

Cross-Border Mobility:

A regional matter of national importance

Jonas Wendel, Chief of Staff to the Secretary General, Tallinn 18 september

Nordic Council of Ministers

- The official body for Nordic intergovernmental co-operation, formed in 1971
- No supranational powers - we cannot legislate or negotiate on behalf of our members
- Our role is to create Nordic added value through deeper cooperation
- We initiate, execute and follow-up on political decisions
- PMs have overall responsibility - delegate it to Ministers of Nordic Cooperation
- There are 11 Ministerials councils, each concentrating on a specific subject. One special Nordic-Baltic council for digitalization. A combined secretariat in Copenhagen



The Nordic Region

5 countries & 3 autonomous regions



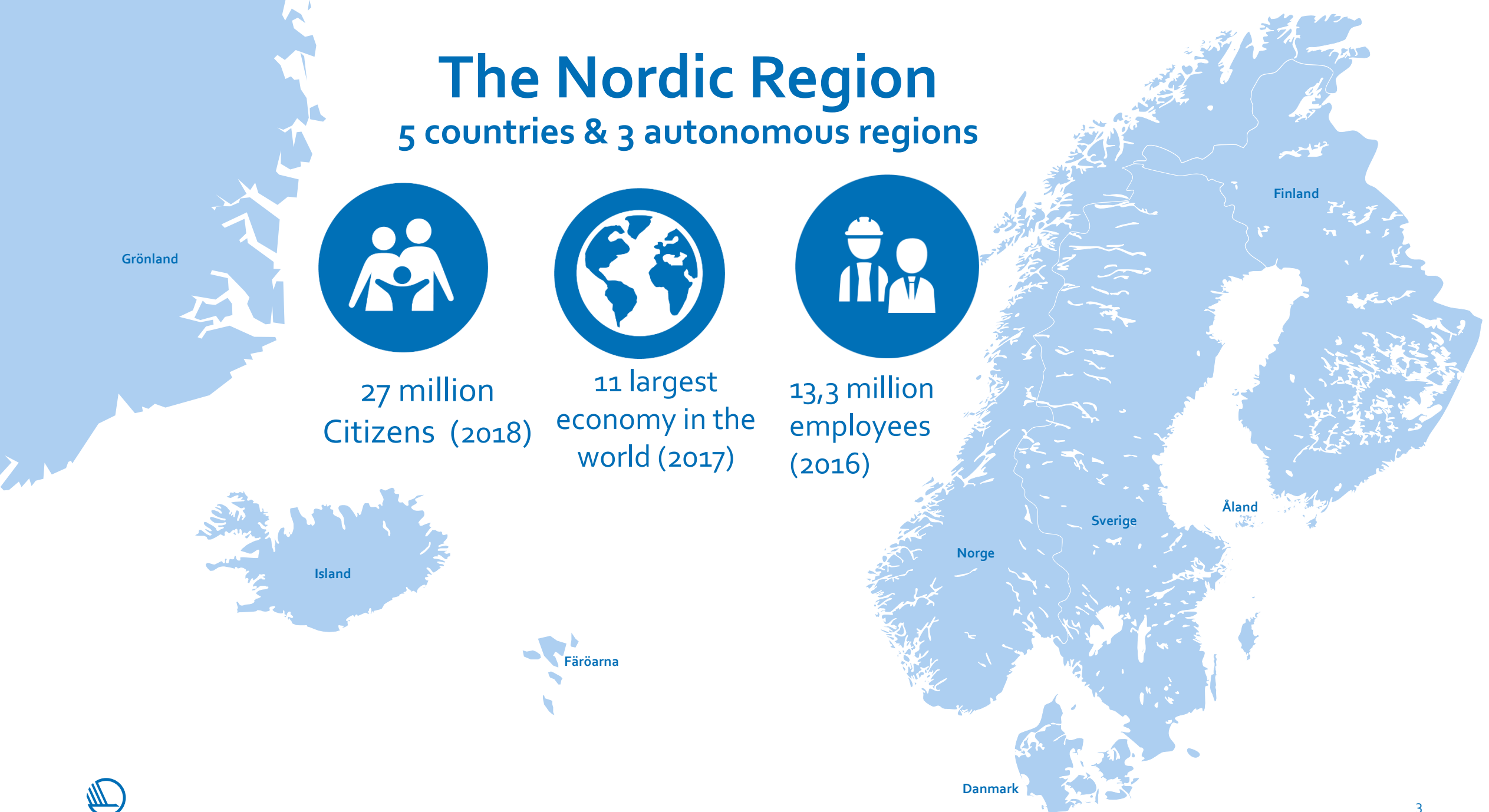
27 million
Citizens (2018)



11 largest
economy in the
world (2017)



13,3 million
employees
(2016)



Benefits of Cross-border mobility

- A greater pool of talent for employer to choose from
- Greater networks promotes creativity and innovation
- Co-operation >>>> Differentiation >>>>> Specialisation
- Markets grow bigger >>>> economies of scale
- Exposure to international competition >>> test-bed for global market



Nordic co-operation

➡ Driven from below

- common history
- cultural and linguistic proximity
- common set of values
- sense of togetherness
- interpersonal

➡ Supported from above

- Political decisions
- Legal framework/Less red tape
- Infrastructure

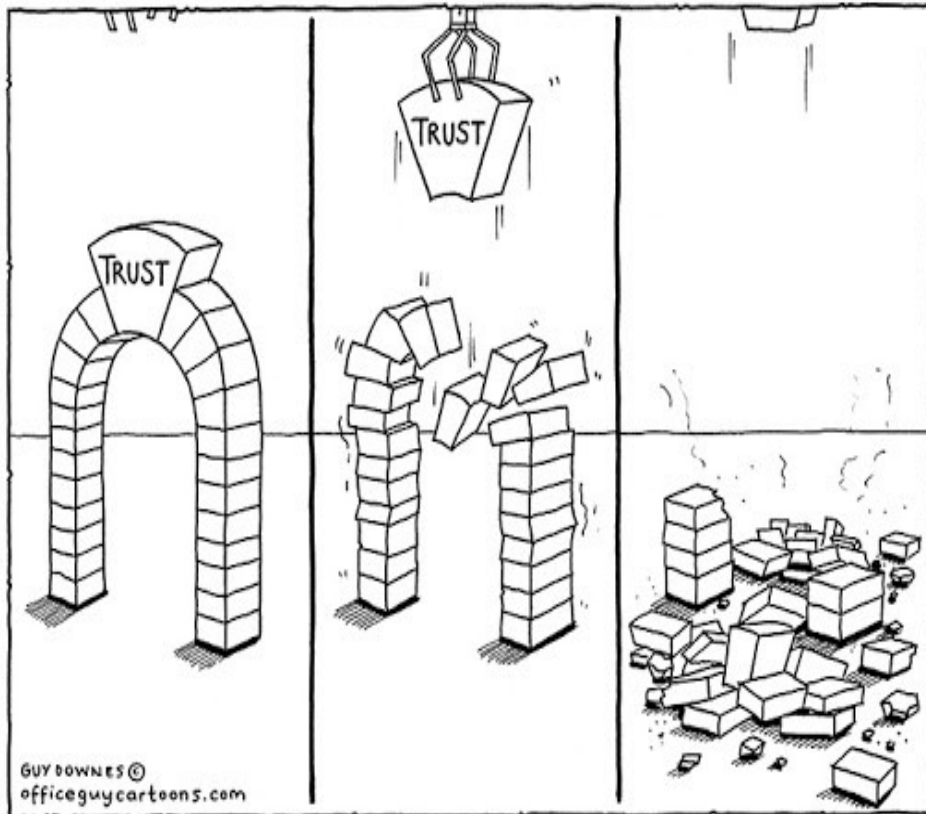


Only the Nordic way or no way?

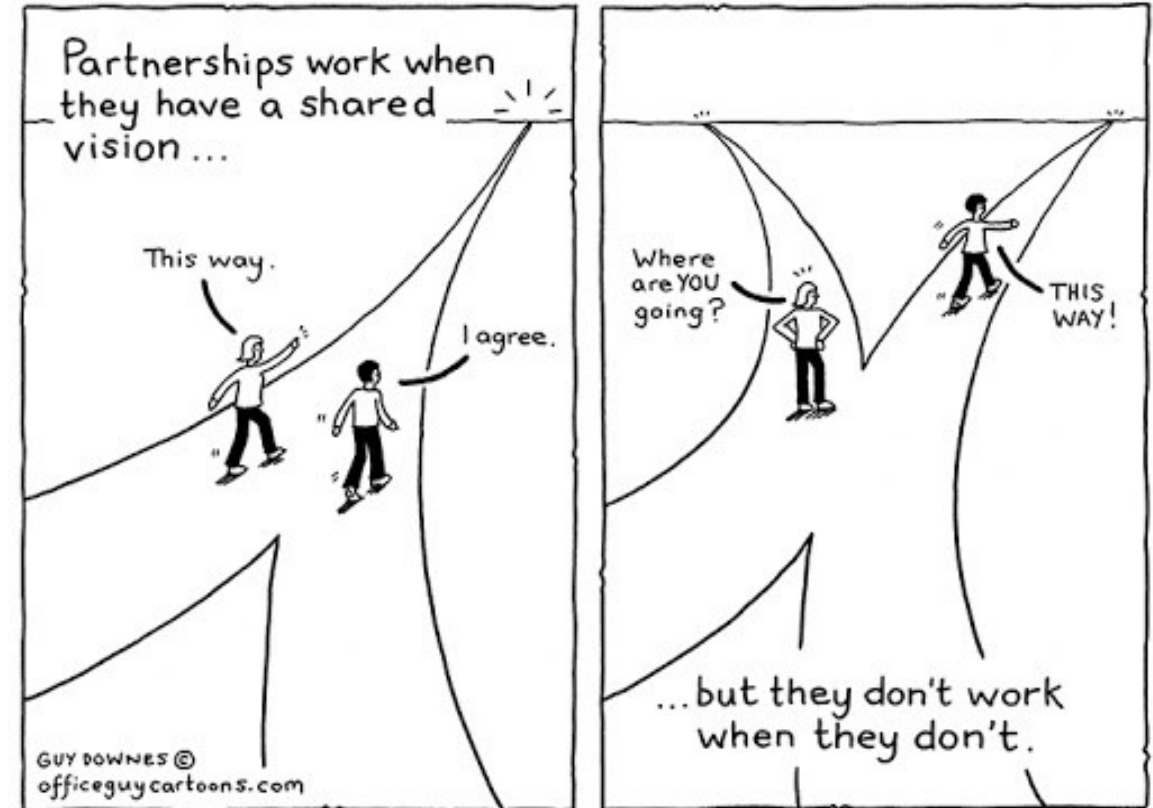


Cross-border mobility through

Mutual Trust



Shared long-term Vision



TRUST – The Nordic Gold

Denmark	6.90	Belgium	5.02
Finland	6.74	Austria	4.98
Norway	6.62	Lithuania	4.94
Sweden	6.25	Spain	4.83
Netherlands	6.03	France	4.61
Switzerland	5.72	Czech Republic	4.59
Estonia	5.57	Hungary	4.17
United Kingdom	5.37	Slovenia	4.07
Ireland	5.23	Poland	3.92
Germany	5.17	Portugal	3.63

**Social trust in the European countries, based on the European Social Survey 2014.
Zero indicates a complete lack of trust, while ten indicates a complete trust in other people.**



Our Vision 2030

A **green** Nordic region

Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.



A **competitive** Nordic region

Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.

The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world

A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.

“ By 2030 The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world”

The Nordic prime ministers vision, aug 2019



**Nordic Council
of Ministers**

From WHAT to do To HOW to do it



How NMC work with barriers

- IDENTIFY barriers to freedom of movement
(4 regional information-centers, Info Norden)
- VERIFY barriers to trade
(secretariat of NMR)
- REGISTER barriers to trade
(secretariat of NMR)
- ADDRESS barriers to trade
(Freedom of Movement Council)
- SOLVE barriers to trade and let the world know

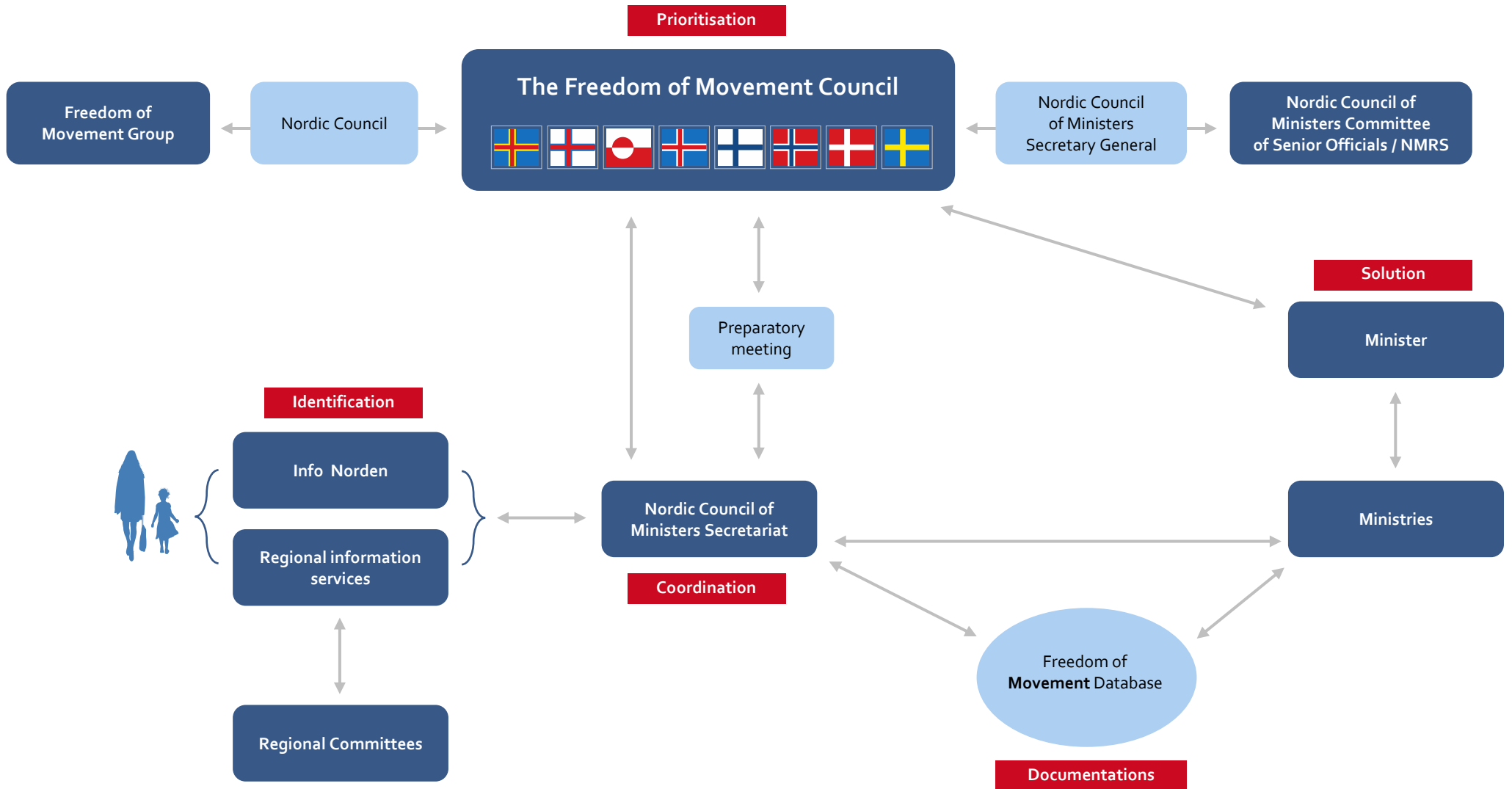


The Freedom of Movement Council

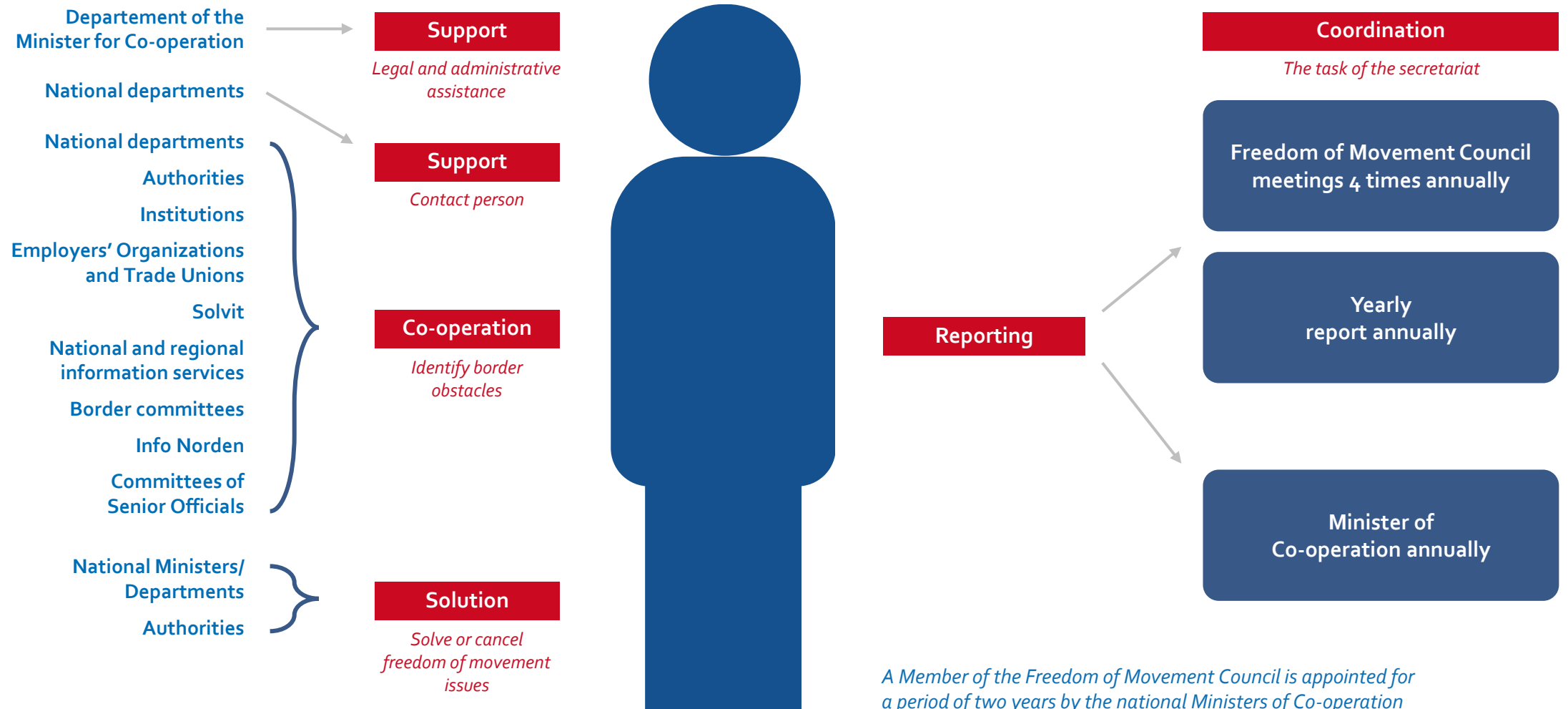
- Established in 2014 at the initiative of the Nordic PMs
- One member from each Nordic country with background in politics or business (currently four former ministers)
- Each member choose 3-5 barriers to free movement to work with from the database of certified barriers
- No formal power (national competence) but mandate to raise awareness, create public opinion, lobby decision-makers
- Goal is to eliminate 8-12 barriers per year and prevent new ones from being formed
- So far approx. 60 barriers eliminated



The Freedom of Movement Council



Member of the Freedom of Movement Council



Challenges ahead

- Different national strategies to counter Covid-19
- Trust in Nordic co-operation has taken a hit
- Will take time to rebuild

The way ahead

- Early warning and information sharing to avoid surprises
- Impact assessment of different measures in border regions
- Coordination at the Nordic level to create common solutions

Problems ahead

- National competence and needs vs Nordic value and identity
- Credibility in political ownership and long-term commitment
- Preparedness and crisis-management under increased uncertainty



Thank you