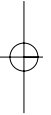
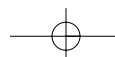


ENRICHING EVERYDAY LIFE

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NORDIC COUNCIL AND NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
ANNUAL REPORT 2002



CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Official Nordic co-operation is built upon strong popular support. The historical, cultural, linguistic and democratic kinship between the Nordic countries is also reflected in political decision making.

The concept of close political co-operation between the Nordic countries arose immediately after World War Two. The Nordic Council was set up in 1952 and a series of groundbreaking reforms were implemented in the next few years.

The Nordic passport union, the common Nordic labour market and the right to medical care and social security are just three radical examples of early Nordic co-operation.

In later years, the focus has been on issues such as the environment, gender equality, integration, culture, education, training and especially the development of democracy in the Nordic Region and in the new countries around the Baltic Sea.

The aim of this Nordic work is to find joint solutions to complicated issues, which will benefit all citizens in the Nordic countries.

NORDIC COUNCIL

The Nordic Council is the interparliamentary body for members of the Nordic parliaments and governments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden as well as of the autonomous territories the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the Åland Islands.

The Council consists of 87 members elected by their parliament and government representatives. As far as possible, the political composition reflects the political balance in the respective national parliaments. The members work together in party groups across national boundaries.

The Nordic Council's task is to take initiatives, advise and oversee Nordic co-operation. The Presidium, which consists of the President and 12 ordinary members, is in charge of the everyday affairs of the Nordic Council. The one-year Presidency alternates between the Nordic countries.

The Presidium's main responsibility is to deal with the big political issues, guidelines for the Council's activities and with foreign and security issues.



NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the intergovernmental body for the executive governments in the Nordic countries and the devolved parliaments in the autonomous territories.

The Nordic governments have been working together through the Council of Ministers since 1971. The one-year Presidency rotates between the five Nordic countries.

Overall responsibility for the Nordic Council of Ministers lies with the Prime Ministers but is delegated in practice to the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation and the Nordic Committee for Co-operation.

In addition to the Prime Ministers and the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation, the Nordic Council of Ministers consists of 20 particular ministerial councils.

Decisions taken by the various ministerial councils must be unanimous. In exceptional cases, decisions taken by the Nordic Council of Ministers are subject to approval by the national parliaments.

The Nordic Council of Ministers is responsible for approximately 1,200 ongoing projects. More than 30 Nordic institutions that deal with problems in clearly defined spheres are financed either partly or completely by the Council of Ministers' budget.

ENRICHING EVERYDAY LIFE

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NORDIC CO-OPERATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

6

Children and young people played a central role in the 50th anniversary celebration of Nordic co-operation. Given the coming generations' commitment to the Nordic Region, the next 50 years are likely to be at least as exciting as the last fifty.

As part of the anniversary celebrations, young people from all of the Nordic countries took part in conferences about Nordic values and democracy throughout 2002. Young people also participated in the dialogue about the future of the Nordic Region by entering an essay competition, recording a video and providing input to the politicians at the Session.

The anniversary Session in Helsinki was honoured with the presence of the Nordic heads of state. A number of other guests also took part.

International terrorism again

cast its long shadow over the Nordic Council Session. The hostage drama in Moscow happened just before it. The Session issued a sharp statement condemning terrorism. It also supported the stance of the Danish government on the Chechnya conference in Copenhagen.

The fact that a borderless Nordic Region is still some way off was clearly illustrated in the closing report, Nordic Citizens' Rights. The push towards full freedom of movement goes on, including the appointment of ex-Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlüter as special envoy for freedom of movement in 2003.

The focus of attention is now on taxation, social security and equivalence for qualifications. Success would make it easier for the Nordic countries to claim a pioneering role in the move towards freedom of movement in the EU.

Nordic co-operation will be of greater significance in the future, especially after the enlargement of the EU. The well-established co-operation at parliamentary and government level with our Baltic and Barents neighbours serves as a good starting point for new forms of co-operation with these countries as members of an enlarged EU.

The closer co-operation between the Nordic Council and parliamentary bodies in Russia, and with the authorities in North-West Russia, builds a foundation for future collaboration on the Northern Dimension, which will be high on the Nordic agenda in coming years.

The Nordic Region will play an active role in the Northern Dimension. Nordic co-operation consti-

tutes an important contribution to the total European commitment in North Europe.

Increasingly, Nordic co-operation is part of a larger international com-



munity. It will throw up new challenges. This report hints at some of them but mainly concentrates on all the exciting things that happened during the 50th anniversary year of Nordic co-operation in 2002.

Frida Nokken
Director of the Nordic Council



Per Unckel
*Secretary General of
the Nordic Council of Ministers*

MAINTAINING NORDIC UNITY

“The Nordic Region must not be split into a western and an eastern part,” says Svein Ludvigsen, Norwegian Minister of Fisheries (Conservative) and chairperson of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2002.

“During the Norwegian Presidency we have tried to build bridges between the two ends of the Nordic Region. It is important to take into account the needs of the whole Region all the time as we would all be a lot poorer if the Nordic Region was divided up between east and west.”

8

The West Nordic Region consists of Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and parts of Norway, all linked by the Atlantic. The natural Adjacent Areas in the west stretch from Canada to Ireland, the Orkney Islands, Shetland, and Scotland. The



Adjacent Areas in the east include North-West Russia and the Baltic States.

“I often use the human body as a metaphor for this relationship. The core of the Nordic Region in the middle pumps blood and energy to the shoulders that protrude to the east and west. The various parts are interdependent. Without each other they do not work,” explains Minister for Nordic Co-operation Svein Ludvigsen.

FINNISH LEGACY

The three main priorities of the Norwegian programme for the 2002 Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers - The Nordic Region of Tomorrow - were children and young people, safe food and sustainable development.

Norway took over the baton from Finland and inherited a number of Finnish priorities. The Arctic Council, co-operation in the Barents Region, Baltic Sea co-operation and Finland's drive to promote the Northern Dimension in the European Union are all important priorities for Nordic co-operation.

“Questions dealt with in these regional bodies are important to the West Nordic Region as well, if I might put it that way. The objective has always been to improve living conditions in the Adjacent Areas to the north, something that benefits the whole region and is an entirely appropriate priority on the Nordic agenda,” Ludvigsen says.

“Promoting freedom of movement in the Nordic Region is also important. Ambassador Ole Norrback's

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report on obstacles to freedom of movement includes barriers in the West Nordic Region.”

“Freedom of movement was a high political priority during the Norwegian Presidency. Such obstacles must be removed if the countries are to integrate properly,” he says.

“I look forward to seeing this work bear fruit during the Swedish Presidency in 2003,” he adds.

RESEARCH INTO THE WEST NORDIC REGION

One of the initiatives taken during the 2002 Presidency that Svein Ludvigsen is proud of is the Council of Ministers’ working party examining the position of the West Nordic Region in Nordic co-operation.

It is looking at current issues but is also expected to influence the future position of the West Nordic Region on the political agenda and make it more distinct.

“The West Nordic Region is an integral part of Nordic co-operation but is also in a special position. Since time immemorial, people have lived off the sea and the barren land. This has left its indelible mark on indigenous culture and everyday life, something which is well documented in the Hunters of the North exhibition about hunting and fishing in the North Atlantic. The exhibition also tells my story. I grew up among fishermen and hunters in the north of Norway,” Ludvigsen says.

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

“Neglecting the western areas would significantly weaken the Nordic Dimension,” he thinks.

“West Nordic issues need to be on the political agenda. In the last decade, focus has moved from traditional Nordic co-operation to the Adjacent Areas in the east, i.e. the Baltic States and North-West Russia. Now, we are trying to look at the situation as a whole. This will benefit us all as we have much to learn from each other in the whole of the Nordic Region,” Ludvigsen points out.

It is perhaps no coincidence that none of the Nordic countries or autonomous territories in the west is a member of the EU but all are in NATO.

“Being outside the EU has not been an obstacle to Nordic co-operation. People in the West Nordic Region have long traditions of standing on their own two feet and co-operating with others.”

“The fact that some of the countries are in the EU and others in the EEA has not significantly affected our ability to find joint Nordic solutions.”

“During a visit to Slovakia I experienced major interest in Nordic co-operation, mainly because the Nordic countries have chosen different forms of associating with the EU and NATO. Many people elsewhere in Europe admire the fact that we are able to co-operate despite the differences,” Ludvigsen explains.

VITALITY IN THE WEST

“The West Nordic Region has a vitality all of its own.”

“I experienced this at first hand when the Council of Ministers organised a conference in Edinburgh last autumn about Nordic co-operation and the potential for closer links

with our neighbours to the west.”

“The Council of Ministers project Network North made a significant contribution to closer co-operation in the culture sector in 2002. The Scots were very interested in co-operating with the Nordic countries, particularly on education, training and culture.”

“A lot of young people from the Nordic countries study in the British Isles. What if Scottish youngsters, for example, were to seek opportunities to study in Nordic countries? We can do something practical about this,” Ludvigsen thinks. “A lot of young people from Britain study as far away as Australia instead of just across the North Sea in the Nordic Region.”

“One major challenge is to convince potential students that the Nordic countries have just as much to offer as Australia or America. A useful starting point might be to promote twin towns.”

“There is a long tradition of co-operation between twin towns in the Nordic Region. It could be extended to include our neighbours to the west and east, to bring people closer together. ‘From people to people’ is an important aspect of all co-operation. It generates vitality. Nordic co-operation must never be solely of interest to politicians. Without popular support Nordic co-operation would lose its rationale. It is important that politicians remain conscious of this at all times. We must never forget that the co-operation exists for the benefit of all Nordic citizens,” he concludes.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT A TOP PRIORITY

In the 1970s, the song *Riv gjerdene* (Pull Down the Fences) was a big hit with radicals in the Nordic Region. The song, in all its simplicity, is about creating a better world free of fences and obstacles. For Outi Ojala, Finnish MP for the Left Alliance, the song has new resonance in the contemporary Nordic Region. Outi Ojala was President of the Nordic Council in 2002.

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations the Nordic Council initiated discussions about dismantling obstacles to freedom of movement in the Nordic Region. The final report was presented by ambassador Ole Norrback to the Council Session in Helsinki in October 2002.

The report identifies a large number of pointless rules and regulations that make everyday life more difficult than necessary for people who live in the Nordic Region. They include everything from difficult issues like taxes and pension rights, to simple run-of-the-mill things like obtaining a new civil registration number when you move to another country.

“We have been overconfident that everything works in the Nordic Region. Suddenly, we discover that this is not the case and that people have problems, including working in one country and living in another,” Outi Ojala says, somewhat self-critically.

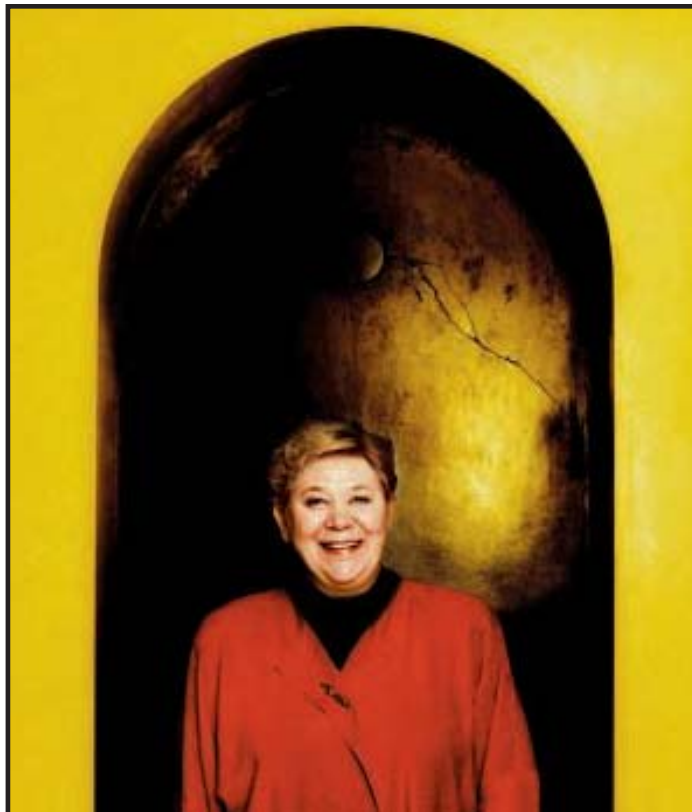
“The 50th anniversary Session was the culmination of five decades of Nordic co-operation. Now, we look forward to the next half century. One of the most important challenges is to promote full freedom of

movement in the Nordic Region. We are in full swing. The Nordic Council of Ministers has set up a project to promote freedom of movement headed by ex-Prime Minister Poul Schlüter of Denmark who has the full support of the Nordic heads of government. We have great expectations of the work he is doing,” she underlines.

SKILL SHORTAGES

A joint labour market and passport union were early results of Nordic co-operation.

“We have long taken those agreements for granted; so much so, in fact, that people have forgotten about them. For the Nordic Council, it is important to exert pressure on national parliaments, to remind



them that the conventions exist and are there to be used for the benefit of Nordic citizens. Knowledge of the agreements must be more widespread," Outi Ojala says.

"We need to look a bit more positively at the many unexploited opportunities. One explanation for this may be that the new Nordic EU members, Finland and Sweden who joined in 1995, have prioritised EU co-operation at the expense of Nordic co-operation. The Nordic countries have worked hard in the 1990s as bridge builders for the Baltic States and North-West Russia on the one hand and Europe and the Nordic Region on the other."

"But it is crucial that we do not neglect Nordic co-operation and the work to bring the ex-Eastern Bloc countries into the EU and NATO."

"I believe in exchange programmes for young people and for people in public service. International co-operation improves knowledge and provides insight into how different our cultures and systems can sometimes be."

"The Nordic Agreements in Practice seminars arranged by Hello Norden for civil servants in Finland last year show that they are worthwhile and that a lot of people need to have their knowledge updated," Outi Ojala says.

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Nordic Council has a responsibility to find solutions.

"If difficulties arise and block progress towards freedom of movement then I think people have a right to know why the politicians and ministers are unable to reach agree-

ment. The people deserve honest answers."

"Nordic interest in freedom of movement is not unique. In recent years, the EU has made attempts to find ways of taxing hidden assets and counteracting the effects of tax competition between countries, for example. No solution has yet been found at European level, but it is a matter of urgency," Ojala thinks.

"A minimum framework for tax regulations is needed before EU enlargement in 2004. I am afraid an enlarged EU without such rules might exacerbate tax competition with individual countries hawking lucrative agreements to investors and companies. In turn, this would erode the tax base and threaten the foundations of the welfare state."

NORTHERN DIMENSION

The Northern Dimension, an initiative launched by Finland during its Presidency of the EU in 1999, is a central element of the co-operation between the Nordic Council and the countries around the Baltic Sea.

In 2002, parliamentarians in the Nordic Region prioritised transport issues within the Northern Dimension, e.g. the idea of the Baltic Sea as a shipping motorway for cargo transport. Moving cargoes off the road and onto waterways would have its advantages. Marine transport is cheaper and pollutes less but it is not without its problems.

"I am worried. Higher volumes of crude oil from Russia via the Baltic Sea in old tankers is a growing problem. We demand better control and security. An oil slick in the Baltic Sea would be a disaster and we are press-

ing for improvements to the environmental regulations for shipping."

"The Council welcomes the work already started by Estonia, Finland and Russia to draw up joint regulations and improve security for oil shipments," Ojala says.

NEXT 50 YEARS

Over the past 50 years, the Nordic Council has been adept at adjusting to developments in the rest of world. It has run its own development programmes for parliamentarians from the Baltic States and Poland since 1992.

In 1994, the programme was expanded to include Russia. Since then, around 250 politicians from the other side of the Iron Curtain have studied the Nordic democracies.

As well as these programmes, the Council has organised joint seminars with the Russian Duma and Federal Council. In addition, the Council's own observers have studied conditions in Murmansk, Karelia and Kaliningrad. In 1992, the Council signed a co-operation agreement with its sister organisation the Baltic Assembly. Since then, both organisations have held regular meetings.

"This co-operation is incredibly positive, in my opinion," Ojala says. She is considering whether to urge the Council to launch a work experience programme for civil servants in the Adjacent Areas as well as to provide people with opportunities to work in the Nordic Secretariats.

"I am convinced it would benefit co-operation – especially future work by the Nordic Council on the EU's Northern Dimension," she concludes.

ENRICHING EVERYDAY LIFE



Flags fluttered from the rooftops of the parliament in Helsinki as ministers, MPs, civil servants, supporters of the Nordic ideal and approximately 100 journalists arrived for the 50th anniversary Session of the Nordic Council. It was a celebration of 50 years of Nordic co-operation but also an indication of the importance of



HIP HOP FOR A 50-YEAR-OLD

Nordic solidarity in the years ahead. Regents, queens, presidents and heads of governments from the Nordic Region were all in attendance to honour the Council and its golden jubilee.

While the atmosphere was of formal festivity inside the parliament, the tone was somewhat more relaxed during the live television broadcast from the National Opera in Helsinki and the hip-hop concert on the same evening at Nosturi in Helsinki to mark the Nordic Council's anniversary.

Nordic citizens watching live on television on the last Tuesday in October saw all of the 2002 Nordic Council prize winners – film maker Aki Kaurismäki and his film *The Man without a Past*, Lars Saabye Christensen, author of the novel *The Half-Brother*, composer Sunleif Rasmussen and his symphony no. 1 *Oceanic Days* and the environmental philosopher Arne Næss – in fine form at the National Opera before the fireworks finally brought the whole event to a fitting conclusion in the night sky above Helsinki.





HELLO NORDEN CUTS RED TAPE

In laymen's terms, the Hello Norden helpline is the Nordic Region's Wailing Wall. For a large number of Nordic citizens, Hello Norden is an information channel and source of advice. Since its inception in 1998, it has revealed many disturbing examples of the bureaucratic obstructions that Nordic citizens experience when they cross borders in the Nordic Region.

"Every country has bureaucrats and everybody thinks their own country's bureaucracy is the best," Poul Schlüter says, slightly ironically. "It is a matter of convincing the bureaucrats to use common sense when people move between countries with different legislation." The ex-Prime Minister of Denmark is currently the Nordic Council of Ministers' special envoy for freedom of movement.

"It is a major challenge and we need all the help we can get from the whole region to identify the problems and to find good and sensible solutions," Schlüter urges.

PLENTY OF ISSUES ON THE AGENDA

The Norrback Report documents the sorts of obstacles with which Schlüter is dealing, e.g. complicated subjects like taxation and pensions but also issues such as the principle of equality for the almost 700,000 immigrants with permanent residence permits in some Nordic country.

"That is what we are working on in the first instance. Next come all the other issues on the agenda, including the Nordic language convention and, of course, pensions and taxation," Schlüter explains.

Hello Norden has proven to be an effective instrument to inform Nordic citizens and local authorities about the consequences of moving within the Nordic Region. In 2002, Hello Norden launched a new Internet portal which is also accessible to the physically disabled. The website contains information about moving, working, job hunting, studying and travelling in the Nordic Region.

GUIDE THROUGH BUREAUCRACY

Hello Norden guides people through bureaucracy and is a valuable resource for Nordic citizens caught between the legislation or bureaucracy of two different countries.

"But if Hello Norden is to reach out to all the citizens who actually need the service, its visibility and

capacity must be improved. This is something that the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation are now discussing," says Secretary General Per Unckel of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Unckel thinks it is important to offer help within a reasonable time frame. It is also important to conduct research and draw political attention to the problems that emerge one at a time as people contact Hello Norden.

"We have to relay every problem that arises to the politicians and the appropriate ministers so solutions can be found. It is important."

THE JOB HAS TO BE DONE

Hello Norden has to be promoted and made better known in the Nordic Region.

"We will also see whether there are any benefits to be gained by working with other bodies that deal with similar problems. Freedom of movement is important because the Nordic Council of Ministers works for all of



the citizens of the region. Expectations are high that we will deal with any problems.”

“Sweden has made integration a

high priority in the programme of its Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2003. But this does not mean that work on integration in the

Nordic Region finishes at the end of 2003,” Unckel says.

Further information about Hello Norden: www.hallonorden.org

END THE DEGRADING TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Trafficking in women and children is the third biggest source of profit in the world of organised crime.

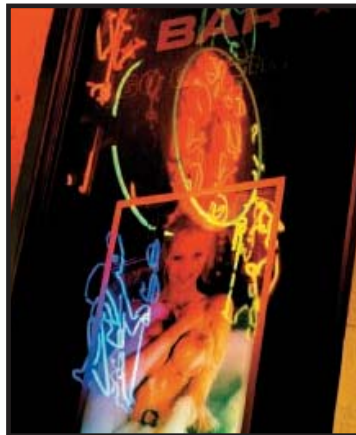
“Men have to speak out if we are ever to end the sex trade and trafficking in women and children. What we really need is a campaign by men for men, rejecting paid sexual services and trafficking in women and children,” says the Norwegian Minister for Gender Equality Laila Dāvøy (Christian People's Party).

Politicians and ministers from the whole of the Baltic Sea Region were involved in a campaign against trafficking in 2002. The Nordic Council of Ministers will continue to work on this high political priority during the Swedish Presidency in 2003.

At the Nordic Council Session in Helsinki in October 2002, 68 participants signed a statement condemning human trafficking that was drawn up by Tuula Haatainen, a Finnish Social Democrat MP.

The signatories demanded the implementation of the UN protocol against trafficking by the countries that have ratified it. If we take equality seriously, we cannot accept prostitution and trafficking in women and children, the statement said.

The signatories included the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Anna Lind (Social Democrat), the Finnish Minister of Health and Social Services Eva Biaudet (Swedish People's Party), the Finnish Minister



for Nordic Co-operation Jan-Erik Enestam (Swedish People's Party) and the Icelandic Minister for Nordic Co-operation Siv Friðleifs-dóttir (Centre Party).

DO THE BUSINESS WITH YOUR TROUSERS ON!

Laila Dāvøy welcomes the increased commitment, not only of Nordic politicians but also of Baltic political leaders from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, to the campaign to end the sex traffic and the exploitation

of thousands of women.

Dāvøy is closely involved in the campaign. She attracted a great deal of international interest when Norway introduced ethical guidelines for Norwegian civil servants on official business trips. She launched it under the slogan “Do the business with your trousers on!”

SOLD LIKE DOLLS

A lot of people have seen the film “Lilja 4-ever”, which depicts how a poor young girl from an Eastern European country is lured by the promise of work in Sweden and ends up as a sex slave.

“The film may be shocking but it paints an unfortunately realistic picture of what happens in an awful lot of cases,” Dāvøy points out.

The authorities of the Nordic countries and Baltic States concentrate on providing information to the women and to their customers. Poster campaigns in Lithuania,



Latvia and Estonia tell young girls that foreign streets are not paved with gold and warn them that they will end up “sold like dolls”.

Dāvøy does not believe information, attitude campaigns or ethical guidelines alone will end trafficking, however.

“Well organised, Mafia-like criminal organisations are behind much of the traffic and earn huge amounts of money from the plight of these

girls. Greater resources and closer co-ordination of international police investigations are needed and are on the Nordic/Baltic agenda,” she says.

Her point is underlined by Arne Lyngstad MP of the Norwegian Christian People’s Party and chairperson of the Nordic Council Citizens’ and Consumer Rights Committee.

“Human trafficking is degrading,” he says before referring to

Sweden where frequenting prostitutes has been criminalised and the police report that criminal organisations involved in trafficking now avoid Sweden.

“Without an open sex market it becomes too difficult,” Lyngstad explains.

STOP RECRUITMENT

The Nordic Council also wants to put greater effort into the campaign to help women in North-West Russia and the Baltic States by launching training programmes and loan schemes for women.

“Such schemes will make it easier for women to create jobs for other women, reducing recruitment into prostitution and improving the ability of women to act as breadwinners,” Lyngstad says.

As well as schemes to improve living conditions for women where they live, the Citizens’ and Consumer Rights Committee will put forward a proposal to focus on the need to protect women in the countries to which they are sold.





PLATO AND SOCRATES AGAINST BULLYING

Talking together promotes understanding. The children at the H.C. Andersen School in Odense, Denmark, know that. Their school uses philosophical discourse as an element of the education and upbringing of its pupils. Philosophers like Plato and Socrates help the pupils argue with words instead of fists.

“To help others is like a present to yourself,” one of the school's fourth-grade pupils said at a Nordic Council of Ministers conference in Helsinki about the Nordic school of tomorrow.

The title Nordic School of Tomorrow implies discussions of values, of democracy in schools, a willingness to encourage children and young people to support the norms and values that form the basis for the Nordic model of democracy.

Democracy is not only a matter for politicians. It is important for the coming generation of Nordic citizens and, especially, for the way in which the Nordic societies will develop. In order to draw attention to these issues a series of confer-

ences about values was held in Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo, Copenhagen and Reykjavik in autumn 2002. The main focus was on democracy in everyday life in schools.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Ex-president of Iceland Vigdís Finnbogadóttir acted as the chairperson of the conferences. She has a decade of personal experience of the teaching profession in secondary and higher education in Iceland. She knows the influence a teacher can have on pupils, so it is an issue she cares about deeply.

Finnbogadóttir advocates that teachers build up the self-confidence of their pupils to provide them with the strength to do things for others and for society:

“A sense of collective responsibility is not inbred,” she says. “People with respect for themselves will not be seduced into violence against others,” she believes. As a result, she has issued a call for a Nordic campaign against violence in youth culture.

“It is important to realise that we still have a lot to learn from each other, despite our close contacts. Dialogue is needed between the daily decision makers and the next generation,” she adds.

Finnbogadóttir also thinks it is important to encourage young people to take an interest in politics and social issues.

TEACHERS DO NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS

Most of the time allocated for contributions at the sixth and final conference was devoted to pupils from the five Nordic countries. The conference was held in the Finnish par-

liament before the Nordic Council Session.

Ingrid Anthonen and Ingvald Vabo from Kristiansand Cathedral School in South Norway were invited to talk about their project Values and Training in Interpersonal Relationships in Upper Secondary Schools. It is all about developing the values and attitudes that will make

“Democracy has no future unless young people feel committed to it and are willing to fight for democratic values,” Vigdís Finnbogadóttir says.

Two Icelandic pupils showed slides from their project about The Child's Expectations and Needs and Swedish pupils showed a video about gender equality in the kindergarten.



DIFFICULT TO BE YOUNG

During the conference series, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir drew a picture of how complicated it is to be young today. Globalisation and threats of war are facts young people must relate to and immigration has introduced other values to the Nordic Region.

Since children in cities seldom talk to older people, they are left to their own devices when it comes to ethical standards. This leads to a lack of identity, xenophobia and mistrust of the rest of society. Vigdís is not surprised that apathy is so widespread, since the media spotlight is on politi-

school pupils better able to function in different interpersonal relations.

“We do not have all the answers but neither do the teachers, so we need to work together to find them,” Ingvald Vabo explains. Ingrid Anthonen thinks the project will be a success because the pupils were allowed to choose themes that interested them, in this case themes like the future, the family and relationships.

cians with low ethical standards who are often described as corrupt.

“The only inbred instinct with which humans are born is to protect their offspring. We must learn to take responsibility for the whole of the next generation. We need to be on speaking terms with the pupils. Friendship and trust are the only ways to encourage pupils to do things for other people,” she concludes.

TAX BREAKS THREATEN NORDIC WELFARE

Globalisation and the tax breaks offered by EU members – old and new – pose a threat to Nordic industry and welfare.

The Nordic Council sees binding international agreements as the best way to prevent damaging international tax competition. At Nordic level, the Council of Ministers has signed an agreement that requires civil servants to exchange information about forthcoming tax changes at national level.

The imagination invariably conjures up images of suspicious men in dark glasses and anonymous PO-boxes. It all sounds a bit underhand and makes many Nordic citizens think of South Sea islands with low taxes where ultraliberals in blazers live out their tax paradise dreams.

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) defines damaging tax competition as schemes with no or low taxation, lack of checks and balances and little exchange of information.

The Nordic Council definition is more wide-ranging. It is based on the idea that countries, as well as living up to EU and OECD definitions, should not fix (very low) effective company taxation independently of the macro-economic situation.

Public sector debt or deficits should not serve as a precursor for low corporate taxation in order to attract inward investment and tax levels should also be fixed in relation to the European Monetary Union criteria.

AVOID DOMINO EFFECTS

Nordic tax systems will be more and

more exposed to the risk of domino effects from abroad in the future. When the Germans introduced tax exemption for sailors without warning a few years ago, Denmark and Sweden both came under pressure to follow.

“Damaging tax competition can erode the welfare state and force healthy and profitable companies away from the Nordic countries,” says the Swedish Social Democratic MP Per Erik Granström, chairperson of the Nordic Council Business and Industry Committee’s working party on damaging tax competition.

The Business and Industry Committee reached the conclusion that closer co-operation is needed at government level to co-ordinate the tax systems in the Nordic Region, and among the Nordic members of the EU.

The Nordic countries need to lobby by the EU and OECD to make sure that new members are aware of the damage caused by tax competition. The working party also acknowledged the fact that it is the individual country's sovereign right to determine the level of company taxation.

PRESSURE ON TAX

Globalisation, mobile economies and EU enlargement pose a growing challenge to the Nordic tax systems and closer co-operation and campaigns against damaging tax competition are needed for that very reason, the Nordic Council thinks.

Poland plans to lower company tax to 22%, some 7–8% lower than Nordic levels, while Estonia simply does not have company taxation. This will exert pressure on tax systems in the EU and increase tax competition, according to an analysis by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The report “Damaging Tax Competition in a Nordic Perspective” was commissioned by the Business and Industry Committee.

But why is it so necessary to study damaging tax competition? The Council’s working party is of the opinion that tax competition may cause problems for industry.

In the longer term it may erode state tax income and weaken the welfare state unless the welfare system is made competitive, but this is an ideological question and depends on your personal political stance.

When goods, services and capital

move freely in a liberalised market, differences in national tax systems can influence competition between companies in different countries. One consequence can be that companies invest in countries with low

a result of actions by other states.

PricewaterhouseCoopers identified 26 examples of rules that deviate from the general principles for company taxation.

These include the Danish rules

“Income tax has caused particular problems, especially in the Øresund Region. Whenever the mobility of Nordic citizens and companies is curtailed by technical problems in the tax system it has to be taken se-



taxes, consumers purchase more of their goods abroad and individuals emigrate for tax reasons.

In addition to this type of tax competition, multinational production creates significant problems in tax jurisdiction. How do you tie the income of multinational companies to the various countries, and which state has the right to tax that income?

MINIMAL COMPETITION IN THE NORDIC REGION

The PricewaterhouseCoopers analysis reveals that the problem is minimal in the Nordic Region. The closest the Nordic tax systems get is the tonnage tax on ships, which also serves as a prime example of a technical domino effect, with countries more or less voluntarily introducing changes as

for taxation of holding companies, the Åland Islands regulations for captive insurance, Icelandic rules for international trading companies, Swedish rules for depreciation of deficits and Norwegian rules about special taxation and tariff exemption on Svalbard.

“Theoretically, the Nordic tax systems do contain features that might encourage tax competition,” PricewaterhouseCoopers writes.

Despite the fact that the differences between the tax systems are minor they do create unexpected problems. The Nordic Council has proposed that future tax-related proposals be scrutinised at Nordic level to determine whether or not they might lead to damaging tax competition.

riously,” says Per Erik Granström, an advocate of new forms of taxation in the future.

INCOME TAX PROBLEM IN THE ØRESUND REGION

As mentioned already, income tax is perhaps the biggest cause for people and companies to shop around between the Nordic tax systems.

“Income tax is important because it constitutes a crucial parameter for international competitiveness in certain industries and countries,” Granström underlined. “But it will also be natural to look more closely at VAT and custom duties as border trade in certain parts of the Nordic Region erodes the market share of some industries, thus indirectly affecting income from tax.”

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – YEAR PAST

NORDIC REGION OF TOMORROW

Norway held the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2002. The programme for the Presidency – Nordic Region of Tomorrow – focused on the Nordic citizens of tomorrow. The main themes were children and young people, safe food and sustainability.

GUARANTEEING INFLUENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The interests of children and young people should influence the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Studies should be conducted into the feasibility of setting up a Council of Ministers or other appropriate arrangement to improve co-operation between the authorities dealing



with policy affecting children and young people in the Nordic Region, according to the 13 ministers with responsibility for this field.

SAFE FOOD – THE GREENLAND DECLARATION

A joint Nordic action plan to improve food safety would be in the best interests of consumers and

would exert influence on important food issues in the international arena. The ministers responsible for food safety adopted an action plan at a meeting in Greenland.

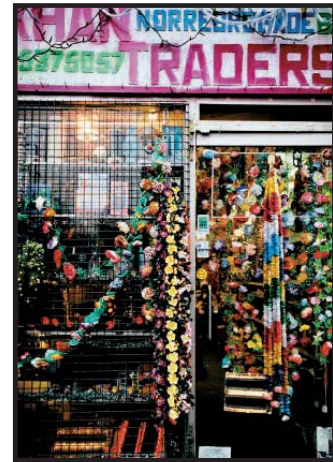
Joint projects were also launched on zoonosis, modernisation of the meat inspectorate, traceability and acrylamide. A dioxin project is also being established.

STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The experiences of the Nordic strategy for sustainable development were a valuable contribution at the UN Summit in Johannesburg and have also been stressed inside the EU. In 2002, the Nordic countries drew up a set of indicators for measuring whether they are on the right path in relation to sustainable development.

LESS COMPLEXITY

It should be simpler to move and commute between the Nordic coun-



tries. That was the message when the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation presented their 23-point inter-sectoral plan for removing obstacles to freedom of movement between the countries.

SOLIDARITY IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The theme conference “Nordic solidarity – the Role of Education and Training in Development Policy” brought together representatives of the education, training and develop-

ment aid authorities in the Nordic Region as well as representatives of international organisations like UNICEF and the World Bank. In a joint statement the Ministers of Education, Training and Development committed themselves to co-ordinating efforts in relation to recipi-

ent countries and international organisations, in first instance UNESCO.

IT SECURITY ON THE AGENDA

A new strategy and action plan for IT was adopted for 2002–2004. Efforts will be concentrated on broadband and digital content, digital administration, IT security and trust, a knowledge society for all, and on indicators for benchmarking progress towards a knowledge society. In the wake of the

MEN CAN!

The Nordic Ministers for Gender Equality commissioned research into the role of men in the Nordic Region. The researchers are now ready to examine cultural and historical similarities and differences between men in the Nordic Region in the following five fields: men and masculinity in the family, working life and finances, fatherhood and close relationships, male opposition to gender equality, and growing up and

SUPPORT FOR INVENTORS

It should be easier to start your own company. The Ministers of Business



terror attacks in the USA on 11 September 2001, IT security and credibility were also placed on the agenda.

how masculinity is developed during the formative stage.



and Industry discussed innovation policy and the simplification of the regulations in the Nordic countries. Particular focus will be on the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises to significantly reduce the administrative burden, including a re-assessment of tax rules for start-ups and of patent legislation.

NORDIC SAAMI CONVENTION

The feasibility of a Nordic Saami Convention should be studied. A joint meeting of ministers and the Presidents of the Saami parliaments in Finland, Norway and Sweden agreed to focus on the East and Skolt Saami languages and cultures. They also identified the necessity of Nordic standardisation to guarantee the right to use the Saami language in all IT contexts.

NORDIC COUNCIL – YEAR PAST

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Progress towards full freedom of cross-border movement was discussed with the Chairperson of the Nordic Council of Ministers, Svein Ludvigsen, at the January meeting of the Nordic Council in Oslo. At a

CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH RUSSIA

The Nordic Council's contacts with Russia were intensified. In February, Council President Outi Ojala and the head of the Federation Council, Sergey Mikhailovich Mironov, met

racy 2020" in April. The Council's environment and natural resources committee was invited by the BIIPB to travel to Sellafeld to discuss emissions from the plant.

POOR WATER QUALITY IN KARELIA

In a report in January, the Nordic Council's observer on environmental issues in Russian Karelia suggested that the Nordic Council of Ministers work with the local health authorities to improve drinking water in Karelia.

INITIATIVE AGAINST FORCED MARRIAGE

New laws and other initiatives against forced marriages and other forms of force or



press conference, the President of the Council presented plans for the anniversary year.

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION

The Council President expressed her delight that representatives of the European Parliament consider the Nordic Council's work on the Northern Dimension to be an important contribution to its implementation, a fact which emerged from discussions during a visit to Strasbourg by the Presidium in May.

to discuss joint projects.

The Northern Dimension is another tool linking the Nordic countries and Russia closer together, Outi Ojala pointed out at a meeting on the Dimension in Moscow in December.

BRITISH SUPPORT TO THE NORDIC REGION

A first meeting between representatives of the Nordic Council and the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body was held in Reykjavik during the theme meeting "Nordic Democ-

violence against young women immigrants ought to be co-ordinated at Nordic level, according to a statement by the Council Presidium in March.

WAR ON POVERTY

In June, politicians from the Nordic Council led by Berit Brørby met the President of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, in Oslo and discussed the war on poverty.

A JOB IS THE PATH TO INTEGRATION

The most important tool for good integration is to find jobs for immigrants, the Danish and Norwegian

ENVIRONMENT ROAD MAP

The Nordic Region should lead the way to sustainable development, the President of the Council said during

also underlined the importance of a Nordic information office in the city.

BOOK AND SATIRE ABOUT THE NORDIC REGION

The book 50 Years of Nordic Co-operation was published to mark the golden jubilee in October. An exhibition of satirical Nordic drawings from the 50 years of Nordic co-operation had its premiere during the Session in October.

NORDIC YOUTH COUNCIL IMPORTANT

The Nordic Youth Council had its funding increased at the Nordic Council meeting in December. The Presidium of the Youth Council will now be able to hold meetings to coincide with Nordic Council meetings throughout the year.



integration ministers agreed at a meeting with the citizens' and consumer rights committee during the summer meeting of the Council in Copenhagen in June.

a Nordic seminar at the World Summit on Sustainability in Johannesburg in August.

IN THE SAME BOAT

The video film "In the Same Boat" about a group of Nordic young people sailing a Viking longboat was screened for the first time during the theme meeting in Reykjavik in April.

HELP FOR KALININGRAD

The Nordic Council of Ministers should call for a donor and aid conference to prioritise and co-ordinate the many development projects and proposals for Kaliningrad, the Council Presidium said at its meeting in Helsinki in October. The Presidium

ALL-OUT EFFORT AGAINST CRIME

"Nordic/Baltic co-operation is an important weapon in the war on organised crime and needs to be developed even further. All-out effort is called for, especially to deal with drug-related crime and trafficking in children and women," the President of the Council, Outi Ojala, pointed out at the Baltic Sea Conference in St. Petersburg in October.

INTERVENING IN CRISES

In a speech to the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) parliamentary assembly in Berlin in July, the Council President expressed hope that the Nordic countries will be able both to launch joint initiatives to prevent conflicts and to intervene in and deal with civil crises.



BEST IN THE WORLD?

The Nordic Region is a world leader in sustainable development. Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden all feature in the top ten as defined by the World Economic Forum (WEF) environment barometer:

The Nordic Region is also one of the few regions in the world to have drawn up a strategy for sustainable development. The seeds of the strategy were sown by the Nordic prime ministers in 1998 when they issued a declaration calling for a sustainable Nordic Region.

The strategy “Sustainable Development – New Bearings for the Nordic Countries” was approved by the Nordic Council in 2001 and then launched by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

It involves strong commitments to sustainable development in the energy, transport, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industry and business sectors.

The strategy also transcends sectors and covers issues such as climate change, biological diversity, the marine environment, emissions of chemical substances, and food safety.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BENCHMARKS

A number of benchmarks have been defined in order to monitor progress towards sustainable development. Siv Friðleifsdóttir (Centre Party), Icelandic Minister of the Environment and Minister for Nordic Cooperation, has faith in the benchmarks.

“They act as guidelines and show whether or not we are on the right path. A strategy is more tangible when progress is quantifiable. The

benchmarks cover many, though not all, areas of social activity, from energy use to local Agenda 21 initiatives. They also facilitate international comparisons,” Friðleifsdóttir points out.

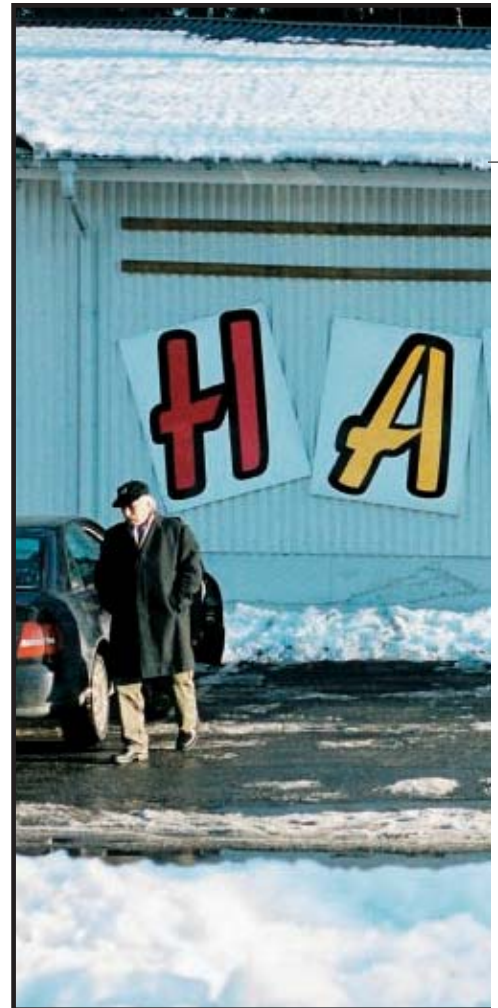
BALANCING ACT

The sustainable development strategy is subject to a process of continuous evaluation designed to result in a revised plan for 2005–2008. Friðleifsdóttir thinks the key to the future will be to understand the interaction between the environment and social and economic development, which was one of the central points of the final declaration at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002.

“Icelandic dependency on the fishing industry is a prime example. Any damage to the marine environment would hit us hard on several levels – in market, social and economic terms. It does not take much imagination to envisage the dire consequences if serious pollution destroyed the fishing industry,” she says.

“The decision that the UN should present regular reports on the state

of the marine environment from 2004 onwards was an important victory at the Summit,” she stresses.



CLOSE TO THE ARCTIC

The Nordic countries are located in a vulnerable area of the world, which includes parts of the Arctic Region, where the first effects of global warming will be felt. Environmental research is the key to advance warning.

“The lack of oxygen in parts of the Baltic Sea served as an ‘alarm signal’ to politicians. History shows that researchers play an important role in monitoring the environment. Research provides a more complete picture of the situation, so I hope the revised strategy for the next period will be even more ambitious,” says

Asmund Kristoffersen MP (Labour, Norway), chair of the Nordic Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

INSPIRATION

The strategy is based on the idea that achievements in one country should help raise others to a higher level.

It stipulates long-term goals over the next two decades and sets specific targets and activities for 2001–2004 in each sector and across sectors. One specific long-term aim, for example, is to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.

The Nordic countries have now started working on a regional energy strategy, including greater use of renewable sources, a precondition for achieving long-term goals in a number of sectors as well as goals that transcend sectors.

“The Nordic countries attracted attention in Johannesburg. Not just because of our strategy but also because the environment ministers all lobbied hard for a more binding wording to the final declaration about the importance of investing in renewable energy instead of just oil and coal,” Siv Friðleifsdóttir concludes.





NEO-NAZIS – ONLY A MOUSE CLICK AWAY

None of the Nordic countries are free of racism and neo-Nazism. The neo-Nazi scene is biggest and best established in Sweden but it has now reached Iceland for the first time.

“The nature of the problem necessitates Nordic and international co-operation. Neo-Nazi gangs co-operate increasingly closely across borders by means of modern information technology,” says the Norwegian Minister of Children and Family Affairs, Laila Dâvøy (Christian People’s Party). She would like to see a permanent expert forum to study Nazism and violent youth gangs.

30

In the last decade, the Internet has become an important working tool for racists, Nazis and other ultra-right groups. It has provided them with a base from which to spread racist propaganda. The Internet has also helped turn their movement into an international one.

Extreme rightwing websites are now the most important channel for the sale and spread of white power music and other propaganda against ethnic groups, according to the report “Racist and Xenophobic Violence” published by the Swedish government.

24-HOUR-A-DAY NETWORK

Twenty-first century technology has facilitated cross-border operations by criminal organisations on a far greater scale and far faster than the authorities had expected.

Time and place mean nothing when right-wing extremists plan, co-ordinate and direct their criminal activities. The Internet has made these organisations more effective. Traditional monitoring and investigative methods have become old-fashioned and ineffective, it was explained at a conference about Nazism and violent gangs organised

by the Nordic Council of Ministers in Norway in May 2002.

Nordic police have been forced to develop new working methods in the wake of the Internet revolution. Telecomms and data monitoring became one of the most important ways of discovering and analysing racist and extreme rightwing networks in the 1990s. Many of the websites are on servers in countries with no anti-racist legislation, however, which limits the ability of the authorities to clamp down on illegal activity.

TRACING HATE

Technically, it is possible to trace all the racist traffic and other forms of international crime on the telecommunication companies' data networks. Digital traces are left in telephone exchanges whenever information is transmitted over local and global data networks.

The police keep – understandably enough – a tight lid on their methods but point out that they have a good picture of the Nazi and racist scene.

Data communication is regulated by the national Telecommunications Acts, as are phone taps and secret monitoring of data. Legislation varies between the Nordic countries, so official cross-border co-operation is important. Definitions of racism also vary as does the practical implementation of the ban on the use of Nazi symbols.

Nordic comparisons show that only Norway and Sweden have enacted legislation providing for tougher sentences for crimes motivated by racism. Denmark, Finland and Iceland do not have such legislation. Introducing laws similar to Norway and Sweden would send out an important signal.

NORDIC NETWORK

In 2003, the Nordic Youth Cooperation Committee under the Nordic Council of Ministers will present proposals to the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation calling

for a network to combat Nazism and violent youth gangs.

A Nordic expert network already exists but the ministers responsible for children and young people in the Nordic Region would like the forum to be permanent.

The Nordic Council supports the idea and identified the need last year for international co-operation in the fight against extreme-right movements.



ROCK ENRICHED THE NORDIC VOCABULARY

English has become a world language in the last 50 years – a sort of universal lingua franca. English is the native language of some of the richest and most powerful states in the world. Popular music, computing and the Internet help underpin its position.

Plenty of evidence suggests that English poses a threat to the many small Nordic languages, e.g. the increasing number of loanwords in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian – although Finnish and Icelandic serve as exceptions to that rule.

“English is also used more and more, especially in business and research, to communicate with the world outside the office door,” says Svein Lie, chairperson of the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Language Policy Reference Group and professor at the University of Oslo.

SALE VS SALG

English is the corporate language of several Nordic industrial groups, e.g., the top management uses English in AstraZeneca, Statoil, Telenor, Nokia and SAS. English is also making inroads in advertising. Posters with SALE! emblazoned on them are replacing old SALG! posters, and the number of TV commercials with untranslated English text continues to rise.

“English has also gained ground in the public sector, especially in higher education. In Norway far more doctoral theses are written in

English than Norwegian, and more than 20% of dissertations are now

takes over in an industry or sector, the original language is said to have suffered domain loss.

This is commonly perceived as a threat, not just in Norway, and was the subject of a major study commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Language Policy Reference Group.

The results are summarised in “The English Language as a Threat and Asset in the Nordic Region” (TemaNord 2002:561) by Renée Höglin. This study reveals that the trend is more or less the same in the whole Nordic Region, i.e. English has gained ground.

In the longer term, English may end up dominating the most prestigious areas of so-

ciety and Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish could be reduced to private or domestic languages. In other words, English might become the refined language and the Nordic languages might be considered common.

written in English. Teaching in English is also encouraged and the section of the Education Act stipulating Norwegian as the normal teaching language in higher education was removed when the Act was amended in 2002,” Svein Lie explains.

DOMAIN LOSS

English dominates the course literature in many subjects. When another language, in this case English,

BUT SO WHAT?

Is the widespread use of English dangerous? No, not as long as it remains a second language. In any case,



nating' English, it would probably be impossible and undesirable. The large number of Nordic citizens who speak English is a major advantage, although to be properly international other languages ought to be spoken as well.

"A complete English takeover would be problematic for a whole host of reasons, however. For example, we would lose contact with our literature, our history, our place names, etc. – in other words with our roots," Lie explains.

The picture is not the same everywhere in the Nordic Region, however. English may pose a threat in minority language areas but it is still the larger Nordic languages which are, or have been, perceived as the main threat to Saami, Faroese and Inuit. Icelandic came under similar pressure in the past but serves as proof positive that domain loss can be transformed into domain gain.

Danish has long dominated public life on the Faroe Islands and in Greenland, but Faroese has gradually conquered most of the public domains since it was recognised as the first language in 1948, and Inuit is stronger than ever in Greenland.

In Iceland, Icelandic won out over Danish in the long run.

NEED FOR NEW LANGUAGE POLICY

This new situation has fuelled the fires of the debate about whether or not the Nordic countries need a new language policy.

"In Sweden, a major study will be published this year. It will form the basis for a new Language Act, so the Swedes have made the most

progress," Svein Lie says.

The study proposes three main objectives: Swedish should be a complete language capable of sustaining all the structures of society; the Swedish spoken in the public domain should be correct and understandable; and everybody should have the right to speak their native language, Swedish and a foreign language.

Specific proposals include that safety regulations, employment contracts, etc. must be in Swedish; that everybody have the right to negotiate in Swedish; that all doctoral theses not written in Swedish must contain a summary in Swedish; and that the Nordic languages be strengthened, e.g. by guaranteeing the position of neighbouring Nordic languages in universities.

Another proposal is to set up a new body with a wider and longer-term perspective than the current Swedish Language Council.

Denmark and Norway are also discussing whether to pass laws protecting the Danish and Norwegian languages. The Ministry of Culture

in Norway is considering whether to adapt the Norwegian Language Council so that it is better equipped to cope with the actuality of a multilingual Norway.

"We like to consider the Nordic languages as small languages but even smaller ones do thrive. Provided the political will is there, smaller languages are perfectly capable of withstanding pressure from larger ones," Lie concludes.

FACTS

One of the roles of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Language Policy Reference Group is to provide Nordic politicians with expert input so that language policy is properly planned. As part of the European Year of Languages in 2001 the Group decided to quantify the scope and spread of domain loss. Domain loss is when a language "loses" its natural domain to a foreign language that starts to dominate in contexts where the native language used to suffice.



INTERNATIONAL CRIME THREAT

EU enlargement to the East has drawn attention to international crime, corruption and money laundering. A large number of smuggling routes pass through Eastern Europe on their way west. The smugglers supply Western markets with drugs, cheap cigarettes and spirits. Bribes and corruption grease a well-oiled machine.

Cross border co-operation is an important tool in the war on international crime and corruption.

"This type of crime poses a threat to the social systems in the Nordic countries," says Arne Lyngstad, chairperson of the Nordic Council Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee.

"Few are fully aware of the threat as politicians and even the police keep it quiet. The silence must be broken," stresses Arne Johannessen, vice-chairperson of the Nordic Police Federation and organiser of a conference for the Nordic Council and Nordic police officers in the parliament in Oslo.

TOTAL SILENCE

The Norwegian Minister of Justice Odd Einar Dørum (Liberal) agrees with Johannessen's assertion that international and organised crime is hushed up. When Dørum brought up the problem in Norway for the first time in 1995, he was met with deafening silence.

He warned, however, against too much of what he called 'folksy' depictions of crime, and called for more crime statistics as the basis for action.

"Different criminal groupings establish formal collaboration, e.g. Cosa Nostra and the Albanian Mafia. The danger is when these organisations infiltrate the legal system and the police," Dørum points out.

There are several reasons for the political silence. Political correctness besets politicians and the police, making it more difficult to address problems for fear of upsetting ethnic groups.

Much of the crime in the Nordic Region is committed by people who have settled in the countries in recent years. International criminal networks know no borders. They are almost global, several sources pointed out at the conference.

"A Nordic front needs to be established in the war on international crime. Joint Nordic training of specialists in the field and the exchange of information between the Nordic countries are among the Nordic Council proposals," says the Finnish MP Marja Tiura (National Coalition Party – Conservative) another member of the Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee.

NO AVOIDING IT

The Nordic Region cannot avoid international crime. Finland has be-



come a staging post for crime on its way to the rest of the Nordic Region.

"So far, we have not had the most professional criminal groups in Finland, but the trend is towards better-organised groups," says Finnish MP Ranta-Muotio (Centre Party), also of the Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee.

"Drugs and economic crime have

both gained footholds in Finland. Much of the international crime in Finland is imported from Russia. About 60 organised groups have been monitored in the country. They are mainly interested in drug smuggling and economic crime, alcohol and cigarette smuggling, human trafficking and prostitution, and pirate copying," Ranta-Muotio explains.

EUROPE A LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

"Crime has spread rapidly westwards since the fall of the Iron Curtain. There are two reasons for this," says EU researcher Lykke Friis, co-author along with Kenneth S. Hansen of the book *An Enlarged EU – El Dorado or Minefield for Criminals*.

"One reason is the adaptation from Communism to a market economy. Eastern Europe is seen by criminals as a land of milk and honey – located between the rich West and Russia with its mighty Mafia," Lykke-Friis says.

Even though organised crime is widespread in Central and Eastern Europe, it is not expected to lead to more crime in Western Europe immediately after the enlargement in 2004.

"A joint European crime network already exists and the Mafia has moved into Western Europe. Thus the damage has already been done," says Per Kaalund MP (Danish Social Democrat), vice-chairperson of the Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee.

"Enlargement will hardly make any difference. When the Iron Curtain fell it also enabled the Mafia to cross borders in Europe and travel

more freely than before. Police co-operation must, therefore, be strengthened through Europol," Per Kaalund thinks.

GREATER COMMITMENT NEEDED

"A good witness protection programme is needed for people who defect from international criminal organisations," Ranta-Muotio believes.

The Norwegian Minister of Justice, Odd Einar Dørum, says that the Nordic countries are working on just such a scheme. "The countries are similar enough to make them well-suited to a joint witness protection programme," Dørum says.

"Enlargement may, on the other hand, provide East and West with new frameworks and tools in the fight against organised crime. A strong European border police, supranational police co-operation

and international co-operation on criminal law point the way forward but it is a controversial problem and will take a long time to solve," Lykke-Friis thinks.

"Criminals in Europe ride the high-speed trains while the politicians chug along on the old steam trains," Lykke-Friis says.

The chair of the Nordic Police Federation, Jan Karlsen (Sweden), believes that the lack of political commitment in fighting crime is because politicians are not aware of what is going on.

One of the main conclusions of the Nordic Council conference on international crime was that politicians must base their funding policies on the new threats after the fall of the Soviet Union and make sure that the police have the resources to take up the fight against international crime.



THE CHANGING FACE OF CULTURE FUNDING

It is the scope of the Nordic Cultural Fund that makes it such an important and unique part of Nordic cultural co-operation.

“Obviously it would be simpler if the Nordic Cultural Fund supported fewer art forms and projects but then it would no longer be unique,” says Swedish MP Kent Olsson (Moderate), chairperson of the Nordic Cultural Fund.

The Nordic Cultural Fund was set up in the 1960s when cultural policy began to move up the political agenda and the Nordic countries started to establish their own ministries of culture.

It is a long way from the positive mood of the 1960s to contemporary cultural policy and the tendency for the public sector to invest fewer resources in culture.

“Foundations and other sponsors are also limiting their donations, a trend that we regret,” Olsson points out.

“Culture is becoming more and more international, so it is important to have a fund in the Nordic Region with relatively non-specific guidelines. However, the range also makes demands

on the Secretariat and its quality assurance procedures, e.g. through the Fund’s co-operation with the



Nordic Council of Ministers and the Nordic art committees.

MAJOR NORDIC PUSH

As well as underlining the breadth of the Fund’s activities, the Board has also agreed to make a major effort in 2003, and every second year after that, to make cultural co-operation a more visible activity.

The “Nordic Exhibition of the Year” is the name of one of the funding programmes run by the Nordic Cultural Fund. A total of 3 million Danish kroner has been earmarked for the project.

“It is not a competition but an initiative that the Board considers interesting. Applications will be sought for the first time in 2003 by the Fund and the Nordic Museum Committee. As well as the programme itself, we hope

new forms of collaboration and networks will emerge in the Nordic museum world,” Kent Olsson explains.

50 YEARS OF CULTURAL POLICY

The Nordic culture model is another project to which the Fund is committed. More than 60 researchers from the Nordic Region and other countries have compared and analysed similarities and differences in state cultural policy in the Nordic Region from World War Two until today, including Saami cultural policy.

The overall theme of the report was the conditions faced by cultural policy and art. The main report was written by the Danish cultural sociologist Peter Duelund. Arne Ruth, ex-editor-in-chief and cultural editor of Dagens Nyheter in Sweden, wrote a summary. To coincide with the publication of the report, and to reach a wider public, the Nordic Cultural Fund hosted a series of conferences about the Nordic cultural policies of today and tomorrow.

“The objective is, of course, to generate debate as the Nordic countries are involved in constant dialogue about the revision of national cultural policies,” Kent Olsson says.

LANGUAGE PROJECT

The Nordic Cultural Fund is also committed to language projects. Linguist Øivind Maarud conducted a survey of inter-Nordic linguistic understanding among young people aged 18 to 20 about 30 years ago.

In linguistic terms, the Nordic Region looks different now than it did in 1976, with more immigrants, more widespread use of English and the Internet, etc. The study examines the current level of linguistic understanding in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and measures how well Finns, Icelanders, the Faroese,

Greenlanders and Nordic citizens with a non-Nordic native language understand the three Scandinavian languages.

Finally, the study compares the level of understanding English in the Nordic Region.

GREAT VALUE

Kent Olsson thinks that the Nordic Cultural Fund helps promote vitality in the Nordic Region.

“Contributions from the Nordic Cultural Fund often generate project funding worth three or four times as much from other sources. It is a case of somebody having to take the first step. The Nordic Cultural Fund has a good reputation among other donors, and financial support from the Fund is often seen as a seal of approval.”

“A look back over the last decade reveals that the Nordic Cultural Fund has received applications for a total of 1.5 billion and has made grants of approximately 200 million Danish kroner.”

“A conservative estimate is that the Fund’s contribution has encouraged a further 500 million from other donors. I think it is safe to say that the Fund is of great value,” Kent Olsson concludes.



FACTS

The main purpose of the Nordic Cultural Fund is to provide funding to individuals, associations or institutions for cultural projects.

In 2002, the Fund received 850 applications and funded 239 projects.

In 2002, applications amounted to 140 million and the Cultural Fund had 26 million Danish kroner at its disposal.

The smallest donation was 15,000, the largest 450,000 Danish kroner.

NORDIC RESEARCH TOP OF THE LEAGUE

If the Nordic countries are to improve their international position in the world of research then traditional barriers need to be broken down. A number of initiatives have already been launched to achieve this aim. The Nordic Council of Ministers has, for example, set up Nordic Centres of Excellence in natural and environmental science research. The Centres study climate research and other subjects of interest and benefit to the whole of the Nordic Region.

The project was originally proposed by the Joint Committee of the Nordic Natural Science Research Councils, which is contributing 7 million Danish kroner p.a., and the Nordic Council of Ministers, which is providing 3 million p.a. during the programme period 2003–2007. The Nordic Academy for Advanced Study (NorFA) has earmarked 1.7 million Norwegian kroner for two research schools during the same period.

The Centres of Excellence concentrate on basic climate research, more specifically on global atmospheric and oceanic changes and on ecosystem processes during times of climate change. The idea is to raise the level of research and to create networks of researchers at universities and research institutes in the Nordic countries. As well as the synergy effects, it is hoped that the programme will draw attention to Nordic research at international level.

NORDIC NETWORKS

Four Centres of Excellence and three virtual networks have been set up, i.e. the researchers are not physically located in the same place but

work from their home countries:

- The University of Oslo heads a network studying the effects of climate change on ecosystems, which includes the Universities of Helsinki and Lund.

- The University of Helsinki heads a team of researchers in Denmark, Norway and Sweden looking into the effects of climate change on the biosphere, the part of the Earth in which organisms live.

- The University of Stockholm leads research involving people in Denmark, Finland and Iceland into carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere and their effects on the ecosystems in the northern areas.

In addition, Risø National Laboratory near Roskilde on Zealand has been designated an “open centre”, i.e. researchers are able to use Risø's special equipment and expertise in the luminescence method built up since the 1960s.

The research is conducted by associate professor Andrew Murray from the University of Århus and Lars Bøtter-Jensen of the Risø National Laboratory. Risø started out as a centre for research into nuclear

power but when Denmark decided not to invest in atomic energy, its field of research was expanded to what we now know as the luminescence method.

By studying when a grain of sand in a given deposit was last exposed to daylight, the method makes it possible to date substances back 150,000 years. The method is called luminescence and is better than the carbon-14 method, which is only applicable to material no older than 40,000 years.

PUT SIMPLY, THE LUMINESCENCE METHOD IS ABOUT LIGHT

“The stronger the emission, the older the grain of sand. The method can be used to date geological material which, for example, tells us something about the extent of the ice cap in northern Russia during the Ice Age.”

“The method is also useful in dating historical events, e.g. by measuring when brick was burnt or how old the remains of a bonfire are,” Andrew Murray and Lars Bøtter-Jensen explain. At the moment, they are developing portable equipment for field use in Greenland and Siberia.



THE SAAMI – FOUR COUNTRIES, ONE PEOPLE

Kautokeino is located in the far north of Norway. Here, in the middle of the Saami territories, lies the Nordic Saami Institute. For 30 years, the Institute has conducted research into the Saami languages, culture and society in Finland, Norway, North-West Russia and Sweden. The Nordic Council of Ministers is the main source of funding for the Institute.

Kirsti Strøm Bull is professor at the Department of Private Law at the University of Oslo as well as senior researcher at the Nordic Saami Institute:

“As long as the state of Norway is a land inhabited by two peoples, we will obviously conduct research into the Saami people. However, that research is isolated from the rest of the research community. In other words, there is still a deafening silence about the Saami in Norwegian research,” Bull regrets.

GOLD FEVER

One of the most hotly debated issues in all the Nordic countries concerns the rights of the indigenous peoples to land and natural resources. Huge pressure is exerted on the Saami areas in Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway by a wide range of interested parties.

The British mining company Rio Tinto-Zinc and the Finnish company Malmikaivos backed by Australian Ashton Mining sought exploration licenses in the Norwegian part of the Saami territories in 2000. Both applications were withdrawn in the end but prove that there is great interest in the underground natural

resources all over the Saami territories north of the Polar Circle.

The indigenous population at the top of Europe sits, literally, on unknown volumes of gold, diamonds and other precious gems, resources that could be exploited. Mining would, however, disrupt the grazing lands of around a half million reindeer spread over large areas of Finland, North-West Russia, Norway and Sweden.

CONTROVERSIAL RESEARCH

But how is the Institute's research on legal rights perceived? Is it possible to remain neutral?

“Our aim is to collate knowledge about the legal rights in a historical perspective. But research into rights always has been and always will be controversial.”

“Our work is based on the premise that knowledge is an important parameter for keeping the peace, so it is better to bring controversial issues out into the open than to leave them to fester away under the surface.”

“Another aim is to provide input that may be useful when it comes to institutionalising the administration of resources, something that has to be done in accordance with the over-

all aim of promoting sustainable development in the economic, organic and cultural spheres. Our research, combined with that of the social sciences, provides input that smoothes the path towards sustainable development,” she concludes.

DIGITAL SAAMI

The conditions faced by Saami culture change radically all the time, and external languages and cultures have also left their mark on Saami society. Technologically, the Saami are often at the leading edge as far as using digital media like the Internet and mobile phones are concerned.

“Our job is to gain insight into the processes that affect the conditions for Saami culture and into the way it is expressed. Social science is instrumental in devising policy that makes it easier to administer Saami culture.”

Saami culture is closely related to the Saami language or languages. The Saami do not actually speak a single common language. There are many variations of Saami, and a Saami from Trøndelag in the south of Norway will not understand the North Saami variant of the language. Other branches of the Saami lan-



guage are East Saami, Inari, Lule and Skolt Saami, often described as the small Saami languages because so few people speak them.

60 WORDS FOR SNOW

In recent years, the Nordic Saami Institute has launched a number of projects designed to revitalise the Saami languages. A Saami text bank containing articles from Saami newspapers, old and new texts from books, and tape recordings of Saami languages is just one of the initiatives to promote Saami language research.

“The text bank is updated with new words on an almost daily basis. The Saami languages develop all the time. We have more than 60 words for snow and snow conditions but no

word for oil platform. Journalists in the Saami media had to make it up.”

“It is interesting to study language developments to see what types of new word have been created and how new phenomena are described in Saami in the 21st century,” senior researcher Nils Helander of the Nordic Saami Institute explains.

MOUTH TO MOUTH

The Institute also promotes the revival or revitalisation of the small languages.

“In laymen’s terms, this is a linguistic version of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, in which the Saami themselves help pass on words and expressions to the next generation.”

As part of her doctorate, re-

searcher Anni Jansson has launched revitalisation projects along the same model for South Saami, Inari Saami and East Saami,” Nils Helander says.

“By improving our insight into the relationships between sentence structure and the meaning of words, we can nurture the language. It is important to avoid separate developments of the Saami languages in bilingual societies, which would make it difficult to communicate for the Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Saami.

“To achieve this calls for knowledge and awareness of the Saami language as a single common language straddling the national borders in the northernmost regions,” Helander concludes.

TRY HARD AND GET WHAT YOU NEED

Inese Birzniece gave up a promising legal career in Los Angeles and emigrated to Latvia in 1988 to become a politician. Indulis Emsis is an ex-Minister of the Environment in Latvia. He now represents the Green Party, which was elected to parliament, the Saeima, for the first time this year and forms part of the ruling coalition.

Both are personally committed to rebuilding Latvia and thank the Nordic Council and Nordic politicians for their efforts to rebuild the Baltic States.

The Nordic Council has run a programme since 1992 that allows Baltic MPs to benefit from the collective experience of the Nordic Region and to meet with their Nordic counterparts. In 1995, the scheme was expanded to cover MPs from North-West Russia. To date, some 250 politicians have taken part.

few years ago, fish from the Daugava were almost inedible. Industrial pollution and domestic sewage were destroying life in the river.

"It is clean now," Indulis Emsis explains to his fellow anglers. "And we can thank our neighbours for that," he continues, referring to the Nordic Ministers of the Environ-

Norwegian and Swedish parliaments to learn from and exchange experiences with fellow politicians.

"I still keep in touch with them and we meet up from time to time, e.g. at the Baltic Assembly. We also maintain good relationships with the Nordic environment ministries, especially with the Finnish ministry, which has been incredibly helpful. I think the Nordic Council programme serves a useful purpose."

RUSSIAN REPRISAL

The Latvian government published an environment strategy recently. The strategy accepted by parliament includes plans for recycling in the public and private sectors and for developing bio-gas plants at landfill sites.

Private investors are keen to use Riga harbour to ship oil from Russia. "We have refused point blank and are now being punished by the Russians who no longer pump oil via the pipeline to Ventspils, the biggest harbour in Latvia. They have appealed to us to privatise Ventspils, but it is just a cheap trick to buy it



ICE FISHING IN RIGA

We invited Indulis Emsis to indulge in a spot of ice fishing in the Daugava, which runs through Riga, the nation's capital. Latvians are passionate about angling, an activity regarded by some as more of a punishment than a sport because of the cold. A

ment and NEFCO, the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation. Without their aid the fish would still be inedible. "The river now fully meets EU specifications," Emsis says as the anglers try their luck.

He took part in the Nordic Council programme in 1997, visiting the

at a reasonable price.”

Emsis is also worried about the increasing number of particularly unsafe single-hull oil tankers in the Baltic Sea. “We are working hard to head off an environmental catastrophe. I am pleased that the Nordic Council is doing the same,” he says.

MORE THAN JUST A FAIRY TALE

For Inese Birzniece, Latvia has become more than just the fairy tale land her parents talked about when she was a child. After World War Two, her father fled from Latvia via Germany, where he met her mother in a refugee camp, before settling in Los Angeles where he supported the family by picking oranges along with Mexican farm workers.

“What I remember most about my childhood was the Sundays. Sunday was Latvia’s day, when we dreamt of freeing our country from Soviet occupation. We had a mission – to liberate Latvia, but I had to keep quiet about it on my visits to the country during the Soviet era.”

“Later, I graduated in law from UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles). My degree opened a lot of doors but I gave it all up to return to Latvia in the late 1980s to join the struggle. I have never regretted it, even though my commitment to Latvia has probably cost me upwards of a million dollars in lost income,” she says.

NO ROAD MAP

In 1995, Inese visited the parliament in Copenhagen to study Danish legislation and learn how legislation is drafted in a democracy.

“When the Soviet occupation

crumbled, we had no road map for the transition from a planned to a market economy. Passing laws and rules that everybody respects is no



easy task, especially after the experience of the Soviet occupation. What we learned from the Nordic countries continues to be useful as we build a new constitution. Especially now, as we face implementing EU legislation as well.”

Inese Birzniece is now one of the closest advisors to the Latvian Minister of Justice. She served as an MP for the party Latvia’s Way from 1993–2002. Her party formed part of every ruling coalition in the 1990s but fell foul of the minimum vote hurdle at last year’s general election.

“Political upheaval was the order of the day in all three Baltic states in the 1990s, probably because the voters were not exactly sure what they were looking for,” Inese Birzniece says.

Despite losing her seat, Birzniece still believes in Latvia, and thinks co-

operation with the Nordic countries will be even closer once the three Baltic States join the EU.

PRACTICAL SOLIDARITY

“We really appreciate the solidarity shown by the Nordic Council. Our dream is the same level of welfare provision as in the Nordic countries. It is a goal worth pursuing but it takes time to rebuild a country and old ways of thinking have to change. People were not used to making their own decisions during the Soviet era.”

“My hopes may sound idealistic but that is the dream I tell myself and others about every morning,” says Inese Birzniece before reminding us that Mick Jagger once sang that “you can’t always get what you want, but if you try sometimes you might find that you get what you need.”

SELLAFIELD UNDER FIRE

Irritation is mounting along the coastal areas of the West Nordic Region. People are annoyed by the continuing emissions of radioactive substances from the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Great Britain. Nordic environment ministers and parliamentarians have taken up the issue with their British counterparts, but to no avail.

The core of the dispute is nuclear waste of the type technetium-99, an isotope with a half-life of 213,000 years which the British intend to continue to pump straight into the sea until 2006.

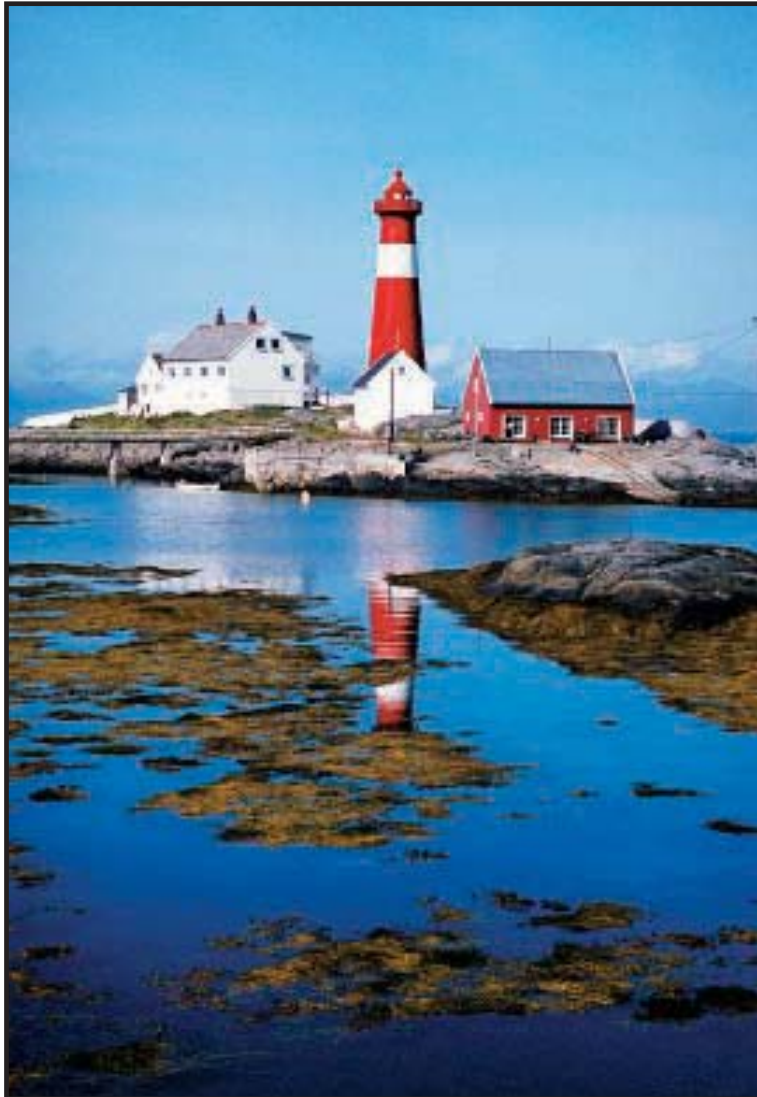
According to the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, emissions of radioactive material from Sellafield correspond to the levels generated by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986.

Although radioactivity in the air is more serious than emissions into the sea, pollution from the British nuclear reprocessing plant has been registered along the coast of Norway.

“Up to 600 becquerel has been registered in seaweed in the west of Norway. The EU threshold is 400 becquerel for children’s food and 1,200 becquerel for adults. Stopping emissions from Sellafield is an urgent priority,” says the Norwegian Minister of the Environment Børge Brende (Conservative).

“Although a lot has been done to reduce radioactive emissions from Sellafield, the situation is different with technetium-99,” says Norwegian Labour MP Asmund Kristoffersen, chairperson of the Nordic Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

“No attempt is made to filter this substance out and the levels of emis-





sions are higher than ever. The pollution follows the currents along the coast of Norway all the way up to Lofoten and the North Atlantic.”

BRITISH PARADOX

Icelandic Minister of the Environment Siv Fríðleifsdóttir (Centre Party) finds it paradoxical that the British environment minister, Michael Meacher, claims that the emissions are safe as the amounts are small.

“Sellafield’s owners would like to clean and store the waste on land but the British government is in two minds about the proposal as they fear the waste might penetrate into the ground water and pollute it,” Siv Fríðleifsdóttir says.

“It is irresponsible of the British government to continue to approve emissions that endanger the marine environment and public health,” Kristoffersen stressed.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee has lobbied the British House of Commons, the Irish Dáil, the devolved Scottish parliament and the Welsh Assembly on

this issue. It is also working with the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body (BIIPB), which is also worried about the pollution from Sellafield.

GROWING OPPOSITION

A torch-lit procession was held to protest against Sellafield during the North Sea Conference in Bergen in 2002 – a popular manifestation of the general discontentment with emissions of radioactive waste from the reprocessing plant. And there is good reason to worry.

Pollution from Sellafield has already been registered along the coast of Norway, so the Nordic environment ministers think it is important to halt the emissions. They have confronted the British on the matter several times. Børge Brende thinks it is important to increase popular pressure in the Nordic Region and Great Britain.

“People in Great Britain must be told about the pollution and the consequences it has for people along the north Nordic coasts,” Brende says.

The protest organisation Lofoten

against Sellafield would like to put the ball back into the British court and get the general public involved.

“Sellafield is a very difficult case. Popular and organised opposition plays a positive role,” Kristoffersen thinks. “I look forward to more torches casting light on the issue until the British government finally understands its seriousness.”

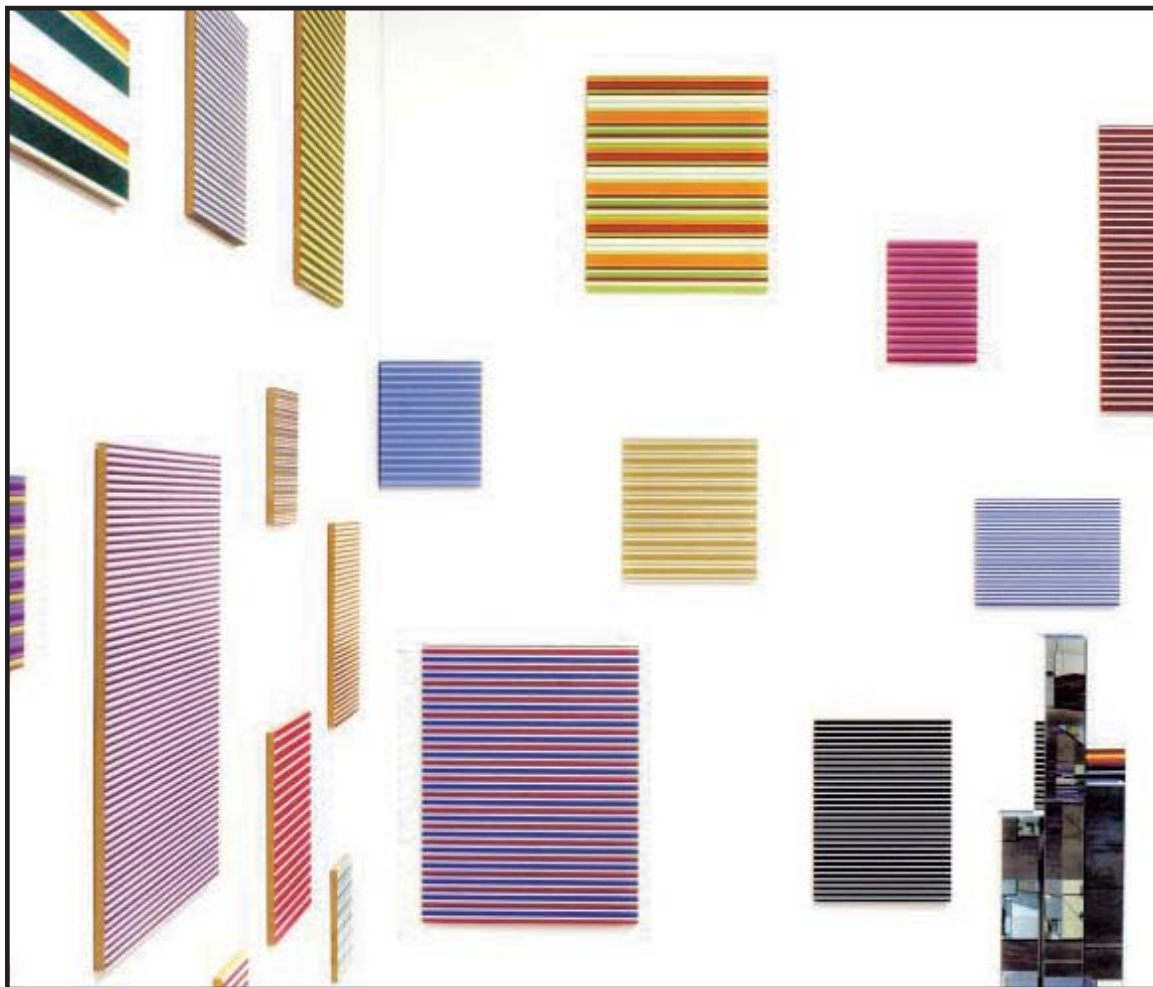
FACTS

Sellafield is one of three non-military plants in the world that reprocesses spent nuclear fuel.

PLUTONIUM *must be treated with great care. Too high a plutonium content in the body increases risk of leukaemia.*

TECHNETIUM: *The isotope technetium-99 is a fission product of uranium. It has a half-life of 213,000 years and is easily carried by sea currents.*

BECQUEREL *is a measurement for amounts of radioactivity. It expresses the number of nuclear transformations per second.*



STRIPES

Stripes in all sorts of colours characterise the work of the Swedish artist Jacob Dahlgren. He owns over 400 striped t-shirts, which inspire his paintings and vice versa. In autumn 2002, he was one of many Nordic artists involved in the Nordic Council of Ministers project Network North – a culture programme in the Adjacent Areas to the west of the Nordic Region.

“It was great to be in Glasgow along with 36 other Nordic and British artists as part of a Network North exhibition in the Tramway,” says Dahlgren, who had to return to Sweden and unfortunately missed the opening.

“But I found time to buy new striped jerseys—and they were cheap. Three shirts for a pound,” he recalls.

BIT BY BIT

He first started working with stripes at the Royal University College of Fine Arts in Stockholm.

“Since I was always wearing striped jerseys, people said that I

looked like my art, or vice-versa. It was a liberating feeling to realise that the jerseys could be part of my art,” Dahlgren says.

“I take extracts from images or patterns by other artists and put them together. It’s a bit like the sampling technique used by musicians to put together sounds and melodies. When I have collected all the elements into a unit, it becomes my own work of art.”

Dahlgren only works with horizontal stripes. Vertical stripes are not part of his world. Or perhaps they are just too reminiscent of the radiator on a posh Rolls Royce?

“They are not as exciting. Horizontal stripes have a heavier effect.”

CULTURE NETWORK

Network North involved the Nordic Region and the British Isles, with particular focus on Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The idea was to build new, mutually beneficial art and culture networks.

The comprehensive programme covered a large number of art forms in contemporary art, music, folk music, drama, literature and film.

Organisationally, Network North was a collaborative venture involving the Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art (NIFCA), the Nordic Music Committee (NOMUS), the Nordic Centre for the Performing Arts (NordScen) and partner bodies in the British Isles.

The new contacts and the networks that emerged from Network North will continue to work together.

Network North included more than 60 sub-projects, many of which also received funding from the Irish Arts Council, the Scottish Arts Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, a sign that the projects enjoyed support at national level as well as from the cultural scene. The literature information centre and the Nordic film institutes also took part in Network North.



POLLUTION IS CARRIED BY THE CURRENTS

New forms of pollution from the land threaten the marine environment and have an impact upon both people and fish. Incidences of DDT and PCB pollution may well be on the decline but attention has recently turned towards other pollutants, e.g. dioxin. Researchers are still not sure of the effects dioxins have on the food chain. The Nordic Council of Ministers is studying the matter.

“We know a lot about the consequences of pollutants for land but not for the sea. This unsettles consumers. They do not know whether or not it is safe to eat seafood, so it is important to conduct research and monitor the effects on the marine environment. Researchers will provide a more detailed picture and a basis for action,” says the Norwegian chairperson of the Nordic

Council Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Asmund Kristoffersen MP (Labour).

SINS OF THE FATHERS

Pollutants like PCB may have an impact up to 30 years later, according to a Swedish study.

“This is an alarming piece of information,” Kristoffersen says.

He is supported by the Norwe-

gian environment minister Børge Brende (Conservative) who takes the results of the Swedish study seriously. The sons of women who ate a lot of polluted seafood while pregnant are said to have up to four times the risk of contracting testicular cancer, according to a study by Professor Lennart Hardell that demonstrates a clear link between testicular cancer and large-scale



post-war emissions of pollutants.

“It is a matter of grave concern if Professor Hardell is right that incidences of cancer may have risen because of pollution. We are still suffering for the sins of our fathers,” Børge Brende says.

Data collated by researcher Miriam Jacobs at the University of Surrey in Great Britain indicates that the greater the fat content in fish, the greater the risk of ingesting pollutants such as heavy metals, pesticides and other forms of pollution that accumulate in fish fat.

“I am worried about farmed fish because it has a tendency to be fatter, exacerbating the impact of the pollutants,” Mariam Jacobs says.

DIET ADVICE FOR CONSUMERS

In the Nordic Region consumers are used to receiving dietary advice and recommendations about what foodstuffs to eat. Against the protests of the Nordic members, the EU introduced threshold values for dioxin in foodstuffs which must not be exceeded. Finland and Sweden are now feeling the consequences with Baltic herring registering a higher dioxin level than the EU threshold.

Like Nordic nutrition researchers, Miriam Jacobs thinks that pregnant and breast-feeding women ought to be careful about eating fish.

“We already know that the most common source of dioxin found in infants is their mothers’ milk,” she says.

Several Nordic nutritionists however point out that the nutritional benefits of eating fish far outweigh the disadvantages.

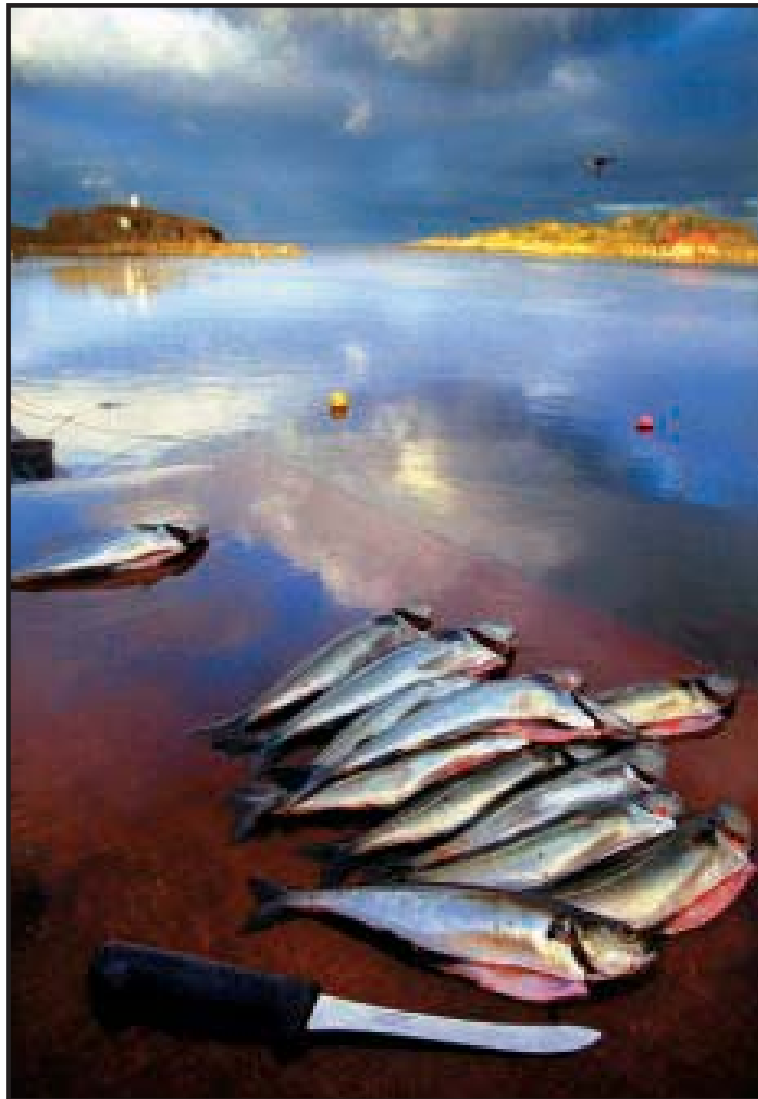
BALTIC SEA STUDY

These issues form the key elements of a study that the Nordic Council of Ministers has commissioned at the behest of the Nordic Council. In it a panel of experts will study the Baltic Sea. Compared with other marine environments, water flows into the Baltic Sea from large tracts of land and the water is replaced slowly.

In other words, the Baltic is more exposed but also an eminently suitable experimental laboratory in which to measure the state of the environment.

The Council of Ministers' study is designed to identify the current level of knowledge as well as future needs. It will also study average weekly intakes of dioxin from vegetables, dairy products and meat as well as from fish.

The central questions concern the long-term effects, identifying the pollution sources and, of course, initiatives to reduce pollution levels. The study will also examine how international co-operation can help find lasting solutions.



NORDIC NOTES – NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The experienced Swedish politician Per Unckel took over as Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers on 1 January 2003, succeeding Søren Christensen of Denmark after six years in the job.

Unckel was leader of the Moderate Party youth section from 1971 to 1976 when he was elected to parliament. He was elected secretary of the Moderate Party in 1986, a post he held until 1991 when he was appointed Minister of Education in Carl Bildt's government. His most recent post was as chairperson of the Moderate group in the Swedish parliament.

POETRY IN TALLINN

Nordic literature and poetry have found a home in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Nordic authors were invited to recite and talk about their works for the second time in 2002. Inger Christensen and Jens Christian Grøndahl from Denmark, Erlend Loe, Silje Vethal and Torgeir Rebbledo Pedersen from Norway, Sirkka Turkka, Hannu Kankaanpää and

Curt West from Finland, Sjón from Iceland, Hanus Kamban and Oddfridur Rasmussen from the Faroes and Aleksei Shelvah from St. Petersburg all took part.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THE NORTHERN DIMENSION

The Nordic Council of Ministers is playing an active role in drawing up the second action plan for the EU Northern Dimension. The Council of Ministers was invited to take part in this work for the first time in 2002. As a response to this invitation, the Council of Ministers has provided input which puts Nordic interests in the wider perspective of the Northern Dimension.

NORDIC REGION – A CO-OPERATING REGION

Several states around the Baltic Sea are members of multilateral bodies. Apart from the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers there are also the Council of the Baltic Sea States, the Barents Council and the Arctic Council. In 2002, the Nordic Council of Ministers drew up principles for closer co-operation between these organisations. Those principles are contained in the report "The Nordic Region – a Region of Co-operation".

IT STRENGTHENS DEMOCRACY

The Nordic countries are among the world IT leaders. Some 90% of

Nordic citizens have a mobile phone, over 70% a computer and just over 60% Internet access at home.

There are no real gender or age differences in IT use. Both young and old from 16 to 74 say they use one form of IT or another, according to data from a major Nordic study of the use of IT commissioned by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

NORDIC PUBLIC HEALTH PRIZE

The 2002 Nordic Public Health Prize went to Professor Dan Olweus. He was awarded the SEK 50,000 prize for his commitment to combating bullying among children and young people. His pioneering efforts have earned him the nickname "father of bullying research".

CLIMATE CHANGES THREATEN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Global warming changes the climate rapidly. The effect is not just more rain and storms. The consequences for the marine environment can also be serious. Researchers at the University of Bergen in Norway have documented that the Gulf Stream, a vital source of all life in the Northern hemisphere, has grown weaker. The pace of replacement or circulation of cold water in the Norwegian Sea – the motor for the Gulf Stream that ensures a mild climate in the North Sea and along the Norwegian coast – has fallen by 25% in the last 50 years.

NORDIC NOTES

– NORDIC COUNCIL

MURDER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HONOUR AND CULTURE

The tragic murder of the young immigrant woman Fadime Sahindal in Sweden at the start of the year prompted strong feelings in the Nordic Region. The Nordic Council issued a statement condemning the killing and saying that it was both an

Nordic Council Film Prize 2002. It was the first time that the Nordic Council has awarded a film prize in addition to the annual prizes for literature, music and the environment. The prize was for DKK 350,000. It has still not been decided whether the Nordic Council Film Prize will become an annual event.

Nordic Region should also stamp its democratic imprint on other forms of international co-operation, e.g. on free trade.

The Nordic Region ought to play an active role in defining and implementing the Northern Dimension. The Nordic EU members should endeavour to make sure that the Northern Dimension also has a positive effect on the parts of our region that are not full members of the Union.

The Nordic Region must also make sure that immigrants who have come to our countries are covered by, and have joint responsibility for, the development of democracy. If everybody works together, the Nordic Region can be used in a constructive manner to confront the challenges of the future.

Free trade and globalisation were also debated at the theme conference, where it was pointed out that the rules and regulations are specifically designed to safeguard the interests of small nations.



expression and a result of extreme oppression of women.

The Council stressed that the basic right to life and women's rights must be respected by everybody who lives in the Nordic countries. The Council pointed out that this type of outrage does not deserve to be associated with concepts like "honour" or "culture". Arranged marriages were also condemned by the Council.

A DREAM ABOUT HOMELESS HEARTS

The feature film "The Man without a Past", written, directed and produced by Aki Kaurismäki, won the

NORDIC DEMOCRACY 2020

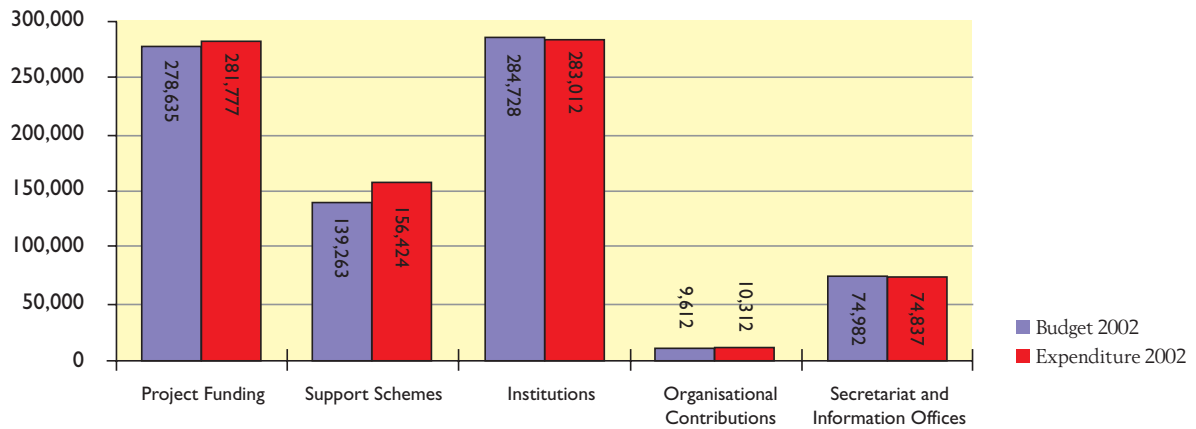
The challenges faced by Nordic democracy was the recurring topic of the theme meeting in Reykjavik.

The Nordic Region must, for example, make sure that EU enlargement happens as democratically as possible. The importance of the regions in maintaining Nordic democracy was pointed out. The



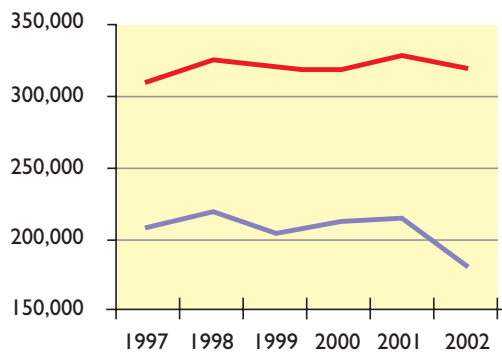
NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS – FINANCIAL SUMMARY

LIQUIDITY IN 2002 PRICES (DKK 1,000)



LIQUIDITY IN 2002 PRICES (DKK 1,000)

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Liquidity, 31 Dec	208,488	218,851	204,352	211,092	214,410	181,000
Average liquidity	311,441	324,763	319,470	319,533	326,622	319,680
Liquidity, 31 Dec, % of the budget	27%	28%	26%	27%	27%	23%
Average liquidity, % of the budget	40%	42%	41%	41%	41%	41%



In order to facilitate comparisons from year to year, the diagram above has been based on index-linked data at 2002 prices.

Average liquidity was very stable in 2002, and liquid assets fell at the end of the year in relation to the otherwise stable tendency in previous years.

■ Liquidity, 31 Dec (DKK 1,000)
■ Average Liquidity (DKK 1,000)

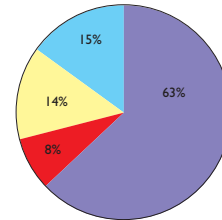
LEVEL OF FUNDING FROM THE NCOM

INSTITUTION	2002	2001
Nordic Council for Alcohol and Drug Research	97%	98%
Nordtest	96%	96%
Nordic Co-operation on Disability	96%	96%
Nordic Centre for the Performing Arts	94%	86%
Nordic Industrial Fund	91%	87%
Nordic House in Reykjavik	90%	90%
Nordic Gene Bank	89%	65%
Nordic Institute in Finland	88%	91%
Nordic Staff Training Centre for Deafblind Services	88%	90%
Nordic Institute on Greenland	86%	76%
Nordic Institute in Åland	85%	62%
Nordic Volcanological Institute	84%	96%
Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research	83%	88%
Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art	83%	94%
Nordic Council for Scientific Information	83%	90%
Nordic School of Public Health *	82%	78%
Nordic Journalist Centre	81%	84%
Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics	80%	91%
Scandinavian Institute of Dental Materials	76%	76%
Nordic Institute for Advanced Training in Occupational Health	76%	76%
Nordic Folk Academy	70%	70%
Nordic Academy for Advanced Study	67%	69%
Nordic House in the Faroe Islands	65%	70%
Nordic Sami Institute	62%	63%
Nordic Institute of Asian Studies	62%	65%
Nordic Project Fund	58%	75%
Nordregio	52%	52%
Nordic Programme for Development of Social Services	48%	93%
Nordic Information Centre for Media and Communication Research	43%	23%
Nordic Institute of Maritime Law	23%	25%
Nordic Energy Research	9%	6%

*The Nordic School of Public Health is financed directly by the Nordic countries.

The level of direct funding for the Nordic institutions by the Council of Ministers varies from approximately 10% to almost 100%. The institutions are very different in nature and range from basic research institutions to foundations.

COMPOSITION OF INCOME OF INSTITUTIONS



- Allocation in NCoM Budget
- Other NCoM Allocation
- National/International Grants
- Other Sources of Income

The Council of Ministers is the main source of revenue for the institutions. They also receive national and international grants and have other sources of income. National/international grants consist mainly of direct funding from the Nordic states (DKK 63,755,000, not including the Nordic School of Public Health). Examples of miscellaneous income include user charges, e.g. entry fees, and the sale of publications or services (DKK 67,512,000).

SECTORS

DKK 1,000	Budget Expenditure	
	2002	2001
Cultural co-operation	147,330	163,205
Education, training and research	197,845	208,939
IT co-operation	338	460
Adjacent Areas	83,695	46,947
Energy	6,135	13,912
Environment	38,405	43,065
Economic and fiscal policy	1,536	2,266
Regional co-operation	29,116	28,298
Transport	1,021	2,579
Agriculture and forestry	23,471	31,601
Fisheries	7,272	8,937
Labour market	12,814	13,844
Social welfare and health	34,557	40,401
Gender equality	7,983	11,236
Narcotics co-operation	1,185	1,282
Welfare initiatives	4,301	4,324
Business and industry	69,598	73,198
Construction and housing	768	1,011
Consumer rights	8,462	9,412
Foodstuffs	5,437	4,878
Justice	1,020	1,502
Misc. activities	104,931	94,554
Total	787,220	805,849

In connection with the analysis of the 2000 budget it was pointed out that liquidity should be reduced. That the expenditure slightly surpasses the budget is a sign of a liquidation of funds transferred from earlier years.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES 2002

DKK 1,000		No. of projects	Total funding	Average subsidy
0 -	49	285	9,285	33
50 -	99	218	17,974	82
100 -	199	198	32,252	163
200 -	499	156	51,042	327
500 -	999	39	28,480	730
1,000 -	4,999	12	19,511	1,626
5,000 -	9,999	2	10,321	5,161
Total		910	168,865	186

The total number of "active" projects was approximately 1,700 in 2002. Project duration varies from a few months to several years.

	No. of projects launched during the year				Funding allocated to the projects, DKK 1,000				Average allocation per project, DKK 1,000			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002	1999	2000	2001	2002
Cultural co-operation	142	120	244	434	65,889	60,122	68,800	50,618	464	501	282	117
Education, training and research	80	93	41	64	65,972	32,363	9,181	20,156	825	348	224	315
Adjacent Areas	80	56	46	44	42,682	16,610	12,784	13,618	534	297	278	309
Energy	18	10	7	66	5,481	3,018	2,508	9,971	305	302	358	151
Environment	40	25	32	26	38,438	5,057	21,992	10,987	961	202	687	423
Economic and fiscal policy	8	2	3	4	1,123	413	500	651	140	207	167	163
Regional co-operation	10	27	5	10	2,234	21,155	1,850	3,165	223	784	370	317
Transport	1	5	1	5	200	1,175	200	350	200	235	200	70
Agriculture and forestry	12	17	25	20	2,480	7,029	4,283	5,343	207	413	171	267
Fisheries	29	20	13	22	6,352	3,344	2,720	5,219	219	167	209	237
Labour market	17	26	32	31	3,068	8,456	7,305	9,243	180	325	228	298
Social welfare and health	5	16	12	22	1,523	2,336	3,801	4,869	305	146	317	221
Gender equality	8	10	11	17	645	847	2,016	3,290	81	85	183	194
Narcotics co-operation	3	8	5	10	278	1,460	1,121	750	93	183	224	75
Welfare initiatives	0	2	1	0	-	6,103	150	-	-	3,052	150	-
Business and industry	6	6	4	6	1,717	1,550	693	1,195	286	258	173	199
Construction and housing	7	3	7	7	912	268	1,323	1,215	130	89	189	174
Consumer rights	23	31	34	23	3,505	4,289	8,571	5,979	152	138	252	260
Foodstuffs	40	22	20	24	3,926	3,746	3,633	3,476	98	170	182	145
Justice	7	7	10	6	1,352	1,396	1,400	1,028	193	199	140	171
Misc. activities	33	35	59	69	7,524	7,824	12,225	17,742	228	224	207	257
Total	569	541	612	910	255,300	188,560	167,058	168,865	449	349	273	186

This table shows the number of projects started according to sector, project allocation and average subsidy to projects in individual sectors. Miscellaneous activities include the Secretariat, information services and other activities. The trend has been for the number of projects to rise. Project subsidies have fallen, however, and the average per project has followed suit.

NORDIC COUNCIL – FINANCIAL SUMMARY

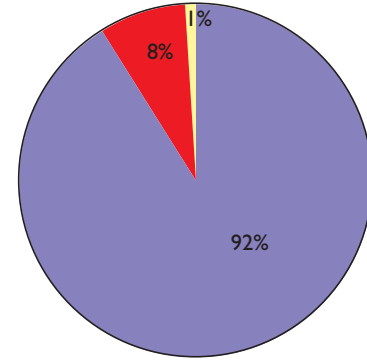
EXPENDITURE - COUNCIL BODIES

DKK 1,000	Budget	Accounts
	2002	2002
Presidium	1,050	1,269
Culture and Education and Training Committee	650	482
Welfare Committee	650	448
Citizens' and Consumer Rights Committee	750	662
Environment and Natural Resources Committee	750	865
Business and Industry Committee	750	597
Control Committee	300	106
Total	4,900	4,428

50TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES IN 2002*

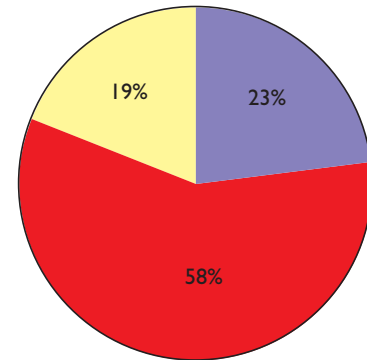
DKK 1,000	Budget	Accounts
	2002	2002
50th anniversary book	1,140	1,130
Theme meeting on democracy in Reykjavik	200	98
Theme edition about democracy in Politics in the Nordic Region	400	400
CD-ROM about the Nordic Region	100	134
CD-ROM about the Nordic Region + 50th anniversary website	100	126
Brochure about the Nordic Council	100	157
"Traces of the Nordic Region" – Nordjobb	140	134
"Traces of the Nordic Region" - Nordplus mini	145	0
"The Twilight Hour" – library promotion	500	425
Twin-town co-operation	100	40
Inserts in train and airline magazines	200	275
Concerts by Orchestra Norden	1,200	1,103
Solo opera performances	247	247
Project management for the opera performance	160	159
Concert for young people during the Session	150	150
"Nordic Market Square" at the Session	130	126
The 50th Anniversary Session	181	220
Nordic School Sports Festival	800	800
"Nordic bookmarks"	50	48
A video journey through the Nordic Region	1,125	1,157
Brochure about school material for teachers	50	330
Postage related to the school material	100	39
Guidance to teachers about the video journey	16	17
Youth in the Nordic Region, information brochure for young people	190	4
Internet competition:		
The Future of the Nordic Region	150	46
Total	7,674	7,365

INCOME BREAKDOWN



- Contrib. fr. Delegations (DKK 30,000,000)
- Internal Fees (DKK 2,188,000)
- Interest (DKK 369,000)

EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



- Activities by Council Bodies (DKK 7,454,000)
- Activities by the Secretariat (DKK 18,896,000)
- Party Subsidies and Other Transfers (DKK 6,203,000)

* Anniversary activities in 2002 were financed by budget surpluses from 1998–2001.

NORDIC MINISTERS 2002

Members of the Nordic Council of Ministers as of 31 December 2002 (Greenland as of 17 January 2003)

PRIME MINISTERS*

Anders Fogh Rasmussen (V), DK
Anfin Kallsberg (Ff), FO
Hans Enoksen (Si), GL
Paavo Lipponen (sd), FI
Roger Nordlund (ÅC), ÅL
Davið Oddsson (Sj), IS
Kjell Magne Bondevik (KrF), NO
Göran Persson (s), SE

MINISTERS FOR NORDIC CO-OPERATION

Flemming Hansen (KrF), DK
Høgne Hoydal (Tjf), FO
Lise Lennert (Si), GL
Jan-Erik Enestam (r), FI
Olof Erland (lib), ÅL
Siv Friðleifsdóttir (F), IS
Svein Ludvigsen (H), NO
Berit Andnor (s), SE

MINISTERS OF LABOUR

Claus Hjort Frederiksen (V), DK
Bjarni Djurholm (Ff), FO
Ole Dorph (Si), GL
Tarja Filatov (sd), FI
Eva Biaudet (r), FI
Ritva Sarin-Grufberg (lib), ÅL
Páll Pétursson (F), IS
Victor Danielsen Norman (H), NO
Hans Karlsson (s), SE

MINISTERS OF DEFENCE**

Svend Aage Jensby (V), DK
Jan-Erik Enestam (r), FI
Halldór Ásgrímsson (F), IS
Kristin Krohn Devold (H), NO
Leni Björklund (s), SE

MINISTERS OF CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING

Bendt Bendtsen (K), DK
Bjarni Djurholm (Ff), FO
Mikael Petersen (Si), GL
Suvi-Anne Siimes (vas), FI
Runar Karlsson (ÅC), ÅL
Páll Petursson (F), IS
Erna Solberg (H), NO
Lars-Erik Lövdén (s), SE

MINISTERS OF ENERGY

Bendt Bendtsen (K), DK
Eyðun Eltør (Sf), FO
Fin Karlsen (Si), GL
Sinikka Mönkäre (sd), FI
Roger Nordlund (ÅC), ÅL
Valgerður Sverrisdóttir (F), IS
Einar Steensnæs (KrF), NO
Leif Pagrotsky (s), SE

MINISTERS OF FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD

Mariann Fischer Boel (V), DK
Hans Christian Schmidt (V), DK
Bjarni Djurholm (Ff), FO
Jørgen Nicolaisen (Ff), FO
Simon Olsen (Si), GL
Fin Karlsen (At), GL
Jari Koskinen (kok), FI
Eva Biaudet (r), FI
Jari Vilén (kok), FI
Ritva Sarin-Grufberg (lib), ÅL
Sune Eriksson (lib), ÅL
Guðni Ágústsson (c), IS
Siv Friðleifsdóttir (c), IS
Árni M. Mathiesen (Sj.), IS
Dagfin Høybråthen (KrF), NO
Svein Ludvigsen (H), NO
Lars Sponheim (V), NO
Ann-Christin Nykvist (s), SE
Ulrica Messing (s), SE

MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Bendt Bendtsen (K), DK
Mikael Petersen, (Si), GL
Jari Vilén (kok), FI
Valgerður Sverrisdóttir (F), IS
Laila Dávøy (KrF), NO
Ann-Christin Nykvist (s), SE

MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT AFFAIRS

Helge Sander (V), DK
Bjarni Djurholm (Tjf), FO
Jørgen Wæver Johansen (S), GL
Kimmo Sasi (kok), FI
Roger Nordlund (ÅC), ÅL
Sturla Böðvarsson (Sj), IS
Ansgar Gabrielsen (H), NO
Ulrica Messing (s), SE

MINISTERS OF JUSTICE

Lene Espersen (Kons.), DK
Høgne Hoydal (Tjf.), FO
Hans Enoksen (Si), GL
Johannes Koskinen (sd), FI
Sune Eriksson (lib), ÅL
Sólveig Pétursdóttir (Sj), IS
Odd Einar Dørum (V), NO
Thomas Bodström (s), SE

MINISTERS OF CULTURE

Brian Mikkelsen (K), DK
Annlis Bjarkhamar (Tjf), FO
Ruth Heilmann (S), GL
Kaarina Dromberg (kok), FI
Gun Carlson (ÅC), ÅL
Tómas Ingi Ólrich (Sj), IS
Valgerd Svarstad Haugland (KrF), NO
Marita Ulvskog (s), SE

MINISTERS OF GENDER EQUALITY

Henriette Kjær (K), DK
Sámal Petur í Grund (Sf), FO
Ole Dorph (Si), GL
Eva Biaudet (r), FI

Roger Nordlund (ÁC), ÁL
Páll Pétursson (F), IS
Laila Dávøy (KrF), NO
Margareta Winberg (s), SE

MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Hans Christian Schmidt (V), DK
Eydun Elttør (Sf), FO
Edward Geisler (At) GL
Johan Lund Olsen (IA), GL
Jouni Backman (ind.), FI
Sune Eriksson (lib), ÁL
Siv Friðleifsdóttir (c), IS
Børge Brende (H), NO
Lena Sommestad (s), SE

MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING DRUG ABUSE

Lars Løkke Rasmussen (V), DK
Henriette Kjær (K), DK
Lene Espersen (K), DK
Sámal Petur i Grund (Sf), FO
Karsten Hansen (Tjf), FO
Anfin Kallsberg (Ff), FO
Ole Dorph (Si), GL
Edward Geisler (A), GL
Eva Biaudet (r), FI
Ville Itälä (kok), FI
Johannes Koskinen (sd), FI
Sune Eriksson (FS), ÁL
Roger Nordlund (ÁC), ÁL
Jón Kristjánsson (F), IS
Páll Pétursson (F), IS
Sólveig Pétursdóttir (Sj), IS
Odd Einar Dørum (V), NO
Ingjerd Schou (H), NO
Dagfinn Høybråten (KrF), NO
Lars Engqvist (s), SE
Thomas Bodström (s), SE
Morgan Johansson (s), SE
Bosse Ringholm (s), SE

MINISTERS OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bendt Bendtsen (K), DK
Bjarni Djurholm (Ff), FO
Mikael Petersen (Si) GL

Sinikka Mönkäre (sd), FI
Ritva Sarin-Grufberg (lib), ÁL
Valgerður Sverrisdóttir (F), IS
Ansgar Gabrielsen (H), NO
Leif Pagrotsky (s), SE

MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Hans Christian Schmidt (V), DK
Anfin Kallsberg (Ff), FO
Jonathan Motzfeldt (Si), GL
Martti Korhonen (vas), FI
Erna Solberg (H), NO
Valgerður Sverrisdóttir (F), IS
Ulrica Messing (s), SE

MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

Flemming Hansen (K), DK
Bjarni Djurholm, (Ff), FO
Jørgen Wæver Johansen, (Si), GL
Kimmo Sasi (kok), FI
Runar Karlsson (ÁC), ÁL
Sturla Böðvarsson (Sj.), IS
Torhild Skogsholm (V), NO
Ulrica Messing (s), SE

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Helge Sander (V), DK
Ulla Tørnæs (V), DK
Maija Rask (sd), FI
Tómas Ingi Olrich (Sj), IS
Kristin Clemet (H), NO
Thomas Östros (s), SE
Lena Hallengren (s), SE
Annlis Bjarkhamar (Tjf), FO
Lise Skifte Lennert (Si), GL
Gun Carlson (ÁC), ÁL

MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Henriette Kjær (K), DK
Lars Løkke Rasmussen (V), DK
Páll á Reynatúgvu (Tjf), FO
Bill Justinussen (KrF), FO
Ole Dorph (Si), GL
Lise Lennert (Si), GL
Maija Perho (kok), FI

Eva Biaudet (r), FI
Sune Eriksson (lib), ÁL
Jón Kristjánsson (F), IS
Páll Pétursson (F), IS
Ingjerd Schou (H), NO
Dagfinn Høybråten (H), NO
Laila Dávøy (H), NO
Berit Andnor (s), SE
Morgan Johansson (s), SE
Lars Engqvist (s), SE

MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Thor Pedersen (V), DK
Karsten Hansen (Tjf), FO
Josef Motzfeldt (IA), GL
Suvi-Anne Siimes (vas), FI
Olof Erland (lib), ÁL
Geir H. Haarde (Sj.), IS
Per-Kristian Foss (H), NO
Bosse Ringholm (s), SE

MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Per Stig Møller (K), DK
Erkki Tuomioja (sd), FI
Halldór Ásgrímsson (F), IS
Jan Petersen (H), NO
Anna Lindh (s), SE

** The Prime Ministers have final responsibility for Nordic co-operation. The responsibility is delegated to the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation.*

*** The Prime Ministers as well as the Ministers of Defence and of Foreign Affairs meet outside the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers.*

MEMBERS OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL 2002

Members of the Nordic Council according to committee and party group as of the opening of the 54th session

PRESIDIUM

Social Democratic Group

Ole Stavad (S), DK

Riitta Prusti (sd), FI

Rannveig Guðmundsdóttir (A), IS

Berit Brørby (Ap), NO

Anita Johansson (s), SE

Centre Group

Jens Chr. Larsen (V), DK

Bjarne Kallis (kd), FI

Agne Hansson (fp), SE

Ragnwi Marcelind (kd), SE

Conservative Group

Kaj Ikast (K), DK

Eero Akaan-Penttilä (kok), FI

Chris Heister (m), SE

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Outi Ojala (vas), FI, president

CULTURE AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Social Democratic Group

Frode Sørensen (S), DK

Saara Karhu (sd), FI

Sigríður Jóhannesdóttir (S), IS

Britt Hildeng (Ap), NO

Lars Wegendal (s), SE

Niels-Erik Söderqvist (s), SE

Centre Group

Hannu Takkula (kesk), FI

Ragnar Erlandsson (ÅC), ÅL

Ísólfur Gylfi Pálmason (F), IS,

vice chair

Heli Berg (fp), SE

Tuve Skånberg (kd), SE

Conservative Group

Else Theill Sørensen (K), DK

Jógvan við Keldu (Ff), FO

Trond Helleland (H), NO

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Lena Jensen (SV), NO

CITIZENS' AND CONSUMER RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Social Democratic Group

Per Kaalund (S), DK, vice chair

Risto Kuisma (sd), FI

Jens Stoltenberg (Ap), NO

Berndt Sköldestig (s), SE

Marianne Carlström (s), SE

Centre Group

Ester Larsen (V), DK

Aulis Ranta-Muotio (kesk), FI

Arne Lyngstad (KrF), NO, chair

May-Helen Molvær Grimstad

(KrF), NO

Conservative Group

Marja Tiura (kok), FI

Petri Salo (kok), FI

Anne Berit Andersen (H), NO

Inger René (m), SE

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Lennart Gustavsson (v), SE

Outside Party Groups

Jette Jespersen (DF), DK

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Social Democratic Group

Jóannes Eidesgaard (Jvfl.), FO

Ruth Heilmann (Si), GL

Asmund Kristoffersen (Ap), NO, chair

Sinikka Bohlin (s), SE

Centre Group

Marianne Jelved (RV), DK

Paula Lehtomäki (kesk), FI

Tuija Brax (vihr), FI

Barbro Feltzing (mp), SE

Gabriel Romanus (fp), SE

Conservative Group

Arnbjörg Sveinsdóttir (Sj.), IS

Elisabeth Røbekk Nørve (H), NO

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Kristen Touborg (SF), DK

Josef Motzfeldt (IA), GL

Inge Ryan (SV), NO

Outside Party Groups

Øyvind Korsberg (FrP), NO

WELFARE COMMITTEE

Social Democratic Group

Tuula Haatainen (sd) FI

Aud Gaundal (Ap), NO

Margareta Israelsson (s), SE

Centre Group

Leif Mikkelsen (V), DK

Hannes Manninen (kesk), FI

Pehr Löf (r), FI, chair

Jan Sahl (KrF), NO

Conservative Group

Lena Harkimo (kok), FI, vice chair

Harriet Lindeman (FS), ÅL

Drífa Hjartardóttir (Sj.), IS

Inge Lønning (H), NO

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Line Barfod (EL), DK

May Hansen (SV), NO

Outside Party Groups

Anita Knakkegaard (DF), DK

John I. Alvheim (FrP), NO

ENRICHING EVERYDAY LIFE

**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE***Social Democratic Group*

Ole Vagn Christensen (S), DK
 Jouko Skinnari (sd), FI
 Per Erik Granström (s), SE
 Reynoldh Furustrand (s), SE

Centre Group

Flemming Oppfeldt (V), DK
 Thor Gunnar Kofoed (V), DK
 Petri Neittaanmäki (kesk), FI
 Rune J.Skjælaaen (Sp), NO
 Runar Patriksson (kd), SE

Conservative Group

Sigríður Anna Þórðardóttir (Sj.), IS,
 chair
 Raymond Robertsen (H), NO
 Kent Olsson (m), SE

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group
 Steingrímur J. Sigfússon (VG), IS,
 vice chair

Outside Party Groups

Thore A. Nistad (FrP), NO

CONTROL COMMITTEE*Social Democratic Group*

Aud Gaundal (Ap), NO
 Berndt Sköldestig (s), SE

Centre Group

Leif Mikkelsen (V), DK
 Aulis Ranta-Muotio (kesk), FI, vice
 chair

Conservative Group

Arnbjörg Sveinsdóttir (Sj.), IS
 Kent Olsson (m), SE, chair

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group
 Kristen Touborg (SF), DK

ELECTION COMMITTEE*Social Democratic Group*

Ole Stavad (S), DK, vice chair
 Berit Brørby (Ap), NO

Centre Group

Marianne Jelved (RV), DK
 Ragnar Erlandsson (ÁC), ÅL, chair

Conservative Group

Sigríður Anna Þórðardóttir (Sj.), IS
 Kent Olsson (m), SE

Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

Lennart Gustavsson (v), SE



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Fax: +45 3311 1870
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nordisk-rad@nordisk-rad.dk
www.norden.org

NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

Nordic Council, Denmark's
Delegation – including the
Faroe Islands and Greenland
Folketinget, Christiansborg
DK-1240 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Telephone: +45 3337 5999
Fax: +45 3337 5964
E-mail: nrpost@ft.dk
www.folketinget.dk

Greenland

Grønlands Landstings Bureau
Postboks 1060
DK-3900 Nuuk
Greenland
Telephone: +299 23000
Fax: +299 24606
E-mail: landstinget@gh.gl
http://dk.nanoq.gl

Faroe Islands

Færøernes Lagting
Postboks 208
FR-Tórshavn
Faroe Islands
Telephone: +298 108 50
Fax: +298 310 686
E-mail: hognij@logting.fo
www.logting.fo

Nordic Council, Finland's Delegation – including the Åland Islands

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FIN-00102 Helsinki
Finland
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Fax: +358 9 432 3529
E-mail: int.dep@eduskunta.fi
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Åland Islands

Ålands lagting
PB 69
AX-22101 Mariehamn
Åland Islands
Telephone: +358 18 25 474
Fax: +358 18 13 302
E-mail:
maj.falck@lagtinget.aland.fi
www.lagtinget.aland.fi

Nordic Council, Iceland's Delegation

Altinget
IS-150 Reykjavik
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Telephone: +354 5 630 500
Fax: +345 5 630 735
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Nordic Council, Norway's Delegation

Stortinget
NO-0026 Oslo
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Telephone: +47 2331 3050
Fax: +47 2331 3862
E-mail: nordiskrad.postmot-
tak@stortinget.no
www.stortinget.no

Nordic Council, Sweden's Delegation

Riksdagen
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PARTY GROUPS

Conservative Group

(K) Det konservative Folkeparti
(DK)
(Ff) Fölkaflokkurin (FO)
(kok) Kansallinen Kokoomus (FI)
(FS) Frisinnad Samverken (ÅL)
(Sj.) Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn (IS)
(H) Høyre (NO)
(m) Moderata samlings-
partiet (SE)

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Mobile phone: + 47 9057 9714
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Centre Group

(RV) Radikale Venstre (DK)
(V) Venstre (DK)
(At) Atassut (GL)
(kesk) Suomen Keskusta (FI)
(kd) Suomen
Kristillisdemokraatit (FI)
(sv) Svenska folkpartiet (FI)
(vihr) Vihreä liitto (FI)
(ÅC) Åländsk center (ÅL)
(F) Fremskridtspartiet (DK)
(Fsf) Framsóknarflokkurinn (IS)
(KrF) Kristelig Folkeparti (DK,
NO)
(Sp) Senterpartiet (NO)
(c) Centerpartiet (SE)
(fp) Folkpartiet liberalerna (SE)
(kd) Kristdemokraterna (SE)
(mp) Miljöpartiet de gröna (SE)

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Social Democratic Group

(S) Socialdemokratiet (DK),
(Jvfl) Javnaðarflokkurinn (FO)
(Si) Siunmut (GL)
(sd) Suomen Sosialidemokraat-
tinen Puolue (FI)
(A) Alþýðuflokkurinn (IS)
(ÅS) Ålands socialdemokrater
(ÅL)
(Ap) Det norske

Arbeiderparti (NO)

(s) Sveriges socialdemokratiska
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Left-wing Socialist and Green Group

(EL) Enhedslisten (DK)
(SF) Socialistisk Folkeparti (DK)
(IA) Inuit Atarqatigiit (GL)
(vas) Vasemmistoliitto (FI)
(VG) Vinstrihreyfingin – grænt
framboð/Vänster Gröna (IS)
(SV) Sosialistisk Venstreparti (NO)
(v) Vänsterpartiet (SE)

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Outside Party Groups

(DF) Dansk Folkeparti (DK)
(Frp) Fremskrittspartiet (NO)
(ind.) Independent

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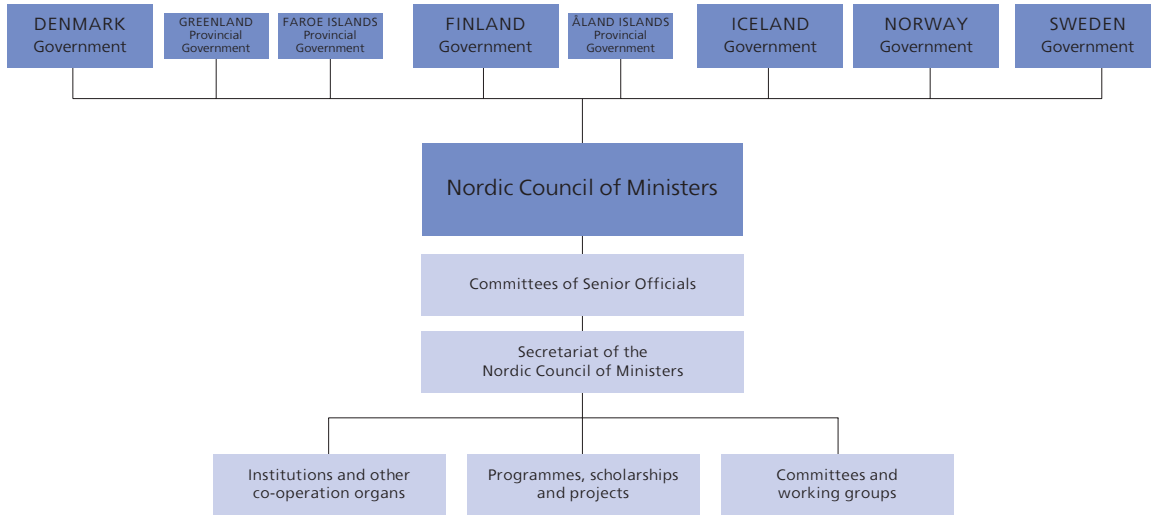
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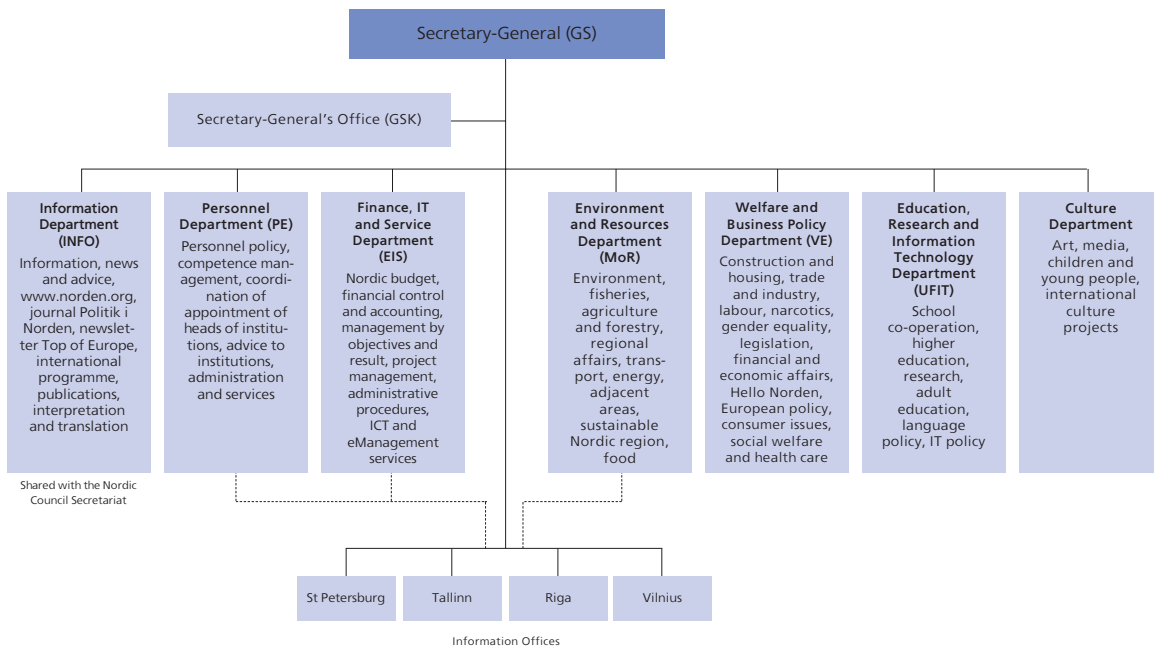
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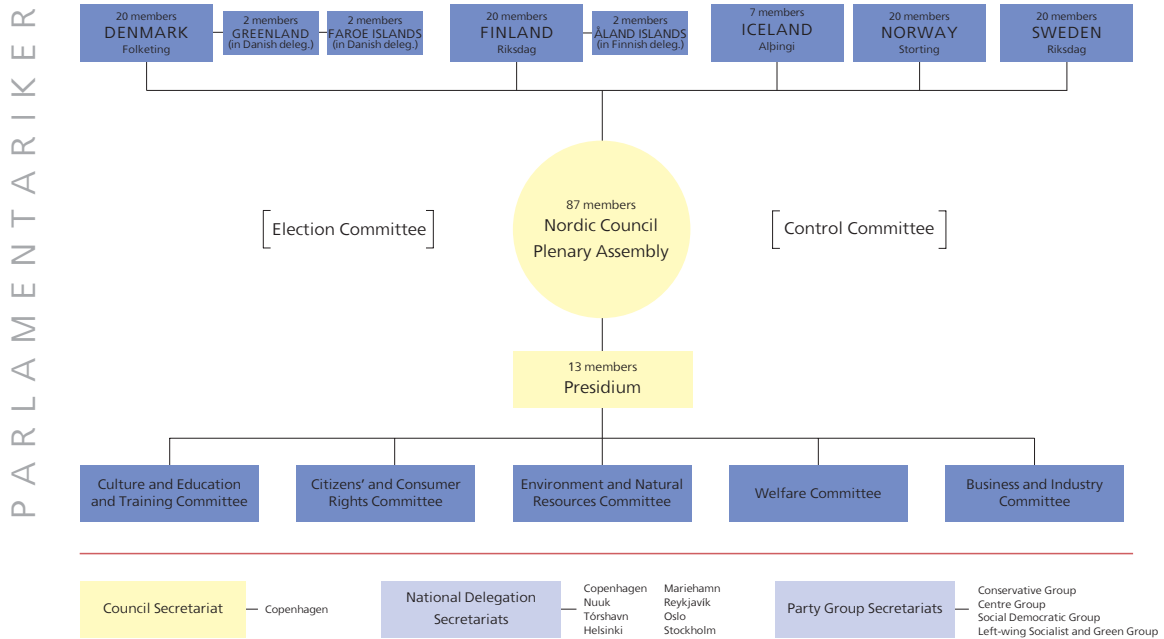
STRUCTURE OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



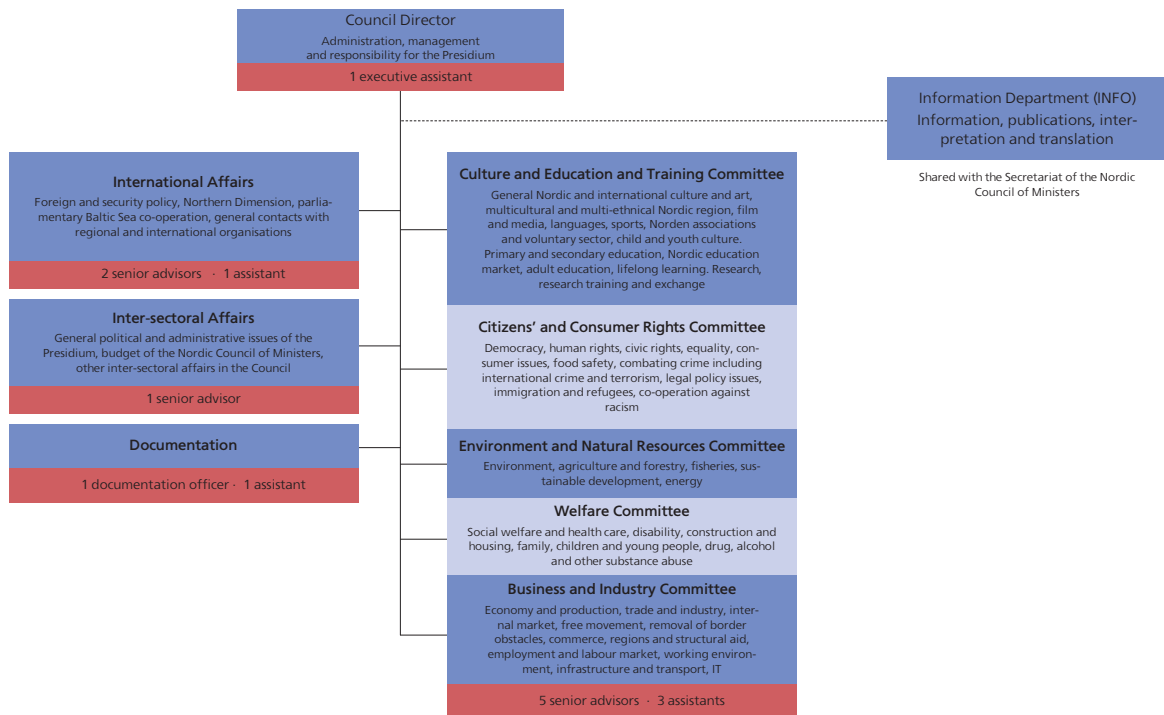
SECRETARIAT OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS



STRUCTURE OF THE NORDIC COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



NORDIC COUNCIL SECRETARIAT



FROM IDEA TO RESULT



A simplified presentation of the procedures followed by the Nordic Council and Nordic Council of Ministers.

1. Political initiatives are taken by a member or a group of members of the Nordic Council or by a Council of Ministers.

2A. A member's initiative may take the form of a written question. The question is put to one or more Nordic governments or to the Nordic Council of Ministers. The body to which the question is submitted must respond in writing within three weeks. The member may make proposals for improvements in the light of the reply.

2B. Political initiatives are often formulated as a member's or Council of Ministers' proposal. A member's proposal may be made by the member in person or by a group of members. Proposals are often made by party groups. A Council of Ministers' proposal comes from a ministerial council covering a particular policy area or from the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation.

3. Proposals are put first to the Presidency, which passes them on to the appropriate committee(s) for preliminary treatment.

4. The committee may opt to refer the proposal to relevant organisations

and authorities in the Nordic countries. The Council Secretariat may also wish to consider other information relevant to committee discussions. After that, a "report" is written about the proposal. It contains the committee's arguments for and against the proposal as well as its recommendation to the Nordic Council.

If the members of the committee are unable to reach an agreement, the report contains the opinion of the majority. The minority is entitled to state its reservations and submit an alternative recommendation.

5. The Nordic Council Session then debates the proposal and the committee's report before making a decision.

6. If the decision is to support the proposal, a Nordic Council recommendation is made. It is submitted to the Nordic Council of Ministers or to individual Nordic governments.

7. The governments and/or Council of Ministers decide how to implement the proposal, e.g. by the Nordic Council of Ministers or by the individual countries. If the recommendation involves new legislation, the matter is also submitted to the national parliaments.

8. The governments adopt measures for implementing the recommendation and report back to the next Nordic Council Session. This feedback allows the Council to check that the proposal is being implemented as intended.

