



## Nordic perspective on rural areas of the future – what can we learn from one another?

**Webinar on Thursday 11 November 2020 at 9 am – 12 noon (Finnish time)**

All Nordic countries are investing in the vital future of rural areas and the provision of the prerequisites for a good life, although the perspectives and approaches vary. This lays a rich and solid foundation for cooperation – the Nordic countries can learn volumes from each other. Come to hear more about current themes in rural development and research in the Nordics on Thursday 11 November!

The webinar will be organised by the “Smarta landsbygder i Svenskfinland och Norden” working group of the Finnish Rural Network in cooperation with the National Support Unit. The webinar will be held in two languages (Swedish and English). Register by Tuesday 9 November at [here](#). Attendance instructions will be sent to registered participants on the day before the webinar.

### Programme

- 8:45 The webinar goes online
- 9:00 Welcome!  
Ann-Sofi Backgren, coordinator of the “Smarta landsbygder i Svenskfinland och Norden” working group
- 9:05 Opening the webinar  
Thomas Blomqvist, Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality
- 9:15 Current rural research in the Nordics  
Anna Karlsdóttir, Nordregio research centre
- 9:30 Development of rural areas in Sweden and Denmark  
Ulrika Holmgren, Swedish Rural Network  
Steffen Damsgård, Landdistrikernes Fællesråd
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 A peek outside the EU’s borders: what is happening in Norway and Iceland?  
NN – Rurals (Institute for Rural and Regional Research in Norway)  
Thoroddur Bjarnason, University of Akureyri
- 11:10 Finland’s commentary  
Leena Anttila, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Teemu Hauhia, Finnish Rural Network
- 11:30 Discussion and final words
- 12:00 Closing the webinar

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