



Social Innovation: new Nordic approaches for tackling demographic and welfare challenges

Nordregio, Stockholm 16th of September, 2014

The Nordic countries and regions are facing severe demographic changes such as stagnation or reduction of the share of working age population, out-migration and significant increase in the share of population over the age of 65. The workshop “Social Innovation: new Nordic approaches for solving demographic and welfare challenges” explores the potential for social innovation to identify and implement new ways to address durably this demographic shift and how it affects the welfare challenges of local, regional and national authorities in the Nordic countries.

The concept of social innovation has been around in the academic discourse for a while now, but it has gain momentum recently to its emergence in the European policy discourse. Indeed, the concept is included in European policy initiatives such as the Innovation Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing, and Cohesion Policy, as well as Horizon 2020. It is about the development and implementation of new ideas (products, services and models) to meet social needs and create new social relationships or collaborations, i.e. using a more participatory approach.

The workshop is part of the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Nordic Working Group on Demography and Welfare, which aims to form a joint Nordic platform for producing knowledge and exchanging experiences regarding the challenges and opportunities induced by the current demographic and labour market related changes. The target groups of the workshop are Nordic policy-makers, practitioners, planners and researchers involved and interested in issues related to demographic change at national, regional and local levels of government.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To bring together policy-makers and practitioners from different levels of government as well as the research community to discuss the potential of social innovation in addressing demographic change in the Nordic countries
- To provide a platform for exchange of experience on applying the social innovation approach in meeting demographic challenges
- To inspire new collaborative governance approaches for securing the provision of services in all parts of the Nordic countries

The workshop is free of charge but the number of participants is limited and registration is required. If you are interested in participating, please register by email to liisa.perjo@nordregio.se, no later than 9 September 2014. Please include your name, affiliation and email address.



09.00-09.30 Arrival and registration

CAN SOCIAL INNOVATION HELP COMMUNITIES TACKLING DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES?

INSIGHTS FROM RECENT RESEARCH

09.30-10.00 **What is social innovation and how can it address social need and societal challenges**
Jeremy Millard, Coordination of TEPSIE European Research Project (Danish Technological Institute, Denmark)

10.00-10.30 **Social innovation, social capital and rural development in the Nordics**
Dr. Hans Westlund (KTH, Sweden)

10.30-11.15 **Empirical findings about social innovation**
Social innovation in sight – local and regional approaches to demographic change
Dr. Ingrid Johnsen and Liisa Perjo (Nordregio)
Cooperation in the Öresund region
Dr. Björn Hasselgren (KTH, Sweden)
How to fill the notion of social innovation with empirical content?
Dr. Malin Lindberg, (Luleå University of Technology, Sweden)

11.15-12.00 *Panel discussion with the speakers*

LUNCH BREAK

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN PRACTICE. SHARING INTERNATIONAL AND NORDIC EXPERIENCES

13.00-13.30 **Capitalizing on international experiences. What can Sweden and the Nordics learn about social innovation?**

Martin Wikström (Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis, Sweden)

13.30-13.50 **How to support social innovation – Insights from the Finnish Perspective**

Mikko Martikainen (Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland)

Mini break

14.00-14.20 **New approaches for delivering welfare in Jämtland, Sweden**

Anna Frestadius (Coompanion, Sweden)

14.20-14.40 **Co-production and user-driven innovation for sustainable welfare services in SE, DK and the UK**

Dr. Anna-Karin Berglund (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions)

14.40-15.45 *Coffee break and table discussions*

LOOKING AHEAD AT NORDIC SOCIAL INNOVATION

15.45-16.30 **Concluding statements and steps ahead**