

**Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) Forum
21-22 May 2012, Oulu, Finland**

Programme

Tuesday, 21st of May 2013

Venue: Oulu City Hall, Kirkkokatu 2a

18:00–19:30 Official NSPA Reception hosted by the City of Oulu

Wednesday, 22nd of May 2013

Venue: Restaurant *Vanha Paloasema*, 3rd floor, meeting room “Vanhan Paloaseman Ullakko”, Kauppurienväylä 24

08:30 Opening Session

- Welcome
Ms. Tytti Tuppurainen, MP, Vice Chairwoman, Board of the Oulu Regional Council
- Introduction to the NSPA future priorities
Mr. Kari Aalto, Director, East and North Finland EU Office

08:50 The European Commission expectations for 2014–2020

- How is NSPA connected to the EU macro-regional strategies? How can the European Territorial Cooperation be used as an efficient tool for NSPA cooperation?
Mr. Axel Rød, Programme Manager, Competence Centre Macro-regions and European Territorial Co-operation, DG REGIO

09:30 NSPA views on smart specialisation and smart cooperation

- Introduction
Ms. Janika Luukinen, Special Advisor, East and North Finland EU Office
- Smart specialisation in Oulu Region
Mr. Mikko Väisänen, Manager for R&D, Council of Oulu Region
- Nordland's approach to smart specialisation
Benedicte Solaas, Advisor, Nordland County
- Smart sparsely populated regions
Lars Wikman, Senior Adviser in European Affairs, North Sweden European Office
- Discussion

11:00 NSPA way forward

- Political group views on the future
Ms. Satu Vehreävesa, Director of Regional development, Regional Council of North-Savo

11:20 Conclusions and invitation to the next NSPA Forum in North Sweden

11:30 Lunch