



Boverket

Swedish National Board of Housing,
Building and Planning

Urban-rural development in the BSR - Some territorial snapshots

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A spatially divided Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Region shows two important territorial divides. On the one hand there is the east-west and south-north divide and on the other hand there is the urban-rural divide.

ESPON Policy brief: Baltic Sea Region – Territorial Monitoring System

VASAB - Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea

- ☐ Development trends concerning urban-rural linkages
- ☐ Technological innovation – a tool to bridge the divide or widen the gap
- ☐ Human capital - key for making use of the technological potential



Baltic Sea Region: Physical map

VASAB - Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea

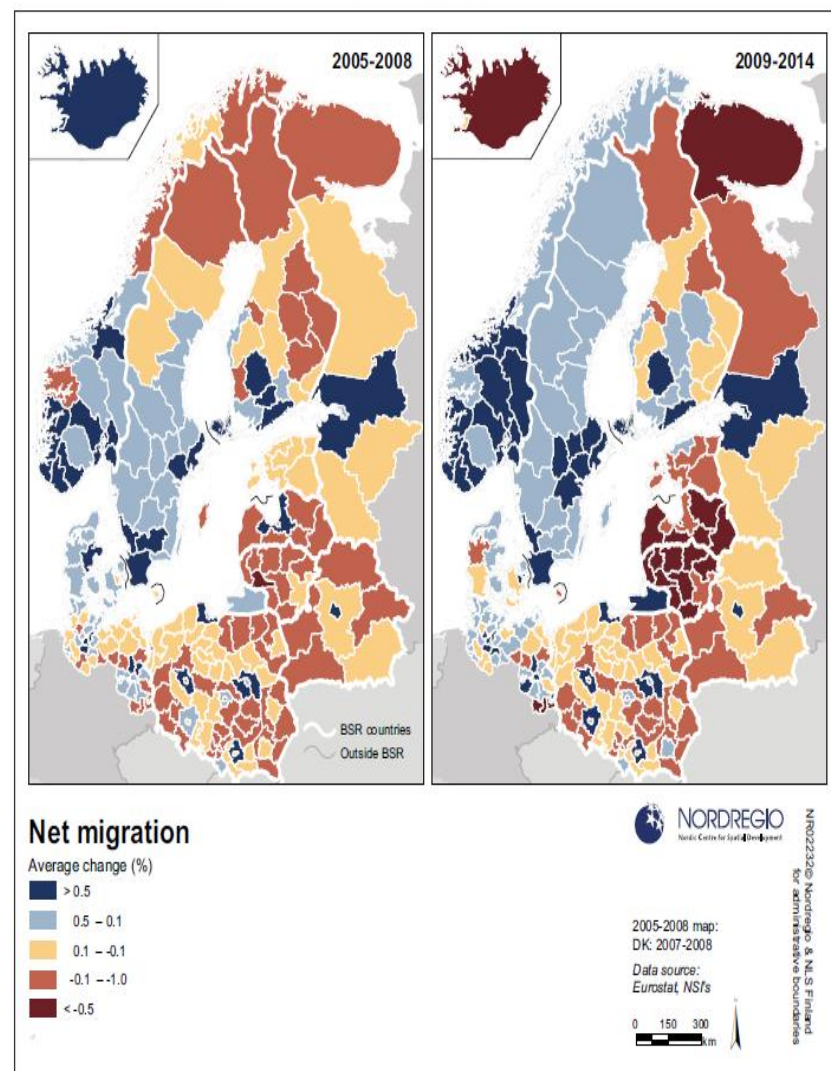
- ❑ Development trends concerning urban-rural linkages
- ❑ Technological innovation – a tool to bridge the divide or widen the gap
- ❑ Human capital - key for making use of the technological potential
- ❑ Some snapshots from the BSR TeMo and State of the Digital Region



Unsustainable migration pattern

- Since 2010, the population of the region has been growing constantly.
- This growth is unevenly distributed clearly dividing the region between winners and losers.
- Out-migration is increasing in all regions in Latvia and Lithuania and has now reached alarming proportions.

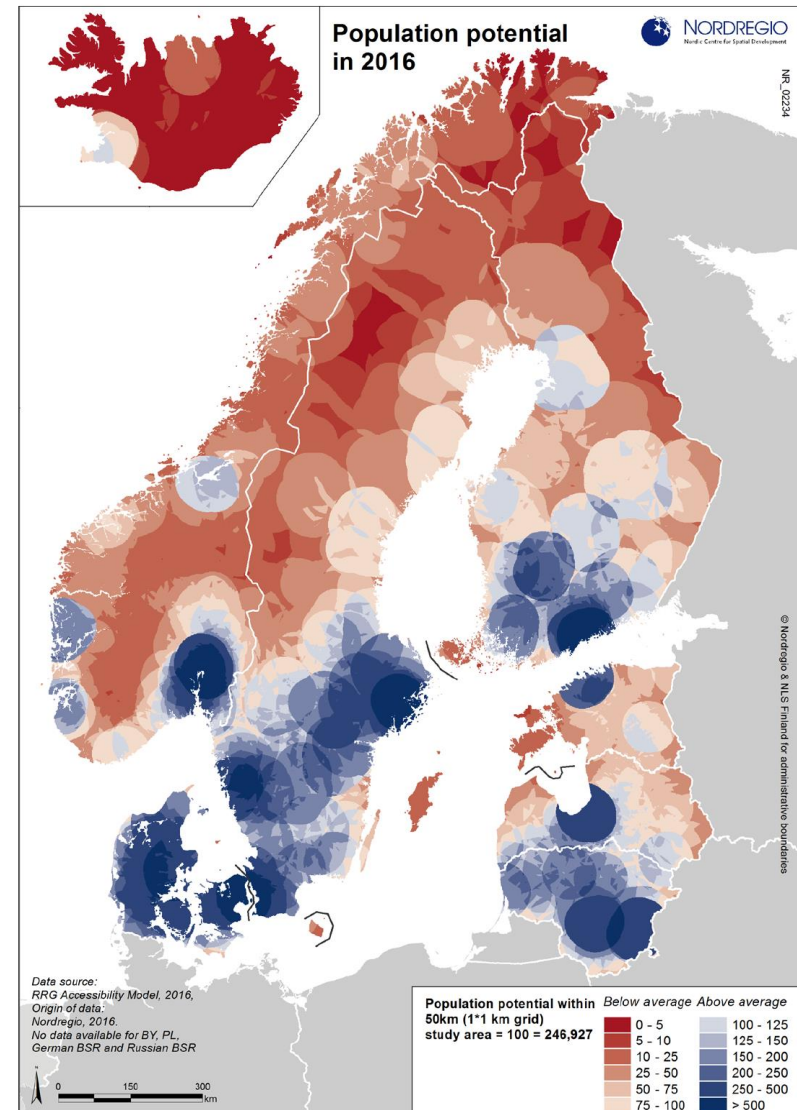
FIGURE 42: Net Migration: average change (%)



Growth poles exist

- Capital cities represent the largest growth poles in the BSR.
- Additional growth areas are Gothenburg, Aarhus/Aalborg, Bergen and Stavanger, Oulu, Turku and Tampere, and the south of Sweden and Lithuania

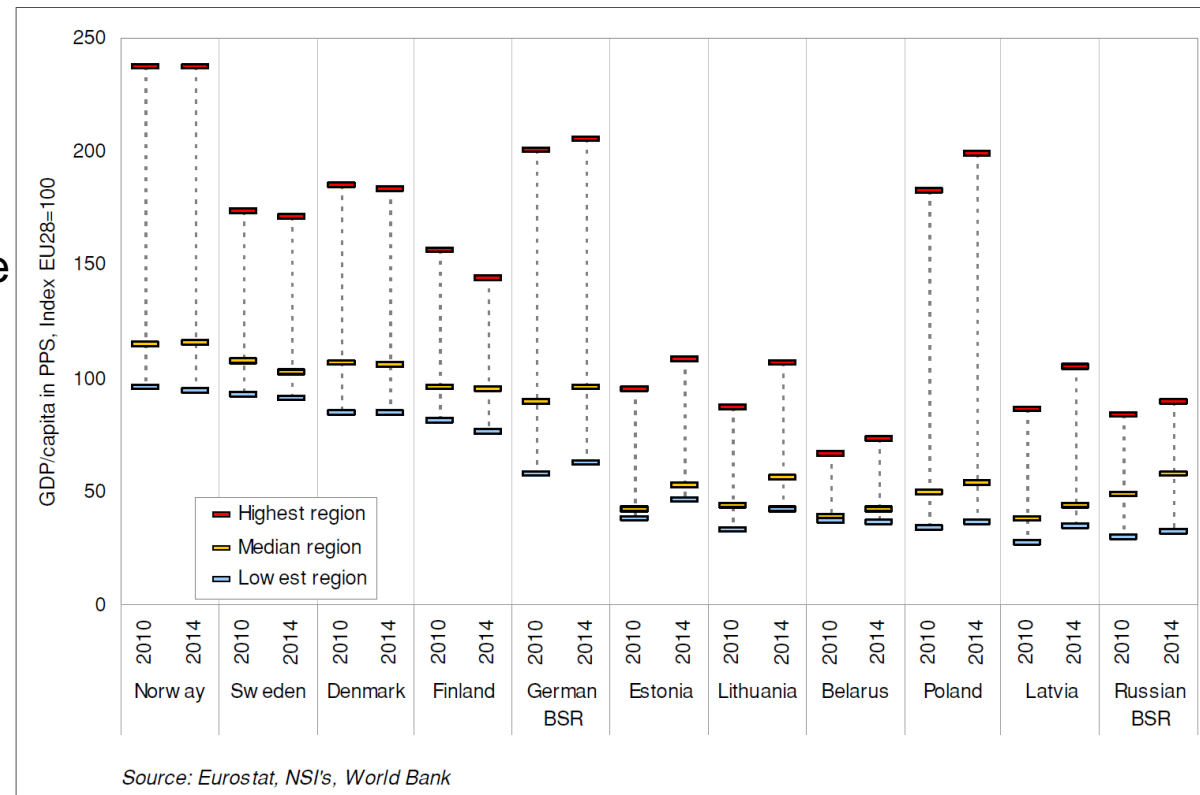
FIGURE 15: Population potential 2016



Economic disparities in the BSR on the decrease

- Overall economic disparities in the region are decreasing and the East is gradually catching up with the West.
- As a consequence of the economic recession => disparities within countries have decreased.
- The largest metropolitan areas are still dramatically outperforming the countries as a whole in terms of monetary affluence.

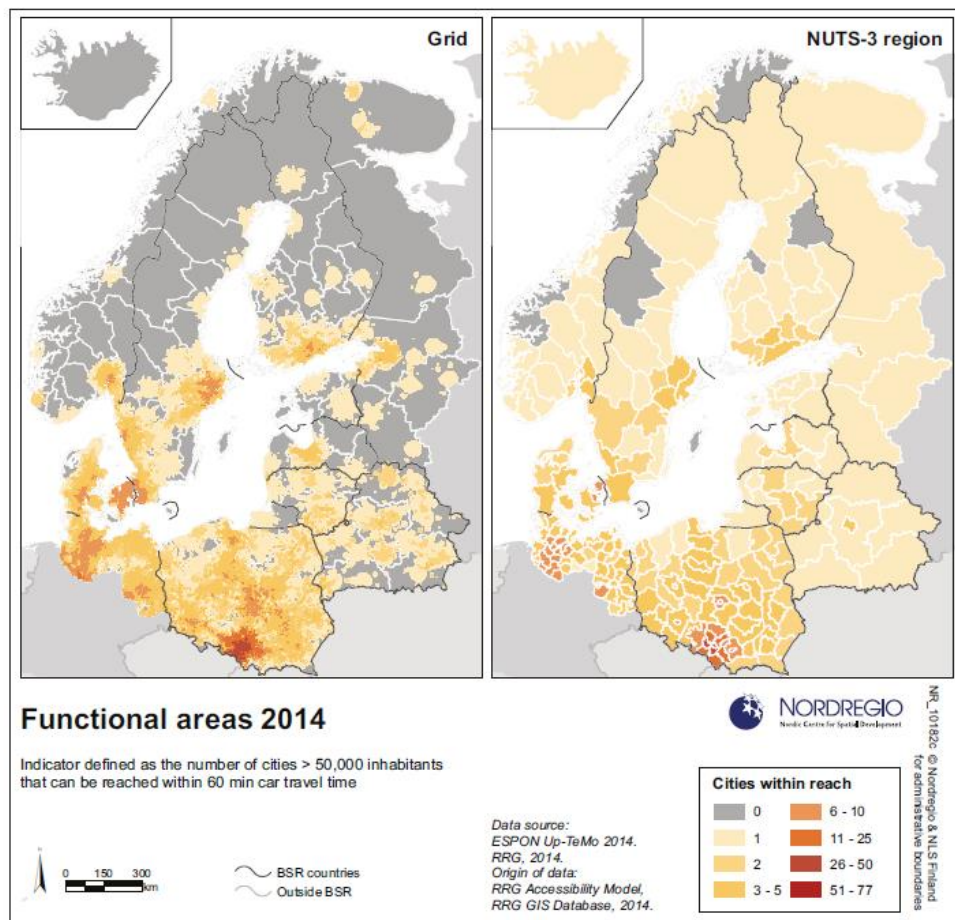
FIGURE 32: GDP/capita in PPS, 2010 and 2014



Regional access to cities – between wilderness and consumer paradise

- Residents of local municipalities and of rural areas depend on functions and services offered in large cities.
- For large areas of the Nordic countries and of the Baltic States, no city at all is within reach.
- There is also a significant share of territory in the BSR that is only connected to one large city.

FIGURE 21: Functional urban areas 2014

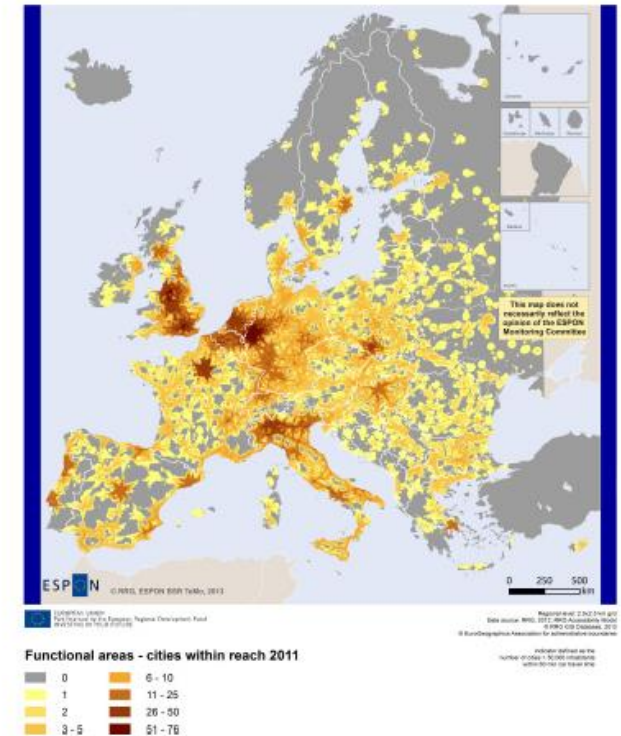


* The indicator on functional urban areas is defined as the number of cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants within 60 minutes road travel time from each region

Regional access to cities – between wilderness and consumer paradise

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Figure 4 Availability of urban functions* by road in Europe, 2011

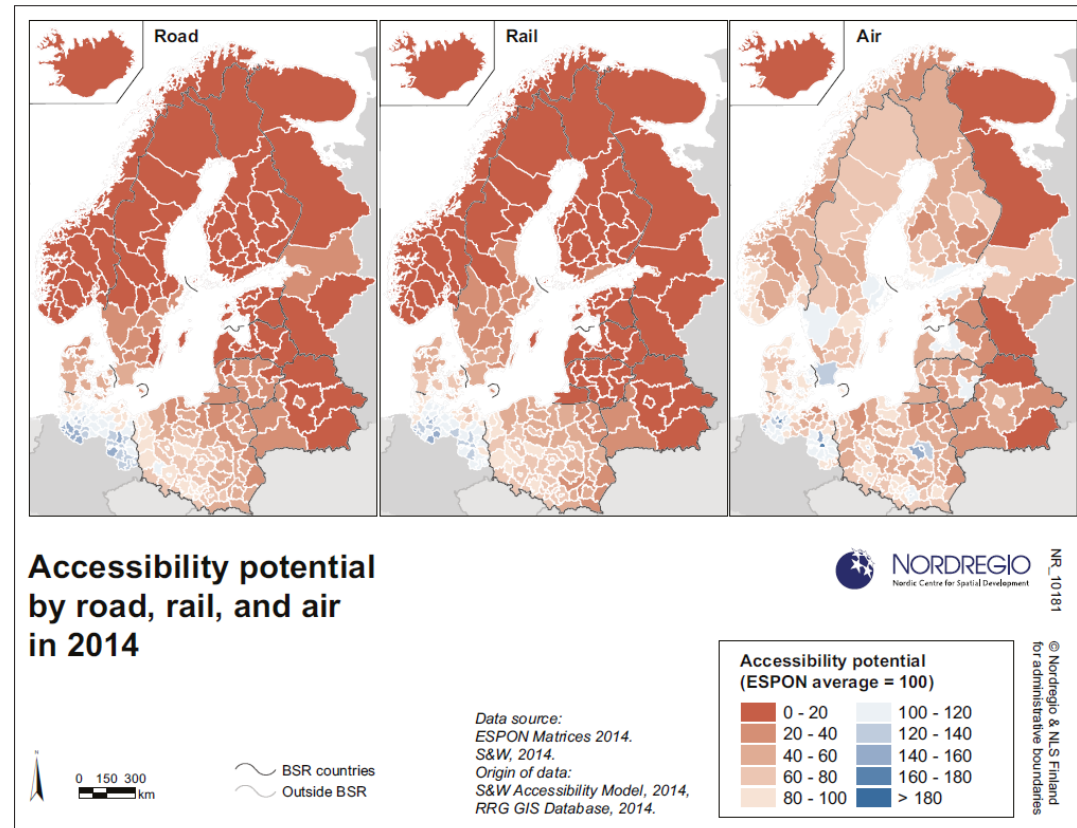


* The indicator on functional urban areas is defined as the number of cities within reach of each region by road travel time from each region.

Accessibility potential –still large disparities

- In relation to central Europe, many regions of the BSR indeed represent peripheral areas.
- Although many peripheral regions have caught up – large disparities remain.
- Regions with high accessibility tend to be economically most successful ones.

FIGURE 11: Accessibility potential by road, rail, and air in 2014



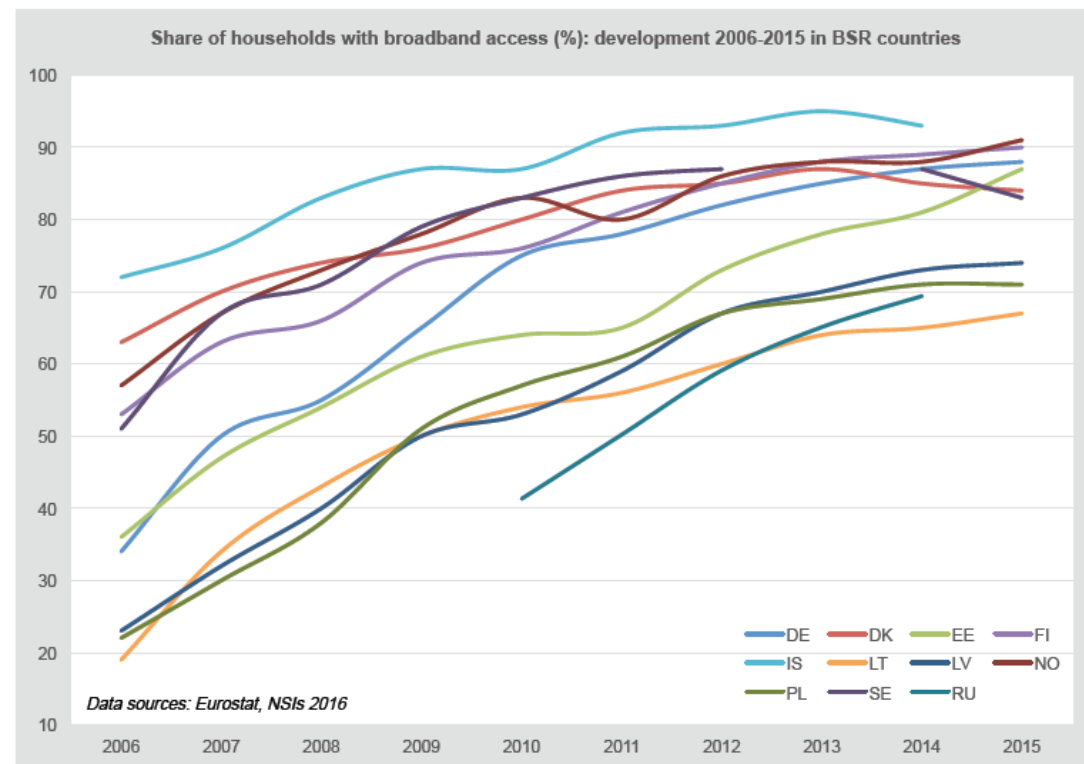
Will technological innovations improve the situation?

- We are facing a digital revolution that will transform our societies.
- Can digital services improve the situation by reducing the disadvantages of structural isolation?

Households with broadband access on the rise

- Internet access allows people in remote and peripheral regions, as well as disabled people and the general public to participate in the economy and in social activities
- If the recent trajectory continues, most BSR countries will reach coverage close to 100 percent by 2022.

FIGURE 29: Share of households with broadband access (%), development 2006-2015



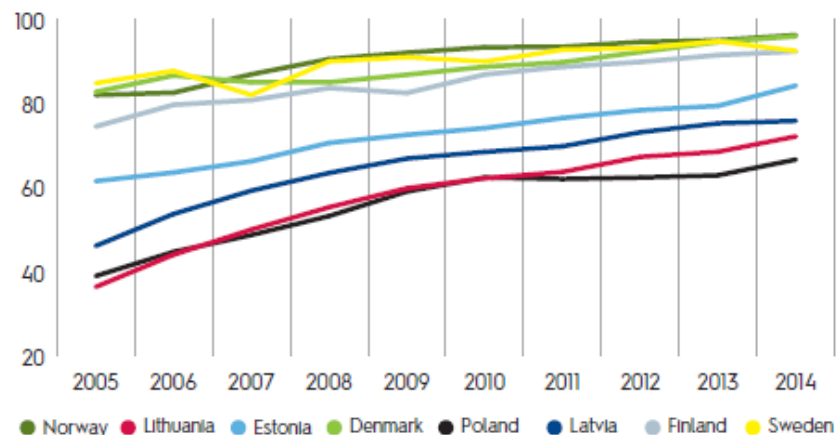
STATE OF THE DIGITAL REGION 2016

- Cities connecting the digital economy in the Baltic Sea Region

FIG. 1

Internet users (% of population) 2005-2014

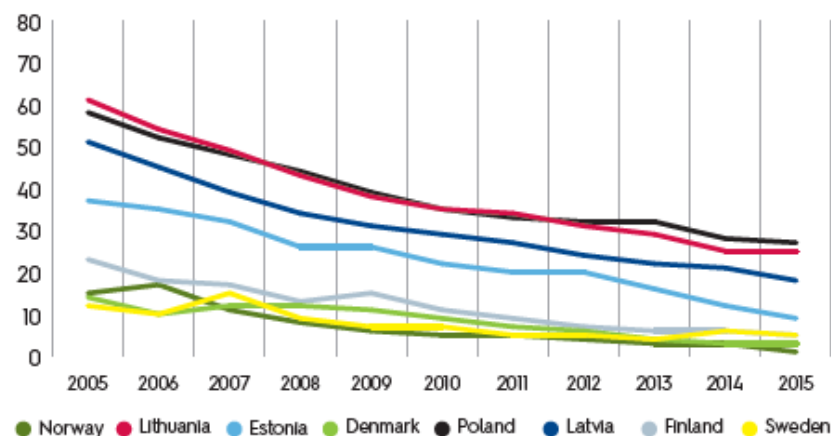
(WORLD BANK)



APP. 19

Never Used Internet 2005-2015 (% Population)

(DIGITAL AGENDA SCOREBOARD)



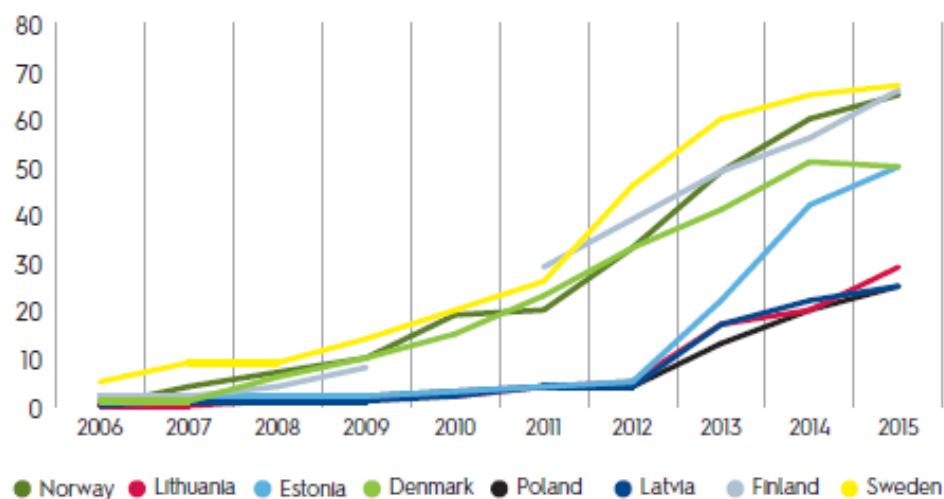
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APP. 13

Used Mobile Phone to Access Internet (% of individuals) 2006-2015

(DIGITAL AGENDA SCOREBOARD)



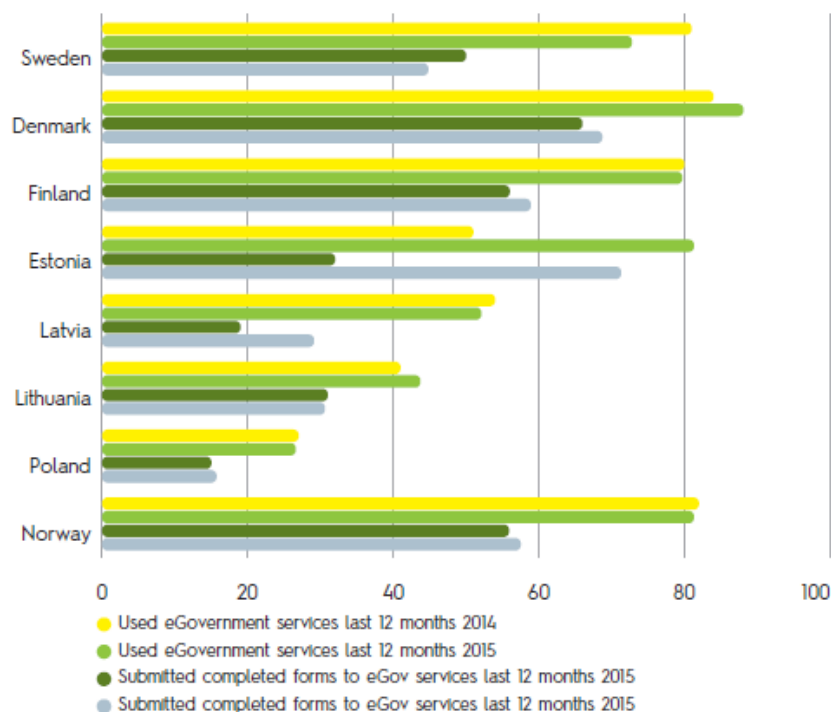
STATE OF THE DIGITAL REGION 2016

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FIG. 7

Share of citizens using e-government services 2014 and 2015

(DIGITAL AGENDA SCOREBOARD)



Human capital

In order to benefit in the future it is important to increase knowledge on how technological advancements and digitalization can be used as tools for a positive development.

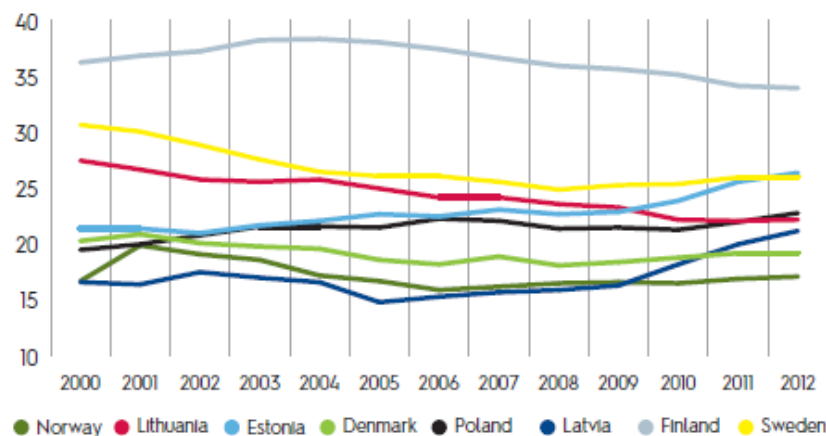
What are key competencies in the future?

Key future competencies

APP. 29

Enrolled in Science, Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering (% of Students) 2000-2012

(EUROSTAT)



APP. 32

STEM Graduates / 1000 Individuals 20-29 Years Old 2012 and 2013

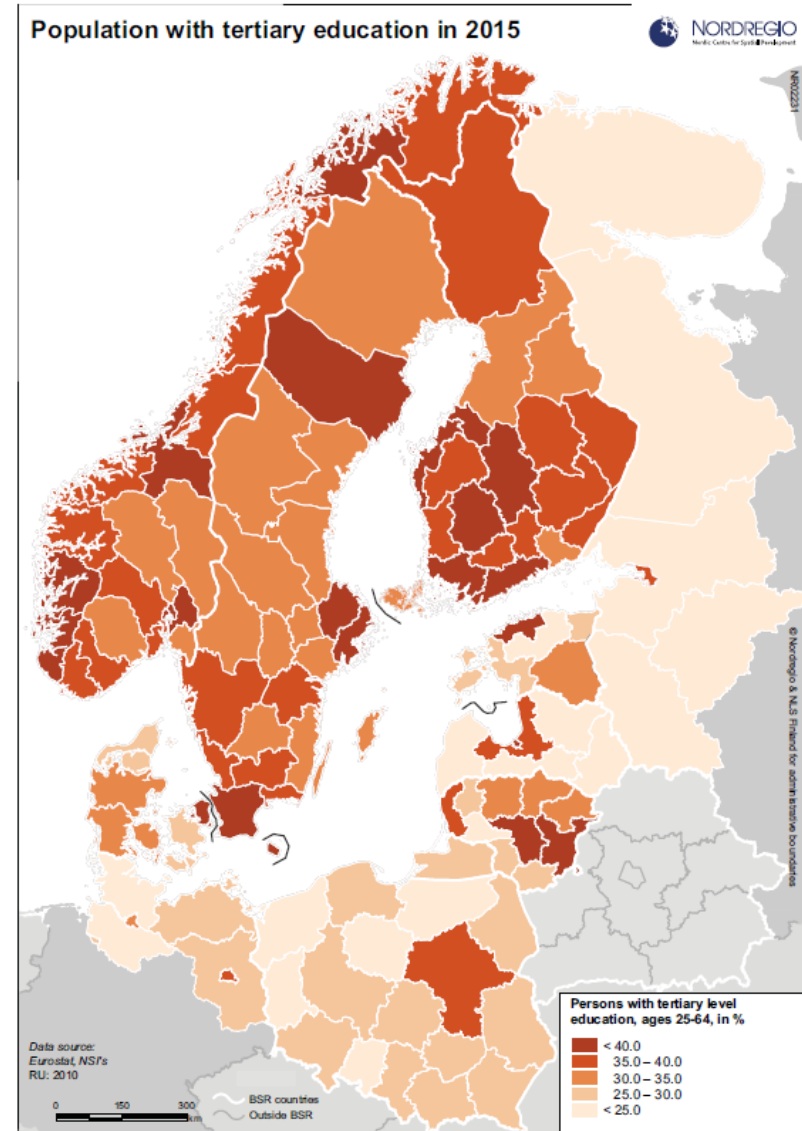
(DIGITAL AGENDA SCOREBOARD)



* STEM = Science, technology, engineering and mathematics

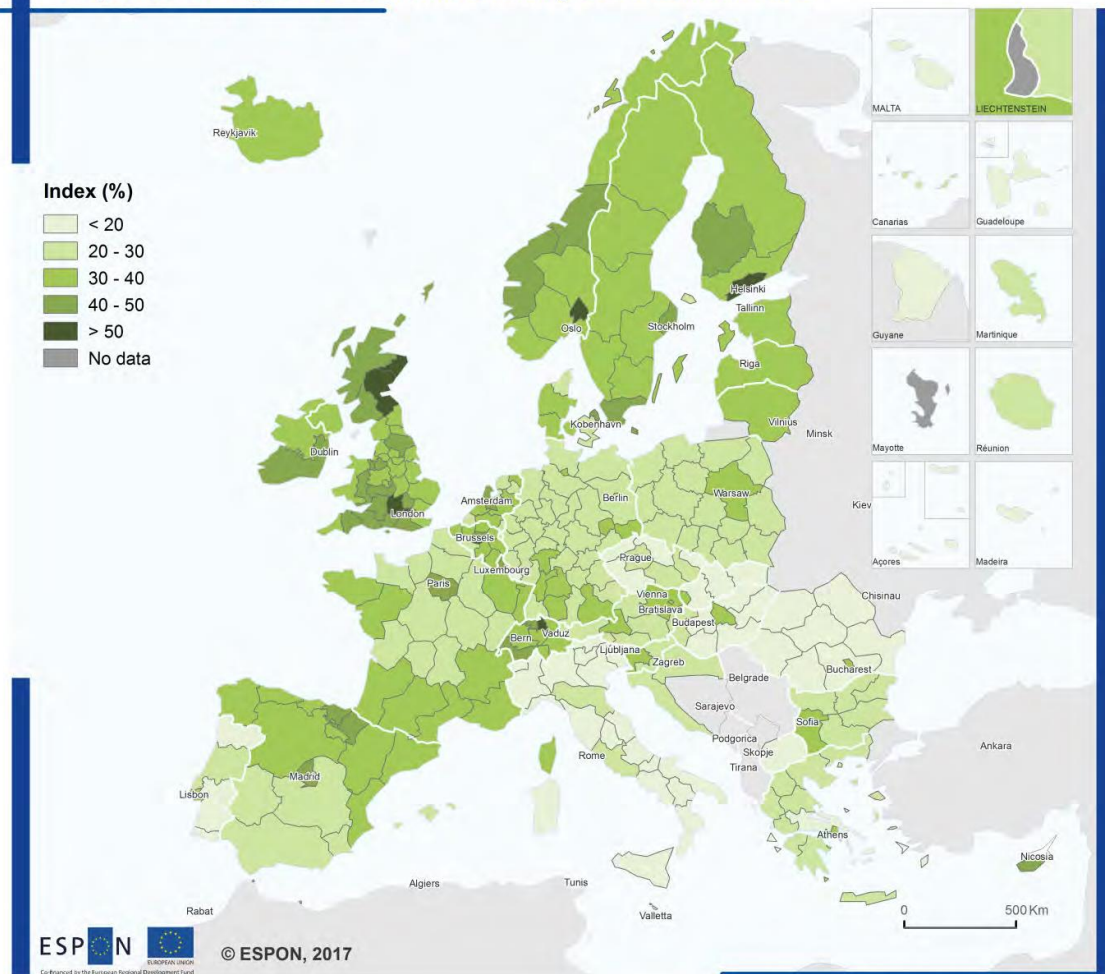
Rising education level

- Capitals such as Oslo, Vilnius, Tallinn, Copenhagen and Stockholm dominate the upper rungs of the ladder.
- They are joined by typical smaller university towns such as Uppsala, Tromsø or Kaunas.
- Apart from the capitals and university towns, there exists a clear east-west dimension in the BSR as regards highly educated persons



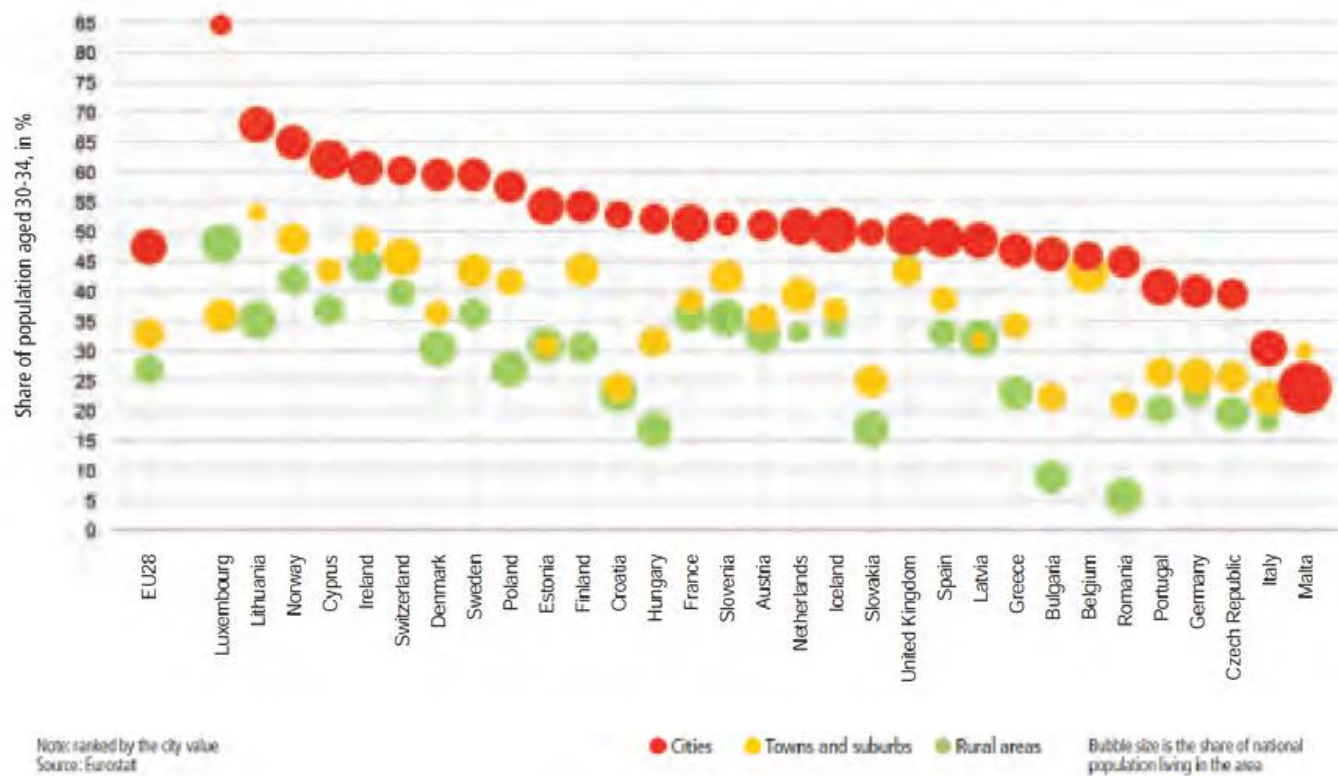
Rising education level

Population aged 24-64 with tertiary education 2015



Key future competencies

Figure 4.17. People aged 30-34 with a tertiary education by degree of urbanisation, 2014



Source: European Commission and UN Habitat, 2016: 108

Summary

- Metropolitan areas are performing better than other types of territories.
- The digital gap is closing as accessibility and the individual use of internet is spreading.
- Estonia is "mastering change" and catching up the nordic countries who are "lagging ahead"
- Could a BSR strategy improve the situation and help lagging regions catching up?

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