



South Savo  
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*Concluding remarks*

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## The NSPA

- Is a dynamic and modern European area and an active partner in the EU – but is also hit by the ongoing economic crisis
- Consists of regions with mainly similar conditions but partly diversified economic profiles
- Has rich natural resources, unique nature values, space, strong SMEs, skilled labour force, high level universities, green technology
- has long experience of cross-border cooperation with Russia, exploiting the potential of St Petersburg and Barents region



## The NSPA offers added value for Europe

- By exploiting its vast natural resources and special expertise for the benefit of the whole Europe
- By providing innovative technical and service solutions for sparsely populated areas
- By contributing to the climate change



## The NSPA still needs

- Sufficient and versatile tools for regional development to compensate the permanent handicap due to its sparse population, long distances, remoteness and harsh climate
  - To stimulate the NSPA's global competitiveness
  - To stimulate the NSPA's demographic development
  - To take full advantage of the special expertise of the NSPA



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## The regions are now working

- With the national governments to promote the NSPA regions' thinking in the national regional policy
- With the regional partners to get the full regional capacity in use
- With the European institutions to convince the EU that NSPA regions are able to promote the EU policies – and that the EU needs the NSPA



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## On behalf of the East Finland region

- I want to thank all our partners of the good work done so far
- I am confident that our good cooperation within the NSPA, with our national governments, within the EU, crossing the borders and globally will continue with success and with a proper contribution of the EU also in the future
- I wish you a nice autumn and a safe trip back home!