Our region

- the four northernmost counties of Sweden (Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Jämtland & Västernorrland)
- the seven northernmost and eastern regions of Finland (Lapland, Oulu Region, Central Ostrobothnia, Kainuu, North Karelia, Etelä-Savo & Pohjois-Savo)
- the three northernmost counties of Norway (Troms, Nordland & Finnmark)
### Special characteristics

| **Long distances** | • 500 000 km²  
|                    | • Equals Spain |
| **Harsh climate**  | • Ranging from -40°C to +35°C  
|                    | • At least four different seasons |
| **Sparse population** | • 2.2 million  
|                      | • <5 people/km²  
|                      | • European average is 112 people/km² |

Regions with special geographical characteristics have a legal base in Protocol 6 of the Accession Treaty for Sweden, Finland and Austria and in article 174 of the Lisbon Treaty.
NSPA Regional Offices in BRU

• North Finland EU Office
  Kari Aalto
  kari.aalto@northfinland.fi

• East Finland EU Office
  Riikka Railimo
  riikka.railimo@eastfinland.eu

• Mid Sweden EU Office
  Kerstin Brandelius-Johansson
  kerstin.brandelius@midsweden.se

• North Sweden EU Office
  Mikael Janson
  mikael.janson@northsweden.eu

• North Norway European Office
  Åsunn Lyngedal
  asunn@northnorway.org
NSPA Political Group

**Politicians**
- Odd Eriksen
- Tytti Tuppurainen
- Satu Vehreävesa
- Erik Bergkvist
- Åsa Möller

**Officials**
- Åsunn Lyngedal
- Esko Lotvonen
- Riitta Koskinen
- Niklas Gandal
- Helena Gidlöf
Raising the awareness

- raise awareness of the region in the EU institutions
- influence EU policy
- provide a platform for best practice
Who is doing the lobbying for NSPA?

- Actors from the regions
- NSPA Political Group
- NSPA Offices in Brussels
Publications / Position Papers

- 2005 Study – “Assessing the socio-economic impacts of low population density, peripherality and cold climate in NSPA”
- 2009 Study – “Towards a vision for the NSPA - Strong, specific and promising”
- 2010 a “non-paper” on the EU Arctic policy
- 2010 Political Position - “Statement on the framework on the future EU cohesion policy”
- 2011 “Opinions from on the Consultation on the conclusions of the Fifth Report on Economic and Social Cohesion”
- 2011 “Contributions to the upcoming Budget for Europe 2020”
- 2011 NSPA-response to the green paper “From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding”
- 2012 Position concerning the legislative package of Cohesion Policy 2014–2020
Other ways of lobbying:

- Meetings
- Open Days seminars/workshops
- Discussions
- Presentations to different audiences

**NSPA FORUMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haparanda, Sweden</td>
<td>August 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiruna, Sweden</td>
<td>December 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tromsø, Norway</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuopio, Finland</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundsvall, Sweden</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oulu, Finland</td>
<td>autumn 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Position concerning the legislative package of Cohesion Policy 2014—2020
19 April 2012:

- appreciation for an overall good and well-balanced proposal from the Commission

- especially positive, that the budget is focused on the ambition to fulfill Europe 2020 and that a cohesion policy for all regions in EU is given a strong role to achieve the goals in Europe 2020

- focus should be the long term regional development rather than quantitative short sighted goal fulfillment at the project level

- extra allocation of 926 million Euros for Outermost and Sparsely Populated Areas, being 0,29% of the overall budget for the Resources for Investments for growth and jobs goal

- stress the need of future financial funds to be allocated to the sparsely populated areas at least in the same range as in the current EU budget period. Therefore, the allocation should be increased to at least 0,5% compared to proposed 0,29% (35 → 50 → 20 → 35)

- NSPA also want to put forward the cooperation with northwestern Russia is an important issue for the NSPA. We also support strengthening the Northern Dimension of EU as a growing regional cooperation in the northern part of EU and its neighboring regions within the Barents Arctic region

- the legislative proposal for support from ERDF to European territorial cooperation goal, excludes Norway from being lead partner in such cooperation in the future. The NSPA proposes that this is to be removed from the provision, to ensure the Norwegian commitment to the regional cooperation
TACK SKA NI HA!
THANK YOU
2.2) ERDF commitments in three types of region

*Commitments distribution, 2000-06 (Sweco Study)*

- **Higher relative ERDF & CF commitments compared to their population size:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region Type</th>
<th>14% of spending for 8% of EU population</th>
<th>1% of spending for 0.6% of EU population</th>
<th>6% of spending for 3% of EU population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountainous (M)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparsely populated (SP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands (I)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Higher proportion of Objective 1 regions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2000-06 ERDF &amp; CF commitments</th>
<th>All EU regions</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohesion Fund</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 1</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 2</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NSPA
Northern Sparsely Populated Areas
2.3) Findings from the 15 NUTS2 regions’ study

Location of the 15 regions and main characteristics

Some characteristics:

- 5 island, 5 mountainous and 5 sparsely populated regions;
- 6 convergence, 6 regional competitiveness and employment, 1 Phasing-out and 2 Phasing-in regions;
- Regions from 12 Member States are represented, including 2 from ‘new’ Member States;
- A range of socio-economic performances is observed at the NUTS2 level in terms of GDP per capita, growth rate, employment rate and size of population;
- Seven regions benefitted from the Cohesion Fund during the two programming periods.