

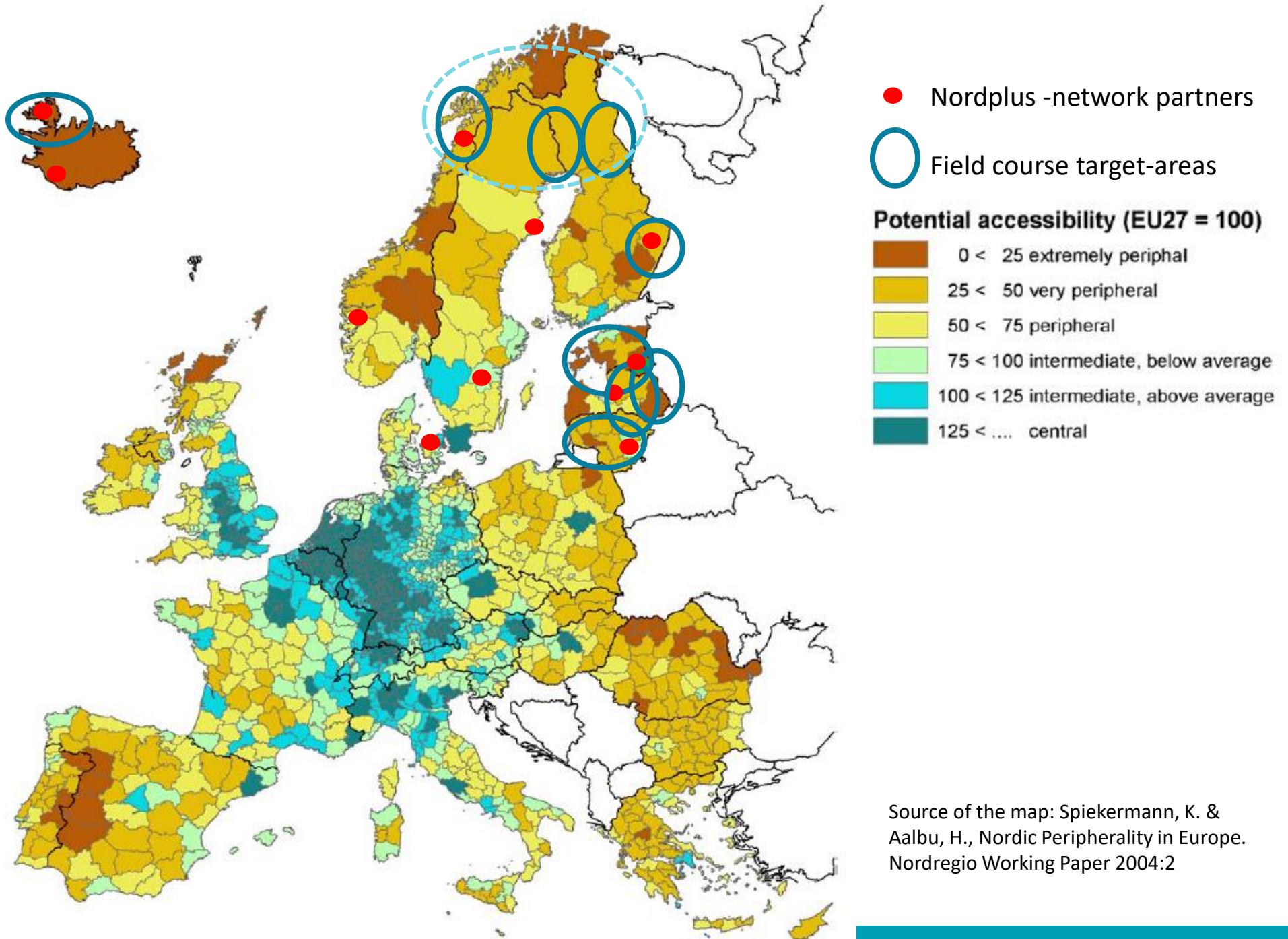


UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

"GNB" field courses from the late 1990's to ...

- Spots, topics and snapshots**
- Peripheral areas in focus and flux**
- Learning outcomes?**

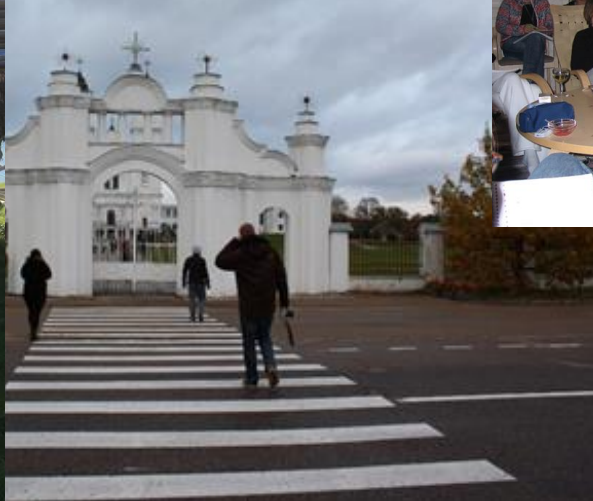
Ilkka Pyy, Joensuu, May 10, 2025



Source of the map: Spiekermann, K. &
 Aalbu, H., Nordic Peripherality in Europe.
 Nordregio Working Paper 2004:2

NordPlus -course topics 1999-2019

- 27.9. – 8.10. 1999 in Saltdal, Rognan (140 km south-east of Bodø) with a 3-days excursion to Rana, Lurøy and Træna: **LOCAL RESTRUCTURING OF THE NORDIC WELFARE SOCIETY**
- 2. – 13.10. 2000 in Saltstraumen (30 km east of Bodø) with a 3-days excursion to the Lofoten Islands: **INNOVATIONS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORDIC CONTEXT**
- 30.9. – 11.10. 2002 in Røklund (100 km south-east of Bodø) with a 3-days excursion to the Lofoten Islands: **SOCIAL CAPITAL, LOCAL MOBILIZATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORDIC CONTEXT**
- 19. – 31.10. 2003 in Tornio/Haparanda with a 3-days excursion to Luleå, Piteå, Pajala, Pello, Rovaniemi and Kemi: **LEARNING REGIONS AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE NORDIC PERIPHERY**
- 4. – 15.10. 2004 in Ylitornio with a 4-days excursion to Kolari, Enontekiö, Kautokeino, Karasjokk, Utsjoki, Inari and Rovaniemi: **NEW DYNAMICS OF ETHNIC AND REGIONAL POLITICS IN THE NORDIC PERIPHERY**
- 2. – 13.10. 2006 in Ylitornio with a 3-days excursion to Pajala, Kiruna, Gällivare, Jokkmokk, Boden and Luleå: **MOBILITY IN A BRIDGING AND BONDING CAPACITY IN THE NORDIC PERIPHERY**
- 1.-12.10.2007 in Kuusamo with a 4-days excursion to Eastern Lapland and Rovaniemi: **MAPPING TACIT KNOWLEDGES. UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF RURAL ECONOMIES**
- 3.-14.11.2008 in Pärnu with a 3-days excursion to Southern Estonia: **RESILIENT REGIONS AND PEOPLE: TRANSFORMATION AND ADAPTATION OF LOCAL ECONOMIES**
- 5.-16.10.2009 in Valga-Valka with excursions along Via Hansaetica between Tartu and Riga: **NEW FORMS OF POSTPRODUCTIVISM, RURAL-URBAN INTERACTION AND REGIONALISM IN BALTIC BORDERLANDS**
- 11.-22.10.2010 in Riga with a 3-days excursion to Eastern Latvia (Latgale): **DUALISMS AND DIALOGUES IN BALTIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY**
- 15-27.4.2012 in Tartu with a 3-days excursion to Võru and Valga County, Vidzeme and Riga. **KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS AND LOCALISED LEARNING IN SPATIAL AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN PERIPHERAL FUNCTIONAL URBAN AREAS OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION**
- 14-27.4.2013 in Tartu with a 3-days excursion to Southern Borderlands of Peipsi Lake, e.g. crossing to Pskov Region in Russia and Latgale in Latvia). **BORDERING PERSPECTIVES AND PROCESSES IN EVERYDAY LIFE AT THE EU'S EXTERNAL FRONTIERS**
- 11 – 24.5.2014 in Estonian/Latvian coastal case study areas & Pärnu. **INVISIBLE POPULATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF RECREATIONAL PERIPHERY**
- 3 – 16.5.2015 in Estonian/Latvian case study localities & Tartu. **SECOND HOUSE PEOPLE INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL AND COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL LIFE?**
- 7 – 20.5.2017 in Latvian/Estonian case study localities & Riga. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF GREEN AND SILVER ECONOMIES**
- 22 .4. – 5.5 2018 in Vilnius with a 4-days excursion to Western Lithuania and a 3-days case studies in Eastern Lithuania. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA OF GREEN AND SILVER ECONOMIES**
- 20. – 30.5.2019 in Reykjavik and in the Westfjords of Iceland (excursion and case studies). **CHANGING COLOURS FOR THE FUTURE? REIMAGINING COASTAL COMMUNITIES**



On the road
– excursion
days





Fieldworks

The final day



	GDP per capita 2022	Private investments per capita per year 2001-09 / 2010-18	Public investments per capita per year 2001-09 / 2010-18	Share of R&D investments 2019 / population 2020
Kainuu	€ 42 000	€ 4413 / 5196	€ 1262 / 1840	0.4 / 1.3
N-Karelia	€ 38 000	€ 3710 / 5273	€ 901 / 1147	1.6 / 3.0

Urban-rural classification



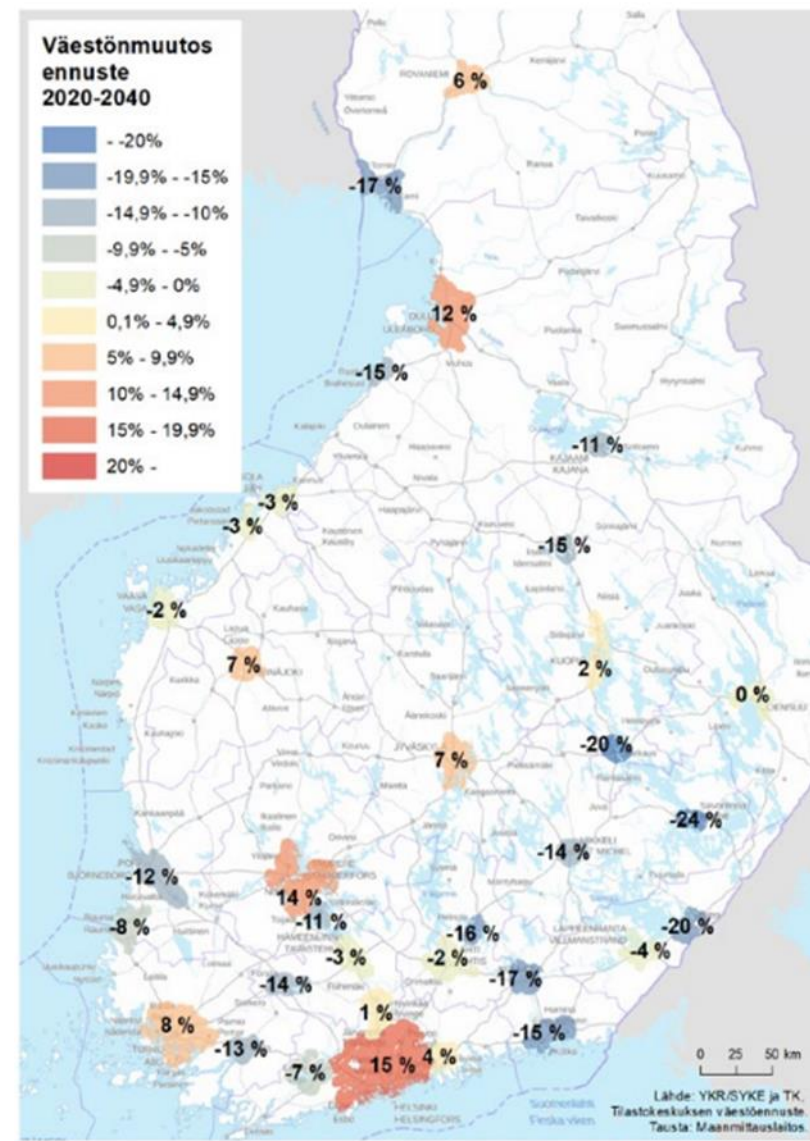
+ Local centre 500-4000 inh.
in Kainuu and North-Karelia

New housing stock 1940-1999: 1 million

- 500 000 sparsely populated areas
- 300 000 urban centers
- 200 000 rural centers

? Loans for renovation in peripheral areas as precondition for visions of multilocal/-place living, eco-villages, smart shrinking, permaculture etc. ...

Demographic prognose 2020-2040 in city-regions (YKR/SYKE, SoF)



Nord+ 2015



Nord+ 2006



Students' feedback: Nord+ 2018

	A excellent	B very good	C good	D satisfactory	E poor	F fail
1 Course program	9	8		1	2	
2 Relevance of materials	9	6	3	2		
3 Quality of materials	9	9	2			
4 Communication	5	6	7		1	
5 Quality of lectures (average)	2	11	7			
6 Balance (lectures/discussions)	1	5	10	3		1
7 Clarity of explanations	3	12	5			
8 Balance (class-/field-work)	5	4	5	4	2	
9 Supportiveness of teachers	14	3	2	1		
10 Availability of extra help	12	4	3		1	
11 Course organization	7	6	4	1	1	1
12 Excursion	5	9	3	2	1	
13 Classroom set up	10	6	3	1		
14 Accommodation	12	4	1	1		2
15 Joint meals	16	2	1		1	
Overall evaluation	7	9	3		1	

Total number of respondents, n = 20

What was your main reason to attend the course?

- gaining international experience, networking and getting to know new people , interesting topics (rural development, green and silver economies), explore country and culture of Lithuania, inspiration for one's own work with MA-thesis

What went well during this course? What should we keep doing next time?

- good and relevant lectures (but not all of them, e.g., lectures held in Klaipeda were criticized), excursions with coverable and many-sided views (but length of excursion and its usefulness for the group works was questioned, too), field-works and face-to-face interviews with varied local informants, supportiveness of teachers and good communication with them (not fully shared opinion among students, see table above, esp. rows 6, 9 & 10)

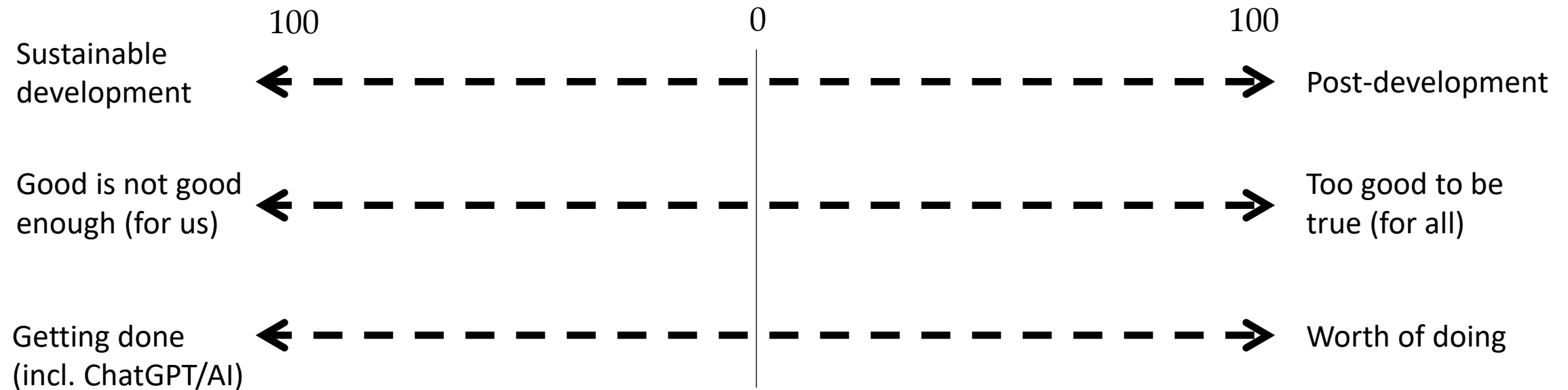
What did not go so well? What would you like to see done differently next time?

- tight schedule, unequal living conditions during field-works, more time for the group work and reporting, better utilization of course Dropbox contents (more likely few well selected joint readings than rich and varied collection of journal articles and book chapters)

Can you mention positive learning experiences?

- practicing and writing English, practicing interpretation and translation, acquainted with real group work in authentic alien circumstances and in time squeeze, a lot of new information concerning rural development issues in Lithuania

My goal, contribution & motivation for achieving knowledge:
literature, lectures, excursions, presentations, data-collection, reporting,
teamwork, student-teacher interaction



Cf. e.g. Bregman 2024