

Nordic Ruralities 2026, The 7th Nordic Conference for Rural Research.  
19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026, Joensuu, Finland

## Programme

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### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

8.00 — Registration

10.00 Welcoming session

*Welcoming words* **Aapo Jumppanen**, MUA ry – The Finnish Association for Rural Research and Development

**Keynote 1:** Professor **Ulla Higdem**, University of Inland Norway: *Shrinking rural societies – How to plan for capacity and possible development in communities with expected population decline?*

*Chair:* **Aapo Jumppanen**, MUA ry – The Finnish Association for Rural Research and Development

*Commentator:* Professor **Teemu Makkonen**, Karelian Institute, University of Eastern Finland

11.30-12.30 Lunch

12.30-14.30 Working groups

14.30-15.00 Coffee break

15.00-17.00 Working groups

18.00 Walking tour with guide?

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### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

8.00 — Registration

8.30-10.30 Working groups

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 **Keynote 2:** Professor **Stefán Hrafn Jónsson**, University of Iceland: *Health at the Core or at the Margins? Rethinking Public Health in Rural Iceland from a Multidisciplinary Perspective*

*Chair:* **Ella Mustakangas**, MUA ry – The Finnish Association for Rural Research and Development

*Commentator:* Associate Professor, University Lecturer **Johanna Vuorelma**, PI of the project *Politics of Proximity in Finland in the 1990s and the 2000s*, Tampere University, Finland

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 Working groups

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.30 Working groups

19.00 Conference dinner Kerubi

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### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

8.30-10.30 Working groups

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 **Keynote 3:** Professor **Jussi P. Laine**, University of Eastern Finland, Karelian Institute: *Shifting Borders, Shifting Realities: Resilience in the New Nordic Security Landscape*

*Chair:* **Tuija Mononen**

*Commentator:* PhD, Docent in geography **Kaj Zimmerbauer**, University of Oulu, Finland

*Concluding words and welcome to the next conference:* ScifiCom

12.30- Lunch