



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

**Demographic challenges  
and opportunities in the Nordic Arctic Region**  
examples from the Nordic Demography Programme

**Nordregio Forum**  
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## Nordic focus on demography

- Many similarities in demographic development
- Challenges *and* opportunities of demographic change

# Nordic Working Group on Demography and Welfare 2013-2016

(established by the Committee of Senior Officials on Regional Policy (EK-R)  
under NCM)

*“...aims to be a joint Nordic platform for producing knowledge and exchanging experiences regarding the challenges and opportunities induced by the current demographic changes.”*

<http://www.nordregio.se/en/Metameny/About-Nordregio/Nordic-working-groups/Working-group-on-demography-and-welfare/>

# Members of the Working Group

- Sverker Lindblad, Näringsdepartementet, Sweden (Chair)
- Anette Klysner, Naturstyrelsen, Sweden
- Jeppe Fisker Jørgensen, Ministeriet for By, Bolig og Landdistrikter, Denmark
- Erik Fransson, Tillväxtanalys, Sweden
- Hanna-Maria Urjankangas, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland
- Hilmar Høgenni, Indenrigsministeriet, Faroe islands
- Kenth Häggblom, Ålands statistik- och utredningsbyrå (ÅSUB)
- Leena Anttila, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- Linnéa Johansson, Ålands landskapsregering
- Terje Kaldager, Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet, Norway
- Tore Vabø, Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet, Norway

# Activities

- Local and regional approaches to demographic change

<http://www.nordregio.se/demographyexamples>

- Webmapping tool

- Social innovation

Workshop on social innovation 17 September:

<http://www.nordregio.se/socialinnovationworkshop>

- National policy overview

- Nordic Demography Programme



## Nordic Demography programme 2014-2015

- WG on Demography and Welfare - Steering Committee  
Nordregio – Managing Organisation
- First round launched in 2013 as a follow-up to the Demographic handbook - 4 projects were funded
- Second round launched in 2014 – 6 projects were funded
- Projects from the Arctic region:

# Mit Hjem er hvor mit ø-hjerte banker – part 2

## Home is where the island heart beats – part 2

**Lead Partner:** Austurbrú, Iceland

**Countries:** Iceland, Denmark

- The starting-point of part 1 was the initiative "Tilbakestrøm" in Vesterålen, Norway
- Part 1 of the project clearly showed that a new way of thinking about young people, who move away from the places they were brought up in, is both necessary and timely. Their impact and input into their former communities is significant, therefore their moving away should not be viewed as a brain-drain from the community, and instead their resources should be recognised as an important and significant input to their former community.
- Part 2 of the project also involves Iceland – same type of challenges (East Iceland)

# Regional collaboration on the theme of migration/ demographics for maintaining employment and tax base

**Lead Partner:** Jämtland county council, Sweden

**Countries:** Sweden, Finland, Iceland

- Jämtland County in Sweden and other sparsely populated regions in Europe face a number of challenges: reduction of the working age population and an increasing proportion of older people.
- This development might lead to that the taxpayer funded operations base will be eroded and it will be difficult to ensure a good level of welfare services. Many companies also experience difficulties in recruiting persons with the right skills. In addition, the public sector, especially within health and social care, will have large employment needs in the near future.
- The project will include the establishment of a long-term method on how to work with demographic development based on good experiences from other Nordic regions, establishment of a user-oriented platform for people that wants to move here, coordinated marketing of the county regarding working possibilities and the attractiveness of the region and continuous analysis and statistical follow-up of the work.



# Participation and innovation in remote areas - focusing on an academic support system for local entrepreneurs

**Lead Partner:** The Research Center for Social Development (Granskingardepilin fyri Samfelagsmenning), Faroe islands

**Countries:** Faroe Islands, Iceland

- Follow-up on the project *Participation and innovation in remote areas – focusing on local production, art, culture, and tourism* carried out in 2013. The goal of the previous project was to encourage and support inhabitants of small local communities in the Faroe Islands and Iceland to organize activities that can attract jobs and income to the respective regions.
- The project is rooted in the knowledge and needs of local inhabitants. The participating institutions work together with local populations to develop and implement new ideas. The focus is on activities related to local food production, art, culture and tourism as activities that can contribute to increased well-being in the remote areas of the Faroe Islands and Iceland.

## **Additional projects that received funding**

### **Next stop – the small islands**

**Partner:** The Association of Danish Small Islands (Sammenslutningen af Danske Småøer)

**Countries:** Denmark, Sweden, Finland

### **”Money of my own” – How to Earn a Living for Young People in the Arcipelago and Other Sparsely Populated Areas**

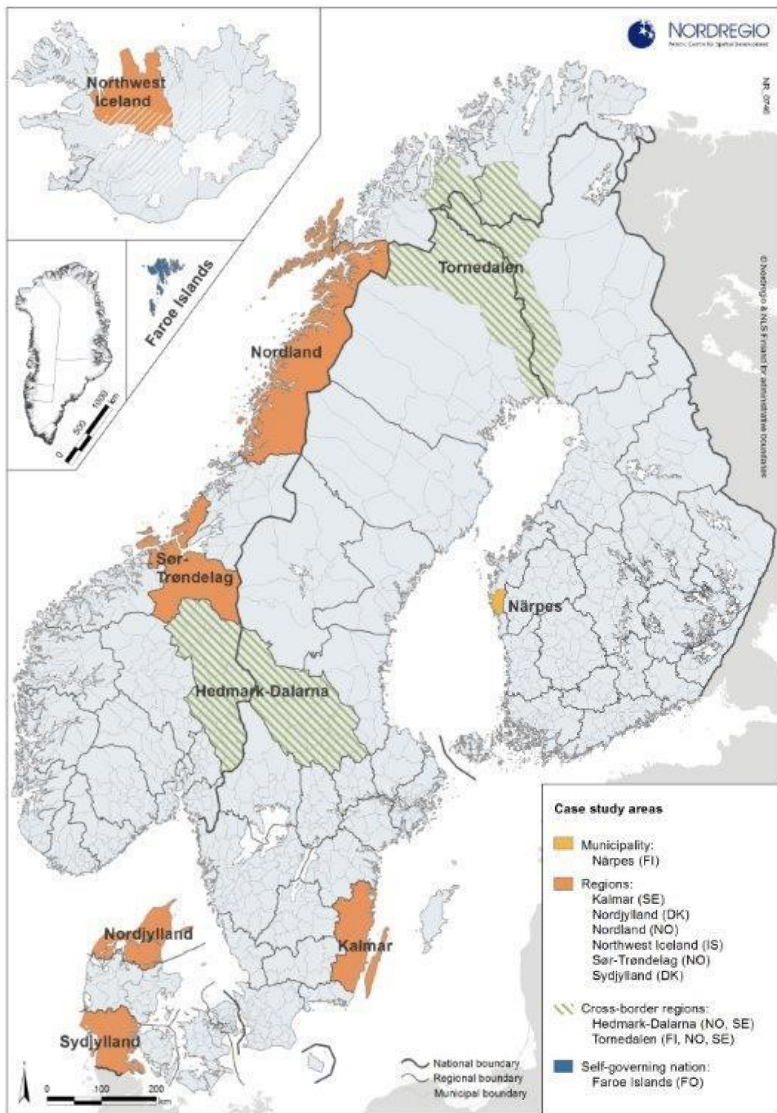
**Lead Partner:** Nordiska Skärgårdssamarbetet

**Countries:** Sweden, Åland, Finland

### **Demographic challenges in Hedmark and Dalarna – phase 2**

**Lead Partner:** The Border Committee of Hedmark-Dalarna

**Countries:** Sweden, Norway



## Local and regional approaches to demographic change in the Nordic countries

Case studies by  
Liisa Perjo, Research Fellow and  
Ingrid HG Johnsen, Senior  
Research Fellow

<http://www.nordregio.se/demographyexamples>



**Thank you!**

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