

# IMPLEMENTING SMART SPECIALISATION IN THE EUROPEAN ARCTIC LESSONS LEARNED

ARCTIC FRONTIERS

Tromsø, January 29, 2020

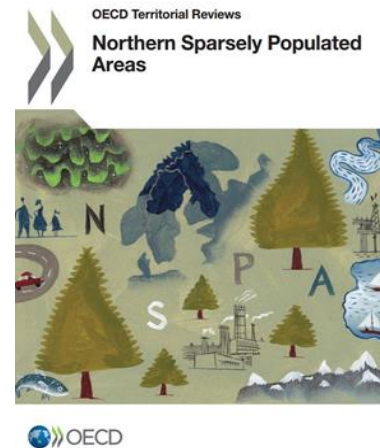
Jukka Teräs, Senior researcher, NORCE



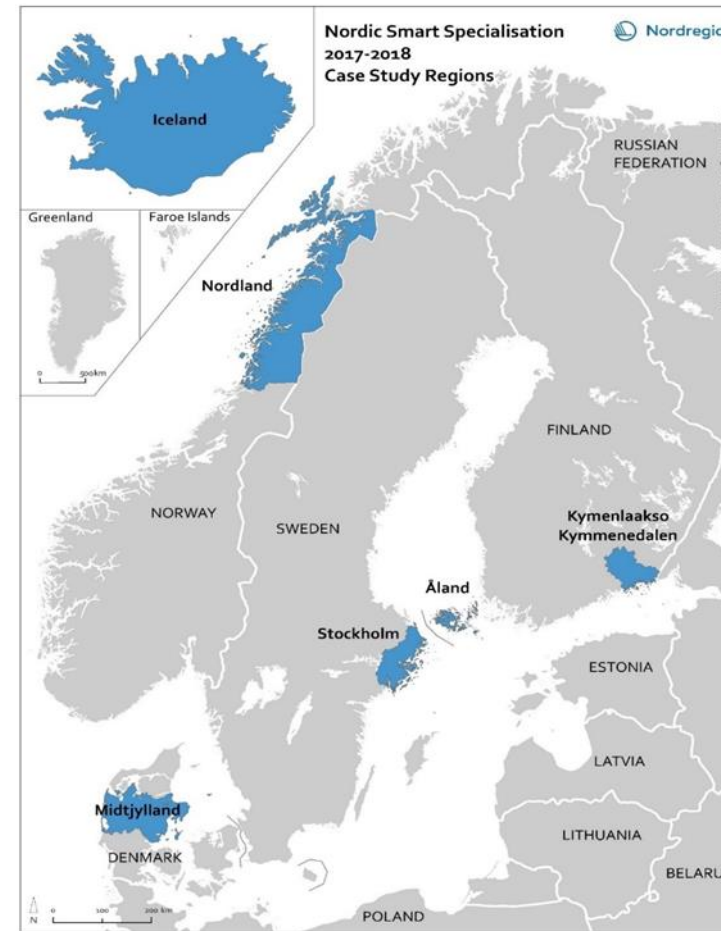
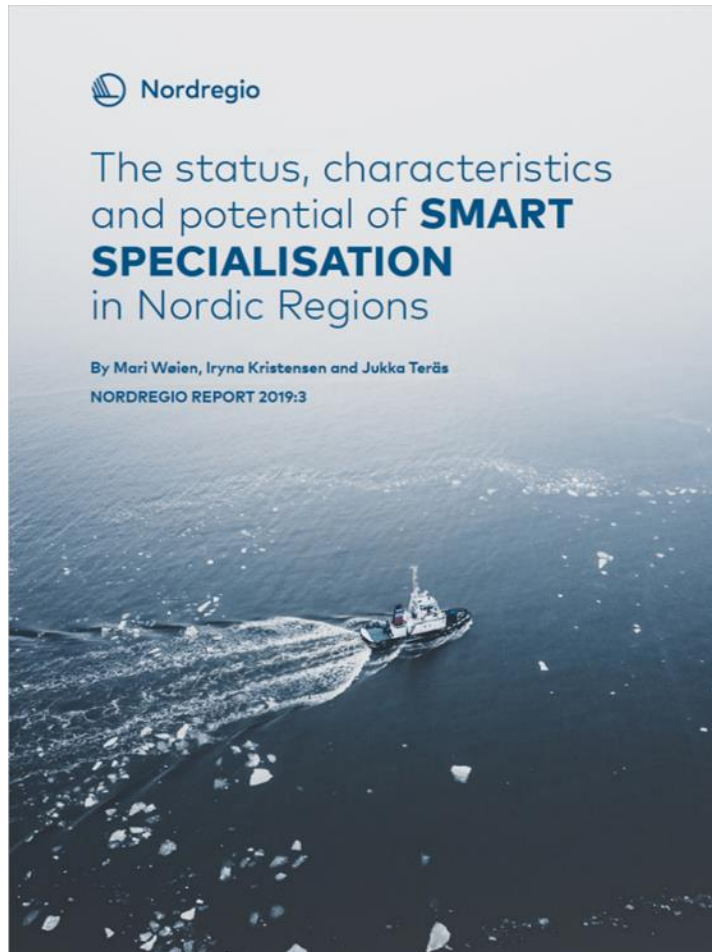
# Arctic Innovation and Smart Specialisation: studies & reports



- OECD Territorial Review: Northern Sparsely Populated Areas 2017
- EU JRC / Nordregio study: 'Implementing Smart Specialisation in Sparsely Populated Areas' 2016
- Regional smart specialisation strategies & development plans



# Nordic Smart Specialisation Study (Nordregio 2018-19)



# Nordic Smart specialisation study: conclusions



- Smart specialisation has reached the Nordics - including the non-EU country of Norway
- Forerunner regions take full advantage of smart specialisation , including e.g. regional branding
- Broad view of innovation - smart specialisation with also branches and actors outside high tech
- “De-facto” S3 - some innovative activities fall “under radar” of smart specialisation
- Greener smart innovation: constantly increasing

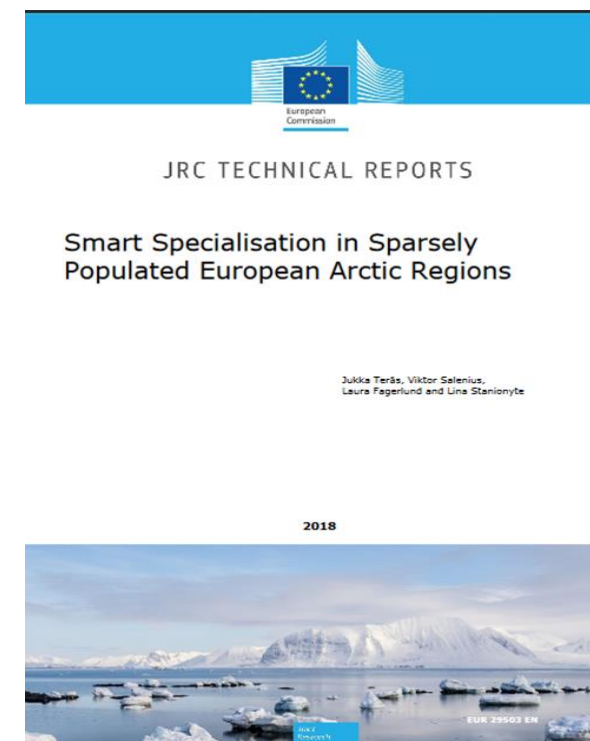


# Smart specialisation in European Arctic (EU JRC / Nordregio 2018)



*“The purpose of this report is to explore how smart specialisation (S3) has been applied in the European Arctic”*

Region	Lapland	Norrbotten	Västerbotten	Nordland	Troms	Finnmark
Population (2017)	180 207	250 570	265 881	242 866	165 362	76 149

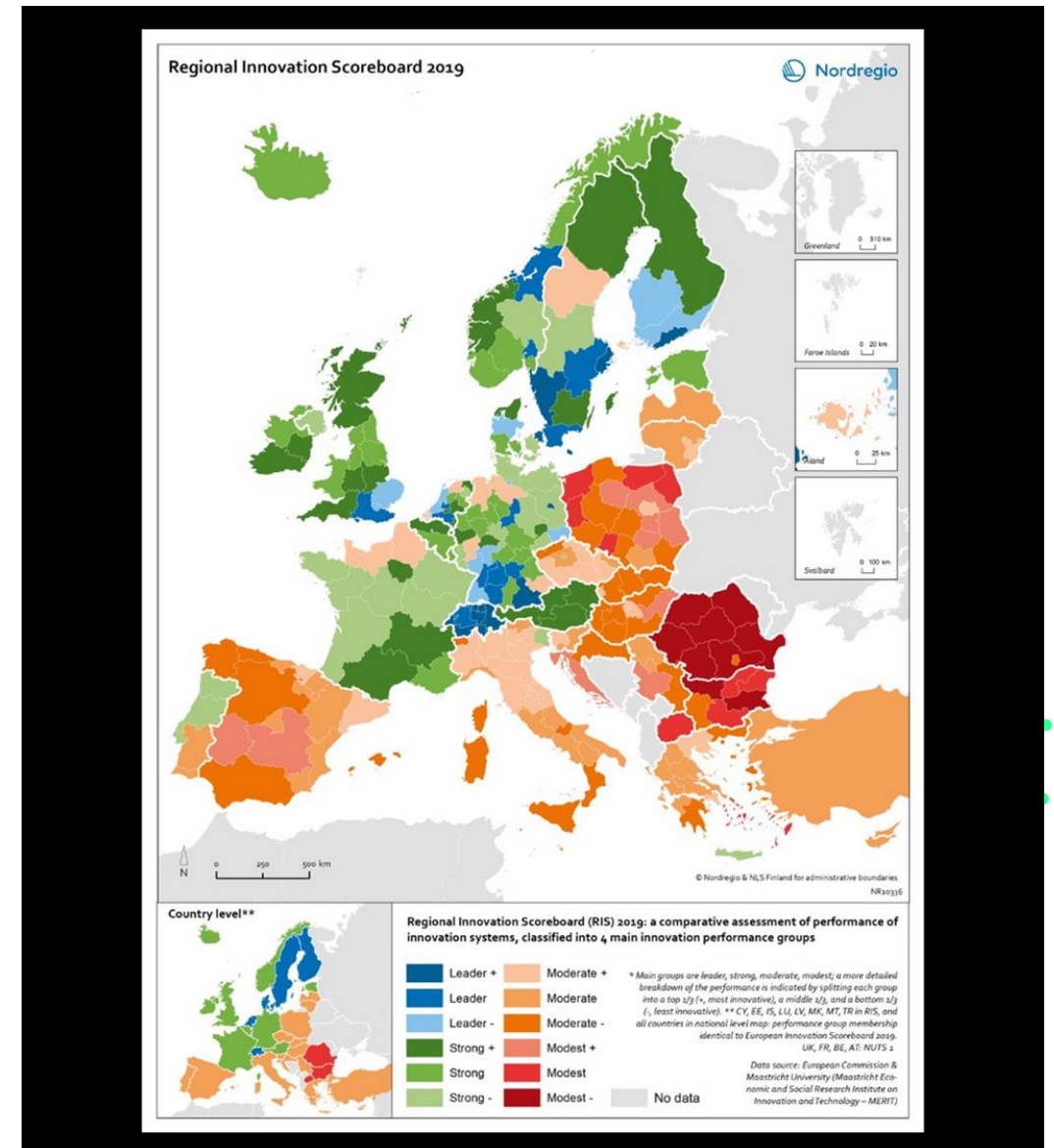




# European Arctic and regional innovation



- Main industries: Mining, forestry, fisheries, reindeer and sheep herding, energy, metal and machine industries
- Less diversified and networked economies due to long distances, sparse population, and challenging natural conditions.
- Priorities: Improve digital infrastructure; support SMEs and diversification in local economies; strengthen transport networks.



# S3 Arctic : Good practice collaboration cases



Case	Specialisation
Visit Arctic Europe	Cross-region collaboration among <b>SMEs in the tourism sector</b> who share same Arctic conditions.
Regina LS3	Support of <b>Local Smart Specialisation</b> as a specific strategy for small and remote communities across the Nordic Region.
Lapland as an Arctic leader in S3 platforms	Lapland's regional authorities engaging on Arctic thematic specialisations in <b>transnational partnerships</b> across Europe.
Pilot Action: Regions in Industrial Transition	Monitor and support modern cluster development in Eastern and Northern Finland (test region).
Arctic Investment Platform	Cross-region <b>financial co-operation</b> in circular economy, transport, and green energy solutions.

# S3 and Arctic: key findings



- The Arctic Region hosts a unique natural and socio-economic environment in which sustainable utilisation of natural resources plays a decisive role.
- The Arctic is not lagging behind by default – but it faces challenges due to climate and location.
- Smart specialisation strategies have been developed in European Nordic Arctic – with promising transregional/transnational initiatives
- Successful implementation of S3 and mobilisation of actors: e.g. in Lapland, Finland





## Arctic bioeconomy and Smart specialisation: Lapland, Finland

### ADDING VALUE BY PROCESSING



(Havukainen 2018 Rovaniemi)

Forest of  **Lapland**

# S3 and Arctic: Recommendations



- Importance of networking – to ensure critical mass
- Balance: economic, social, and environmental sustainability
- Smart specialisation: strategy - but so much also about implementation
- Invest in smart communication of S3

