

Preliminary Programme, October 18, 2017 (subject to changes)

Värmland way of promoting smart specialization sectors bioeconomy and digitalization, and creating an attractive regional brand

Study Tour Värmland

28 and 29 November, 2017

Venue: Karlstad, Värmland, Sweden

BSR Stars S3 project arranges a two-day Study Tour to Karlstad, Värmland on November 28-29, 2017. Värmland's economy is largely focused on pulp and paper industry, information and communication technology, steel industry and engineering, and hospitality industry. Värmland is also famous for clustering and networking initiatives, with Paper Province cluster as an internationally known example.

The innovation system in Värmland is formed around several regional cluster initiatives and innovation platforms. The cluster initiatives as they are today began to take shape in the late 1990s. The Paper Province (pulp, paper and machinery) and Compare (IT and service sector) were early initiatives. The cluster initiatives have been set up around already strong sectors such as pulp and paper, the packaging industry, steel and manufacturing, the information and communications sector and the food industry. Co-operation between private sector companies and Karlstad University has strengthened the companies and increased the commercialisation of the research results.

In Värmland, there exist several testbeds related to smart specialisation and clusters in all of which there is a close cooperation with the researchers of Karlstad University. One such example is the IT cluster which has initiated "Nordic Medtest". Nordic Medtest has been granted a national status and it tests IT systems in the healthcare sector.

The BSR Stars S3 Study Tour in Karlstad, Värmland, introduces the key actors of the Värmland Innovation System, and opens up opportunities for the Study Tour participants for concrete cooperation with Värmland. The company cases to be presented at the Study Tour cover especially bioeconomy/circular economy, and digitalisation. The Study Tour programme introduces also Värmland's cooperation with Norway.

Nordregio, The Nordic Council of Ministers, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth – together with Region Värmland host the Study Tour.

27 November, 2017, Karlstad

Arrival to Karlstad & informal get-together in the evening

28 November, 2017, Karlstad

Venue: Region Värmland Office, Lagergrens gata 2, Karlstad (morning session), Karlstad University/Innovation Park (afternoon session)

09:00 Coffee and registration

09:30 Welcome & overview of Värmland & Karlstad; presentation of participants

- Opening remarks/City of Karlstad
- Region Värmland & Nordregio & Nordic Council of Ministers

10:00 BSR Stars S3 Project in brief & Study tours

- Johanna Leino, Baltic Institute of Finland, Tampere
- Jukka Teräs, Nordregio

10:15 Smart Specialisation in Värmland

- Anders Olsson, Region Värmland

10.45-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.30 Presentations of key innovation actors in Värmland

- Maria Hollander, CEO, Paper Province
- Håkan Spjuth, Head of Department, Grants and Innovation Office, University of Karlstad
- Magnus Bårdén, CEO, Compare
- Discussion

12.30-13.30 Lunch, Region Värmland Office

13.30-14.00 Bus transfer to Karlstad University/Innovation Park

14.00-16.30 Site visits, Karlstad University/Innovation Park

- Per Tomani, RISE Bioeconomy & LignoCity
- Magnus Bårdén, CEO, Compare
- DRINOR Ab
- Cellcomb
- Innovation Park start-ups
- Madelen Richardsson, Testbed/Kristinehamns kommun
- Johan Sterte, Vice-chancellor, Karlstad University

19.00-22.00 Dinner

29 Nov – Karlstad

Venue: Innovation Park, Sommargatan 101

8.30 Transportation from the hotel to the innovation park

9.00 Värmland/Karlstad and bio/circular economy, digitalisation from business perspective: What are the opportunities?

- Business Värmland
- Company representatives

9.45 Industrial symbiosis as a key driver of green growth. Nordic & Baltic lessons learned and further opportunities

- Jukka Teräs, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio
- Torfi Jóhannesson, Nordic Council of Ministers

10.10 Discussion: Pooling strengths. Opportunities for joint activities Värmland & Study Visit Group, the Baltic Sea Region

10.45 Coffee

11.15-12.45 Transnational cooperation and bio/circular economy: case Värmland/Norway

- tentative speakers & panel : Norsk-Svenska Handelskammaren, relevant regional Norwegian partners (fylkeskommune), University of Karlstad, Region Värmland, cross- border committee Sweden/Norway.

12.45 Conclusion & end of joint programme

- Nordic Council of Ministers/Nordregio & Region Värmland

13.00-14.00 Lunch, Innovation Park

14.00 Bus transfer to the hotel

(14.00-16.00 Possibility for bilateral meetings between representatives of Värmland and Study tour participants)