

# REPORT

**Joint ERSA-NORDIC and ESPON-NORBA**

**Scientific Seminar**

**Nordic and Baltic Regions**

**in a European Development and Policy Context**

Research Park, Oslo Innovation Centre, Oslo, Norway  
March 14<sup>th</sup>–March 15<sup>th</sup> 2012



**The seminar was initiated by:**

**The Nordic Section of European Regional Science Association  
(ERSA-NORDIC; The 2<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Winter Conference)**

**and**

**Nordic-Baltic Dialogues on Transnational Perspectives on Spatial  
Planning (ESPON NORBA; A transnational networking project  
within the ESPON 2013 Programme)**

**SEMINAR ORGANISING COMMITTEE:**

Senior Researcher Steinar Johansen (NIBR, Norway), ERSA-NORDIC

Research Director Olaf Foss (NIBR, Norway), ESPON-NORBA

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**NORBA website, <http://rha.is/norba>**

### Programme structure

Wednesday, March 14				
11.30	Registration and Sandwich Lunch			Auditorium and Restaurant Area
12.30	Words of Welcome from NORBA and RSA Nordic.	Heikki Eskilinen, NORBA and Lars Westin, RSA Nordic		Auditorium
13.00	Norwegian Regional Policy; Challenges, Means, Transnational Perspectives. Nordic-Baltic Regional Policy Cooperation	Kristin Nakken, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development		Auditorium
13.45	NORBA Panel Discussion: Implications of ESPON in policy making and practice	Presenter: Participants in the NORBA project		Auditorium
14.30	Coffee Break			Auditorium Area
15.00	Parallel 1	Parallel 2	Parallel 3	Parallel 4
17.00	Finished for the Day			
Thursday, March 15				
09.00	ESPON, Europe 2020 and Austerity. What Research do We need for Territorial Development in Europe Today?	Cliff Hague, Emeritus Professor, Heriot-Watt University, UK Contact Point for ESPON 2013		Auditorium
09.45	Impacts of the Financial Crisis on Regional Policy and Development	Jan Mønnesland, Economist		Auditorium
10.30	Coffee Break			Auditorium Area
10.45	Parallel 1	Parallel 2	Parallel 3	Parallel 4
12.45	Sandwich Lunch			Restaurant Area
13.30	Parallel 1	Parallel 2	Parallel 3	Parallel 4
15.30	Short Break, With Coffee			Auditorium Area
15.45	Summing up and Farewell	Olaf Foss, NORBA and Steinar Johansen, RSA		Auditorium Area
16.00	The Seminar Finishes			

## Parallels

*Parallel 1* will be in room **Via**

*Parallel 2* will be in room **Forum** (the Auditorium)

*Parallel 3* will be in room **10**

*Parallel 4* will be in room **Aqua**

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 15.00 to 17.00**

### **Parallel 1. Planning and Development Issues. Nordic Baltic Regional Development. (Chair: Zane Leščinska)**

Kaisto	The use of ESPON data and analyses in the study of cross-border regions. Experiences from ULYSSES project
Noorkõiv	The differences in the levels of development of local governments in Estonia and related administrative challenges.
Raagmaa	The higher educational institutions and regional specialization
Roose and Gauk	Territorial performance and urbanisation implications of Tartu as Southern Estonian regional pole

### **Parallel 2. Networks, Innovation and Infrastructure. (Chair: Arne Stokka)**

Aldea-Partanen	Creative destruction. Reinventing rural and sparsely populated areas.
Cornett	Cluster based regional development strategies – theoretical concepts and regional implementation – the case of the Baltic Sea Region
Mariussen	A shining path – or just blowing away? Norwegian solar industry regions in times of crisis
Sörensson	Are MAR, Jacobs and Porter externalities less important for multi-plant than single-plant firms?

### **Parallel 3. Cohesion, Welfare and Demographics. (Chair: Lars Westin)**

Eskelinen and Fritsch	Territorial cohesion and place based policy – are these concepts known and used in Finnish policy debates?
Humer and Rauhut	Towards a welfare typology for the ESPON Space
Johansson and Rauhut	Young Women on the Run? A Snapshot from Rural Sweden
Rauhut and Ludlow	Services of General Interest and Territorial Cohesion: What, How and by Whom?

### **Parallel 4. Potentials of Rural Regions, the ESPON PURR Project. (Chair: Steinar Johansen)**

Introductory presentations from the Lead Stakeholder (Bjørn Frode Moen, Notodden Municipality) and from the Lead Partner (Steinar Johansen, NIBR). Discussions.

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 10.45 to 12.45**

**Parallel 1. Planning and Development Issues. Nordic Baltic Regional Development. (Chair: Zane Leščinska)**

Keskpaik	Estonia 2010 and 2030+: Conceptual Change in State Level Spatial Planning
Melchior	European Integration and Domestic Regions
Németh	Territorial Cooperation in Europe: Specificities in a Nordic and external border context
Vitola and Senfelde	Cross-Sectoral and Multi-Level Policy Coordination in Latvia

**Parallel 2. Networks, Innovation and Infrastructure. (Chair: Knut Westeren)**

McArthur, Thorsen and Ubøe	Transport Networks and Accessibility: Complex Spation Interactions.
Mukkala and Tervo	Regional airports and regional growth: Which way does the causality run?
Osland and McArthur	The Suitability of Hedonic Models for Cost-Benefit Analysis: Evidence from Commuting Flows
Stokka	A SCGE Modelling Approach Assessing Regional Effects of Energy Policy

**Parallel 3. Cohesion, Welfare and Demographics. (Chair: Daniel Rauhut)**

Eythorsson	Labour Mobility and Responses to Local and Global Economic Crisis. The cases of two rural communities at the times of an economic collapse in Iceland
Karlsson, V.	Interregional Migration, Transport Improvements, and Gender
Komornicki and Swiatek	Accessibility and Services of General Interest: Preliminary Findings from some Case Studies.

**Parallel 4. Potentials of Rural Regions, the ESPON PURR Project. (Chair: Steinar Johansen)**

Presentation of the PURR project: The regions, the methodology, the scenarios and the policy options (the Trans National Project Group – TPG). Discussions.

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 13.30 to 15.30**

**Parallel 1. Planning and Development Issues. Nordic Baltic Regional Development. (Chair: Antti Roose)**

Zimin	Regional Development and International Territorial Cooperation (ITC): The Case of Russian Carelia
Janusleinis and Pukis	New Development Policy – Territorial Based Approach Proposal
Puzulis a.o.	Public and Private in Space: Values, Legal Practice and Land-Use Planning in Latvia

**Parallel 2. Networks, Innovation and Infrastructure. (Chair: Andreas Cornett)**

Karlsson	Knowledge Spillovers – A Meta Analysis
Lautanen	Regional Dimensions of Finnish Growth Companies
Westeren	Regional development and knowledge, technology and competitiveness. (Thur)

**Parallel 3. Cohesion, Welfare and Demographics. (Chair: Mats Johansson)**

McArthur, Thorsen and Ubøe	Employment, Transport Infrastructure and Rural Depopulation.
Westin	Dynamics of Population Densities in Northern Scandinavia. Are there Policy Lessons for Northern Sweden in Northern Norway?
Zobena and Benga	Social Cohesion in Rural Areas: Service Provision, Commuting and Mobility

**Parallel 4. Potentials of Rural Regions, the ESPON PURR Project. (Chair: Steinar Johansen)**

Towards the Final Report: Internal discussion within the PURR team (the Stakeholders, the TPG and ESPON)



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## Introduction

NORBA reached out to national research communities by cooperating with Nordic Section of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA-NORDIC), which represents several academic fields and is well-known both for strong inter-Nordic linkages and active efforts to include also non-Nordics in its activities. For promoting this co-operation, a joint scientific seminar was organized in Oslo on March 14-15, 2012. The seminar title was "*Nordic and Baltic Regions in a European Development and Policy Context*". The program stretched from 11:30 on March 14 to 16:00 on March 15.

The seminar was hosted by the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) and the venue was the Research Park, Oslo Innovation Centre, close to the University of Oslo, Blindern. The seminar kept a low budget, which implied that the organisers did not offer common meals except sandwich lunches and coffee. On the other hand there was no conference fee.

The increasing emphasis on transnational perspectives in territorial policy, planning and research, partly influenced by processes of Europeanization, provided the general background to the conference. The Nordic-Baltic regions are facing many similar challenges, however against the background of rather different framework conditions. Correspondingly, Baltic and Nordic regional and territorial research is faced with questions revolving around the fruitfulness and transferability of basic concepts, results and insights derived from different contexts and perspectives.

The seminar called for papers of direct or indirect relevance to the discussion of aspects of the issues stated above, i.e. by addressing issues related to some of the following broad topics (also partly addressed by keynote speakers):

- *Prevailing territorial trends, perspectives and challenges in the Baltic/Nordic regions; confronting ESPON and national evidence*
- *Structural impacts of the financial crises and its aftermath on Baltic/Nordic regions; "creative destruction"?*
- *The fruitfulness of EU and ESPON spatial research and policy concepts as applied to specific Baltic/Nordic regions and different territorial levels*
- *Vulnerability and resilience of Baltic/Nordic regions to major global/external trends (economic, environmental,*

*political); problems of measurement and relevance of ESPON results*

As examples of general topics of interest were announced: Regional economic development; rural and local development; attractiveness of regions and cities, demographic and migratory flows; climate change and the territories; territorial scenarios and visions; land use and spatial development; entrepreneurship, knowledge, innovation; implications of energy poverty; territorial cooperation; infrastructure and accessibility; greener economy; territorial governance, public policy and finance; social and cultural capital; modelling spatial development.

The seminar was open for Baltic, Nordic and international participants from universities, research institutions, government agencies, organisations, and others with an interest in regional development in the Nordic and Baltic regions. Submitted abstracts for presentations were evaluated by a two-person committee representing both ESPON NORBA and ERSA-NORDIC.

Around 60 persons registered for participation at the seminar, from all the Baltic and Nordic countries as well as from some other European countries. 35 presentations spanning a wide range of topics were accepted. Most of the presentations (and/or abstracts) are available at NIBR's (Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research) website (<http://www.nibr.no/en/news/other-nibr-news/seminar-norba-rsa.aspx>), including the three plenary presentations (keynote speakers).

### **Program content (cf. pages 3-5 above)**

The seminar was organized into two plenary sessions and four parallel paper sessions running through the whole of the seminar outside the plenary sessions. The welcoming statements were given by Heikki Eskelinen (ESPON NORBA) and Lars Westin (ERSA-NORDIC).

The first day plenary session contained a keynote speech and a panel discussion among all the NORBA partners (the ECPs of the Baltic and Nordic states except Denmark and Lithuania) on the topic "*Implications of ESPON in policy making and practice*". The second day plenary session contained two plenary speeches.

The moderator at the first day panel discussion was *Steinar Johansen*, Senior Researcher, representing ERSA-NORDIC. He challenged the NORBA-panel by stating several critical questions related to the orientation, themes, organization and management of the ESPON program and its separate projects, especially the relationship between the project and program management, the project frameworks and the central governing of the individual project. The questions triggered a vivid discussion among the panellists and also some contributions from the audience, on how to enhance the positive implications of ESPON in policy making and practice.

The first day plenary speaker was *Kristin Nakken*, Division Director, The Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The title of her speech was "*Norwegian Regional Policy; Challenges, Means, Transnational Perspectives. Nordic-Baltic Regional Policy Cooperation*". She presented the general background, regional structure and development trends and problems, as well as the specific challenges underpinning Norwegian regional policies.

She also gave an overview of the aims, general and specific focus, organization, central actors, instruments and measures of both the broader and the more specific policies for regional development, including transnational perspectives and cooperation (including especially the North Sea Region, the Baltic Sea Region and the High North, reflecting geographical position as well as political priorities).



Chairman of the European Regional Science Association, Charlie Karlsson (Jönköping University, Sweden) raises a comment to the panellist at the scientific conference of ESPON NORBA/ERSA-NORDIC, Oslo, 14 March 2012.



The first of the second day plenary speakers was *Cliff Hague*, Emeritus Professor, Herriot-Watt University (UK National Contact Point (ECP) for ESPON 2013, ESPON INTERSTRAT project). The title of his speech was "*ESPON, Europe 2020 and Austerity. What Research do we need for Territorial Development in Europe Today?*". Leading us through the last twenty years' EU policy process towards the present-day main policy documents and orientations related to territorial cohesion policies, he showed how the financial crises changed the context in which territorial cohesion policy and the ESPON 2013 program had developed, referring i.a. to "*Europe 2020*" and the ESPON Synthesis Report "*New Evidence on Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Territories*".

Hague showed by examples and by pointing to several mechanisms, how the crises and the policy responses to it, particularly the austerity policy, have a territorial dimension, apparently entailing adverse regional effects and counteracting the aim of territorial cohesion. Finally, he confronted the general ESPON "mindset" and the ESPON project portfolio with the knowledge requirements and pressing research questions which arise in the wake of the crises and counter-crisis policies in a territorial cohesion context.

The second of the second day plenary speakers was *Jan Mønnesland*, Norwegian Economist, previously active in Norwegian, Nordic and European urban and regional research for several decades. The title of his speech was "*Impacts of the Financial Crisis on Regional Policy and Development*". He gave a detailed account of the economic and political preconditions and responses to, and the later development of, the financial crises of 2008-2009, and its particular character and course of development in Europe and the Euro zone.

He also elaborated some probable effects and courses of development entailing the implementation of new budget rules in accordance with the new Stability Treaty scheduled to be implemented by January 2013 if ratified by enough Euro countries. Mønnesland pointed to different mechanisms of relevance for assessing effects and perspectives for regional policies and development, related to the public as well as (different parts of) the private economic sector, and the scope for regional policies at regional, national and European level.

*The four parallel paper sessions* were each organized as three sub-sessions (workshops), all with different moderators

appointed from the ESPON NORBA project team and the ERSA-NORDIC. Several presentations were based on ESPON projects and/or related to concepts that are important in the ESPON context, like territorial cohesion and polycentricity. In addition to the PURR project with its particular parallel session, especially the project SeGI was well represented (cf. overview of highlighted ESPON projects below).

The headlines of the four sessions were the following:

Parallel 1: Planning and Development Issues. Nordic Baltic Regional Development.

Parallel 2: Networks, Innovations and Infrastructure

Parallel 3: Cohesion, Welfare and Demographics

Parallel 4: Potentials of rural regions

**Parallel 1:** *Planning and Development Issues. Nordic Baltic Regional Development* included the following presentations:

- Noorkõiv: *The differences in the levels of development of local governments in Estonia and related administrative challenges.*
- Raagmaa: *The higher educational institutions and regional specialisation*
- Kaisto: *The use of ESPON data and analyses in the study of cross-border regions. Experiences from ULYSSES project*
- Roose and Gauk: *Territorial performance and urbanization implications of Tartu as Southern Estonian regional pole*
- Keskspaik: *Estonia 2010 and 2030+: Conceptual Change in State Level Spatial Planning*
- Németh: *Territorial Cooperation in Europe: Specificities in a Nordic and external border context*
- Zimin: *Regional Development and International Territorial Cooperation (ITC): The Case of Russian Carelia*
- Melchior: *European Integration and Domestic Regions*
- Janusleinis and Pukis: *New Development Policy – Territorial Based Approach Proposal*
- Skinkis a.o.: *Public and Private in Space: Values, Legal Practice and Land-Use Planning in Latvia*
- Kule: *Urban-Rural Interdependencies in Multi-Level Spatial Policies: View from Latvia*
- Vitola and Senfelde: *Cross-Sectoral and Multi-Level Policy Coordination in Latvia*
- Mariussen: *A shining path – or just blowing away? Norwegian solar industry regions in times of crisis*

**Parallel 2: Networks, Innovations and Infrastructure** included the following presentations:

- Sörensson: *Are MAR, Jacobs and Porter externalities less important for multi-plant than single-plant firms?*
- Aldea-Partanen: *Creative destruction. Reinventing rural and sparsely populated areas.*
- Western: *Regional development and knowledge, technology and competitiveness.*
- Cornett: *Cluster based regional development strategies – theoretical concepts and regional implementation – the case of the Baltic Sea Region*
- Mikkala and Tervo: *Regional airports and regional growth: Which way does the causality run?*
- McArthur, Thorsen and Ubøe: *Transport Networks and Accessibility: Complex Spatial Interactions.*
- Osland and McArthur: *The Suitability of Hedonic Models for Cost-Benefit Analysis: Evidence from Commuting Flows*
- Stokka: *A SCGE Modelling Approach Assessing Regional Effects of Energy Policy*
- Lautanen: *Regional Dimensions of Finnish Growth Companies*
- Karlsson: *Knowledge Spillovers – A Meta Analysis*
- Eglitis: *University, Local Government and Entrepreneur Cooperation in the Regional Economic Development*

**Parallel 3: Cohesion, Welfare and Demographics** included the following presentations:

- Eskilinen and Fritsch: *Territorial cohesion and place based policy – are these concepts known and used in Finnish policy debates?*
- Rauhut and Ludlow: *Services of General Interest and Territorial Cohesion: What, How and by Whom?*
- Humer and Rauhut: *Towards a welfare typology for the ESPON Space*
- Johansson and Rauhut: *Young Women on the Run? A Snapshot from Rural Sweden*
- Karlsson: *Interregional Migration, Transport Improvements, and Gender*
- McArthur, Thorsen and Ubøe: *Employment, Transport Infrastructure and Rural Depopulation*
- Eythorsson: *Labour Mobility and Responses to Local and Global Economic Crisis. The cases of two rural communities at the times of an economic collapse in Iceland*
- Komornicki and Swiatek: *Accessibility and Services of General Interest: Preliminary Findings from some Case Studies.*
- Westin: *Dynamics of Population Densities in Northern Scandinavia. Are there Policy Lessons for Northern Sweden in Northern Norway?*

- Hazners: *Regional Disparities and their Relation to the Extent of Polycentricity or Monocentricity*
- Zobena and Benga: *Social Cohesion in Rural Areas: Service Provision, Commuting and Mobility*

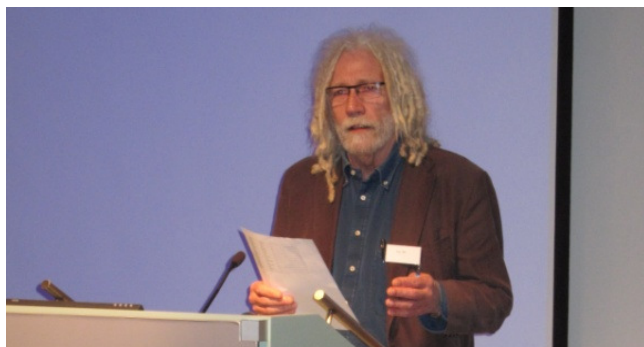
**Parallel 4:** *Potentials of rural regions* included the following presentations:

This parallel session was organized purely around the ESPON targeted project PURR (Potentials of Rural Regions), and the presentations were all given by PURR project partners and stakeholders. The project “Sounding board” was represented. There were eight presentations:

- *Presentations of the project (2 presentations)* by the Regional Stakeholders and the Trans-national Project Group (TPG).
- *Presentations of the case study regions (5 presentations):* Notodden (NO), Vidzeme (LV), Dumfries and Galloway (UK), North Yorkshire (UK) and Cambrian Mountains (UK).
- *Concluding remarks (1 presentation)* from the TPG, followed by discussion between the participants.

### **Concluding remarks and highlighted ESPON projects**

Olaf Foss (ESPON NORBA) and Steinar Johansen (ERSA-NORDIC, both representing the host institution, NIBR, summarized the results at the final session. The following excerpt is from the speech by Foss:



Organizer of the ESPON NORBA/ERSA-NORDIC scientific seminar, the Norwegian ECP Olaf Foss, summarized the experiences and results at the final session on 15 March 2012.

“The collaboration with ERS-NORDIC (their 2<sup>nd</sup> Nordic Winter Conference) proved very smooth and constructive. The long term traditions and large and varied body of regional research in the Nordic and Baltic states is potentially an important source of knowledge and inspiration to European territorial research, while perspectives, concepts, themes and

approaches in European territorial research – as represented by ESPON – may fertilize national and regional research and further a fruitful synergy, adding value to the quality of and capitalization from regional and territorial research in general. The plenary and session/workshop discussions at the seminar proved promising in this context.”

As mentioned, several presentations were based on ESPON-projects, referring to ESPON projects or publications, and/or related to concepts that are important in the ESPON context. The following is a brief overview:

In his plenary speech *Cliff Hague* i.a. related to and discussed the document “Europe 2020” and the ESPON 2013 First Synthesis Report (“New Evidence on Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Territories”). He also referred to the ESPON 2013 projects FOCI, TEDI, EDORA, ESPON Climate, ReRisk, DEMIFER, TIPTAP, TIGER and SURE.

In the parallel sessions the following ESPON projects were highlighted, the same projects partly in several presentations:

SeGI (Komornicki/Swiatek, Rauhut/Ludlow,  
Humer/Rauhut/Costa)

ULYSSES (Kaisto)

SEMIGRA (Johansson/Rauhut)

PURR (separate session, all PURR partners)

ADES (Mukkala/Tervo)

TERCO (Zimin)

Several ESPON projects were also referred to in the parallel session discussions.

[www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory.