



NORDREGIO
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

From Migrants to Workers: Migrants' Role in the Regional Labor Markets in the Nordic Countries

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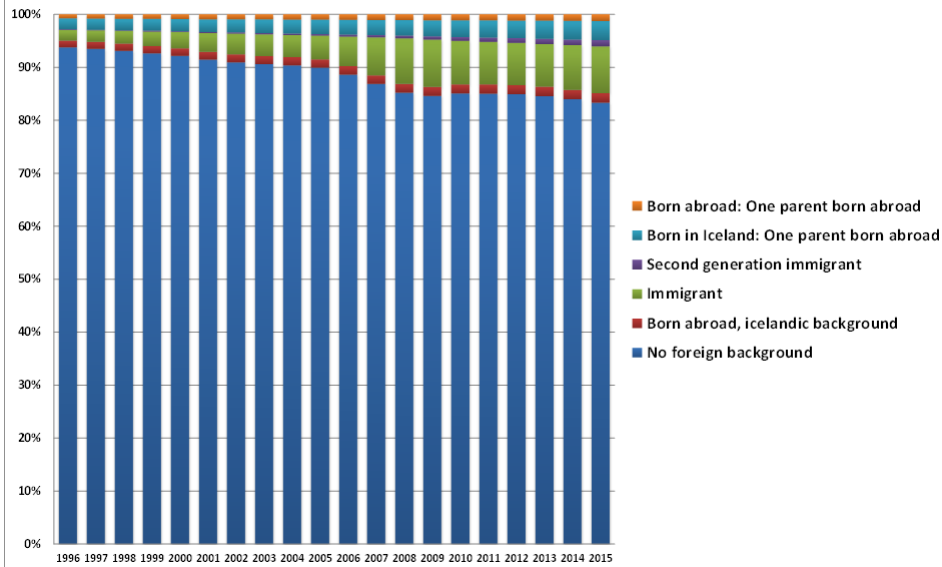
From migrants to workers

- The aim of the project is to explore the role and functions that the immigrants play in maintaining a well-functioning labour market and potentially also in the development of the local and regional labour markets. The project focuses on remote and sparsely populated areas. Two parts:
 - Quantitative analysis of total and composition of migration into Nordic countries and regions
 - Case studies in selected regions of the actual process of integration

From Migrants to Workers: National immigration trends



Figure x: Population of Iceland by Foreign origin, 1996 to 2015



Foreign origin population in the Nordic countries

- Nordic countries define foreign-origin differently but all point to same trend

Norway: Foreign-origin population, 1990 to 2016

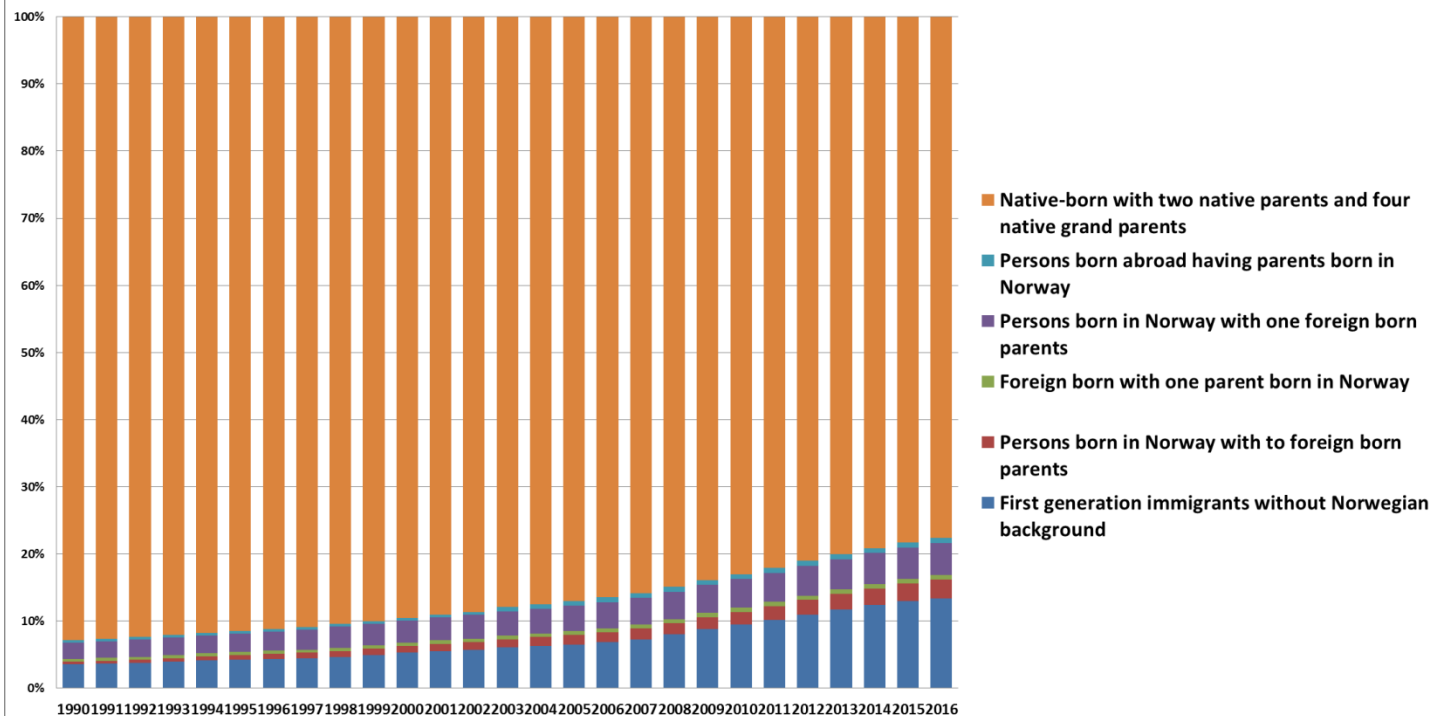
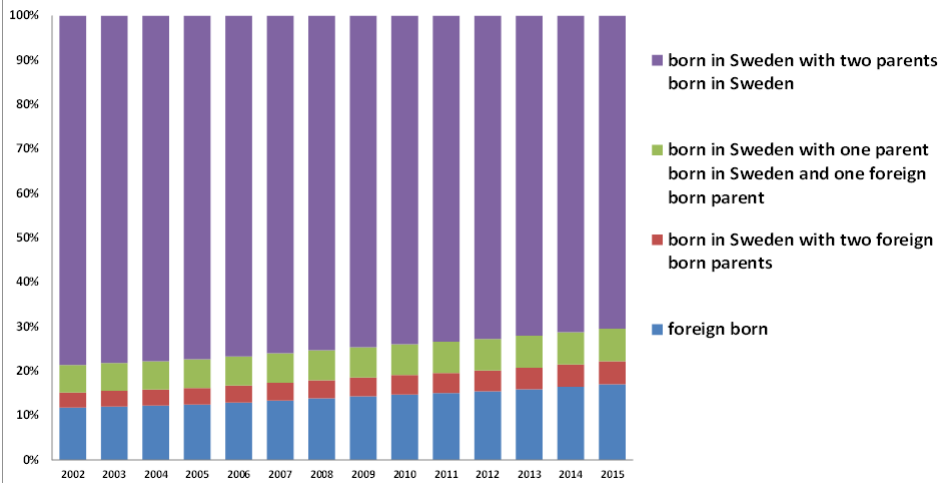


Figure x: Population by Swedish and foreign background in Sweden, 2002 to 2015



Foreign origin population in the Nordic countries

- People with different backgrounds require different levels of integration, e.g. first generation, second generation, children of mixed marriages

Figure x: Persons by foreign background and place of birth in Finland, 1990 to 2014

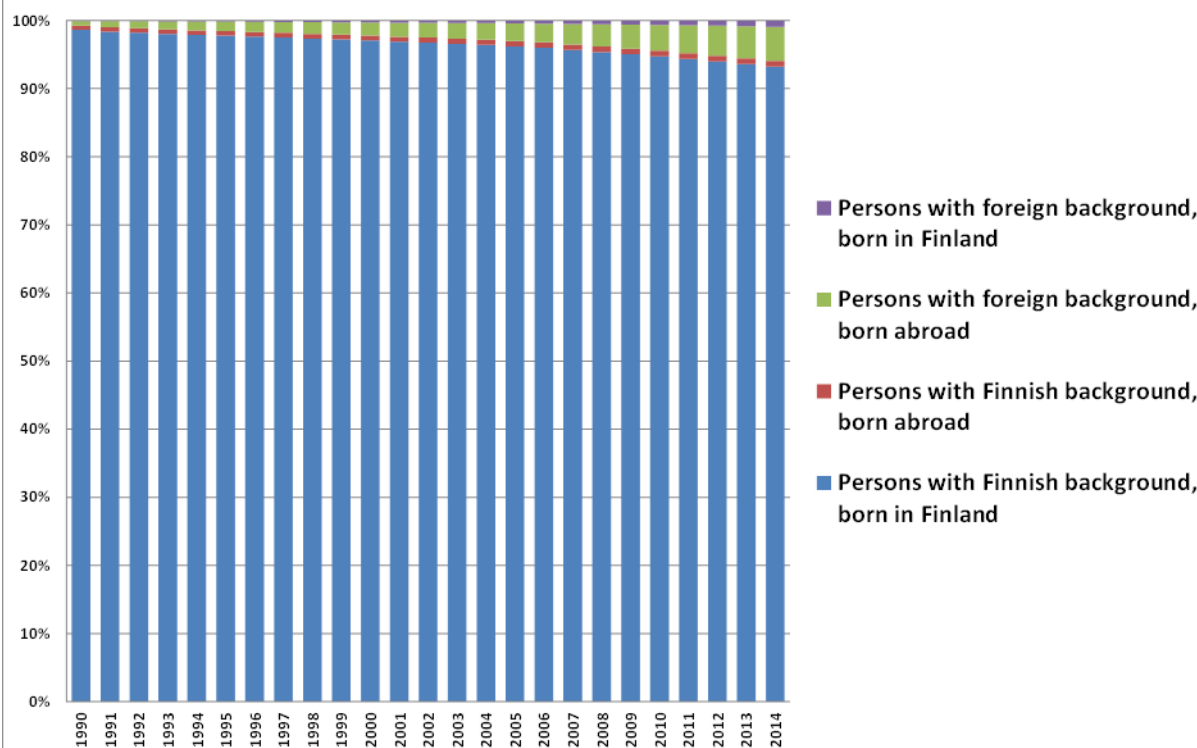
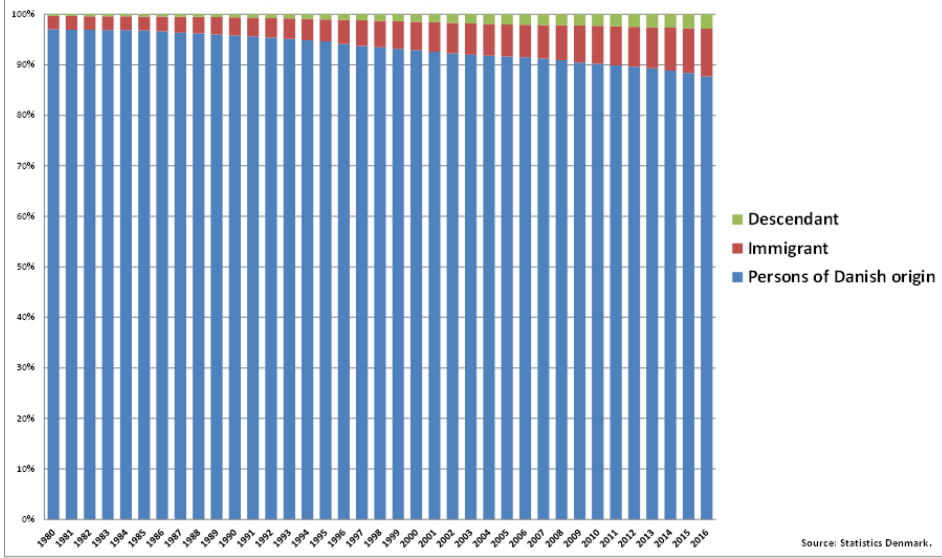


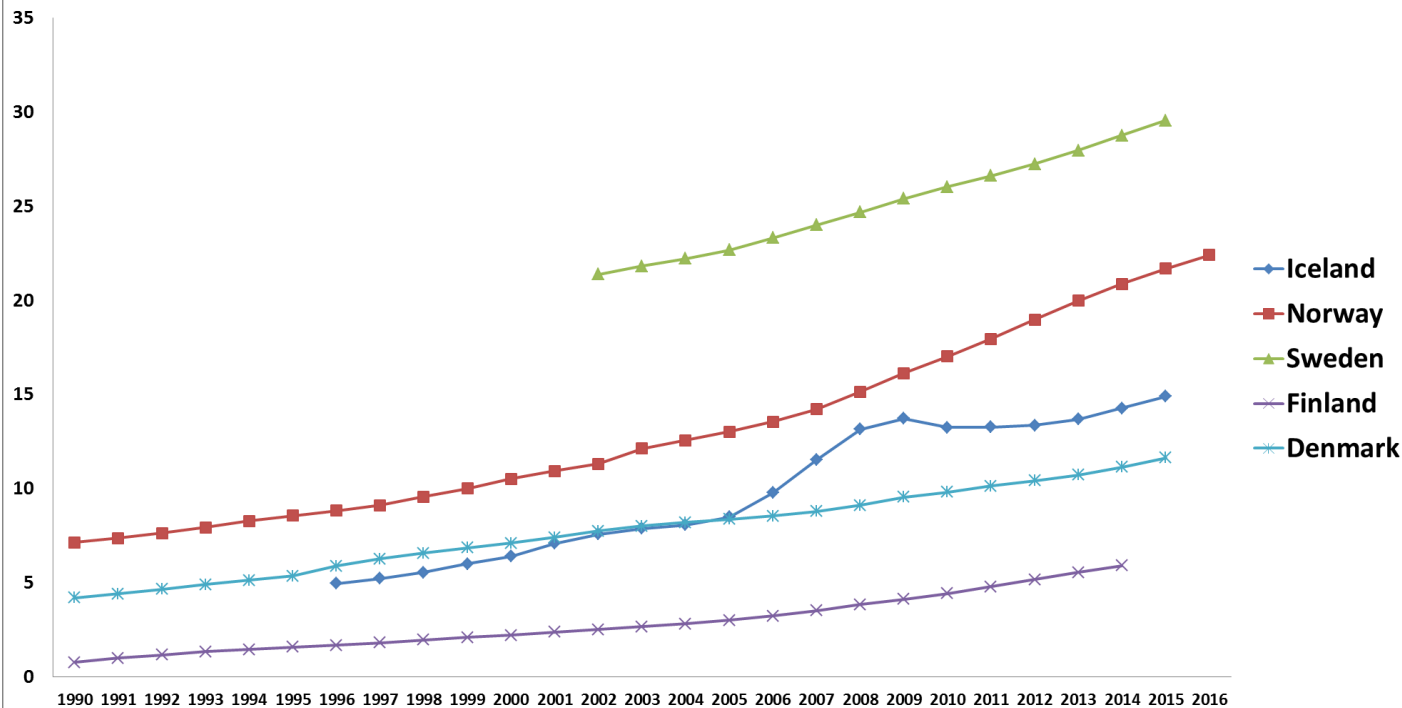
Figure x: Population by ancestry in Denmark 1980 to 2016



Foreign origin population in the Nordic countries

- Nordic countries will likely continue to receive large numbers of migrants

Foreign-origin population in the Nordic countries, 1990 to 2016 (percent of total population)





Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015

SETTLING IN



Measuring immigrant intergration

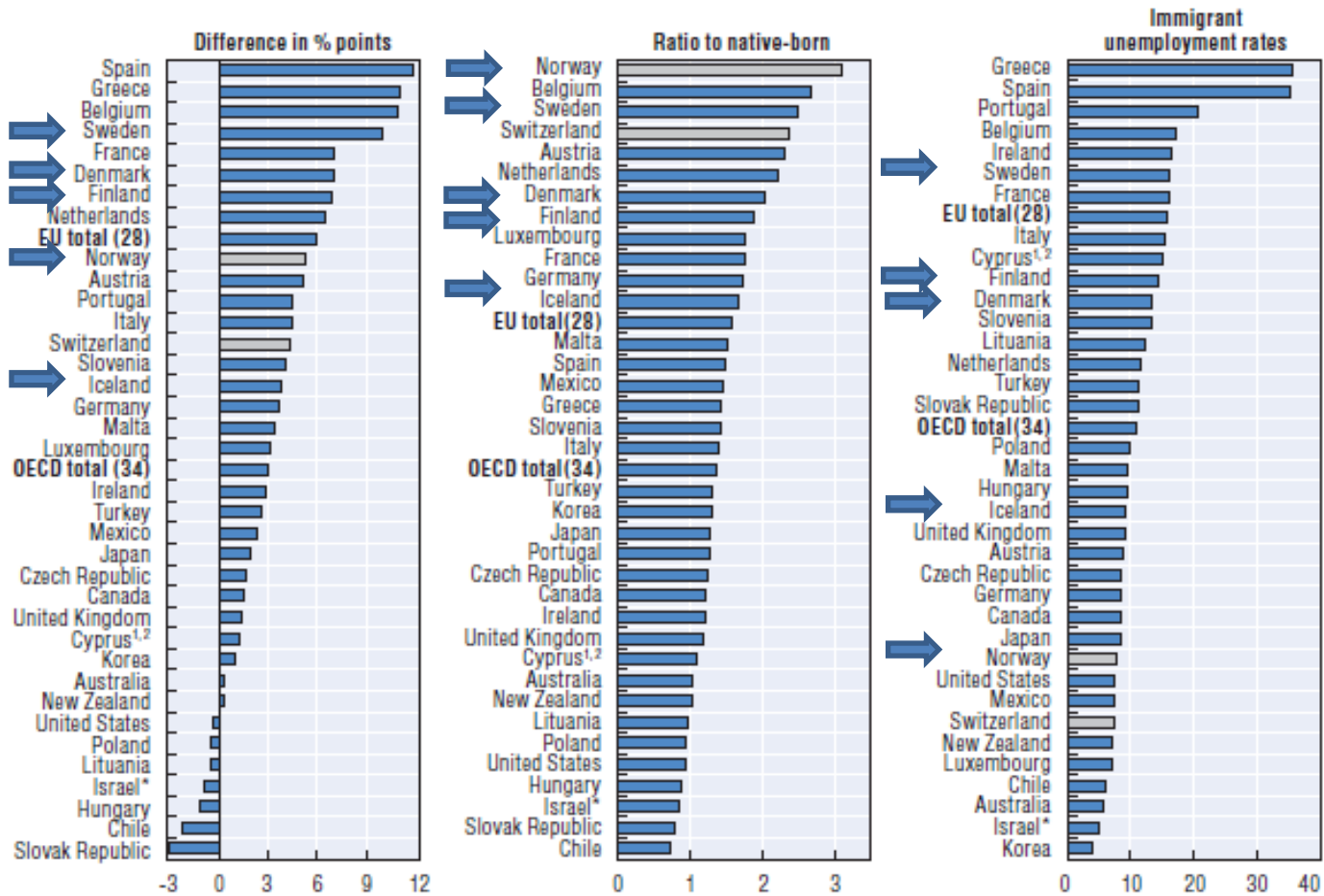
- First broad international comparison across all EU and OECD countries of the outcomes for immigrants and thier children
- Compiling indicators at the international level is challenging but fruitful
- Areas of integration
 - Labour market outcomes
 - Job quality
 - Adult's cognitive skills and training
 - Household income
 - Housing
 - Health status and health care
 - Civic engagement
 - Social cohesion



Group 4: Destination countries with significant recent and humanitarian migration (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden)

- **Humanitarian immigrants and their families have accounted for much recent immigration**
- **Immigrants are overrepresented at both ends of the education spectrum**
- **Humanitarian migrants struggle to integrate**
- **High shares take up host-country citizenship**
- **Integration policies are strong and long-standing**

Figure 1.2. Unemployment rates of foreign-born compared with native-born aged 15 to 64, 2012-13



Notes and sources are to be found at the end of the chapter.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933212025>

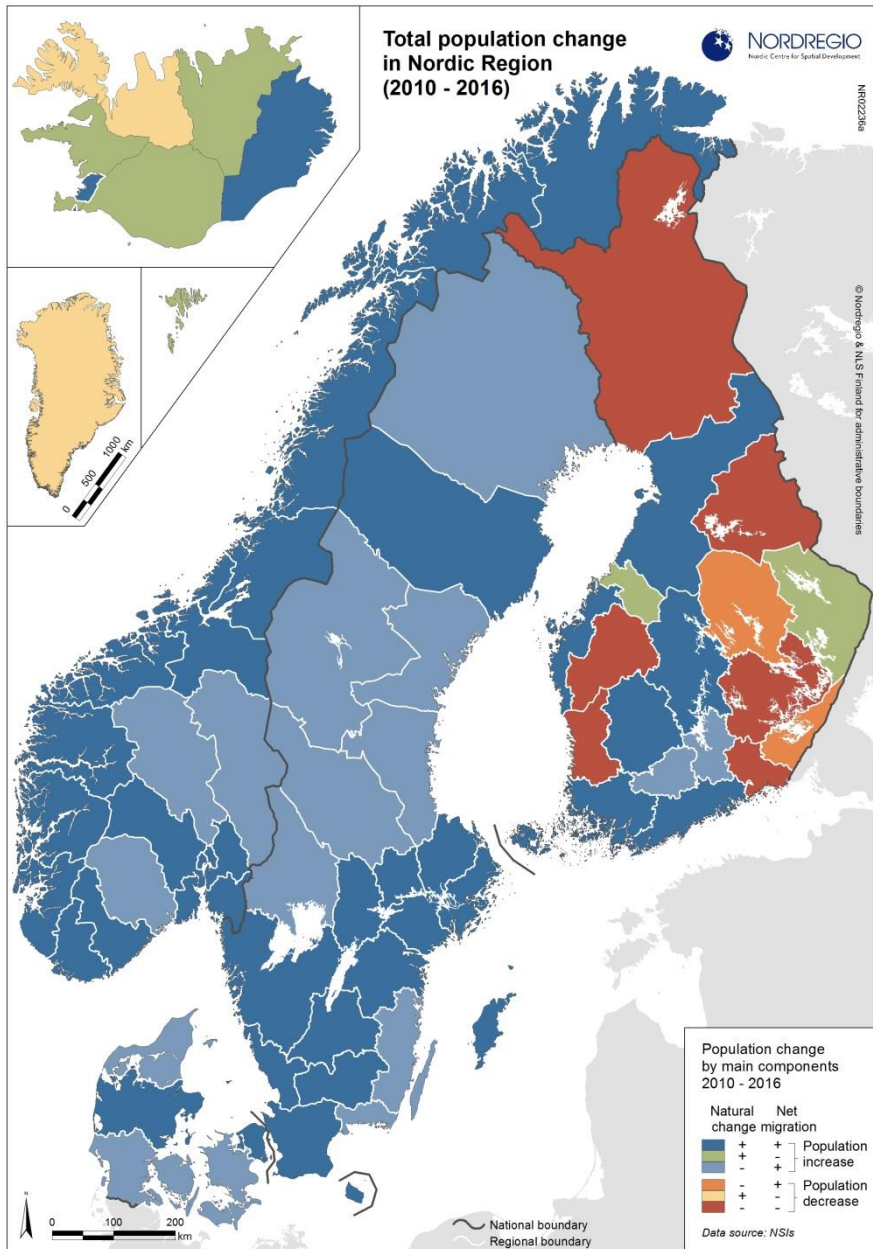
- On several indicators, Nordic countries fare amongst the worst in spite of dedicated and well-funded integration programs

Integration in the Nordic countries

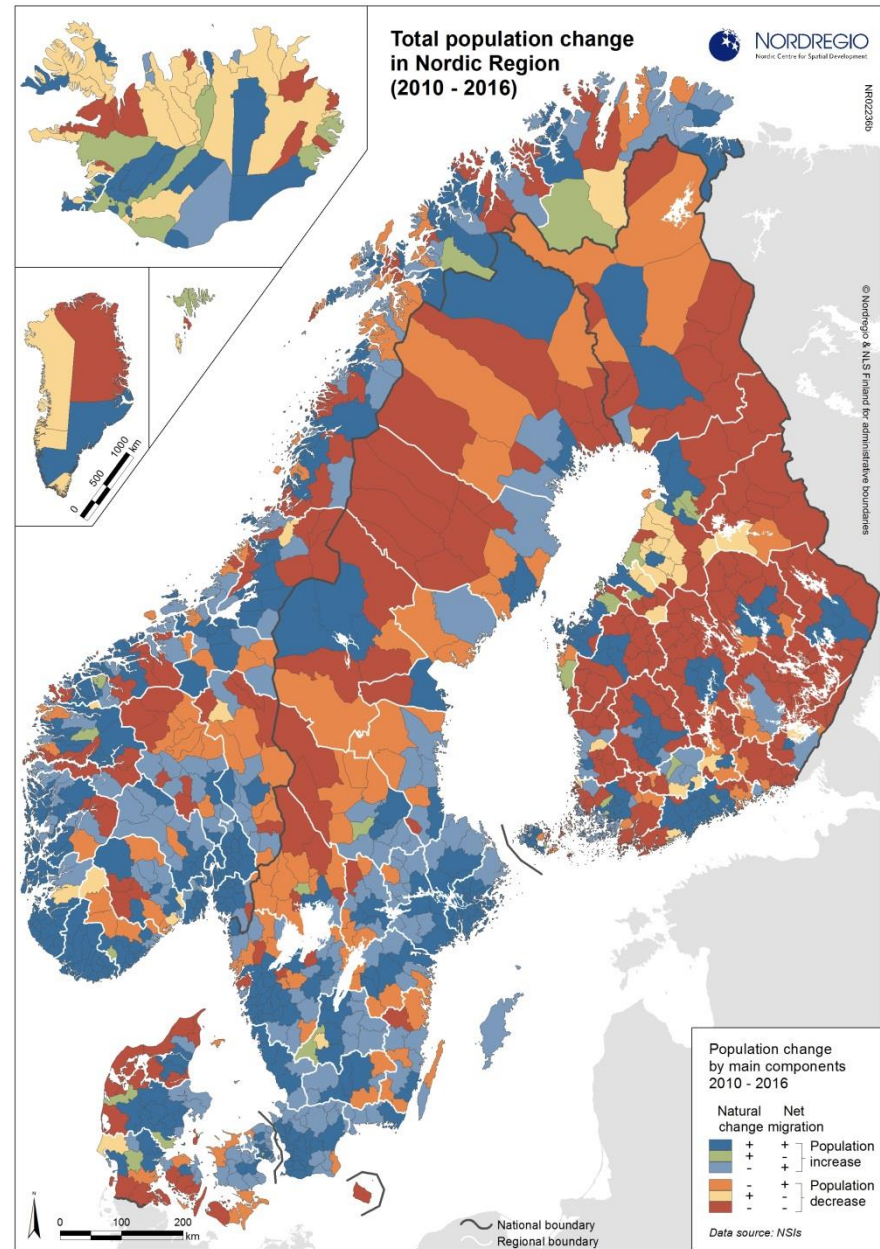
- Large numbers of recent migrants (less than 5 years) who take longer to integrate
- Immigrants are over-represented at both ends of education spectrum
- Humanitarian migrants and their families struggle to integrate
- Among OECD countries, Sweden has largest share of humanitarian migrants, followed by North America, and Finland
- Much higher rates of long-term unemployment among foreign born than natives compared to other OECD

From Migrants to Workers: Regional immigration trends

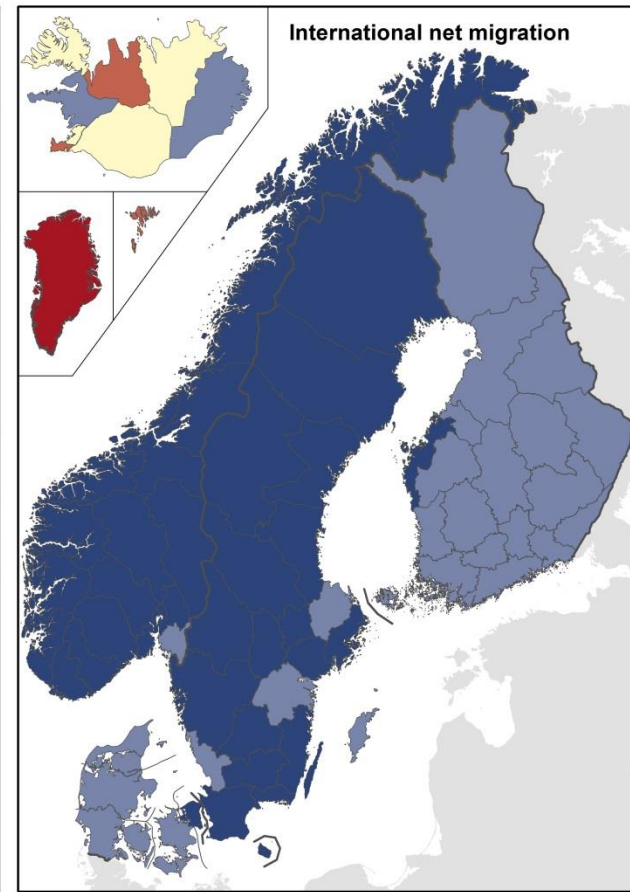
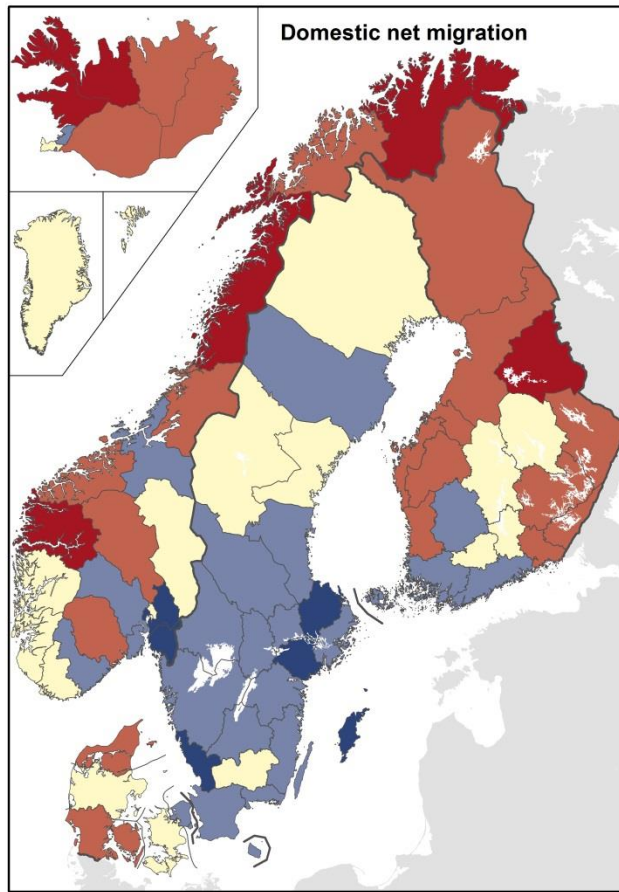
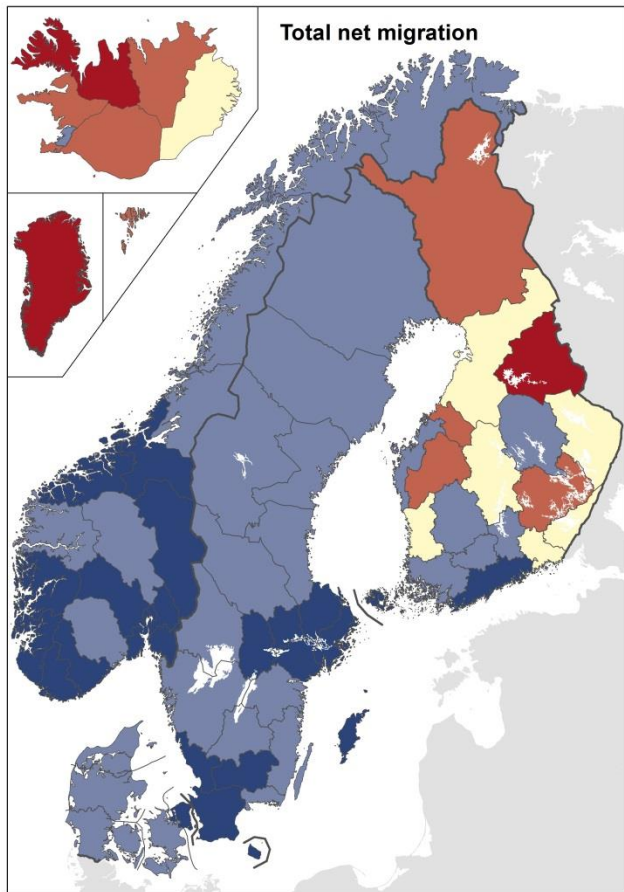




The population of most regions in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and southern Finland are growing





However, many municipalities are declining because of concentration into larger settlements

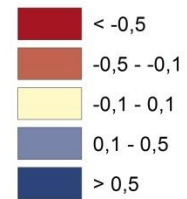


Net migration in Nordic Region (2010 - 2015)

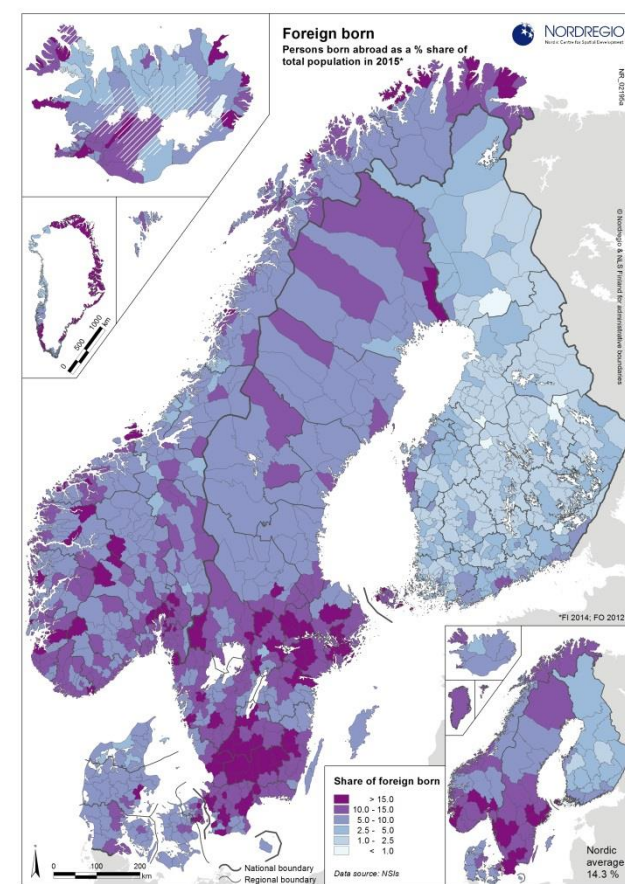
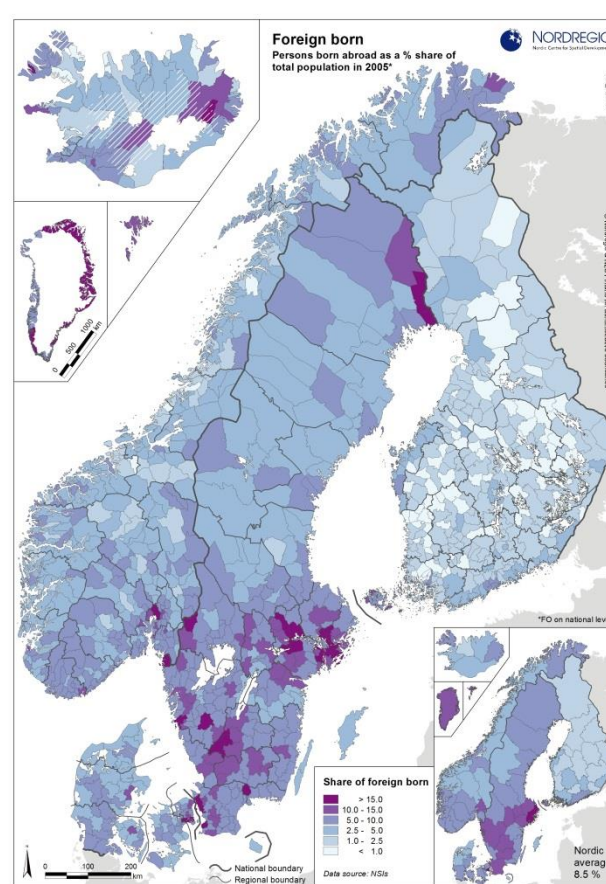
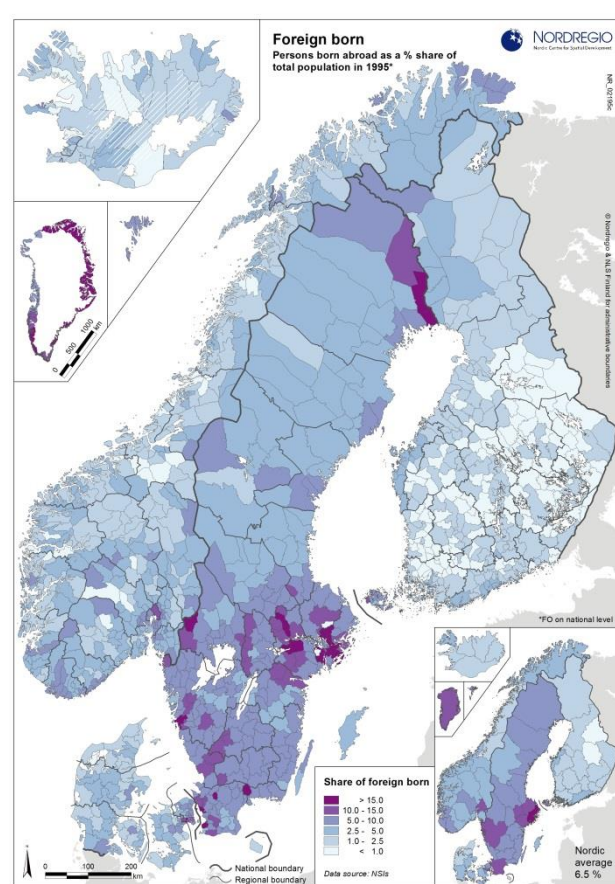


 National boundary
 Regional boundary

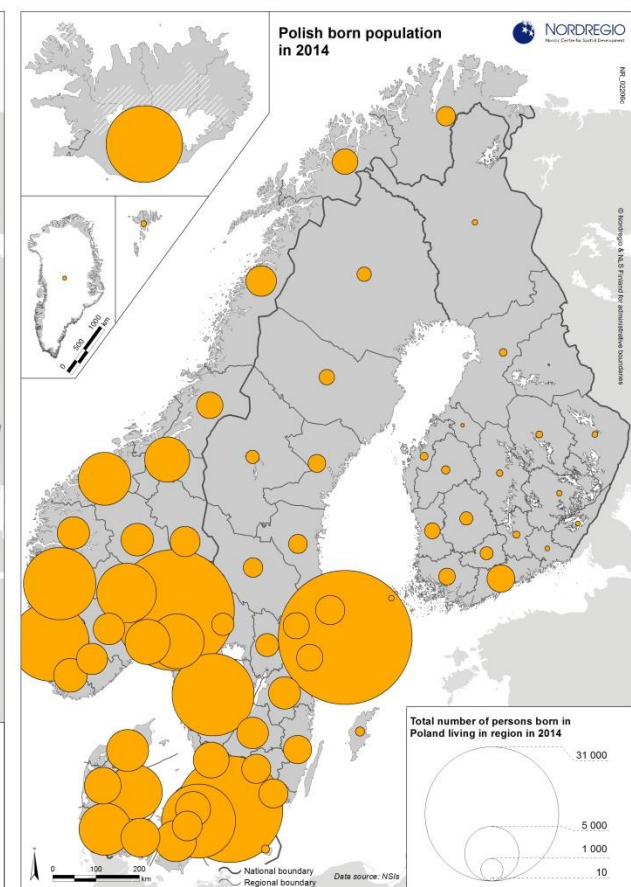
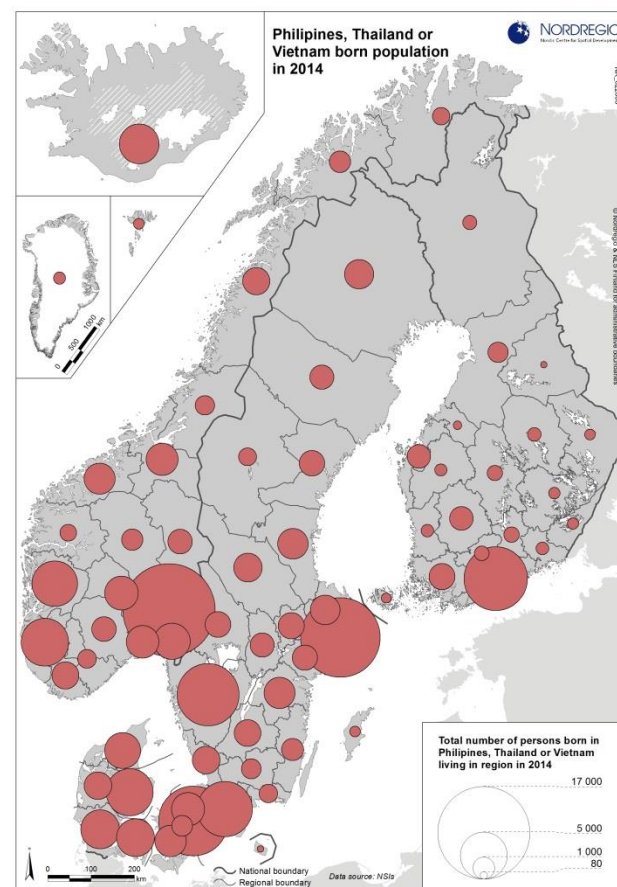
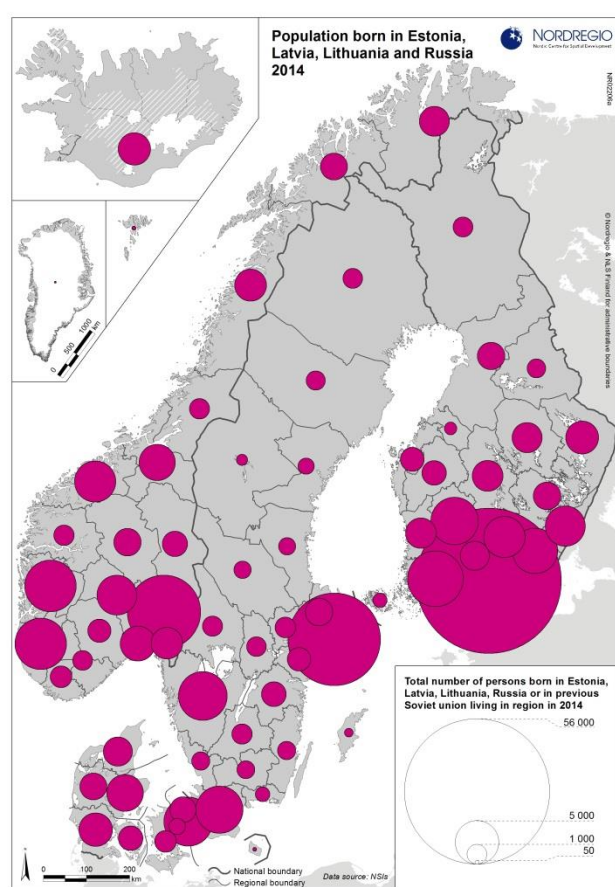
Annual average of
net migration rate (%)
2010 - 2015



Data source: NSIs



- Large increase in foreign-born population both nationally and regionally in all Nordic countries and regions.
- General trend is positive international migration in peripheral regions and negative internal migration.



- Different concentrations by country of birth and reasons for migration (e.g. labor, family reunification, humanitarian)
- More people from former Soviet Union in Finland
- Less Poles in Finland, more in other Nordic including Iceland

From Migrants to Workers: Case studies of integration in selected Nordic region



Methods

- **Two to four day visits**
- **Two persons, including one native speaker**
- **Interviews with local officials, schools, businesses employing immigrants, employment offices, and immigrants themselves**
- **Review of documents on immigration and integration at national and local levels**
- **Trying to understand process of integration at local levels – best practices and barriers**

Case study regions

Island:
Ísafjörður kommune, i Vestfjordene

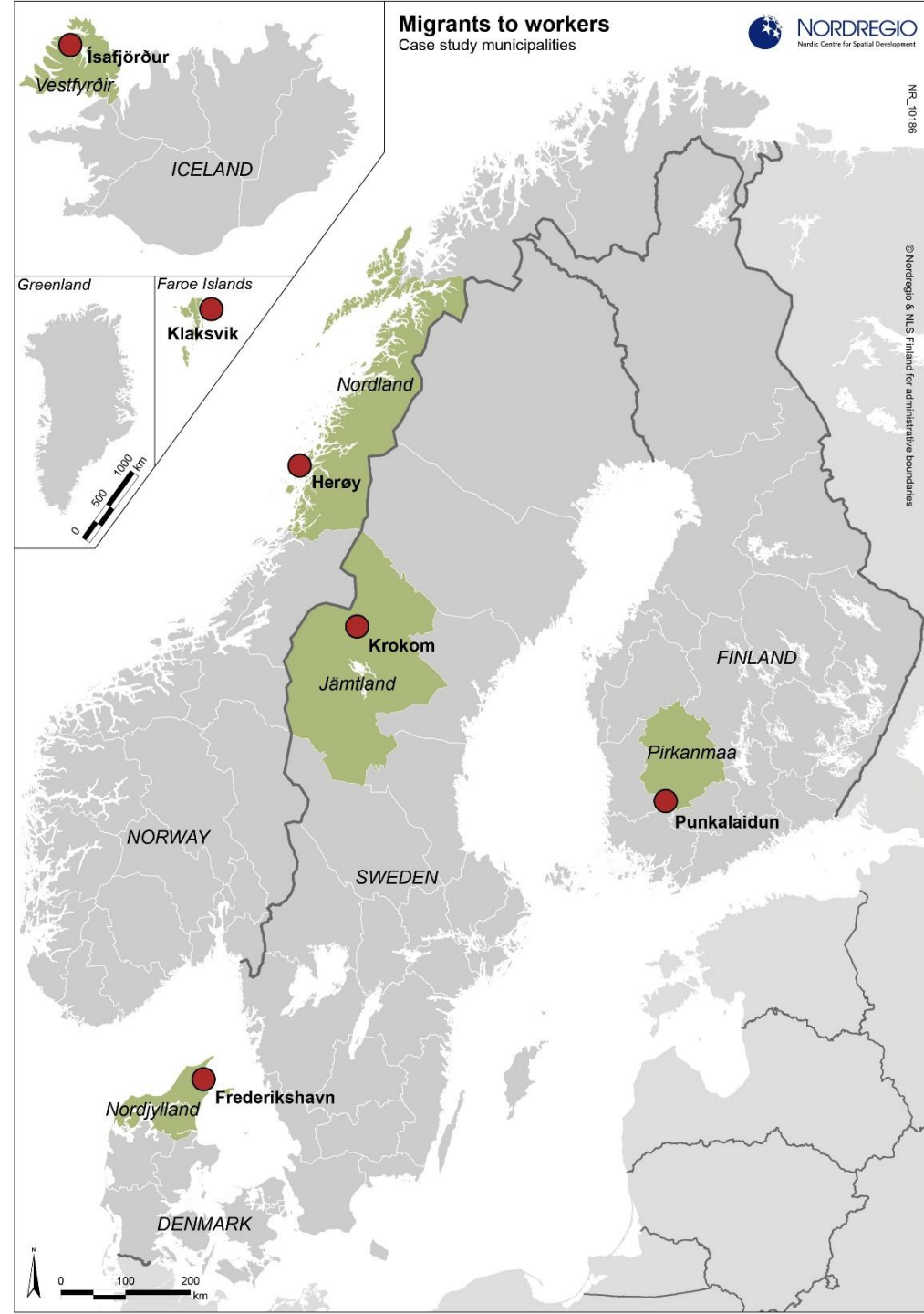
Norge:
Herøy kommune, Nordland
Fylkeskommune

Sverige:
Krokom kommune, Jämtland

Finland:
Punkalaidun kommune, Pirkanmaa
region

Danmark:
Frederikshavn Kommune, Region
Nordjylland

Færøerne:
Klaksviks Kommune





Meeting with town council in Punkalaidun



Worker from Myanmar assembling coffins in Punkalaidun



Dancing with Syrian refugee family



FINLAND
Pirkanmaa Region
Municipality of Punkalaidun

Region Jämtland - Härjedalen



Integration koordinator in
Krokom

From Migration to worker

Ísafjörður municipality - Iceland



Immigrants are an important part of the workforce

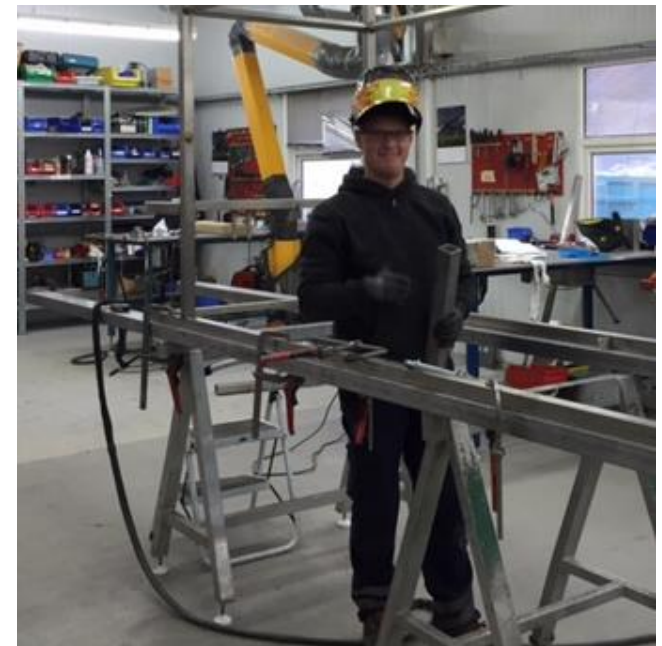
- Some industries and companies in Ísafjörður municipality would not exist without immigrants
- Many immigrants work in jobs that the native don't want to work
- Workplaces where Polish is predominant language
- Shortages of black smiths and welders
- Shortage of housing prevents more being hired



Filipino fisherman in Flateyri



Workers at fish processing plant in Sudureyri



Polish welder in Ísafjörður



Bodø, Norway

- Fishing, fish processing, tourism
- Many foreign workers, some refugees and asylum seekers
- "We haven't recruited new workers in years. If we hire one Polish worker, there will be ten more at the door", Human Resources Manager at fish processing plant



Interviewing refugee from Syria

Herøy municipality

- Fish processing is main industry
- Combination of labor, family, and refugees
- Nearby refugee resettlement center
- Good program for integration and job placement

Observations from case studies

- **Language:** important for career advancement and citizenship but need time to learn, need higher and specialized courses in smaller settlements
- **Housing:** shortages in some places, mismatch between location of housing and employment
- **Validation of skills:** needs to be done early, home country skills don't always transfer, don't always realize their full potential
- **Civil society:** important as integration needs to be comprehensive, entire family
- **Integration coordinator:** substitutes for lack of professional and social networks

Tack så mycket

