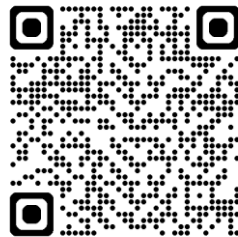


**CliCNord**

Climate  
Change  
Resilience in  
Small  
Communities in the  
Nordic Countries

# Key Takeaways

Visit [www.clicnord.org](http://www.clicnord.org)  
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This project has received funding from the NordForsk Nordic  
Societal Security Programme under Grant Agreement No. 97229

## Scope, Objectives, and Methodology

- CliCNord was launched to address a critical gap in climate adaptation research: **how small and remote communities in the Nordic region experience and respond to climate-related hazards.**
- While Nordic countries have been considered leaders in climate policy, most efforts have focused on urban areas and large-scale infrastructure. **Remote communities**, marked by geographic isolation, **limited emergency services, and fragile infrastructure, faced distinct vulnerabilities that required tailored strategies.**
- The project aimed to **strengthen resilience across the disaster cycle phases** (prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery) by **mobilising local capacities and fostering collaboration** between communities and authorities.
- It **covered five countries** (Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands) and **included eight case areas** (see map) exposed to **climate-related hazards** (coastal and pluvial flooding, landslides, flash floods, avalanches, wildfires, storms, and temperature extremes).
- This multi-country design enabled **comparative insights into how different socio-ecological contexts shaped adaptation practices.**

## Key Takeaways

- The CliCNord project shows that climate resilience in small Nordic communities is fundamentally shaped by **place attachment, local knowledge, and everyday practices.**
- Rather than relying primarily on technical or top-down solutions, communities adapt through **routinised, culturally embedded actions** such as monitoring weather, maintaining local infrastructure, and mobilising volunteer networks.
- These bottom-up strategies are strengthened by strong **social cohesion** but can also create optimism bias, reluctance to relocate, and tensions over land use.
- Across cases in Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, adaptation emerges as a **social and political process**, influenced by **identity, heritage, and contested visions of nature.**
- Effective resilience depends on **inclusive governance**, bridging newcomers and long-term residents, and combining structural protection with community-led practices.
- Overall, CliCNord highlights the transformative potential of **people-led, place-based adaptation** for sustaining remote communities under accelerating climate risks.