

ESPO Seminar  
Session 2 / Workshop A

New Development Opportunities in  
Times of Global Economic Recession

Northern Europe:  
Regional Responses to Demographic and Energy Challenges

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## Aim of the Workshop

- The workshop aims at discussing **geographical patterns** and **territorial dynamics** related to the **energy sector** and **demographic change** in **Northern Europe** in the light of the current economic recession.
- The workshop should conclude on **territorial development opportunities** and **possible strategies** which could **counterbalance** the current economic situation.
- Though the workshop focuses on Northern Europe, a **comparison** with other European regions should be made.

## Workshop Structure

### Workshop Structure:

- Step 1 > Opening Statement + Discussants
- Step 2 > Discussion in small groups
- Step 3 > Summary

## Workshop Key Questions

- Which are the **main driving forces** in the thematic field of this workshop emerging due to the global economic recession?
- Which are the **main (new) challenges** and **territorial development opportunities** to be considered in the light of global economic recession?
- Which considerations may be taken on **possible recovery strategies** and **shifts in policy priorities** to counterbalance negative development trends and respective territorial patterns?

## Driving Forces (Source ESPON FOCI Project 2009)

- Energy – Driving Forces, e.g.:
  - Further substitution of gas to oil
  - Further increase of the share of renewable energy sources
  - Stronger external dependence of Europe in energy supply
  - Lower increase of energy demand during the crisis
- Demographic Change – Driving Forces, e.g.:
  - Ageing population
  - Increase of the median age of population
  - Increase of life expectancy
  - Returning home of legal migrants
  - Stronger pressure of illegal migrants

## Additional Information

Thank you for your attention!

More information on  
the ESPON 2013 Programme  
can be found on

[www.espon.eu/ESPON2013](http://www.espon.eu/ESPON2013)