

# **Harris Centre/Nordregio/NORA Workshop on Addressing Demographic Change in the North Atlantic Rim**

17-18 October 2011

**Location:** McCann Centre, Education Building, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada (See campus map, Building #6, enter at southeast corner)

**Objective:** The issue of changing demography and its implications is of common concern to the countries and regions of the North Atlantic rim. The objective of this workshop is to learn from each other through discussion of how changing demographics are being addressed in the region, what policies and plans have been adopted and what outcomes have been experienced or might be expected.

## **Program:**

### **Monday 17 October 2011**

#### ***Morning session***

***Chair: Lars Thorstrup NORA***

0800 Registration McCann Centre, Education Building, Memorial University

0830 Welcome including workshop purpose and objectives  
Rob Greenwood (Harris Centre)/ Klaus Georg Hansen (Nordregio)/Lars Thorstrup (NORA)

#### ***Regional Overviews***

0845 Klaus Georg Hansen. Deputy Director and Senior Research Fellow at Nordregio, Nordic Centre for Spatial Development.  
West Norden Overview  
An overview of the demographic changes in the West Nordic countries (coastal Western Norway, Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland) over the last 10-20 years. Some of the questions are: What are the challenges posed by structure and what are the challenges posed by change? Age, gender, fertility and migration are some of parameters that will be discussed.

0915 Rose Aucoin. Manager of Economic Information Services, Economic Research and Analysis Division, Department of Finance, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.  
Newfoundland and Labrador Overview  
An overview of recent demographic change and trends in Newfoundland and Labrador and the social and economic implications of those changes for the province.

0945 Refreshment Break [sponsored by Nordregio/NORA]

***Regional Experiences***

- 1000 Tor Langvold, Administrative Manager, Bjugn Kommune, Sør Trøndelag, – Norway  
Bjugn Kommune, northwest of Trondheim in central coastal Norway, has successfully attracted immigrants to the community, mainly from the Netherlands. Tor will describe how this has been achieved.
- 1025 Eyðun Christiansen, Director, Kommunusamskipan Føroya, Faroe Islands  
Kommunusamskipan Føroya is an association of the five largest municipalities in the Faroe Islands. Eyðun Christiansen has been working with local government issues for many years, among them the issue of how to address demographic challenges facing government and municipalities, including how to encourage people to return to their local communities.
- 1050 Sverrir Albertsson, General manager for AexFL, the union in Eastern Iceland. This presentation looks at the future of fishing villages around the aluminum smelter in Hafnafjörður in southwest Iceland and in the larger region. One focus is on the quality of life or lack of quality. A second is the diversity of the job market, the skill levels of the people and the actions that have been taken to increase educational levels. Key questions are: "Why don't people want to move there - or live there ", and "Can we and should we 'save' all communities"?
- 1115 Paaarannguag Anderrson. Healthcare Consultant, Municipality of Sermersooq, Greenland  
Since 2010 I have been involved in the West Nordic project "West Norden Foresight 2030". We have been working with two settlements in West Greenland, in this presentation I will describe the results from the " project and give examples from the two settlements Akunnaaq and Ikerasak.
- 1140 Baxter Rose. Deputy Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.  
This presentation will provide a regional perspective of Newfoundland and Labrador in terms of the policies, plans and other initiatives adopted to address the implications of recent and projected demographic change in the province.
- 1205 Questions and discussion.
- 1230 Lunch (sponsored by Nordregio/NORA)

***Afternoon session***

***Chair: Rob Greenwood, Harris Centre***

1330 Group discussions

Participants will be divided into groups to review a number of identified themes and other themes to be determined. Discussion themes will include:

- Retention [youth/labour force by location and labour force involvement];
- Migration [immigration; internal migration];
- Generation [population growth stimuli (e.g. baby bonus; day-care)];
- Adaptation [e.g. productivity increases; commute work; temporary foreign workers]

Each group will be assigned a facilitator, a recorder and a rapporteur. The objectives of the discussion are for each group to establish priorities for the most relevant or possible policies and approaches – noting where these may differ by jurisdiction

1445 Refreshment Break [sponsored by Nordregio/NORA]

1515 Group discussions [continued]

1630 Session ends

***Evening***

1830 Reception/Dinner hosted by the Strategic Partnership, Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, at the Faculty of Business Dining Room, Memorial University (see campus map, Building #28, Room

## Tuesday 18 October 2011

### *Morning Session*

*Chair: Klaus Georg Hansen, Nordregio*

- 0830 Breakout group summaries – and discussion of Demographic Change ‘action’ in the North Atlantic Rim.  
Facilitator: Rob Greenwood, Harris Centre
- 1000 Break [sponsored by Nordregio/NORA]
- 1030 Discussion of policy options and evaluation of alternatives and preferences  
Facilitator: Rob Greenwood, Harris Centre
- 1115 Panel overview and discussion  
Concluding thoughts from a group of senior participants make the case for/against the policy options identified in the previous session. This will be followed by a general Q/A session.  
Discussion Facilitator: Haukur Claessen
- 1200 Wrap-up and next steps  
Rob Greenwood, Harris Centre/Klaus Georg Hansen, Nordregio/Lars Thorstrup, NORA

### *Afternoon Session*

*Chair: Keith Storey*

**Field Visit:** The field visit will be to the Long Harbour [Isthmus of Avalon] and Placentia [western Avalon] area. This area has undergone significant economic and demographic change since WWII and is now undergoing a new phase of industrial and [potentially] demographic revival.

**Objective:** To gain an understanding of the fluctuations in this area’s economic and demographic fortunes and policy and planning measures attempted/adopted to address associated issues.

#### **Activities:**

- Visit Vale nickel processing facility under construction at Long Harbour and meet with industry representatives;
- Visit towns of Argentia and Placentia and meet with local area officials.

#### **Schedule:**

- 1230 Bus transportation leaves Workshop venue; packed lunch provided
- 1345 Arrive Long Harbour; Vale plant site tour
- 1600 Leave for Argentia/Placentia
- 1630 Tour of Argentia (Host: Harvey Brenton, Argentia Management Authority)
- 1800 Reception/Dinner [sponsored by the Town of Placentia];

Presentations: Harvey Brenton "Industrial Development in Argentina."  
Michael Mooney, AGREDI " Demographics and Labour Market Issues." Steve  
Mills, Memorial University " Historical Aspects of the Placentia Region."  
Q/A session.

2030 Depart for St. John's

2200 Arrive St. John's

Information sources:

Vale Long Harbour project:

<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2008/nr/1112n07.htm>

[http://vinl.valeinco.com/Reports/EIS\\_LongHarbour/Executive%20Summary.pdf](http://vinl.valeinco.com/Reports/EIS_LongHarbour/Executive%20Summary.pdf)

[http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&TCE\\_Version=A  
&ArticleId=A0000302&mState=1](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&TCE_Version=A&ArticleId=A0000302&mState=1)

Placentia area:

[http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/argentina\\_base.html](http://www.heritage.nf.ca/law/argentina_base.html)

<http://www.placentia.ca/welcome.asp>

<http://www.placentiahistory.ca/>