

Priority 1 and the NPA area analysis

Irene McMaster

'Shape the future NPA' consultation workshop

22 February 2021









NORTHERN PERIPHERY AND ARCTIC PROGRAMME AREA

Extreme peripherality from major economic centres and sparse populations are defining characteristics that present a strong rationale for cooperation across the territory





Economy and Innovation

- GDP generally above EU average, but peripheral regions lagging behind national averages.
- Long standing economic patterns reliance on primary industries
- Increased economic diversification and opportunities in growth sectors.
- Economic shocks (e.g. Covid and Brexit) likely to bring long-term economic impacts, challenging recovery for peripheral regions, need for building capacity for adaptation and resilience.
- Dominance of SMEs and micro businesses but also often resourcebased multinational firm activity.
- Focus on building critical mass and capacity for resilience.



Green and environment

- Diverse, unique environments and abundant environmental and natural resources
- Environmental challenges linked to the exploitation of natural resources, environmental protection and climate change.
- Challenges have driven innovation, capacity and leadership in 'Green technologies'.
- Networks for environmental monitoring and strategic analysis well developed.
- The region already has substantial renewable energy generation and expertise in the sector.



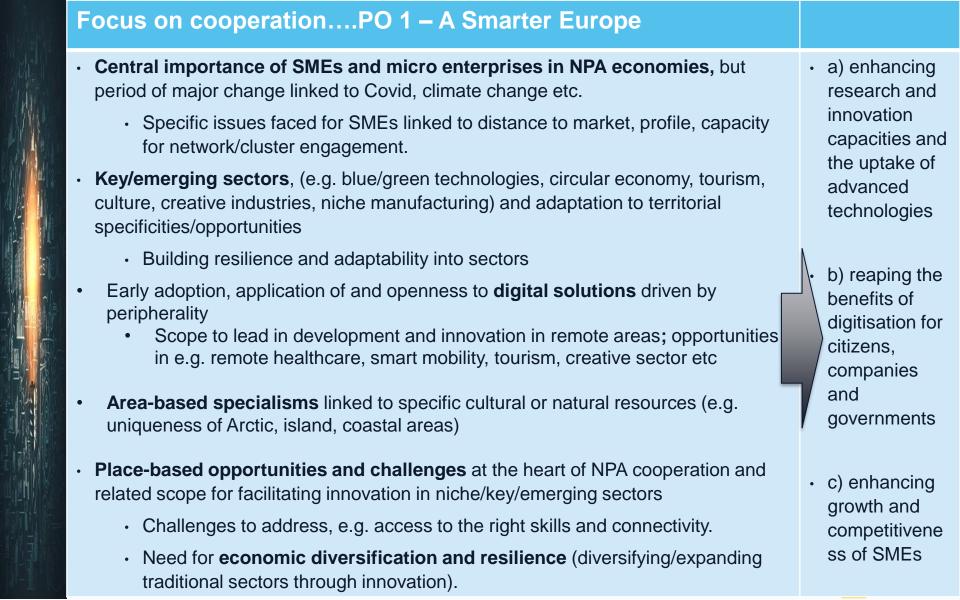
Connectivity and Networks

- Geographical and climatic conditions of the NPA present challenges for both transport and digital connectivity
- Economic development in peripheral regions, which are distanced from major markets, is strongly correlated with good transport infrastructure.
- Digitalisation has enormous potential to overcome some of the specific challenges facing NPA areas.



Communities and People

- Sparse population is a defining characteristic of the NPA area.
- A wide variety of cultures, with their own distinctive cultural identity and a range of minority languages.
- Ageing populations and the outmigration of young adults (particularly women) are longstanding development concerns.
- Impacts of migration on access to key skills and competencies
- · Regional well-being figures NPA regions rate highly
- The tertiary educational attainment generally high in the NPA countries
- Employment, rates are generally high, but these have fallen as a result of the Covid crisis.



Thank you for your attention

irene.mcmaster@strath.ac.uk



