

# **A PROMISED LAND?**

## **DRIVERS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO THE (GREEN) INDUSTRIALIZATION OF NORTHERN SWEDEN**

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U·M·E·Å·U·N·I·V·E·R·S·I·T·E·T

# BACKGROUND

- Investments: 100 to 150 billion Euros over the next 10 – 15 years (20% of GNP)
  - Private: LKAB, SSAB, Boliden, Northvolt, H2 Green Steel
    - Mining, windmills, batteries etc.
  - Public: Skellefteå, Boden, Pajala, Gällivare, Kiruna
    - Norrbotniabanan, moving Kiruna and Malmberget
- 20 000 new jobs, 100 000 new inhabitants
  - About 150 000 in Skellefteå, Boden, Pajala, Gällivare, Kiruna. 520 000 in the region

Need for a substantial societal transformation.



# A WAVE OF OPPORTUNITIES

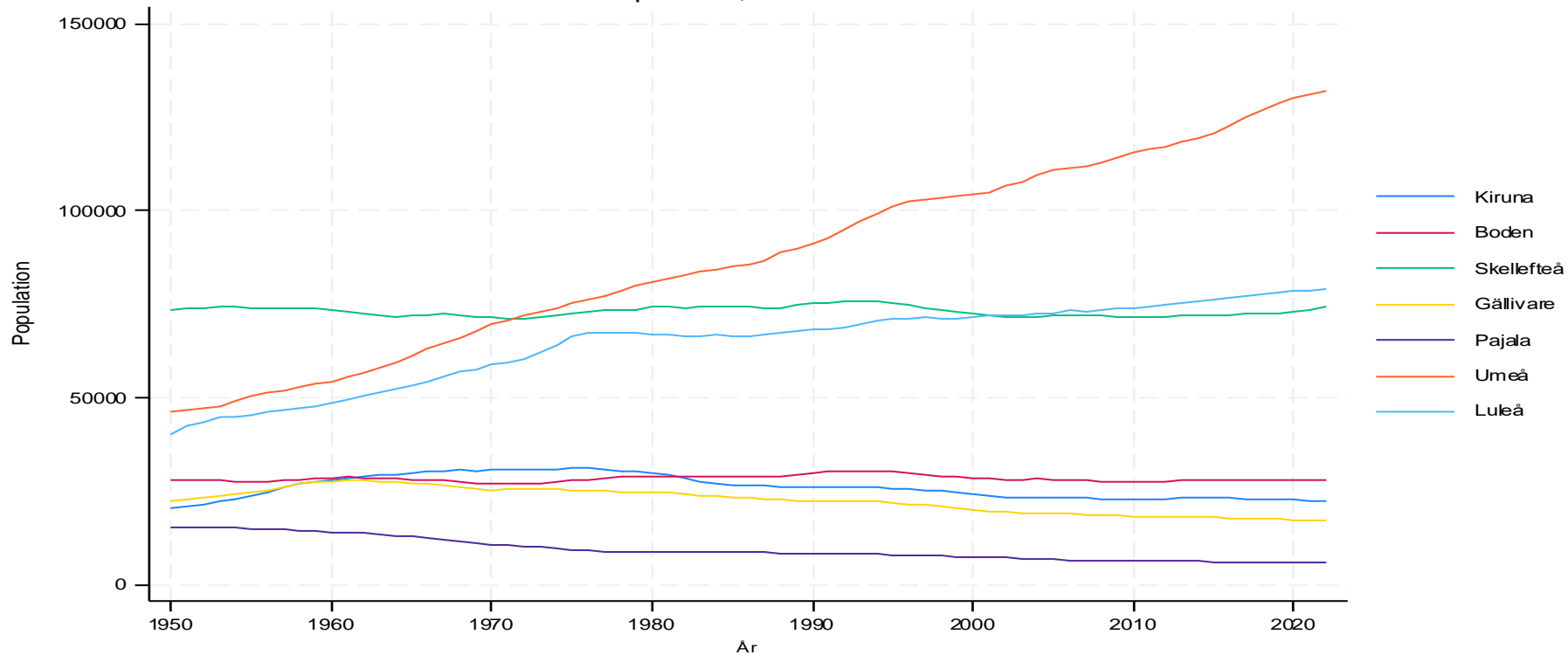
- Generally more money in the region
  - Demand for other goods and services increase
    - Restaurants, entertainment industry, leisure activities, shops/stores, cars, snowmobiles, etc.
- Opportunity to create new businesses and companies
  - Contracts, consultants, related activities etc.
- Opportunity to break a long negative population trend for several municipalities
  - Skellefteå, Boden, Pajala, Gällivare, Kiruna
  - Increased local tax bases
- Exciting challenges in the public sector
  - Interesting jobs in the public sector – to build something new
  - Plan, develop and drive expansion in healthcare, school, urban planning, etc.
  - Increased tax base/income – greater room for action?



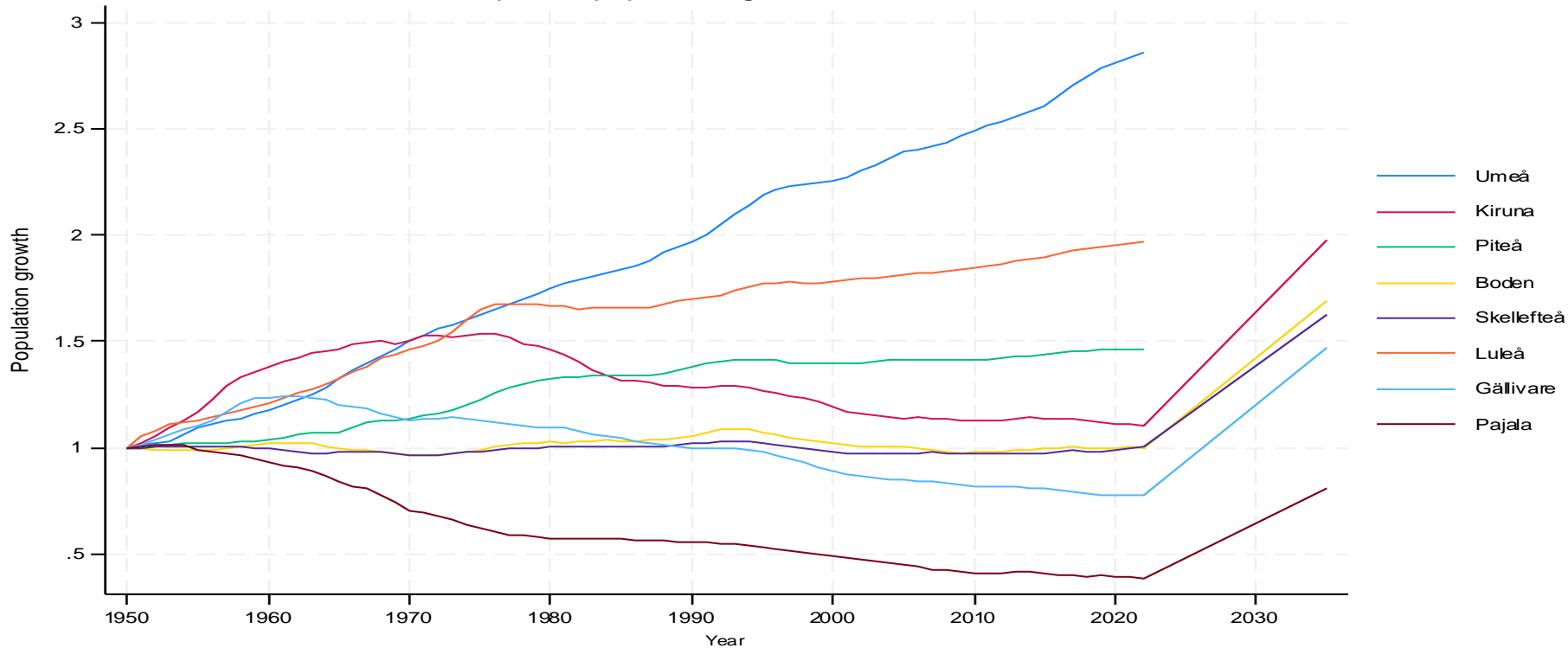


**SOME BASIC FACTS**  
-  
**NORR- AND VÄSTERBOTTEN**

Population, 1950-2022



Expected population growth, 1950-2035





# OTHER FACTS

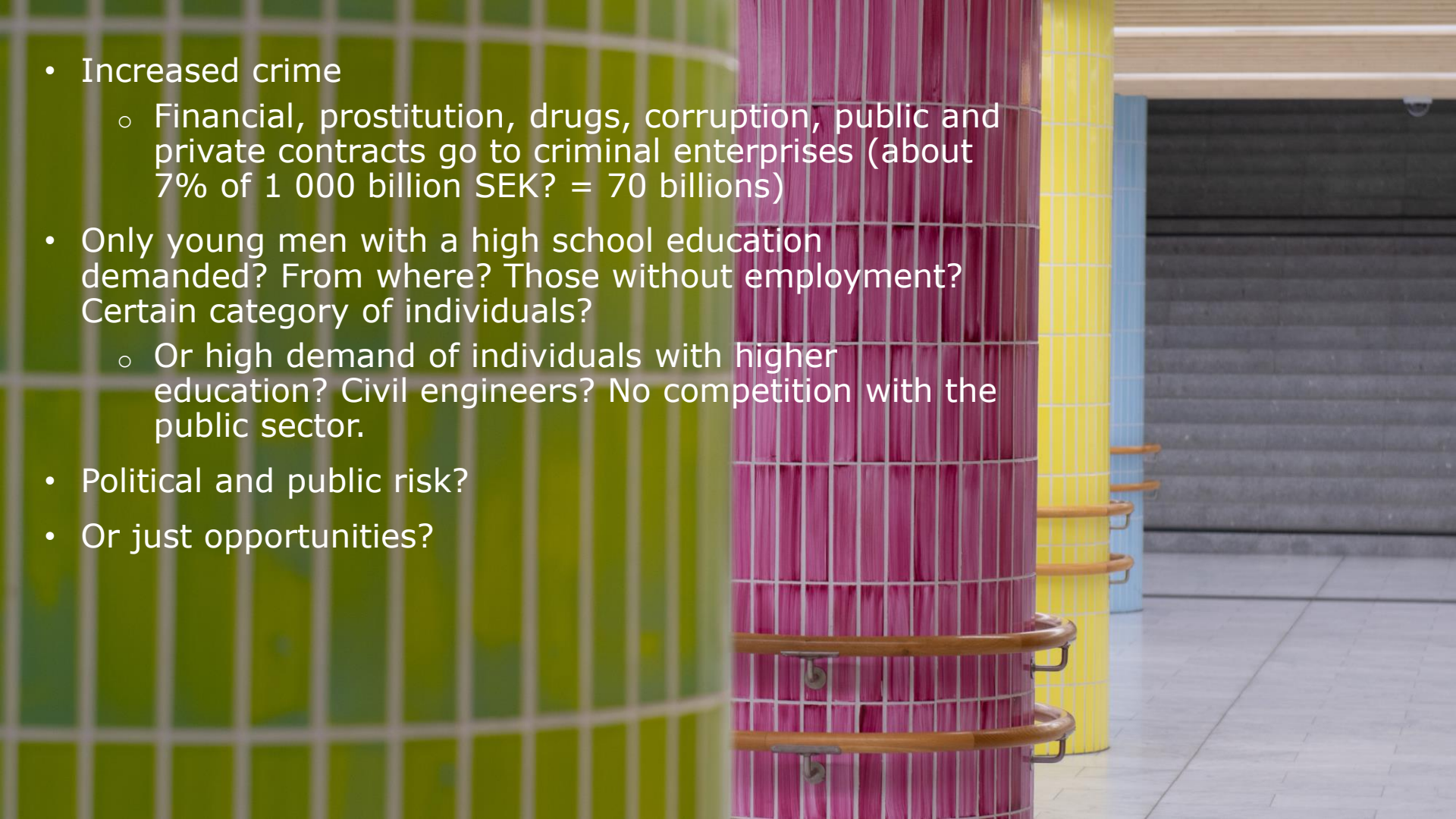
- Low unemployment
- Land
- Ore
- Low energy costs (so far)
- Low housing supply



# POTENTIAL LOCAL EFFECTS AND CHALLENGES

- Crowd out other industries due to higher wages/costs?
- Compete with the public sector (employees) – higher cost for the public sector/higher taxes (at least in the short run)?
- Right type of jobs? Gymnasium education? Low amount of human capital => low wages?
  - Path depending character of investments may hinder rather than facilitating regional development?
- Higher housing prices – more difficult to attract workers from other regions?
- Social effects due to large in-migration?



- Increased crime
    - Financial, prostitution, drugs, corruption, public and private contracts go to criminal enterprises (about 7% of 1 000 billion SEK? = 70 billions)
  - Only young men with a high school education demanded? From where? Those without employment? Certain category of individuals?
    - Or high demand of individuals with higher education? Civil engineers? No competition with the public sector.
  - Political and public risk?
  - Or just opportunities?
- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern interior space. It features several large, cylindrical columns wrapped in a grid-like mesh. The columns are colored in shades of green, purple, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there are wooden handrails. The floor is made of light-colored tiles, and a set of grey stairs is visible in the background.

# RESEARCH

- Land use
  - Conflict sampi/local – industry (mining, windmills, etc.)
- Geopolitical aspects on foreign ownership and investments
  - Foreign investments? Windmills etc.
- Energy supply
  - New energy systems
  - Strategic interactions
- Environmental effects
  - Climate effects
  - Windmills at sea? Effects on fishing and water?
- Taxation of (common) natural resources





# **A RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**WP1: The labour market and local economic effects**

**WP2: Evolving discourses of Norrland**

**WP3: Planning for a sustainable and inclusive transformation**

**WP4: New Industrial Revolution. Discontinuity or continuity**

A low-angle photograph of a wind turbine against a cloudy sky. The turbine's tower and three blades are visible, extending from the bottom left towards the top right. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, creating a moody atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# MORE INFORMATION

A promised land?

<https://www.umu.se/en/research/projects/a-promised-land/>





## RESEARCHERS

- **Rikard Eriksson:** Professor of Economic Geography at Umeå University. PI.
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- **Malin Rönnblom:** Professor of Political Science. Karlstad University.
- **Anna Sofia Lundgren:** Professor of Ethnology. Umeå University.
- **Madeleine Eriksson:** Associate Professor of Human Geography. Umeå University.
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- **Mattias Näsman:** Post doc. Economic History. Umeå University.
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- **Evelina Liliequist:** Post doc. Ethnology. Umeå University.
- **Roine Wiklund:** Senior Lecturer. LTU
- **Nils Björling:** Urban Desing and Planing. Chalmers Technical University.

# ADVISORY BOARD

(YEARLY MEETINGS WITH ALL AND LONGER VISITS FOR RESEARCHERS)

- **Dieter Müller (chair):** Professor of human geography at Umeå University and deputy vice-chancellor.
- **Patrik Söderholm:** Professor of Economics (energy, natural resource and environmental economics) at LTU.
- **Mar Rubio-Varas:** Professor of Economic History at Universidad Publica de Navarra.
- **Yvonne Rydin:** Professor of Planning Environment and Public Policy at the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London (UCL).
- **Högni Kalsö Hansen:** Associate professor of economic geography at Copenhagen University.
- **Helene Hellmark Knutsson:** Governor of Västerbotten and former Minister of Higher Education and Research
- **Åsa Larsson Blind:** Vice-president of the Saami Council
- **Kajsa Myrberg:** CEO at Norrbottens kommuner
- **Anja Palm:** Business manager Skellefteå municipality
- **Mats Berg:** Business manager Boden municipality
- **Linda Lundberg-Nilsson:** Norrbotten Chamber of Commerce
- **Monica Forsman / Linda Moestam:** Equal opportunity directors in Västerbotten / Norrbotten