

Smart specialization in Norrbotten

Norrbotten in brief

- The county is the largest in Sweden. - the area of Norrbotten constitutes a quarter of Sweden
- The region has a population of **approximately 250 000 people**, or 2,5 percent of Sweden's total population.
- If the population density of Norrbotten was equal to the EU average, **12 million people** would be living here.
- Norrbotten have approximately 20 000 Company – Largest is LKAB, Boliden, SSAB, Smurfit kappa, Billerud Korsnäs, SCANIA, Vattenfall. (GRP approximately 50 %)
- Luleå University of Technology about 15 000 student



Business in Norrbotten

- Production of raw materials is the main driver for growth in Norrbotten (GRP approximately 50 % - mining, forestry, steel industry and hydropower)
- Public sector is a major employer
- Specialization and diversification
- Unique characteristics – cold climate, sparsely populated areas, clean and safe energy – test operations, tourism and datacenter locations



Challenges for SMEs – Need cross-border collaboration

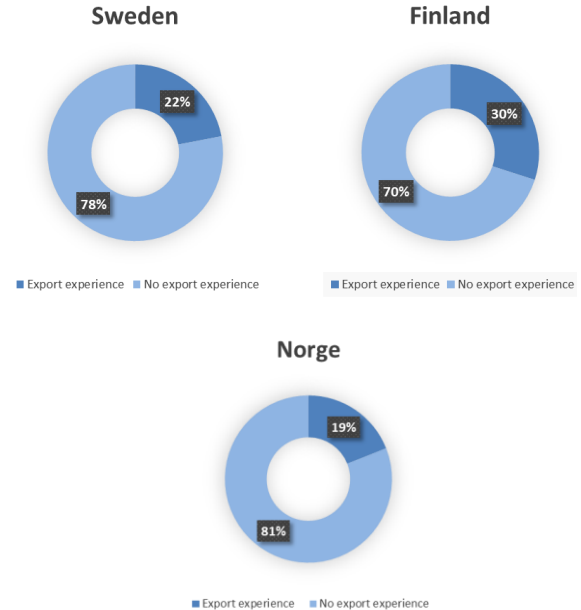
R&D intensity - Few companies invest in R&D .

- around 17 percent of companies invest in R&D (2019)

Gender distribution

- around 20 percent of the employees were women (2019).

SMEs - International export



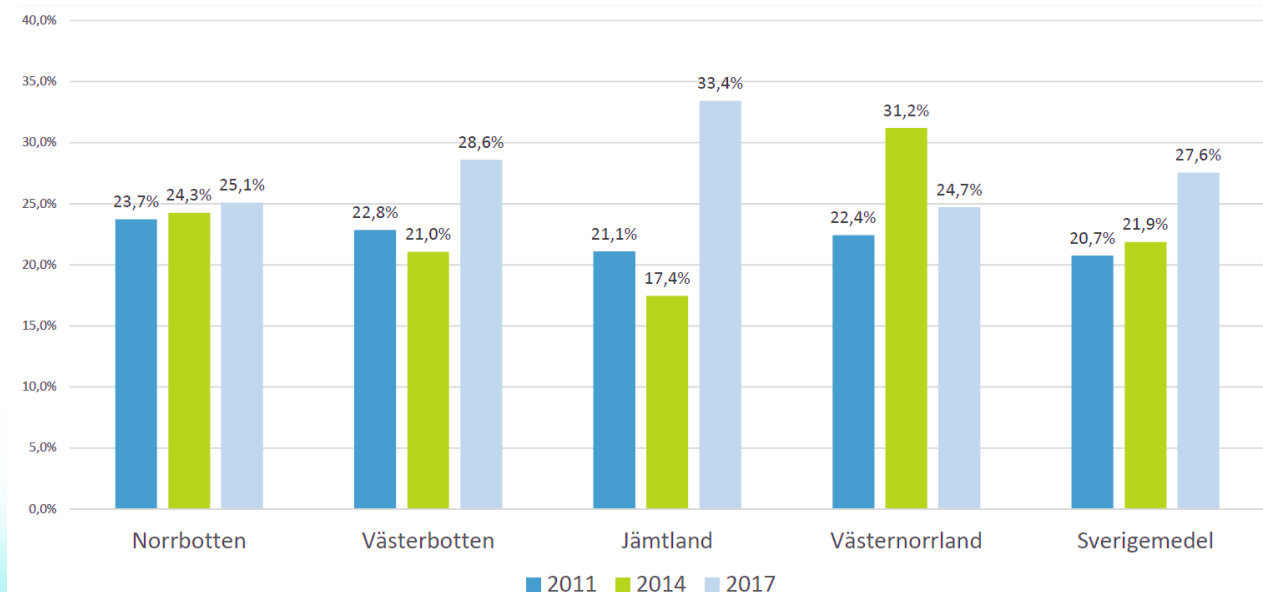
Digitalization and business in Norrbotten- – Need cross-border collaboration

Knowledge state

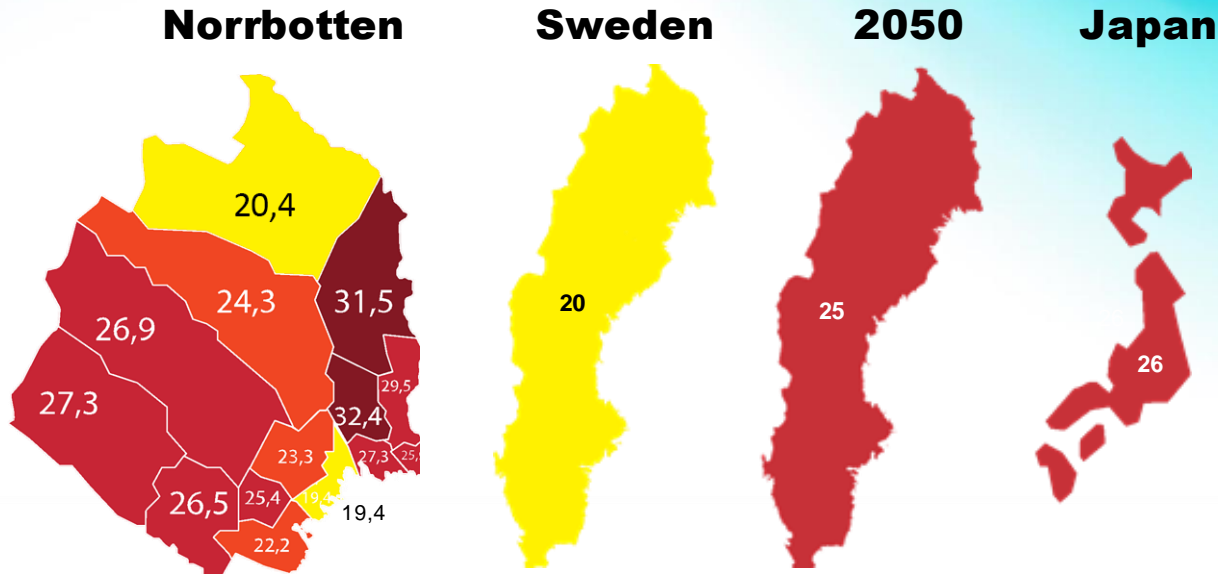
- 66% of the company's employee are able to handle computers and ordinary software
- 11% of business executives say there is no one in the business who can handle computers and standard software



The proportion of SMEs who believe that a lack of adequate labor is a major obstacle to growth – Need cross-border collaboration



Our demographic lead – Need cross-border collaboration



*Percentage of the population over 65 years

Challenges - fully automated mines – Need cross-border collaboration



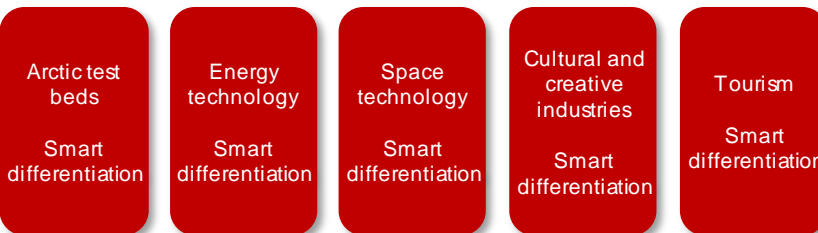
<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/norrboten/lkab-nya-huvudnivaer-och-automatiserad-drift>

Strategic challenges

Open innovations are the best way to solve them. Gender equality, integration, diversity, indigenous peoples, innovation processes and the public sector

Nature-based economy, i.e. mineral resources and forestry resources as well as unique energy infrastructure are the economic backbone of Norrbotten. (Smart specialization S3)

Related variation



Future areas
-10 to 15 years

The other major BRP part of Norrbotten's economy is the public sector. There, the state, municipalities and county councils accounted for 42% of total employment (Smart society)

Big challenges

Strategic opportunities

- A. Digitalization that creates global competitiveness
- B. Surveillance for sustainable growth
- C. Creating test beds that make public sector innovation environments available
- D. Creating clusters and attractive innovative environments
- E. Efficient collaboration between innovation actors

Thank You!

Region Norrbotten
www.norrbotten.se

What does Smart specialization mean based on related variation

Cold climate, Green Energy and connection to Luleå University of Technology



Future areas - strength and weakness

Areas	Research	Large companies	Medium sized companies	Micro and small businesses	comments
Space technology <i>Smart differentiation</i>	Yes	No	No	Yes	One Company .
Tourism <i>Smart differentiation</i>	Nej	Nej	Nej	Ja	No research on turism,
Nature-based economy <i>Smart specialization</i>	Ja	Ja	Ja	Ja	Has all areas

