



NORDREGIO
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

Social innovation in sight

Local and regional approaches to demographic change

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Nordic Council of Ministers

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
- The report *Local and regional approaches to demographic change in the Nordic countries* can be downloaded at <http://www.nordregio.se/en/Publications/Publications-2014/Local-and-regional-approaches-to-demographic-change/>
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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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