



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

WELFARE CONFERENCE

15 November 2012, Riga



The Nordic Welfare Model: What's in It for Latvia?

In 2012, Norway has the chairmanship at the Nordic Council of Ministers. In this year's programme the Nordic welfare model is essential. This is why the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Riga, together with the Swedish, Danish and Finnish Embassies and the Nordic Council of Ministers' Office, will highlight some aspects of the Nordic welfare state at a conference in Riga on Thursday, 15 November 2012. These are some of the questions to be raised: Is the Nordic welfare model relevant for Latvia today? How different are we? What are the major challenges and achievements on the way towards welfare in the Nordic countries? The conference will focus on youth, education, employment, gender and equality, as well as on the welfare model as such. Four Nordic and one Latvian lecturers will share their particular perceptions of development in modern democracies.

The conference is supported by the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

Venue: Soros Auditorium, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, 4a Strēlnieku Street
Date and time: Thursday, 15 November 2012, 12:15 - 17:00
Working language: English and Latvian (with simultaneous interpreting)
Moderator: Inga Sprīģe, journalist, Baltic Centre for Investigative Journalism Re:Baltica

Registration: Ineta.Balule@mfa.no or 67 81 41 00 before 12 November 2012

AGENDA

- 12:15 Light lunch**
Lobby
- 13:00 Welcome address**
Ragnar Haug, Chargé d'Affaires, Royal Norwegian Embassy
- 13:05 Introduction**
Moderator Inga Sprīģe
- 13:10 LATVIA: Tackling Inequality - the Continuous Challenge of Welfare Model**
Ieva Jaunzeme, State Secretary, Latvian Ministry of Welfare
- 13:30 DENMARK: The Nordic Welfare Model – Possibilities and Challenges**
Prof. Peter Abrahamson, Department of Sociology, University of Copenhagen
- 13:50 SWEDEN: Youth Unemployment and Policy in Sweden**
Prof. Oskar Nordström Skans, Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy
- 14:10 Coffee, tea**
- 14:40 FINLAND: Well-being of the Younger Generation – Social Exclusion or Inclusion?**
The transition process of the younger generation from education to work. Reflecting the findings of youth research from youth policy perspectives. The concepts of prolonged transition, values, future horizon and identity formation.
Prof. Emerita Helena Helve, University of Tampere
- 15:00 NORWAY: Equality and Non-discrimination - a Prerequisite for the Development of the Norwegian Welfare State**
Highlighting Norwegian experiences done on women's and men's fair sharing and participation in working life, bringing up children and domestic care work.
Deputy Director General Inge Ovesen, Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion
- 15:20 Tax Policy and Employment Considerations: Nordic Lessons and Latvian Constraints**
Morten Hansen, Head of Economics Department, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga
- 15:40 Panel with all the lecturers**
Discussion lead by moderator Inga Sprīģe
- 16:40 Summing up**
- 17:00 Closing**

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LECTURERS:

Ieva Jaunzeme

Ieva Jaunzeme has her academic background in experience from the sector working as Director General of chairing the Competition Council (2005-2012). Since State Secretary at the Latvian Ministry of Welfare.



economics and business administration. She also has long the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (2000-2004) and February 2012 Ieva Jaunzeme has taken the position of

Peter Abrahamson

Peter Abrahamson is an Associate Professor of Sociology are welfare systems, social policy, poverty, European



at the University of Copenhagen. His primary research areas Union, Central America and East Asia.

Oskar Nordström Skans

Oskar Nordström Skans is responsible for research on the of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU). He received is now a professor at the same university. His research market networks, wage setting, and programme



functioning of labour market at the Institute for Evaluation his PhD in Economics from Uppsala University in 2002, and concerns among other youth unemployment, labour evaluation.

Helena Helve

Helena Helve holds a PhD and is Professor Emerita of Humanities of the Tampere University. She has been a Development Project (2009-2011). She has directed



Youth Research at the School of Social Sciences and professor for the M.A. European Youth Studies Curriculum several international and national research projects.

Inge Ovesen

Inge Ovesen is Deputy Director General at the Ministry of responsibility include equality policy and social inclusion Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Gender Equality. Disability, and has worked with disability policy nationally,



Children, Equality and Social Inclusion. His areas of on all grounds of discrimination. He is currently Head of the He is a former Director of the Nordic Cooperation on in the Nordic countries and internationally.

Morten Hansen

Morten Hansen is Head of Economics Department at Associate at the Baltic International Centre for Economic economics and EU economics in particular and the the Latvian economic-political debate e.g. via his blog at



Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and Research Policy Studies. His primary research areas are monetary Latvian economy in general. He is an active participant in ir.lv.