

Functional territories in a eastern Norway and western Sweden perspective

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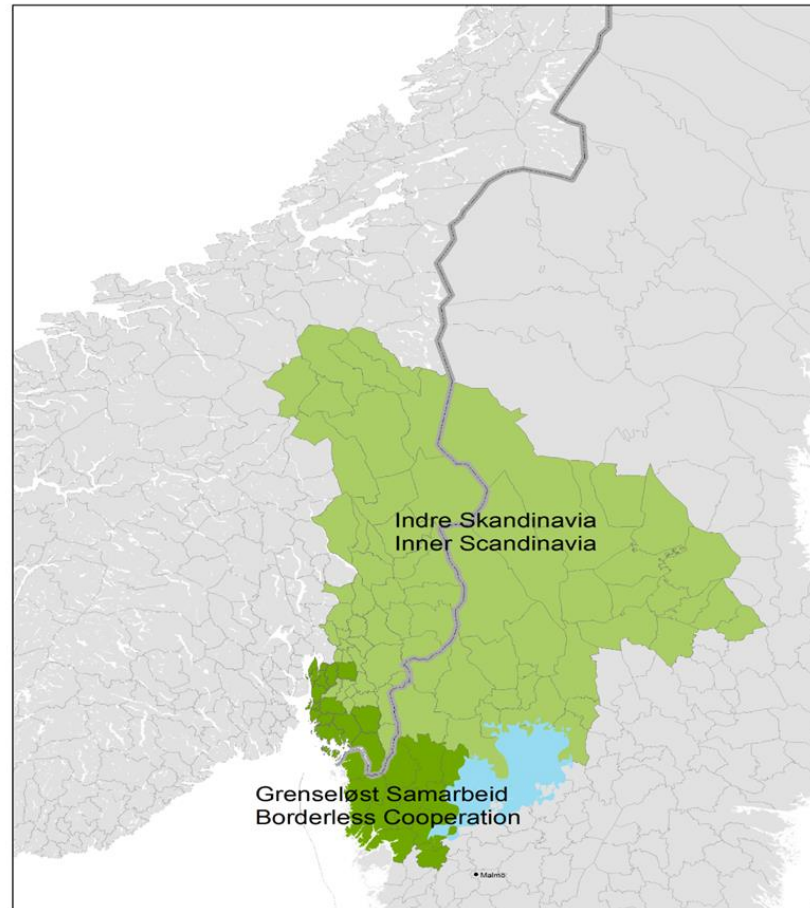
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Topics

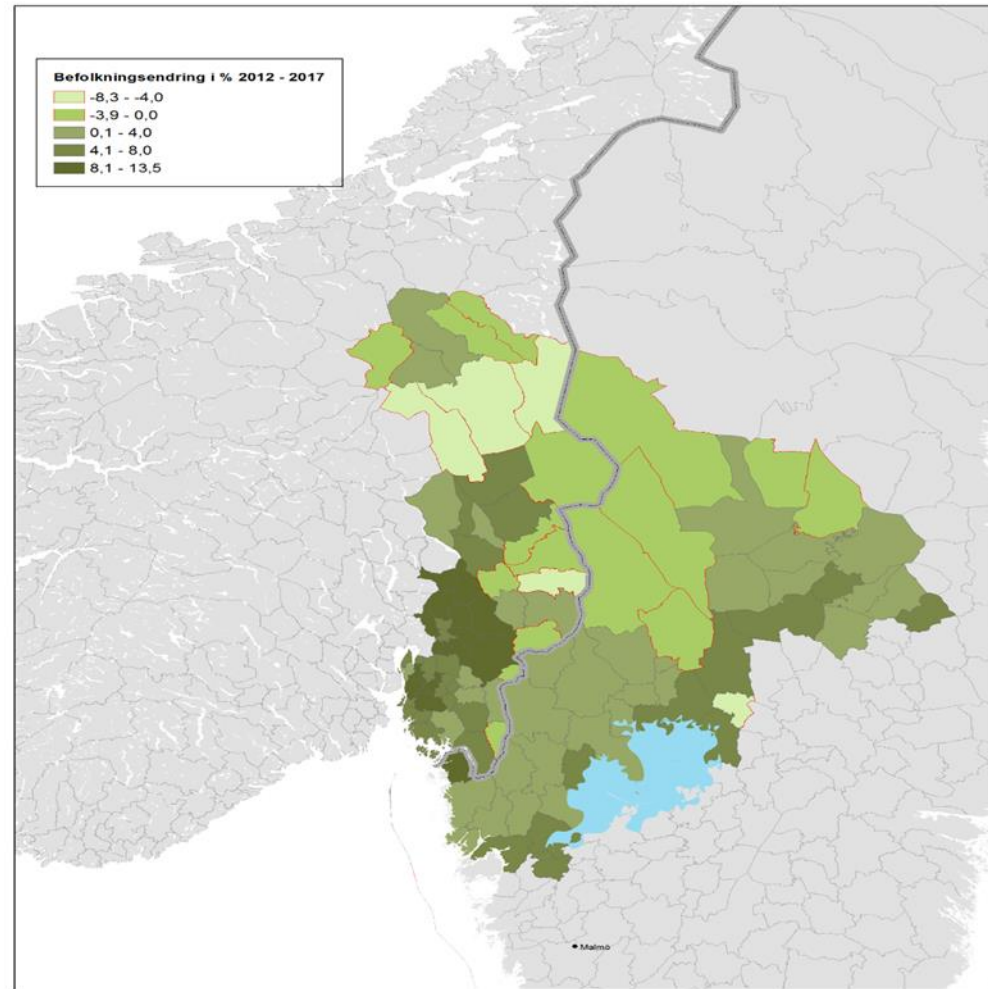
- Population change 2012-2017
- Functional regions according to Statistics Norway
- Functionality at higher geographical levels
 - Policy supported functionality
 - Market driven functionality
- Policies for cross border innovation systems

Geography of the Inner Scandinavia and Borderless Cooperation regions



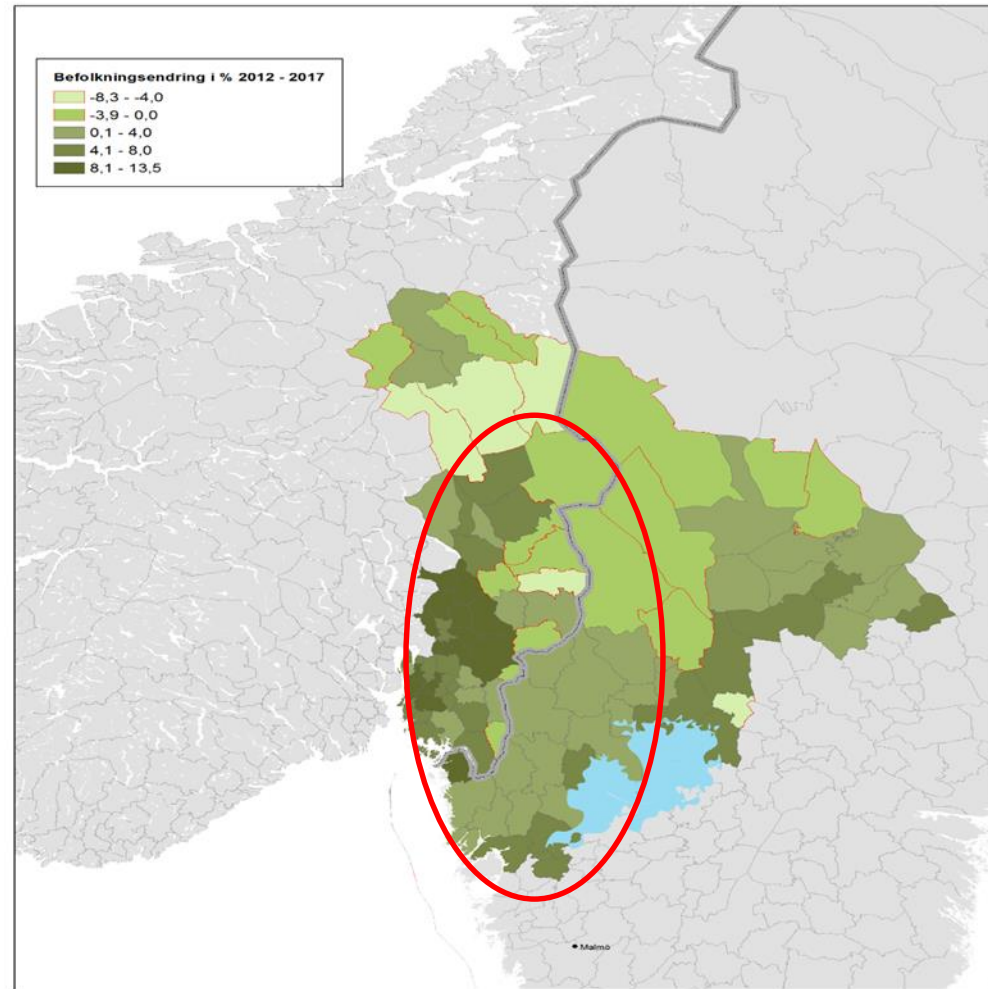
Population change 2012-2017

- Strong population growth in:
 - Akershus county (NO) – upper and lower Romerike – part of the greater Oslo region
 - Västra Götaland (SE) – Strömstad border region grows due to closeness to Oslo region
- Population growth in a number of mostly southern regions
- Population decline or stagnation in northern parts of Hedmark County (NO), Dalarna County (SE) and Värmland County (SE)



Cross border interaction

- More cross border commuting across the Sweden-Norway (28.000) border than the Sweden-Denmark (20.000) border in 2009
- The area within the ellipse contains most of Sweden-Norway cross border interaction;
 - 90% of trade
 - 90% of traffic
 - 90% of commuting



Functional regions

- Usually understood as a region where people live and work, in Norway; “working and living regions”
- A city or town is the center of the working and living region
- Boundaries of the region defined by commuting and distance between cities/towns
- Better roads and railways - means more people are willing to commute longer distances; which results in enlargement of functional regions
- There are 6 working and living regions in Hedmark County; Hamar, Elverum, Kongsvinger, Trysil/Engerdal, Stor-Elvdal og Tynset
- The Oslo region includes all of Akershus county and some municipalities in inner Østfold
- Østfold County includes 4 such regions

Cross border functional regions?

- At the Swedish-Norwegian border there are three Swedish municipalities (Årjäng, Eda, Strömstad) where more than 10% of the employed citizens commuted to Norway on a daily bases in 2011
- Many of the commuters are Norwegian citizens living in Sweden
- According to national Norwegian criteria these three Swedish municipalities are NOT part of Norwegian functional regions;
 - Of the 18% commuting from Årjäng to Norway, less than 10% commuted to one region.
 - This means the Swedish commuters had different destination regions in Norway
- The level of commuting from the Swedish municipalities into Norway is too small to formally qualify for a functionally integrated labor market.

Functionality beyond daily commuting distance

- To discuss functional regions as part of future Interreg work we can broaden our approach to functionality
- According to Tomaney (2009, p. 140); “The idea of the functional region captures the idea of a territory characterized by spatially related human activities”
- Human activities can be spatially related across large distances
- The growth of the City of Oslo and Akershus County has for many years represented a set of opportunities for (young) Swedes from Värmland and Dalarna
 - About 5500 people commuting from Värmland to Oslo and Akershus
 - This represents a border crossing “soft functionality”

Sweden-Norway cross border functionality

- Cross border integration, based on spatially related human activities;
 - Cross border partnership and investment in clean tech in inner Scandinavia since 2007
 - This has supported cross border knowledge flows within projects such as the KISS ME/ecoINSIDE project
 - A cross border forest-industrial system?
 - Cross border flows of tourists, workers and knowledge in the tourist industry in the Sälen-Trysil region?
 - Other types of cross border relations?

Long time cross border co-operation

- The Inter Reg Sweden – Norway programs have since the early 2000's supported cross border co-operation and innovation through the FEM projects
- *“In the FEM2020 project it as been [a goal] to look into what kind of issues, problems and tasks that are perceived as challenges for the region of Inner Scandinavia such as greenhouse gas emissions, low population growth in some of the counties and increased global competition. To address these challenges FEM2020 has studied the specific competitive advantages of the region. Green business development and collaboration across the counties and borders in Norway and Sweden is the key to meet the challenges”*
(FEM2020 final report 2014, p. 5)

The ecoINSIDE project

- Part of the Knowledge and Innovation Strategies involving Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (KISS ME) Interreg Europe project
- Project period 07.2015 – 06.2018, total budget 4 452 772 €
- The goal in ecoINSIDe 2015-2018 is according to the application, to develop;
 - “A world class border crossing innovation system
 - Inner Scandinavia as a showcase in sustainable development
 - Binding co-operation between institutions across the border, hopefully through ownership and more common institutions”
(authors translation)

Ways of working

- The resources in the project are allocated to three areas;
 - Solar energy and energy systems
 - Waste and resources
 - Sustainable housing
- The methods used in the project are;
 - Living lab
 - Service innovation
 - R&D
 - Innovative public procurement.

ecoINSIDE result indicators (so far)

Sector	SMEs being supported		SMEs getting support to introduce new products on the market		Support for introducing products to new SMEs		SMEs participating in cross-border, transnational or interregional R&D projects	
	Target	Status as of june 2017	Target	Status as of june 2017	Target	Status as of june 2017	Target	Status as of june 2017
Waste resources	15	35	1	8	1	6	15	14
Solar energy and energy systems	20	79	2	22	1	19	30	24
Sustainable construction and energy	15	24	1	2	2	4	15	8
Total	50	138	4	32	4	29	60	46

Success factors

- Experienced project managers with long time co-operation through the FEM projects and other projects
- Project managers works as knowledge brokers
- Knowledge brokers vital for building networks and establishing relations between SMEs and knowledge suppliers
- Over the years knowledge brokers have visited a large share of SMEs and knowledge suppliers in inner Scandinavia
- Flexibility in project design and organisational structure
- Wide public-private partnership

A cross border forest industrial system (?)

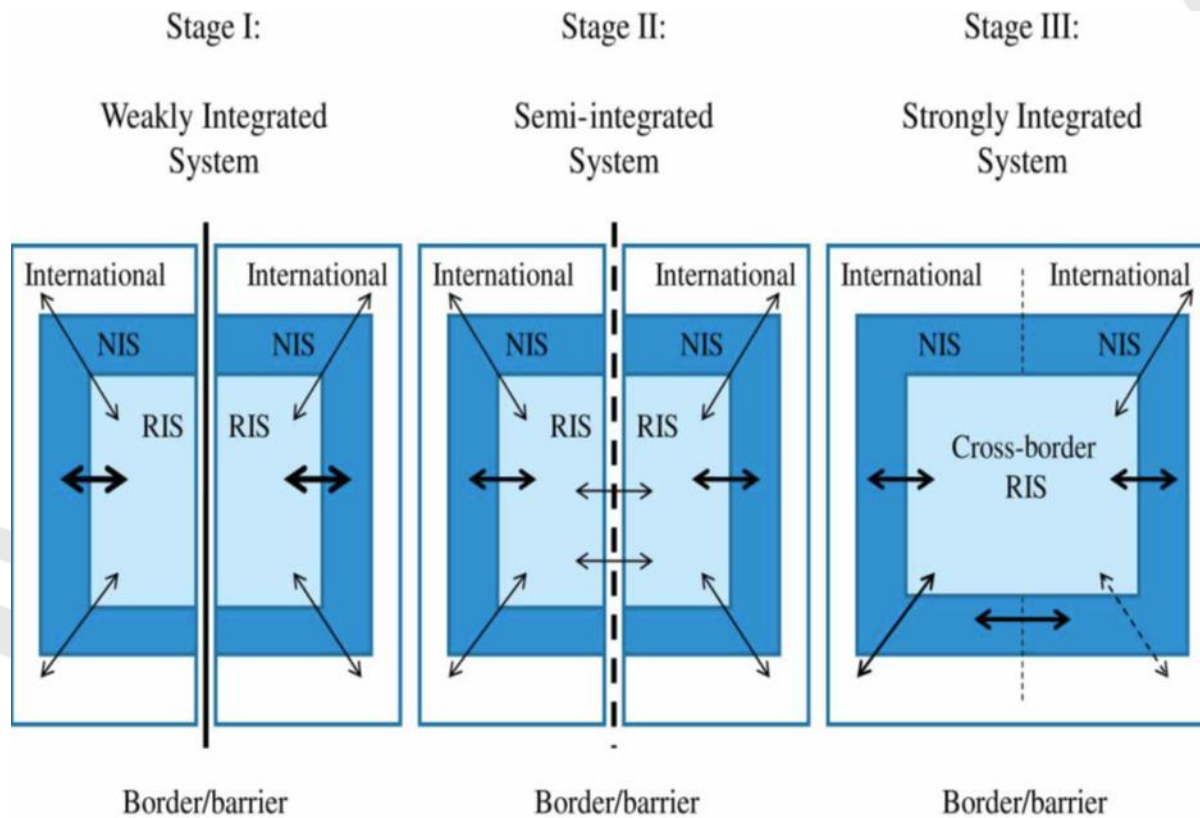
- It can be argued that the forest based industries are functionally integrated across the S-N border
- The S-N border region is (probably) a globally leading forest products region
- Cross border timber trade since the 19th Century
 - Timber exported from Trysil (NO) along the Trysil elven/Klära elven to saw mills in Karlstad (SE) at Lake Väneren
- Norwegian forest industry a net importer of timber from Sweden in the 1990s
- Today Swedish forest industry located at the Lake Väneren imports huge volumes of Norwegian pulp wood
- Largest Norwegian forest products company Moelven;
 - Several saw mills and processing mills on each side of the border
 - Operates an integrated cross border forest industrial system

Functionality and innovation

- A cross border innovation system in the making through FEM and ecoINSIDE funded networking activities
- Knowledge exchange and innovation in the cross border forest industrial production system – but we lack documentation of what, who and how much.....

Cross-border innovation systems

Source: Lundquist and Trippi 2013:455



Future work

- The cross border innovation systems within solar energy, housing construction and waste handling seems to be fragile;
 - Dependent on knowledge brokers
 - Dependent on some sort of public funding/support
- Innovation within the forest industrial system is market driven
- Challenges:
 - Stimulate new start up firms within prioritized sectors
 - Financing of innovation and growth in successful SMEs
 - Stimulate knowledge providers in their attempts to supply regionally relevant knowledge

Thank you

