



Smart shrinking as a development approach for de- populating regions around the Baltic Sea

2024 NORDPLUS intensive course (5 ECTS)

19.4. & 11.-25. of May 2024

Today's Programme

13:00 - 13:20: Short introduction to the course, practicalities, "rules of the game"

13:20 - 14:05: Lecture: Shrinking Geographies (Prof. Josefina Syssner, Linköping University)

14:05 - 14:55: Lecture: Assessing shrinkage through statistics (Prof. Teemu Makkonen, University of Eastern Finland)

14:55 - 15:00: Closing of the seminar (final questions)

What is this about...

- **GEONORDBALT network (Human Geography)**
 - **University of Eastern Finland (FI)**
 - **University of Tartu (EE)**
 - **University of Latvia (LV)**
 - **Vilnius University (LT)**
 - **Linköping University (SE)**
 - **University Center of the Westfjords (IS)**
- **Funding from Nordplus HEI**

The course in a nutshell...

- 11.-25.5. Iceland
- Mix of lectures, excursions and fieldwork
- Work in 5 groups of mixed origin
- 5 Case studies in different localities along Iceland's Northern coast
- 5 final reports
- Lot's of work & lot's of experience, lot's of fun...

Communication & Information

- **Common language of the course is English**
- **Teams channel: Nordplus Coastal shrinkage Iceland 2024**
 - Tasks, lectures and information (e.g. programme, readings,...)
 - Group data files, case study info (e.g. pics, documents,..) & reports/presentations
- **Registration in UEF system for CP's (you'll get email on how to activate)**
- **WhatsApp group**
 - Will be created
- **Student grant (paid hopefully 28.04.)**
 - Covers food (self-catering) during course (264€/person)
 - Travel costs to/from course if self-paid

Sat. 11.5.

- **Arrival to Reykjavik**

- First meeting (Reykjavik)

Sun. 12.5.

- Departure morning (meeting with UW on the way):
 - Transfer ride: Reykjavik to Akureyri (UW students join on the way)
- Welcoming evening (Akureyri)

Mon. 13.5.

- Lectures and workshop at University of Akureyri (whole day)

Tue. 14.5.

- Interactive Excursion & meetings with municipalities
- Student group presentations (**homework**)

Wed. 15.5.

- Interactive excursion & meetings (coastal & insular communities)

Thu. 16.5.

- Interactive excursion & meetings (coastal & insular communities)
 - in-situ methods & case study training in groups
- Preparation of research plans (afternoon/evening)
- Evening lectures

Fri. 17.5.

- Preparation of fieldwork & Desktop Analysis
- Research plan presentation

SAT. 18.5.

- **DEPARTURE TO CASE STUDY SITES**
- **FIELD WORK IN CASE LOCALITIES**

Sun. 19.5.

- Field work in case localities

Mon. 20.5.

- Field work in case localities

Tue 21.5.

- Field work in case localities
- Departure to Akureyri (afternoon)
- Evening seminar (raw data presentation)

**Wed.
22.5.**

- **Report writing**

Thu. 23.5.

- Report writing
- Afternoon excursions

Fri. 24.5.

- Report writing
- Final seminar (afternoon)
- Dinner & certificate ceremony

Day 25.5.

- Departure to Reykjavik & home country (or on 26.5.)

Homework/pre-task...

- Pre-course group work by participants from each University

Topic: Defining *smart shrinking* from a national perspective

- *Prepare a 15 minute presentation including:*
 - *General trends and current demographic situation in **your partner country***
 - *Potential **smart shrinking policies/strategies***
 - *Is there a common/dominant **definition of what (smart) shrinking means?***
 - *Provide **some exemplifying case/locality/programme...**(can be from home countries)*
 - *Present in afternoon session (14.5.)*

Rules of the game...

- Be aware of the programme, the course requirements and listen and follow the instruction given...
- Be communicative...
- Be in time...
- Be active and participate active in all activities...
- Take notes...
- Be a team player...
- English is the core language of the course...


Practicalities

Important gear:

- Rain/snow resistant gear (e.g. umbrella for fieldwork)
- Own laptop/camera/mobile
- notebook
- Decent shoes
- Swimming gear
- Evening robe

Other issues:

- Laundry partially possible
- Insurance own responsibility
- Complains/problems: report to own teacher or myself!

A top-down photograph of various outdoor and travel gear items laid out on a rustic wooden surface. From left to right, there is a silver thermos, a yellow notebook with a pair of glasses and a matchbox on top, a black DSLR camera with a lens cap, and a large black lens. Below these items, there are two pairs of brown leather hiking boots and a pair of grey wool socks. The background is a dark, textured wooden plank surface with some dry grass or twigs scattered around.

**Please aim at a
small/medium
luggage**

Extras...

- Country evening (17.5.)
 - Last evening before fieldwork is thought to be a shared dinner/piknik
 - Bring some food/drink specialities from your home/residence country to share
- Other issues
 - High price level in Iceland: consider to bring some own things
 - Duty free on arrival possible