

INVITATION:

The Land of the Future?

Industrialization for a Green Transition in the European Arctic



UMEÅ
UNIVERSITY

sweden
2023.eu Swedish Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

Umeå University has the pleasure to invite you to this unofficial event of the Swedish presidency of the Council of the EU focused the rapid green transition and the re-industrialization in European regions. The event will give a scientific perspective on the socio-economic developments in regions undergoing a re-industrialization in support of the EU green industrial transition.

The European north provides important preconditions for a green transition. Access to green energy and minerals has created an industrial boom with mega investments into battery factories and fossil-free steel production plants. While this is seen as a potential solution to global challenges caused by climate change, the development triggers social and economic change within the European north as well. Partly the energy requested by all industrial development underway exceeds the current capacity, partly the need for further energy production and mineral resources causes land-use competition. It also threatens indigenous reindeer herding. However, most notable today is the lack of labor needed in the new industries and the growing communities.

Another property of the current development is its velocity. During recent decades the European north faced unemployment, population decline and fading service supply. Now communities need to grow quickly to facilitate the industrialization underway. This requires the attraction of qualified labor, the provision of housing and an attractive built environment, as well as the upscaling of infrastructure and public and private services. At risk are established practices for community involvement and other values such as an intact environment. Altogether this has brought about a situation with challenges but also plentiful opportunity. A mobilization of stakeholders within the region but even beyond its boundaries seems to be decisive to meet the future.

In this context, the role of universities is pivotal. Universities provide education and research on technological, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions of ongoing change. However, in the north they are also important nodes for various aspects of regional development. Umeå University cooperates with its neighbors in northern Norway and Finland in the Arctic Five university alliance to strengthen research, education but also the engagement in the current societal transformation.

Join us for this event to get an update and the most current scientific knowledge on the socio-economic development in the European regions undergoing a green transition. The seminar will also host a discussion on the role in the universities within the ongoing change and the implicit challenges and opportunities for research and education.

Speakers:

Prof. Rikard Eriksson, Department of Geography, Umeå University

Prof. Dieter K. Müller, Deputy Vice-chancellor, Umeå University

Prof. Katrine Tveiterås, Vice-rector, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (to be confirmed)

DATE AND TIME: Thursday June 29, 11.30-13.00 followed by a light lunch

LOCATION: North Sweden European Office, Avenue des Arts 11

REGISTRATION: Please register at this [link](#) no later than June 26.