

North Atlantic Forum - Bornholm 2009

International Conference Announcement – **with updates!**

BRIDGING REGIONAL DIVIDES

New Forms of Rural and Urban Interaction in the North

Centre for Regional- and Tourism Research, Bornholm, Denmark

September 23 to 25, 2009

Capturing the bridging moment

Centre for Regional and Tourism Research, Denmark, hereby invites you to participate in the **North Atlantic Forum Conference 2009** taking place on the island of Bornholm on **September 23-25th**. The conference theme, **Bridging Regional Divides – New Forms of Rural and Urban Interaction in the North**, will particularly focus on the issues of governance and urban-rural partnerships as well as knowledge mobilisation and innovation dynamics in the interplay between urban and rural regions.

Traditionally the urban-rural “division of labour” has entailed a system of mutual exchanges, where cities and metropolitan regions provide access to attractive jobs, higher education, public services, cultural activities, and main infrastructure, while rural areas have supplied agricultural products, provided leisure opportunities and attractive nature experiences. But how valid are these functions and roles today?

In a world increasingly driven by the ‘fourth’ economy - the experience and creative economy - new possibilities are opening up. Rural producers are beginning to offer ‘authentic’ and hand-crafted products and services for an increasingly identity-seeking consumer culture. Furthermore, members of the creative class are relocating to rural areas, establishing new businesses and contributing to novel types of local entrepreneurship.

As a consequence, new forms of innovation and knowledge dynamics are permeating the rural and peripheral landscape. This in turn indicates a reconfiguration of the traditional urban-rural relationship, as expressed in the initiatives by national and regional policy makers alike. Pivotal in this development are issues relating to governance – encompassing policy and decision-making as well as economic and business development – and, not least to the role of higher education, research and competence development.

The NAF 2009 conference will provide an opportunity to engage in presentations, analyses, discussions and first-hand experiences engaging with these issues and themes, and all in interactions with researchers and leading representatives from public, private as well as NGO organisations from various parts of the North Atlantic.

Call for presentations

We are working on a preliminary **workshop** structure covering the following headings within the sub-themes:

- Workshop 1: Policy integration and territorial cohesion
- Workshop 2: Local Action Groups in Europe
- Workshop 3: Regional and municipal restructuring – Cases from the Nordic Countries
- Workshop 4: National strategies and rural/island realities
- Workshop 5: The politics and reality of place branding
- Workshop 6: Knowledge dynamics in and between urban and rural/island regions
- Workshop 7: Renewable and alternative energy
- Workshop 8: Innovation the Rural Way
- Workshop 9: Migration dynamics and human resources
- Workshop 10: Cyber bridges – ICT and rural/island development

Each workshop will consist of 3-4 presentations (15 minutes), and a discussion (20 minutes) moderated by an appointed facilitator. Proposals for presentations will be approved by a Program Committee.

We look forward to receiving abstracts from you on workshop inputs or even for a panel of inputs.

Submitted abstracts should be relevant with the overall conference theme and the workshop sub-themes listed above. Abstracts should be written in English, be 400-600 words and submitted by **July 15th 2009**.

Contributions may be academic or based on best-practise experiences. Please specify this in your abstract.

Please send your abstract to: naf@crt.dk.

Dates to remember

July 15th Deadline for proposals for presentations (between 400-600 words)

August 1st Acceptance notification on proposals for presentations

August 15th Deadline for registration

Further information

For further information about the conference see www.crt.dk or from Friday, June the 12th: www.north-atlantic-forum.com

Contact persons at CRT: Karin Topsoe Larsen, consultant: kl@crt.dk: +45 56440035 and Peter Billing, director: billing@crt.dk: + 45 56440022

The Conference Setting

The Danish island of Bornholm is situated in the middle of the Baltic Sea, the easternmost point in Denmark. Bornholm is called “the pearl of the Baltic Sea” and has been a renowned holiday destination since the mid-1800s. Thanks to its location, Bornholm has many hours of sunshine and the extraordinary, pure light has always attracted a great number of artists to the island.

The conference venues as well as accommodation will be located in the small harbour town of Svaneke, exemplifying the rural proverb: small is beautiful. Svaneke stands out as Bornholm's best preserved old town with houses and half-timbered farms in the winding roads which gently slope towards the harbour. Svaneke boasts its' own nationally renowned brewery, home-made traditional lolly shop as well as a liquorice factory, glass blowers and galleries galore and a traditional smoke house. Venues here reflect local inhabitants: creative, enterprising, proud and unique.

The North Atlantic Forum

The conference is arranged as part of the North Atlantic Forum (NAF), which is an informal network made up of researchers and regional policy-makers and practitioners from a number of peripheral areas around the edges of the North Atlantic. NAF was born out of the North Atlantic Islands Program (1994-98), and the Bornholm conference is the fifth since the inaugural NAF in Prince Edward Island, Canada, 2000. In the spirit of the North Atlantic Forum this conference seeks to provide an informed dialogue and interaction between academics, regional and local leaders, both from public and private sectors, and practitioners.

Centre for Regional and Tourism Research

The Centre for Regional and Tourism Research (CRT), founded in 1994, has a national and international position in socioeconomic development, business development, policymaking and planning with a special focus on rural areas and maritime regions. We create linkages between theory and practice, and through new knowledge contribute to the development of research, policy-making and businesses in rural areas and maritime regions. CRT has a basic grant from the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (VTU), and in addition generates funding from a wide range of external projects carried out by its 18 members of researchers and consultants.