

NIM

The Nordic
Institute for
Migration

The Future of Nordic Immigration Policies



Nordic immigration policies

2025

Scenarios

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Minimum standards

- Euro-cooperation on deterrence, but national control
- Control through quotas (no AS)
- Temporary permits / revocation
- Incr. requirements family migration
- National self-interest (values)
- Continued challenge of intl. norms
- «Who do we need»
- Control over integration
- Outsourcing of control - there

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Balanced approach

- Embrace revised (strict) CEAS
- Asylum seekers deterred but accepted
- Mix help there AND here
- Balance national control – rights
- Routine revision of permits
- Control vs integration

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Rights and diversity

- Integration over control
- Best interest of the child triumphs control
- More AVR, stop return to Kabul
- Limit to irregular status/revocation
- «What do they need?»
- Immigration as opportunity
- It is our duty to help

Scenarios – Nordic and European cooperation

Scenarios



Expanded unilateralism

- Continuation of unilateral measures in regard to both regular and irregular migration
- Competition among Nordic states to simultaneously reduce asylum applications and attract highly skilled migrants
- Negative spiral in regard to asylum and family reunification
- Displacement and beggar-thy-neighbour effects → unpredictable

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Europeanisation 2.0

- Abandonment of current internal border controls
- Return to overall EU governance framework
- Establishment of new status quo likely to offer substantially different balance between migrant rights and MS sovereignty than first phase of harmonisation
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Expanded regionalism

- Continued emphasis on EU-level governance for key issues, e.g. migration control, external cooperation and asylum allocation
- But expanded room for national and regional variance for internal asylum and migration policy
- Regional and minilateral cooperation as policy laboratories
- Stronger role for Nordic cooperation due to shared social.

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