



Rural perspectives on digital innovation

Webinar 1: The digital divide

Linda Randall (Nordregio)

Tommy Nilsson (Byanätsforum, Sweden)

Regina Westas Stedt (Vingåker Municipality, Sweden)

Aiga Irmeja (IT Cluster, Latvia)

March 10, 2020



Digitalisation is the transformation of all sectors of our economy, government and society based on the large-scale adoption of existing and emerging digital technologies (Randall & Berlina 2019).

Digital North

Nordic-Baltic Ministerial Conference on Digitalisation

We, the ministers in charge of digital development, from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Åland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, support the following policy goals to make the Nordic-Baltic region a digital frontrunner:

1. Strengthening the ability for digital transformation of our governments and societies, especially by creating a common area for cross-border digital services in the public sector.
2. Strengthening the competitiveness of our enterprises through digitalisation.
3. Enhancing the digital single market in the Nordic-Baltic region.



Digital North

Nordic-Baltic Ministerial Conference on Digitalisation

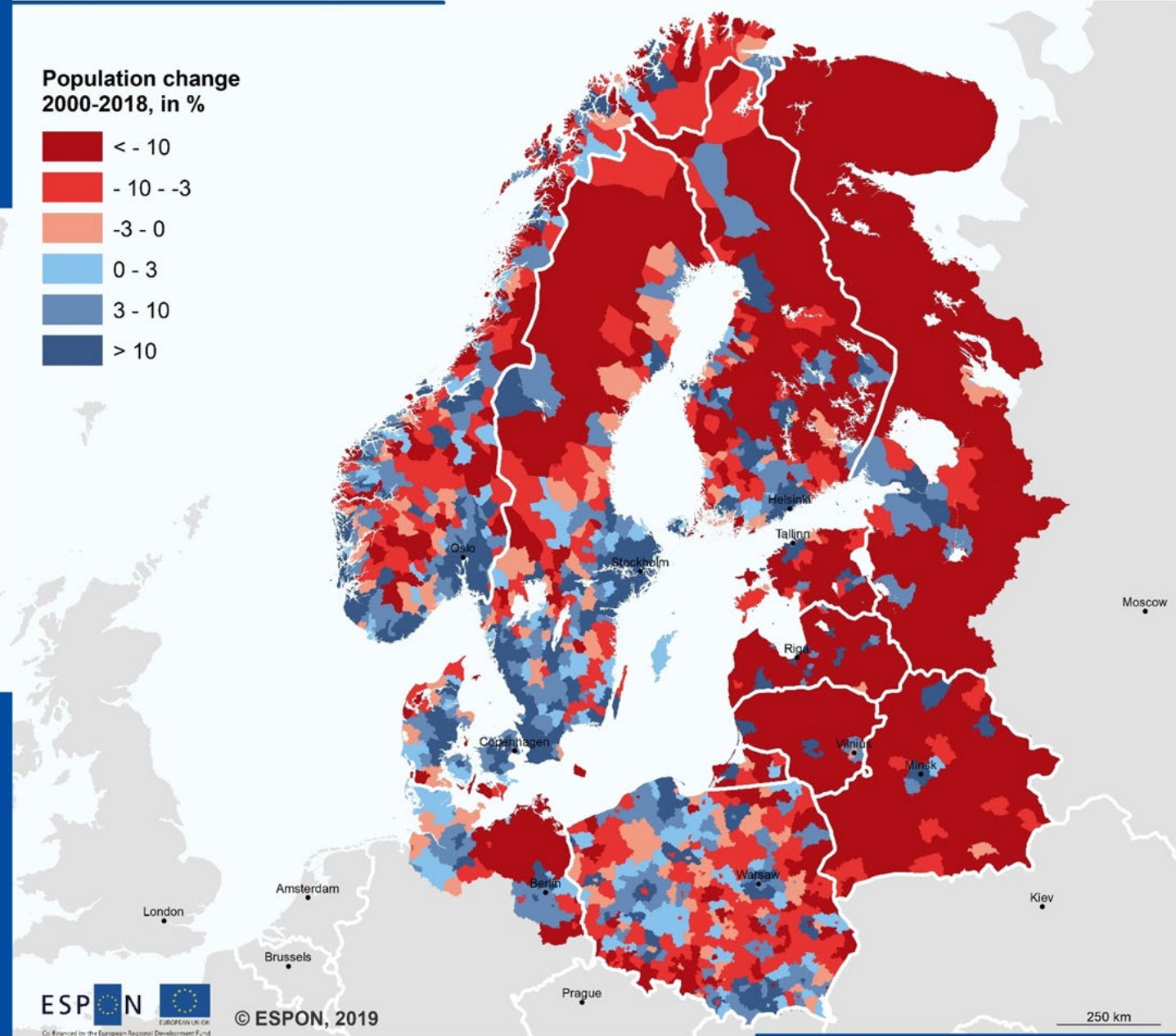
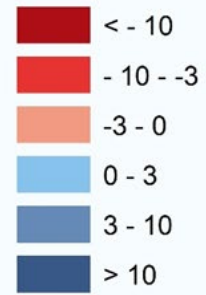
We, the ministers in charge of digital development, from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Åland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, support the following policy goals to make the Nordic-Baltic Region a digital frontrunner:

1. Strengthening the ability for digital transformation of our governments and societies, especially by creating a common area for cross-border digital services in the public sector.
2. **Strengthening the competitiveness of our enterprises through digitalisation.**
3. Enhancing the digital single market in the Nordic-Baltic region.



Population change 2000-2018

Population change
2000-2018, in %



Digital innovation in rural business: A study of the Nordic countries and Latvia

Project aim: Identify the challenges and opportunities for rural businesses in the context of digitalisation.

Project outcome: Baseline study. Fact sheets. Policy advice. Webinar series.

Workshops: Ii, Finland. Vinkåker, Sweden. Trøndelag Norway. Vesthimmerlands, Denmark. Ligatne, Latvia. Ísafjörður, Iceland. Faroe Islands. Greenland.

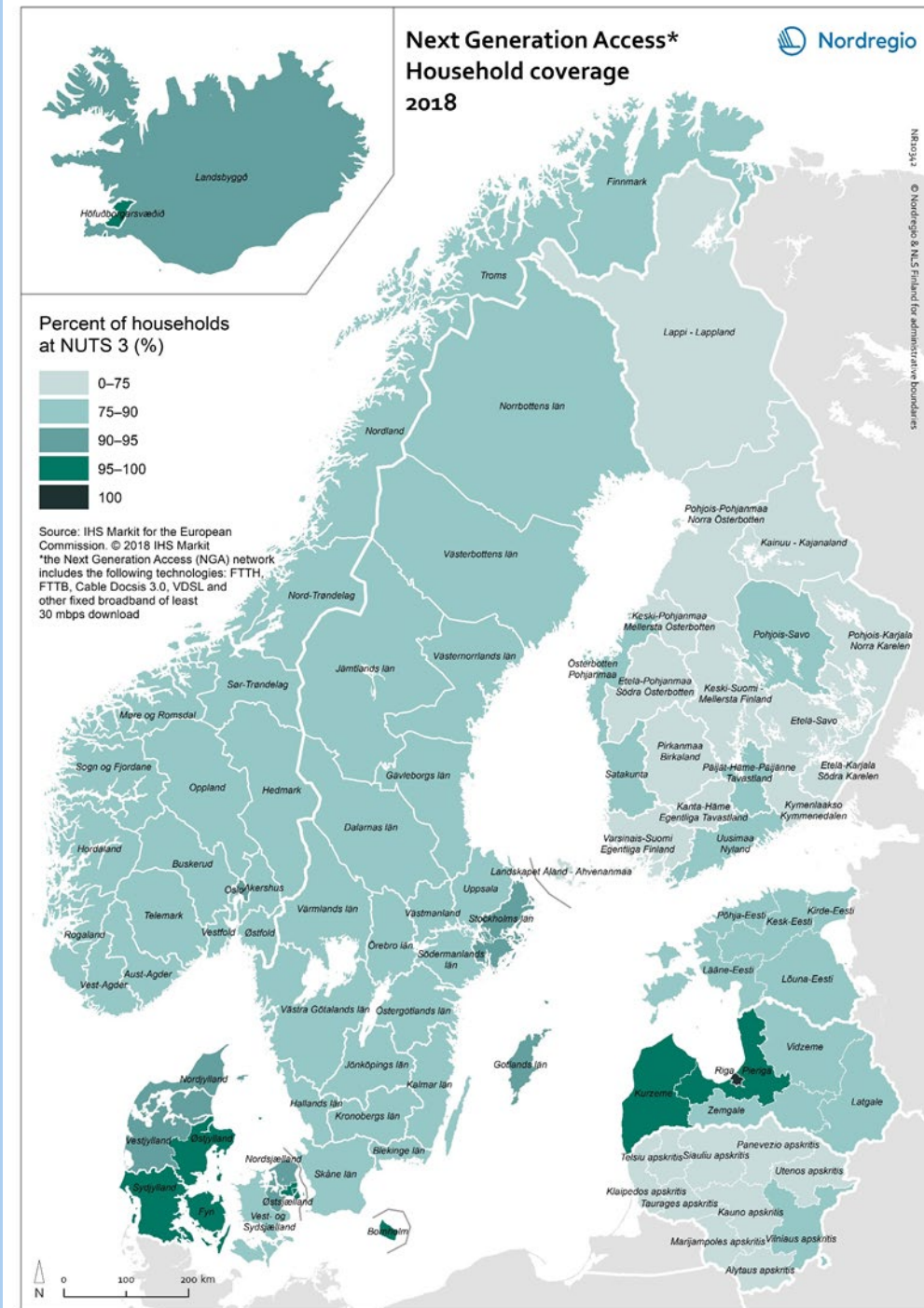
Timeframe: February 2019 – April 2020

Funding: Nordic Council of Ministers (MR Digital & Nordic Thematic Group for Innovative and Resilient Regions)



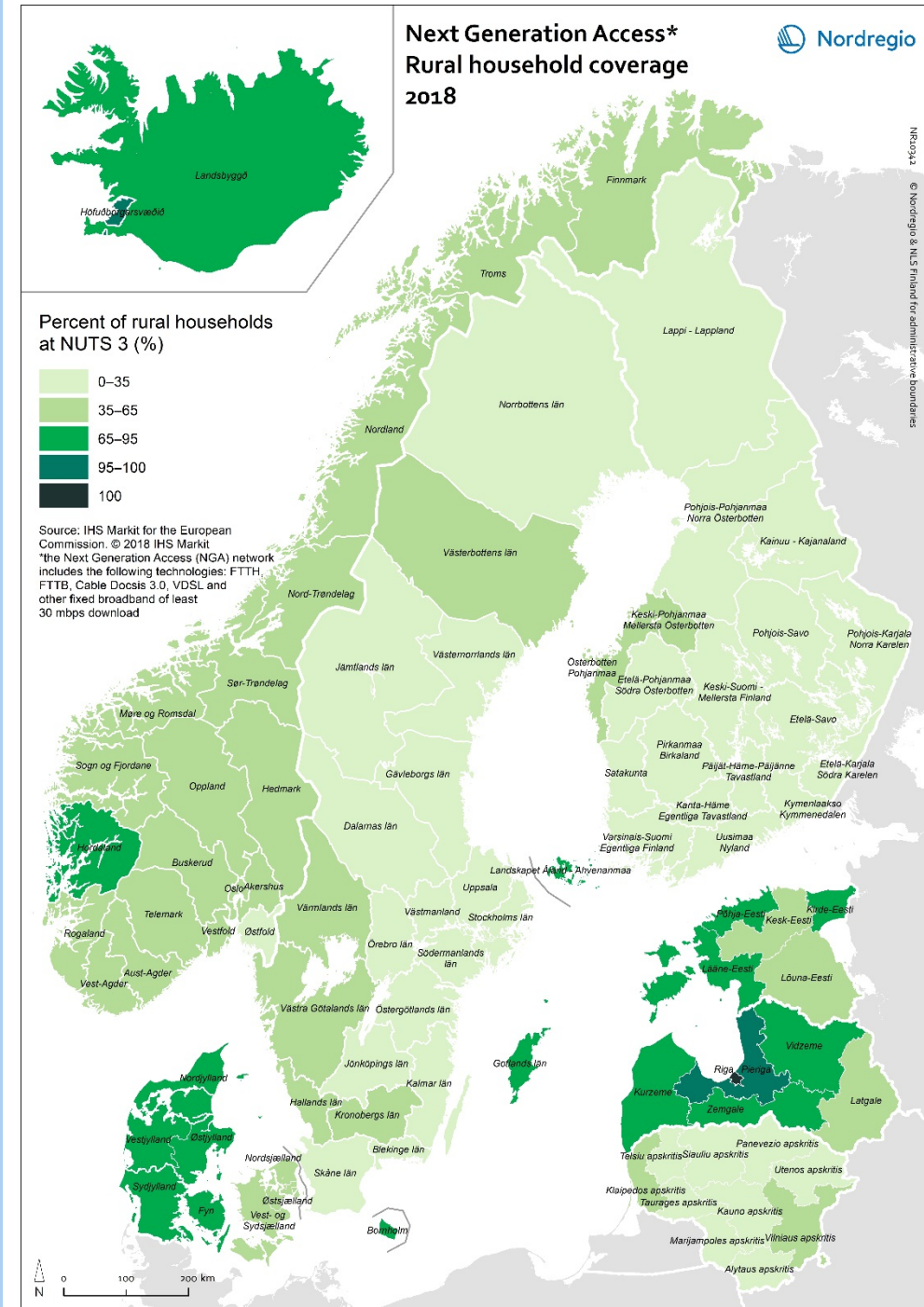
NGA coverage in the Nordic-Baltic Region

- In most regions >75% have NGA coverage (exception: Finland & Lithuania)
- Highest levels of overall coverage found in Iceland, Denmark and Latvia
- Lowest levels of overall coverage found in Finland and Lithuania
- Highest levels of coverage found in the capital regions



NGA coverage in the Nordic-Baltic Region

- Highest levels of coverage in Latvia, Iceland and Denmark
- Less than 65% of rural households covered across most of Norway (exception: Hordaland)
- Less than 35% of rural households covered across much of Sweden, Finland and Lithuania (exceptions: Åland & Gotland)



What's next?

Webinar 2: Digitalisation in the manufacturing industry (March 17)

Linda Randall (Nordregio)

Julie Ringgaard Jensen (Vesthimmerlands Municipality)

Alvis Sokolovs (Business owner, Latvia)

Webinar 3: The digital revolution in the bioeconomy (March 24)

Webinar 4: Digitalisation and sustainable tourism (March 31)

<https://www.nordregio.org/events/a-webinar-series-rural-perspectives-on-digital-innovation/>

