**Comparing Autonomies: Greenland and the Sahara Region**

**Lise Lyck[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. What is Greenland?

* Territory
* Population
* Self- government
* Economy
* Political system

2. Background

* Vikings
* “The Danish superpower in the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea: Denmark, Norway, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Sweden, Finland , the Baltic countries, the North of Germany
* 1036 England
* 1650s Sweden with Finland and the Baltic countries
* Napoleon wars (Norway)
* 1864-1870 Northern German territories lost and Germany as a state
* 1920
* 1944 Iceland

Now Denmark is not a “superpower but a small rich well fare economy with a happy population

3. Achievements and Problems in Greenland today

* Well-functioning modern economy
* Political stability
* Too unequal income distribution
* Some social problems
* Too low educational level (10 years obligatory school, but too few with higher education

4. Characteristics for autonomies

* Security problems
* Unique minerals /production input
* Economic /financing problematics
* Indigenous people/more populations
* Languages

5. Learnings from Greenland’s experiences

* Negotiations and dialogue important
* Self-government functions
* Development takes a long time
* Too little weight and resources devoted to education
* Development in a global context decisive

6. Learnings in relation to the Moroccan Initiative for the Sahara Region?

* Always difficult to compare when context and conditions are different
* However, more resources used for education are decisive for development
* Institutions including more influence locally (decentralization) could create progress
* Establishing an economic system with local influence based on human rights and democracy is needed

1. Director, Center for Tourism and Culture Management, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark (email: lly.marktg@cbs.dk). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)