



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development



**norden**  
Nordic Council of Ministers

# Invitation to and program for the Nordic seminar

## Megatrends in the Arctic

New inspiration on how to include findings  
from the Megatrends project  
into current policy strategies

Tuesday 29 May 2012  
Nordregio, Stockholm, Sweden



## **Introduction**

Global climate change has created great pressure on the nature and the people living in the Arctic. The average temperature in the Arctic rises, glaciers and the sea ice are melting and the availability of natural resources is increasing. This creates concerns for the nature, the communities and the people living in the Arctic, but also new opportunities are arising.

The Nordic countries emphasize that the new possibilities in the Arctic must be explored with respect for the nature and the environment, while the Arctic peoples' welfare and development must be secured. The development of modern welfare societies focusing on the people in the Arctic is the overarching focus of the Nordic Cooperation Programme for a Sustainable Development in the Arctic. The cooperation programme lasts from 2012-2014 and has a yearly budget of 9.5 mio DKK. In this programme 3 mio DKK are earmarked each year for developing new, political initiatives on a Nordic level.

At the Ministerial meeting at the Arctic Council in Nuuk in May 2011 the book Megatrends was presented as Denmark ended its chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

The Megatrends described in this book are trends deemed so powerful that they have the potential to transform society across social categories and at all levels, from individuals and local-level players to global structures, and eventually to change our ways of living and thinking!

A main objective of this seminar is to address the most substantial Megatrends, namely: Demographic challenges; Human capital and the knowledge economy; and Green growth.

The results from the seminar will hopefully lead to developing exciting new projects and cooperation on a Nordic level. Another objective is to discover relationships and possible synergies between the activities of the participating agencies in the areas defined by Megatrends.

The seminar is arranged by Nordregio and the Nordic Council of Ministers. Participation in the seminar is free of charge.

The number of participants at the seminar is limited.

**The seminar will take place at  
Nordregio in Stockholm, Sweden  
Tuesday 29 May 2012  
from 10:00 am until 4:30 pm**

**Deadline for registration for the seminar is 23 May 2012**

To register, send an email including name, organisation, email and any special requests to Klaus Georg Hansen. If you have questions or wish to get further information, send an email to Klaus Georg Hansen.

Email: kgh@nordregio.se

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**Preliminary program for  
the Nordic seminar "Megatrends in the Arctic"  
Nordregio in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday 29 May 2012**

*Facilitator: Susan Brockett*

10:00-10:15 Welcome by  
Palle Christiansen, Nordic Cooperation Minister, Greenland

10:15-11:05 Introduction to Megatrends by  
Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Nordregio, and  
Marianne Neraal, Nordic Council of Ministers

11:05-11:20 Break

11:20-11:35 Arctic Policy implications of Megatrends

11:35-11:50 Nordic Policy implications of Megatrends

11:50-12:15 Discussion

12:15-13:15 Lunch

13:15-15:15 Three simultaneous sessions  
Session I Demography  
Session II Human capacity  
Session III Greening

*Discussion 1:* What does this trend mean to us, in light of what we are doing in our respective institutions, countries, etc.? Where do we see need for new approaches that would benefit from Nordic cooperation?

*Discussion 2:* Look at the needs identified in previous session. What is the importance of current policy with respect to activities and development? Where are there needs for new policies?

15:15-15:30 Break

15:30-16:15 Presentations from sessions

16:15-16:30 Closing remarks

# Map of Nordregio

