
SEMINAR-WORKSHOP: REGIONAL RESILIENCE IN THE BOTHNIAN ARC

Save the date - February 26, 2019

Place: Park Hotel Tornio, Itäranta 4, Tornio, Finland

10 am in Finnish time (9 am in Swedish time)

The Bothnian Arc Committee together with Nordregio (Nordic and European research centre) welcome you to participate in a half-day seminar / workshop on regional economic and social resilience in the Bothnian Arc cross-border region.

Why talking about resilience?

The notion of **resilience** has become an imperative in policy-makers' vocabulary at all levels of governance. The policy attention given to resilience relates to the general sense of uncertainty and insecurity growing in many societies worldwide. The 2008 financial crisis, the dramatic fall in the prices of natural resources in 2009 and 2014, and the global environmental and migratory crises, have been vivid reminders of how deeply globalised our society and economy is, and therefore, how vulnerable local societies are to global developments. In this context, attention has been placed on learning **how capable are local communities in coping with global challenges** (or how resilient are they) and **what kind of local responses are needed to address global and local challenges**.

The Seminar / Workshop:

This interactive seminar will begin with a presentation of the results of a two-year study (2017-2018) on Nordic Regional Resilience commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The aim of the study was to identify methods, tools and activities used by regions and their key actors to react to potential threats (shocks) and anticipate economic shocks caused by either internal and external events. Following the presentation on main results, speakers will touch on the state and opportunities of the Sweden-Finland cross-border cooperation, and the existing and potential threats to the region from multiple perspectives: i.e. economic, social, environmental and political. After the presentations, a workshop will be organised in three parts to stimulate a discussion on:

- I. **what risks, threats and long-term challenges can be identified in the Bothnian Arc?**
- II. **what are the drivers of resilience in the Bothnian Arc?**
- III. **how can cross-border cooperation strengthen resilience in the Bothnian Arc?**

Experts, policy-makers, practitioners and other relevant professionals from North Finland and Sweden are cordially invited to share their insights on this topic from their own perspective during the roundtable discussions. These discussions will provide valuable input to a follow-up study conducted by Nordregio and the Bothnian Arc Committee on cross-border regional economic resilience. The results will be published in a report in mid-2019.

Agenda

***Note: The seminar starts at 10:00 in Finnish time**

- 10:00 – 10:15 Welcome Coffee
- 10:15 – 10:25 **Opening words by Timo Nousiainen, Mayor City of Tornio**
- 10:25 – 10:40 **Introduction to resilience concept & results from a Nordic study on Regional Economic and Social Resilience**
- Speakers: Alberto Giacometti, Research Fellow at Nordregio & Jukka Teräs, Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio
- 10:40 – 10:50 **State of the SE-FI Cross-Border Cooperation**
- Speaker/s: Heikki Aalto, Bothnian Arc Committee
- 10:50 – 11:00 **Economic, Social and Environmental Challenges in the cross-border region**
- Speaker: Heikki Keränen, Oulu City
- 11:00 – 11:10 **Coffee Break**
- 11:10 – 11:20 **Political and Economic and Social challenges in the larger border region: Focus on municipal collaboration, entrepreneurship, the youth and the gender perspectives**
- Speaker: Natalia Golubeva, Luleå Municipality
- WORKSHOP: Round Table Discussions**
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Part 1: What are the risks, threats and long-term challenges in the Bothnian Arc?**
- 11:40 – 11:50 **Round of presentations on results of Part 1**
- 11:50 – 12:10 **Part 2: What are the drivers of resilience in the Bothnian Arc?**
- 12:10 – 12:30 **Part 3: How can the cross-border cooperation strengthen resilience & what can the different actors contribute with?**
- 12:30 – 13:00 **Round of presentations on results of Parts 2 & 3 & Open Discussion**
- 13:00 **Lunch & End session**