



NORDEN DIVISION

- Sweden
- Norway
- Iceland
- Denmark, including Greenland and the Faroe islands
- Finland, including Åland

Emily Lethbridge (Iceland, Co-chair)



Dr Emily Lethbridge
@DrELethbridge

Rauðisandur is sometimes seen spelled Rauðasandur ... though the modification to this road sign indicates that not everyone is happy about this variation. Place-names can prompt strong feelings 🤔



18:16 · 22/07/2021 · Twitter for iPhone

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Peder Gammeltoft (Norway, Vice-chair)



Peder Gammeltoft
@DigitalOnomast

Man bruger ikke efterhængt artikel vestjysk dialekt. Det hedder 'æ Hawskow': dr.dk/nyheder/region... Derfor skal kommuner ikke standardisere stednavne
[#PlaceNamesMatter](#)
[@ThistedKommune](#) [@DRNyheder](#)

Translate Tweet



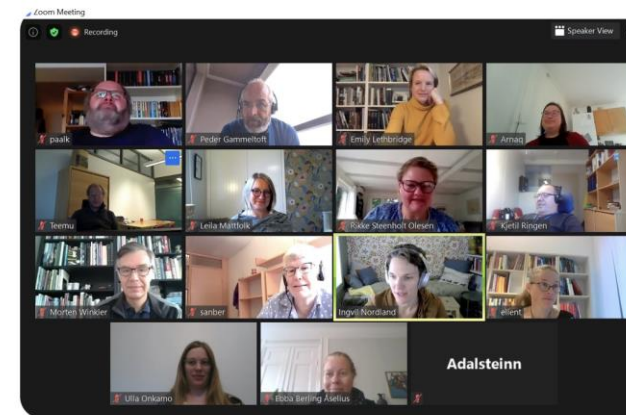
dr.dk
Nej til vestjysk dialekt i vejnavn: 'Herude på Vestkysten siger vi haw'

Ingvil Nordland (Norway, Co-chair)



Ingvil Nordland
@ingvilmord

Today, fifteen colleagues from the Norden Division of [@UNSD_GEGN](#) joined a Zoom-meeting 🇪🇺
Discussing topics such as GDPR and place name registers, how to educate municipalities in the standardisation of geographical names and names in multilingual contexts. Thank you all!





Norden Division delegation in New York 2019

Success factors for the Norden Division

- Nordic collaboration through the Nordic Council established in 1952 → creates a common Nordic identity and cultural platform.
- Strong onomastic community. *Nordic cooperative committee for onomastic research* (NORNA) arranges congresses, symposiums and workshops (primarily with Scandinavian as conference language).
- A majority of the division members are working with geographical names on a daily basis, and a majority of the division members are trained onomasticians.
- A long tradition for a systematically collaboration between the onomastic/academic environment and the mapping agencies.

Success factors for the Norden Division

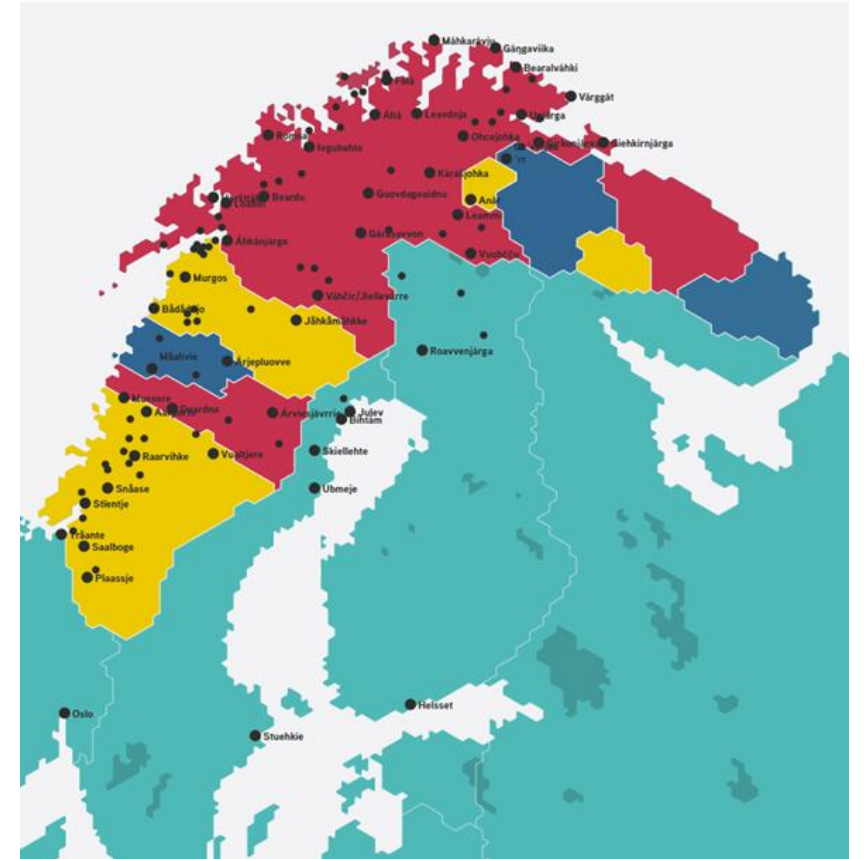
- Most Nordic countries established national names authorities early on, however with slightly different structures.
- Legislation in Norway, Sweden and Iceland → aiming to safeguard names as cultural heritage.
- Several division members are active in Working Groups, and two of them are convenors (Annette Torensjö for WG GNCH and Peder Gammeltoft WG on Publicity and Funding and WG on Training Courses in Toponymy).
- Language and place names are often subject for public debate → creates interest and public engagement.

Challenges for the Norden Division

- The Norden Division's website is outdated and no longer maintained → need a more sustainable solution not dependent on individual institutions.
- In general, engagement in UNGEGN depends on a few very active and engaged members that are willing to use some of their spare time. The work in this division is no exception → makes it difficult to hold up a stable level of activity between sessions.

Challenges for the Norden Division

- Mainly recruitment happens through the bodies involved in the national standardization of geographical names. However, on a division level we see a need
 - to recruit **more members from the technical** side committed to contribute to the new challenges of geographical names managements (like linked data) and that at the same time has some knowledge about geospatial management/infrastructure issues;
 - to recruit **more members from the Sami areas** and improve the coordination of the standardization on Sami names in the region.



Vassgård eller Vasskord?

- Jeg går gjerne i fengsel for å få rett navn på bygda vår, sier Jens Vassgård. Siste kapittel i navnestriden er ikke skrevet.



