

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

Programme (Info desk, Key-note sessions and working groups are in the Metria-building, Yliopistonkatu 7, Joensuu. [Campus map, pdf >>>](#))

Tuesday 19th May 2026

8.00 - Registration, Metria-building, Yliopistonkatu 7, Joensuu. [Campus map, pdf >>>](#)

10.00 Welcoming session

Chair: **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?

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

Lunch restaurants near Metria:

Carelia, Yliopistonkatu 4, Campus map: building 7,

Futura, Yliopistonkatu 7, Campus map: 14,

Kampus Bistro, Opiskelijankatu 7,

Aura, Yliopistonkatu 2, Campus map: 6

Wednesday 20th May 2026

8.00 — Registration

8.30-10.30 Working groups

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Chair: **Ella Mustakangas**, MUA ry

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

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, restaurant Kerubi, Siltakatu 1, Ilosaari, Joensuu

Thursday 21st May 2026

8.30-10.30 Working groups

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Chair: **Tuija Mononen**, MUA ry, Nordic Ruralities Scientific Committee

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

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

Concluding words and welcome to the next conference: Scientific Committee

12.30- Lunch