

Green growth in Nordic regions

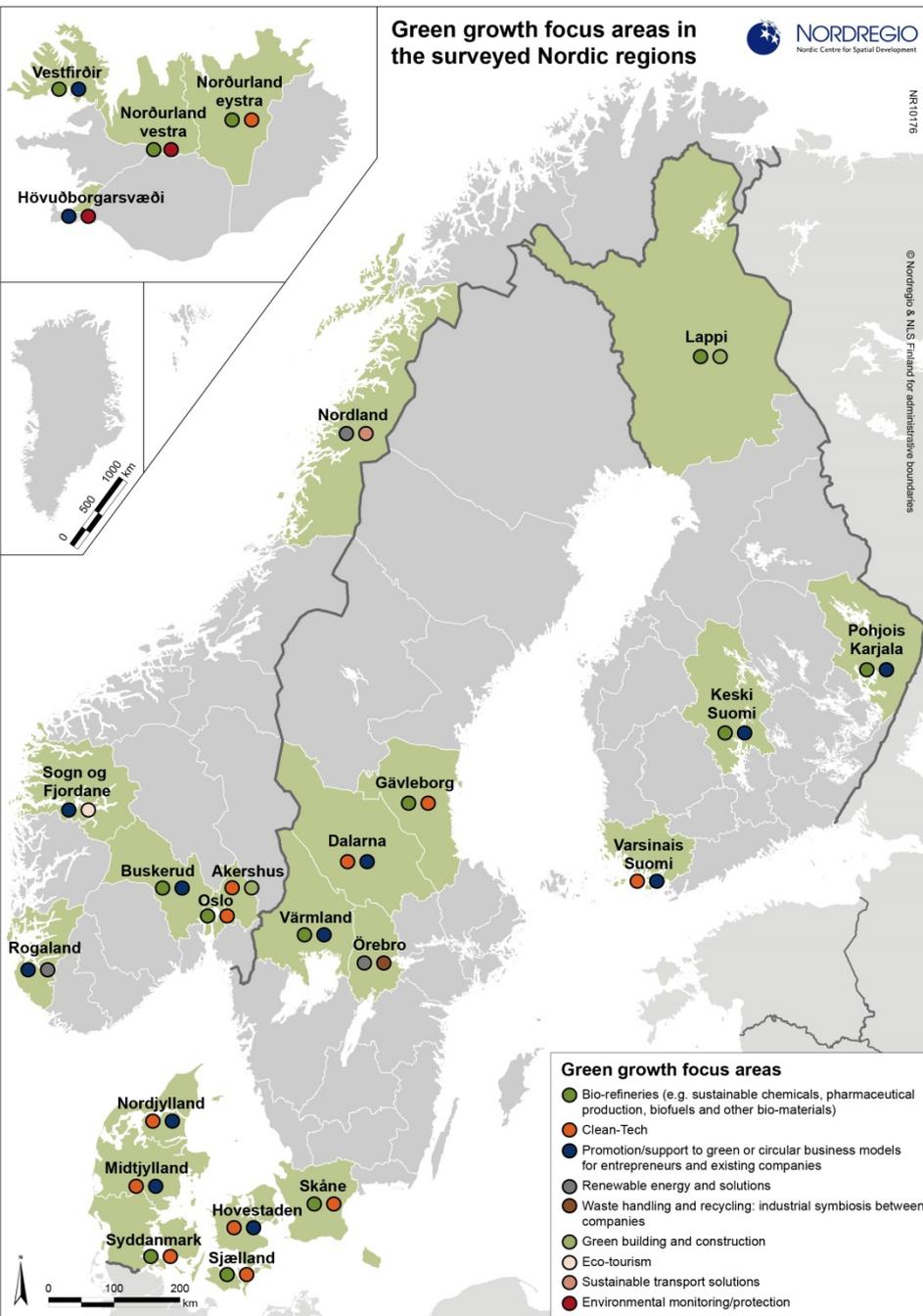
- interventions to overcome the challenges

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Study of green growth in Nordic regions (2016)

- Focus on
 - **green economy activities** in Nordic regions; and
 - **challenges and government interventions** related to the implementation of green growth initiatives
- Survey sent out to all 74 NUTS 3 regions in the Nordic countries. 34% response rate (corresponding to 25 complete answers)
- Interviews with key national experts
- National-level policy analysis



What are the Nordic regions working on?

1. Renewable energy and solutions
2. Waste handling and recycling: industrial symbiosis' between companies
3. Promotion/support for green or circular business models for entrepreneurs and existing companies
4. Sustainable transport solutions
5. Primary production (e.g. the bioeconomy: agriculture, forestry, fisheries etc.)

Main challenges encountered by regional green growth experts (1)

- **Policy and legislation** (inadequate coordination of initiatives at national, regional/local levels; conflicting legislation between EU and national/regional levels)
- **Finance and funding** (lack of coherent national strategies for green growth hinders long-term private investment)
- **Stakeholder communication** (lack of networking and experience-sharing between e.g. companies, public authorities at different levels, research institutions etc.)

Main challenges encountered by regional green growth experts (2)

- **Market development** (uncertain future demand/unstable operating environment inhibit investment in new green solutions, especially at pilot stage; complicated licencing processes slows down market entry)
- **Education and skills** (need for a stronger focus on green growth in educational programmes, research cooperation and participation in international research programmes)

Interventions to overcome the challenges (1)

- **Integrate green growth objectives into national and regional development strategies** to enhance policy coherence
- **Develop a coherent framework for green public procurement** as a strategic tool for enabling sustainable production and consumption
- **“Green” the school curriculum**

Interventions to overcome the challenges (2)

- **Promote innovative green business models** through a broad mix of policies
- **Develop clusters** to support new business opportunities that arise from green innovation projects
- **Build on regional strengths** by focusing on core competitive advantages
- **Provide economic support** to green innovation and entrepreneurship

Tack!

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