

# Preface

The objective of *The Economy of the North 2008* is to present a comprehensive overview of the economy of the circumpolar Arctic, including the traditional production activities of the indigenous people. The report discusses the importance of the Arctic economy from a global perspective, with particular focus on the natural resources in the Arctic region.

*The Economy of the North 2008* has been produced as part of the ECONOR II project, under the sponsorship of the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) in the Arctic Council. The project is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Nordic Council of Ministers, Statistics Norway and institutions participating in the Arctic network of statistical bureaus and academics. The report is the result of contributions from a network of researchers from national statistical offices and academic institutions located across the Arctic nations. Statistics Norway has hosted the editorial group that compiled and edited the contributions from the project network.

Statistics Norway would like to thank all the individual contributors and institutions who have provided data, analysis, texts, illustrations, and scientific advice for *The Economy of the North 2008*. The present report is a pioneering work in the sense that the path outlined in the first ECONOR report *The Economy of the North* is still new and relatively unexplored, with various challenges of statistical and conceptual nature. It is our hope that the present overview of the Arctic economy will inspire work to further strengthen the information basis from where to assess the sustainability of the Arctic communities in terms of natural wealth management and environmental challenges.

*The Economy of the North 2008* was edited by Solveig Glomsrød (chief editor), Iulie Aslaksen, and Lars Lindholt of the Research Department of Statistics Norway. Marit Vågdal did the technical editing, and Siri Boquist was the photo editor. More information is available at [www.ssb.no](http://www.ssb.no).

Statistics Norway,  
Oslo/Kongsvinger, November 2009

Øystein Olsen