Social innovation in sight
Local and regional approaches to demographic change
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Local & regional approaches to demographic change

- Project within the Nordic Working Group on Demography & Welfare

- Following up and building on the Handbook on Demographic Challenges in the Nordic countries (2012)

- The examples to provide inspiration and lessons learned for local and regional actors

- Broad variety of policy areas, both top-down & bottom-up, both strategy- and project-based approaches
Nordic examples on how to meet demographic change

- [www.nordregio.se/demographyexamples](http://www.nordregio.se/demographyexamples)

Why social innovation?

Many of the examples studied the report include elements that are discussed in the social innovation debate, e.g.

– new, more efficient answers to meet social needs
– mobilising local actors to answer societal challenges
– new ways of integrating various stakeholders and work together
Co-ordination and co-operation

- Across policy areas (e.g. housing, labour market, planning) and administrative levels (e.g. local, regional, national) to
  - ensure common goals
  - facilitate exchange of experiences
  - create a large pool of resources
  - increase the opportunities to act

Example: Sör-Tröndelag
Engagement of citizens and private actors

- Collaboration with actors outside the public organisation
- Cooperation with private sector (Example: Närpes)
- Finding ways to engage citizens and support grassroots organisations (Example: Cold Hawaii)
Project-based approaches

- Projects as a way to for example
  - tackle specific challenges
  - develop new working methods
  - placing demographic issues on the political agenda

- Example: Hedmark-Dalarna
Conclusions

- More potential is often found in integrated cross-sectoral solutions across policy areas
- Social innovation useful concept to discuss more integrated policy making
- More research is needed on the implications of the social innovation concept in the specific Nordic context
- Need to develop suitable tools for operationalising social innovation
Thank you!

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