



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ
Ministry of Welfare



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

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 3th Arrival

May 4th

8:30 **Welcome: Guðný Björk Eydal and Guðrún Pétursdóttir**

8:45 **Key Note Address: Gudmund 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 Björngren Cuadra**, Associate professor, Department of Social Work, Malmö University, Sweden

The role of social services in Sweden in times of disasters

11:15 **Ragnheiður Hergeirsdóttir** 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 Gísladóttir** 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 Gísladóttir**

10:00 **Departure by bus** for Keflavik airport from the Nordic House

Registration will **open February 20st**.

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**.