

***Nordic Cooperation
on Regional Policy –
What topics have
been prioritized in
the past and what's
in the pipeline for the
future?***

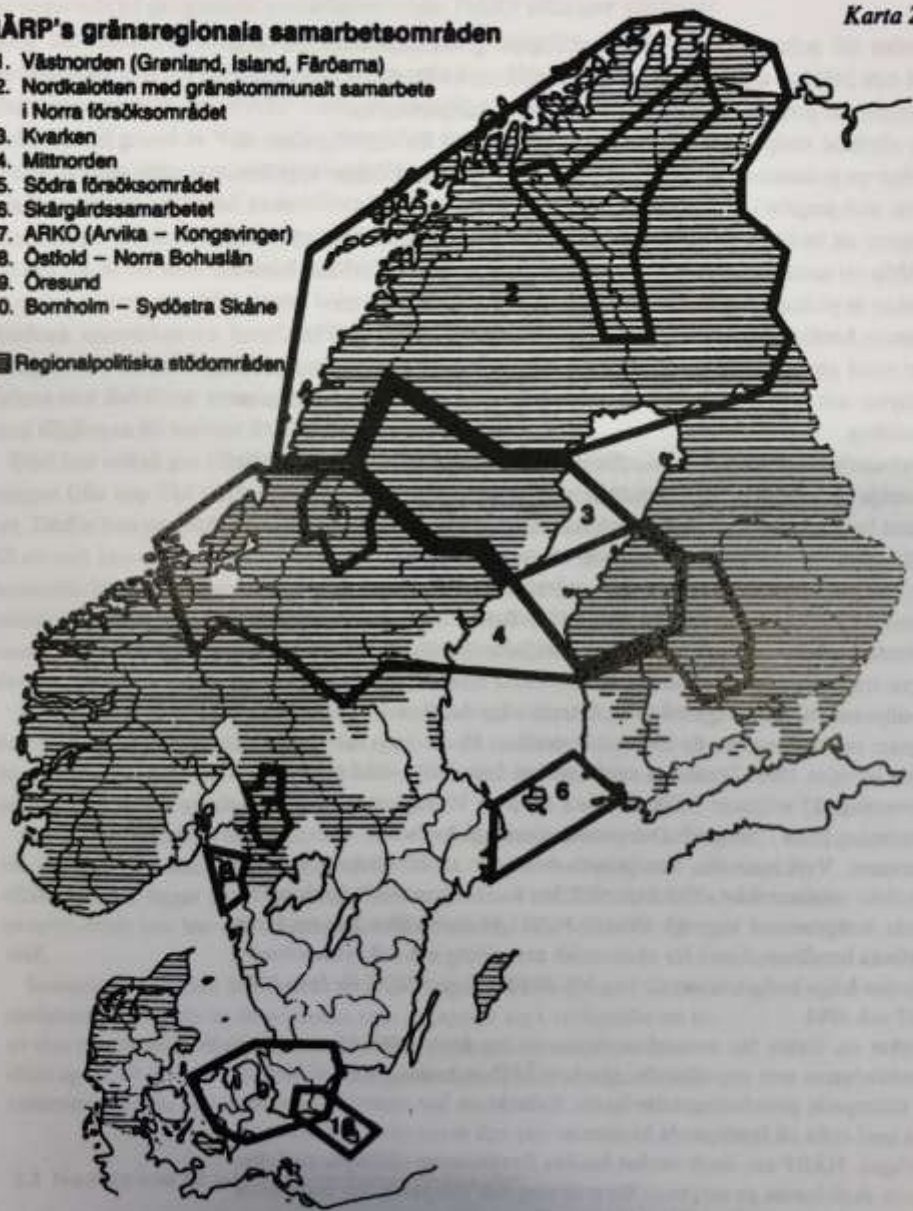
1979

- Cross-border cooperation (Nordkalotten, Västnorden (NORA), Öresund, Kvarken, Mittnorden, Skärgårdssamarbetet, ARKO, Södra försöksområdet, Østfold – Norra Bohuslän, Bornholm – Sydöstra Skåne)

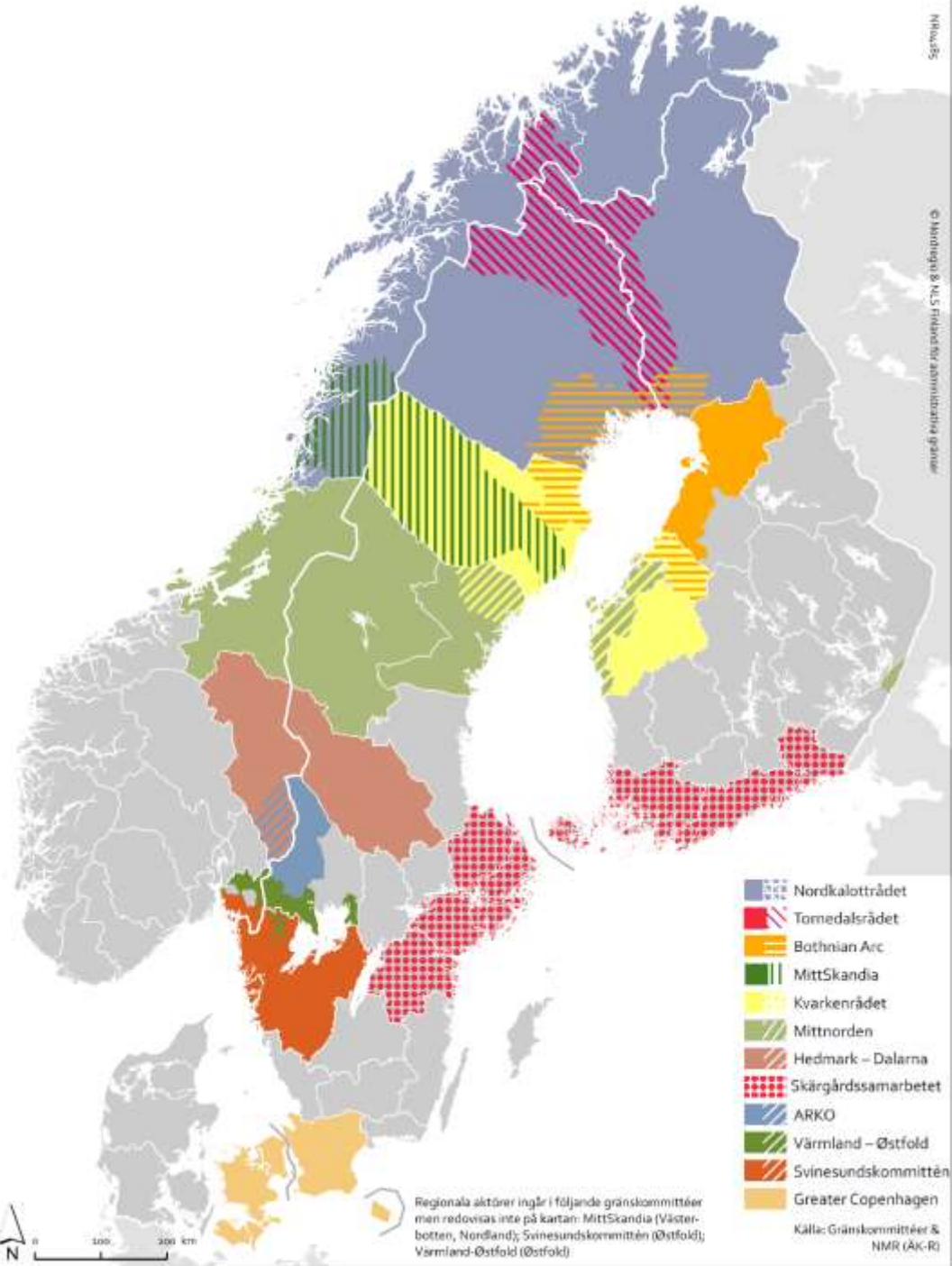
NÄRP's gränsregionala samarbetsområden

1. Västnorden (Grönland, Island, Färöarna)
2. Nordkalotten med gränskommunalt samarbete i Norra försöksområdet
3. Kvarken
4. Mittnorden
5. Södra försöksområdet
6. Skärgårdssamarbetet
7. ARKO (Arvika – Kongsvinger)
8. Østfold – Norra Bohuslän
9. Öresund
10. Bornholm – Sydöstra Skåne

Regionalpolitiska stödområden



Karta 2



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- Regional policy support measures (Västnordenfonden, NIB's regional loans)
- Investigation and research (Basprojektet,

Basprojektet 1979
Regional utveckling
i Norden
NOGRAN 1990s
State of the Nordic
Region 2016

 Nordic Council
of Ministers

**STATE OF
THE NORDIC REGION**

2018



1979

- Cross-border cooperation (Nordkalotten, Västnorden, Öresund, Kvarken, Mittnorden, Skärgårdssamarbetet, ARKO, Södra försöksområdet, Østfold – Norra Bohuslän, Bornholm – Sydöstra Skåne)
- Regional policy support measures (Västnordenfonden, NIB's regional loans)
- Investigation and research (Basprojektet, Storstadsprojektet, Glesbygdspolitiskt samarbete, NordREFO)

1986: Regionalpolitik – Nordiskt samarbetsprogram

- **Storstadsprojektet:** From comprehensive review to seminars and conferences
- **Glesbygdspolitiskt samarbete:** Communications is a critical issue, IT is both a threat and a potential, and focus on small-scale production
- **NordREFO:** Research on regional policy, regional planning and regional consequences of technological and economic development and as new topics; decentralisation, regional unbalance and localisation
- **Information and exchange of knowledge**

Nordiskt samarbetsprogram för Regionalpolitik 1990-1994

- **NordREFO:** internationalisation, decentralisation and environmental issues
- **Cities:** How major towns and cities can contribute to more balanced regional development and finding effective ways of diverting growth from major towns and cities to other areas
- **Evaluation** of a country's regional policy proposed (Finland 1991)
- **Knowledge exchange** between actors on regional and local level

Tillväxt och utveckling i Nordens regioner 1995-1999

- **NordREFO:** Economic and infrastructure development, political and institutional development, Nordic regional policy
- **On the agenda:** EU (Interreg), environment, employment, infrastructure, more effective public sector, international competition
- **Nordregio 1997:** merge of NordREFO, Nordplan and NOGRAN

Regionalpolitisk samarbeidsprogram 2001-2005

- **EU:** The Nordic regional policy should find its place in relation to EU's
- **Economy & Environment:** Coordination of regional development and spatial planning
- **Kommunale inntektssystem**
- **IT**
- **Increased social gaps**

Regionalpolitisk samarbeidsprogram 2005-2008 (Nordregio)

- Regional innovation and growth policy
- The place of the Nordic Region in European Development Perspectives
- Regional management systems
- Demographic development, i.e. ageing, welfare and labour market

Regionalpolitiskt samarbetsprogram 2009-2012 (ÅSUB)

- **Knowledge:** 1. The role of the cities and city regions in a global context, 2. Coordination in complex city regions, 3. The cities' role as ice breaker in the BSR and Vestnorden, 4. The region and the local community as arena for innovations and entrepreneurship, 5. The regions and the demographic challenge
- **Policy:** 1. Territorial mobilisation in a globalised world, 2. EU's cohesion policy, 3. Multi-level governance, 4. Climate and environment, 5. Challenges in remote, sparsely populated regions caused by globalisation (Demography program – DVI)
- **4 WGs:** Urban, rural, cross-border cooperation, regional policy

Nordens regioner viser vei 2013-2016 (Øystein Imseth)

- **Regional sustainable welfare development** (innovative solutions to demographic challenges)
- **Sustainable regional development in Arctis** (foresight study)
- **Green growth in all regions** (green innovation & entrepreneurship; models for sustainable city regions – mainly the capital regions)

Regional utveckling och planering 2017-2020 (Nordregio & Anna Olofsson)

- **Sustainable rural development:** demographic scenarios, attractive regions, youth, tourism
- **Innovative and resilient regions:** digitalisation, resilience, smart specialisation, skills
- **Sustainable cities and urban development:** SME cities, grid-level data, social inclusion, housing, green areas
- **Regional authorities and Cross-border regions included**

At the crossroads

The Sustainable Nordic City of Tomorrow

- Ellen Braae & Henriette Steiner
- Excellent narrative (some clarifying questions only) but vague recommendations regarding future priorities

Questions and comments

- The Greenland case – what does it actually tell us about urban development?
- *P. 4: The task for policymakers is to understand these different challenges and the tensions these relationships embody, and to make them conjoin ...*
- *P. 5: the Nordic city embodies a particular cultural understanding of the material context, but that very understanding is responsible for the city's current challenges regarding sustainability.*
- Figure 2: Constantin Doxiadis's ekistics

Questions and comments (continued)

- P. 5-6: modernist architecture and planning practices are underpinned by a perception of nature as only truly “natural” when stripped of human influence ... Yet, this perception has been crucial in determining the relationships and spatial forms of Nordic cities today.
- P. 6: to be sustainable are places that sustain both social and ecological processes, they are habitats for human and non-humans, and they require taking into account these different participants in ways that are meaningful to them
- P. 8: we are in constant interaction with other beings and natural phenomena and we need to understand how human activities ... It means that we have to regard nature as part of the city

Questions and comments (continued)

- P. 9: It requires ... a wider range of knowledge also from fields such as biology, geography, philosophy, history, as well as citizens to tell their story in relation to the problems and tasks at hand
- P. 9: We must enlarge the voices of the “urban orchestra” we take into consideration to make decisions about our common future, and we must enlarge the geographical perspective ... to understand the regional territory as an urbanity characterized by various densities and relations of all kinds working across many scales
- P. 10: we ought to take a point of departure specific concrete relationships pertaining to our shared life on the planet Earth in order to better understand how the socio-economic and ecological challenges of today are deeply interlinked

Questions and comments (continued)

- P. 11: With design as an explorative tool and a mediator ...
- P. 11: Today, neoliberal market forces are playing an active role in the transformation of metropolitan areas, for instance by providing new housing – obviously responding to various sustainability benchmarks, and definitely aligned with the idea of the compact city
- P. 12: If the heritage of Western industrial culture is what shaped the Nordic city for better and for worse, any massive transformation which eradicates this heritage would be problematic in the context of the current ecological crisis ... the sustainable Nordic city of tomorrow is the city we already have

Future priorities

- Climate change mitigation: green transition towards a city without private cars – huge spaces will become available
- Climate change adaptation: to make our cities more resilient towards flooding and heatwaves
- Social sustainability: basic issue of housing