



UNIVERSITETET I
NORDLAND

Nordlánda Universitehtta

How to get there from here?

The Revitalization of the Lule sami Language



University of Nordland



- HRH Crown Prince Haakon opened the university officially on March 31, 2011
- Four Ph.D.-programs
- Approx. 6000 students

Official opening of Elsa Laula Renbergs auditorium



Lule Sami higher education and research

- National responsibility for Lule sami higher education and research
- Lule Sami spoken by some 500 people (most accurate estimate done by associate professor Bruce Moren Duollja)
- (according to Ethnologue 2000 speakers)

UNESCO

- UNESCO: Lule Sami is a severely endangered language (all languages with less than 100 000 speakers will eventually die)
- *language is spoken by grandparents and older generations; while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to their children or among themselves”*

Sami Language Map



The situation for Lule Sami

- Approx. 500 speakers
- Almost invisible in the public sphere
- Few language arenas
- Give up! some argues (ref. to UNESCO)

Our goal

- Create new language arenas for all age groups where Sami is spoken
- Increased use of Lule Sami language in media (now only 15 minutes a day)
- Double the amount of functional bilingual Lule Samis

Challenges

- Still negative effects after the Norwegianization epoch
- Some look upon Sami as a «private» language, to be used at home, not in public
- Urbanization among Samis turn Lule Sami in to a network language, not a society language

Numbers

- 93 pupils are taught Lule sami at elementary and secondary schools
- 17 percent increase in six years
- Three kindergartens teach Lule Sami with some 35 kids
- 26 bachelor students in Lule Sami



Lule Sami kindergarten in Bodø



New plans

- Master in Lule Sami to begin autumn 2016
- Beginner courses in Lule Sami (2016)
- Ph.D. in Lule Sami

- More efficient Language teaching techniques are required
- Sami Ulpan project with Hebrew University
- Distance learning programmes

- Motivation campaigns
- Interesting career possibilities
- Lule Sami language camps



First sign in Lule Sami in Bodø



Sami controversy



Changes

- A more positive approach now
- More Lule Sami children wants to learn Sami
- «Sami is cool!»
- Politicians show more interest in Sami affairs

Nissunat



- Lule Sami will never reach 100 000 speakers
 - Still, it has all possibilities to be a vital language in daily use for centuries to come!
- Gijtto!