 | <i>Registration and coffee</i> |
| 15:00 | <u>Welcome words</u> Erik Bergkvist , NSPA representative, Chair of Region Västerbotten, Sweden |
| 15:05 | <u>Key Notes</u> Markku Markkula , Chair of the European Committee of the Regions, Brussels Mari Kiviniemi , Deputy Director-General, OECD, Paris Normunds Popenis , Deputy Director-General, DG Regio, European Commission, Brussels |
| 15:35 | <u>Presentation of the OECD territorial review on the NSPA</u> Chris McDonald , Policy Analyst, Regional Development Policy, OECD, Paris |
| 16:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 16:20 | <u>Introduction of panel by the moderator</u> Abel Schumann , Economist, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD, Paris |
| 16:30 | <u>Introductory statements</u> Representative from DG Agri, European Commission, Brussels, <i>to be confirmed</i> Edward Bannerman , Cabinet Expert to EU Commissioner Jyrkki Katainen, Brussels (TBC) Tomas Norvoll , NSPA representative, President of Nordland County Government, Norway Elisabeth Backteman , State secretary, Enterprise department, Sweden (TBC) Kaisa-Leena Lintilä , Director, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Finland (TBC) Grete Ellingsens , State Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway |
| 17:00 | <u>Panel discussion with Q&A</u> Panel also including Chris McDonald , Erik Bergkvist and Pentti Mäkinen |
| 17:45 | <u>Closing Remarks</u> Mari Kiviniemi , Deputy Director General, OECD, Paris Pentti Mäkinen , NSPA representative, County Governor South Savo, Finland |
| 18:00 | <i>Reception with welcoming addresses from NSPA representatives</i> Satu Vehreävesa , Chair NSPA network, Regional Development Director Pohjois-Savo, Finland Cecilie Myrseth , Chair of Troms County Government, Norway Swedish regional representative <i>to be confirmed</i> |

Register before 24/2 via your regional NSPA coordinator or: martha.bahta@northsweden.eu

NSPA delegates will receive confirmation from their regional contact asap, others after 24th of February