

Sustainable Innovation in Less Urban Areas in the North

Renaissance for Remote Rurban Regions through Research - the case of Less Urban Areas in the North

14:30-17:00, 11 October 2016
Scotland House, Rond-Point Schuman 6, Brussels, Belgium

Welcome by Scotland Europa: Sarah English, Head of Office and EU Policy Manager

Session #1

Introduction and political perspectives on Renaissance for Remote Rurban Regions in the North

14:30 Introductory words

Erik Bergkvist, Chair of Region Västerbotten, Sweden.

Key Note on EU and regional development in the Arctic North

Elisabeth Vik Aspaker, Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, and Nordic cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.

The EU regional policy as a tool for also less-populated regions

Jens Nilsson, Member of the European Parliament, Sweden, and member of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development.

Session #2

OECD perspectives and dialogue on regional development in less densely populated areas

14:50 OECD regional outlook 2016 on less populated regions

José-Enrique Garcilazo, Head of Unit Rural Programme at OECD, Paris, in charge of the regional outlook and on-going OECD-study for the 14 regions in NSPA.

15:15 Comments from the speakers and the floor.

Session #3

Best practices for research as a tool for development strategies in Less Urban Areas in the North

15:45 Innovating business support to close the productivity gap in Scotland's rural economy

Donna Chisholm, Regional Head of Sectors, Innovation and Programmes, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland, UK.

The Academia as a partner for smart regional development

Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Luleå University of Technology, Sweden.

The case of E-health as a strategic investment in the front-line in less urban areas

Tove Sorensen, Norwegian Centre for e-Health Research, and Head of the WHO Collaboration Centre for Telemedicine and e-Health, Norway.

The Lapland Arctic Smart Specialisation strategy

Harri Malinen, University of Lapland, Senior Expert, Project Manager for Arctic Smartness Excellence (a S3 strategy implementation ERDF Project).

16:25 Debate with all speakers and the audience.

Session #4

Wrap-up for continued debate, dialogue and implementation

16:55 Closing remarks

Erik Bergkvist, Chair of Region Västerbotten, Sweden.

17:00 Reception