

Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) Forum 18th-19th of April 2012 Sundsvall, Mid Sweden

Draft programme 13th of April

The NSPA Forum is a place to share ideas and best practises and also to define common objectives and goals for the future. The Sundsvall Forum focuses on the thematic concentration of the next EU funding period and the opportunities that it brings to the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas.

Draft programme

Venue: Hotel Södra berget, Sundsvall, Sweden

WEDNESDAY 18th of APRIL

16.30 **Study visits: Snow Cooling System**
and MIUN Innovation (Mid Sweden University).
Please see links below and practical information.

19.30 **Official NSPA Reception and dinner**
- hosted by the County Council of Västernorrland

THURSDAY 19th of APRIL

09.00 **Opening session**
- *Welcome*

Ms. Åsa Möller, Chairwoman
County Council of
Västernorrland

- *Introduction of the NSPA network*

Kari Aalto, North Finland EU
Office

09.20 **The proposal of the European Commission**
- thematic priorities connected to ERDF, ESF and
territorial cooperation

Ms. Charlina VITCHEVA, Head of
Directorate H, DG Regio

10.00 **Relevance and effectiveness of support to
regions with specific geographical features**
- study on ERDF and Cohesion Fund (CF) support
to regions with specific geographical features -
islands, mountainous and sparsely populated
areas, commissioned by DG Regio.

Dr Benito GIORDANO, Expert
Regional Development, Analysis
for Economic Decisions (ADE)

10.30 **National perspectives on the proposal of the
European Commission**
- Finland, Norway and Sweden

- 11.20 **NSPA perspectives on the proposal of the European Commission**
- Presentation of the NSPA position paper (draft) and introduction to the workshops
- 12.00 *LUNCH*
- 13.00 **Workshops on ERDF, ESF and territorial cooperation**
- 14.00 **Conclusion of the workshops**
- 14.30 *BREAK*
- 14.45 **Adoption of the NSPA position**
- 15.00 **Summary, conclusion, and invitation to the next NSPA Forum**

More information on the study visits:

Snow Cooling System

<http://www.lvn.se/v1/In-english1/In-english/Environment-and-energy/Energy-Factor-2/Snow-cooling-in-Sundsvall/>

MIUN Innovation

<http://www.miun.se/en/External-relations/MIUN-Innovation/>

The regions of North Finland, East Finland, North Norway, North Sweden and Mid Sweden have many common circumstances such as sparse population, harsh climate and long distances. This part of Europe is also specifically affected by globalisation, energy-supply, climate change and demographic change. The region has a population density of only 4.9 inhabitants per km², something that cannot be found in any other part of the European Union.

The NSPA network consists of 14 regions in three countries sharing common circumstances and objectives, working together to raise awareness of the region in the EU institutions, to influence EU policy and to provide a platform for best practise.