

Invitation to a Nordic conference:

The Financial Crisis, the Property Market and Home Ownership

Hótel Nordica, Reykjavík, Iceland, 26 November 2009

How has the global financial crisis affected the property market in the Nordic countries? What are the consequences for our welfare systems? What implications will the recession have for the housing systems in the Nordic countries? What housing policies are the Nordic countries likely to adopt to respond to the changed environment?

These vital questions will be examined at a Nordic conference to be held at Hótel Nordica in Reykjavík on 26 November 2009. The intention is to highlight both the distinctive features of the housing systems of the individual Nordic countries and the similarities between them and to predict possible developments in the immediate future, from both a Nordic and an international standpoint.

The construction and the property markets have been in free fall in recent months, resulting both in unemployment and a drop in property prices. This has been the case in all the Nordic countries. The consequences for society, the family and home ownership will be examined at the conference. Gwilym Pryce, professor of Urban Economics and Social Statistics in University of Glasgow, will be speaking about the situation around the world today, and experts from each of the Nordic countries will discuss the principal challenges and potentials in their respective countries.

The conference will offer an ideal venue for politicians, administrators, scholars and other professionals in the field of housing and planning in the Nordic countries to compare notes and learn from each other's experience.

The conference will be under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers, of which Iceland currently holds the chairmanship. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security will be organising the conference, in collaboration with the Housing Financing Fund and the Union of Local Authorities in Iceland.

The conference is open to all. Proceedings will be held in the Nordic languages and English. Interpreting services will be provided between the Scandinavian languages, on the one hand, and Icelandic and Finnish, on the other.

Further information is displayed on the web page fel.stjr.is/bolig and is available from Þórdís Yngvadóttir at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security, tel. 545 8100, e-mail: thordis.yngvadottir@fel.stjr.is.

Registration: yourhost.is/bolig2009.

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For further information visit: <http://fel.stjr.is/bolig>

