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FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

A Conference on Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development: Make Use of the Territorial Potential!

10–11 December 2009 in Kiruna, Sweden



The Icehotel in Jukkasjärvi, the largest ice hotel in the world, where a workshop and the conference dinner will be held. (Photo: Ben Nilsson/Big Ben Productions)

Practical Information

Conference Website:

www.se2009.eu/kiruna10december

Date: 10–11 December 2009

Place: Folkets hus, LKAB Infomine, Icehotel

Contact: Mr Anders More,
Meeting coordinator
Telephone: +46 8 405 10 81
E-mail: anders.more@enterprise.ministry.se

Information: Participation is by invitation only. Invitations and further information regarding registration, will be sent in September.

Accommodation is pre-booked and can be reserved via online registration in September.

Cohesion policy gives the regions of Europe opportunities to develop on the basis of their own conditions and to make use of their territorial potential.

On 10–11 December 2009 Sweden will hold a high-level conference with the purpose of spreading knowledge and experience about the conditions for regional growth.

Some 150 participants, from EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Parliament and a range of organisations, will discuss the ability of cohesion policy to make use of territorial potential and its links to new challenges such as climate change, globalisation and demographic change.

The conference will be strategically located in the town of Kiruna, north of the Pole Circle in the far north of Sweden, which is facing major urban change in the near future.

Discussions will be held about how structural funds and sectoral policy can contribute to the optimal use of regional conditions for growth. Workshops will be held in the world's largest iron ore mine close to Kiruna town centre and at Icehotel, the largest ice hotel in the world.

Two reports will be produced for the conference, as a basis for discussions. The Swedish Presidency has the ambition of contributing, through the conference, to policy development in the policy area.

Welcome to Kiruna. We look forward to seeing you!



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Royal Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
The Minister*

Your ref

Our ref
09/1931-1 OGO

Date 3.9.2009

Dear Madam or Sir,

In connection with the Conference on Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development – Make use of the Territorial Potential - in Kiruna on the 10th and 11th of December, during the Swedish Presidency, we would like to invite you to Tromsø, Norway on the 7th and 8th of December.

The purpose of the visit is to share experiences on matters of common interest related to exploiting of territorial potential. The focus will be on the Northern and Arctic areas, addressing issues like cross border cooperation, research and innovation and energy. These are issues of importance, not only as an introduction to the conference in Kiruna, but also with regard to the ongoing debate on territorial cohesion and future cohesion policy.

For organisational purposes, we would like to receive an indication of interest by 1st of October 2009. More information will follow primo October. In addition to representatives responsible for regional policy in all EU member states, representatives of the Cabinet of Commissioner Pawel Samecki and from the European Commission, DG Regio, will also be invited. The participants will have to cover travel expenses to and accommodation in Norway. There will be a charter flight from Tromsø til Kiruna paid for by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

If you have questions please contact Counsellor for Regional and Local Affairs,
Mr. Arve Skjerpen, tel +32 22 38 74 64/arvs@mfa.no

RSVP: Kristin Larsen, Mission of Norway to the European Union,
tel +32 2 22 38 74 85/krla@mfa.no

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Norway in December.

Yours sincerely


Magnild Meltveit Kleppa



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

A conference on cohesion policy and territorial development: Make use of the territorial potential!

10-11 December 2009 in Kiruna, Sweden

Wednesday 9 December

19.00–22.00 Buffet Dinner at Hotel Ferrum

Thursday 10 December

09.30–11.45 Opening session, Folkets Hus, Kiruna

- 09.30 Introduction
Willy Silberstein, moderator
- 09.40 Welcome
Jöran Hägglund, State Secretary,
Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Sweden
- 09.55 Presentation Norrbotten county
Per-Ola Eriksson, County Governor
- 10.10 Territorial cohesion - how to release the potential of all regions
Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development
of the European Parliament
- 10.30 Standpoint on the future of EU regional policy
Pawel Samecki, Commissioner for Regional Policy
- 11.00 Spatial planning and the transformation of the city of Kiruna
Lars-Eric Aaro, LKAB
Mariann Nordmark, Municipality of Kiruna
- 11.40 Questions and summary of the first session
Willy Silberstein, moderator
- 11.45 Lunch at Hotel Ferrum

- 13.15 **Bus to parallel workshops**
Town guiding on the bus

Workshops

14.00–16.45 **Workshop 1 – LKAB Infomine**

Territorial potentials for European regions and tools for further development

The territorial potential can be determined by many factors such as geographical location, access to markets and capital, natural resources as land, raw materials and energy resources. Also labour force, including skills of the labour force, can be mentioned together with more intangible territorial capital as culture, creativity and governance. The territorial potential can be released through policies and actions at different levels. Cohesion Policy is one of the most important tools in this respect.

- 14.00 Introduction
Kai Böhme, moderator
- 14.05 Welcome to LKAB
Lotta Fogde, LKAB
- 14.15 What are the territorial potentials in different European regions?
Erik Gløersen, Nordregio
- 14.45 Coffee and refreshments
- 15.15 Possibilities for cohesion policy to make use of the territorial potential
– Structural funds programmes as tools for positive development
Katarina Mathernová, Regional Policy DG
- 15.40 Project presentation
Susanne Rostmark, FriGeo
- 16.10 Services of general interest - The importance of public goods to make best use
of territorial potentials
Betty-Ann Bryce, OECD
- 16.35 Conclusions
Kai Böhme, moderator
- 16.45 **Bus to ICEHOTEL, Jukkasjärvi**

14.15–16.50 **Workshop 2 – ICEHOTEL, Jukkasjärvi** **Challenges affecting Europe’s regional future**

Globalisation, demography and ageing population, climate change and access to sustainable and competitive energy are some of the most serious challenges that will impact on the development of Europe’s economies and societies over the coming years. Regions are affected very differently by each challenge, but they can also give rise to new solutions and business developments such as e-health and production of renewable energy.

- 14.15 Introduction
Willy Silberstein, moderator
 - 14.20 Regions 2020 – An assessment of future challenges for EU regions
Wolfgang Münch, Regional Policy DG
 - 14.55 ICEHOTEL - Presentation on their work towards the goal of being CO₂negative by the year 2015
Yngve Bergqvist, Icehotel
 - 15.15 Coffee and refreshments
 - 15.45 Regional strategies and demographic ageing -
Effects of the demographic change and how to handle the challenge
Belinda Wadsworth, Age Concern and Help the Aged
 - 16.15 Project presentation
Agneta Granström, E-health
 - 16.45 Conclusions
Willy Silberstein, moderator
- Change into warm clothes

17.15–23.00 **Evening session, ICEHOTEL, Jukkasjärvi**

- 17.15-18.45 First group: presentation of ICEHOTEL, guided tour in the hotel and the production area
- 17.15 Participants from the workshop at LKAB Infomine arrives at Icehotel
Change into warm clothes
- 17.45-19.15 Second group: presentation of ICEHOTEL, guided tour in the hotel and the production area
- 20.00 Dinner and entertainment at ICEHOTEL restaurant (indoors)
- 23.00 **Bus to Kiruna**

Friday 11 December

09.00–12.00 Closing session: Future perspectives, Folkets Hus, Kiruna

- 09.00 Introduction
Willy Silberstein, moderator
- 09.05 Territorial implications of the global economic crisis for the future of European space
Klaus Kunzmann, professor spatial planning
- 09.45 Conclusions from the workshops
Willy Silberstein, moderator
Kai Böhme, moderator
- 10.05 Coffee and refreshments
- 10.30 Panel discussion on the possibilities for the cohesion policy to make use of the territorial potential
Maud Olofsson, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister for Enterprise and Energy
Danuta Hübner, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development of the European Parliament
Pawel Samecki, Commissioner for Regional Policy
Michael Schneider, Chair of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy, Committee of the Regions
Mercedes Caballero Fernandez, Director General of Community Funds, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain
Mario Pezzini, Deputy Director Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- 11.30 Concluding remarks
Maud Olofsson, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister for Enterprise and Energy
- 11.45 Lunch

