



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

**NORDRESS**

Nordic Centre of Excellence  
On Resilience and Societal Security



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## Task 6.2: The Nordic welfare system

NORDRESS

Kick-off meeting Reykjavik 28-30 January 2015

# Task 6.2 The Nordic welfare system

- The role of the Nordic welfare systems when natural disasters occur, are poorly defined. Emergency response plans and the civil protection systems do include the health systems in their mitigation and emergency plans, **but the roles of social services are not fully outlined.** These services are usually provided at municipal level and in case of disasters such services are of vital importance to the inhabitants.
- Furthermore, **studies show a need for long-term response plans, which are typically governed by municipalities and social services in cooperation with health care service**

- We will focus on the following questions: Are social services included in emergency plans in the Nordic countries? What roles do and could social services play? Is there need for a better integration of the welfare and civil protection systems? **The study will build on the results of an on- going study on the role of the Nordic welfare state in times of disasters**
- Based on those, **cases of best practices will be chosen for further studies from each participating country**. Practices and policies of the cases in question will be examined to investigate **how social services can contribute to resilience of the local communities and their inhabitants**

# The Nordic Welfare Watch - in response to crisis 2014-2016

- Iceland: presidency in the Nordic Council of Ministers 2014
- The Nordic countries are known for their extensive welfare systems and **social services but few studies have addressed their roles in times of disasters**



# Aims

- 1) Examine emergency response plans amongst the Nordic states focusing on the role of social services (2014-2015)**
- 2) Evaluate the activities of the Icelandic Welfare Watch (2014-2015)
- 3) Map the known risks that the Nordic welfare system could face in coming years (2015-2016)
- 4) Evaluate if there is a need for a Nordic welfare watch (2015-2016)

- Directed by GBE + Nordic steering committee, leading scholars; Björn Hvinden NOVA, Tapio Salonen/Carin Björngren Cuadra, Malmö University, Rasmus Dahlberg, Copenhagen University and Merja Rapeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- +Country based advisory groups, 5-7 experts in the field of civil defence and social services (Juho Sari, Atle Dyregrov et al)
- + Project manager, Ingibjörg Lilja Ómarsdóttir, PhD student is responsible for the data collection, policy analysis and writing with GBE-all reports co-authored by the SC





VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

*Ministry of Welfare*



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- **Social Services in Times of Disaster**
  - **Multidisciplinary Nordic Symposium**
    - **Nordic House, Reykjavík, Iceland**
      - **May 4-5 2015**
- Aim: To discuss the roles of local social services in preparedness, emergency response and the aftermath of disasters and how social services can enhance the resilience of residents and communities under such circumstances

# Program

- **Gudmund Hernes:** *Blessings in Disguise? Are disasters necessary to change opinions about societal risks?*
- **Merja Rapeli** *The role of social services in Finland in times of disasters*
- **Carin Björngren Cuadra** *The role of social services in Sweden in times of disasters*
- **Ragnheiður Hergeirsdóttir** *The earthquakes in southern Iceland in 2008; the Mayor's perspective on the role of local social services*



- **Atle Dyregrov** *Intervention for children after mass trauma bereavement*
- **Guðrún Gísladóttir** *Resident perception of volcanic risk in South Iceland and the impacts of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption on people's livelihood*
- **Guðrún Jóhannesdóttir and Einar Pétur Heiðarsson:** *Workshop: A case of creeping crisis: Bárðarbunga; the earthquakes and volcanic eruption in northern Iceland.*