
Charting the Course: Governance and Economic Sustainability in North Atlantic Communities

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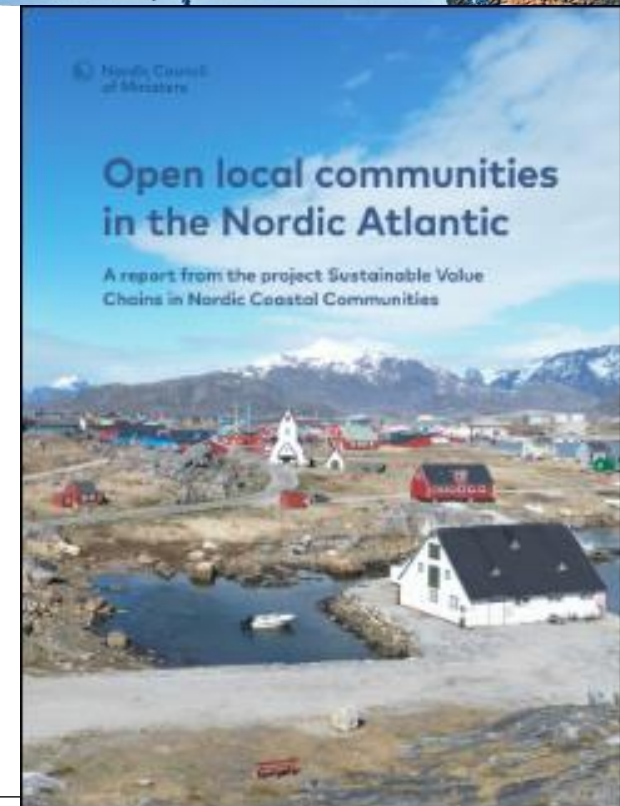
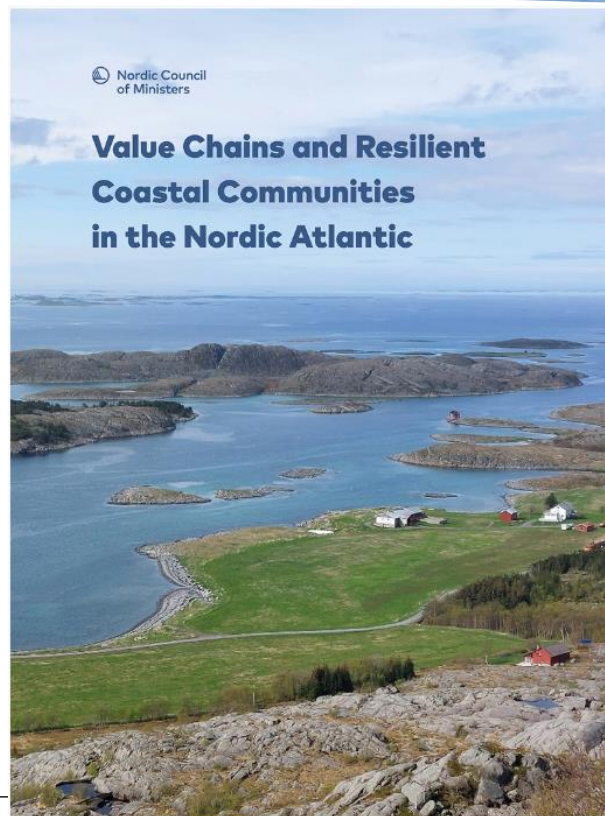
Tyt Mogensen

- Our task:
 - Gather some of the threads together from yesterday and today – and look a bit ahead.
 - Gestur will raise some more general topics or lessons, including a few that have may not been so prominent mentioned these two days.
 - Tyt will take the practical perspective and bring some forward-thinking ideas into play.
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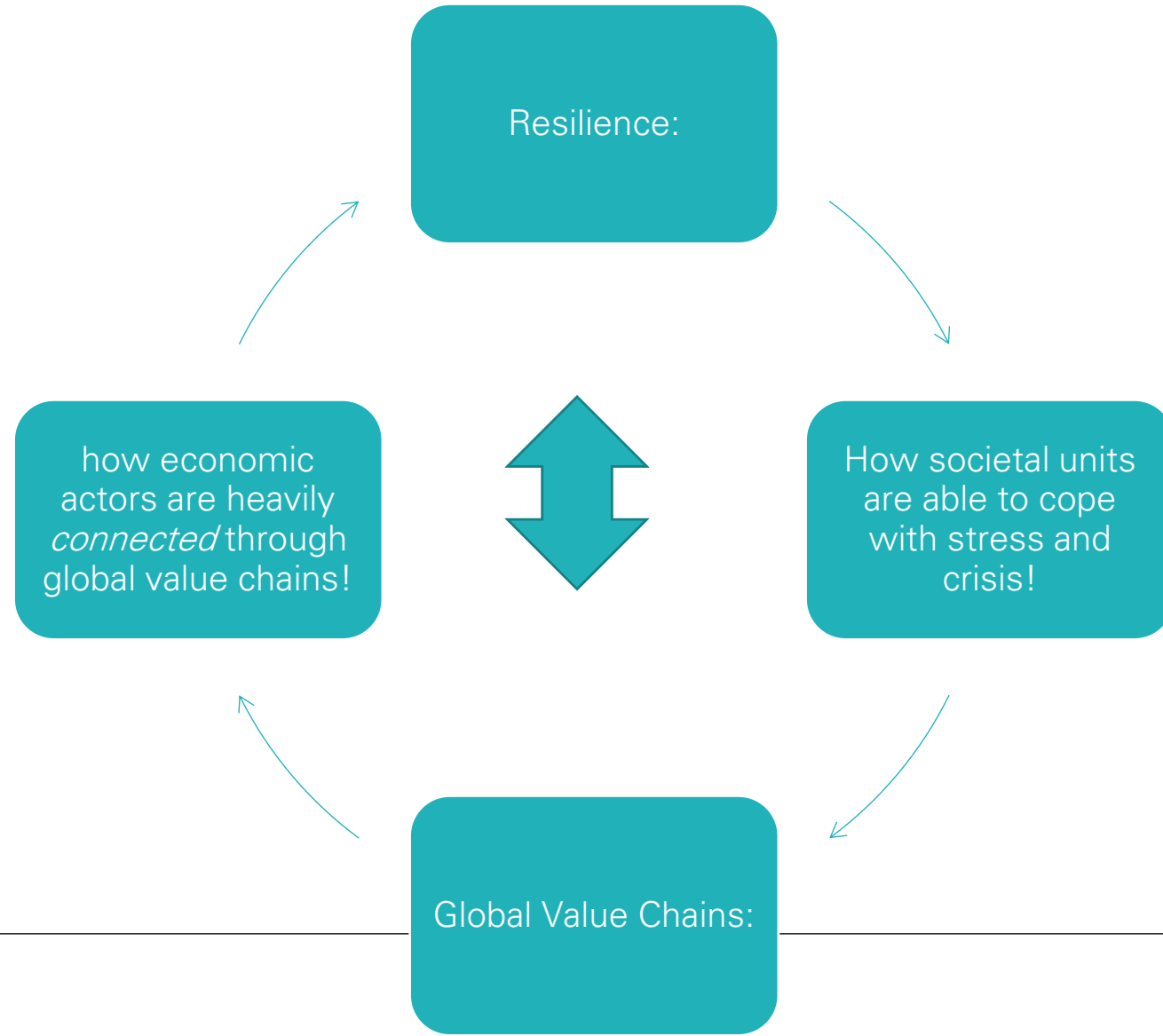


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Publications number
2024:501
2022:555



Resilience versus global value chains



Population 1 January*

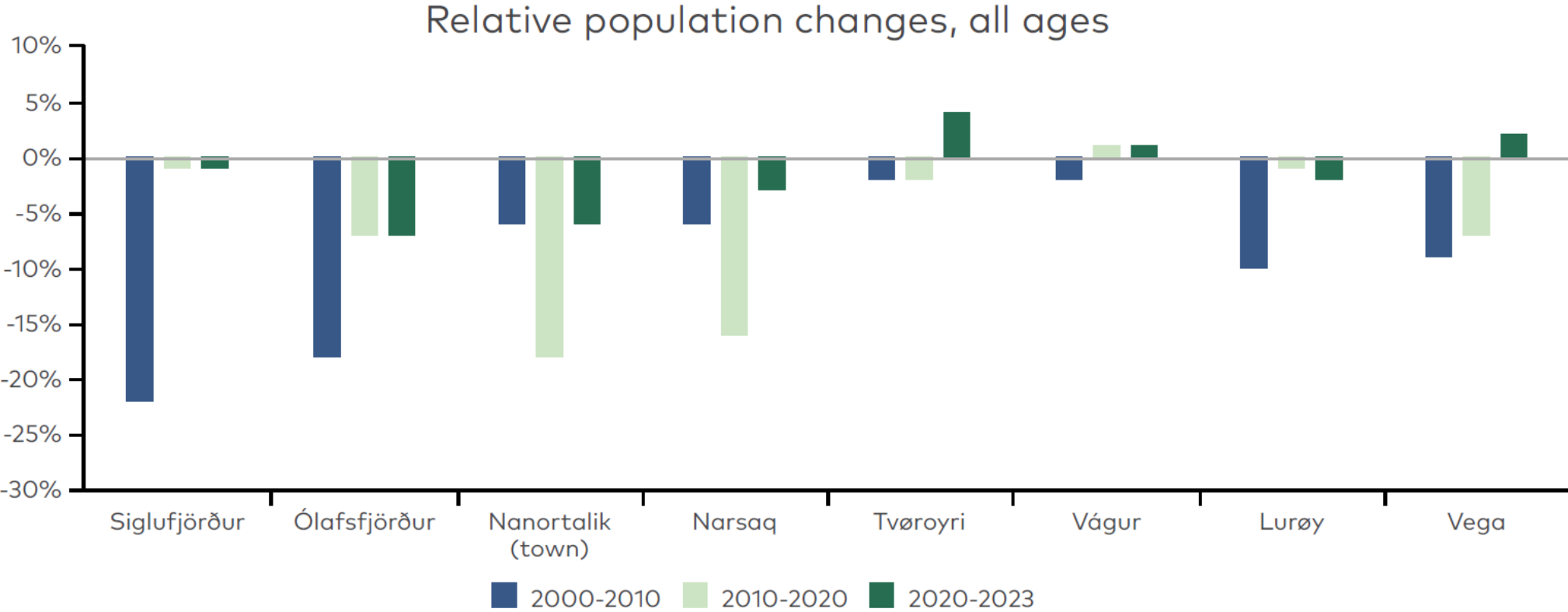
Local community	2000	2021	Change
Narsaq #	1714	1392	-18,8 %
Nanortalik #	1538	1169	-24,0 %
Siglufjörður	1559	1165	-25,3 %
Olafsfjörður	1036	770	-25,7 %
Tvøroyri	1783	1744	-2,2 %
Vágur	1403	1392	-0,8 %
Vega	1414	1182	-16,4 %
Lurøy	2107	1876	-11,0 %

Sources: Statistics Greenland, Statistics Iceland, Statistics Faroe Islands and Statistics Norway

* 2000 numbers for Siglufjörður and Olafsfjörður are 1 December

#dispersed small villages and farms in Narsaq and Nanortalik districts not included

Population changes 2000-2023



No. of migrants in the 8 selected communities

Local community	2000	2010	2020	2023
Narsaq #	7,5%	5,3%	3,3%	3,8%
Nanortalik #	3,9%	3,4%	2,2%	2,5%
Fjallabyggd (Siglu- + Ólafsfjörður)	2,2%	3,6%	8,7%	9,6%
Tvøroyri	4,9%	5,3%	6,3%	9,8%
Vágur	3,1%	3,5%	4,4%	5,1%
Vega	1,1%	1,9%	6,3%	8,3%
Lurøy	0,9%	3,6%	7,9%	10,3%

* Migrant is here defined as foreign born with two foreign-born parents (or with parents' place of birth unknown, for the Faroes)

including the whole district with small villages and farms

Source: Statistics Greenland, Statistics Iceland, Statistics Faroe Islands & Statistics Norway

Summing up!

- Major changes in industrial and institutional structures have taken place.
 - A transformation away from the local fillet factory as the cornerstone of the local economy towards more diverse economic structures.
 - Profound changes in demography and social composition of coastal communities. Among these:
 - aging populations,
 - gender imbalances,
 - high relocation patterns, etc.
 - The important point here: *even in places which we may term as economic successful.*
 - Raises the question: How small can you be and still be resilient?
 - My immediate answer: a matter of connectivity and of bottom-up planning.
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Open communities – and what the numbers (including your address) don't see.

- People use, value and deal with places in still more different ways. Made visible by:
 - more dynamic migration patterns, e.g. by increased immigration of non-European citizens to many coastal communities who come to seek work, love or experiences.
 - The steadily increasing proportion of second homes seen in many coastal communities.
 - Whether they be vacated or inherited, purchased for their amenity value or for rental purposes, they represent a variation in the local settlement pattern and contribute strongly to openness and diversity.
 - Local youth, moving, returning, leaving or “being locals from a distance”.
 - Important lesson: Economic diversity is closely followed by and works with increased mobile practices and a diversification in terms of local identities and place values.
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General lessons on the resilient open community.

- Work places often do not effectively integrate migrant workers. Second homers are often seen as people from other places. Becoming a part of the local community can be difficult and troublesome if you are not “a permanent resident” – and for sure: there are serious challenges (AirBnb, the housing shortage/crisis, etc).
 - ‘Newcomers’ and ‘often-comers’ bring resources and capacities, for example networks and funding possibilities, which can be activated if they are allowed to join local institutional meetings, become members of neighborhood associations, etc.
 - Lesson to remember: Coastal communities and small islands have been connected to global value chains for centuries – to managed uncertainty and re-organize has always been part of local life and to “stay in control”. Therefore we must not forget the historical perspective, the tradition and the very often quiet local voices which are always there.
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General lessons on the resilient open community

- Open communities that are also resilient are defined by their capacity to embrace diversity and change, leveraging these attributes to build sustainable development.
 - The resilient open community is a good mix of permanent residents, leavers, temporary workers, and visitors, each bringing different perspectives and values.
 - Key aspects of the resilient open communities includes:
 - 1) The combination of local and global value chains, allowing the community to adapt to changing conditions.
 - 2) The ability to adapt to economic and environmental change, involving flexible use of natural and human resources.
 - 3) A strong sense of varied place values and belonging among residents, which is central for community cohesion and resilience.
 - 4) A recognition of the contributions of all members to local development, including those with temporary or partial ties to the area.
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