



Impact assessment

| Respondent information | |
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| My name | Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard |
| My organisation | Interfolk |
| Date for e-mailing this evaluation to my partners | 01.09.2021 |

1. Why did you join the project?

Present your motivation to participate in the Nordplus project.

Max 1/3 page!

Co-Creation opens for new forms of cooperation between public authorities and citizen groups or between public institutions and civil society associations. It can strengthen the position of the civil society and bring empowerment and transformative learning of former marginalised and vulnerable citizen groups.

Co-creation has been on the agenda of the Danish municipalities in some years, while the civil society associations has been more sceptical, and there hasn't been much development work in the field of participatory culture. This project idea therefore had the potential to make a difference in a Danish context, and it could also be innovative in other Nordic and Baltic countries.

So, we saw an unfilled need and potential for innovative development work with some important outcome.

2. Your main activities in the project?

Present your main activities in the project including the challenges to provide them.

Max 1/3 page!

Interfolk has been the applicant and coordinator of the project, and thereby some extra tasks with project management (WP 1: start-up and WP 19: Management).

We took part in the baseline survey and provided basic methodological articles (WP 4); which to some degree were applied by the partners in their analysis of good practice examples.

We were also lead partners for the development of new curricula in the field (WP 9), and thereby also responsible to gather and assess the partners' recommendations from the national pilot courses, which we used as lead partner and editor of the Curricula report (WP 12).

Considering the low budget for the initial survey of good practice and the provision of new curricula for further training in the field, I think the project team managed to provide useful outputs for further development work in the area.

3. Outcome for your own organisation?

Present possible changed motivation for and know-how and ability to promote co-creative processes between civil society and public administration in the field of culture and heritage. Do you plan to continue working on the topic with your organisation?

Max 1/3 page!

The project emphasised on the one hand the potential and need for more co-creative activities in the field of participatory culture and heritage, but on the other hand also disclosed that the interest and innovative effect in the Danish civil society sector for arts and culture are difficult to see.

Co-creation has been promoted in the municipalities with an engaging narrative, but the reality in the everyday life in the municipalities may not be so catching or promising. The mutual and equal cooperation between public authorities and associations tend to be more equal for some than others, or to strengthen the public influence and to involve the associations in too many compromises and too much adaptations to the performative strategies of the municipalities, and thereby to walk a patch where they may lose too much identity and motivation as NGOs.

Interfolk is unsure if co-creation has the high transformative potential as expected, and maybe we as organisation instead should continue to give more priority to the more independent and self-managed activities of the cultural civil society associations and citizen groups and support their own potentials for promoting social inclusion, cultural cohesion and democratic empowerment.

But of course, we could try to support both paths. It does not need to be either – or, but could still be both – and.

4. Outcome for the cultural civil society in your country?

Did other NGOs in your country get involved and motivated for co-creative cooperation?

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During the development work, different stakeholders from the civil society, both from the cultural field and social and educational field were involved.

But it seemed not that easy to engage the cultural actors in this new co-creative form of activity, maybe because they thought they already did something like it with the currently cross-sector cooperation or because they were afraid of losing their independence and freedom of action.

It was my impression that the representative from the social and educational associations had a more positive point of view on co-creation, maybe because they have had a longer tradition of close cooperation with public authorities and institutions.

5. Outcome for other key stakeholders, such as public administrations?

Did the project have any impact on the positions or involvement of public actors from your country and region in co-creative cooperation?

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As mentioned, in the Danish context the idea of co-creation has mainly been on the agenda of the municipalities and promoted by them (and not by the civil society associations). But the development work by the municipalities has mostly been in the social and health field, while the civil society area of participatory arts, culture and heritage has not been much involved.

We have noticed interest from some municipalities to elaborate the co-creative cooperation with the civil society cultural associations, but we need to have more specific products and plans to present that goes beyond the activities of this project.

A potential successful product could be to present a series of ready-made training courses to the municipalities and ask for their support including financial support to implement such new courses. The topics could be about co-creation in the cultural field for culture actors with focus on the perspective of the civil society actors, and how their competences and influence can be increased to promote high quality culture activities in the local communities.

However, the provision of such a product and its promotion requires more resources than Interfolk at the current situation can manage; but it may be possible in a network cooperation with other main players in the field and with extra financial support from local and national private and public funding programmes.

6. Outcome for other key stakeholders in the Nordic and Baltic Sea region

Did the project have any impact on the positions or involvement of other stakeholders in the wider Nordic and Baltic Sea community?

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We have only noticed interest from some of our other network partners in the Baltic Sea region; but if they could get an Erasmus+ Mobility grant or other type of grants, they may give priority to send some key staff to European trainings events about co-creation.

But again, this implies that we have the capacity to develop specific international training courses and events, and to disseminate them to relevant Nordic and European target groups, which goes beyond the activities of this project.

Anyhow, we expect that there is a potential “market” for Erasmus+ courses here, if we can find the needed resources to design, disseminate, complete, and report such new European training events for co-creation in the field of participatory arts, culture and heritage.