



INVITATION

Dear receiver,

We kindly invite you to participate in **the Nordic Innovation Day** on 23 January 2017 in Helsinki, Finland:

Problem-solving workshops on humanitarian and resilience innovations in Syria and neighboring countries

This day will gather leading private sector companies from different Nordic countries, NGOs and UN organization representatives to discuss concrete challenges in Syria and neighboring countries. The target is to share information, exchange ideas and identify new co-operation possibilities. The day will consist of a plenary session (open for all) and thematic workshop discussions (by invitation only).

Five thematic workshops will tackle challenges related to:

- Energy generation and networks
- ICT and telecommunications
- Water, waste water and waste management
- Health services
- Training, vocational and education services.

Concept note with full details of the event and logistical note are attached below.

What?

Multi-stakeholder co-creation workshop to discuss needs, challenges and opportunities related to Syria and neighboring countries.

To Whom?

Private sector companies from Nordic countries connected to the five thematic areas; UN organization representatives and NGOs familiar with and operating in Syria and neighboring countries.

We welcome one participant from each invited company, NGO or organization to participate to the full day event, including plenary sessions and thematic workshops.

If you wish to include more than one person from your organization, please register one representative through "by invitation only" link (plenary and workshop discussions) and the others through the general

registration link providing access only to the plenary session. The plenary session in the morning is open for all to participate, but registration beforehand is required from all the participants (limited number of seats).

Objectives

The target of the Nordic Innovation Day is to gain understanding on realistic situation in Syria and neighboring countries, identify challenges and needs, share ideas and innovative solutions and engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue, as well as to identify new partnerships and co-operation possibilities.

Why?

Finland will host a high-level meeting with UN leaders called: “Launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Syria 2017 and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2018 (3RP)” on 24 January 2017 in Helsinki. The Nordic Innovation Day is organized prior to this event.

Registration

Please register as soon as possible, but not later than **9 January 2017**.

By invitation only registration (full day, only one participant per company or organization):

https://www.lyyti.in/Nordic_Innovation_Day_by_invitation_only

General registration (only for morning plenary session, additional participants from same company or organization):

https://www.lyyti.in/Nordic_Innovation_Day_plenary_session

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA FOR THE NORDIC INNOVATION DAY 23.1.2016

“Solution-oriented workshops on humanitarian and resilience innovations in Syria and neighboring countries”

Background and rationale

Successful humanitarian response and the sustainable development agenda require strong partnerships between the international community, private sector, NGOs and civil society. The collaboration between different stakeholders improves the reach, quality and effectiveness of humanitarian and development interventions. As the challenges brought on by the conflict in Syria continue to demand **creative**

solutions and efficient use of resources, it has deemed opportune to engage with the Nordic private sector and civil society with the view of strengthening partnerships between them and the UN agencies.

In line with the Agenda 2030, the World Humanitarian Summit and the Connecting Business Initiative, the Nordic countries promote the participation of various actors in multidimensional partnerships for humanitarian response and resilience development. With this view, a Nordic Humanitarian Innovation day will be arranged on January 23, 2016, in connection with the HRP and 3RP launch event.

Objective

The aim of the Nordic Humanitarian Innovation day is to map out concrete challenges in the countries that suffer from humanitarian crises; identify new ways to address these challenges during and after the crisis and to form new partnerships between public and private stakeholders for the humanitarian response and resilience development action.

Methodology

The event will consist of an **introductory plenary session** that sets the scene, to be followed by **focused, thematic solution-oriented workshops** that bring together UN agencies, private sector actors and NGOs.

In the workshops the participants are divided into following five sessions taking place parallel to each other:

- Energy generation and networks
- ICT and telecommunications
- Water, waste water and waste management
- Health services
- Training, vocational and education services

Each workshop will be led by a dedicated facilitator. Facilitator will open and close the session and moderate the dialogue between UN and private companies/NGOs. At each session, UN representatives will be invited give a short outline to describe and scope the concrete challenge faced by UN agencies in the field. This can be supported by the localized perspective of the NGOs from the field related to topic theme. After this, private sector representatives are invited to search and create solutions and new technologies together with UN and NGOs.

In the workshop format UN agencies, private sector actors and NGOs are brought together to discuss and innovate on how these challenges and needs could be addressed in cooperation. All sessions are expected to bring the possible solution to the consideration of the open session (wrap up) at the end of the day.

In many cases, the challenges are not sectoral by nature and therefore, a cross-cutting approach is also needed. To safeguard the flow of information between five workshops and in order to pull the findings from different tracks together there will be an open session at the end of the day to wrap-up the results of all of the five workshops. In the concluding session the findings are discussed and reflected on in plenum and conclusions will be drawn with the help of the main facilitator of the day. It should be considered if the format of this final session would be a **panel discussion between the facilitators**.

Expected Outcomes and next steps:

The innovation day is expected to strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach to Syrian response in the spirit of Connecting Business Initiative.

All sessions are expected to provide an increased understanding of the type and magnitude of needs and challenges that need to be addressed in Syria and neighboring countries. Making these challenges more concrete and more visible under the five themes helps private sector participants to identify the role that they can play.

Regarding next steps, the innovation day will initiate first steps in what will lead into future multidimensional cooperation responding to the identified needs. In addition, it will lead into increased cooperation between the Nordic private sector representatives for the purpose of addressing humanitarian crisis and resilience building issues together with NGOs.

The day potentially leads into piloting plans, cooperation plans, further solution, product & concept innovation.

Participants

The total estimated number of participants range between 20 – 40 Nordic companies, 10 – 20 Nordic NGOs and 20 representatives from UN Agencies and 20 representatives of Nordic Governments and other institutions.

UN key agencies (OCHA, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNOPS) representatives with operational and concrete knowledge of challenges at country level and orientation for exploring new partnerships. UN agencies will be closely consulted on the thematic focus and the problem statements related to the workshop sessions. UN will provide experiences to highlight innovative solutions to underline the pivotal role that CO can play.

Private sector representatives from Finland and other Nordic countries who have concrete contributions to the themes of the workshops.

INGO/NGO representatives from Nordic countries who will contribute with their hands-on knowledge on the needs in the target countries, and who are able to complement the provision of basic services in the region.

Agenda

8.30 – 9.00 **Registration**

9.00 – 10.30 **Plenary session.**

- Opening Remarks (UNDP and Finland)

- Introduction of pre-selected UN organizations present in Syria and neighboring countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq) and presentation of the concrete challenges and capacity gaps that need to be addressed in humanitarian response and resilience building (UN agencies).
- Technical assistance, infrastructure and service needs in UN programs in Syria and neighboring countries.
- Possibilities for creating public-private-partnerships

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee and transfer to workshop sessions

11.00 – 13.00 Thematic **workshop sessions** (ca. 10 participants incl. UN staff):

- setting the stage and outlining the challenges by relevant UN organization (15 min)
- short input from NGOs (collaboration with UN and NGO role) (10 min)
- company interventions: activities in the theme, solutions to the challenge, avenues of collaboration? Short introductory addresses by the participating companies (2-3 min each) (ca.30-45 min)
 - Mix of Nordic larger robust companies and smaller innovative companies
- open Q&A and idea sharing session & discussion with the participants (30 min)
- closing remarks, possible agreements on next steps, how do we take these ideas to the next level? (15 min)

13.00 – 14.00 **Networking lunch**

14.00 – 15.30 Wrap-up and discussion on the workshop results

- Short re-cap by each session facilitator and comments by the rest of the audience
- High-lighting possible next steps in continuation of cooperation

15.30 – 17.00 Opportunity **for networking and continuing discussions**

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Logistical Note - Nordic Innovation Day 23 January 2017

Meeting venue: Marina Congress Center, Helsinki, Finland. Address: Katajanokanlaituri 6, 00160 Helsinki
<http://marinacongresscenter.com/en>

The event is free of charge. Registration is required for all participants through electronic registration links in invitations. Each participant is responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements and costs.

Marina Congress Center has a fantastic location in Helsinki city center by the sea in Katajanokka, just a couple of minutes' walk from Kauppatori market square and a short walk from Helsinki railway station.

Parking

Marina Congress Center onsite car park has 100 spaces for outdoor parking and the hotel next to Congress Center has extra 40 spaces in the garage. Outdoor parking is located both right next to Marina Congress Center and in front of the hotel on the other side of the road.

From Helsinki railway station

By tram

Walk across to Stockmann department store and take tram no 4. Get off at the 4th stop (Kauppiaankatu). Walk a bit backwards and turn left to Kauppiaankatu. Walk one block down towards the sea and Marina Congress Center and Scandic Grand Marina hotel are on your left hand side.

From Helsinki-Vantaa Airport

By bus

From Helsinki-Vantaa Airport take buses 615 or Finnair City Bus to downtown Helsinki (Helsinki railway station is the final stop). From Helsinki railway station walk across to Stockmann department store and take tram no 4. Get off at the 4th stop (Kauppiaankatu). Walk a bit backwards and turn left to Kauppiaankatu. Walk one block down towards the sea and Marina Congress Center and Scandic Grand Marina hotel are on your left hand side.

By train

From Helsinki-Vantaa Airport take train I or P. Helsinki railway station is the final stop. Both trains (I and P) run to Helsinki railway station, train I is few minutes faster. From Helsinki railway station walk across to Stockmann department store and take tram no 4. Get off at the 4th stop (Kauppiaankatu). Walk a bit backwards and turn left to Kauppiaankatu. Walk one block down towards the sea and Marina Congress Center and Scandic Grand Marina hotel are on your left hand side.

Accommodation:

Scandic Hotel Grand Marina is located just next to the Marina Congress Center, for more information: [Hotel Scandic Grand Marina](#)

Enquiries:

Terhi Rasmussen, Finpro, terhi.rasmussen@finpro.fi, +4520549894