

Potencial Latente



To better understand its potential Vardø asks for proposals that deal one hand with the overall discussion of development in Vardø and on the other with the harbour area and how this as a consequence can be developed. The contenders should therefore respond to the following tasks: make proposals for innovative strategies that can trigger new activity in Vardø. Vardø needs to develop a credible plan for the future. How can urban planning be used as a successful tool in a shrinking town such as Vardø? The town must find niches and alternatives and develop a strategy that supports new initiatives and ideas. The municipality wants to create an image that can attract businesses looking for unique locations and experiences. Vardø

needs a strategy for new industry, new types of tourism, and projects that underpin its strong coastal traditions. With limited funding, Vardø must think minimal input maximal output all the way. Investors are already beginning to eye a potential and the town wants to use its proud history, unique location, striking scenery and strong local culture to reposition itself regionally and internationally for new program, tourism and events.

Primavera artificial

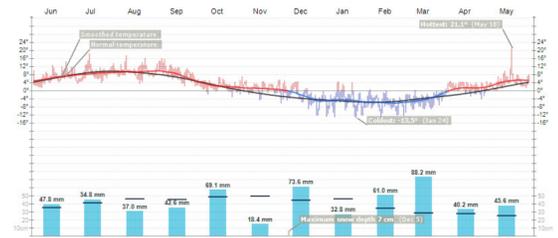
el invierno Boreal



Invierno en Vardø

Climate Vardø is Norway's only town in the Arctic climate zone. This means that the average temperature per month never climbs above ten degrees. Understandably this has consequences for Vardø's vegetation and wildlife. Vardø's only tree died some years ago. Vardø is extremely exposed to wind. Vardø has the stormiest days in Norway and no city in Norway has greater medium wind speed: 8.2

m/sec. The wind is especially strong on Valen and Strandgata where the streetscape works as an icy wind tunnel. Predominant wind is from the southwest in winter and northwest of the summer. From 23 November 21 January the sun disappears under the horizon and from 16 May 29 July is the midnight sun present.

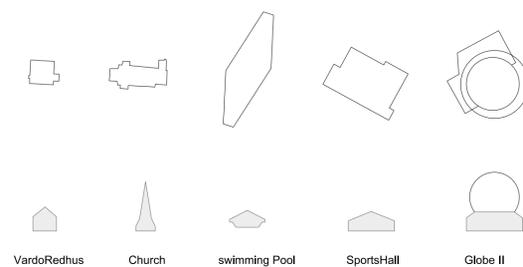


Forma y clima

metereología



Puerto de Vardø



Ciudad Puerto

revertir la entrada

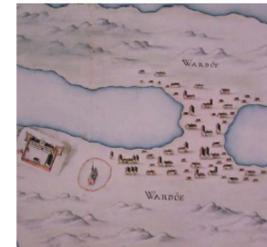


Natural Springs, Iceland

The history of Vardø goes back to 1307 when a fortress was built here. By 1700 it had developed into a trading centre and an important part of the Pomor trade network between Russia and Northern Norway. Fishing has historically been the dominating activity in Vardø, but changes in the industry has dramatically transformed the town. Population figures for Vardø Municipality has decreased significantly (20%) during the past 10 years. Some of the decline is caused by birth deficit, although the most important reason is migration. In 1970 the population was 4,500. Today it is about 2,200. 15 years ago Vardø had 14 fishing factories, today it only has two. In 1982 Vardø was connected to the mainland by Norway's first underwater tunnel.

Travelling between the city and the harbour, industry areas and airport at the mainland got a

lot easier and other towns in the region became closer in terms of travel time. Although the municipality thought the tunnel would open up for new possibilities, the population was shrinking drastically the first years after the tunnel was completed.



Ciudad Industria

secaderos y estructuras peinadas



Fish

Fish used to be the main industry in Vardø, but today you hardly see any larger fish boats in the harbour and there is almost no industry left. However, fish together with public sector still remain the dominant activity in the municipality. The modernization of the fishing industries in the 50s and the changes in ownership to the fish in the 90s led to changes in many of the coastal cities. Modern fishing industry is today often detached from the coastline of where it operates. But there are examples of local activity, and a growing Russian fish market can spell growth in the coastal areas of northern Norway. The remaining fishing industry in Vardø is now mostly located on the mainland in the Svartnes area next to the airport.

Public sector

The municipality is the main employer in Vardø. As a part of Norwegian decentralization policy, the State Compensation Office is located in Vardø.

Military and monitoringMilitary presence has continued in Vardø, but after the cold war the amount of Norwegian military personnel has been reduced to a minimum. Today there is no military presence at the old fortress. In 1998 a major US radar system was installed at the eastern site of the town. Said by the Americans to be a radar aimed at spotting space debris,

Russians have complained that it is aimed at them. Vardø's unique location seems to be interesting also for other types of monitoring. The Norwegian Coastal service is located here with a 24 hour monitoring of the sea traffic from the Swedish border in the south to the Russian border. Even Svalbard is closely watched by the service. Swedish aviation company Saab has invested in Vardø. Saab is planning to develop



Letargo industrial

el invierno post-cuotas

Vardø hopes to identify new ideas and projects in the competition that can become part of the future development. Vardø is looking for a strategy makes the harbour area a generator of new activity and a tool that links Vardø to growing networks and new processes in the region. The strategy should deal with the following themes in new and innovative ways

- A re-connection between the town and the sea through physical action and a new program that utilizes sea and nature. - New and better public space. Vardø needs new and functioning social arenas, both in door and out door. How can one develop the harbour into a social arena?

- Infrastructure. The area needs an overall idea for infrastructure that connects already established routes such as the Millennium Path to new infrastructure that increases the traffic in the harbour.

- The empty buildings. How can one bring out the potential in the empty buildings? How can empty buildings become a part of the city's strategy? What can possibly fill these buildings with new life?

- Identifying new program: Finding new content for the harbour such as tourism, education, culture or sport. Vardø has presented a set of programs for the town that the competition deals with. The nature, location and concepts of the following program should be discussed as part of a wider strategic plan for transformation of the harbour area and the town. Contenders are invited to discuss these programs and new ones. Emphasis can be chosen according to suggested strategy

- Proden, a fish factory built in the 70s, now left unused. It has been used sporadically for exhibitions and events in recent years. Vardø Municipality owns this building and asks for ideas for reuse that can help regenerate the Vågen area.

- A town square or a new concept for public space. Plans for a town square have been discussed in Vardø for a long time. The town needs a space that can be an arena for shifting activities such as festivals, market days and concerts. This could help turn the harbour area into an arena for culture, history and new activity. All contenders should carefully consider the challenge of harsh climate and changing seasons, but also the potential in developing a winter arena for the town.

- An aquarium. In connection to the Millennium Path a Barents aquarium was suggested built. Proposals should discuss a location for this program. The project, a pier with a small aquarium of glass directly in the sea and a small land based building, was originally a part of the Millennium path but was unrealized due to a limited budget.

- A new swimming hall. The municipality has presented plans for a new swimming hall next to the existing one in the Valen area. This did not receive political support, however. A new location could underpin Vardø's unique location and give something back to the street life and also open for new program that could attract tourists. The core function for the swimming hall is a 25 m pool, but contenders are invited to see if this function can open for other programs and spin-off effects.

End noteDarkness shall give way to the sun, cendant tenebrae soli. As the northern hemisphere is entering into a new light, a possible and unexpected turn of Vardø is coming closer. Its new understanding is yet to be found and Vardø joining European 10 is a part of this rethinking process.

