

Sustainable cities by the sea

- Case study of a potential Nordic mission area





Nordic Co-operation

Nordic Energy
Research

What we do

We are under the auspices of the **Nordic Council of Ministers** – the intergovernmental body between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We fund R&D to promote a sustainable future

We contribute to policy-making



Joint Baltic Nordic Energy Research Programme



To "...promote energy research and analysis in the Baltic States and inspire intra-Baltic and Baltic-Nordic collaboration as well as to promote Baltic-Nordic Research Area"



- 1. Baltic-Nordic research projects**
- 2. Baltic-Nordic PhD collaboration**
- 3. Exchange of energy researchers**

Mobilising the Nordics

... Mandate for the Mission Groups

- NordForsk have gathered four mission groups who will **explore new ways to strengthen the Nordic collaboration** across sectors regarding highly relevant themes selected at the Nordic Webinar process of 2020. Each group is to present an output of the exploration for the steering group at the end of Spring 2021.
- As a member of the mission group the main task will be to help **specify, scope and develop the contents of the mission** from the beginning, and during the process take part in defining and planning what the next steps of the mission look like.
- All members of the mission groups and the steering group are considered **knowledgeable individual contributors in the process** of exploring the objective – *not* representatives working on behalf of their respective organisations.
- The *Mobilising the Nordics* project/forum should be considered **a network-oriented think tank** with the opportunity to develop and provide ideas to follow up at the political level in the coming years.



Theme for the mission group

Addressing the grand challenge of Nordic digital and green transition.

Sustainable cities by the sea

During the spring 2021 the group explored the potentials and challenges for creating a Nordic mission for developing sustainable cities by the sea.

The starting point for the exploration is the Horizon Europe program. The group aimed at exploring the opportunities for a cross-cutting theme relevant for three of the overall mission areas selected by the EU Commission:

- adaptation to climate change including societal transformation
- healthy oceans, seas coastal and inland waters
- climate-neutral and smart cities





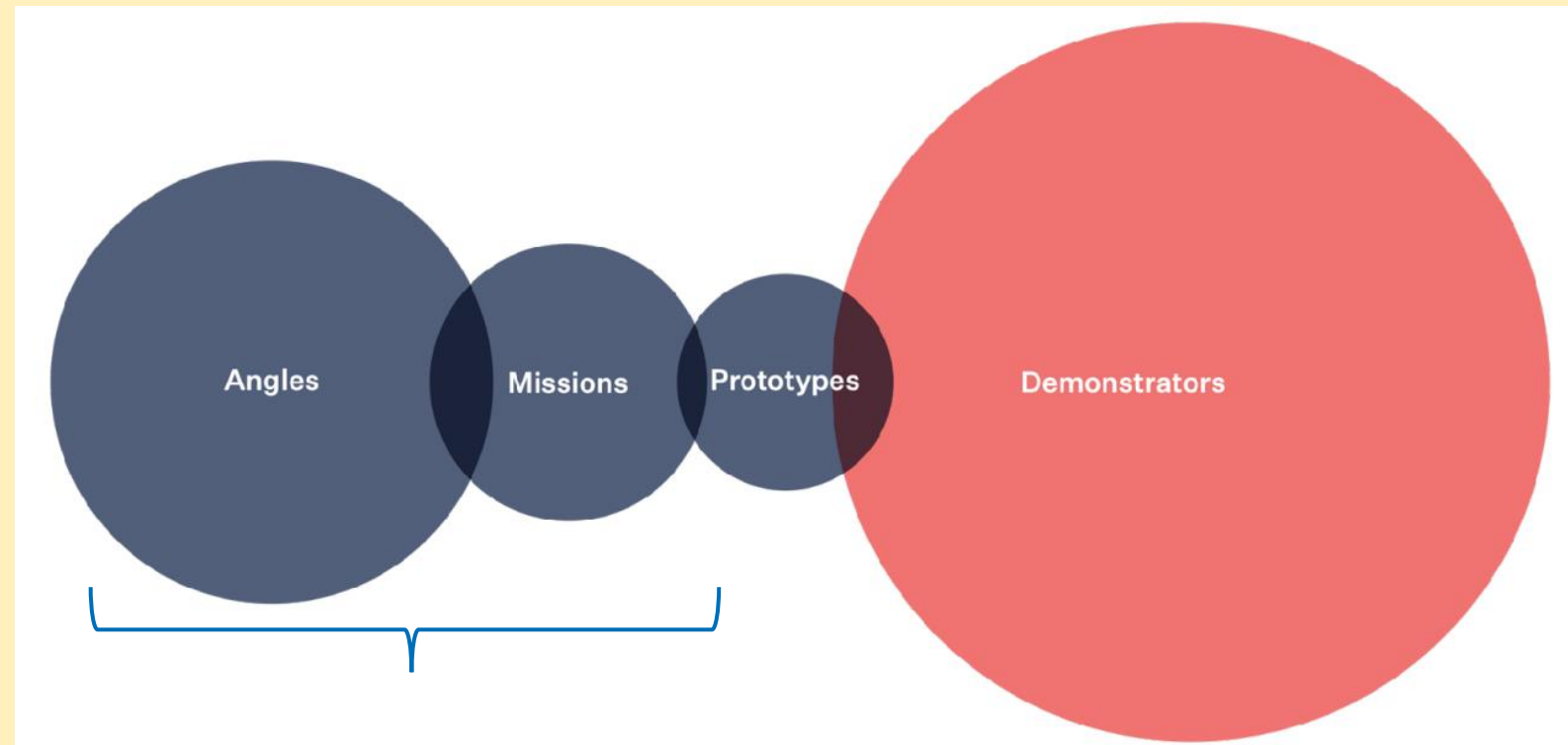
Ingrid Petersson
Director General,
Formas

Method of mission-oriented innovation

Using the first two steps in the method of mission-oriented innovation the group will:

- 1) identify and discuss angles
- 2) formulate missions

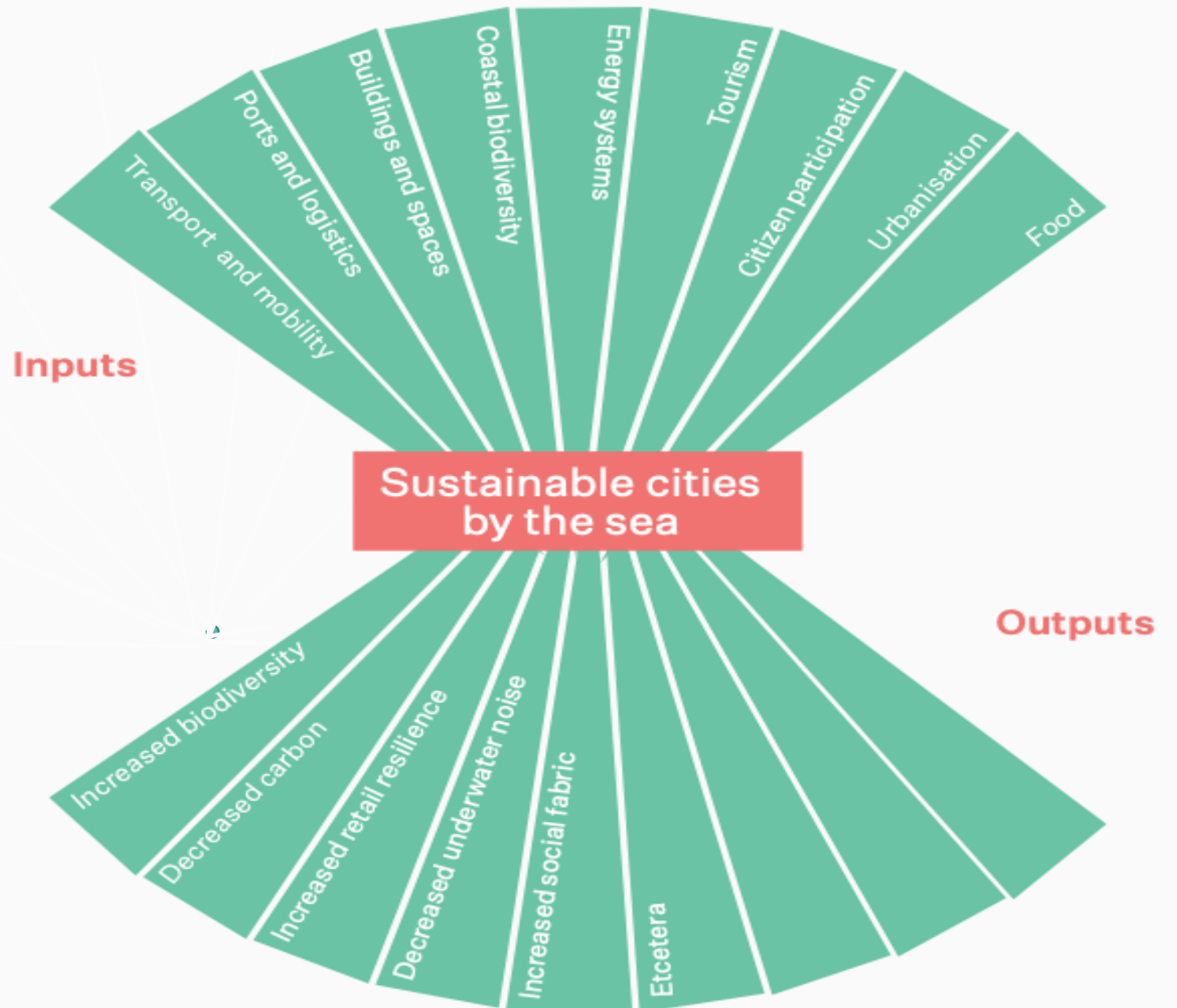
for developing sustainable cities by the sea.



Selected angles

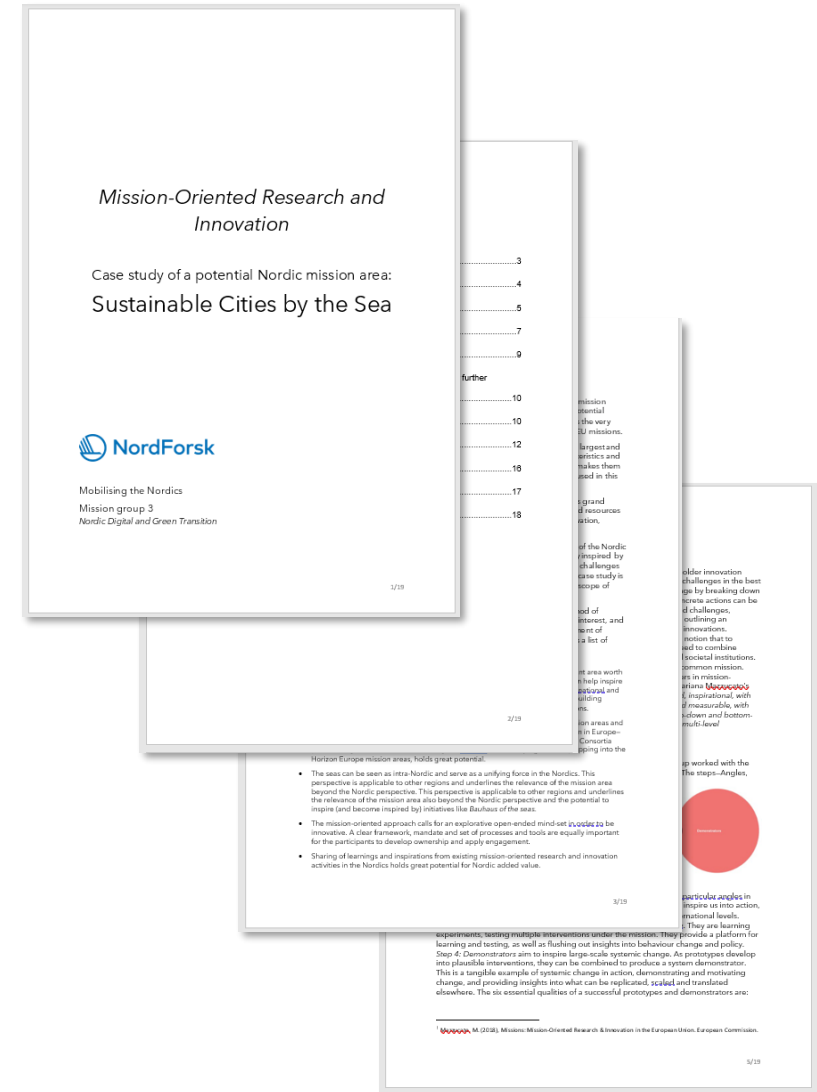
EU Mission Areas

- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal- and inland waters
- Adapting to climate change including societal transformation
- Climate-neutral and smart cities



1. What are our results/output?

- A case study report on a potential Nordic mission area: *Sustainable Cities by the Sea*.
- The report presents recommendations and learnings with respect to developing Nordic missions for digital and green transitions. Especially explorations of potential for Nordic added value in cooperation on:
 - tapping into EU Horizon Europe funding for a Nordic mission theme and
 - developing Nordic initiatives (flagships projects) for developing (more) sustainable cities by the sea.
- The recommendations and learnings are based on the explorations performed by the group using the method of mission-oriented innovation.



2. What have we learned from the process?

- The potential Nordic mission area 'Sustainable cities by the sea' is a highly relevant area worth pursuing for the Nordics. The array of possible angles presented in the report can help inspire the formulation of missions and the development of prototypes.
- Local, regional, national and Nordic levels can all be activated, potentially creating 'rolling snowball' effects, building towards large-scale systemic change impacts from initially small-scale interventions.
- The seas can be seen as intra-Nordic and serve as a unifying force in the Nordics. This perspective is applicable to other regions and underlines the relevance of the mission area beyond the Nordic perspective.
- The mission-oriented approach calls for an explorative open-ended mind-set in order to be innovative. A clear framework, mandate and set of processes and tools are equally important for the participants to develop ownership and apply engagement.



3. What are next steps? What can this be used for? Who are relevant stakeholders

How can the output from the mission group be activated/applied?

- The mission area is aligned with at least three of the five EU Horizon Europe mission areas and has potential for creating strong Nordic impact on the digital and green transition in Europe.
- Building Nordic Consortia for developing missions, tapping into the Horizon Europe mission areas, holds great potential.
- Cities by the sea are natural entities and intervening points for a Nordic mission area
- Sharing of learning and inspirations from existing mission-oriented research and innovation activities in the Nordics holds great potential for Nordic added value..

Who are relevant stakeholders?

- Cities are complex systems involving people and citizen engagement, investors and companies, research and education etc. as well as local, regional and national government - making the method of mission-oriented innovation a great fit.
- The report is submitted to the steering committee of Mobilising the Nordics at NordForsk. NordForsk can initiate follow up activities in collaboration with national and Nordic institutions.





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www.nordicenergy.org



Klaus Skytte, CEO, Phd

Link up at [LinkedIn](#) or

Email: Klaus.skytte@nordicenergy.org

