



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

## **Regional universities and university colleges as drivers for local and regional development in the Nordic countries**

**Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Venue: Grand Hótel, Sigtún 38, Reykjavík, Iceland**

In cooperation with the Nordic Senior Officials' Committee for Regional Policy of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism in Iceland and the Icelandic Regional Development Institute. Nordregio will close a research project on what impact Nordic regional universities and university colleges have on regional development in terms of enhancing innovation, attractiveness and economic performance with an open conference.

Key questions for the conference are:

- If regional universities and university colleges are to serve as regional drivers, what pre-conditions must be met?
- What is the future of regional universities and university colleges concerning function and organisation?

The target groups of the conference are representatives of higher education institutions, policy makers and practitioners working with the regional development on the national, regional and local level, students and researchers.

Conference language will be English.

There is no fee, but as space is limited, we need your registration.

Please download the registration form from the homepage [www.byggdastofnun.is](http://www.byggdastofnun.is).

All participants will receive a copy of the synthetic report of the research project. A PDF version of the report will be available at Nordregio's homepage [www.nordregio.se](http://www.nordregio.se) a week before the conference.

**Deadline for registration is June 19 2009**



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Venue: Grand Hótel, Sigtún 38, Reykjavík, Iceland

Chair: Sveinn Þorgrímsson, Director General at the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism, Iceland

Moderator for the panel discussion: Ole Damsgaard, Director, Nordregio

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<b>09:30</b>	<b>Coffee and registration</b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Welcome and opening of conference</b> <b>Katrín Júlíusdóttir, Minister of Industry, energy and tourism</b> Introduction to the conference
<b>10:15</b>	<b>Regional universities and university colleges in the Nordic Countries: An overview</b> <b>Sigrid Hedin, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio</b> Main findings of the project "Regional universities and university colleges and their regional impact on innovation, attractiveness and economic performance"
<b>10:55</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>11:05</b>	<b>High level research and education fostering the development of rural regions: The case of Oulu Southern institute</b> <b>Eija-Riitta Niinikoski, Development Manager, Oulu Southern Institute , Regional Unit of University of Oulu, Finland</b> Collaboration and the development work of the Oulu Southern institute
<b>11:45</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:00</b>	<b>The regional role of higher education institutions in the Nordic countries: Are they regional boosters?</b> <b>Peter Arbo, Associate Professor, Norwegian College of Fisheries Science, University of Tromso, Norway</b> Research into the HE institutions and regional development in the Nordic countries
<b>13:40</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>13:50</b>	<b>Society in upheaval</b> <b>Stefanía Steinsdóttir, Project manager, Akureyri Region Business Agency</b>
<b>14:05</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>14:10</b>	<b>Regional centre of expertise, using local strength of boosting innovation and job creation.</b> <b>Steingerður Hreinsdóttir, Chairman of South Iceland Higher Education and Research Ltd.</b>
<b>14:25</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>14:30</b>	<b>Becoming a basis without having a basis – The University Centre of the Westfjords.</b> <b>Peter Weiss, Director, University Centre of the West Fjords</b>
<b>14:45</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>14:50</b>	<b>Too few for a university?</b> <b>Rögnvaldur Ólafsson, Director, University of Iceland regional research centres</b>
<b>15:05</b>	<i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
<b>15:10</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15:30</b>	<b>Panel discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If regional universities and university colleges are to serve as regional drivers, what pre-conditions must be met?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is the future of regional universities and university colleges concerning function and organization?</i></li> </ul>
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Round-up and close of conference</b>

