

Utsyn Nord 2018

Audun Iversen, June 2011

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| 1. Project/publication | <p>Blakkisrud, H.(ed.) (2008): <i>Utsyn Nord 2018</i> [Perspective North 2018]. Oslo: Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs, 48 pages.</p> <p>http://www.nupi.no/content/download/3378/54616/version/2/file/Utsyn+Nord+2018.pdf</p> |
| 2. Initiator | <p>The project was carried out on behalf of Tromsø 2018, an ad hoc organization set up to promote Tromsø as the event location for the Winter Olympic Games in 2018.</p> |
| 3. Objective | <p>The study is designed to visualize what the world might look like if and when Tromsø is hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2018.</p> |
| 4. Geographical delimitation | <p>The study has a global view, but the focus is on northern Norway, and much of the discussion has a regional focus. The relation to Russia is furthermore a central theme.</p> |
| 5. Time horizon | <p>2018.</p> |
| 6. Thematic focus | <p>A comprehensive image of the future is drawn, which is supported by three thematic sub-reports. These discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate and the environment • Economics • Foreign policy and security issues |
| 7. Images of the future | <p>Only one future image is drawn up, which is in most respects similar to the current situation. The report does not point out different scenarios, and the future image that is sketched is characterized as a likely scenario, premised on a high degree of trend projection.</p> <p>The report was prepared in 2008, and has since been outdated. This can be illustrated by some predictions that have already become obsolete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report expects that the maritime delimitation negotiations with Russia have remained unresolved in 2018. • The report assumes that the USA continues the unilateral foreign policy which characterized the Bush era. |
| 8. Key driving forces | <p>There is no explicit discussion of driving forces in the report, but the three sub-reports can be interpreted as discussions of the main driving forces. In each of the sub-reports focus is set on 5-6 trends, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change: warmer and more extreme weather; melting ice. • Economy: strong economic growth; China and India become more important; an ageing population; policy effects of climate change; limited effects of petroleum activity in northern Norway; increase of alternative energy. • Security policy: increased focus on the region; stronger cooperation among Nordic countries relating to security policy; an increasing global and regional role for the EU; the USA continues its unilateral policy; closer cooperation with Russia; a reformed UN system. |
| 9. Uncertainties / wildcards | <p>The report identifies three wildcards associated with each of the sub-reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate: a paradigm collapse in climate science; no petroleum activity in the north; strong fish stocks allow for higher exploitation • Economy: a collapse in China triggers a global downturn; a drilling campaign in the disputed Grey Zone; a Russian submarine collides with a Norwegian oil platform. • Foreign- and security policy: the NATO is in crisis; the Islamists win power in |

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| | Pakistan; a democratic wave in Russia. |
| 10. Accomplishment and collaboration | This is an expert-based study prepared by 13 researchers from NUPI. The report is the edited product of individual and independent contributions. |
| 11. Method | The study is mainly qualitative. It is supported by statistics, which is used for descriptions, but not for modeling. |
| 12. Sources of information | The study relies on many external data sources, from Statistics Norway, the International Monetary Fund, the International Energy Agency, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and so forth. No quantitative data was specifically developed for this analysis. |
| 13. Strengths | The study demonstrates thorough knowledge in the fields of foreign and security policy, environmental issues, and economics. |
| 14. Weaknesses | No new or surprising knowledge or perspectives are presented. The single scenario has the character of an extrapolation, and the region is to a large extent disappearing in the story. |
| 15. Attention and significance | The study did not receive significant attention. Tromsø 2018 soon ran into big problems and was discontinued by the end of 2008. |
| 16. Relevance for the Fram Centre | The study as such is barely relevant, but NUPI is an interesting partner, especially on foreign and security policy issues. |