

A map of Northern Europe, specifically focusing on Scandinavia. Finland is highlighted in a solid red color, while Sweden and Norway are shown in a lighter blue. The surrounding seas and other landmasses are also in shades of blue.

NSPA Forum Bodö 5.11.2014

The Road Ahead

Kari Aalto, East and North Finland EU Office

Europe 2020 targets

1. Employment

- 75% of the 20-64 year-olds to be employed

2. R&D

- 3% of the EU's GDP to be invested in R&D

3. Climate change and energy sustainability

- **greenhouse gas emissions 20%** (or even **30%**, if the conditions are right) **lower than 1990**
- **20% of energy from renewables**
- **20% increase in energy efficiency**

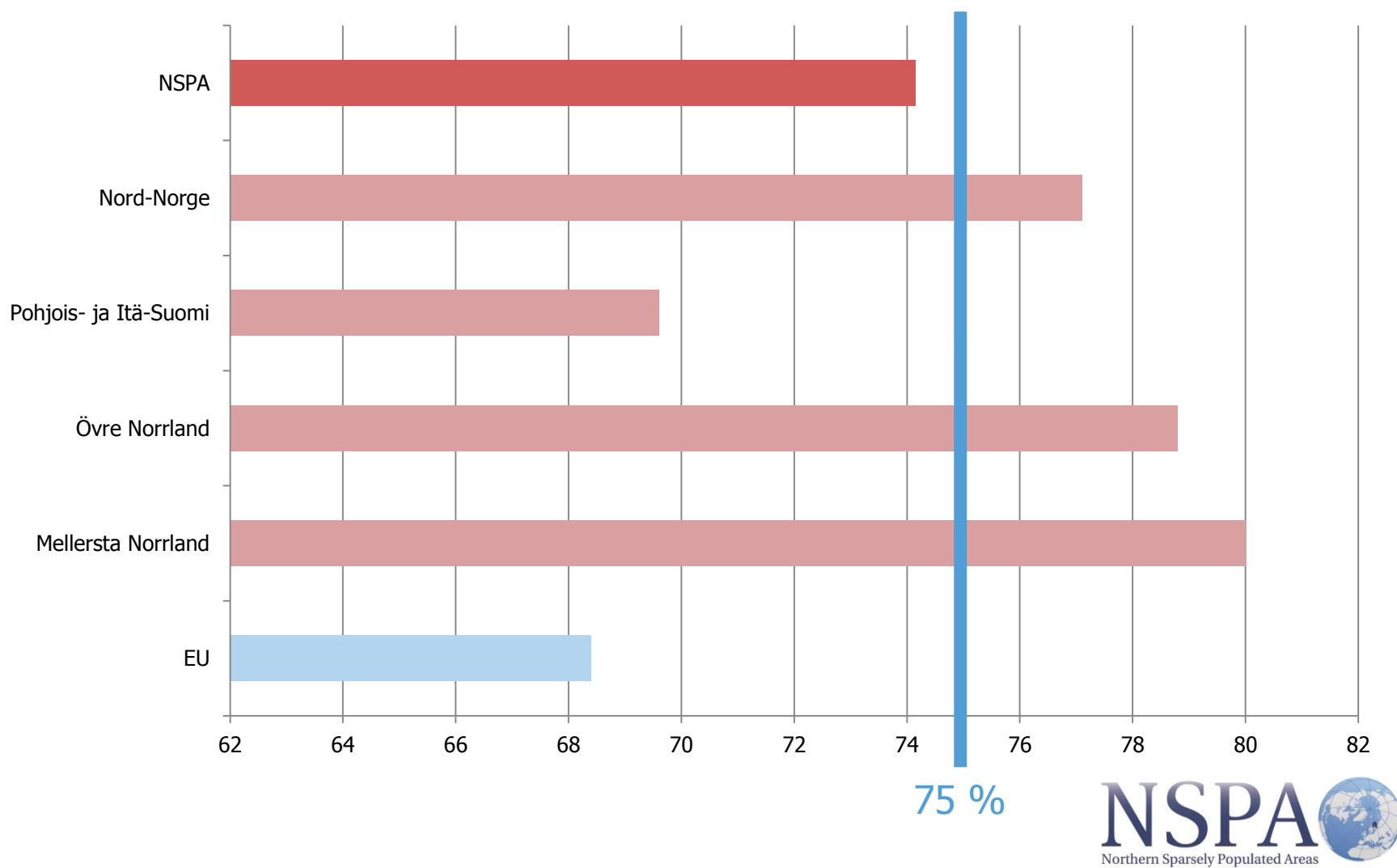
4. Education

- **Reducing the rates of early school leaving below 10%**
- **at least 40% of 30-34-year-olds completing third level education**

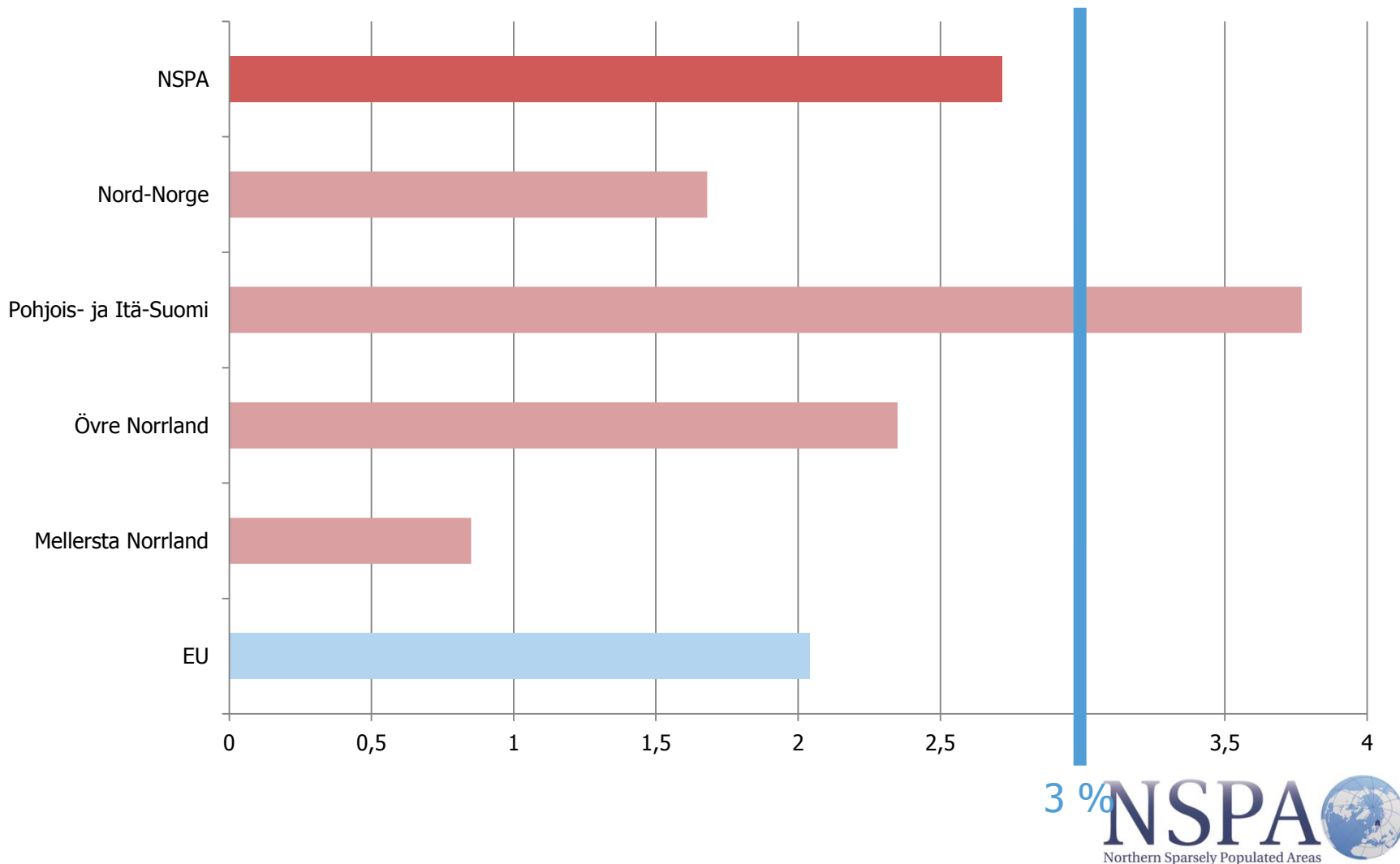
5. Fighting poverty and social exclusion

- **at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion**

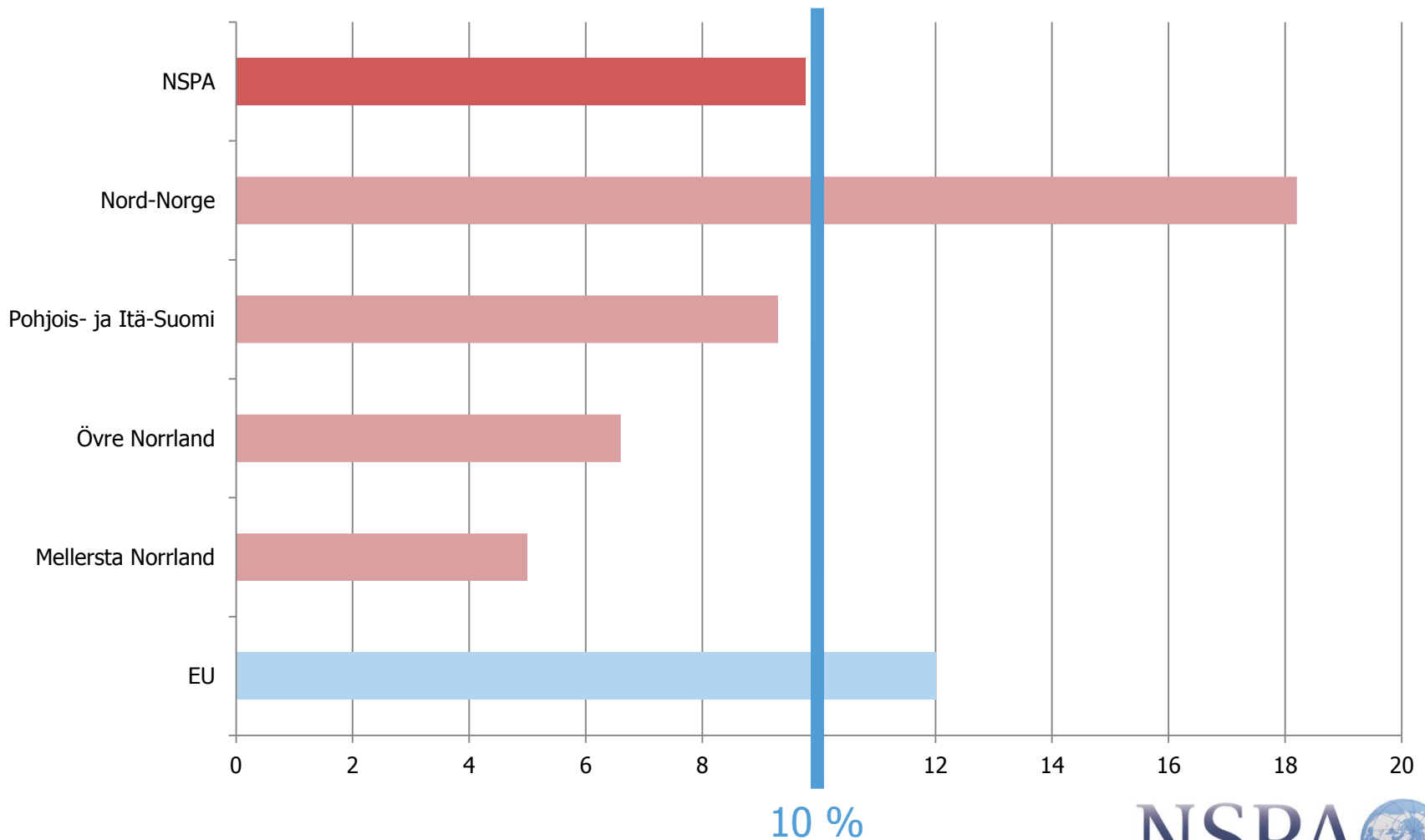
Employment rate, ages 20-64, %



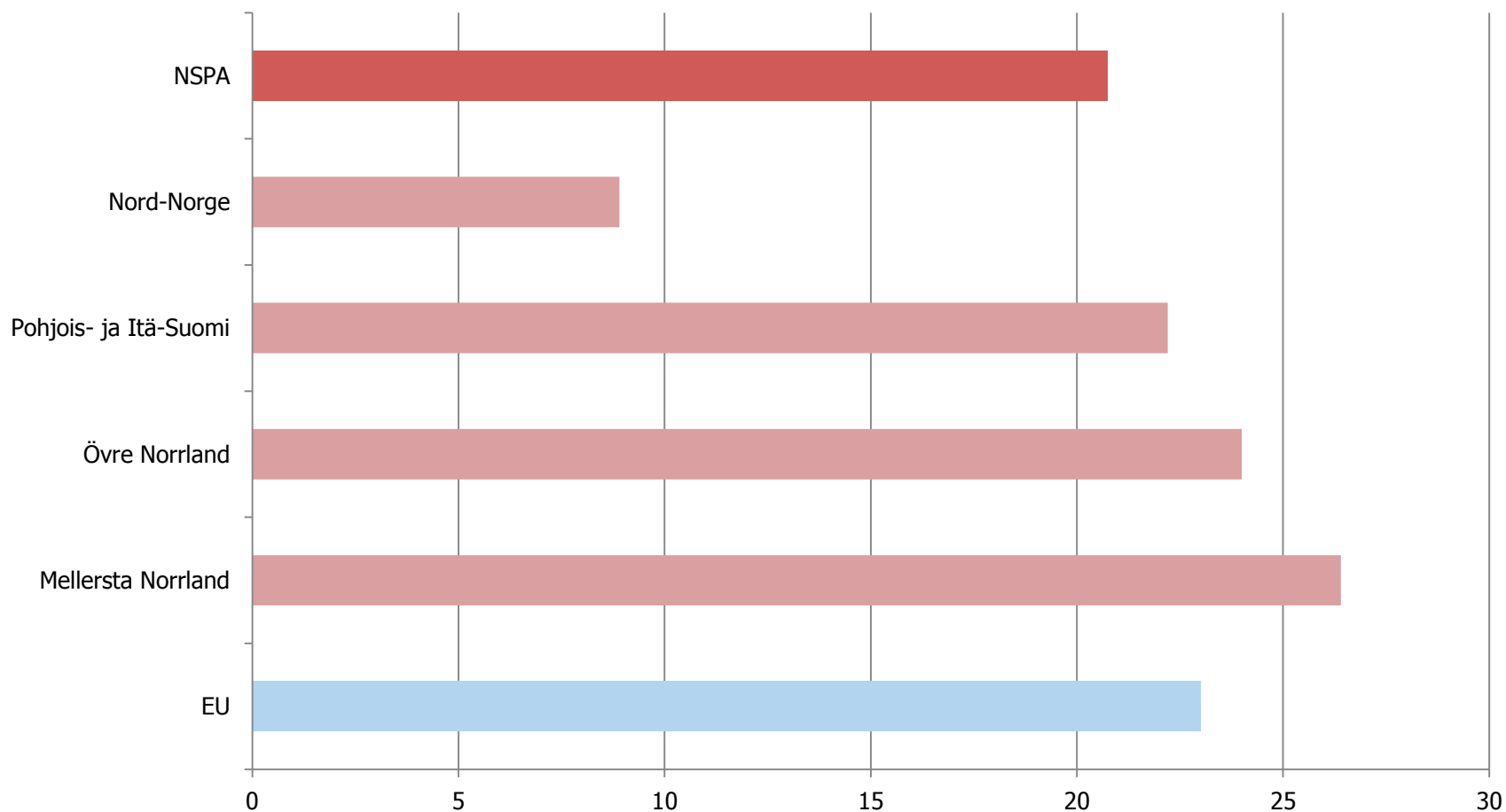
Share of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD), %



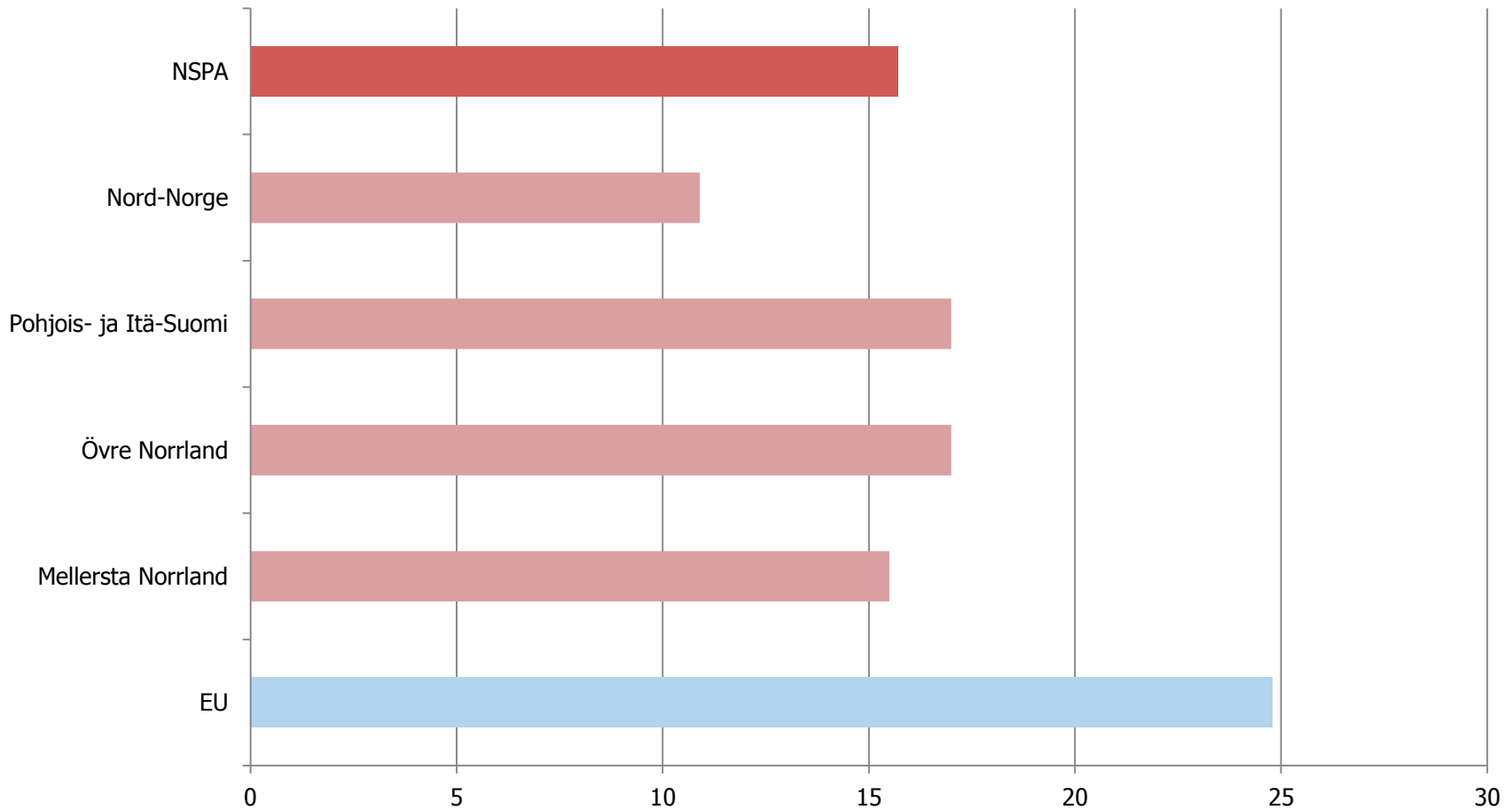
Early leavers from education and training, ages 18-24, %



Unemployment, ages 15-24, %



At-risk-of-poverty rate, %



Clear message from the Commission: Stop talking and start acting!

- NSPA region can pioneer innovation for sparsely populated areas
 - Broadband for SME a necessity and an attractiveness
 - ITC solutions – citizen service – demographic challenge
 - Green solutions; using wood instead of oil, green mining,
 - Renewable energy & energy efficiency
- Funding programming period 2014-2020
 - Focus on achieving the Europe 2020 targets
 - Cooperation for common challenges

Showing results and added value for Europe!



Platforms and initiatives as tools to reach the EU2020 targets for the NSPA

- NSPA a Smart Region in the EU - Smart Specialization
- NSPA commitment in the European Innovation Partnership for Smart Cities and Communities
- OECD study a tool for lobbying

Keys for success?

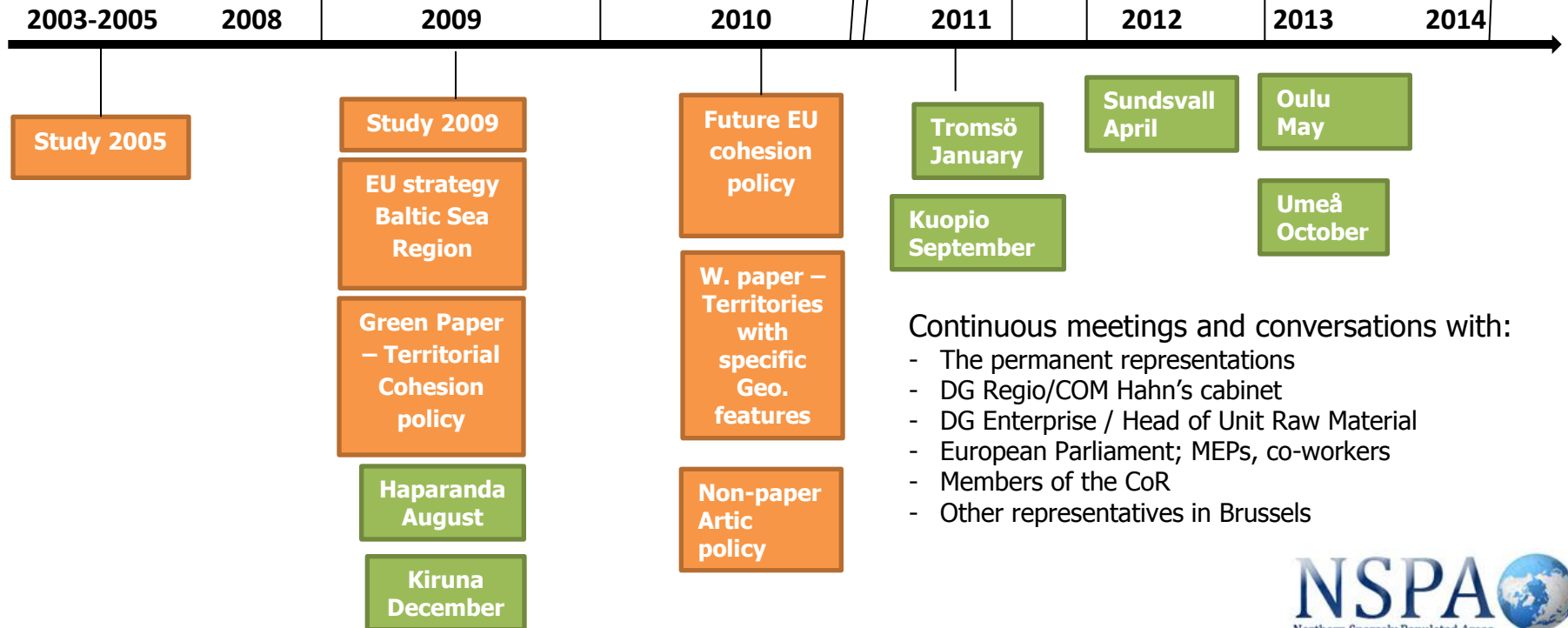
Publications/position papers
NSPA forums
Meetings
Presentations
Seminars/workshops
Letters to COM etc.

Various NSPA position documents...

- NO-RUS Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Dimension Steering group
- EP Intergroup 174
- Barents regional Council

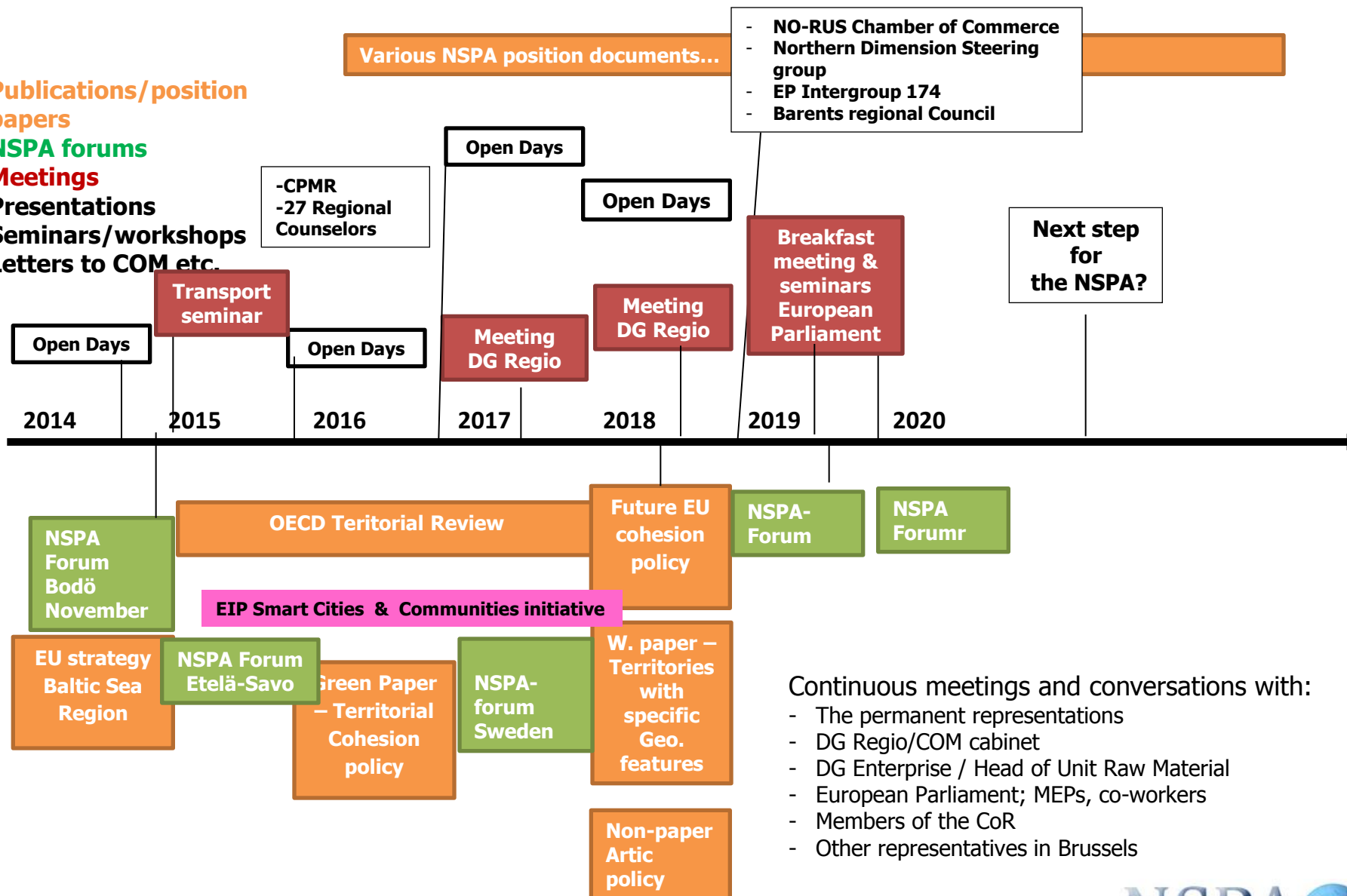
Objective 2 initiative

Next step for the NSPA?



Long term planning and proactivity

Publications/position papers
NSPA forums
Meetings
Presentations
Seminars/workshops
Letters to COM etc.



Continuous meetings and conversations with:

- The permanent representations
- DG Regio/COM cabinet
- DG Enterprise / Head of Unit Raw Material
- European Parliament; MEPs, co-workers
- Members of the CoR
- Other representatives in Brussels

NSPA - the Road Ahead

- OECD study, what's in it for NSPA Regions?
- Transport and logistics in the NSPA
- 2014-2020 implementation in the NSPA, cooperation also inside NSPA -> track record to show for the Commission
- EIP, other thematic cooperation
- More active dialogue between NSPA regions
- Russia
- Arctic competence
- Natural resources and increased refinement
- Sustainable, smart and proud region in Europa

A map of Canada with the Northern Sparsely Populated Areas (NSPA) highlighted in red. The red area covers a large portion of the northern half of the country, including the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. The rest of the map is in light blue, and the oceans are in a darker blue.

Thank You