



NORDREGIO
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

Invitation to the Second Nordregio Forum on Regional Policy and Development



PHOTO LEFT TO RIGHT: ANE CECILIE BLICHFELDT, JOHANNES JANSSON/NORDEN.ORG

Nordic Bioeconomy and Regional Innovation

12-13 November, 2014

Hljómahöll Conference Centre, Keflavik, Iceland

Welcome to the second Nordregio Forum, the meeting place for policymakers, researchers and practitioners, seeking to ensure sustainable regional development in the Nordic countries.

The 2014 Nordregio Forum will focus on the potential of bioeconomy for growth and inclusive development in peripheral and sparsely populated regions, especially in the Arctic. Our distinguished speakers will highlight research results, case studies and policy recommendations within the following topics:

- Bioeconomy mapping – Towards an innovative and responsible bioeconomy
- How can new innovative use of local natural resources contribute to regional economic growth and development?
- What are the socio-economic and environmental consequences of the rise and fall of large-scale projects?

- Multilevel governance and spatial planning in connection with large-scale projects
- Demographic challenges in the Arctic – What attracts young men and women, and skilled workers?

The forum also includes excellent networking opportunities, as well as an exciting excursion to Grindavik, Asbru and Reykjanes, showing regional development in practice.

Target groups for the conference are officials at relevant ministries in the Nordic countries, staff at regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, universities, research institutes and private consultants.

The forum is organised by Nordregio, the Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and the Icelandic Regional Development Institute.

Programme

Wednesday 12 November

08:00 Registration and coffee

Theme 1: Bioeconomy

Chair: Aslaug Helgadóttir, Vice-Rector,
The Agricultural University of Iceland

09:00 Opening

*Ragnheiður Elin Árnadóttir, Minister of Industry and
Commerce, Iceland*

Key-notes

Sustainable management of bio-resources
*Dadi Mar Kristofersson, Dean of School of Social
Sciences, University of Iceland*

Local resources and economic independence of
regions
*Calum Davidson, Director of Energy and Low Car-
bon, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scotland*

Territorial potentials for a green economy
*Peter Mehlbye, Director of the ESPON Coordination
Unit, Luxembourg, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Senior
Research Fellow, Nordregio & Anna Berlina,
Research Assistant, Nordregio*

10:40 Coffee

11:00 Mapping the Bioeconomy

Bioeconomy and regional development
Jukka Teräs, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio

Innovation in the Nordic and Arctic Bioeconomy
*Sveinn Margeirsson, Director & Sigrun Elsa
Smáradóttir, Research Group Leader, Matis, Iceland*

Creating value from bioresources
*Ida Rönnlund, Consultant at Gaia, for Nordic
Innovation*

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Bioeconomy in practice

Processum Biorefinery in Örnköldsvík
*Clas Engström, Director, SP Processum Biorefinery
Initiative*

Promoting food innovation in South Iceland
Liisa Perjo, Research Fellow, Nordregio

Vulnerable fishing villages in the age of bioeconomy
*Thóroddur Bjarnason, Professor, University of
Akureyri*

Introduction to Nordbio examples: Wood biomass -
Ecosystem resilience - Biofuels for the fishing industry
*Danfríður Skarphéðinsdóttir, Head of Division,
Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources,
Department of Oceans, Water and Climate*

14:30 Pre-launch of the call for a Nordic research programme on bioeconomy

*Gunnel Gustafsson, Director, Professor in Political
Science, Nordforsk*

Bioeconomy in a macroregional context of the Baltic
Sea Region
*Geir Oddsson, Senior Advisor, Nordic Council of
Ministers*

15:00 Coffee

15:30 Panel debate with Nordic ministers

Chair: Ari Kristinn Jónsson, Rector of Reykjavik
University

16:30 Concluding remarks: How can Nordic cooperation on bioeconomy be further developed?

*Dagfinn Høybråten, Secretary General,
Nordic Council of Ministers*

17:00 Option 1: Bus to networking activity at Hotel Keflavik, followed by bus to Blue Lagoon 18:45 Option 2: Bus to Blue Lagoon for a warm swim

19:00 Conference dinner at Blue Lagoon

Return to the hotel by bus

Thursday 13 November

Theme 2: Regional development in the Arctic

Chair: Lisbeth Nylund, Technical Director, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, Norway

08:30 Key-notes

Regional development and innovation in a more diversified industrial future

Kaisu Annala, Strategic Director, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland

Societal challenges regarding large-scale industrial projects in the Arctic region

Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio

09:40 Coffee

10:10 Large-scale projects - Nordic good practice and experiences

Chair: Kjell Nilsson, Director, Nordregio

The urban transformation of Kiruna - How to move a town two miles east?

Göran Cars, Professor, Royal Institute of Technology and Kiruna Municipality

How can exploitation of mineral resources in South Greenland be achieved in a sustainable way?

Birger Lilja Kristoffersen, Chief Planner, Kujalleq Municipality

The entering of oil economy into Northern Norway – challenges and possibilities from a local perspective
Trond Nilsen, Senior Researcher, Northern Research Institute, Alta

Regional dynamics in non-metropolitan high-tech clusters – the examples of Oulu and Luleå

Håkan Ylisenpää, Professor, Luleå Technical University

Jukka Teräs, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio

11:40 Discussion

12:15 Lunch

13:15 Demographic opportunities in the Arctic

Chair: Åsa Ström Hildestrand, Head of Policy Implementation and Outreach, Nordregio

Demographic challenges and opportunities in the Nordic Arctic Region

-Examples from the Nordic Demography Programme
Lisa Hörnström, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio

Youth mobility in the Arctic – Why do young men and women choose to stay or leave?

Anna Karlsdóttir, Associate Professor, University of Iceland

Fly In Fly Out – Threats and opportunities seen from 30 years of research and practical experience
Keith Storey, Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland St John's, Canada

14:20 Discussion

14:45 Coffee

15:00 Excursion to Grindavik

[See detailed programme](#)

20:00 Dinner at Vitinn restaurant in Sandgerði

www.vitinn.is

22:30 Drop-off at the hotel in Reykjanesbaeri



BLUE LAGOON / PHOTO: ICELAND.IS

Practical information:

Prices

Day 1+2 incl. dinners and excursion	1800 SEK excl. VAT
Day 1 incl. lunch	600 SEK excl. VAT
Day 2 incl. lunch	600 SEK excl. VAT
Conference dinner at Blue Lagoon	600 SEK excl. VAT
Excursion incl. dinner	600 SEK excl. VAT

Please register by 31 October. The number of participants is limited. Hotel rooms are pre-booked until 14 October at [Hotel Keflavik](#) and [Hotel Keilir](#). To make a reservation, contact the hotels directly.

Hotel Keflavik: +354 420 7000 or stay@kef.is

Hotel Keilir: +354 420 9800 or info@hotelkeilir.is

Registration form and additional information about the forum, hotels etc. is available at www.nordregio.se/forum2014

For questions and comments, please contact:

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Organisers:

Nordregio is a leading Nordic research institute in the broad field of regional studies. We undertake strategic research on sustainable urban and rural development with the aim of producing relevant material for decision-makers at local, regional and national level.

The Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MI) covers all sectors of ordinary business and economic activity. It opened on 1 September 2012 following the amalgamation of the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism and part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. With the establishment of the new ministry, state supervision and involvement in industry and innovation are brought together and coordinated in one place, the aim being to pave the way for a vigorous and forward-looking economy.

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) is the official inter-governmental body for co-operation in the Nordic region. NCM participates as an organiser of Nordregio Forum through its Committee of Senior Officials for Regional Policy and through Nordregio.

The Icelandic Regional Development Institute (Byggdastofnun) is an independent institution owned by the Icelandic state. The Institute monitors and researches regional development in Iceland. Its main function is to contribute to regional development through the implementation of government policy via the introduction of regional strategies. Its operations are aimed at strengthening settlements in rural areas through the support of viable, long-term projects with diverse economic bases.



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