

**Brussels**

**27 June 2012**

**Dag Rønning, Chairman of Hedmark County Council**

**Padima - The Final Conference**

**Presentation of the Regional Strategy for how to be  
220 000 inhabitants in 2020**

# PADIMA

## Policies Against Depopulation in Mountain Areas



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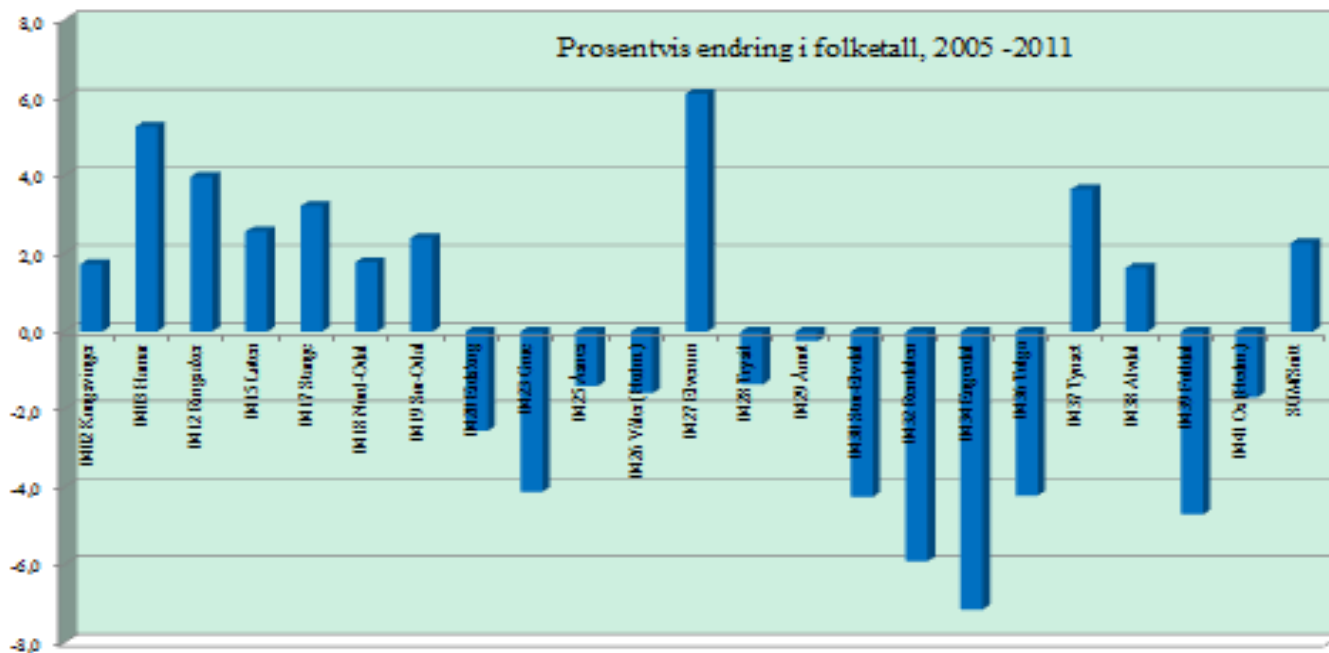


# PADIMA

## Policies Against Depopulation in Mountain Areas



FYLKESMANNEN I HEDMARK



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## The County Council's tasks and responsibilities

While the term county (fylke) denotes the geographical area, the county council (fylkeskommune) is the democratically elected body, with responsibilities for public welfare in the county

# The county council's areas of responsibility within regional development cover:

1. Transport and business development
2. Culture and the preservation of cultural monuments
3. International cooperation
4. Planning, land use and the environment
5. Community health
6. Climate and energy



Eidsiva Energisentral



Why a political objective to become 220 000 people in 2020 in Hedmark?



Main challenges

1. Demographic (low increase of the population, depopulation in the mountain region, ageing, low birth rate)
2. Housing
3. Utilise the infrastructure
4. Close to the Oslo region
5. Space

Why a political objective to become 220 000 people in 2020?

## **The declaration of Hedmark «Hedmarkserklæringen»**

- 1. Because increase in the population means viable cities, villages and rural areas**
- 2. Because more people creates more diversity, more opportunities and economic growth**
- 3. Because the Norwegian state and the county council will invest a lot of money in infrastructure (roads, railway and upper secondary schools) the next 4 years. We need more people in Hedmark for use of this large investments. These investments will create a lot of jobs and we must make sure that immigrants find the life they want to live in our county**
- 4. Because we have both opportunities and enough space for more people**
- 5. Because the number of people is essential for the economy in municipalities and the county council**



In the Hedmark strategy we have 4 focus areas:

1. Knowledge and business development
2. Infrastructure
3. Attractivity
4. Energy and climate



## What are we going to do the next 4 years (examples):

1. Stimulate to more refining in the agricultural and forest industry
2. Focus on the creative industry, visitors and jobs
3. Local community development program (LUK) incl. youth participation
4. Social meeting places, cultural institutions and cultural activities
5. Immigrants as resources for local development
6. Cooperation between upper secondary school, university college and the business sector
7. Focus on the regional innovation system, entrepreneur camps and incubation companies in all the municipalities
8. Business development and innovation within renewable energy and environment technology
9. Housing in Østerdalene (non-functional markets)\*
10. Entrepreneurship in school in mountain region  
(including creative workshop for youth)



## Rewards from PADIMA:

- Input to ongoing strategic processes e.g. Regional plan, Strategy for Experience Industry and Innovation Plan
- Methods for developing strategies against depopulation
- Networks and personal relations
- Transferring of innovative methods, models and knowledge – insight in the 3 themes and 99 good practices
- Typology for mountain regions with depopulation in Europe
- Networks and synergies against the IVA- and IVB-programme, where the cooperation with the County of Dalarna is very important for Hedmark
- Partner in Europe, European Regional policy and European Integration

# Padima - Final conference

Thank you for your attention!

[www.padima.org](http://www.padima.org)



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