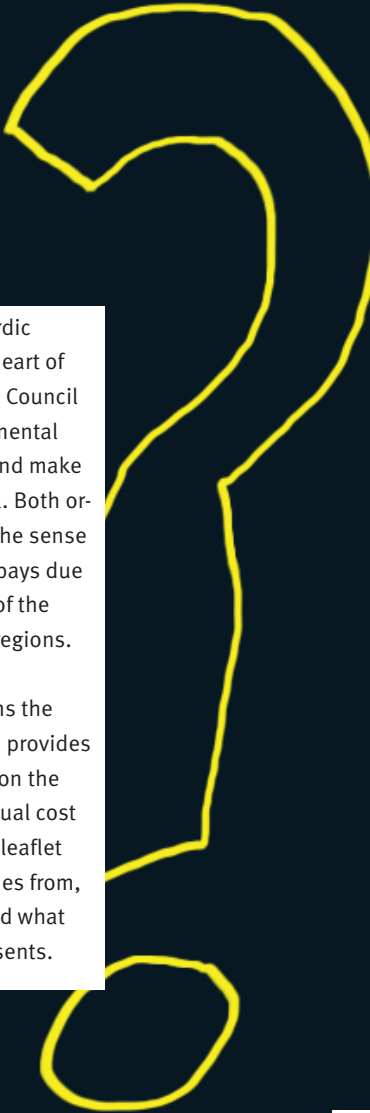




In brief

WHAT IS
THE NORDIC
REGION?



The Nordic Region is a political and a geographical entity engaged in a unique form of political partnership. Nowhere else in the world is regional co-operation based on shared social values and cultural characteristics to quite the same extent.

The Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers lie at the heart of this political constellation. The Council of Ministers is an intra-governmental body. Parliamentarians meet and make decisions in the Nordic Council. Both organisations strive to enhance the sense of Nordic affinity in a way that pays due heed to the distinct identities of the individual countries and their regions.

Nordic co-operation strengthens the ties between the countries and provides the Region with a strong voice on the international stage – at an annual cost of just DKK 35 per citizen. This leaflet explains where the money comes from, how it will be spent in 2011 and what profoundly good value it represents.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

It takes money to make co-operation work. Each of the countries, as well as the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland, has a Minister for Nordic Co-operation. These ministers are responsible for the Nordic Council of Ministers' budget.

The budget is set on an annual basis. The Presidency of the Council of Min-

isters rotates among the countries on an annual basis. In 2011, it is Finland's turn to hold the Presidency.

The total budget for 2011 has been set at DKK 934,716,000 – the same level as 2010. The vast majority of the funding comes directly from the individual countries.

NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' INCOME 2011

	DKK
National contributions	925.516.000
– Denmark	198.060.000
– Finland	161.965.000
– Iceland	10.181.000
– Norway	268.400.000
– Sweden	286.910.000
Other income	9.200.000
TOTAL:	934.716.000
TOTAL IN EUROS:	125.634.000



HOW IS
THE MONEY
SPENT?



As always in a public budget, the money is spent on projects and activities that the politicians have decided to prioritise. Much of the Council of Ministers' budget is earmarked for the areas covered by the ten ministerial councils. It also funds the Globalisation Initiative, which since 2007 has been enhancing the international profile of the Region and equipping the countries to face the many challenges posed by globalisation.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN 2011

	DKK
Globalisation Initiative	72,420,000
The 10 ministerial councils:	653,976,000
Labour and the Work Environment	13,238,000
Trade	116,272,000
Finance	1,790,000
Fisheries, Food, Agriculture and Forestry	36,733,000
Culture	166,751,000
Gender Equality	8,644,000
Legislative Affairs	1,368,000
Environment	43,797,000
Health & Social Affairs	37,741,000
Education	227,642,000
The ministers for Nordic co-operation:	208,320,000
Co-operation with neighbours*	93,215,000
Secretariat	77,119,000
Joint activities**	37,986,000
TOTAL:	934,716,000
TOTAL IN EUROS:	125,634,000

* Co-operation with neighbouring countries

** For example, activities related to sustainable development and freedom of movement

GREEN REGION

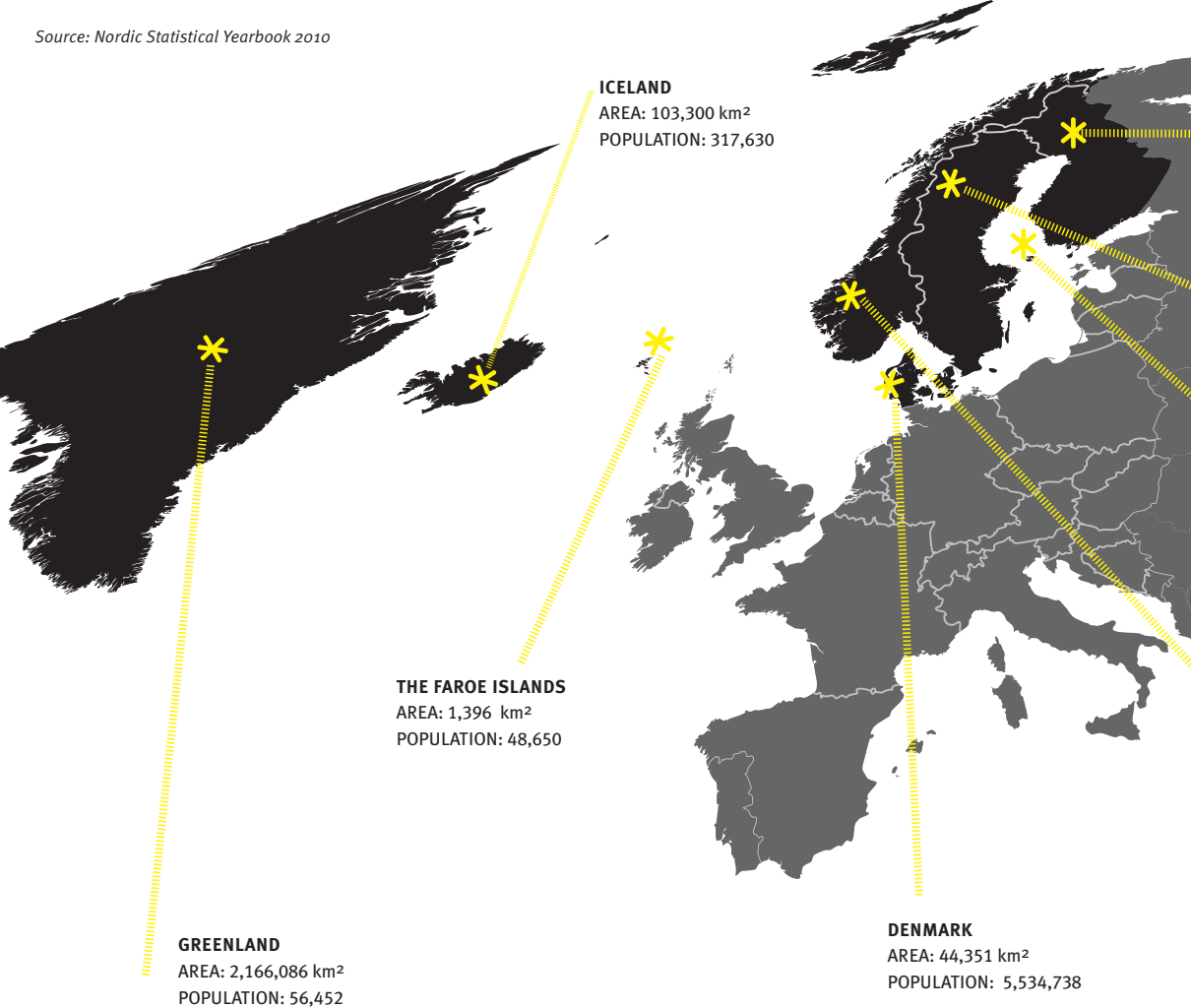
The Nordic countries have much in common in all sorts of spheres. Cultural values, relative economic equality and a widespread sense of social wellbeing are just three examples of how the countries in the Region share more than just borders.

It is also a green region, and has been for many years. The Nordic countries have helped pioneer renewable energy, have long prioritised recycling, and have played an active role in international efforts to combat pollution.

Awareness of green issues will continue to play an important role in the Region. Working for a sustainable environment on behalf of future generations will continue to be of paramount importance. This work will be done both collectively and by the individual countries acting in as environmentally conscious a manner as possible.

	DENMARK (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands)	FINLAND (including Åland)	ICELAND	NORWAY	SWEDEN
Renewables share of energy (% of total consumption)					
1990	7	18	65	50	25
2000	11	25	71	48	32
2009	18	26	75	44	32
Emissions of greenhouse gases (index 1990 = 100)					
1990	100	100	100	100	100
2000	99	98	110	107	95
2009	93	100	143	108	88





FINLAND

AREA: 338,441 km²

POPULATION: 5,351,427

OVERVIEW OF THE NORDIC REGION

SWEDEN

AREA: 450,295 km²

POPULATION: 9,340,682

ÅLAND

AREA: 1,582 km²

POPULATION: 27,734

NORWAY

AREA: 323,782 km²

POPULATION: 4,858,199

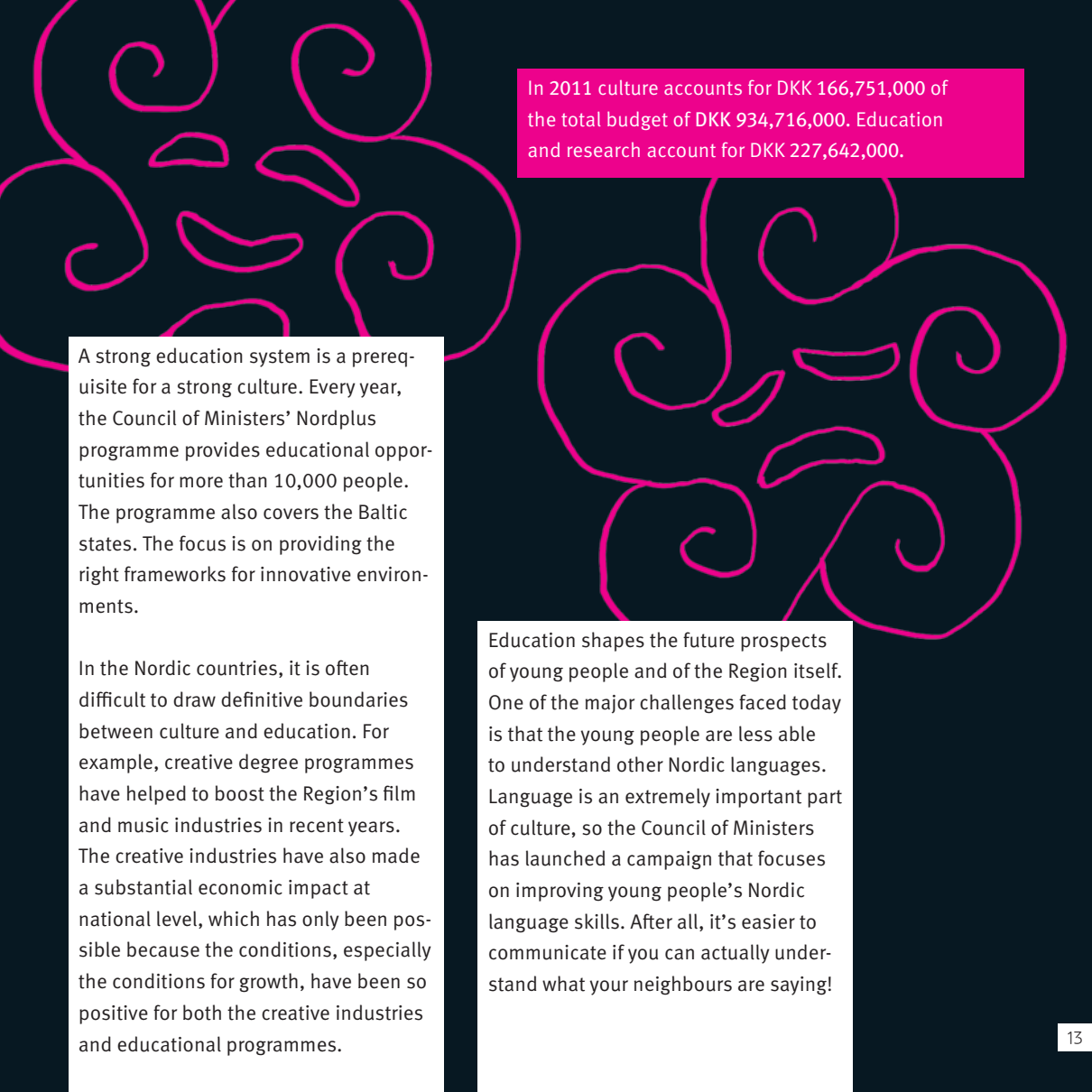
Visit norden.org to learn more about Nordic co-operation, the five countries and the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland. The website also provides information on everything from economics to uninhabited islands!

NURTURING CULTURE

Art and culture have long flourished at both national and Nordic level. However, a rich and diverse cultural scene is very much dependent on ongoing support and attention – this is a characteristically Nordic attitude, and forms the basis for the Council of Ministers' co-operation on culture. Collaboration on art and culture is one of the cornerstones of the sense of affinity that binds the countries together.

Every year, the Nordic Council awards prizes for music, film and literature to celebrate this deep-seated popular support for culture and recognise the best the Region has to offer. However, culture must also look to the future by developing and incorporating new spheres. One example of this work is the Nordic Games Program, which set out to create a joint market bigger than the national ones and to make it easier to release high-quality games that stand out from the traditional, often very violent crowd.





In 2011 culture accounts for DKK 166,751,000 of the total budget of DKK 934,716,000. Education and research account for DKK 227,642,000.

A strong education system is a prerequisite for a strong culture. Every year, the Council of Ministers' Nordplus programme provides educational opportunities for more than 10,000 people. The programme also covers the Baltic states. The focus is on providing the right frameworks for innovative environments.

In the Nordic countries, it is often difficult to draw definitive boundaries between culture and education. For example, creative degree programmes have helped to boost the Region's film and music industries in recent years. The creative industries have also made a substantial economic impact at national level, which has only been possible because the conditions, especially the conditions for growth, have been so positive for both the creative industries and educational programmes.

Education shapes the future prospects of young people and of the Region itself. One of the major challenges faced today is that the young people are less able to understand other Nordic languages. Language is an extremely important part of culture, so the Council of Ministers has launched a campaign that focuses on improving young people's Nordic language skills. After all, it's easier to communicate if you can actually understand what your neighbours are saying!

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER

In summer 2007, the Nordic prime ministers met deep in the Finnish forest. The gathering in Punkaharju focused on the challenges and opportunities posed by developments at global level. The Region's political response to globalisation takes the form of the Council of Ministers' Globalisation Initiative.

The initiative's most important function is to allocate money to areas in which the Region wishes to influence international development. Nordic society is creative, innovative and has for decades

been good at coping with competition. Competition will be fiercer in the future, so it is important that the Region continues to follow its own unique path. An element of multitasking will be involved – innovative thinking and a change of direction will be needed, but so too will a focus on traditional Nordic issues such as culture, climate, the environment and education.



THE NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' GLOBALISATION INITIATIVE

SELECTED ITEMS	BUDGET 2011
	DKK
Globalisation Forum	3,876,000
Innovation Representation in Asia	2,040,000
Development of the Nordic Research and Innovation Area (NORIA)	3,570,000
Funding for higher education programmes in the Nordic Region	6,120,000
Illustrating the impact of climate change in the Nordic Region	4,794,000
Health and welfare	13,260,000
Energy and transport	11,832,000
Climate-friendly construction	7,650,000
Other globalisation initiatives	19,278,000
TOTAL:	72,420,000
TOTAL IN EUROS:	9,734,000

“NORDIC
CO-OPERATION
HAS STRONG
POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND
CULTURAL ROOTS

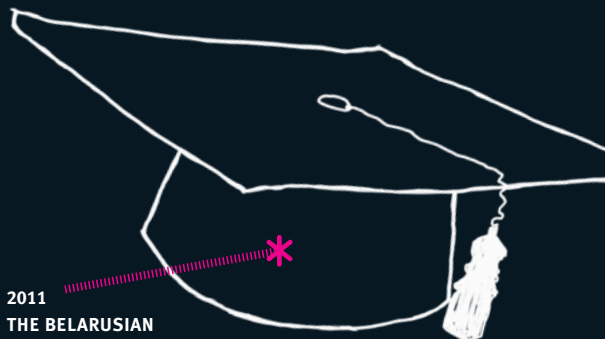
THE NORDIC
COMMUNITY WORKS
FOR A STRONG
REGION IN A
STRONG EUROPE”

THREE TANGIBLE EXAMPLES

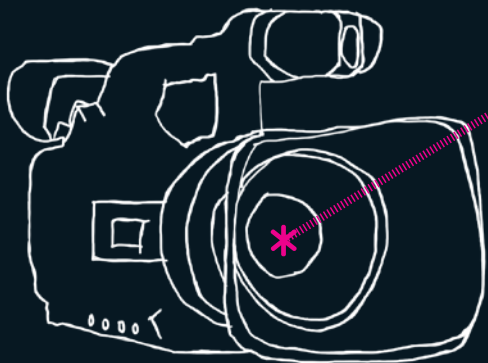
For the people of the Region, tangible results are what counts: What do they get for their money? The Nordic Ecolabel is a good example. Funded by the Council of Ministers ever since its inception in 1989, the label is now an integral part of most consumers' daily lives – they look for it on everything from clothes to toilet paper.

Nordic co-operation has also played a significant role in enhancing the quality and popular appeal of film and TV in the Region. The Council of Ministers' Nordic Film & TV Fund helps pay for a wide range of productions. Successes include films such as 'Men Who Hate Women' and 'In a Better World' – the latter won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011.

The Council of Ministers also supports projects in neighbouring countries. Democracy and the right to education are two key Nordic values, so funds are allocated wherever democratic rights are threatened and study conditions are poor. A prime example of this is the Belarusian university in exile, the EHU in Vilnius, Lithuania, which the Council of Ministers has supported since 2004.



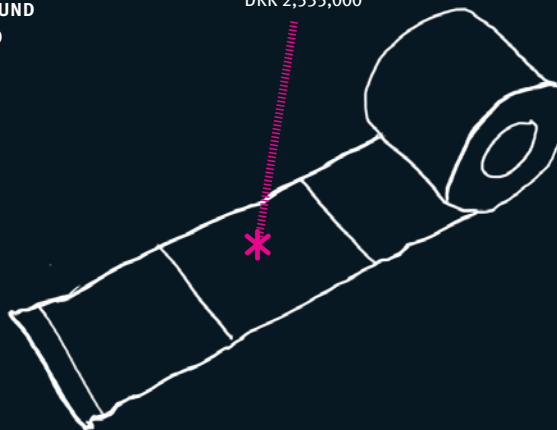
2011
**THE BELARUSIAN
UNIVERSITY IN EXILE (EHU)**
DKK 4,695,000



2011
**THE NORDIC
FILM AND TV FUND**
DKK 26,074,000

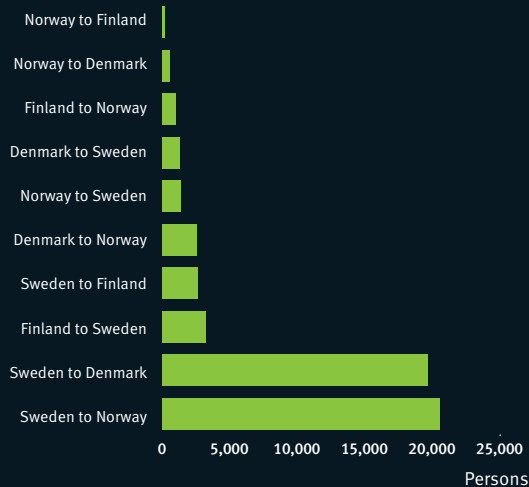
It may sound strange, but there is a link between Susanne Bier's 'In a Better World', Belarusian students in Lithuania and the toilet paper in Nordic homes. This link is called the Nordic Council of Ministers.

2011
THE SWAN ECO-LABEL
DKK 2,535,000



REGION ON THE MOVE

SUMMARY OF COMMUTERS BETWEEN NORDIC COUNTRIES



Mobility is a common Nordic trait, as demonstrated by the thousands who commute daily from one country to another, as well as those who opt to relocate to neighbouring countries.

The Council of Ministers' Freedom of Movement Forum strives to make internal Nordic borders as open as possible. It should be as easy as possible to move, work, study and do business across national borders. An open Region benefits everybody. Open borders and greater mobility are two of Nordic co-operation's biggest strengths.



IMMIGRATION TO: FROM:	Denmark	The Faroe Islands	Greenland	Finland incl. Åland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
Denmark	-	967	2,198	408	1,193	3,124	5,457
The Faroe Islands	1,345	-	50	-	47	46	-
Greenland	2,459	28	-	1	15	27	-
Finland incl. Åland	431	1	-	-	48	571	2,932
Iceland	1,558	71	99	60	-	1,625	741
Norway	3,005	30	28	608	301	-	5,097
Sweden	5,378	22	40	3,456	327	7,923	-



THE FUTURE





Official Nordic co-operation has existed for nearly 60 years. Every day, the decisions or programmes of the Council of Ministers and the Nordic Council make life a little easier for the people of the Region. But co-operation takes a great deal of effort. If the Region is to continue to enjoy strong

internal cohesion and a powerful voice abroad, all citizens, organisations and businesses must continue to participate in Nordic activities. The best way to do this is to remember that co-operation is designed to benefit everybody in the Region.



norden

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