



**Cooperation between civil society associations
in Rigsfællesskabet. A Nordplus Report.
Peter Nygaard (red.)**

Cooperation between civil society associations in Rigsfællesskabet. A Nordplus Report.

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Table of Content

Preface	4
The guidelines for the Survey.....	6
Goal.....	6
Profile.....	6
Number.....	6
Frame	6
Intention	6
National reports.....	6
Survey in Faroe Islands.....	7
Desk survey	7
Cultural activities	8
Educational activities	8
Social activities.....	9
Environmental activities.....	9
Interview Survey	10
Cultural activities	10
Educational activities	11
Social activities.....	13
Environmental activities.....	14
Closing	16
Survey in Greenland.....	18
Desk survey	18
Cultural activities	18
Educational activities	19
Social activities.....	19
Environmental activities.....	20
Interview survey	21
Interview with Greenland's Writers' Association	21
Interview with the Association of Greenlandic Children	25
Closing.....	27
Survey in Denmark.....	29
The combined desk and field survey.....	29
Educational activities	29
Cultural activities	31
Social activities.....	33
Environmental activities.....	34
Conclusion	35
Status.....	35
Perspectives	35

Preface

By Peter Nygaard, chairman of NUKAKA & director of Maniitsoq Museum

The Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark have a long historical community, and the countries are today linked together in the Kingdom of Denmark, which is also referred to as "Rigsfællesskabet" (The Danish word Rigsfællesskabet will subsequently be used in the text). But even if we have close political and economic cooperation, strong historical and in terms of value, strong connections and common features, Arctic and the North Atlantic having gained new political importance, the mutual knowledge, contact and cooperation between our civil society and associational life could be more developed.

We therefore see a need for connection to the unique Nordic traditions of public education and associational life, to promote mutual dialogue and people-to-people contact, especially with openness and understanding towards the special history and wishes of the people of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

This 2-year Nordplus Adult mapping project is thus to strengthen contacts and cooperation between the civil society associations in Rigsfællesskabet, especially with a focus on their strengthening of community values, such as social inclusion & cohesion, active citizenship & democracy, and environmental sustainability.

The project will hopefully help the civil society associations in the three countries to make new contacts, promote the exchange of experiences, collect new knowledge, develop new forms of hybrid learning forums and thereby also bring extra innovation and strengthened experiences and knowledge to the civil society of the three countries.

The long-term effect of the increased contact and cooperation enable more mutual, respectful, and equal relations, which can strengthen unity and self-understanding in the countries of Rigsfællesskabet.

The objectives of the combined mapping with desk surveys and interviews are:

- To map the current level of contacts and cooperation between representative associations from the three countries' civil society from each of the four main areas of cultural, educational, social, and environmental activities, including in particular:
- To uncover barriers as well as success factors in order to promote cooperation and contacts between the associations in the civil society of the three countries.
- To find good examples of cooperation and contact, especially with a focus on the derived value of this cooperation for: 1) social inclusion & cohesion, 2) active citizenship & democracy, and 3) environmental sustainability.

Perhaps some readers of this report are surprised that there are no language versions in Faroese (Føroyskt) and Greenlandic (Kalaallisut), but only versions in Danish and English. The authors of the report have decided that for practical reasons it is not necessary to make or reproduce the survey and interview in Faroese and Greenlandic or to translate the report

into Faroese and Greenlandic. This is simply because if you cannot speak and read Danish or English, then you cannot cooperate with others in Rigsfællesskabet of Nations or the Nordic countries or the EU, as no one has the opportunity to find an interpreter and pay the person concerned for simultaneous interpretation for all stages of the cooperation. Thus, the report has not been translated into additional languages, as Danish or English is the prerequisite to be able to enter an international collaboration.

The guidelines for the Survey

By Peter Nygaard, chairman of NUKAKA & director of Maniitsoq Museum

Goal

The objectives of the combined survey with mappings and interviews were thus:

- To map the current level of contacts and cooperation between representative associations from the three countries' civil society, including in particular:
- To uncover barriers as well as success factors in order to promote cooperation and contacts between the associations in the civil society of the three countries.
- To find good examples ("best practices") of cooperation and contact, especially with focus on the "added values" of this cooperation for: 1) social inclusion & cohesion, 2) active citizenship & democracy, and 3) environmental sustainability.

The interviews must go in depth with / try to uncover both barriers and opportunities in the mission of the associations, organisation, and activities (values, structures, and functions) and especially to find both good examples that we can take inspiration from, and bad examples that we must try to avoid.

Profile

- Representative leaders in the three countries from each of the four main areas of cultural, educational, social and environmental activities.
- The interview can, for example, be done with a selection of managers from the activities investigated in the mapping (the desk survey part).

Number

- Prepare, conduct and report at least 4 interviews (with at least 1 from each of the 4 NGO areas).

Frame

- The interviews can be conducted as physical onsite meetings or as online telephone/Zoom meetings or via e-mail correspondence.
- Duration max. 1.5 hours per physical interview (and possibly longer or more contacts during online meetings and email correspondence)

Intention

The intention is to uncover the interviewees' concrete experiences from their association, and not to obtain more general statements or knowledge about the subjects. Therefore, the questions must try to be concrete and focused on the activities in the association where the interviewee is active.

National reports

The national survey reports may include 3 main sections: a summary from the desk research, a summary from the interviews and a concluding section comparing the results and outlining recommendations for improved contact and collaboration.

Survey in Faroe Islands

By Jógvan Sørin Hansen, principal at Torshavn Evening-, Youth- and Language School; and Ernst S. Olsen, adviser at NORA.



Photo: norden.org

Desk survey

The survey was conducted through February and March 2023, where respondents were contacted by telephone and subsequently sent questions to answer.

Initially, we sought to gather an overview of civil society associations in the Faroe Islands. We knew that there is a reasonable basis for a number of associations in this country. Subsequently, it has been a challenge to categorize them. There are, for example, many associations that are organized under a common umbrella organisation. It would make the study unmanageable if all of these were contacted individually, which is why we have, for example, included the Faroe Islands Sports Association, but not the individual associations.

Based on the consensus of the working groups on task formulation, the study is based on the vision of the current 2-year Nordplus Adult mapping project, which aims to strengthen contacts and cooperation between civil society associations in Rigsfællesskabet, especially with a focus on their strengthening of community values, such as social inclusion & cohesion, active citizenship & democracy, and environmental sustainability.

The project is intended as help to the civil society associations in the three countries to make new contacts, promote the exchange of experiences, collect new knowledge, develop

new forms of hybrid learning forums and thereby also bring extra innovation and strengthened experiences and knowledge in the three civil society communities.

The long-term effect of the increased contact and cooperation can enable more mutual, respectful, and equal relations, which can strengthen the unity and self-understanding in Rigsfællesskabet.

This desk survey is by its nature somewhat limited and should not therefore be considered exhaustive in relation to mapping the current level of contacts and cooperation between representative associations in the Faroe Islands.



Photo: norden.org

We contacted the following associations from the task's four defined main areas for activities:

Cultural activities

- Listafólkasamband (The Council of Faroese Artists)
- Føroya Ungdómsráð (Faroe Islands Youth Association)

Educational activities

- Føroya Fólkaháskúli (The Faroese Folk High School)
- Ítróttarháskúlin í Suðuroy (The Sports College in Suðuroy)
- Føroya Eftirskúli (*The Faroese (Secondary) Boarding School*)
- Brúgvín (*Christian (Secondary) Boarding School*)
- Meginfelag Føroyskra Studenta (The Faroese Student Association)

Social activities

- Norrøna Felagið í Føroyum (Nordic Association of the Faroe Islands)
- Norrøna Ungmannafelag Føroya (The Nordic Youth Association of the Faroe Islands)
- Ítróttarsamband Føroyum (The Faroese Confederation of Sports)
- Amnesty International Føroyar (Amnesty International, Faroe Islands)

Environmental activities

- Heimafriður (Home Peace)
- Føroya Náttúru- and Umhvørvisfelag (Faroese Nature and Environmental Society.)
- Føroya Fuglafrøðifelagið (The Faroese Ornithological Society)



Photo: Pipaluk Balslev/norden.org

The individual activity level of the associations varies somewhat, and some are more visible in society than others. From our list of associations, we started by searching for introductory information on the associations' websites or similar. Here we found contact information, activity and vision descriptions, history, and in some cases also a list of cooperation with associations in the Faroe Islands and abroad. The websites' degree of updating was also a bit uneven.

We then sent out the questionnaire to the associations with a short initial introduction and a link to a Faroese news text about the program. After some time, we could ascertain that only a few responses were returned, which is why we decided to contact all the associations by telephone. The aim was to get direct contact with the right person in each individual association and thus optimize the possibility of actively answering the questionnaire. A side benefit was that during the conversation you get a little insight into the subject and get immediate answers to some of the questions. Especially the latter proved useful, because at

the deadline there were still some who had not returned an answer, but in these cases, we still have some kind of response in written form of a note from the conversation.

In conversation with contacted associations, we got the impression that the current study seems like a good initiative, which we would look forward to hearing more about when the results have been analysed and published.

Interview Survey

Cultural activities

Listafólkasamband (LISA)	The Council of Faroese Artists (LISA)
by Marita S. Dalsgaard, president	

LISA is a member of the Nordic community for similar organisations. In this connection, we have contact with the sister organisations in Rigsfællesskabet. However, we work so differently that it is limited how relevant the relationship is for us.

Examples of values in the association (in statutes, policy papers, programs or simply customs) that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact:

- To strengthen art and artists in a cultural policy context;
- To work for the rights and interests of the member organisations and their members;
- To represent the members publicly in matters of common interest.

The association does not experience that forms of organisation (structures) or activity types (functions) act as a barrier to cooperation and contact.

Loyalty, openness, and regular meetings are emphasized as values that can promote cooperation and contact in the association.

Forms of organisation structures that promote cooperation and contact include:

- Representative meetings
- Community events
- Members work in LISA's premises.

Activity types (functions) that can promote collaboration and contact include:

- Meetings and fun after the meetings
- Seminars and conferences

Increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote social inclusion and cohesion at home and in Rigsfællesskabet, but the large Danish organisation should contact us before it makes a statement about Faroese conditions and e.g. signs letter of protest about Faroese conditions, which it does not have full insight into. We work very differently from our Danish sister organisation and have not particularly

needed much contact. Unfortunately, we do not know our Greenlandic ditto, but we would like to get to know them better.

- Do not think that increased transnational cooperation will strengthen the association's efforts to also promote active citizenship and democratic values at home and in Rigsfællesskabet.

Føroya Ungdómsráð	The Faroese Youth Council
by Hjördis Gaard, part-time coordinator	

The association collaborates with DUF and Sorlak through NordUng i NORÐ. Neither values, forms of organisation nor types of activity are considered barriers to cooperation and contact. Of values that can promote cooperation and contact, the association highlights the following:

- Intergovernmental and Nordic cooperation
- Inclusion
- Globalization
- Diversification

Organisational forms and activity types that can promote cooperation and contact, the association highlights the following:

- Membership of Nordic cooperation organisations and projects
- Participation in board work, working groups and projects

Increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to promote social inclusion and cohesion, active citizenship and democratic values as well as green sustainability at home and in Rigsfællesskabet, if the cooperation is based on mutual respect, openness, inclusion, freedom of prejudice, and where all countries participate and contribute equally in all phases of the collaboration, and which involve young people in the processes (e.g. purpose, organisational form, leadership, grant, implementation and evaluation).

FUR has not participated in any direct Rigsfællesskabet cooperation, but has instead participated in Nordic cooperation, where NUBF and NORÐ are coordinated by DUF.

Educational activities

Føroya Fólkaháskúli	The Faroese Folk High School
By Hedvig Kapnas, manager.	

The college is part of the Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark, from which you receive information and participate in individual projects at your own expense. Last year, Rigsfællesskabet of Nations supported a student's stay. The Faroese treasury finances 70 % of the operation.

It is a barrier to cooperation and contact that you do not receive support and that no support scheme exists between the countries. A barrier in its own structure is the school's small size and lack of manpower, age barriers, no time to participate in larger projects, and a general lack of resources for building collaboration. The school's type of activity as a school can also be a barrier to cooperation and contact because its function and scope are basically quite fixed.

The school's most important values are language and culture, together with the good teachers. The school believes that greater activity with the Association of Public Schools would probably be a good platform for building cooperation and contact.

Regarding transnational cooperation on social inclusion and cohesion at home and in Rigsfællesskabet, it is recommended to drop considerations of country and Rigsfællesskab and instead accept that we are part of a global world. A more international community will be better at learning about culture, countering prejudice and learning the value in all people.

The school has formulated a sustainability plan based on Nordic documents.

As a concrete international cooperation project can be mentioned *People's Future Lab*, which was funded by CISU - Civil Society in Development and coordinated by the Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark, where 11 Danish folk high schools participated together with the Faroese Folk High School and 10 folk high school-like organisations from around the world.

Ítróttarháskúlin í Suðuroy	The Sports High School in Suðuroy

From a telephone conversation, we know that the school would appreciate a common platform for information sharing. The school is only 5 years old, but is working to establish cooperation with a similar school in Viborg, DK. In addition, the school's budget does not allow major collaborative projects.

The school uses the platform www.hojskolerne.dk to recruit students.

Brúgvín	Christian boarding school in Skalavík

The school's students are primarily Faroese, but there is currently also a Greenlander registered. The school collaborates with 3 Danish schools and with a Secondary Bording School (after-school). The students are currently traveling abroad, where they perform a play, which is a project they have worked on at school.

Meginfelag Føroyskra Studenta	The Faroese Student Association

We know from the website that the association collaborates with DUF.

Social activities

Norrøna Felagið í Føroyum	The Norden Association in the Faroe Islands
By Ásmundur Guðjónsson, vicepresident	

The association collaborates with a number of organisations, programs, and individuals under the auspices of all the Nordic Associations in the Nordic countries. The willingness and desire for cooperation represent basic values which help to promote cooperation and contact. This is based on the idea of common ideas and objectives, which are worked on at joint meetings with the other associations under the auspices of the umbrella organisation.

The association operates with different types of activities, including joint projects, joint declarations at political level and joint programmes, e.g. The Nordics in the School.

Increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote:

- **social inclusion and cohesion** in my country and in Rigsfællesskabet through transnational projects which have their starting point in common challenges and opportunities;
- **active citizenship and democratic values** in your country and in Rigsfællesskabet, in that the project's content addresses active citizenship and democratic values;
- **green sustainability** in your country and in Rigsfællesskabet, in that the project's content addresses sustainability.

In a telephone conversation, Norrøna Felagið stated that Norrøna Ungmannafelag Føroya (Faroe Islands' Nordic Youth Association) is no longer active.

Ítróttarsamband Føroyum (ÍSF)	The Faroese Confederation of Sports
By Petur Mittún, general secretary	

The association's current contacts and cooperation with associations from other countries in Rigsfællesskabet of Nations:

- Under the ÍSF there are 24 special associations, which in turn have 150 clubs as members - a total of 13,000 members. Many specialist associations have cooperation with specialist associations in DK/GL. In addition, there are many clubs/associations that have cooperation with associations in DK/GL;
- ÍSF also collaborates with DIF and GIF.

A concrete example of a collaboration in Rigsfællesskabet, which has been successful and provided extra value for the association, is from 2021 and 2022, when ÍSF organized the Faroe games. In this connection, several participants have been from DK and GL.

Amnesty International Føroyar	Amnesty International, the Faroe Islands
By Turið Maria Jóhansdóttir, general secretary	

The association's current contacts and cooperation with other countries in Rigsfællesskabet of Nations:

- Amnesty's other departments
- Røst, DK
- Humanity in Action, DK
- Youth's People's Meeting North, DK

Values that go against our values (UN human rights) represent a natural barrier to cooperation and contact.

Form of organisation that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact:

- we have two employees, and everything is about resources (human, financial and time);
- we have a strategy that we work from, and if it is not in line with our strategy, there is a risk that we cannot maintain it (however, we are more flexible when it comes to youth work).

Values in the association that can promote cooperation and contact:

- we love collaboration and co-creation;
- we would like to be a support for those who work to promote their (or others') rights;
- we are inclusive (anti-racism, anti-sexism and intersectionality are fundamental values);
- we are bold.

Organisational forms of the association that promote cooperation and contact:

- we have contact with youth activists;
- even though we are busy and have fixed tasks, we also prioritize opportunities for "ad hoc" work/tasks.

As for the questions about whether increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote social inclusion and cohesion, active citizenship and democratic values and green sustainability at home and in Rigsfællesskabet:

- I think first and foremost because of more diverse expertise, experience, and background, and in addition it would create a greater focus/attention to the subject.

Environmental activities

Heimafriður	Home Peace, org. against noise pollution

The association replies in a telephone conversation and email that it currently does not cooperate with other organisations. However, they have previously been connected to FNU (the Faroe Islands Nature and Environment Association), Amnesty and the Faroe Islands

Ornithological Association. Actual collaboration has so far not materialized due to lack of time and conditions. A few years ago, they were connected to the Danish association "Vi elsker stilheden" ("We love the Silence")

The association has worked in a different way than similar organisations do in the neighbouring countries, which is why it has not been relevant to build closer cooperation, but the association still harbours a desire to establish closer cooperation in the future.

Føroya Náttúru- og Umhvørvisfelag	The Faroese Nature and Environmental Society

From a telephone conversation, we know that the association lacks the resources and manpower to enter into collaboration with other associations.

Føroya Fuglafrøðifelagið	The Faroe Islands Ornithological Association

From the association's website, we know that the association collaborates with FNU, BirdLife International, BirdLife Norden and DOF.



Photo: Marita Hoydal/norden.org

Closing

We can thus state that there are an overwhelming number of associations in the Faroe Islands, which represent virtually every imaginable form of activity in this country. There are a few large umbrella organisations, while there are also several which mostly operate alone. This desk study has gathered information about and contacted 15 different associations or organisations. It would be hardly impossible to track down all the country's associations, but this would require more resources than what this study allows.

However, we have a realistic assumption that with the selected associations and the answers we have obtained, we can draw certain conclusions and demonstrate certain commonalities and trends, but also differences. The present study also shows that actual interviews will contribute to the collection of more qualified answers, including that the questions will be able to be asked more precisely and targeted. This can presumably be implemented in a relatively short time and at affordable costs.

This survey shows a broad consensus that cooperation generally helps support the association's business. Meetings, seminars, conferences, and other collaboration strengthen professionally and contribute to the organisation becoming part of a larger community. Respondents who do not participate, or only participate to a limited extent, in cooperation across national borders, generally wish they had the opportunity, but that this is limited by a lack of resources in the form of money and manpower.

Regarding the questionnaire's points about values, organisation types and activity types in relation to the promotion of contacts and cooperation with associations from other countries in Rigsfællesskabet, there is broad agreement on the positive gains and opportunities that can be reaped in the form of inclusion, cooperation, and cohesion. At the same time, it appears clear that the survey's focus on Rigsfællesskabet somewhat confuses the respondents.

The reason for this should not necessarily be seen as a direct reluctance towards cooperation within Rigsfællesskabet, but rather a reaction to the development that has been in the direction of understanding external cooperation in a broader sense now compared to the past. In the past, Faroese have been very tradition-bound in that, so to speak, all cooperation takes place in Denmark. Since then, a growing commitment to Nordic cooperation as well as globalization has otherwise opened the way for people to fundamentally have a broader view of the usual cooperation opportunities and potentials that can be linked to associations and organisations in the countries around us.

We assume that a qualified study would be better for examining the associations' relationship with cross-border cooperation, where cooperation outside Rigsfællesskabet would be positively included.

Another perspective is that while cooperation within Rigsfællesskabet is a natural activity for many associations, it is nevertheless linked to the fact that the cooperation also includes other countries outside Rigsfællesskabet. It is a reality that has manifested itself in the

reality of the associations, and which is dealt with. On the other hand, it is not the same as saying that one positively does not want cooperation with parties from within Rigsfællesskabet, but rather that the cooperative mindset does not consider the framework for Rigsfællesskabet as an exclusive opportunity for cooperation.

It can thus be suggested that the starting point of the study assumes Rigsfællesskabet as a decisive factor, seen from a cooperation perspective. It may perhaps be an expression of a political assumption which does not reflect the reality with which the respondents identify. This gives reason to consider whether the angle of the investigation should be formulated differently. This could be expressed, for example by the questions recognizing to a greater extent that there is reason for cooperation not only with Rigsfællesskabet, but also with the other Nordic countries, as well as further out into the world. Since the respondents precisely fail to answer a number of questions that are based on Rigsfællesskabet it will probably be relevant to assess whether the investigation will be too specific in relation to Rigsfællesskabet, because one might think that Rigsfællesskabet is too narrow in relation to the question of cooperation with associations in other countries.

A new study could thus include several forms of cooperation with a number of different countries or regions, including Rigsfællesskabet, and from this the study could look at which cooperation models are currently chosen - and perhaps why. One could also examine historically how this image has changed over time, which could help to give an understanding of the direction in which it is moving.

However, the present study will undoubtedly contribute positively and constructively to the preparation of a new initiative, which can give a better picture of the cooperation that the countries of Rigsfællesskabet are currently involved in in different ways. The survey confirms that cooperation between associations is positive, but at the same time points against the cooperation being limited to Rigsfællesskabet.

In a recent edition of the Danish newspaper, Weekendavisen, Martin Breum quotes the now retired Ambassador Michael Zilmer-Johns: "I think that we in Denmark should think about how we could have a different kind of community, where we start as three independent nations that bond together again, but on a voluntary basis and as an option, and not only because it is our historical heritage." This perspective should possibly be considered in a new study.

Survey in Greenland

By Peter Nygaard, chairman of NUKAKA & director of Maniitsoq Museum



Photo: norden.org

Desk survey

Here follows an attempt to map a representative sample of civil society associations in Greenland, the degree of cooperation and contact with similar associations in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark.

2-3 representative associations have been investigated respectively within the cultural, educational, social, and environmental areas.

Cultural activities

Kalaallit Atuakkiortut (The Greenland Writers' Association)

The Greenland Writers' Association participates in the broad Nordic cooperation, as the association is a member of the Nordic Writers' Association and is Greenland's representative in the Nordic literature cooperation network, NordLit. In 2016 Greenland's Writers' Association entered into an agreement on closer cooperation with the Faroese (and Sami) Writers' Association. In 1977, Greenland's Writers' Association was offered group membership by the Danish Writers' Association, but that seems to have stuck with the idea. Thus, today it is individual Greenlandic authors, and not the authors' association, who are members of the Danish authors' association.

Kalaallit Nunaanni Filmiliortut - Film.gl (Organisation for film producers in Greenland)

In 2012, several Greenlandic filmmakers established the industry association Film.gl, which works to develop and professionalize Greenlandic films. The association does not seem to cooperate with film associations in the Faroe Islands or in Denmark.

SILA – Performing Arts Association in Greenland

The association does not appear to cooperate with performing arts associations in the Faroe Islands or in Denmark.

Educational activities

Sorlak (Joint council for children and youth organisations in Greenland)

Sorlak, an umbrella organisation for voluntary children's and youth organisations and associations in Greenland, was established in 1984. Sorlak stands for, among other things, organising a 3-week high school stay for young people aged 14-17. Sorlak has business partners from Iceland, Norway, and Canada, but not from Rigsfællesskabet.

Greenland Scout Corps

Kalaallit Nunaanni Spejderit Kattuffiat (Greenland Scout Corps) was founded in 1973, but the scout corps closed again in 2018. In the spring of 2021, Nuuk Scout Group has started as a group under the Danish Scout Corps under the Øresund Division.

Social activities

Nunatsinni Inuit Innarluutillit Kattuffiat (Greenlandic Disability Organisations)

Nunatsinni Inuit Innarluutillit Kattuffiat is an umbrella organisation for the nationwide disability organisations and special local organisations. The organisation works to cooperate with its sister organisations in Rigsfællesskabet, namely the Danish Handicap Organisations and MEGD from the Faroe Islands.

Save the Children Greenland - Meeqqat Ikiortigit

Save the Children Greenland belongs to the worldwide organisation "Save The Children". Since Greenland is not an independent country, the organisation here is formally linked to "Save the Children Denmark".

The organisation works in collaboration with the organisation "Børns Vilkår in Denmark".

The Association of Greenlandic Children

As one of the largest professional organisations for children in Greenland. "The Association of Greenlandic Children" collaborates with a number of actors to ensure children and young people have a good childhood. With almost 100 years of experience, the association has created a foundation for entering partnerships with the Greenlandic municipalities and other authorities.

The association works in Denmark to ensure that children with a Greenlandic background are both strengthened in their Greenlandic identity and feel like part of Danish society. The work has given the association the relevant expertise needed to also be able to advise municipalities and other authorities, so that they can look after the children's interests as best as possible.

The association collaborates with the children's rights organisation "Børnesagens Fællesråd" in Denmark.

Environmental activities

UPPIK – Greenland's Nature and Environment Organisation

The association's purpose is to work for the conservation and sustainable use of Greenland's natural and landscape values. On 22 January 2002, a founding general meeting was held in Ilulissat. The initiative was initially addressed to persons deemed to have an interest in setting up a Greenlandic association, with the aim of safeguarding the interests of nature.

The association collaborates with the Danish branch of the WWF, "World Wildlife Fund."

Timmiaq (Ornithological Association)

Timmiaq is a group under the Danish Ornithological Association (DOF) based in Nuuk. Timmiaq represents DOF in Greenland in relation to the authorities and the public. The purpose is also to advise DOF on issues concerning Greenland. Timmiaq aims to promote knowledge of and interest in wild birds and nature conservation in Greenland. Timmiaq's members consist of members of DOF living in Greenland who work for Timmiaq's purposes.



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Interview survey

Both interviews below have been done per mail in the spring of 2023. Only representatives from the cultural and social areas have wanted to participate.

Interview with Greenland's Writers' Association

Presentation

The interviewee is Juaaka Lyberth, who is chairman of Greenland's Writers' Association (KA) and chief coordinator of Greenland's Literature Office (GreenLit).

Cooperation and contact

Juaaka Lyberth confirms in the interview that the Greenland Writers' Association has current contacts and cooperation with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark. These are the Danish Writers' Association, the Faroe Islands' Writers' Association, and the NordLit network in the Nordic region. "In NordLit, KA has been Greenland's representative since 2010", explains Juaaka Lyberth. "We collaborate with all the Nordic literature offices. On behalf of the Nordic Council of Ministers, KA disposes of Nordic Translation Support (NOS), which publishers can apply for twice a year. Especially with the Faroese literature office FarLit as a model, GreenLit has been built up and started in earnest in 2020. In January 2023, NordLit (all Nordic countries, including Samiland) held a meeting in Torshavn, where GreenLit had two representatives.

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Juaaka Lyberth also confirms that the Writers' Association has also previously had contacts and cooperation with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark. "Since the start of the association (1975), the Greenland Writers' Association - KA - and the Danish Writers' Association have been in close cooperation. Finally, KA's board held a two-day course at the

turn of the year 2021-22 with a moderator from the Danish Writers' Association, where we shared the costs", says Juaaka Lyberth. "KA has helped to celebrate 100 years of Nordic writers' associations' cooperation in Copenhagen, as well as participated in Nordic non-fiction associations' annual meetings both in Copenhagen and elsewhere in the Nordics. In addition, KA took part in a meeting about Nordic translators. Before corona, we were happy to participate in the annual meetings of the Nordic writers' associations in various places in the Nordics countries. Under GreenLit's auspices, we regularly participate in NordLit, in cooperation with FarLit at our annual meetings in January to coordinate the year's activities since 2010, as well as in international book fairs since 2018. We organized the NordLit meeting in Nuuk, as well as the Nordic Nonfiction meeting in 2017. These days (03.02-10.02-2023) the deputy chairman of KA is on her way to Norway to participate in the "Nordic Children's Book Conference", where she will be in a group with the Faroese representative."

Barriers to collaboration

Juaaka Lyberth does not believe that there are values in the Writers' Association (in statutes, policy papers, programs or simply custom) that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark.

"The focus of the NordLit collaboration is to promote our country's literature to the wider world", says Juaaka Lyberth. "The work in GreenLit is both internal and external. We work to promote the Greenlandic book and the love of reading in Greenland through various activities aimed at the Greenlandic-speaking audience, while we outwardly promote Greenlandic literature in Danish, English, and this year in French by producing presentation catalogues for use at the international book fairs. In 2022, we have become closer with the Faroese and Sami associations, as we are in dialogue about alternately hosting literature festivals in our three countries (one year in one country, the second year country no. 2 and the 3rd year in the third country). There is a challenge in that nominations for the Nordic Council of Ministers' Literature Prize, have a requirement for a Greenlandic nomination that the book must be written in Greenlandic. This creates a problem for the Greenlandic authors, who have Danish as their first language and therefore publish in Danish. KA, Greenland's Writers' Association is, on behalf of Greenland, the one that submits proposals for the Nordic Council of Ministers' Literature Prizes - both for the adults and the Children's Youth's Prize. In the past, we have also been nominated for the West Nordic Children's Literature Award. For reasons we do not know, the West Nordic Council has created its own literature recommendation group. We have complained but have not heard anything from the West Nordic Council."

Juaaka Lyberth also does not believe that there are organisational forms (structures) in the Writers' Association that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark. However, he emphasizes that they must be "aware that GreenLit is an organisation under KA and is thus part of Greenland's Writers' Association. In GreenLit, we work closely with the Greenlandic book publishers, individual publishers, libraries, and booksellers. In the Faroe Islands and in Denmark (and the rest of the Nordic

countries), the countries' literature offices and writers' associations are separate entities and are supported by their respective governments."

Likewise, according to Juaaka Lyberth, there are no activity types (functions) in the association that could be a barrier to cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark. But he mentions that they have an "idea of hosting a literature festival for "the small language literature" (Greenlandic, Faroese and Sami), alternately in our countries. It requires that the parliaments of the individual countries and the Nordic Council of Ministers support financially. It costs a lot of money to make such an event."

Success factors for collaboration

Regarding values in the association that can promote cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth emphasizes that it is about "being visible as an association for the Nordic partners, being trustworthy, active, having continuity and the belief that cooperation is powerful. Then you must have a portion of your own money for travel and accommodation, and a lot of patience. Personal contacts and networks are very important."

To the question of whether there are organisational forms (structures) in the association that can promote cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth replies that "as a nationwide association, KA and GreenLit are already in close cooperation with our Faroese and Danish (and other Nordic) colleagues. These days (03.02- 10.02-2023) the deputy chairman of KA is on his way to Norway to participate in the Nordic "Children's Books Conference". In the seminar, our representative will be together with the Faroese representative in a group with the heading: "Are we still translating youth literature?" Seminars of that nature for the small language areas will further strengthen the close ties between our countries."

As types of activities (functions) in the association that can promote cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth mentions the literature festival "in the three "small language areas" in turn, as well as in cooperation with Greenlandic associations in Denmark, will create even better, closer cooperation and understanding between the countries. With the Danish Ministry of Culture, we have discussed the possibility of an "Arctic/Greenlandic-Danish literature festival". In addition, more translated books between our countries will create better understanding among the public. The purpose of Nordic Translation Support is precisely that books in Greenlandic can be translated into Danish and other Nordic languages. Our experience is that translations into Danish are a stepping stone to translating into other languages. There are not many people who can translate directly from Greenlandic to other languages. We conduct surveys on reading habits, interest in reading and what kinds/genres of books are read in Greenlandic. Our work must be based on facts. The results enable us to know where to focus. In seminars, we involve publishers, libraries, booksellers, and other literature interested in promoting the Greenlandic book. We also do courses and advice for our members and

others who want to write a book. We share our experiences with our network in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark - thereby having a good dialogue and getting inspiration."

Added community value

To the question of whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote social inclusion and cohesion in Greenland, in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth mentions that the literature festival "targeted at children, young people and families/adults has many visitors. The festival focuses on books. Books create social inclusion, understanding and insight. We must ensure that good quality books are published in Greenlandic. These must be translated into Faroese and into Danish - and we must ensure quality with the translations."

When it comes to whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote active citizenship and democratic values in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth points out that literature and books are also important in relation to freedom of expression. According to Juaaka Lyberth, these help to create debate about culture and the values we have as a society. Books written in Greenlandic help preserve and develop the Greenlandic language. Books translated from Danish and Faroese into Greenlandic give the reader insight and understanding of the social relations of the two countries and vice versa."

Regarding whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote green sustainability in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Juaaka Lyberth states that it is "through literature that green transition and sustainability must be told. This can be done through children's books, youth books and adult literature. Publishers and book publishers are also increasingly aware that sustainable books must be published in the future - that is why KA and GreenLit are helping to finance quality readings on KNR-Radio of Greenlandic books, so that publishers can use these as audio books."

Good practice examples

As concrete examples from the association, where a collaboration with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark has been successful and provided extra value as well as including a focus on one or more of the derived values for inclusion, democracy or sustainability, Juaaka Lyberth refers to, all the above are "examples of good cooperation with associations in Denmark and the Faroe Islands which has been successful for us and has provided extra value for our association."

The Danish Writers Association was a birth helper for the establishment of the Greenlandic Writers Association in 1974-75, including in the issue of copyright (KNR royalty and library tax) and we continuously have a dialogue with Danish and Faroese Writers associations on various issues. The Faroese literature office FarLit has been a model for building our own GreenLit and we have close cooperation with the literature office of the Danish Ministry of Culture. It benefits Greenlandic literature, and makes it known in the Faroe Islands and in

Denmark (as well as the rest of the Nordic countries and the wider world). We will of course bring these cooperative relationships to our members in Greenland, through 5-6 annual newsletters we send out to the members, as well as at our member meetings (minimum once a year for the whole country), and at the seminars we hold for publishers and other partners. And not least through the writers' evenings or afternoons we hold publicly."

Final additions

As final additions, Juaaka Lyberth states that translations need "more money", especially for the small language areas. What we are up against are internet-based games and much else, which young people in particular are fascinated by and have become heavy consumers of. The language of these games is English. The bookseller "Atuagkat" and the libraries report that English-language youth books are 'in' with teenagers and young people. If we are to preserve and strengthen the Greenlandic language, we should have more funds for translations of foreign children's and youth books into Greenlandic. Then we just have to continue with the tracks we have already laid to promote literature in our countries."



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Interview with the Association of Greenlandic Children

Presentation

The interviewee is Christina Tønder Bell, who is a board member and has board responsibility in the Association of Greenlandic Children.

Cooperation and contact

To the question of whether the association has previous or current contacts and cooperation with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell replies that The Association of Greenlandic Children has a base and branches in both Greenland and

Denmark and therefore we have and have always had contact and cooperation with various associations in Denmark. I don't think we currently have some relations with the Faroe Islands, and I don't think we previously had that, but I'm not sure."

Barriers to collaboration

Christina Tønder Bell does not believe that there are values in the association (in statutes, policy papers, programs or simply custom) that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark.

Regarding forms of organisation (structures) and types of activities (functions) in associations that can be a barrier to cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell replies that she does not know enough about Faroese conditions to know whether they on a way can have some structures and functions that can create barriers in a collaboration.

Success factors for collaboration

When it comes to values and organisational forms (structures) in the association that can promote cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell replies that she does not know enough about Faroese culture to be able to comment on this.

Regarding types of activities (functions) in the association that can promote cooperation and contact with associations from the Faroe Islands and Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell states that their "activities are very much based on a Greenlandic culture and context. There are probably some activities and efforts - especially those in Denmark - that could be copied and create value for Faroese children, but since I do not know about opportunities and challenges for Faroese children in Denmark, I think it is difficult to answer. But Greenlandic children, for example, experience major culture shock when meeting Danish and Greenlandic children who are placed in family care in Denmark and experience that the Danish authorities and host families do not know enough about Greenlandic culture. Foster families find that there is not enough knowledge and offers from the authorities where they can learn about Greenlandic culture and in that way best prepare to be foster parents. Maybe Faroese in Denmark experience the same, but I don't know if Faroese children are placed in foster families in Denmark."

Added community value

To the question of whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote social inclusion and cohesion in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell states that their association is already working on social inclusion and cohesion across Greenland and Denmark, and that they work together with other organisations in the respective countries. Christina Tønder Bell emphasizes that "it is important that the cooperation has the target group in mind and focuses on strengthening the work we do and not just cooperation for the sake of

cooperation. On the other hand, we might learn something if there are Faroese organisations working in Denmark with some of the same activities and issues as we do. And maybe there is some potential in such a collaboration.

When it comes to whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote active citizenship and democratic values in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Christina Tønder states that it "depends a lot on the specific cooperation, but for example we have supported the work that has been done in Denmark to put Rigsfællesskabet on the school syllabus."

With regard to whether and how increased transnational cooperation can strengthen the association's efforts to also promote green sustainability in Greenland and the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, Christina Tønder Bell states that green sustainability is not "a core activity for Greenlandic Children, but it is part of the consciousness of all people. It is probably not something we would spend separate funds or resources on as it will take energy away from our core activities."



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Closing

The formation of associations in Greenland arose after 1945 and onwards, especially concentrated around the sports associations. Association life in Greenland has inherently difficult conditions due to a small and very scattered population in limited geographical areas that can only be reached by plane/helicopter and/or boat/ship. Thus, the associations also tend to be small, and it can be difficult to gather enough members/participants to maintain them. The associations are thus very dependent on individuals, and associations risk closure if the driving person(s) (the zealots) stop/move. Furthermore, there is no major interaction between civil society and the public sector in Greenland in the form of contact and support.

The above desk study has shown that associations in Greenland do not have any extensive cooperation with associations in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark. Within the cultural field, Greenland's Writers' Association does, however, have some cooperation with the Faroe Islands and Denmark. As far as the educational activities are concerned, no examples of current cooperation have been found. Regarding the social area, there seems to be broad cooperation, especially between the Greenlandic and the Danish associations. Also, when it comes to the environmental area, there seems to be extensive cooperation between the Greenlandic and the Danish associations. In the interview part of this study, only one representative from a cultural association and one representative from an association in the social field wanted to participate. It concerns respectively Juaaka Lyberth, who is chairman of the Greenland Writers' Association, and Christina Tønder Bell, who is a board member of the Association of Greenlandic Children. Greenland's Greenland Writers Association has, as also hinted in the desktop survey, a close collaboration with the corresponding associations in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark.

In connection with this study, a large number of players from Greenlandic associations have been contacted for interviews, but only the two above have wanted to participate. Thus, the basis is also relatively flimsy to be able to conclude anything further about the cooperation (or lack of cooperation) of Greenlandic association life with Faroese and Danish associations based on this study.

But as can be seen from the above, the Greenland Writers Association has a good cooperation with similar associations in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark. The collaboration has been successful for the Greenlandic Association and has provided additional value. The chairman of the association states that literature and books are also an expression of freedom of expression, and that books translated from Faroese and Danish into Greenlandic can provide insight and understanding of the social conditions of these two countries and vice versa. Furthermore, there does not seem to be a contradiction between cultivating Greenlandic culture and language on the one hand and collaborating with Danish partners on the other. The association's experience is that translations into Danish are a stepping stone to translating into other languages, as there are few who can translate directly from Greenlandic into languages other than Danish.

As for the Association of Greenlandic Children, the board member states that the association has a base and branches in both Greenland and Denmark. Thus, they have always had contact and cooperation with various associations in Denmark, while they apparently have no previous or current relations with the Faroe Islands. But the interviewed board member states that there might be potential in a collaboration with Faroese organisations in Denmark, if there are some that work with the same activities and issues as the Association of Greenlandic Children.

Seen from Greenland, there seems to be overall potential for more cooperation between the associations here and the associations in the Faroe Islands and in Denmark, to the benefit of all parties.

Survey in Denmark

By Bente von Schindel, chairman, Council for Voluntary Cultural Associations in Denmark



Photo: norden.org

The combined desk and field survey

It is not easy to find associations in Denmark that collaborate with civil society organizations in the Faroe Islands or Greenland. In this study, the associations that are by and for resident Faroese and Greenlanders have been omitted, as these do not have direct cooperation with the associations in Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Thus, only the Danish associations and organizations that have taken the initiative to cooperate with the two countries have been included (most only include Greenland). Unfortunately, it will not amount too many, as only collaborations between civil society organizations in the respective countries have been included.

Educational activities

The Greenland Society

The Greenland Society was founded in 1905. The purpose of the society is to inform about and build good relations with Greenland. The aim of the activities is therefore to strengthen knowledge of Greenlandic society first and foremost, but also of the Arctic region in general, as well as to support Danish-Greenlandic cooperation, and in extension to this create a good framework for people interested in Greenland to come together. With this aim in mind, the Society organizes lecture and debate evenings, as well as publishes the journal "Grønland", the online magazine "Polarfronten" and a number of special publications.

The Greenland Society also includes the Art Committee ARON and Studenterforum. The company's secretariat is located in Charlottenlund. The Greenlandic Society was founded 4th of November 1905. Since 2012, the online magazine Polarfronten is part of the Greenlandic Society and has editorial premises in the Arctic House in Strandgade in Christianshavn.

Whether the mentioned associations have current contacts and cooperation with associations from Greenland, the following applies:

The Greenland Society aims to inform the Danes about Greenlandic conditions (and about the Arctic area as a whole). Therefore, the activities primarily consist of debate and lecture events as well as various publications. The company has not (nor has previously) had contact or cooperation with Greenlandic associations. It is not values or types of activity that prevent cooperation, but the form of organisation and in particular the purpose – to inform the Danes about Greenland – that means that cooperation is not considered necessary.

The company has no contact with the Faroe Islands.

However, the company could - seen in the light of the current discussion in recent years - think about upraising topics such as e.g. whether and how there can be increased transnational cooperation and whether this cooperation could be with companies and associations.

But whether such transnational cooperation can immediately strengthen the efforts of companies and associations to promote active citizenship and democratic values will probably be doubtful. A more targeted effort is needed. On the other hand, the interest in green sustainability is a field that has most of the world's interest, so there could perhaps be a mutual influence here.

DUF - Danish Youth Council

DUF – "Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd", is an umbrella and interest organisation for 80 ideologically determined and community-engaging children and youth organisations that work to promote democratic communities for children and young people in association life.

In 2022, DUF received a grant of DKK 3 million from the North Atlantic Pool and in 2024 will receive funds from the Finance Act to initiate a project to strengthen ties between young people in Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark with a view to creating strong ties and breaking down prejudices.

The parts of the project can be scout camps, political seminars, role plays, social work, theatre collaboration and much more. In addition, the project consists of several activities such as information activities, events about culture, history, society, and language as well as annual youth meetings where young people meet across the countries. In addition, annual activities in Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark, where young people can meet across the board and enter partnerships, as well as information events about culture, history, society, and language.

The name of the project is “Sjómaq”, which is a contraction of the word for 'sea' in all three languages (sjógvur, imaq and sø). The sea binds the countries together, both in a concrete sense, as there is an ocean between Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark, but also in a figurative sense, as all the countries have in common that they are maritime and fishing countries, just as the vast majority of people live along the coasts.

DUF has for several years collaborated - via AFS in Denmark, which is a member of DUF - with AFS in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland. AFS was originally an American ambulance driver corps that consisted of volunteers, and during the 1st and 2nd World Wars, drove the wounded away from the front. A group of these volunteers later formed the organisation AFS Intercultural Programs, which stands for the exchange of young people, who want to work for more people to gain a greater understanding and acceptance of human and cultural differences. Approx. 50 countries are involved in the collaboration.

It is a collaboration that has lasted for several years, and it is also one of the goals of DUF that you must collaborate with as many youth organisations in the world as possible. And since DUF is an umbrella organisation for 80 organisations in many areas, there are no statutory or operational obstacles to cooperation.

And precisely the many types of activities and collaboration with partners throughout the world, and with a goal of strengthening democratic communities, gives DUF a great opportunity to promote social inclusion and cohesion in the three countries of Rigsfællesskabet, as well as to strengthen the associations' efforts to promote active citizenship, democratic and green values. The Sjómaq project is a concrete example of this.

Cultural activities

Musik & Ungdom/Jeunesse Musicale

Music & Youth (Musik & Ungdom) is the Danish branch of the worldwide music organisation: “Jeunesses Musicales International”. Musik & Ungdom is a nationwide organisation for young peoples' music life. The organisation develops and implements activities and projects in collaboration with young people interested in music and related associations and organisations. The organisation activates young people to take part in the democratic development in society through music and is thereby also a liberal adult educational association.

Music & Youth has no formalized collaboration with associations in either the Faroe Islands or Greenland, but the organisation holds "Music Camps" for young people every year, to which young people from the Faroe Islands are also invited. The contact here is the music schools. We are not aware of associations within the field in Greenland, but if that were the case, there is nothing to prevent us from cooperating with them.

Since Music & Youth works a lot with young people's participation in association boards and thus in association democracy, there would also be no barrier in terms of initiating increased transnational cooperation that could strengthen the associations' efforts to

promote social inclusion and cohesion and to promote active citizenship and democratic values, just as increased transnational cooperation could strengthen the associations' efforts to promote green sustainability.



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Denmark's Theatre Associations

Denmark's Theatre Associations is a national organisation for 61 local theatre associations throughout the country. The local theatre associations organize approx. 1200 theatre performances annually and, in this connection, sells more than 200,000 theatre tickets.

Denmark's Theatre Associations must ensure the financial basis for the member associations' opportunities to show performing arts everywhere in Denmark and South Schleswig.

The local theatre associations consist of a board/organising group, where the members are volunteers. The members of the board organize the year's performances, which are all performed by professional touring theatres. The financing of the performances comes from funds applied for in the Ministry of Culture.

Denmark's Theatre Associations have no cooperation with either Greenland or the Faroe Islands, but if it was to become relevant, the organisation's starting point for such cooperation would be a democratic structure that can promote active citizenship and democratic values. Denmark's Theatre Associations are themselves exponents of that attitude, which is clearly seen in the organisation's statutes. A democratic structure will also make everyone equal in a decision-making process and help promote social inclusion and

cohesion. Denmark's Theatre Associations are not yet working with green sustainability but have plans to try to influence the member theatres in this field.

Social activities

Greenlandic Children

"Greenlandic Children" is an association that works to improve the well-being of Greenlandic children. The association is based in Denmark, but cooperates with branches in Greenland, just as the Greenlandic branch has always been engaged in contact and cooperation with various associations in Denmark.

The associations themselves say that most children in Greenland thrive and have good lives, but approximately a third of all children in Greenland experience a childhood characterized by neglect and dissatisfaction. Sexual abuse and suicide take up significantly more in the statistics in Greenland. Therefore, it is important for children who have experienced neglect and abuse at home to be able to gain positive experiences elsewhere that strengthen their belief in themselves and their own abilities. But many of these children have limited opportunities to take part in activities, as access to leisure and welfare services is influenced by where you live in Greenland.

"Greenlandic Children" therefore helps children placed outside their own home, i.e. in Danish foster families or in an institution. "Greenlandic Children" also ensures the children come to weekend colonies and summer camps, where they have the opportunity to have fun together with like-minded people and at the same time process the loss of being placed outside their homes. The association's aim - to help children towards a good adult life - can probably be said to indirectly promote active citizenship and democratic values as well as social inclusion and cohesion.

Countess Danner's Foundation/Danner

Danner is a crisis centre in Copenhagen that offers both counselling and crisis centre stays for women and children exposed to violence. Danner has specialized knowledge of gender-based violence and runs projects that strengthen women exposed to violence and promote equality in society. In addition to the department in Copenhagen, Danner works internationally to support crisis centres and women's rights organisations' fight for better rights for women and children exposed to violence, as well as teaching professionals how to best help victims of violence.

Danner also has a collaboration with crisis centres in Greenland, where, among other things, they have an important knowledge about violence. Danner also has focus on the fact that there are not crisis centres in all cities in Greenland – for example in Greenland's second largest city, Sisimiut. Over three years, Greenlandic crisis centre staff has received inspiration and have been inspired through Danner's work in the so-called Kattunneq project. Family centres and crisis centres from all over Greenland met here to discuss how interdisciplinary cooperation can be strengthened. With the Kattunneq project, Danner has

helped to focus on violence in Greenland and over the past three years has shared and developed methods for working at Greenlandic crisis centres.

By gathering abused women and helping them further in society, you simultaneously promote an active citizenship that can give them democratic values. And when the women experience the sufferings of other women and you can process them together, it will inevitably lead to social inclusion and cohesion.

Environmental activities

Denmark's Sports Fishing Association

Denmark's Sports Fishing Association is a nationwide interest organisation for leisure and sports fishermen in Denmark, but in addition the association also works for a better environment and for a rich nature with more wild fish, and it works to engage volunteers in giving the sea a helping hand for the benefit of fish, animals, and plants.

Denmark's Sports Fishing Association collaborates with Visit Greenland, which would like to see more angling tourists coming to Greenland and get to know the opportunities there, as well as the Greenlandic nature.

However, there is not expected to be any influence on active citizenship or democratic values, but through contact with Greenlandic anglers there could perhaps be greater cohesion between the participants from the two countries.

Other associations surveyed in the environmental field do not cooperate with either Greenlandic or Faroese associations.



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Conclusion

By Peter Nygaard, chairman of NUKAKA & director of Maniitsoq Museum

Status

The survey in the Faroe Islands indicates the country has a high level of civil society associations. Among the associations, there is broad agreement that cooperation generally helps to support their activities. The limiting factors are a lack of resources in the form of money and manpower. The associations in the Faroe Islands like to cooperate with Denmark and Greenland, but at the same time they practice a wider cooperation than just within the Rigsfællesskabet including other Nordic countries and further out into the world.

When it comes to Greenland, there are difficult conditions for association life with a small and geographically dispersed population. The associations in Greenland have limited cooperation with other Nordic associations. On the political level and in public opinion, there is also a cultivation of Inuit identity and language (Inuit register, Inuit main language) and a related distancing from Danish influence and language (colonial times). Generally speaking, there is a prevailing view among leading forces and opinion formers that Rigsfællesskabet is a "straitjacket" for Greenland's development.

As for Denmark, it is not easy to find associations that cooperate with civil society organisations in the Faroe Islands or Greenland. In this study, the associations that are by and for the resident Faroese and Greenlanders have been omitted, and only the Danish associations and organisations that have taken the initiative to cooperate with the two countries have been included. Unfortunately, it is not many.

In Denmark, associational life is very extensive, and a smaller part of the associations are also engaged in international cooperation when they can obtain grants from the many bilateral, Nordic, and European grant programs. But the study does not indicate that the cooperation with the other two countries in the Rigsfællesskabet is seen as very important. This may both be due to the fact that cooperation in Rigsfællesskabet does not seem to have a particular priority, and that it may be easier to find suitable partners in other Nordic, Baltic, or European countries, where the selection is larger and there are also not the same challenges with a cooperation that may be under pressure from strong independence movements.

Perspectives

It thus appears that the independence movements in Greenland and the Faroe Islands have a strength which in the long term cannot be accommodated in the current Rigsfællesskab as the frame for cooperation. As Nordic citizens that are active in associational life, we must prepare ourselves for the perspective that cross-Nordic cooperation will be unfolded on an

institutional background, where Rigsfællesskabet is being wound up, including having different outcomes for Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

The dominant political and cultural movements in Greenland prioritize the association with other Arctic Inuit cultures in Canada and Alaska. Furthermore, Greenland's independence will increase the country's security policy ties with the United States due to the country's geographical location and its defence-related importance for the United States and the transatlantic cooperation. With this, in the long term, Greenland can establish increasingly strong cultural ties with the Arctic Inuit communities and political ties with the United States, while the political, social and cultural ties with the Nordic region may be weakened; and a real exit from the Nordic Council of Ministers may be an outcome, as it is difficult to imagine that Greenland can enter into a form of "free association" with the USA and at the same time become an independent member of the Nordic Council.

On the other hand, the Faroe Islands have the social, cultural, and economic conditions to quickly choose to become an independent country that can naturally take part in the Nordic cooperation and be an independent political part of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In general, it thus does not seem as if there is any special community of values or a unifying sense of identity that promotes a joint prioritization of contacts and collaborations between the civil societies in Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark.

The weak cooperation is hardly due to a lack of knowledge about each other, but in addition to the logistical and economic challenges with great distances, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, on their way to independence, need to lower the priority of the extensive ties to Danish actors and to prioritize connections with others outside Rigsfællesskabet.

But still it can be valuable to have a goal of promoting opportunities for transnational cooperation between associations in the three countries in line with a wide range of other cooperation opportunities with associations in other countries in the Nordics, Europe and more widely internationally - also in a future where Rigsfællesskabet has been dissolved or transformed to new forms of cooperation.



Photo: Bente von Schindel

Cooperation between civil society associations in Rigsfællesskabet.

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The partnership circle consists of Torshavn Evening-, Youth- and Language School; NUKAKA – The Association of Museums in Greenland; The Council for Voluntary Cultural Associations in Denmark; and Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society.

The study sheds light on the current level of regular contacts and cooperation between civil society associations in Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark, with a focus on the three countries' cultural, educational, social and environmental associations.

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