

ESPON Roundtable on Post-COVID settlement patterns across urban and rural areas in Sweden

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NORDREGIO

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20211216

Mapping emerging urban and rural settlement patterns in Sweden

- Swedish population trends in a Nordic context
- Multilocality and Nordic urban-rural flows due to second homes
- Implications of the pandemic on population trends

Nordregio



An international research centre for regional development and planning established by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

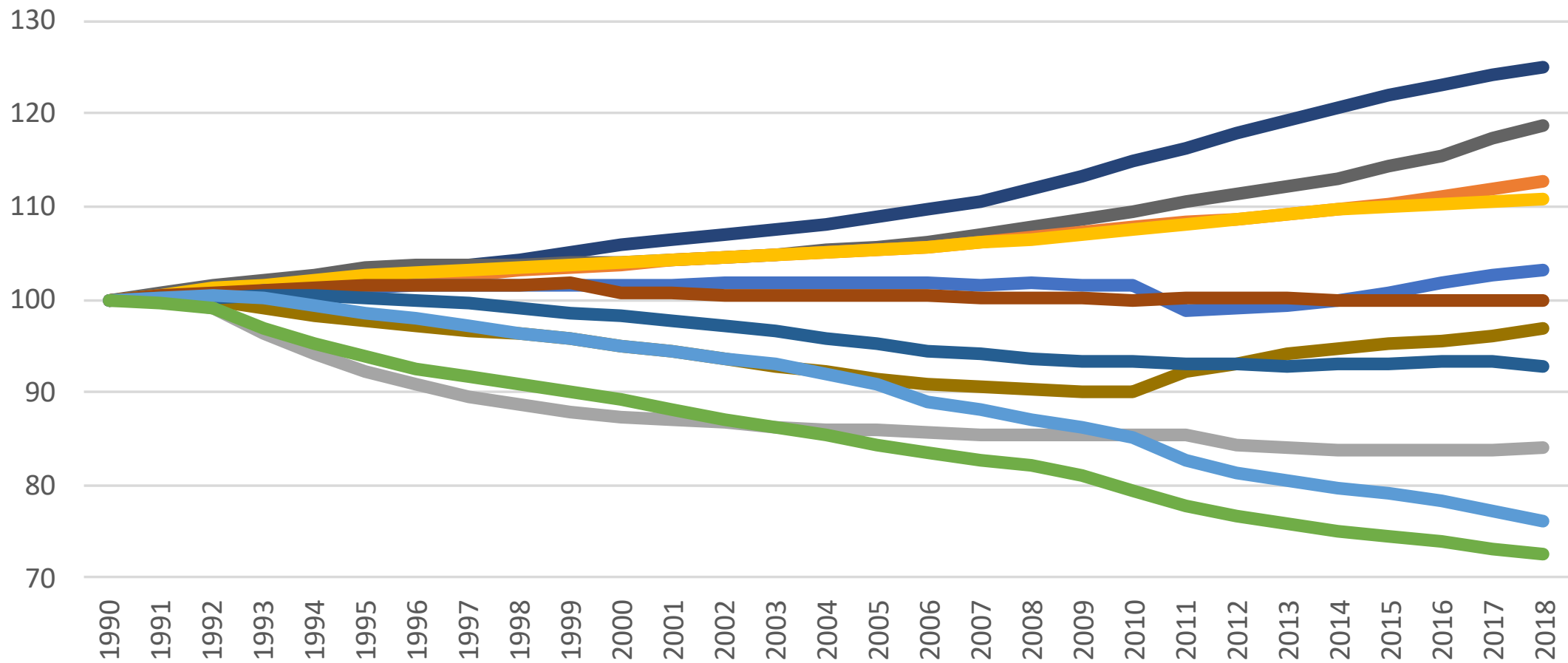


Swedish population trends in a Nordic context

Linda Randall, Senior Research Advisor

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Population change in the BSR 1990-2018, index: 1990 = 100

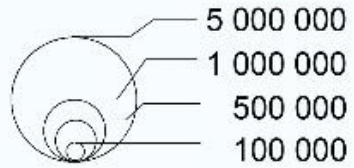


Sweden

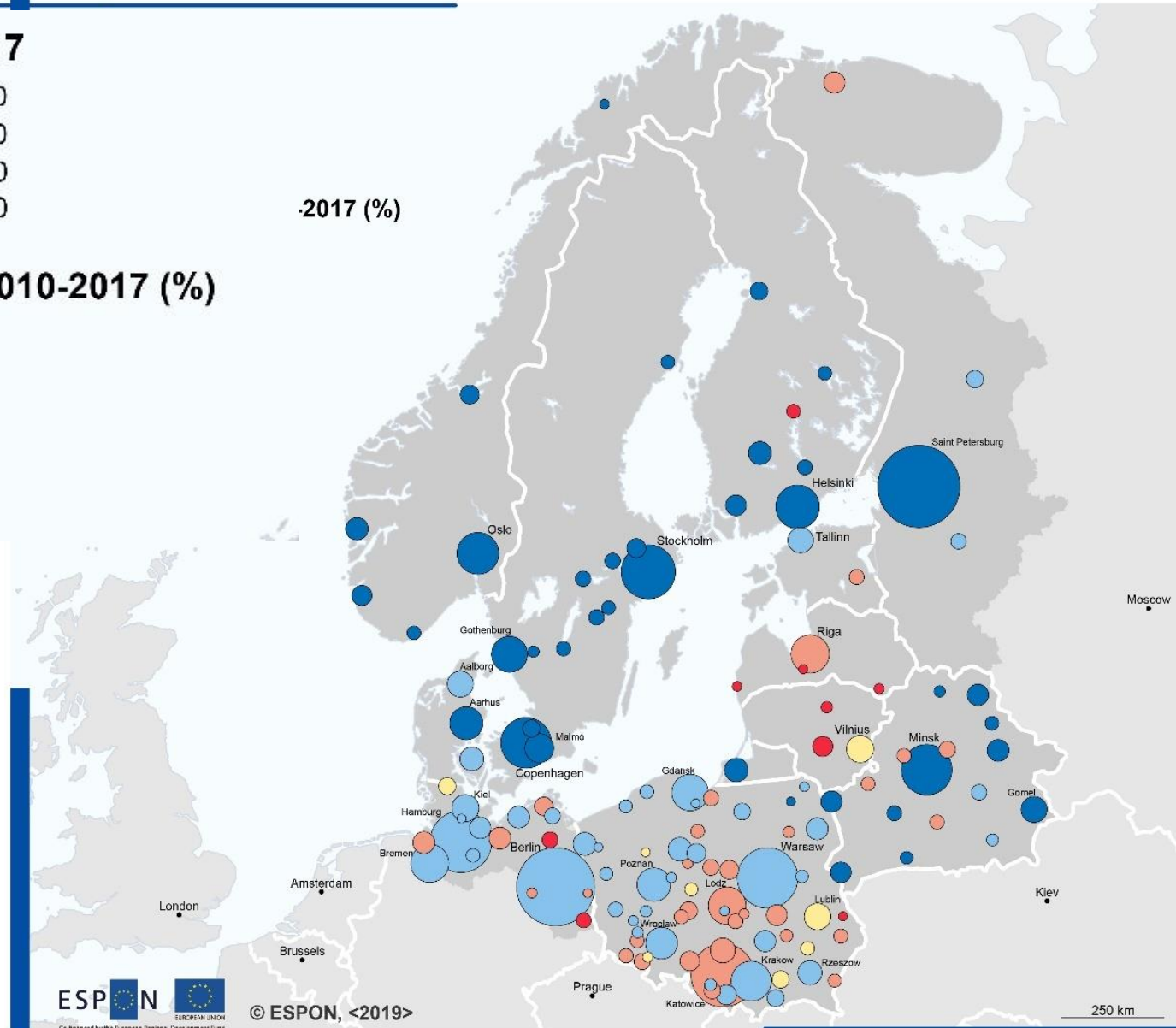
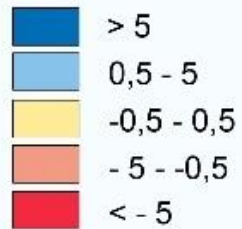
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Population size in Functional Urban Areas

Population in 2017



Annual change 2010-2017 (%)

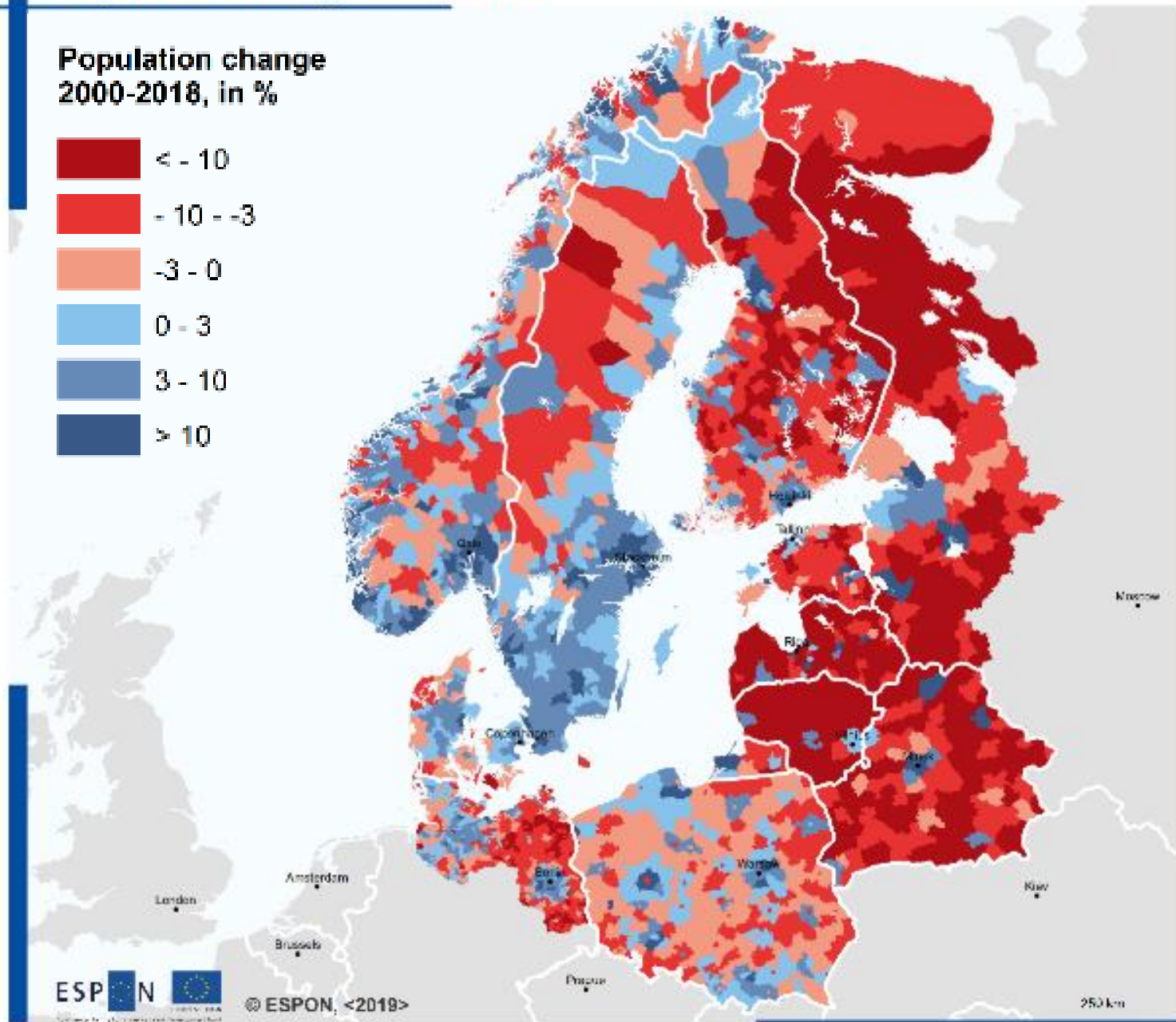
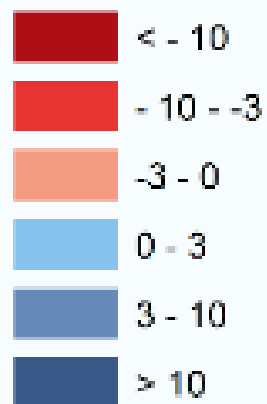


Source:
Borges et al
(2019)

BT2050

Population change 2010-2018

Population change
2000-2018, in %



ESPON © ESPON, <2019>

Territorial level: LAU2 (version 2011)

Source: <activity>, <year>

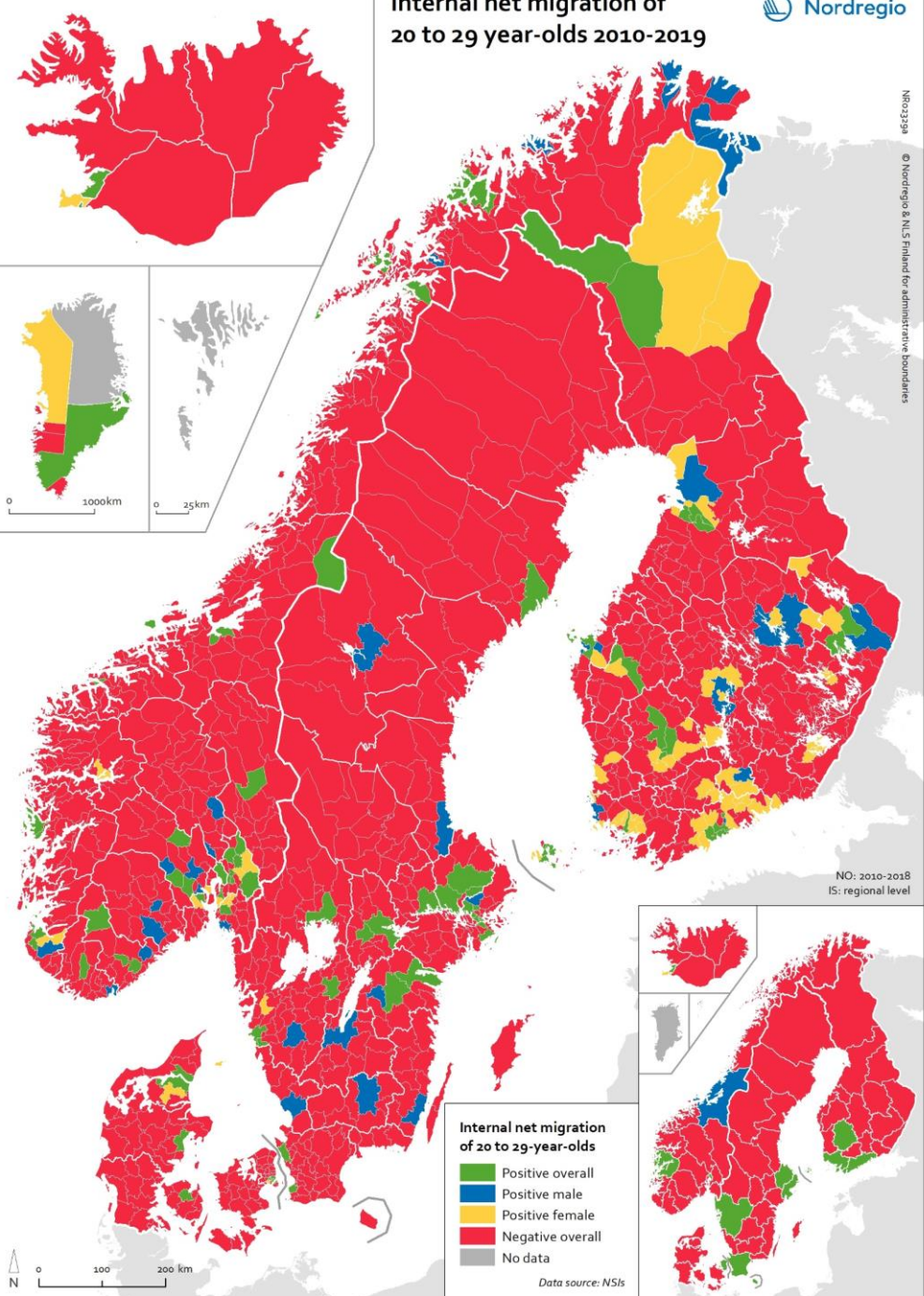
Origin of data: NSI's

© University of Geneva for administrative boundaries

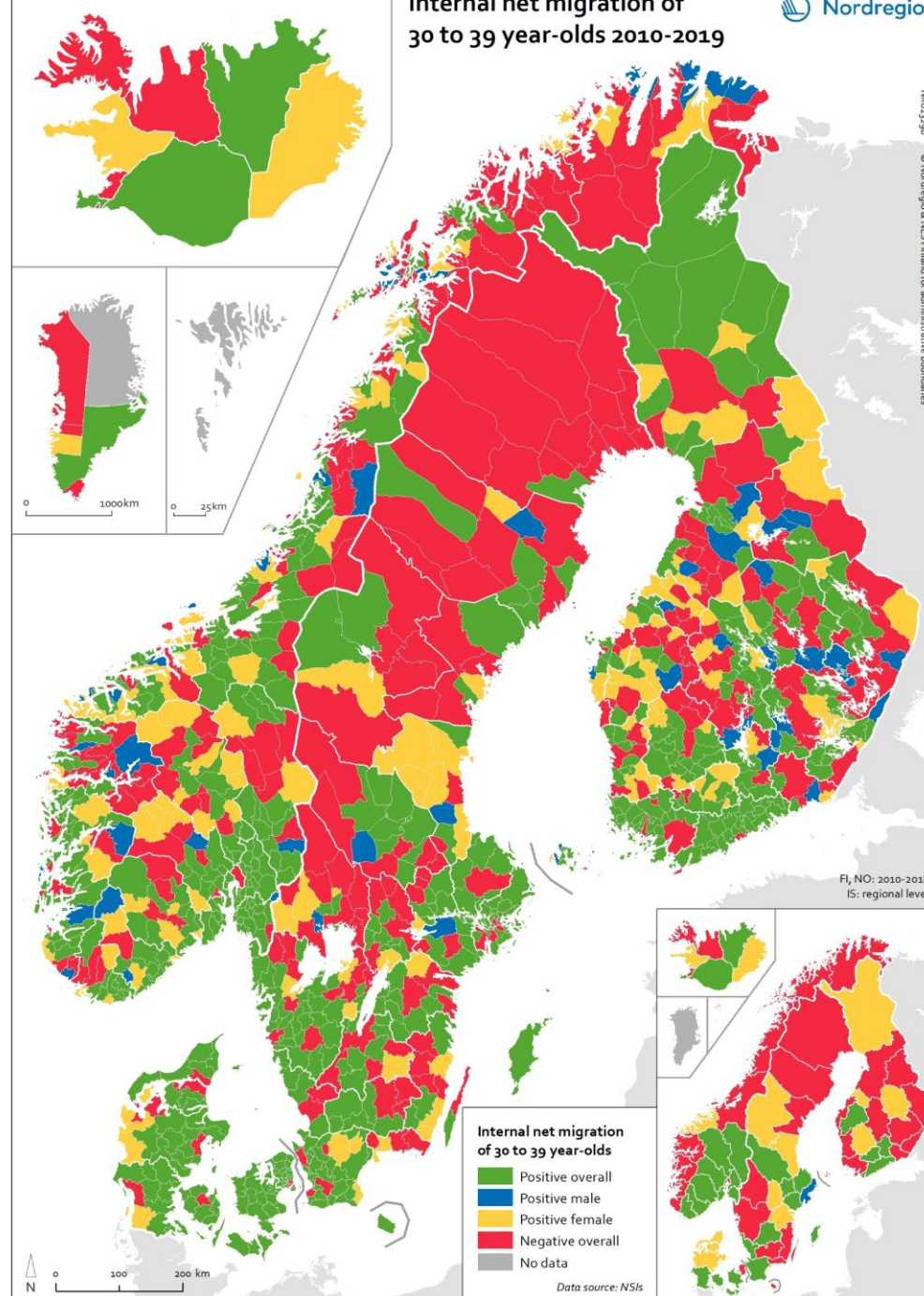
Source:
Borges et al
(2019)

BT2050

Internal net migration of 20 to 29 year-olds 2010-2019



Internal net migration of 30 to 39 year-olds 2010-2019



- Positive overall
- Positive male
- Positive female
- Negative overall
- No data

Data source: NSIs

NordMap

Old age dependency

Time series

2000



Information

Old age dependency

DEMOGRAPHY

Year

2000

Administrative units

Municipalities

DISPLAY

Population aged 65 and more as a share of the population aged 15-64 years. Municipal and regional data are

Analytics

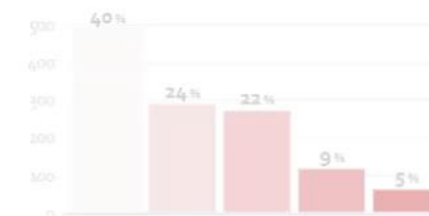
NAME

OLD AGE DEPENDENCY (%)

Aabenraa	25
Aalborg	22
Aaleksöki	23
Aarhus	27
Åre	40
Årjed	32
Agdenes	34
Åntán	29
Aksa	26
Akrahreppur	34

Infographics

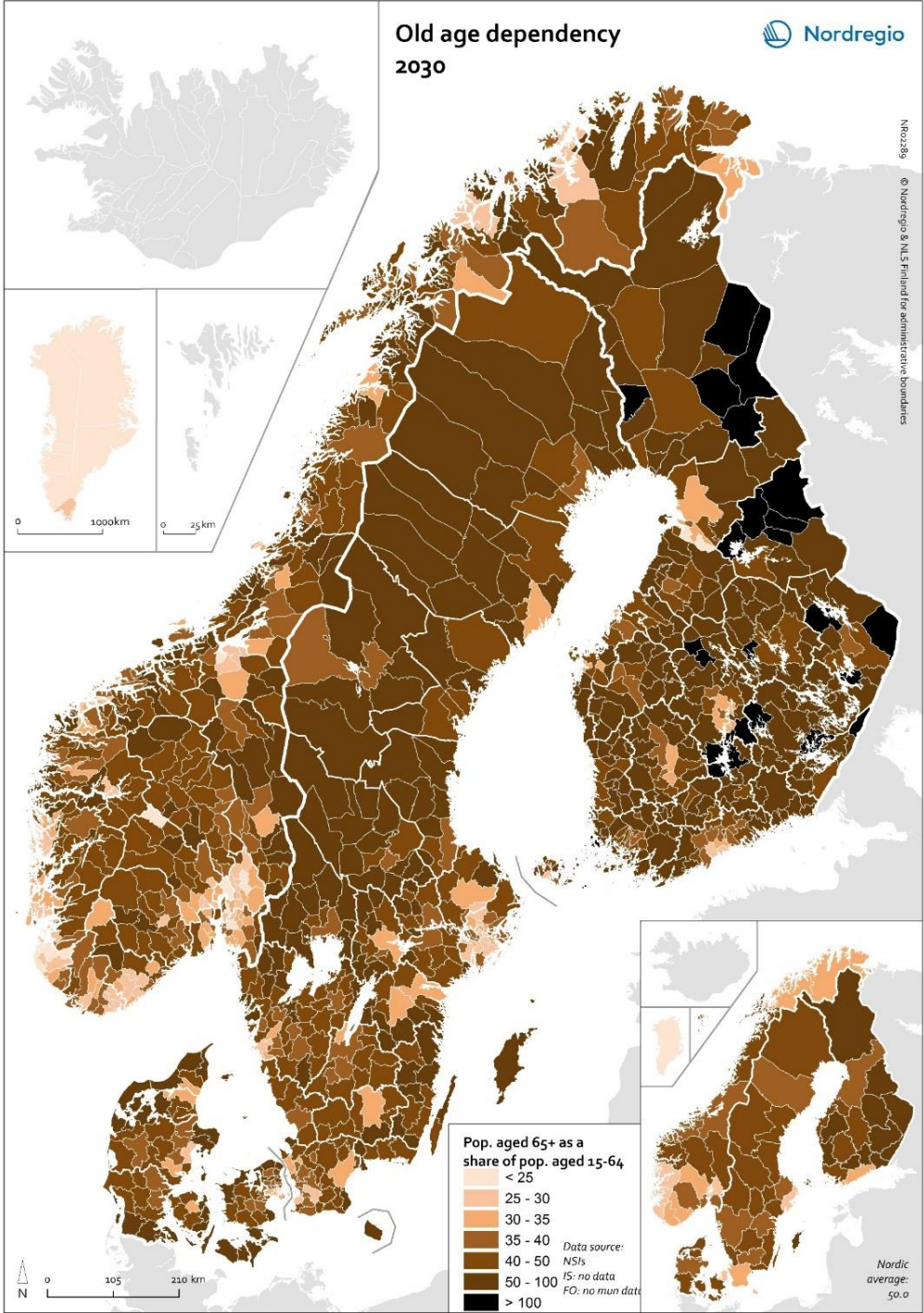
Distribution of municipalities according to the categories of Old age dependency



Old age dependency

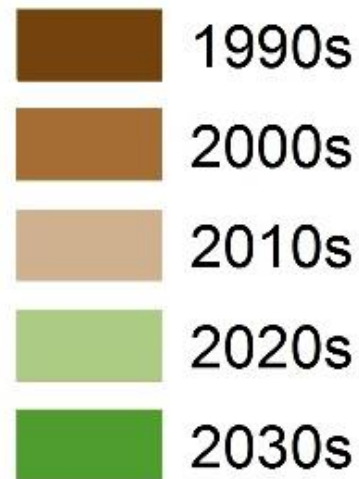
- under 25 %
- 25 % - 30 %
- 30 % - 35 %
- 35 % - 40 %
- over 40 %

Old-age dependency 2030

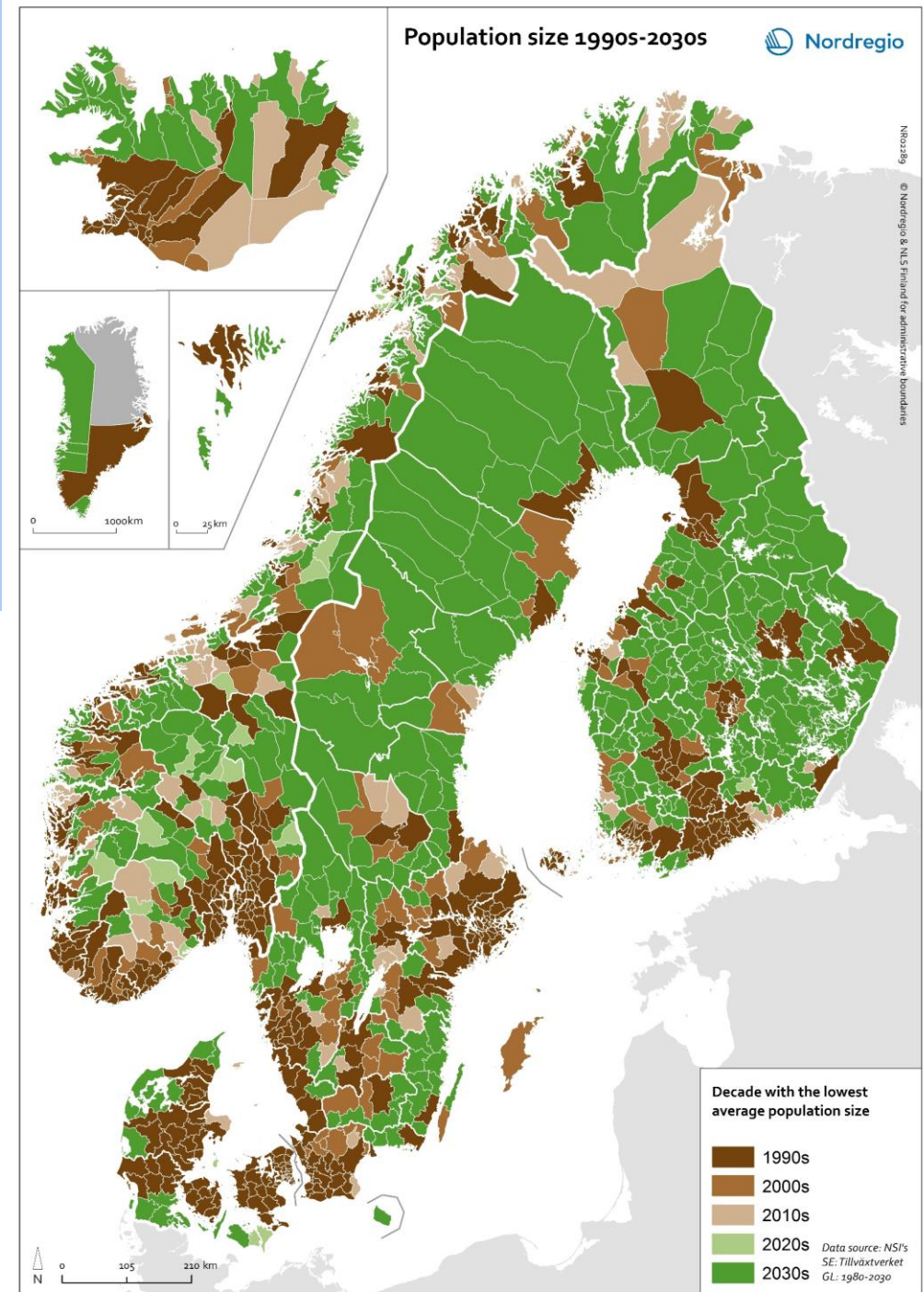


Population size 1990s – 2030s

Decade with the lowest average population size



Data source: NSI's
SE: Tillväxtverket
GL: 1980-2030



Multilocality and Nordic urban-rural flows due to second homes

Elin Slätmo, Senior Research Fellow

Long tradition enable multilocality

- Tradition in the Nordic countries, enable new settlement patterns during the pandemic.
- Multilocality where broadband and workplaces allow.
- Extensive **access to second homes**.
- Estimations: around half of populations in Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway have access to second homes (via ownership, or family).
- Voluntary temporary inhabitants.



Second homes used for winter vacations in Vemdalsskalet, Härjedalen.
Photo: Johannes Lidmo

- **What is a second home?**

Second homes in Nordic countries traditionally means a detached house in a rural area where no one is permanently registered.

(DK: sommerhus, IS: sumarhús, FI: mökki, NO: hytta, SE: fritidshus)

- **Why do Nordic people use or own a second home?**

Four main non-exclusive motivations

- social bonding with family and friends
- 'escape' from the busy urban life
- access to nature and associated recreational activities
- investment
- generational living for parts of the year



Second homes in Odsherred, Denmark.
Photo: Louise Vestergård

Where are the second homes located?

The main areas for second homes – both in numbers and in relation to permanent inhabitants are

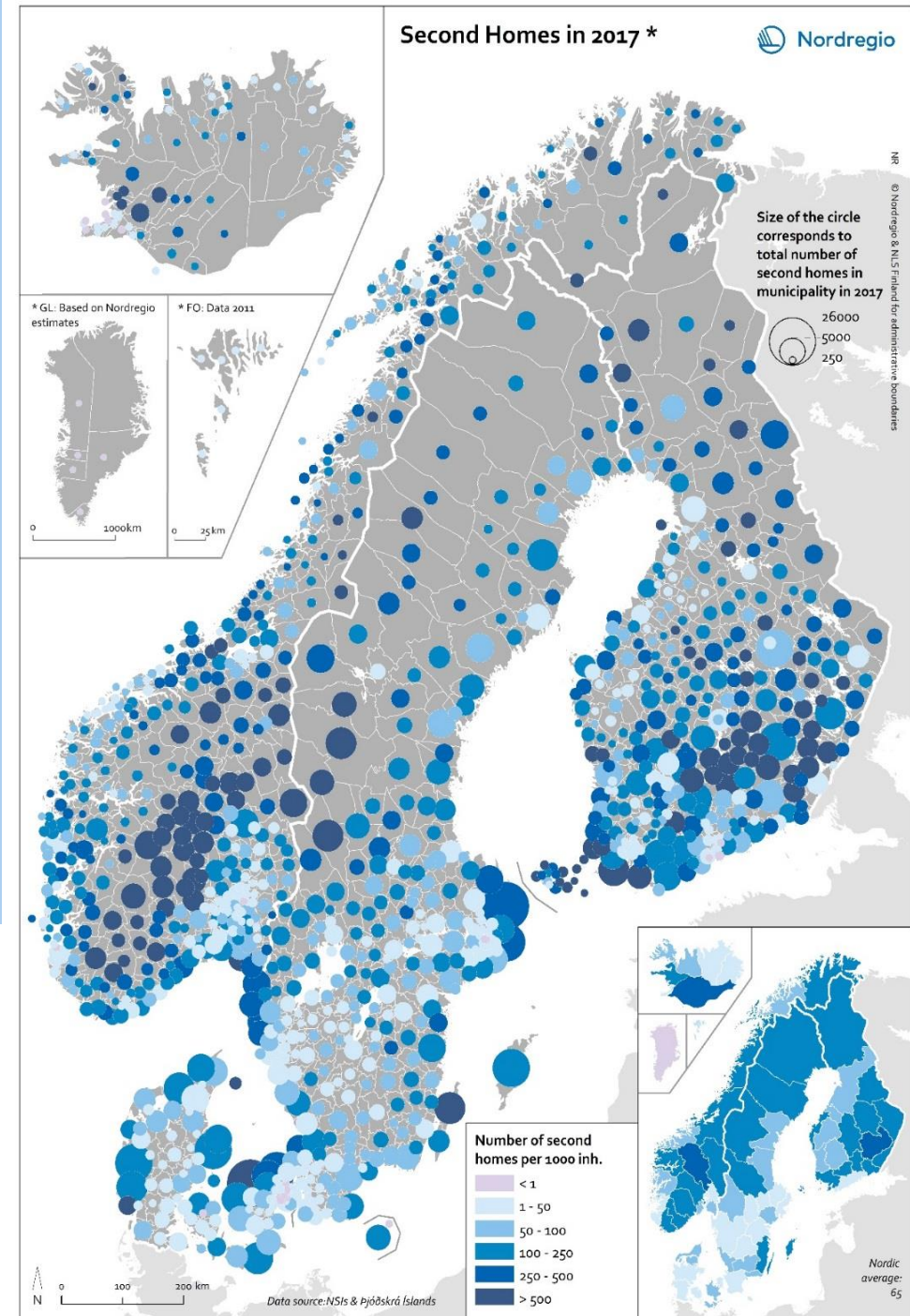
Denmark: northern Sjælland and the west-coast of Jylland

Finland: mid-eastern lake areas (Etelä-Savo/Södra Savolax) and south-west archipelago including Åland

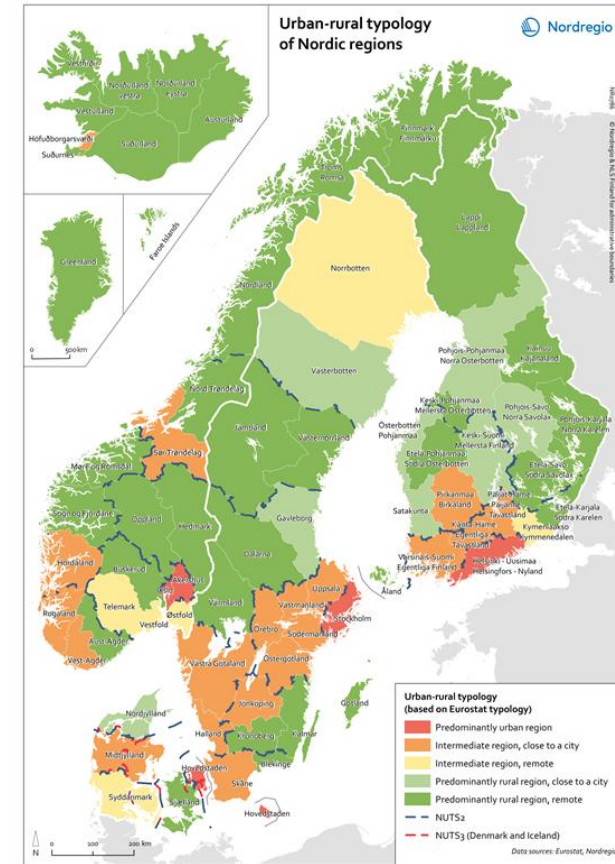
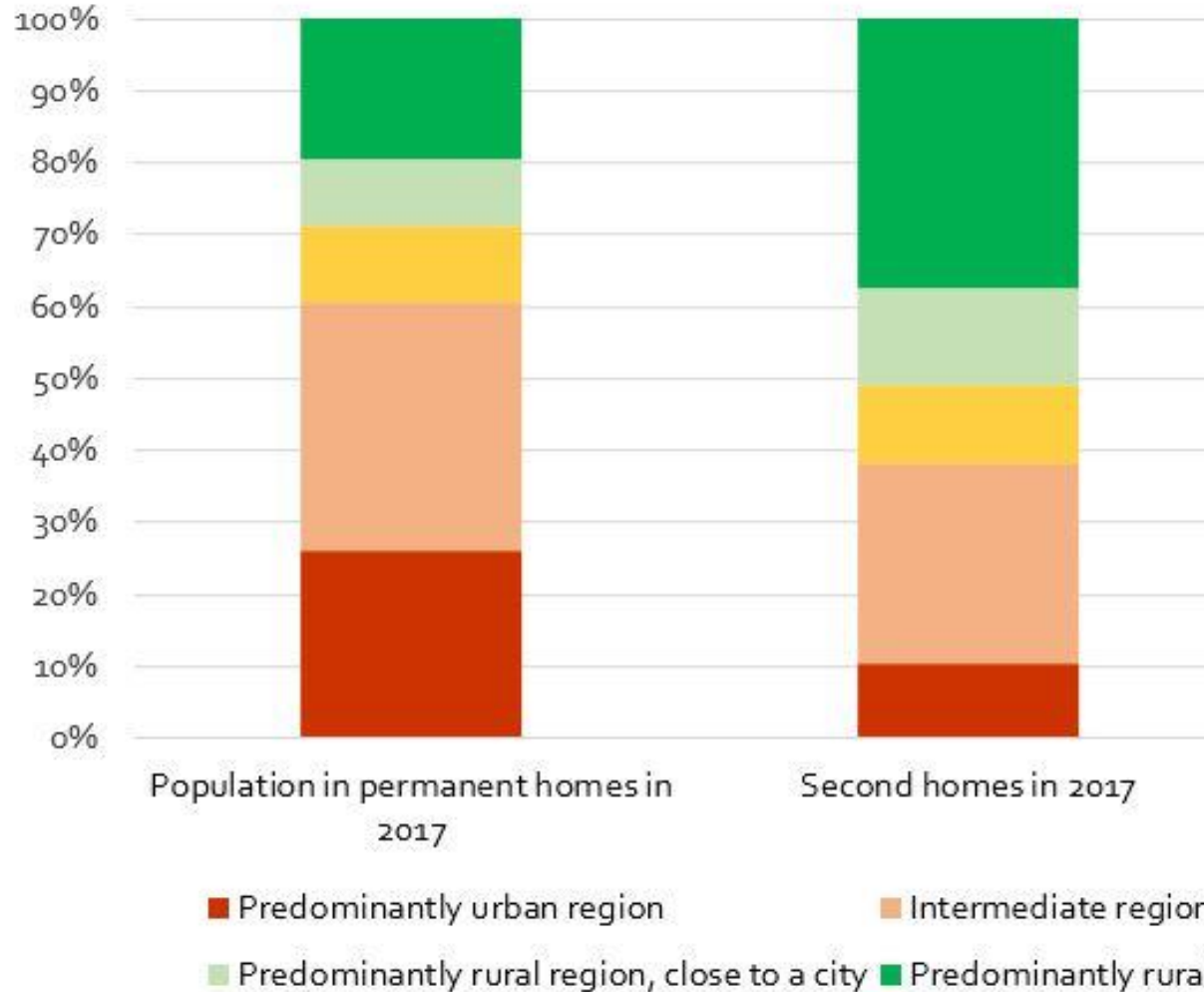
Iceland: municipalities in proximity to Reykjavík in south of Iceland

Norway: southern mountain area in Norway (Inlandet and Buskerud fylke)

Sweden: southern mountains area (Dalarna and Jämtland Härjedalen), Stockholm archipelago and Öland



Second homes and community impact in Nordic countries based on urban rural typology



See more in Slätmo et al. 2019; Slätmo et al. 2020

The continuous stream of people from urban to rural municipalities is an “invisible” counter-urbanisation process

Härjedalen, Sweden

“That we have a lot of tourists, leads to more shops in settlements than we normally would have. We have more services in those settlements. If we would not have the tourism industry there would not be even 3000 inhabitants in the municipality.”

(Planner Härjedalen/Berg municipalities, January 2019)



Härjedalen municipality
(Photo: Johannes Lidmo)

The voluntary temporary population not fully considered in regional development, policy and planning

- Important for estimations and projections on the demand for local public and private services.
- The provision of public services, such as infrastructure, waste treatment, and social services, are often based on census data that record people as living in one place only.
- One reason is that second homes and seasonal tourism implies linkages between urban and rural areas which complicate strict categories used in statistics

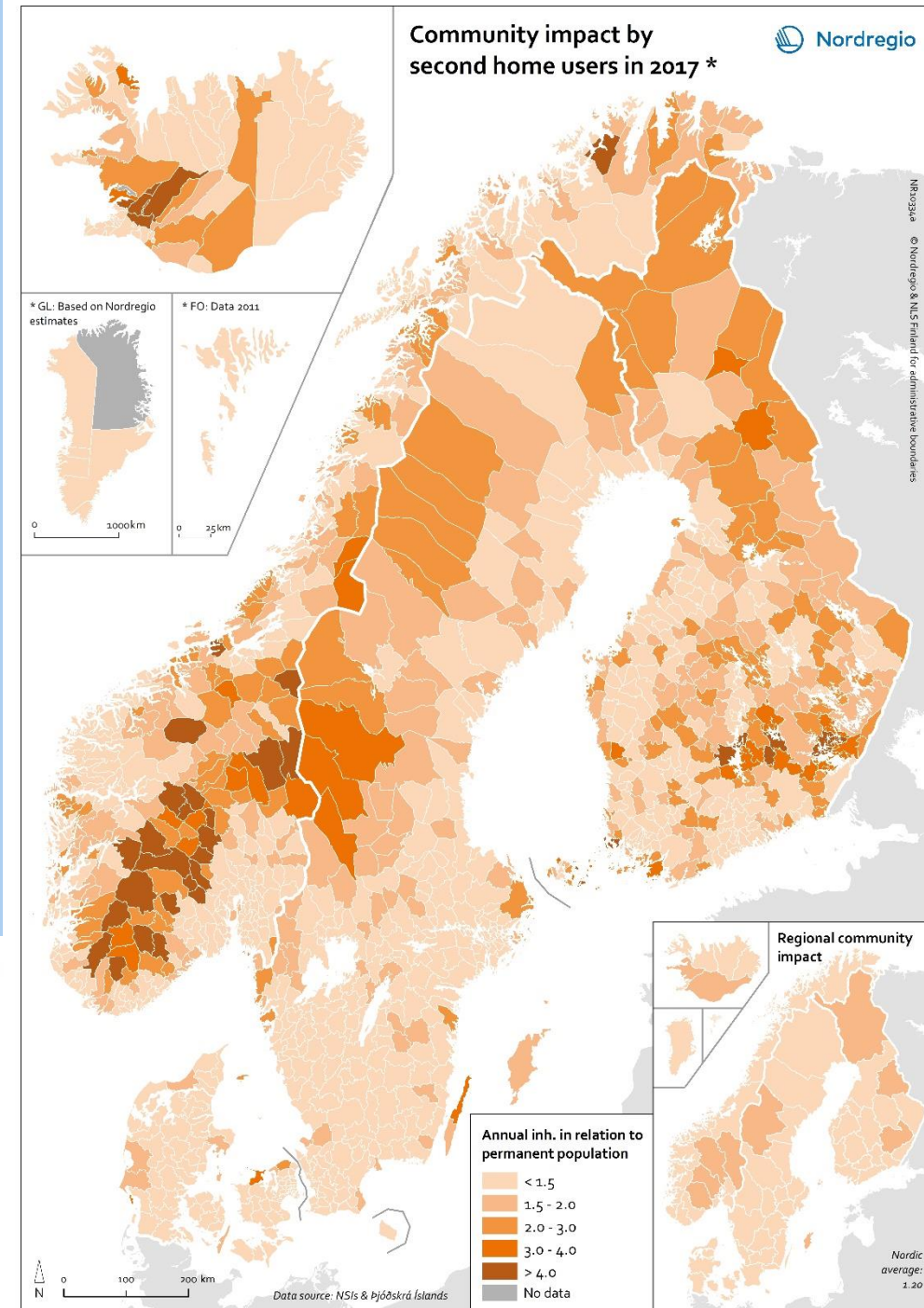
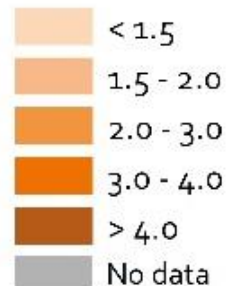
Community Impact of Second Homes

To get more accurate figures to adapt the services, infrastructure and welfare system to the annual population Nordregio have developed an indicator showing the impact of temporary inhabitants (second home inhabitants) to the municipality

- i.e. the annual population in relation to permanent population

Slätmo et al 2020: based on model from Jon M. Steineke (2007). Community impact = Regular population + number of second homes x 3 / regular population)

Annual inh. in relation to permanent population



Implications of the pandemic on population trends (Part 1)

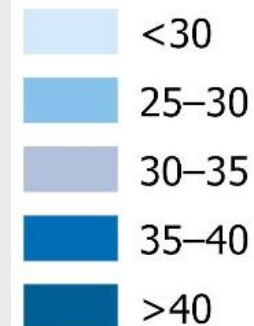
Gustaf Norlén, Senior Cartographer

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Remote work during (and after?) the pandemic

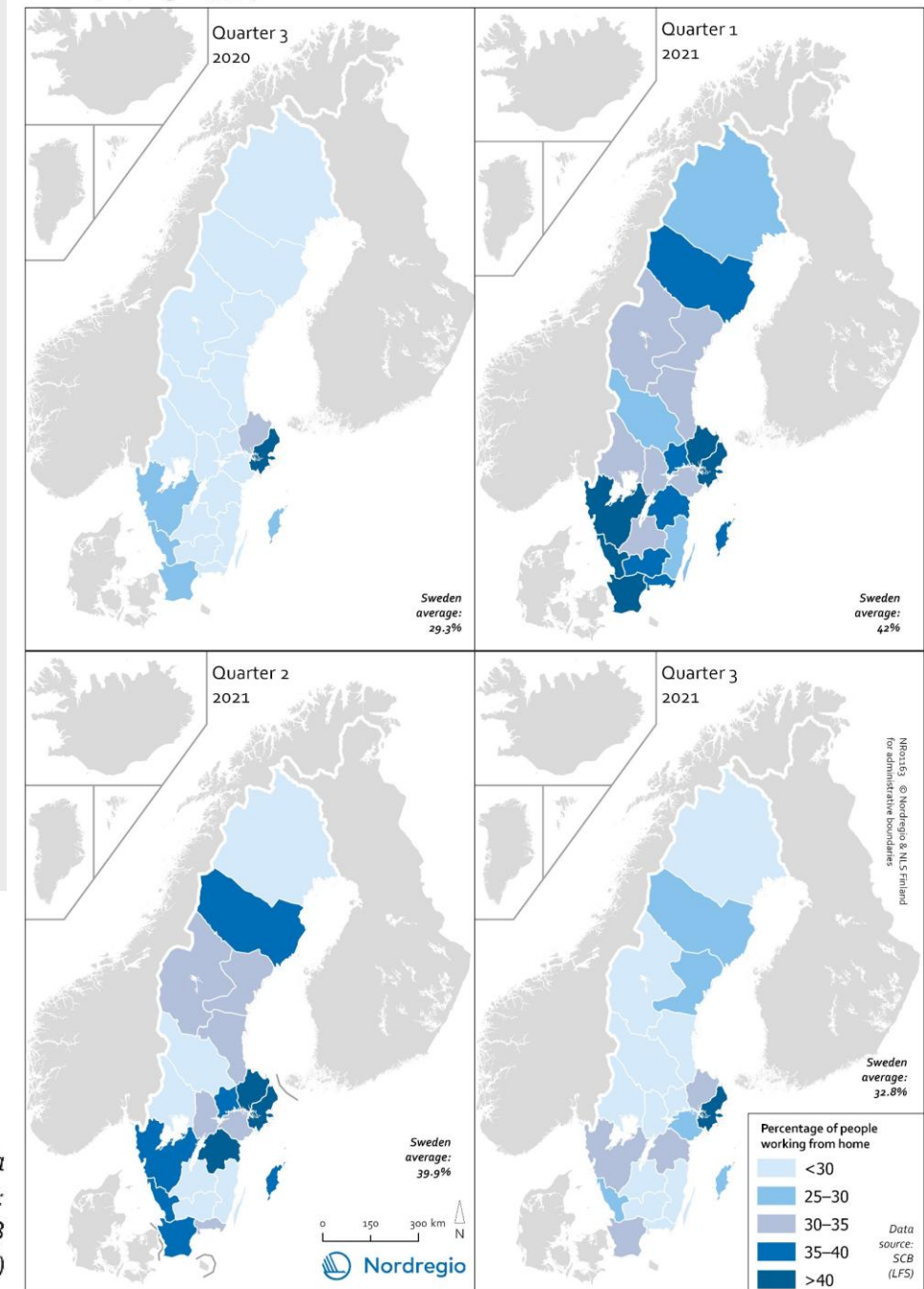
- During the pandemic Sweden extended their Labour Force Survey to cover remote working
- In Q1 2021 42% of the workforce worked from home (not necessary full-time)
- Higher share worked from home in urban regions – e.g. **56.2%** in the **Stockholm** region Q1 2021. Compared to **27.3%** in **Dalarna**
- This reflects the occupational structure – with more jobs that can be made remotely in urban areas
- According to studies on theoretical possibility to work remotely, based on tasks of occupations, around 37% of the jobs could be made remotely
- But will people go “back to normal”?

Percentage of people working from home



Data source: SCB (LFS)

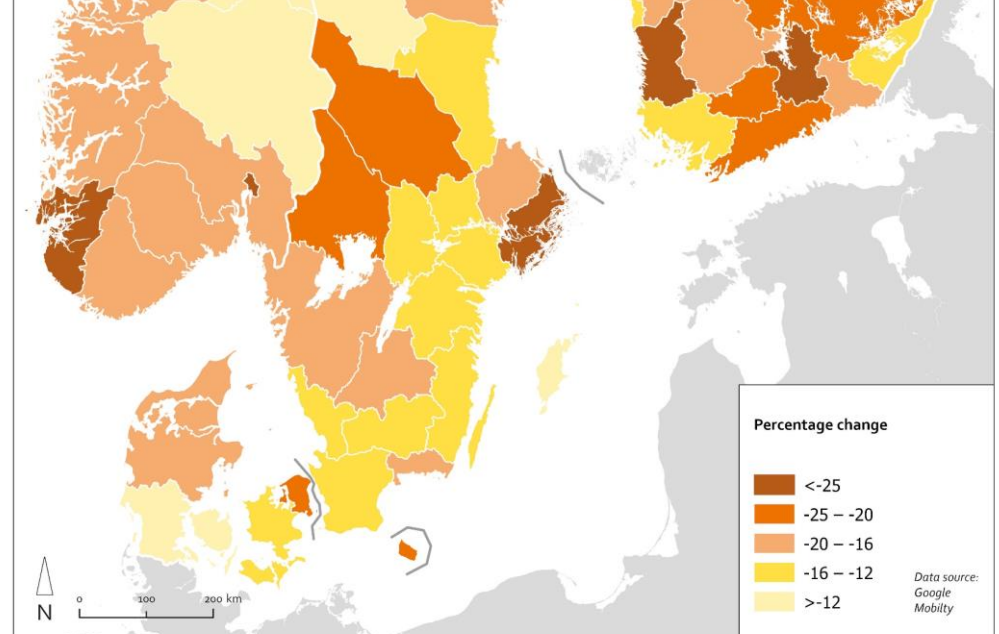
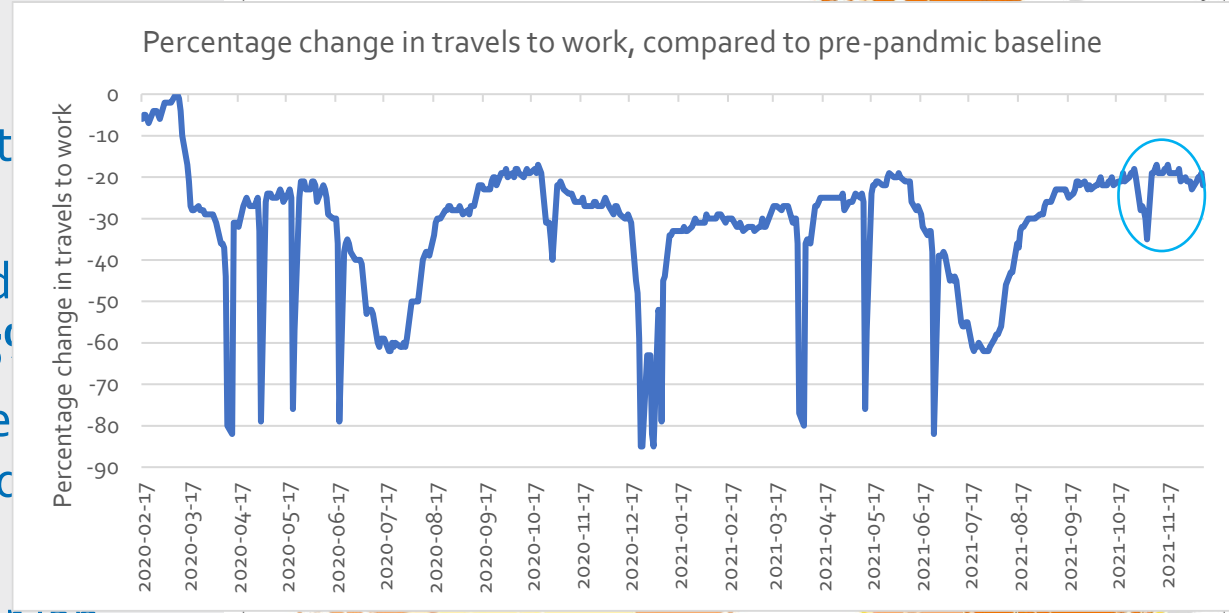
Share of people aged 15-74 years who worked from home



Work from home after restrictions were lifted

- Covid19 restrictions were (temporary?) lifted in t of September
- The LFS for **October** showed that **33.3%** worked home, only slight decrease from **September (35%**
- Google mobility data indicates a stable decrease number of travels to work compared to pre-pandemic baseline
- **20%** less travels to work compared to median for jan-feb 2020
- The biggest decrease in mobility was in **Stockholm (30%)**. In **Gothenburg** and **Malmö 20%** decrease
- How will the possibility of remote working affect the settlement patterns?

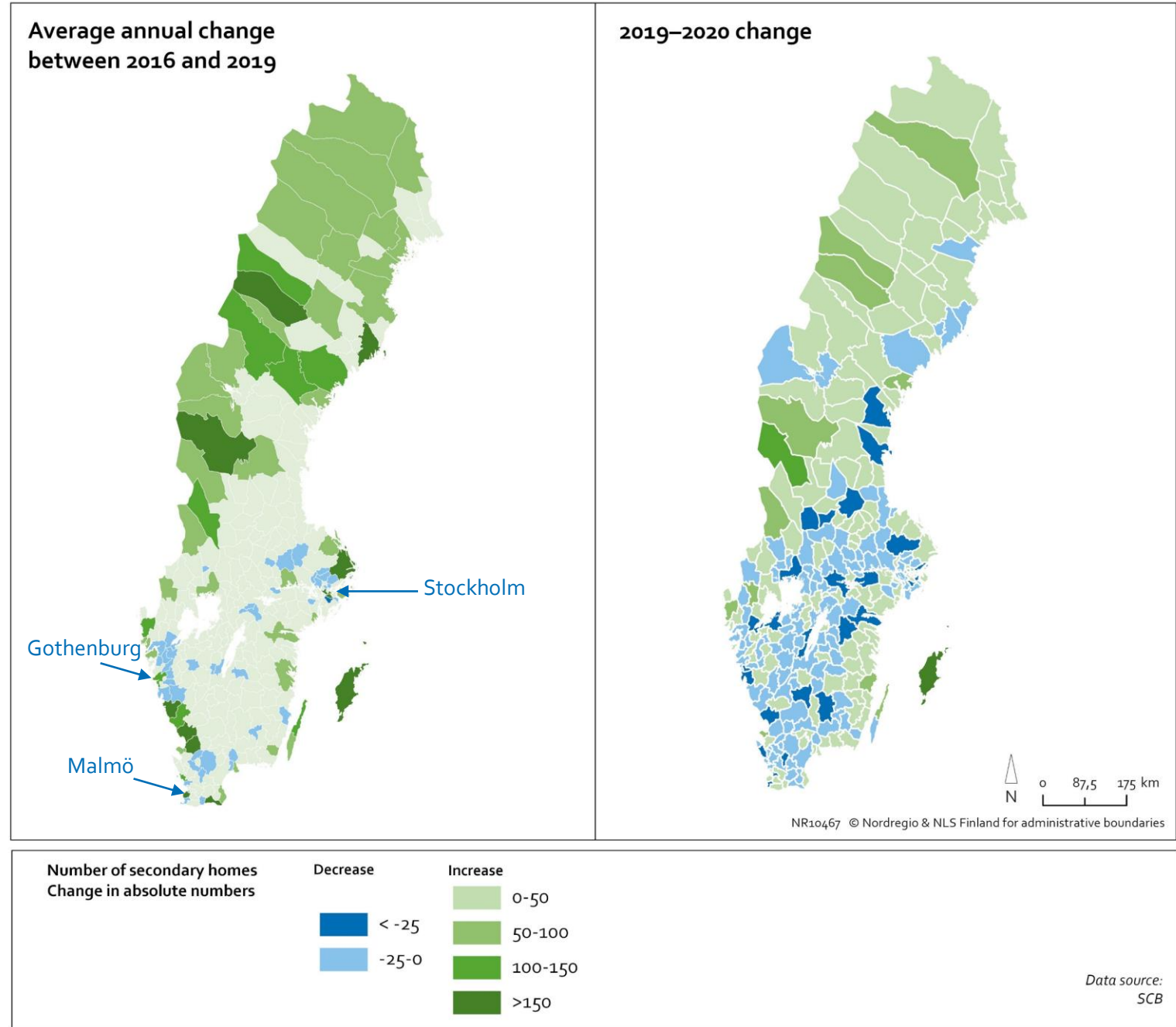
Change in work travels
Jan-Feb 2020 compared to
11 November 2021



Change in number of secondary Homes

From Summer house to permanent dwelling?

- During the pandemic the prices for secondary homes have increased faster than for permanent dwellings: **20%** increase for **secondary homes**, compared to **14%** for **detached houses** and **7%** for **apartments (bostadsrätt)**
- Definition of secondary homes includes that noone is registered as permanently residing there
- Biggest decrease around medium-sized cities such as **Eskilstuna, Karlstad, Falun, Halmstad**
- Only a factor of the pandemic or long-lasting trend?



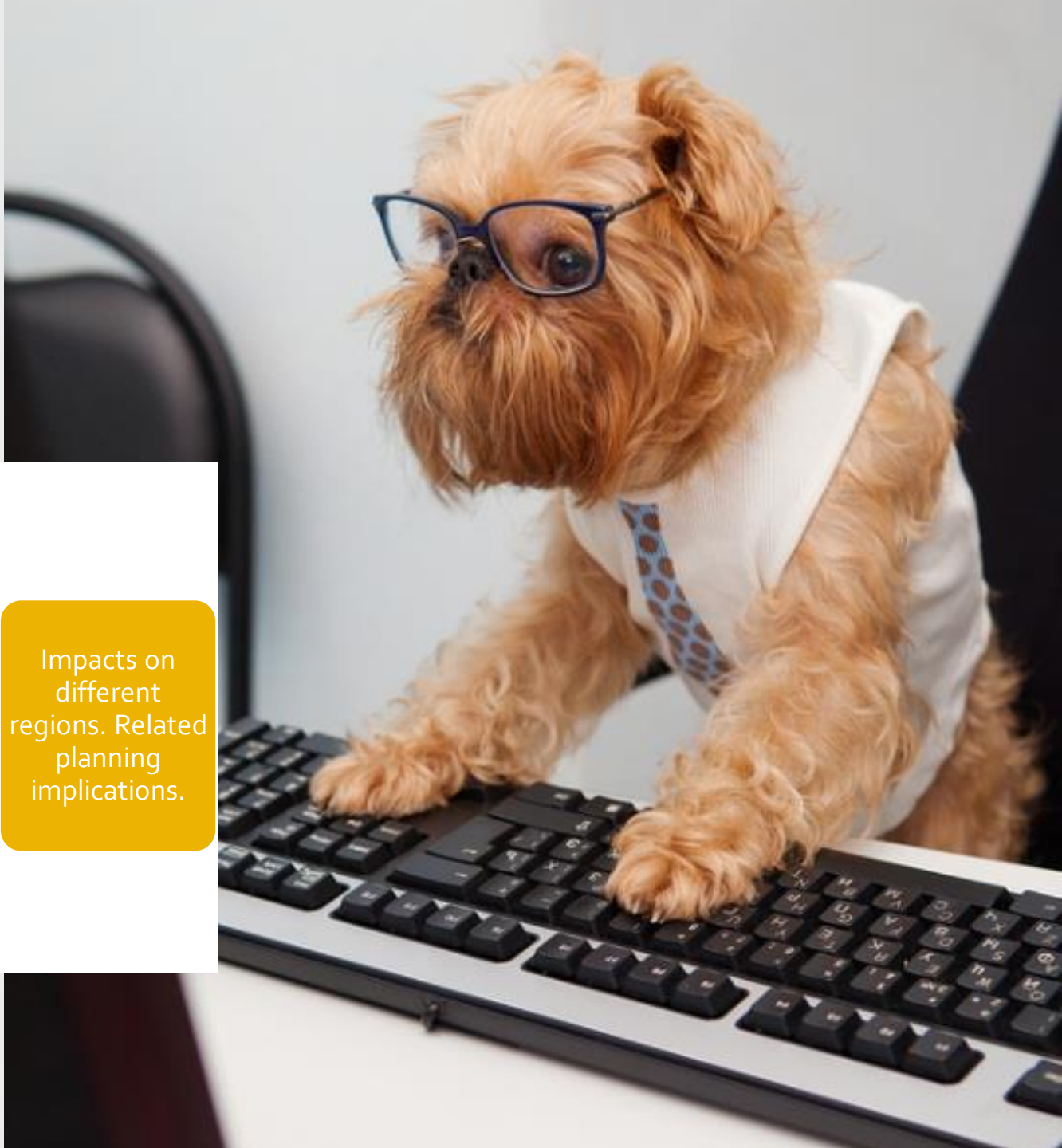
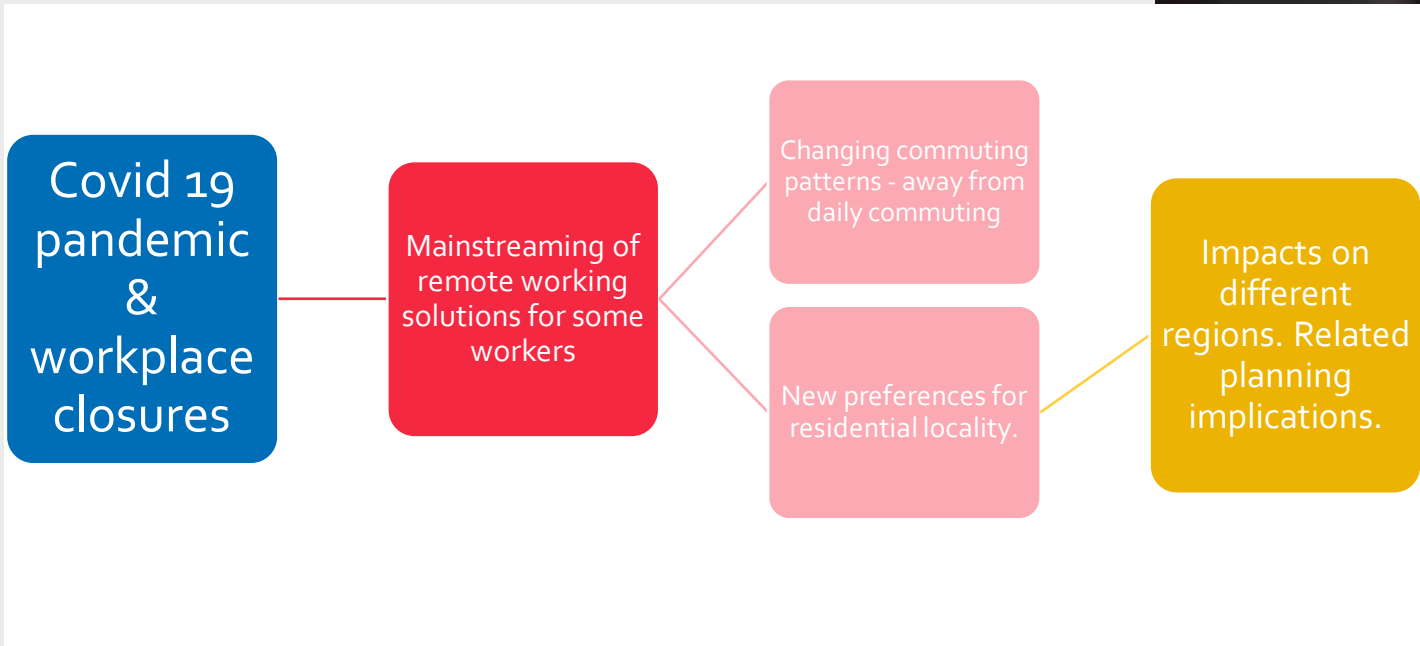
Implications of the pandemic on population trends (Part 2)

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Remote work & multilocality

Nordic co-operation Programme for Regional Development and Planning 2021-2024.

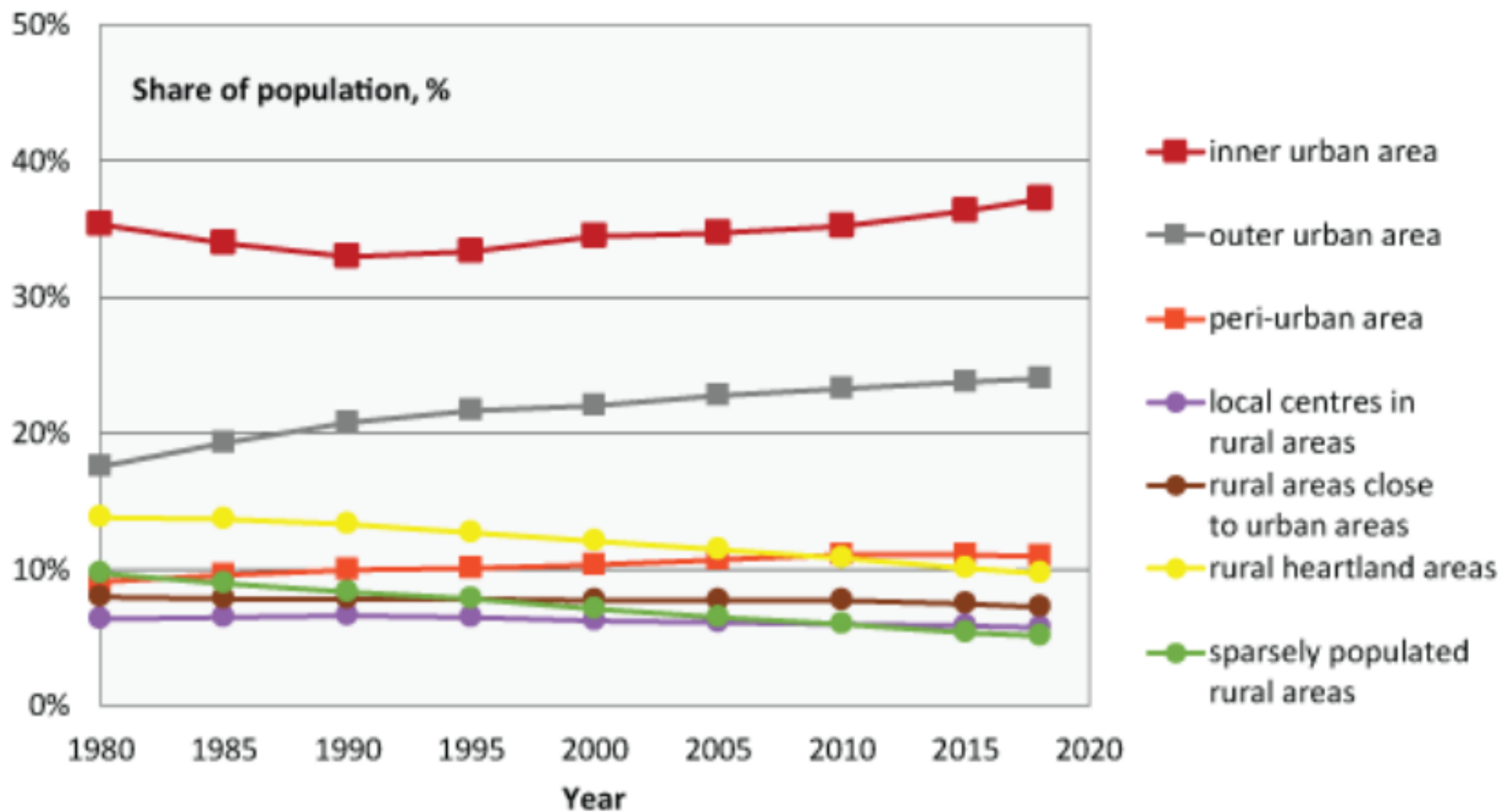


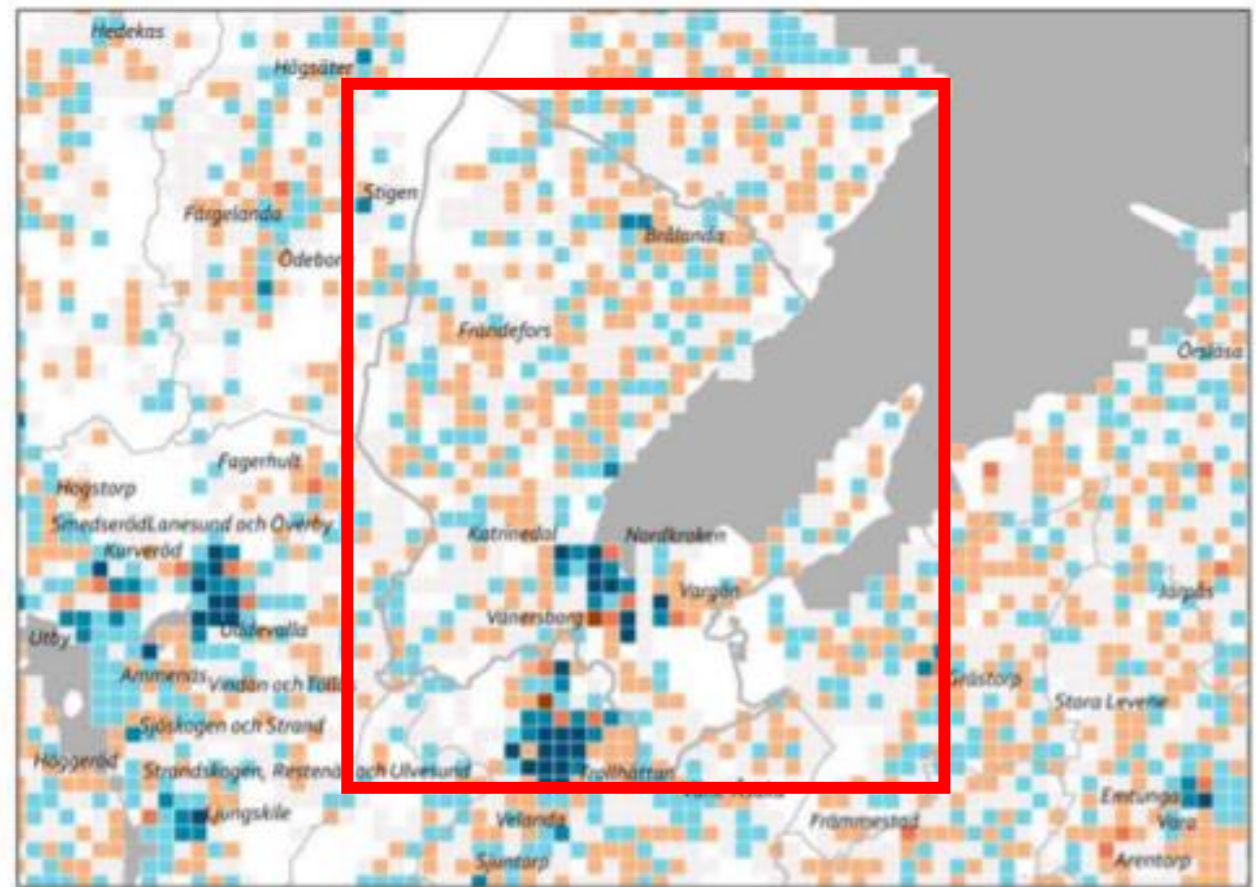
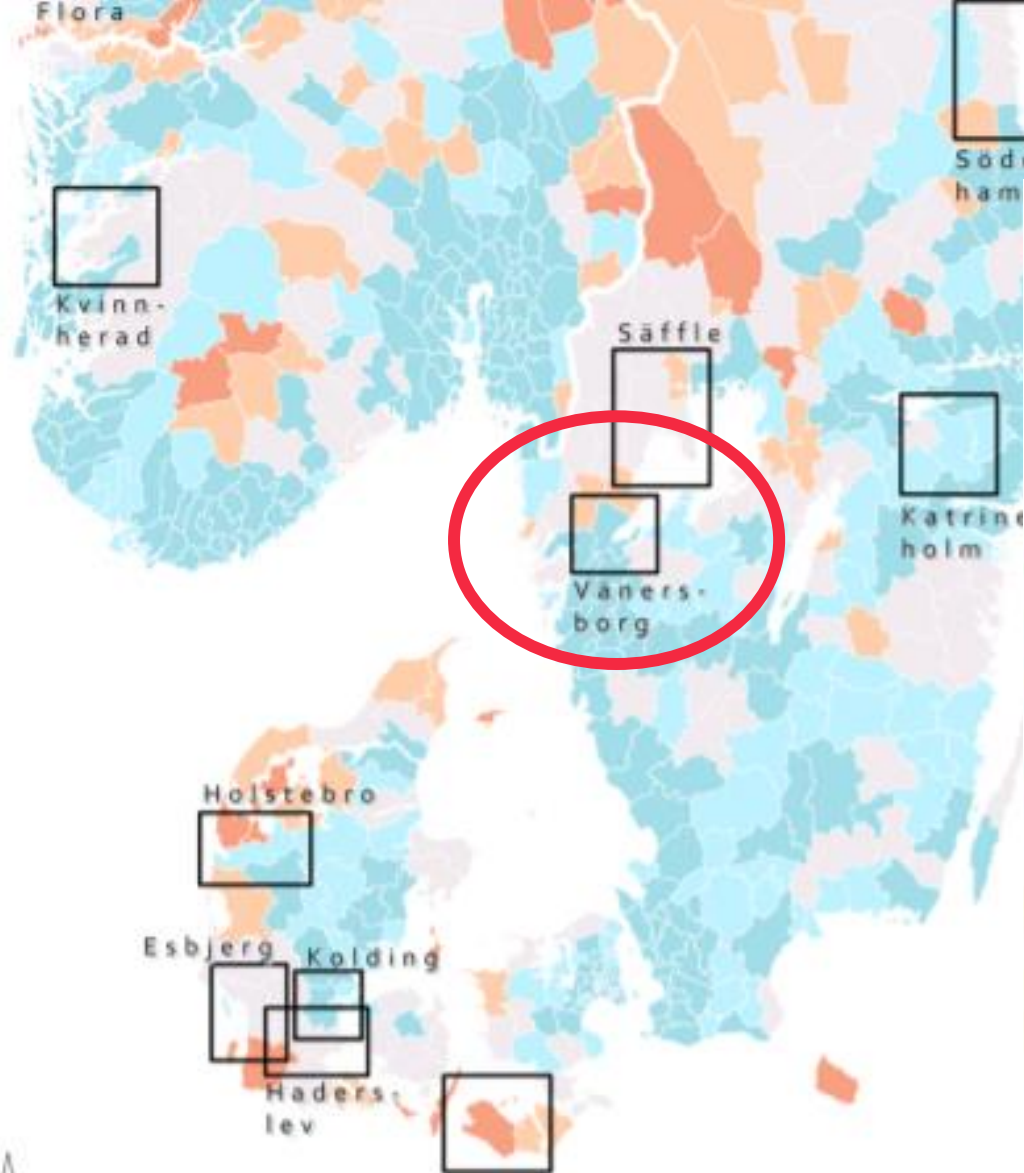
Remote work & settlement patterns in the Nordic Region

Different starting points, different stories:

- Iceland, "jobs without placement"
- Finland, "multilocality" high on the political agenda
- Norway, long history of "delocalisation" policy
- Sweden, potential evident but implications for regional policy as yet unclear
- Denmark, reducing congestion in bigger cities

Population distribution according to the urban-rural classification (2018)





Vänersborg



Links to projects and upcoming reports

[Nordic rural service project 2021-2023](#)

[Nordic Urban Rural Flows project](#)

[Remote work and multilocality post Covid-19](#)

[Sign up to our Newsmail to be notified on the publication of State of the Nordic Region 2022](#)

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Thanks.

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