



2020 NPA Annual Conference
INNOVATION FOR SMART
AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014-2020



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Mr Juha Ala-Mursula is an Executive Director of the Economic Development at BusinessOulu, City of Oulu. Prior to current position, he had several managerial positions in Nokia and Nokia Siemens Networks with responsibility for wireless business and technology development. In a current position he contributes to a structured ecosystem cooperation to support research-based innovations, enhance innovative business environment, as well as SME growth and new business opportunities through the Oulu Innovation Alliance.

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Dr Anna Lundgren is a Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio, an international research centre for regional development and planning. Anna has a special interest in what makes urban and rural regions sustainable, liveable and prosperous. She has an academic background in political science and in urban and regional planning, and long experience in regional development, policymaking and governance.

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Dr Arto Maaninen is a Vice Rector for Co-operation at University of Oulu since 2017. In his current position, he is responsible of collaboration relations with universities, research organisations and companies at the university. His portfolio covers also research based innovation activities, international innovation partnerships and EU relations. From 2002 to late 2017, he was holding different vice president positions of operations and research at VTT, Technology research centre of Finland.

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Ms Kirsti Mijnhijmer is the Head of Secretariat for the Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. She has worked for the NPA programme since 2008. She has led several major projects over the years, such as writing the NPA Cooperation Programme document and implementing the electronic monitoring system. In her capacity as Head of Secretariat, Kirsti coordinates a network of Interreg and European Neighbourhood Instrument Programmes operating in the European Arctic, the Arctic Cooperation.

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Dr Matti Muhos is the Director of University of Oulu Kerttu Saalasti Institute, an international research institute with a mission to provide evidence-based knowledge on micro-enterprises and their operating conditions. He is Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management and Renewing Business. Muhos holds the title of Docent in Technology Business, with a special focus on innovative starting and growing business in the IT industry, at the University of Jyväskylä.

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Dr Egidija Rainosalo is R&D Coordinator at Centria University of Applied Sciences in Kokkola, Finland. Her passion is in effective use of natural resources. She is leading SYMBIOMA project, which aims at mobilizing researchers and industry in Finland, Ireland, Norway and Sweden for a common goal - to employ circular economy models for improved resource efficiency, to boost new business development and to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of those regions.

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Dr Margaret Quinn is a highly experienced Project/Programme Manager at ERNACT, Ireland, with a track record of managing innovative and complex IT implementation projects in med-tech, logistics and digital marketing fields. Margaret is a lead partner of EMERGREEN project, in which she and her colleagues from six countries are trying to deliver quality and sustainable public services and the latest innovations in remote areas in the NPA.

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