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OVERVIEW ISSUE



WELCOME TO THE NEW & IMPROVED NORDREGIO NEWS!

This is a special issue of Nordregio News, offering you an overview of current research areas and projects that we are involved in here at Nordregio. With the new layout and content structure, we wish to make the magazine more readable and easier to navigate. We would be happy to hear your thoughts on it too!

This issue is launched at the highlight of our year, the Nordregio Forum 2015—Nordic City Regions in a Global Environment. To celebrate the event, we start this issue with a number of projects on urban planning and sustainable urban regions.

In 2015, we have put substantial resources into research commissioned and funded by the four Nordic working groups under the Nordic Council of Ministers' Committee of Senior Officials for Regional Policy: Demography and welfare; Sustainable regional development in the Arctic; Green growth - innovation and entrepreneurship; and Sustainable urban regions.

We are pleased to say that many regional case studies, Foresight analysis and policy overviews were conducted during the year, in addition to the development and launch of the interactive web-mapping tool, NordMap. The Nordic Demography Programme was finalised and three large-scale EU-funded projects started: REGINA, Baltic SCOPE and Baltic Urban Lab. More information on some

of these projects will be found in this issue.

The year 2016 will be busy, as all four working groups are finalising their projects. In other words, there are more interesting results, policy recommendations and events to come. A new Nordic collaboration programme for regional development will also be decided towards the end of next year.

In February 2016, we will launch the State of the Nordic Region Report. This will provide the latest trends in regional development in the Nordics: Which regions are succeeding or lagging behind in demography, economy, education, the labour market and social inclusion?

We hope you enjoy this overview issue!

PS. We will be back in 2016 with a regular thematic issue of Nordregio News. Meanwhile you can follow the latest news on our website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn!

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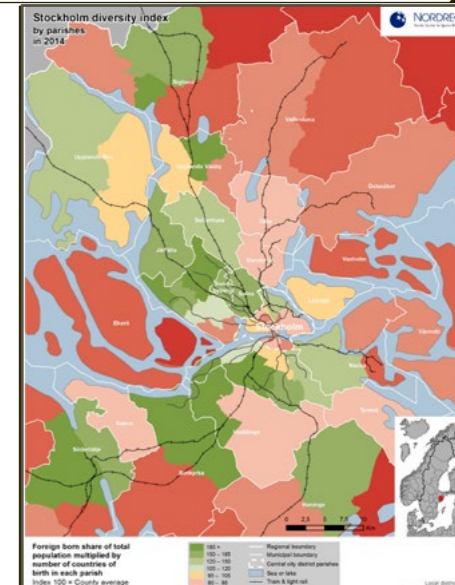
NORDREGIO FORUM 2015 - NORDIC CITY REGIONS IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

It is that time of the year! Nordregio Forum is the annual meeting place for professionals and policymakers working with urban and regional development in the Nordic countries. Nordregio Forum 2015 will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of Nordic city regions in a time characterized by fierce global competition, climate change and migration. With world class speakers like Professor Bent Flyvbjerg, Professor Larry Beasley and Managing Director of Snøhetta Tonje Frydenlund, the forum will focus on cross-cutting themes: Competitive and sustainable city regions, effective governance of city regions, and liveable and socially inclusive city regions. Forum is organised by Nordregio and Nordic Council of Ministers through its Committee of Senior Officials for Regional Policy in cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Business and Growth, RegLab Denmark and University of Copenhagen. ★



KULTURVAERFTET, HELSINGØR, DENMARK

25-26 NOVEMBER



Foreign born share of total population multiplied by number of countries of birth in each parish. Map: Linus Rispling, Nordregio

THE NEW DIVERSITY INDEX CONTRIBUTES TO SOCIAL INCLUSION

A new Policy brief based on the ESPON TIPSE project was published in November. It presents a new way of measuring segregation – the diversity index – and outlines key steps that Botkyrka, a highly diverse municipality in the Stockholm County, has taken to alleviate Poverty and Social Exclusion. The Policy brief among several other publications is available on our website www.nordregio.se/publications. ★



NORDREGIO NEWS 4/2015

Each Nordregio News issue provides multiple perspectives on a specific theme of regional development. With Nordregio News you are also kept up to date with the interesting research results produced at Nordregio. Nordregio News is sent to our subscribers via email. You can also find each issue on our website.

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URBAN PLANNING

Urban planning is one of Nordregio's key research areas. We run a wide range of projects, from sustainable urban regions and green building to citizen involvement in planning. We do not just study the subjects but provide implementation tools and policies to the regions.

BY LIISA PERJO, CHRISTIAN FREDRICSSON, LUKAS SMAS, MOA TUNSTRÖM & TIMOTHY ANDERSSON

INTERREG PROJECT

Developing & testing new planning tools to regenerate brownfield sites in the Central Baltic region



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Many growing Nordic and Baltic cities are facing challenges in developing under-utilised urban areas that have previously been reserved for industrial or commercial use. In regenerating so-called brownfield areas, inclusive urban planning to encourage the participation of different actors has been found to be a potential response to various challenges.

The Baltic Urban Lab (Central Baltic INTERREG) project develops and tests new integrated planning tools, partnerships and co-creative planning measures to initiate the regeneration of four brownfield sites in Riga, Tallinn, Turku and Norrköping. During the project, the four city partners will pilot new ways of planning and drafting visions for the regeneration of the chosen brownfield areas in co-operation with stakeholders such as citizens, NGOs, universities, landowners and businesses.

Identifying, researching and promoting existing practices on brownfield regeneration, partnerships and participation are important elements of the project. Nordregio is involved with researchers Liisa Perjo and Christian Fredricsson, and supports the city partners in their practical work by providing background studies, and in particular by following and analysing the pilot activities testing new ways of working with brownfield regeneration in the Central Baltic region.

The Baltic Urban Lab is funded by the Central Baltic INTERREG programme and led by the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission. Other partners include the cities of Riga, Tallinn, Turku and Norrköping, supported by Nordregio and the University of Turku. The project started in October 2015 and will continue until the end of 2018. ★



Photo: City of Turku

NORDIC WORKING GROUP FOR GREEN GROWTH – SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGIONS

How spatial planning can contribute to sustainable and attractive Nordic city-regions has been the main focus for this working group during 2013-2016. The working group has facilitated exchange of planning and policy experiences between the larger city-regions through national meetings in all the Nordic countries, and also a joint Nordic symposium on this theme. On commission by the working group, Nordregio has explored new forms of urban morphological analysis and the usefulness of indicator frameworks, planning measures for social sustainability and everyday life issues in city-regional planning. More: www.nordregio.se/nwgcityregions

” Segregation is a sign of spatial injustices, unequal opportunities in access to housing, employment or education, a lack of affordable housing, unsafe spaces and potential social conflicts. ”

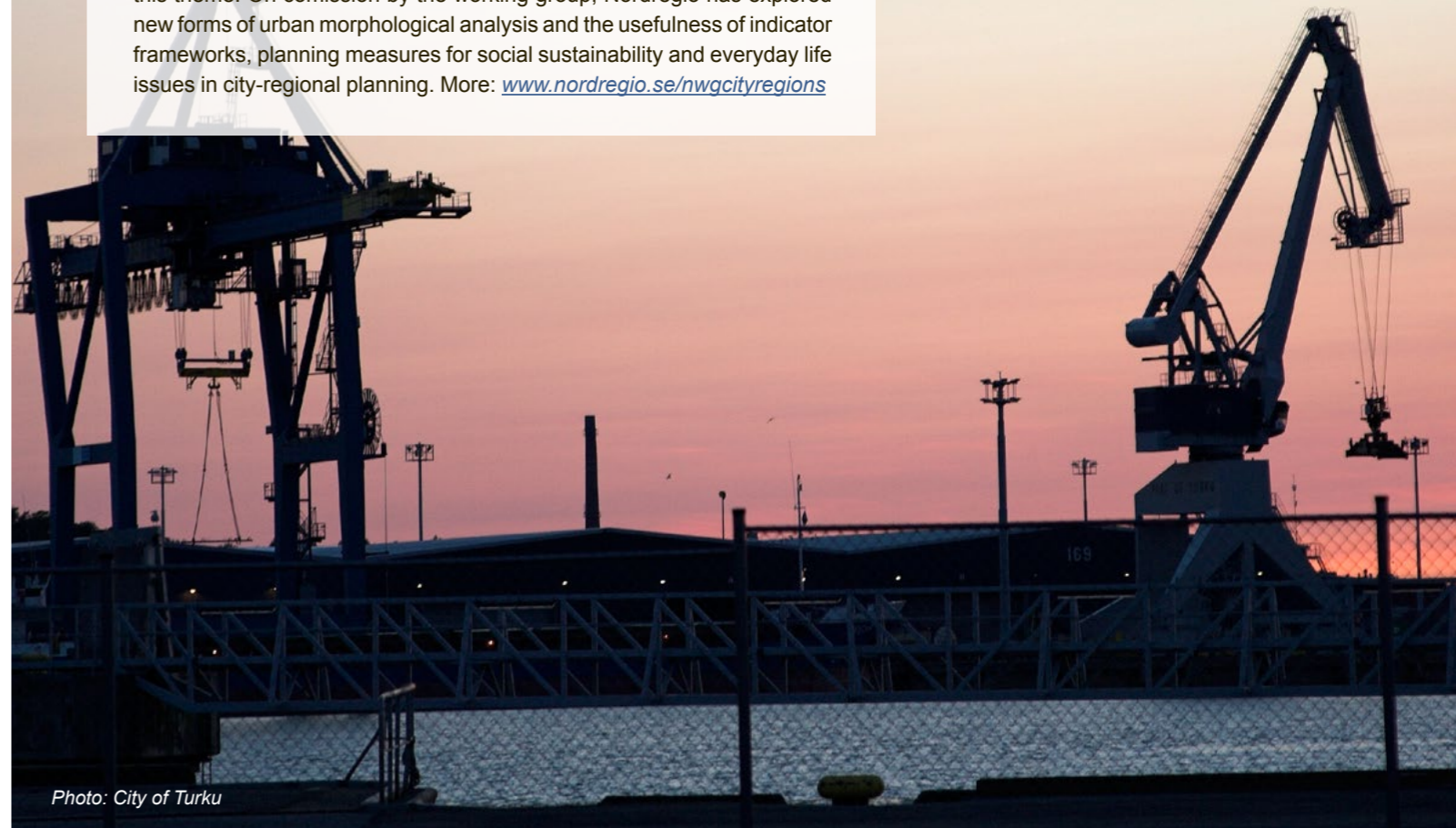


Photo: City of Turku

Planning for Urban Social Sustainability



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Segregation is a pressing issue in Nordic cities. It is a sign of spatial injustices, unequal opportunities in access to housing, employment or education, a lack of affordable housing, unsafe spaces and potential social conflicts. Processes of gentrification and stigmatisation have consequences both for the development of certain urban districts and cities as a whole, and for the ways in which different social groups meet and interact.

How is this issue discussed and explained in the Nordic context? Are there interesting similarities and differences between the Nordic countries? A deeper understanding of this issue may inform a constructive discussion on how to build for the future and how to create the preconditions and opportunities for people from different backgrounds to interact. A sign of the importance of the segregation problem is how “social sustainability” is quickly climbing the urban planning policy agenda. However, there is a great lack of clarity with regard to what social sustainability actually implies or entails. Despite this, it has come to

be used both as a tool to solve social problems in existing urban areas and as a justification for developing “attractive” (and often expensive) new urban areas. To confront urban segregation properly, we need an understanding of social sustainability that takes this into account and integrates notions of social justice and structural inequity.

The Planning for Urban Social Sustainability project (PLUS), commissioned by the Nordic working group for green growth - sustainable urban regions, aims to critique and sharpen social sustainability as a policy concept. To do this, we analyse one of the most pressing issues in Nordic cities: residential segregation, especially along ethnic and socio-economic lines. Research indicates that segregation has increased within the Nordic major cities, and we discuss the key variables that have created such stark differences in residential settlement patterns, as well as the common responses from policymakers through measures and projects. The Nordic perspective on this may reveal interesting trends and differences between states. In January 2016, we will know more. ★

The exhibition 'Experiment Stockholm' - an investigation of informal urban governance spaces

Färgfabriken's Experiment Stockholm exhibition was opened to the public on 23 September 2015. The public exhibition includes original artworks such as a liveable green house, a floating exhibition, a soundscape and a video installation in the main hall, as well as a more academically oriented project room. The latter showcases a number of contemporary key themes of urban planning (such as City, suburb, countryside; Interaction and integration; Nodes and hubs; and Beyond the car age). It depicts the main challenges, suggests solutions and creates scenarios. As one of the curators put it, "the main hall with the artworks you enter with your body, while the project room you enter with your mind".

The public exhibition is the result of a number of projects, meetings, and other activities that have taken place during the past two years. In addition, the exhibition is still evolving, and a number of events and experiments will take place throughout the public exhibition until the end of November.

Nordregio continues to contribute to the content of the

exhibition through active engagement in events and experiments. For example, we have discussed and contributed to the key themes that are showcased in the project room and held presentations during public events, as well as actively participating in partner workshops before and during the public exhibition. We are also organizing our own events within the framework of the exhibition.

However, Nordregio is also critically analysing the processes and the exhibition in terms of new forms of urban governance and concepts such as "urban living labs". In this way, we investigate the relations between informal self-organizing initiatives and "soft modes of temporary governance" on the one hand, and formal planning structures on the other. These investigations are embedded in the research project CASUAL Co-creating Attractive and Sustainable Urban Areas and Lifestyle—Exploring new forms of inclusive urban governance (2013–2016) funded by the Urban Europe Joint Programme Initiative. The Färgfabriken Art Foundation is a local partner in the project. The CASUAL project also has international partners and includes researchers from the Delft University of Technology and the Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning (OIR). ★



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Photograph from a partner workshop on "Building cities in symbiosis" at Färgfabriken, April 24, 2015. The workshop focused on the following themes: The "Bigfoot"; Dialogue is not monologue; Informal methods; Varied building, varied functions; Planning for the unplanned.

MORE
The CASUAL project
www.nordregio.se/casual
www.jpi-urbaneurope.eu/casual/
Experiment Stockholm
<http://www.fargfabriken.se/en/experiment-stockholm-eng>

Presentation: Language, layers, linearity: Experiences from Arstafället as part of the Planning for Urban Diversity seminar is available on Färgfabriken's video channel.



NORDIC WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC

During 2013-2016 the working group aims to create future scenarios for the Nordic Arctic, based on existing information and Foresight analysis, including a series of local, regional and national stakeholder workshops in the Arctic. Part of the results and reports will be ready by the end of 2015. More: www.nordregio.se/nwgarctic



Life in Greenland. Photo: Leneisja Jungsberg

ARCTIC

The question of how to retain and attract young populations is central for regional policy development in the Nordic Arctic. An interview study shows that young people's own perspectives on their future seem positive. Nordregio is administrating the Nordic Arctic Cooperation Programme 2015-2017 and has also been involved in the Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) that highlights the major trends and changes related to emerging challenges in living conditions, impacts due to climate change and indigenous livelihoods.

BY RASMUS OLE RASMUSSEN, RYAN WEBER, ANNA KARLSDOTTIR, LENEISJA JUNGSSBERG, TIMOTHY HELENIK & JOHANNA FEUK

What is the future for communities in the Nordic Arctic regions?

Many of the smaller settlements in the Nordic Arctic region are experiencing a population decline. As a young person from Húsavík, Iceland express: "I just feel like our community is in a rapid decline. As if the larger cities increase in size but the small towns are slowly rotting."

A crucial question for the Arctic communities is how to attract and keep women and young people in peripheral communities to ensure social sustainability. To get an understanding of the human and natural related resource condition which can be expected to have a decisive influence on regional development in the Arctic over the next ten, twenty and thirty years, the Nordic working group for sustainable regional development in the Arctic has initiated and financed a Foresight analysis.

A Foresight analysis is based on a structured dialogue between relevant actors, and with input from local, regional and national actors. It is a method that is used in the development of local economic and social development strategies. The objective of the process is to create a basis for action focusing on the opportunities that become evident from the analyses. A significant part of the foresight analysis comprises a workshop series of three steps: the vision phase, the realism phase, and the realisation phase.

In the vision phase, local workshops were organised in two selected local communities in each part of the Nordic Arctic with participation of local inhabitants (a total of 12 workshops). Then, in the realism phase, the outcome from the first phase functions as basis for a dialogue between representatives from the community, the municipality, regional and national authorities (a total of six workshops). Finally, in the realisation phase, two transnational workshops are organised for politicians in the West Nordic Council and North Calotte council to create a platform for regional development based on the ideas and visions



Landscape in Greenland.
Photo: Leneisja Jungsberg

“I just feel like our community is in a rapid decline. As if the larger cities increase in size but the small towns are slowly rotting.”

of the citizens.

An important part of the Foresight analysis is the documentation of the current situation by generating an overview through maps, statistical material and existing reports. This material will be part of the interaction of the actors participating in the workshops in all three phases. By the end of the project a final report will gather all the knowledge gathered during the years and here three central questions will be addressed:

1. What resource conditions - both natural and human-related - can be expected to have a decisive influence on regional development in the Arctic over the next ten, twenty and thirty years?
2. How will the management of these conditions affect the living conditions and future prospects for the regions?
3. What are the implications of the identified challenges for future planning and regional policy?

Already now the report "Nordic Arctic Youth Future perspectives" has been released together with a policy brief on the same topic, as well as a seminar report about Large Scale Industries, and soon to follow the report about Business development in the Nordic Arctic. During the first phases local reports have been made for the participating communities and regions in each of the countries. In 2016 the two workshops for the West Nordic council and Nord Calotte Council will take place and afterwards the final report for the entire project will be available. The results of the Foresight analysis will contribute to the political debate and provide a more holistic point of view to the future strategic development. ★



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Arctic Human Development Report: Regional Processes and Global Linkages

On October 7, 2015, the second Arctic Human Development Report was launched at the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen. Interest in the Arctic has mushroomed, due in large part to climate change and expected resource development opportunities, and the media hype regarding these developments. The Arctic is becoming more "marketable" and Arctic identities are seen increasingly as an asset. Concomitantly Arctic residents are themselves redefining what it means to be "a Northerner". The report contains a number of policy-relevant conclusions for the hot topic of the day.

The combination of rapid and stressful changes highlighted in the first report released in 2004 continues today, amplified in rate and magnitude. These societal and environmental changes confront Arctic residents, local communities, and socioeconomic sectors and challenge their wellbeing. Gaps in development and human well-being persist between different groups, genders, and geographical locations. At the same time, we note trends of increased indigenous empowerment and improved local political and economic autonomy.

The findings also state that urbanization in the Arctic is accelerating, propelled both by local and global forces. Outmigration from rural communities toward larger settlements and urban centers, increased concentration of the population and the emergence of "climigration" are notable trends.

Rural depopulation, "brain drain" and "brain waves" related to changes in the economy and resource development and to growing aspirations for formal education, population aging and associated changing dependency ratios, new flows of immigrants to the Arctic and related cultural negotiations and contestations – in short the magnitude and complexity of migration and urbanization – pose multifaceted challenges to human development in the Arctic.

The report shows that an increasing trend of legitimate participation in Arctic decisionmaking and continued innovation in governance can be observed at all scales. At the same time, as we witness greater self-determination and autonomy, and improved indigenous representation in regional, national and international bodies, the demands on local and indigenous representatives are stretching resources, human and fiscal, to the limit. These are challenges that need to be resolved if the positive trajectories are to be maintained.

Expectations are high for the expansion of resource extractive industries; we note also the growth in importance of non-resource extractive industries. Interest in

economic diversification, within and beyond extractive industries, is rising. While optimism surrounding resource extractive activities remains, so does the high cost of doing business in the North. Climate change is not likely to change this reality, as benefits related to increased accessibility will be balanced or even outweighed by infrastructure damage.

At the launch, two Senior Research Fellows from Nordregio, Rasmus Ole Rasmussen and Timothy Heleniak, presented key findings from the chapters they had written on Community Viability and Adaptation and Arctic Populations and Migration. The GIS team at Nordregio produced valuable map visualisation for the report. It is a part of the Nordic working group for demography and welfare. The Nordic Council of Ministers provided considerable financial and other support to the report. ★

Copies of the report can be obtained at <http://norden.diva-portal.org>.



INTERREG PROJECT

Local communities facing large-scale industries

October 1st was the official start date of the new three year research and cooperation project titled REGINA: Regional Innovation in the Nordic Arctic and Scotland with a Special Focus on communities with Large-Scale Projects. Small local communities need support when facing the task of how to effectively integrate these industrial developments into existing communities that have their own, unique social economic and environmental contexts. As a result, the REGINA project will focus on how these communities can create effective strategies that help ensure the economic and social benefits of these industrial developments are retained as much as possible within the local communities.

REGINA will focus on responding to three interrelated challenges often facing communities in sparsely populated Arctic areas which are undergoing these industrial developments. Firstly, demographic challenges, highlighted by ageing and declining populations, as well as out-migration, gender imbalance and low availability of a suitable labour force. These challenges can be predicted through a foresight tool for understanding possible future local demographic and labour market trends, and the results can be used to support policy responses.

Secondly, land use conflicts, highlighted by challenges in combining traditional socio-economic and cultural land uses alongside potentially expansive industrial developments can be mitigated or even avoided through the development of a Social impact management plan for responding to local land use conflicts.

Thirdly, there is need to develop the supply chain and complementary activities alongside of these new industries to ensure retention of local benefits coming from the industrial activities. Here, supporting local innovation and entrepreneurship is crucial and REGINA will provide a toolbox for assessing potential local benefits of industrial development, and how to achieve them. Each of these will be integrated within the Smart Specialisation Strategies of the local communities involved in the project.

The project is funded through the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, which is an initiative of INTERREG Europe within the European Regional Development Fund. Nordregio is the Lead Partner of the project, responsible for its effective implementation,

communication and financial management. As an INTERREG project REGINA includes both research institutions and local authorities as partners working and learning together, for the benefit of each other. The research partners will be responsible for developing tools and processes that will in turn be tested and implemented by the local authorities as they develop their own Local Smart Specialisation Strategies for how to retain local benefits from large-scale industrial development.

Research partners: University of Lapland, Nordland Research Institute, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), MidtSkandia, North Highland College. Local authorities (map): Sodankylä Municipality, Storuman Municipality, Alstahaug Municipality, Brønnøy Municipality, Kujalleq Municipality. Associated partners: Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Nordlands FylkeKommune, Nordic Council of Ministers. ★



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Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

REGINA

EUROPEAN UNION
Supporting growth through the European Regional Development Fund

NORDIC WORKING GROUP ON DEMOGRAPHY AND WELFARE

In 2015, the working group set for 2013-2016 has produced an overview of national policies addressing demographic change. NordMap - web-mapping tool for territorial monitoring of demographic trends was launched in June. Social innovation and Immigrants' role in the local labour markets in the Nordic region are current research topics. More: www.nordregio.se/wqdemography ★



DEMOGRAPHY

The Nordic countries continue to experience the impact of the longterm demographic trend of migration from rural areas and smaller communities to larger towns and cities. In addition, the share of the Nordic population aged over 65 is increasing. Depopulation and having relatively fewer people in working age is expected to have a severe impact on many Nordic municipalities causing additional problems with the future provision of welfare services. Nordregio is studying the possibilities of territorial social innovations and how Nordic countries are adapting to these challenges in a national level.

BY ANDREW COPUS, TIMOTHY HELENIAC & PIPSA SALOLAMMI

Social Innovation in the Nordics

“It is about new ways of meeting people’s needs at the “grass root” level.”



How to deliver quality services to meet the needs of an ageing population with a shrinking budget? And especially, how to do this in remote and sparsely populated areas? This is the challenge facing the Nordic countries. One of the solutions which we often hear about is Social Innovation. But what exactly is it?

“It’s not easy to tie down”, explains Andrew Copus, researcher at Nordregio. “In essence, it is about new ways of meeting the people’s needs at the grass root level. Often these services are provided by voluntary groups or civil society”, Copus explains. These social innovations help to further strengthen the community.

“In the Nordic context this process is often supported by the public sector, for example through training or grant funding”, Copus states. It seems to be leading to an increase

in the “co-production” of welfare services by a combination of the public sector, civil society, and commercial companies. This process of change is particularly tricky in remote areas with sparse population, because the “third sector”, like the population, is thinly spread.

The Social Innovation in the Nordics project focuses on the impact of demographic change. It aims to build up an online resource centre, containing policy overviews good practice example of social innovation in sparsely populated rural regions in the Nordic countries. There are already existing social innovation databases, blogs and communities, like the SIX Nordic that the project will collaborate with. A final workshop will seek to distil policy lessons from the evidence presented some time towards the end of 2016. The project is being carried out on commission by the Nordic Working Group on Demography and Welfare. ★

From Migrants to Workers: Immigrants' role in the local labour markets in the Nordic region

Over the past few decades, the scale of international migration into the Nordic countries has increased considerably. The foreign-born percentage of the entire population of several Nordic countries exceeds that of traditional migration destination states such as the United States and Australia. While many of these recent arrivals migrate to the capital cities and other large urban areas of the Nordic countries, there has been increased migration to rural and sparsely populated areas of the Nordic region, and the role of these new arrivals in these areas is not well known.

The aim of the From Migrants to Workers project commissioned by the Nordic Working Group on Demography and Welfare, is to explore from a comparative perspective the role and functions of the immigrants in maintaining a well-functioning labour market and developing local and regional labour market. The study will consider both the need for and the scale

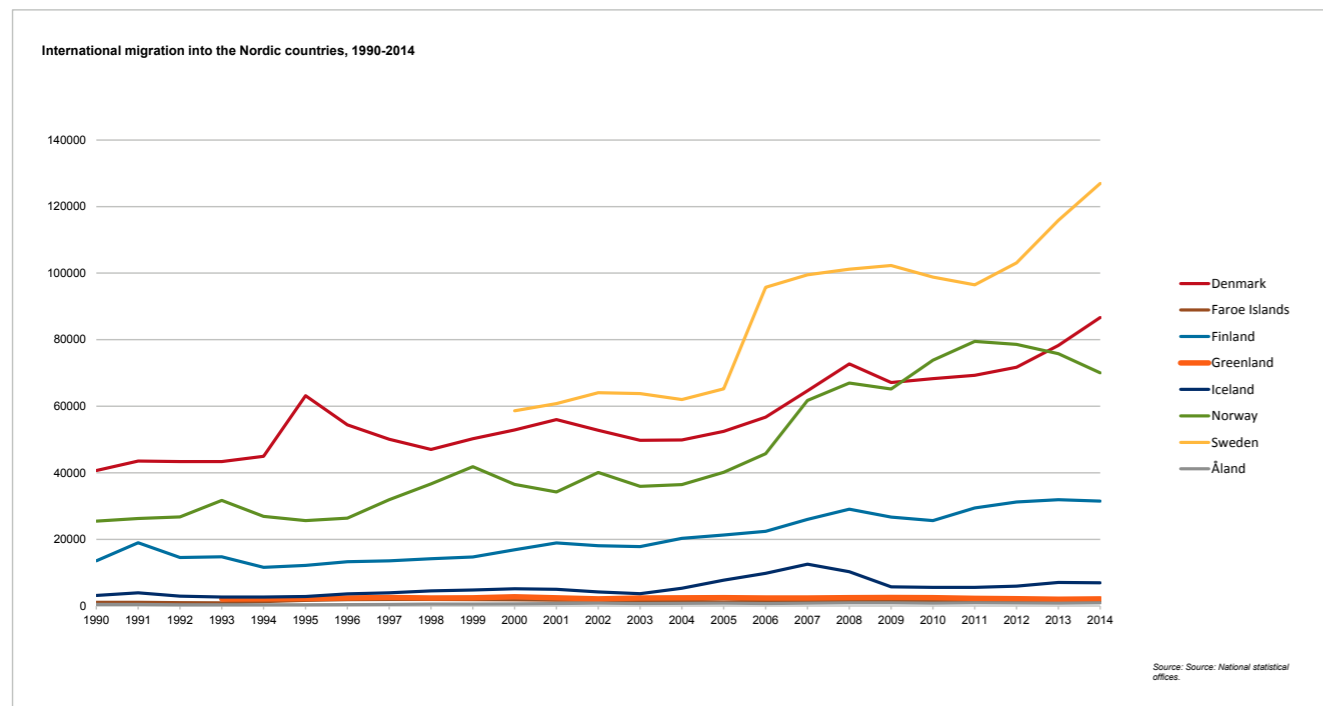
of such external labour, but will also seek to identify the functions that this external labour force performs and the gaps that remain. Furthermore, the project is an attempt to identify the newcomers' processes of adjustment to and integration into the receiving labour markets, to provide an overview of best practices in this endeavour.

The study will encompass a broad quantitative analysis of the scope of the external labour force in local and/or regional labour markets as well as in-depth qualitative case study analyses of three Nordic areas that are to be determined. The quantitative analysis will examine the scale of immigration into the Nordic countries by country of origin, gender, level of education, and other characteristics. It will examine the scale of regional immigration with a focus on the more sparsely populated areas of the Nordic region. The case studies will supplement the research and provide a more qualitative assessment of the role of these new immigrants in the labour market. ★



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NORDIC WORKING GROUP FOR GREEN GROWTH – INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The working group set for 2013-2016 will publish an in-depth study on industrial symbiosis based on Nordic case studies in December 2015. The working group will be busy organizing a Nordic road show on green economy in spring 2016. It will also publish a handbook displaying 50 green growth cases. More: www.nordregio.se/greengrowth



Photo: Yadid Levy / norden.org

GREEN GROWTH

Bioeconomy has gained growing attention and importance on the Nordic research and industrial agenda. An increasing number of Nordic actors have attempted to develop the principal products of the bioeconomy: bio-based products and bioenergy. What then is the current state of the art of the Nordic bioeconomy - especially from the viewpoint of regional development? What is the potential of Industrial Symbiosis as a key driver in Nordic regions?

BY GUNNAR LINDBERG & JUKKA TERÄS



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NordBio: Assessing the potential of the Nordic bioeconomy

“Bioeconomy” is the hype word of today. What is its future potential, and what are the main initiatives to support the development? That is what we would like to know. To analyse the regional economic potential of the Nordic bioeconomy, the Nordic Input-Output study was implemented.

“The bioeconomy” is defined as an economy where the basic building-blocks for materials, chemicals, and energy are derived from renewable biological resources. This concept of bioeconomy is currently one of the key thematic areas of the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as the EU, and a number of Nordic initiatives have been undertaken in 2014–2015 to gain a deeper understanding of the concept. This study was conducted by Nordregio and Innovation Centre Iceland (ICI) in 2014–2015 as part of the NordBio programme. The findings suggest the following.

- In the regions examined, the highest regional multipliers generally accrue to agriculture, the food industry and wood products.
- The “new” bioeconomy sectors have lower multipliers, largely because they currently do not really interact with the primary sectors, nor are they integrated into them.
- Developing these “new” bioeconomic sectors in isolation would not boost the regional economies in which they are embedded.
- Instead, to contribute to regional multiplier impacts, the associated sectors, as we have denoted them, need to grow in an integrated fashion with the use of regional bioe-

sources and labour.

As a key tool for the analysis of regional direct and indirect economic impacts, the methodology of Input-Output analysis was implemented in a regional case study context. Input-Output analysis is a method of analysing economic interactions between sectors in an economy and calculating multipliers, which indicate the potential of a sector or product to stimulate a wider economic system. Such sectors/activities can also be studied from a scenario-based perspective, based on knowledge about their production processes and interactions with existing sectors.

The study contributes tools and findings to refine the concept of a Nordic bioeconomy in the regions. However, challenges remain in mapping the resources, initiatives and outputs of the Nordic bioeconomy.

The Nordic Input-Output study on the bioeconomy is strongly related to the work of the Nordic Working Group for Green Growth—Innovation and Entrepreneurship programme 2013–2016. The aim of the working group is to contribute to public policy development with a particular focus on innovation and entrepreneurship in the Nordic countries. The working group focuses on the regional policy dimension of potential for green growth, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The working group report on the Nordic bioeconomy is already available, see Bioeconomy in the Nordic countries— in-depth study. The working group report on Nordic Industrial Symbiosis will be published in early December 2015. ★

EMFF PROJECT

Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans (Baltic SCOPE)

BY STEFANIE LANGE SCHERBENSKE

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) arose at the beginning of the millennium as a response to the historical failure to protect the marine environment, because of increased competition for marine space and to utilise the opportunities for sustainable economic growth based on marine resources.

Recently blue growth has become a long-term strategy for European marine and maritime sectors, and it is highlighted in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. While improving the environmental status is a key priority, conflicts between economic sectors need to be addressed, especially with the introduction of new activities in the Baltic Sea (e.g. offshore energy production). Finding synergies between sectors could facilitate economic activities while ensuring the sustainable use of maritime space and resources.

In July 2014, the EU Directive on MSP that all member states establish and implement Maritime Spatial Plans was launched. These plans should focus on sustainable development and ecological sustainability. The minimum requirements are that consideration must be given to land-sea interaction and integration with other planning systems (e.g. coastal planning). The member states should also work for broad stakeholder involvement and co-operation between countries.

A number of EU projects conducted pilot studies concerning MSP in the Baltic Sea (e.g. BaltSeaPlan, PartiSEAPate and Plan Bothnia), which developed institutional capacity, and tacit and expert knowledge. By launching a call for projects focusing on cross-border solutions in MSP, the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare) offered funding for key actors to co-operate in this matter. In March 2015, Baltic SCOPE got the green light to work towards coherent and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans during the period March 2014–March 2016.

The project brings together planning authorities responsible for MSP from Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Germany in two case studies: South West Baltic and Central Baltic (see map). The work on the case studies focuses on the transboundary issues in four sectors/topics: shipping, fishing, energy and environment.

Nordregio's role in Baltic SCOPE is twofold. On the one hand, we contribute our expertise in land-based planning and cross-border co-operation, provide socio-economic

data and make maps. In addition, we are in charge of the evaluation and monitoring framework. However, the main role of Nordregio is to observe the processes of planning and thematic meetings organised in the case study areas throughout the duration of the project and to derive lessons learned. These in turn may support maritime spatial planners in the Baltic Sea Region and other maritime areas who manage cross-border issues, leading to a common understanding, and ultimately to sustainable solutions.

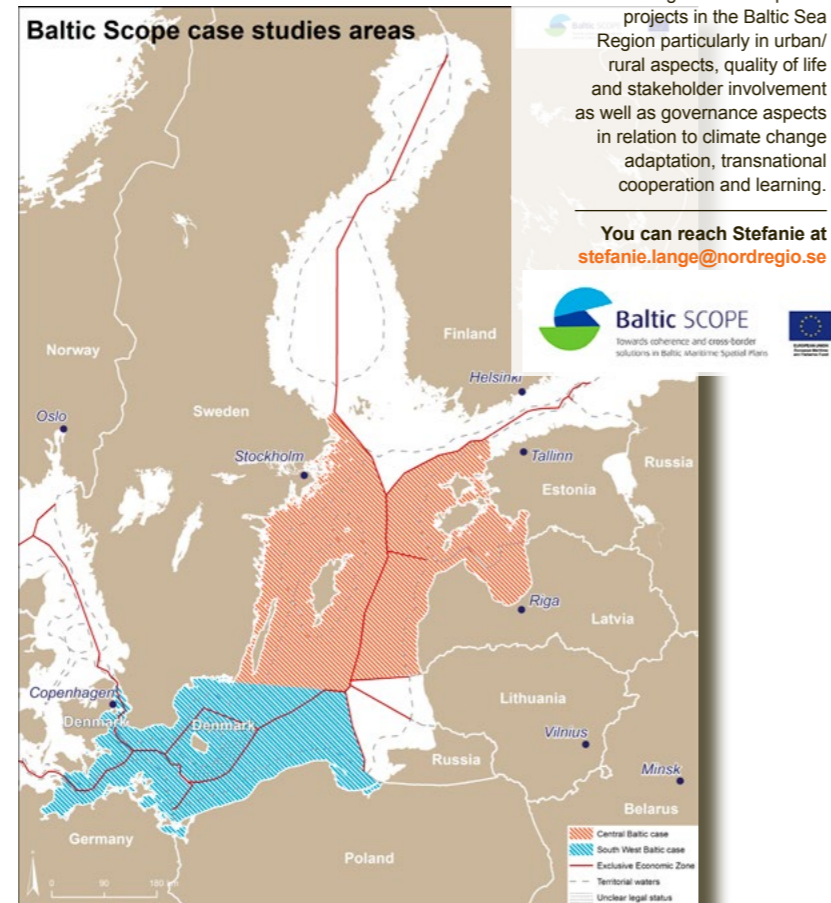
In total, about 2 million euros (80% co-financed by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)) are dedicated to the implementation of this two-year project. More information is available at <http://www.balticscope.eu> ★



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Map by Julien Grunfelder, Nordregio

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MAP GALLERY?



JULIEN GRUNFELDER

is a GIS expert at Nordregio specialised in GIS, cartography, traffic analysis and regional planning.

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LINUS RISPLING

is a GIS/Cartography Analyst at Nordregio specialised in data visualization, quantitative statistical data harmonisation, regional development analysis and mapping.

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Nordregio continuously produces high-quality thematic maps and also owns and develops state-of-the-art statistical databases at the regional and local level. In addition, indicators and maps on demography, labour market and accessibility for the Nordic Region can be found on our new interactive mapping tool NordMap that was launched in June 2015. The maps are available for everyone and free of charge.

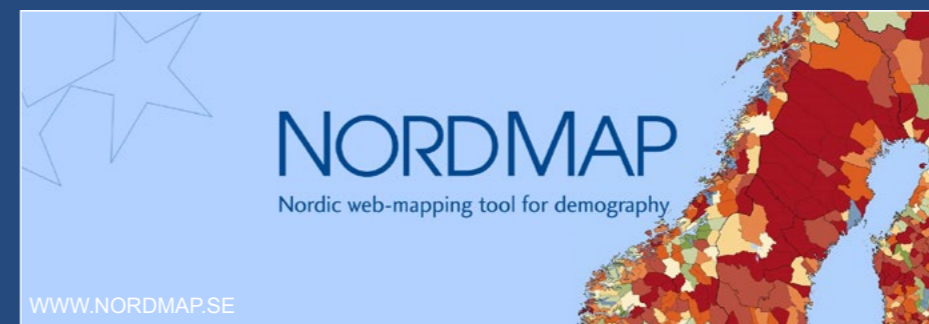
Nordregio published maps in the last couple of months showing the latest developments in a number of geographical foci where Nordregio has a tradition of developing maps, namely the Nordic Region, the Baltic Sea Region, the Arctic (including Sápmi), and Europe.

Besides Nordmap, one of the highlights of the year was in August when Nordregio's map on total population change in European regions 2000-2013 was selected for the Rio, ICC 2015 international

map exhibition.

You will get more visual information by the end of the year as Nordregio's map team with Julien Grunfelder and Linus Rispling will update its online map gallery with some 60 new maps which have been produced primarily for projects on the Nordic Arctic, on labour mobility in the Nordic-Baltic region, and on the size and structure of Nordic city-regions (e.g. commuting patterns and accessibility). Furthermore, Nordregio will release the new edition of the State of the Nordic Region report, a report presenting the recent development at the regional and local levels in the Nordic Region in early 2016. Our efficient map team will provide a wide range of state of the art maps and other visualisations on themes such as gender, migration, labour market, transport and housing, among others. The maps and graphs will be complemented by analyses from Nordregio's experts within their respective fields. ★

More information on: www.nordregio.se/maps and www.nordmap.se



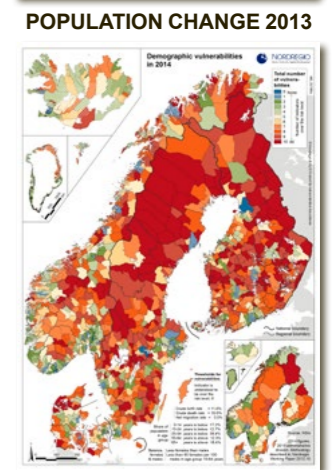
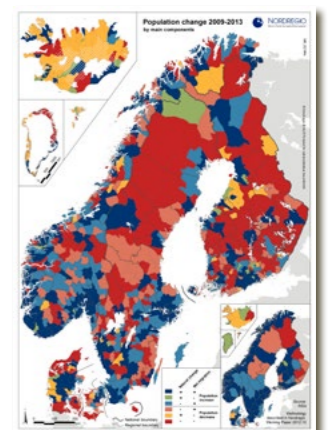
HAVE YOU BEEN NORDMAPPED?

The answer is yes, if you live in the Nordic countries. Nordmap has categorised you according to your age, nationality, whether you live in an urban or rural area, or whether you are part of the active labour force. You most certainly are an important part of the Nordic map collection.

While Nordmap was launched in June, we are already working on extending its capabilities and improving its functionality! We aim to release an updated NordMap in the middle of 2016. Some of the main improvements will include a redesign of the site to improve the ease of navigation. This will also make NordMap a truly responsive, cross-platform application.

We will also include the opportunity for users to select a start and end year to instantly see patterns of change on all maps where data are available for multiple years. It is often more advantageous to see changes in socio-economic patterns rather than a snapshot of the state of art for a single year. For instance, employment rates for a single year are important, but are not likely to be as telling for policymakers as changes in employment and unemployment rates over time. You will also have access to the timeplay feature, which allows you to view year-on-year changes in each map.

Each of these features will make it possible for anyone to create highly customised maps of socio-economic conditions in the Nordic region, in just minutes! ★



INSIDE NORDREGIO



EVALUATION STUDIES

■ An evaluation of a reform, programme or specific project may be characterised as a systematic and analytical way of studying and analysing its outcome and output but also of evaluating processes to improve future reforms, programmes or projects.

Nordregio has long experience of involvement in evaluations of programmes and projects that are partly financed by EU Structural and Investment Funds. Experience of evaluations provides important knowledge and input to other projects at Nordregio. There are three types of evaluation of EU programmes: 1) ex ante evaluations support the preparation of programmes and are conducted prior to, in parallel with or as a part of the programme design; 2) mid-term evaluations are intended to improve the quality of a programme or a project that is underway, and to advise on any reorientation required; and 3) ex post evaluations aim to examine how resources have been used, assessing the extent to which the objectives have been achieved and identifying factors that contributed to the success or failure of the programme or project. In addition, the method of ongoing evaluation was launched during the 2007–2013 programme period. This method partly replaced the mid-term evaluations, which were no longer obligatory. The aim of an ongoing evaluation is to focus on continuous learning and exchange of experience. Ongoing evaluation is process oriented, and the evaluators follow the project or programme closely.

In addition to evaluations of programmes and larger projects, Nordregio researchers conduct smaller evaluation assignments in the Nordic countries and act as experts on evaluation and programme development in various committees and groups. ★

Evaluation projects:

Since 2013, Nordregio researchers have taken part in the following evaluations of EU Structural and Investment Funds programmes and some of them are ongoing (more: www.nordregio.se/en/Nordregio-Research)

- Ongoing evaluation of the 2007–2013 Rural Development Programme for Åland
- Ex ante evaluation of the Swedish Rural Development Programme 2014–2020
- Ex ante evaluation of the Structural Funds Programme for Mainland Finland 2014–2020
- Ex ante evaluation of the Central Baltic programme 2014–2020
- Ex post evaluation of the European Territorial Co-operation programmes 2007–2013

Nordregio researchers have also been involved in a number of ongoing evaluation studies of specific projects in Sweden financed by EU Structural and Investment Funds:

- Ongoing evaluation of the “ESS MAX i regionen TITA” project led by Region Skåne, Sweden
- Ongoing evaluation of the Power Centre project (Kraftcentrum Stockholm Life), a project for stimulating growth in SMEs in the Stockholm life science sector
- Ongoing evaluation of the Kraftcentrum Flemingsberg Science project



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Nordregio is situated on beautiful Skeppsholmen, an island in the heart of Stockholm, Sweden.

ABOUT NORDREGIO

■ Nordregio is a leading Nordic research institute within the broad fields of regional development and urban planning. We undertake strategic research and provide policy relevant knowledge with a Nordic and European comparative perspective. We specialise in international comparative and collaborative research. Using our leading-edge skills, we carry out quantitative and qualitative analyses on many different geographic scales: Nordic, Baltic, Arctic and European. Our main target groups are planners and decision-makers at the international, national and regional levels. Main areas of research include regional development - urban and rural, city regional planning, demography, governance and gender, innovation and green growth, and sustainable development in the Arctic. ★