Social Services in Times of Disaster
Multidisciplinary Nordic Symposium
Nordic House, Reykjavík, Iceland
May 4-5 2015

This Nordic Symposium will bring together a multidisciplinary group of experts including administrators, academics and students as well as stakeholders working in the field, to discuss the role of local social services in times of disaster. The Nordic countries are known for their extensive welfare systems and the importance of local social services in providing universal care to all members of the public. The aim of the Symposium is 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.

Organisers: The symposium is organised by the Nordic Welfare Watch – in Response to Crisis (NWW)

The project Nordic Welfare Watch - in Response to Crisis is a 3-year research project financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The project examines the role of the local social services in times of disasters and the need for a Nordic welfare watch.
Schedule:

May 3rd Arrival

May 4th
8:30 Welcome: Guðný Björk Eydal and Guðrún Pétursdóttir
8:45 Key Note Address: Guðmund Hernes, Professor and President of the International Social Science Council
   Blessings in Disguise? Are disasters necessary to change opinions about societal risks?
9:45 Coffee

Session I: Social services in times of disaster
10:15 Merja Rapeli, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Finland
   The role of social services in Finland in times of disasters
10:45 Carin Björggren Cuadra, Associate professor, Department of Social Work, Malmö University, Sweden
   The role of social services in Sweden in times of disasters
11:15 Ragnheiður Hergeirs dóttir, Former Mayor of Árborg, South Iceland
   The earthquakes in southern Iceland in 2008; the Mayor’s perspective on the role of local social services
11:45 Lunch

Session II: Residents in times of disasters
13:00 Atle Dyregrov, Professor and Director, Centre for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway
   Intervention for children after mass trauma bereavement
14:00 Guðrún Gisladóttir, Professor, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Iceland
   Resident perception of volcanic risk in South Iceland and the impacts of the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption on people’s livelihood
15:00 Coffee
15:30 Parallel paper sessions
17:00 Closing of today’s schedule
19:00 Dinner

May 5th
8:30 Workshop: A case of creeping crisis: Bárðarbunga; the earthquakes and volcanic eruption in northern Iceland.
   Guðrún Jóhannesdóttir and Einar Pétur Heiðarsson, Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, National Commissioner of Police
9:45 Closing remarks: Guðrún Gisladóttir
10:00 Departure by bus for Keflavik airport from the Nordic House
Registration will open February 20th.

Please note that the number of participants is limited. Symposium fee of 100€ includes lunch and refreshments. Symposium dinner on May 4th is optional and costs 100€. Please indicate on the registration form whether you plan to attend the dinner.

Participants are responsible for the reservations and cost of their travel and accommodation. Please note that until March 1st 2015 a number of rooms for symposium participants will be reserved at Hotel Marina in central Reykjavik (www.icelandairhotels.com/en/hotels/marina). You must however make your own hotel reservations. You can make a reservation either by email to Reykjavik@icehotels.is or by phone 00354 444 4000. The reservation number is RG038244.

Note that there are flights from Iceland to Scandinavia around noon, as well as in the early morning (check www.dohop.com).

Call for abstracts

You are invited to submit a paper proposal linked to the themes of the conference. Abstracts and papers should be in English, the language of the symposium.

Abstracts should not exceed 400 words including:

- Title
- Contact details: author(s) affiliation, postal address, phone number and e-mail address
- Main issue to be raised in the paper, including a brief background
- Approach (theoretical / conceptual or empirical) and type of methodology
- Main findings and conclusions

Abstract submission deadline is March 1st 2015. Applicants will be informed by March 15th 2015. Papers will be published electronically on the project website, kindly submit complete manuscript by April 21st.