


SERVIÇOS SOCIAIS DE INTERESSE GERAL E COESÃO TERRITORIAL: EXPERIÊNCIAS E DESAFIOS


SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST AND TERRITORIAL COHESION: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES




## WHAT CAN PORTUGAL LEARN FROM THE NORDICS?

Main focus on Sweden, with complements from Finland and Norway.

1. Background description
2. Primary school, health care, elderly care and labour market services




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### Inhabitants/km2

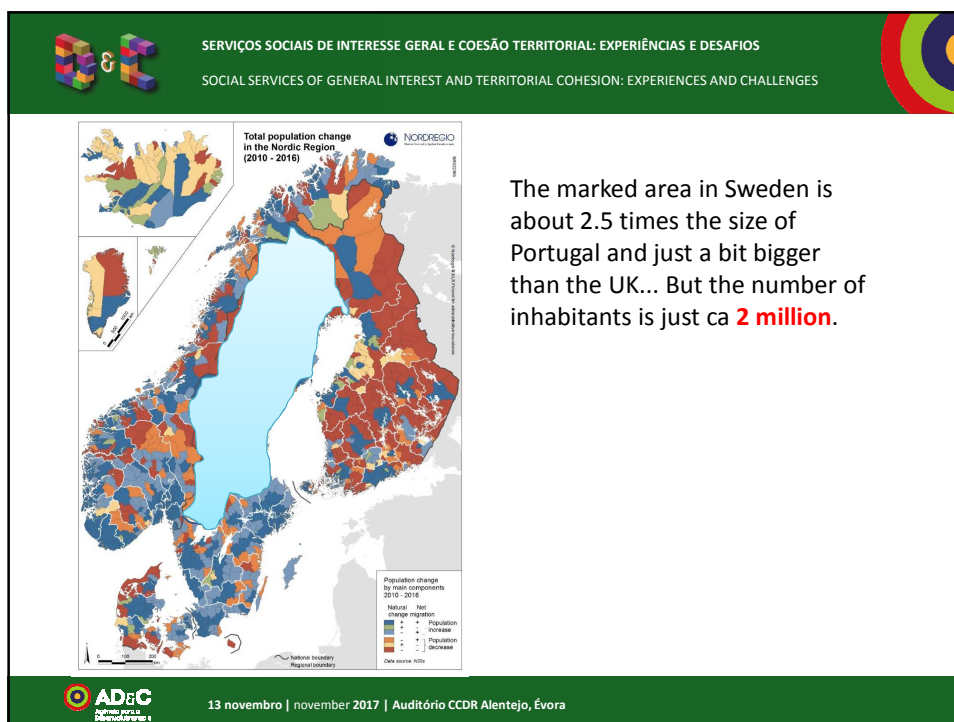
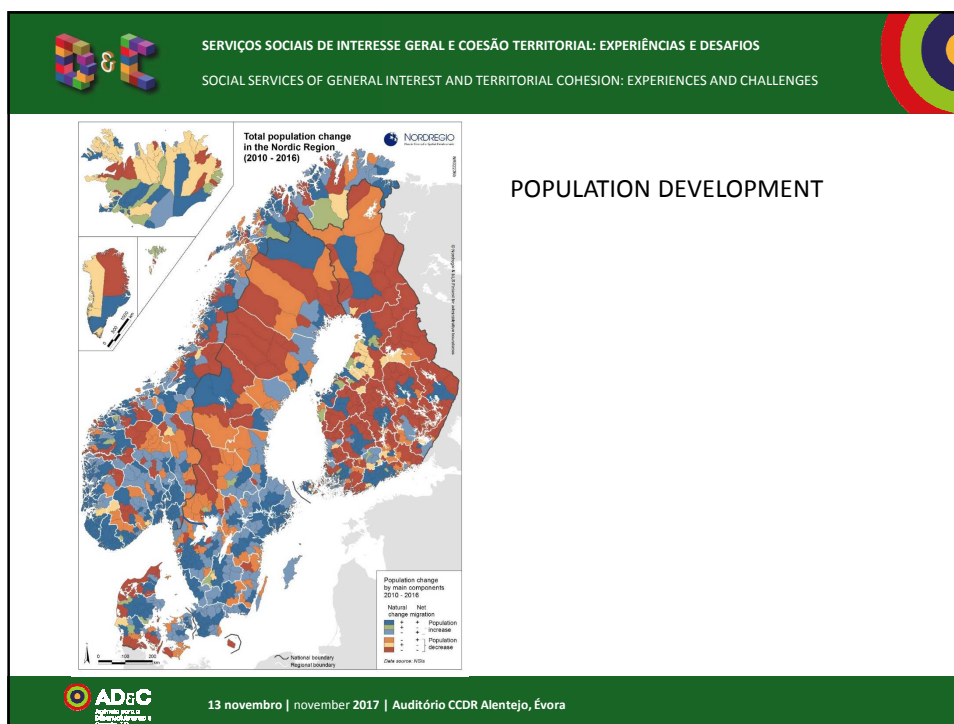
GEO/TIME	1990	2000	2010	2015
European Union (28 countries)		111,8	115,7	117,1
Portugal	108,3	111,7	114,7	112,3
Länsi-Suomi	22,3	22,6	23,3	23,6
Helsinki-Uusimaa	134,5	152,2	167,6	177,2
Etelä-Suomi	35,2	35,7	36,4	36,9
Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi	6,5	6,4	6,4	6,4
Åland	16,0	16,9	18,0	18,6
Stockholm	253	278,1	312,4	339,4
Östra Mellansverige	38	38,6	40,5	42,4
Småland med öarna	24,5	23,9	24,3	25,0
Sydsverige	87,3	91,3	99,4	104,4
Västsverige	55,2	60,0	63,7	66,8
Norra Mellansverige	13	13,1	12,9	13,1
Mellersta Norrland	5,6	5,3	5,2	5,3
Övre Norrland	3,6	3,3	3,3	3,4
Oslo og Akershus	174,1	195,0	224,7	248,2
Hedmark og Oppland	7,4	7,4	7,5	7,7
Sør-Østlandet	24,3	25,4	27,6	29,1
Agder og Rogaland	24,2	26,5	30,1	32,4
Vestlandet	15,9	16,6	17,9	19,0
Trøndelag	9,7	10,1	10,9	11,6
Nord-Norge	4,3	4,3	4,4	4,5


Eurostat (demo\_r\_d2dens)

HUGE  
COUNTRIES,  
LITTLE  
POPULATION




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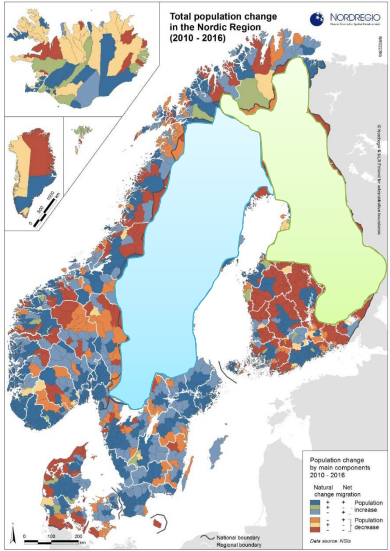




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**Total population change in the Nordic Region (2010 - 2016)**

Population change by main components 2010 - 2016

Natural change Migration


Population increase

Population decrease


Data source: NIS

The marked area in Sweden is about 2.5 times the size of Portugal and just a bit bigger than the UK... But the number of inhabitants is just ca **2 million**.

The marked area in Finland is ca twice the size as Portugal, but with **1.3 million** inhabitants




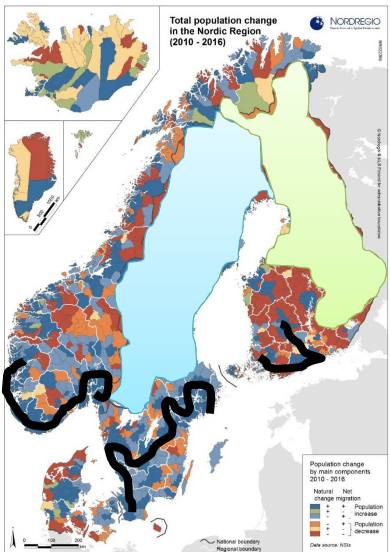
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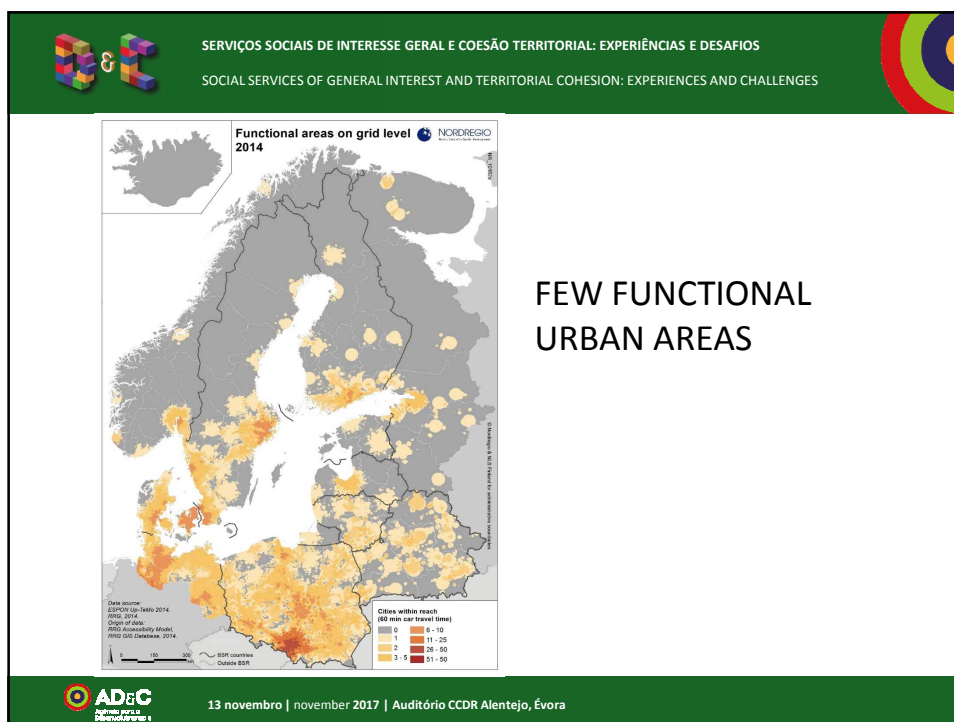
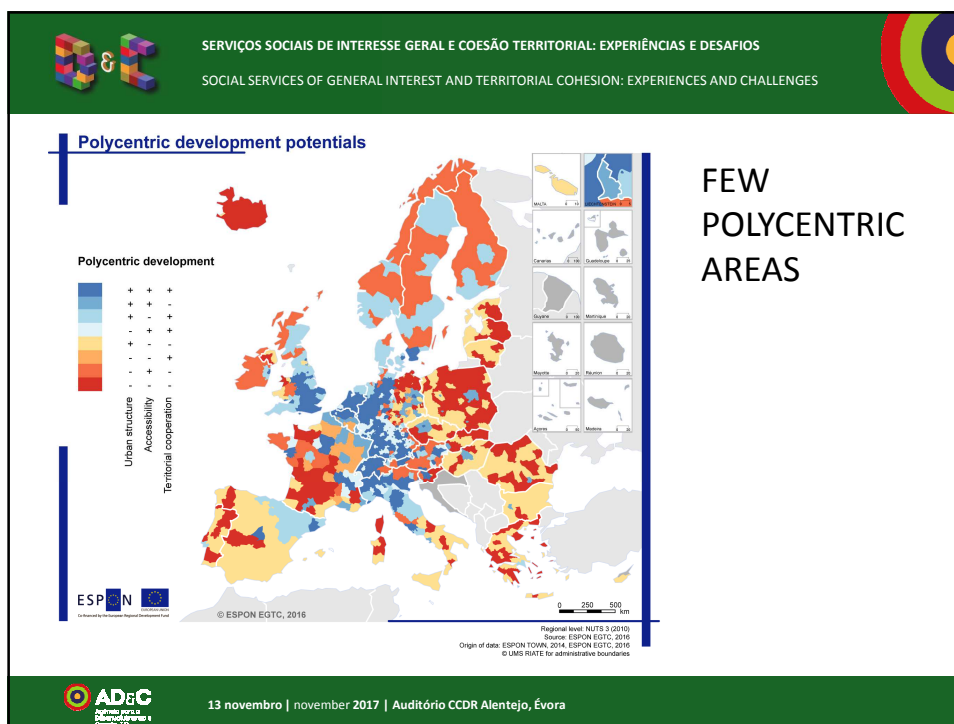
Population concentrations

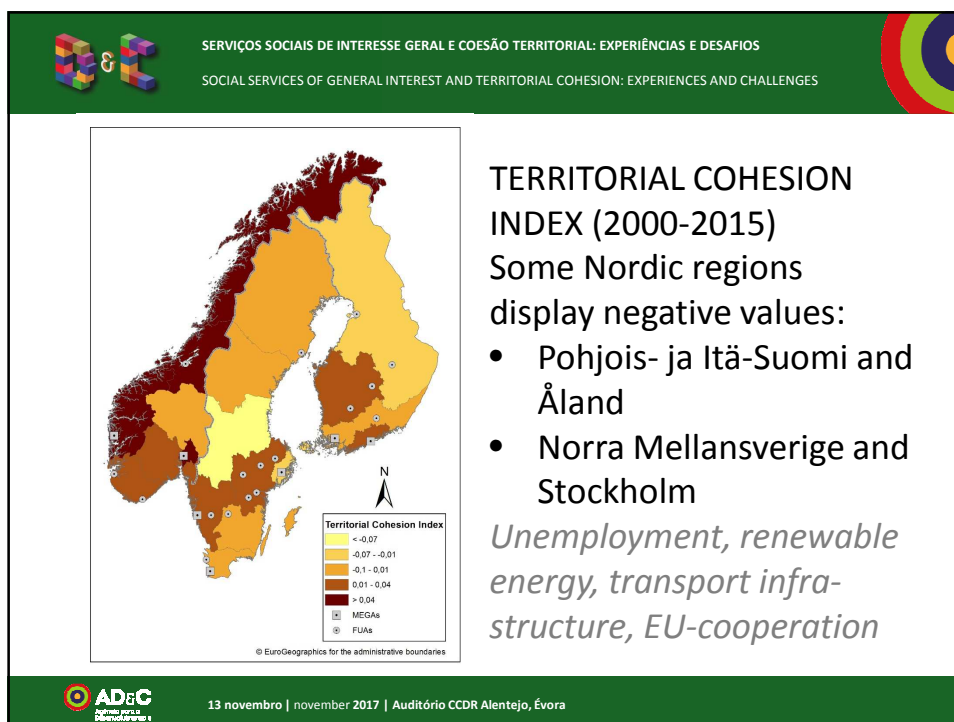
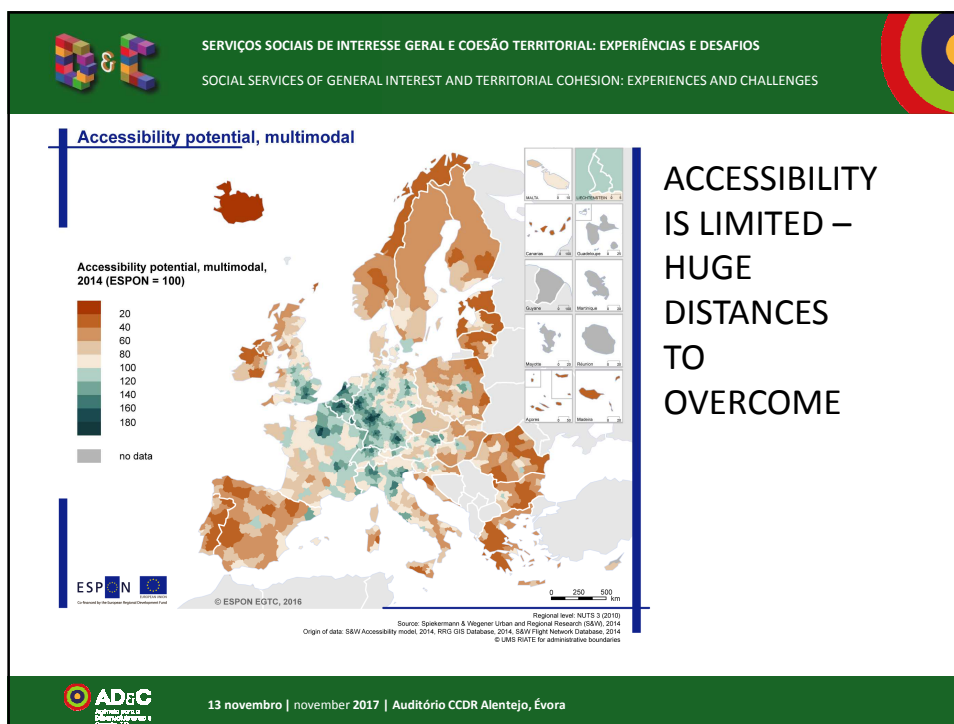
FI-SE: north-south divide


NO: Oslo-Kristiansand-Stavanger-Bergen



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## EARLY 1990s AS A TURNING POINT


The **Finnish** economy collapsed shortly after the collapse of Soviet Union 1991. The economy went through a dramatic structural change, with massive cut-backs in the public spending.

**Sweden** had an over-heated economy in the late 1980s, which triggered a housing bubble in the early 1990s. Economic depression 1992-1994. The economy went through a dramatic structural change, with massive cut-backs in the public spending. Privatisations of public companies, marketisation of public services; New Public Management and Consumer Choice were introduced as cures, quick fix etc. Concentration of resources and economies of scale.

**Norway** has oil. No crisis since...? “Strategy for whole country to live”




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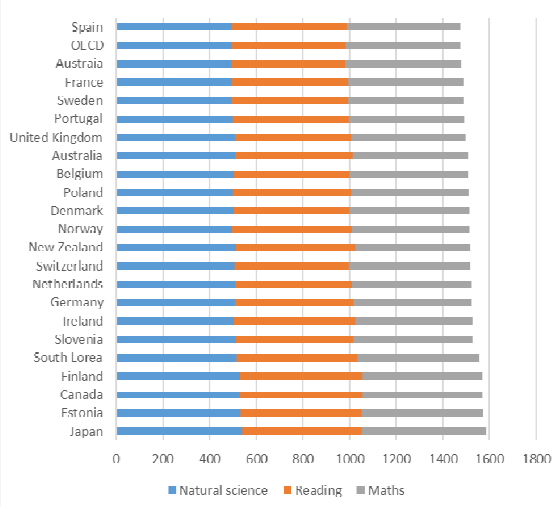


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## PISA RESULTS




Country	Natural science	Reading	Maths
Spain	550	550	550
OECD	550	550	550
Australia	550	550	550
France	550	550	550
Sweden	550	500	500
Portugal	550	550	550
United Kingdom	550	550	550
Australia	550	550	550
Belgium	550	550	550
Poland	550	550	550
Denmark	550	550	550
Norway	550	550	550
New Zealand	550	550	550
Switzerland	550	550	550
Netherlands	550	550	550
Germany	550	550	550
Ireland	550	550	550
Slovenia	550	550	550
South Korea	550	550	550
Finland	550	550	550
Canada	550	550	550
Estonia	550	550	550
Japan	550	550	550

### PRIMARY EDUCATION

The Swedish school system is decentralised and highly marketised; centralised school system prevail in Finland and Norway. Huge geographical differences in education quality in Sweden.




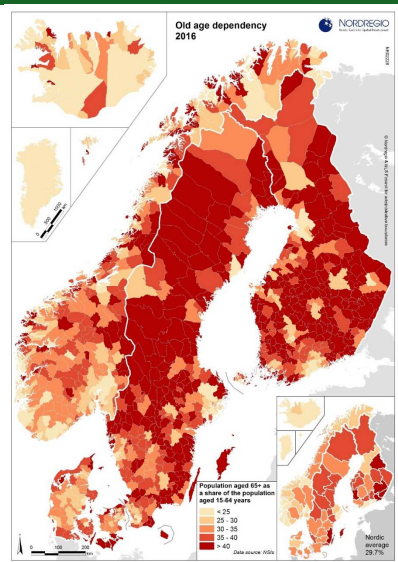
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**Old age dependency 2016**

Population aged 65+ as a share of the population aged 15-64 years

Nordic average 29.7%

## HIGH SHARE OF 65+ YEARS

Elderly care by the public in Finland and Norway; elderly care in Sweden is marketised since the 1990s. No 'market' in peripheral areas – too costly.



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## HEALTH CARE

Mainly public health care in **Norway**.

**Finland** has three different kinds of health care provision: public, private and through employment; a major reform (SOTE-reform) is scheduled for 2019, but is now uncertain. A copy of the Swedish health care reform.

**Sweden** has marketised health care through two reforms (1994, 2009). Concentration to major cities and FUAs, bad access in spatial and a-spatial peripheries; bad accessibility for socio-economically weak groups and elderly.



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Citizens occupy closed health central in periphery. After 3 years and 3 months of occupation, the politicians surrender and re-open the health central (2016).

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**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**  
 Relatively high youth unemployment in Finland and Sweden; low in Norway.

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**Share of young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEET rate 18-25 years) in 2016**

**THE NEETs**  
 Relatively high share of NEETs in Finland; relatively low in Norway and Sweden.

**ADEC**  
 Agência para a Desenvolvimento e Coesão Territorial, I.P.

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**WHAT HAPPENED IN SWEDEN?**

**A. Four municipalities providing four services**

**B. Four municipalities merge into one and the four services are concentrated to the most central town.**


**C. Four municipalities merge into one and the four services are decentralised so that the four major towns get one each.**

**D. Four municipalities cooperate and produce one service each to uphold a good quality of services**


**This is planned to happen in Finland, but not yet in Norway.**

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## HOW TO KILL A COMMUNITY


In communist Hungary the authorities closed down the school and the health station – within 5-10 years the village was almost deserted.

In Sweden the school system, health care, elderly care etc. have been marketised. The public cannot uphold the service provision in peripheral areas and the market cannot make a profit there – who will provide the service? Especially young women leave these areas, which reduces the reproduction potential.


Finland is about to chose the same route, while Norway has resisted it. Negative cohesion in parts of Finland and Sweden, positive in Norway.




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