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## Study about the Faroese in Denmark

– 3. part of a larger study by the North Atlantic group in the Danish parliament

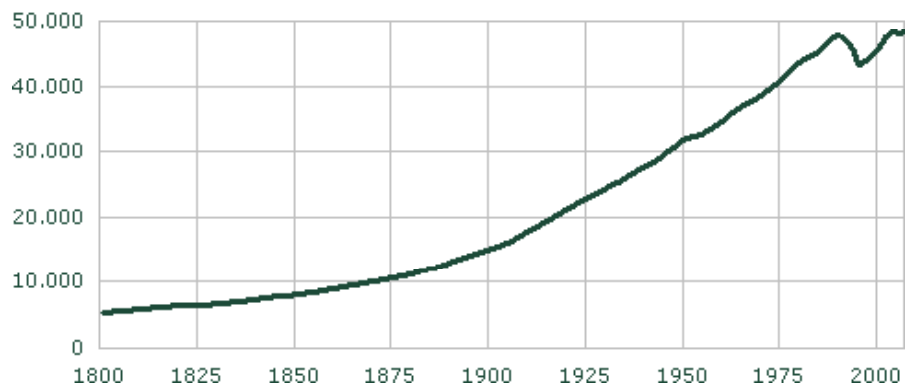
Presentation Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2009

[www.marketminds.dk](http://www.marketminds.dk)

Inhabitants 2009 = 48.603



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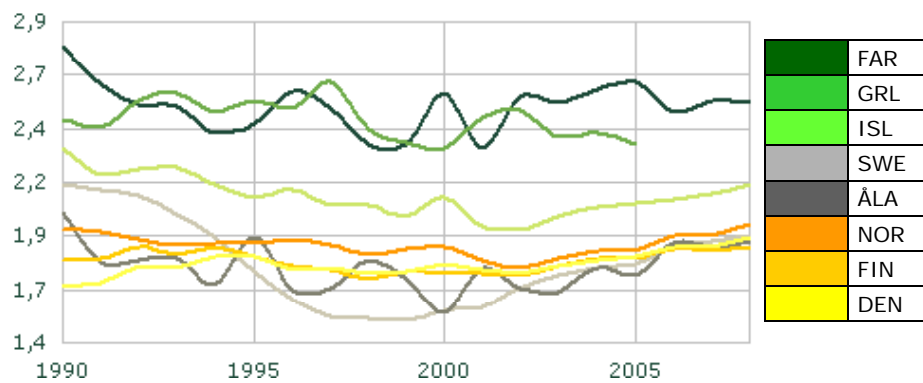


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Total fertility rate 2008 = 2,5



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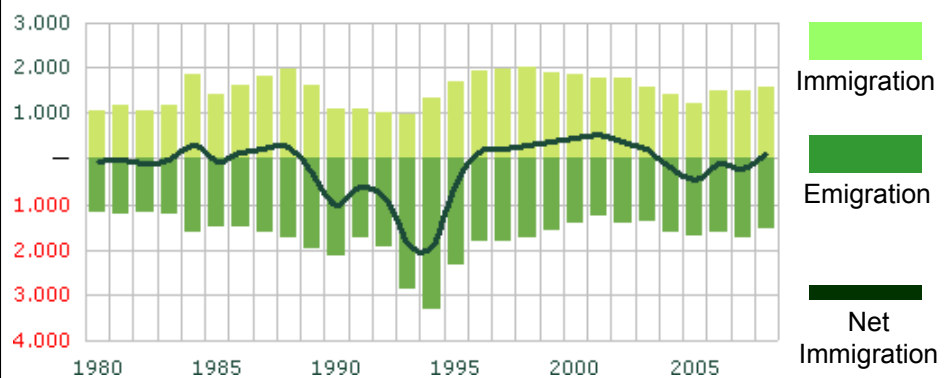


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Immigration 2009: 1.585  
Emigration 2009: 1.477



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## Ethnic groups

Official language = Faroese (Danish)



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### Ethnic groups (2009)

91,7% Faroese
5,8% Danish
0,4% Icelanders
0,2% Norwegian
0,2% Poles

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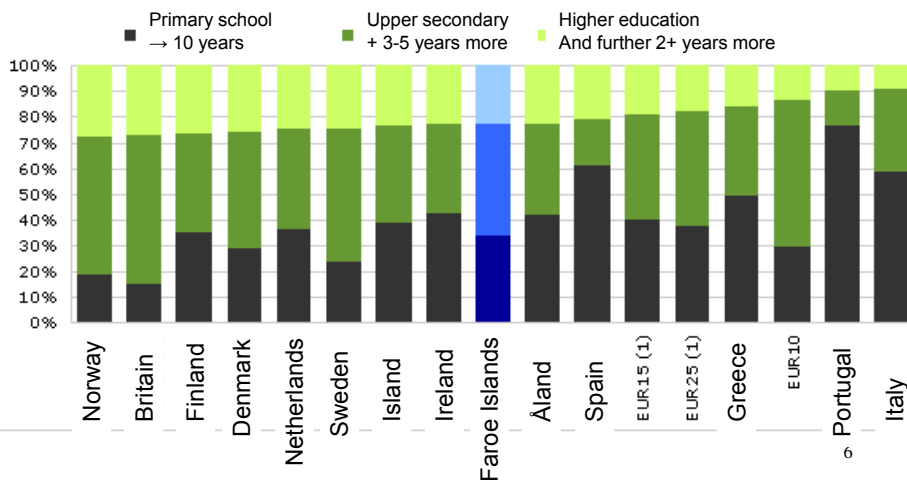
## Educational level (2006 data)

Average vis-a-vis EU – below average ↔ Scandinavia



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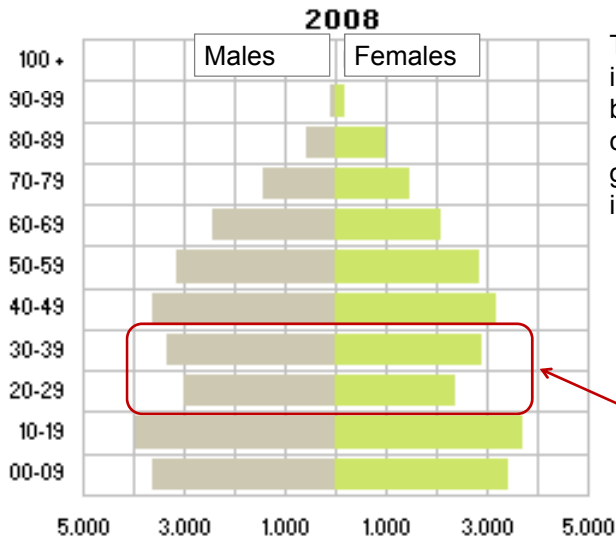
### Highest educational degree among 15 to 74 year olds



Some more data – age and sex



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The pyramid is getting increasingly top-heavy and bottom-light – corresponding with general trend in the industrialised world

But here is the real problem; disproportionate few young due to emigration

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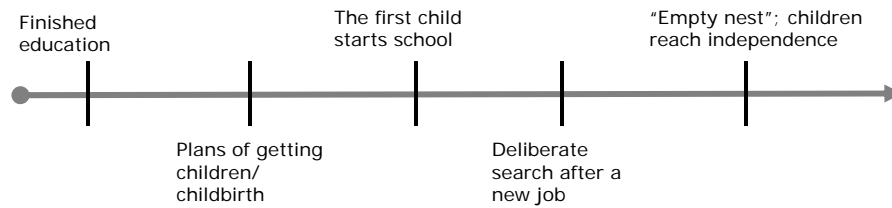
To stay in Denmark or move back to the Faroe Islands?

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When is moving back to the Faroe Island an issue?  
Is there an window of opportunity when people can be lured back?

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**No, the pull of the Faroe Islands is regularly activated!**



- In addition two periods typically arise when the Faroese *feel full* – and rumination about moving back increases substantially:
  1. The superior cultural offerings in Denmark loose their appeal
  2. Focus on ones career – doing good in the rat race – diminishes

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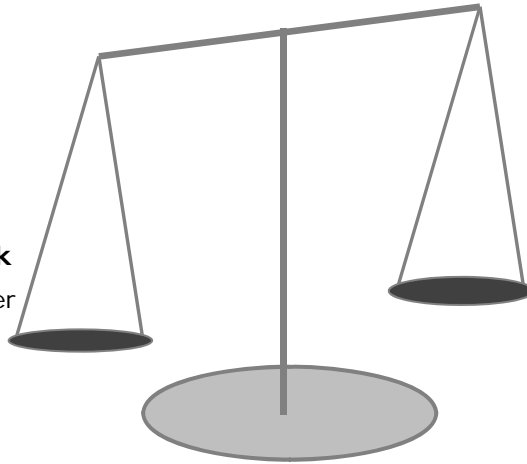
What's the anatomy of the decision?

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The Faroe Islands are not deselected  
...the decision entails consideration of advantages in both countries

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**Denmark**  
The greater  
host of  
options



**Faroe  
Islands**  
A more  
comfortable  
life

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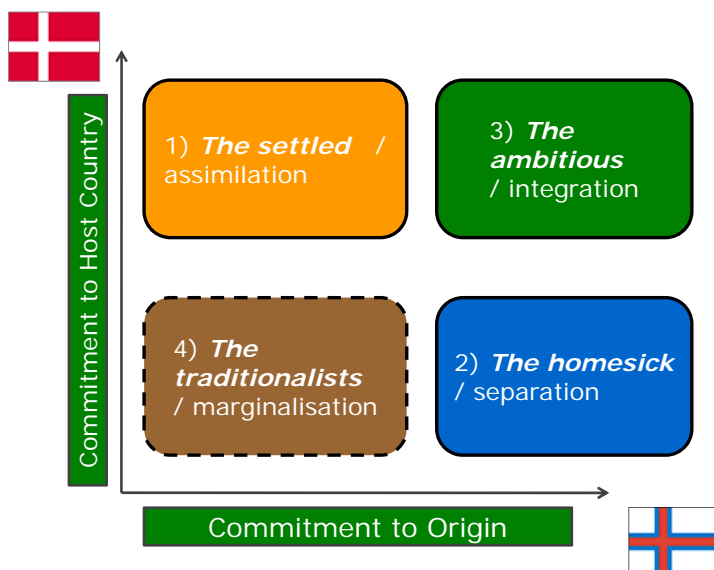
Will they come back?

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Well...


Yes, no, maybe and depends

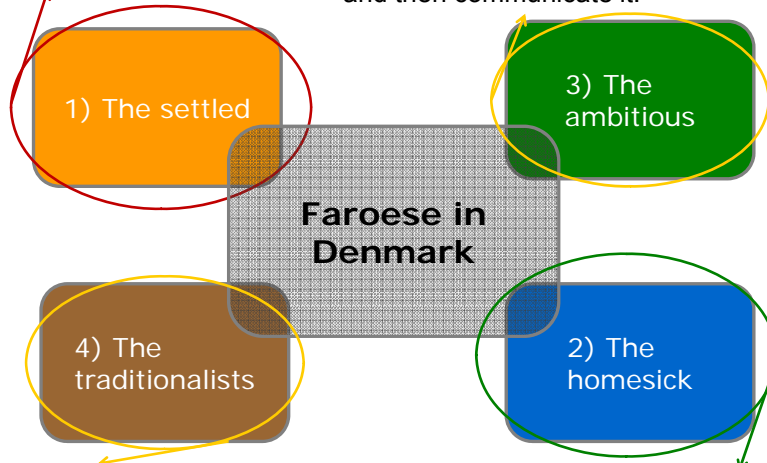
### The four groups of Faroese in Denmark Roughly the same size – approx 2.000 in each (= 8.000 all in all)



Debate and targeted initiatives for the purpose of getting Faroese back to FO must be based on this segmentation

Forget about it!

Better jobs, more housing –  and then communicate it!



Better welfare services, cheaper housing

They *will* come! (If they can) 15

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Reflection

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## The two main criticisms And a personal reflection

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- Getting people back
- Start now – one step at the time! Keep it simple stupid
- Faroese culture is no barrier – Faroe Islands does not need to *urban-it-up*
  - The Faroese cultural identity is a given heritage
  - Whereas the Danish to a higher degree is a chosen one set of values
  - A reality clash might come after moving back
- The Faroe Islands needs its emigrants – but what do they need?

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