

Nordic Welfare Watch, Final Conference on November 10th, 2016

ARE THE NORDIC WELFARE STATES READY FOR FUTURE RISKS? How can we prepare?

A system of Nordic Welfare Indicators Nordiska Välfärdsindikatorer (NOVI)

Project manager: *Sigríður Jónsdóttir*, Ministry of Welfare, Iceland

Project leader: *Håkan Nyman*, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden



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Where does the idea derive from?

Under the Icelandic Presidency of the *Nordic Council of Ministers* in 2014 the project the *Nordic Welfare Watch* was established, based on the experience of the *Icelandic Welfare Watch* which was established following the economic crisis in 2008.

**A special emphasis on protecting vulnerable groups and families and children.
Advisory role towards government and local authorities**

The Icelandic experience after the crisis in 2008 revealed needs to mobilise society and to structure information on how individuals' and families had been affected and an important message was; "*nobody should be left behind as a consequence of the banking crisis*".

The *Icelandic Welfare Watch* took the decision to develop and implement *Social Indicators*, first presented in 2012. The *Nordic Welfare Indicators –NOVI-* derive from that idea.



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Evaluations

An independent evaluation commissioned by the *UN Human Rights Council* found that the *Welfare Watch* resulted in improved social monitoring and in improved targeted intervention by authorities and welfare organisations.

An assessment by the *Social Science Research Institute of the University of Iceland* concluded that the *Welfare Watch* was important for the Icelandic society during the first years of the crisis and that it had a significant effect on welfare in its initial phase.



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The beginning

***Kick-off* meeting in *Reykjavík* in June 2014.**

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

Participants: Administration, National Statistics, Universities/Research Forums and the secretariat of NOMESKO/NOSOSKO

Requirements for participation: knowledge in one or more fields of health and wellbeing of children, families and individuals, child care, mental health, housing, social protection and social care and of statistics in the area.

The goal underlying the decision to develop nordic welfare indicators was to make an easily accessible indicator system that would facilitate monitoring social trends and changes.

One of the main benefits of the system is its capacity to break the indicators down by f. ex. household types, gender, age, working status, time duration and education.



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People behind the work

Project leader

- *Håkan Nyman*, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Sweden

Project group

- *Lárus Blöndal*, Statistics Iceland
- *Preben Etwil*, Statistics Denmark
- *Thomas Helgeson*, Statistics Sweden
- *Elisabeth Rønning*, Statistics Norway
- *Timo A. Tanninen*, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finland.

Project manager

- *Sigríður Jónsdóttir*, Ministry of Welfare Iceland.



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People behind the work

Steering Committee:

Delegation leaders NOSOSCO

National experts:

PhD *Anders Barstad*, Statistics Norway

Associate professor *Erik Bihagen*, Stockholm University

Professor *Mika Gissler*, National Institute for Health and Welfare and Karolinska Institute

Deputy Director General *Heli Mikkilä*, Statistics Finland.

Professor *Stefán Ólafsson*, University of Iceland

Director *Niels Ploug*, Statistics Denmark



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Outline

- 1. Something more on the aim of the project and our approach**
- 2. Present the NOVI and a web-prototype**
- 3. Limitations + potential future developments**
- 4. Project's recommendations**



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The aim with NOVI

To develop:

- **A system of early warning social indicators**
 - Indicators by sub-groups of the population
- **A system to monitoring Nordic welfare**
 - Individuals and at national level
- **A tool that could be used in policy making**
 - As basis for further analyses of
 - To compare what works or not
- **A system that is easy to access and use**



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The work

- **Kick-off meeting June 2014 in Reykjavik**
- **Project group + national teams with experts**
- **NOSOSCO delegation leaders – steering group**
- **Reviewed existing national, Nordic and international indicator systems and data sources**
- **Defined 9 welfare dimensions – based on Nordic research, OECD...**
- **Suggested 30 indicators over the 9 dimensions**



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Selection of the ca 30 indicators

- Identified Nordic “challenges”
- Available for all countries over time
- Individual outcome indicators
- Various quality criteria such as
 - Robust and statistically validated
 - Cover all countries over time
 - Distributional presentation by sub-groups of the population e.g. age, gender and education
 - Responsive to policy intervention
- Fairly easy to collect, present and use



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Welfare dimension

- 1. Health**
- 2. Educational skills**
- 3. Employment**
- 4. Work-life balance**
- 5. Income and earnings**
- 6. Housing**
- 7. Social network and participation**
- 8. Personal security**
- 9. Subjective well-being**

Dimension	Indicator
1. Health	
1.1	Self-reported health status
1.2	Self-reported unmet need for medical care
1.3	Self-reported unmet need for dental care
1.4	Deaths from circulatory diseases
1.5	Cancer mortality rate
1.6	Deaths from suicide
2. Educational skills	
2.1	Early leavers from education and training
2.2	Educational attainment
3. Employment	
3.1	Employment rate
3.2	Unemployment rate
3.3	NEET
3.4	Long-term unemployment rate
3.5	Involuntary part-time
4. Work-life balance	
4.1	Childcare
4.2	Parental leave
4.3	Average number of actual weekly hours of work

Dimension	Indicator
5. Income and earnings	
5.1	Mean and median net income
5.2	Distribution of disposable income
5.3	Relative at risk of poverty rate
5.4	Persistent low income
5.5	Material deprivation
5.6	Arrears on payments
6. Housing	
6.1	Median share of housing cost in income
6.2	Self-reported financial burden of total housing cost.
7. Social network and participation	
7.1	Social network
7.2	Social support
7.3	Social participation
8. Personal security	
8.1	Crime, violence or vandalism in the area
8.2	Deaths from accidents
9 Subjective well-being	
9.1	Life satisfaction



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A prototype

<http://nomi.bazooka.se/>



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Obstacles and further work

Data limitations

- **Aspects not captured :**
 - ex. mental health, migration, integration, children's welfare

Further work

- **More timely indicators – national register and administrative data**
- **More comprehensive system**
 - a) monthly/quarterly statistics
 - b) the NOVI
 - c) Contextual and background statistics



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Recommendations

- 1. Implementing and updating NOVI in the database Nordic Statistic at www.norden.org and eventually in iLibrary, through the infrastructure already in place**
- 2. Although currently technical limitations start a.s.a.p.**
- 3. NOSOCO assess how timeliness can be improved through collection of data by national statistical institutes**



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Recommendations cont.

4. Improve usability in line with the prototype

5. NOSOSCO is given the responsibility to manage NOVI: structure, content and development

6. Communication activities when launched and at yearly update – in relation to events by the Nordic co-operation

More details on:

<https://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/nordicwelfarewatch/>



A Nordic Welfare Indicator System (NOVI)

Report for the Nordic Council of Ministers

(Project leader) Håkan Nyman, (Project manager) Sigríður Jónsdóttir,

(Project members) Lárus Blöndal, Preben Etwil,

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Thank you!