

The NPA Annual Event

REDEFINING PERIPHERALITY

27th October 2021, Sligo, Ireland

PROGRAMME

13:00 - Welcome

- Welcome address from [Minister Michael McGrath](#), Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform at the Department of public expenditure and reform in the Government of Ireland
- Welcome words from [Mr David Minton](#), Director of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly, Ireland

13:30 - Redefining Peripherality

- How has the NPA area changed since 2014? Observing the changes in the NPA area from 2014 until now and trends for the future based on the area analysis.
[Dr Irene McMaster](#), European Policy Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
- Findings and Recommendations from the COVID-19 Response group projects
Panel discussion between members of the COVID-19 response group:
 - [Mr Thomas Fisher](#), Lead partner of [NPA project Covid & Economics](#), CoDel, Scotland
 - [Prof. Liam Glynn](#), Lead partner of [NPA project COVIDWATCH EU](#), University of Limerick, Ireland
 - [Prof. Joan Condell](#), Lead partner of [NPA project TechSolns](#), University of Ulster
 - [Dr Anette Fosse](#), partner in NPA project COVIDWATCH EU, The Arctic University of Norway
- Questions and Answers with Irene McMaster and the members of the panel.

14:30 - 15:00 Coffee Break

15:00 - Networking Session, NPA projects solutions for a new periphery

Separate thematic sessions online and one session on site. Each of the sessions will look at a topic addressed by the NPA 2021-2027 and will discuss how future NPA projects can contribute to the objectives of the new programme, also taking into account the solutions developed by the projects carried out throughout 2014-2020.

- 1) Innovation Capacity - How can NPA projects support the uptake of advanced technologies, reap the benefits of digitisation and enhance sustainable growth & competitiveness of SMEs? Hosted by the NPA project [DISTINCT](#)



- 2) Climate change and resource sufficiency (online)- How can NPA projects promote energy efficiency, climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention? How can they promote the transition to a circular and resource-efficient economy? Hosted by the NPA project [HUGE](#)
- 3) Natural and cultural heritage - How can NPA projects protect and develop wider territorial synergies through natural and cultural heritage? Hosted by the NPA project [SPOT Lit](#)

16:00 - Periphery and Arctic, a mutually beneficial cooperation

- The new EU Arctic Policy and the role of transnational cooperation
[Mr Michael Mann](#), EU Ambassador at Large for the Arctic, European Union External Action Services
- The Irish Government's Strategy for the Nordic Region
Mr Ciarán Byrne, Deputy Director of EU Policy Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland
- The Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland ([NARI](#)): Fostering opportunities for collaboration
[Dr Audrey Morley](#), President of Network of Arctic Researchers in Ireland
- Debate with the audience

16:30 - Looking ahead to the Interreg NPA 2021-2027

- The Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic 2021-2027
Ms Kirsti Mijnhijmer, Head of Secretariat, Northern Periphery and Arctic programme

17:00 - Wrap up and closure