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Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2020

23 – 24 November 2020

Tuesday 24 November 2020 – 15:30-17:30 CET

The role of higher education and science as drivers of innovative development initiatives in rural areas of Scotland and Lower Saxony

1. Workshop Organizers

- **Alistair Adam Hernández, MA:** Research associate in the InDaLE project at the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association.
- **Alexandru Brad, MA:** Research associate in the InDaLE project at the Johann Heinrich von Thunen-Institute, where he is investigating hazard prevention in the rural areas of Germany, Austria and Scotland.
- **Stefan Kah, Dipl.-Geogr.:** Knowledge Exchange and Research Fellow at the European Policies Research Centre (EPRC) at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (Scotland).
- **Prof. Dr. Ingo Mose:** Chair of the research group of Applied Geography and Environmental Planning at the University of Oldenburg.
- **Nathalie Tent, MSc:** Research associate in the InDaLE project at the University of Oldenburg, where she is researching innovative approaches to provide services of general interest in rural Europe.

2. Workshop Description

Rural areas in Lower Saxony and Scotland face multiple and distinct challenges (e.g. demographic and climatic change, peripherality, difficult economic perspectives ...). Higher education, research and other educational institutions can play a decisive role in promoting and developing their innovative capacity and therefore contributing to tackle challenges effectively. This workshop will provide a space to initially explore how these institutions can stimulate the transformation and revitalization of rural areas as well as how knowledge can be transferred into local action and new practices co-created along with stakeholders. Approaches to innovation support, knowledge transfer and co-creation as well as transdisciplinary science can significantly benefit from purposeful exchange and cross-pollination among the countries. Further collaboration in a longer-term setting is explicitly envisaged.

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3. Programme

3:30 pm Welcoming address and introduction

Agenda, topics, focus and goals

3:35 pm Audience participation and sensitization

We are interested in your perspective! Questions concerning the innovative capacity of rural areas, knowledge transfer and the role of higher education and research (among others) will be raised using a polling and visualisation app.

3:45 pm Round of introductions and articulation of expectations

A round of introductions will be held focusing on interests and expectations of participants as well as discussing the visualised poll results.

4:10 pm Short presentations on rural challenges and the role of higher education and science as drivers of innovative development initiatives in rural areas of ...

... Scotland ...

Frank Rennie, Professor of Sustainable Rural Development, Assistant Principal (Research, Enterprise, and Development), University of the Highlands and Islands

... and Lower Saxony:

Karl Martin Born, Professor of Geography, University of Vechta

4:40 pm Discussion and delimitation of existing research gaps. Exploration of possibilities for collaboration and exchange in the near future.

5:20 pm Summary and conclusion

5:30 pm End

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