



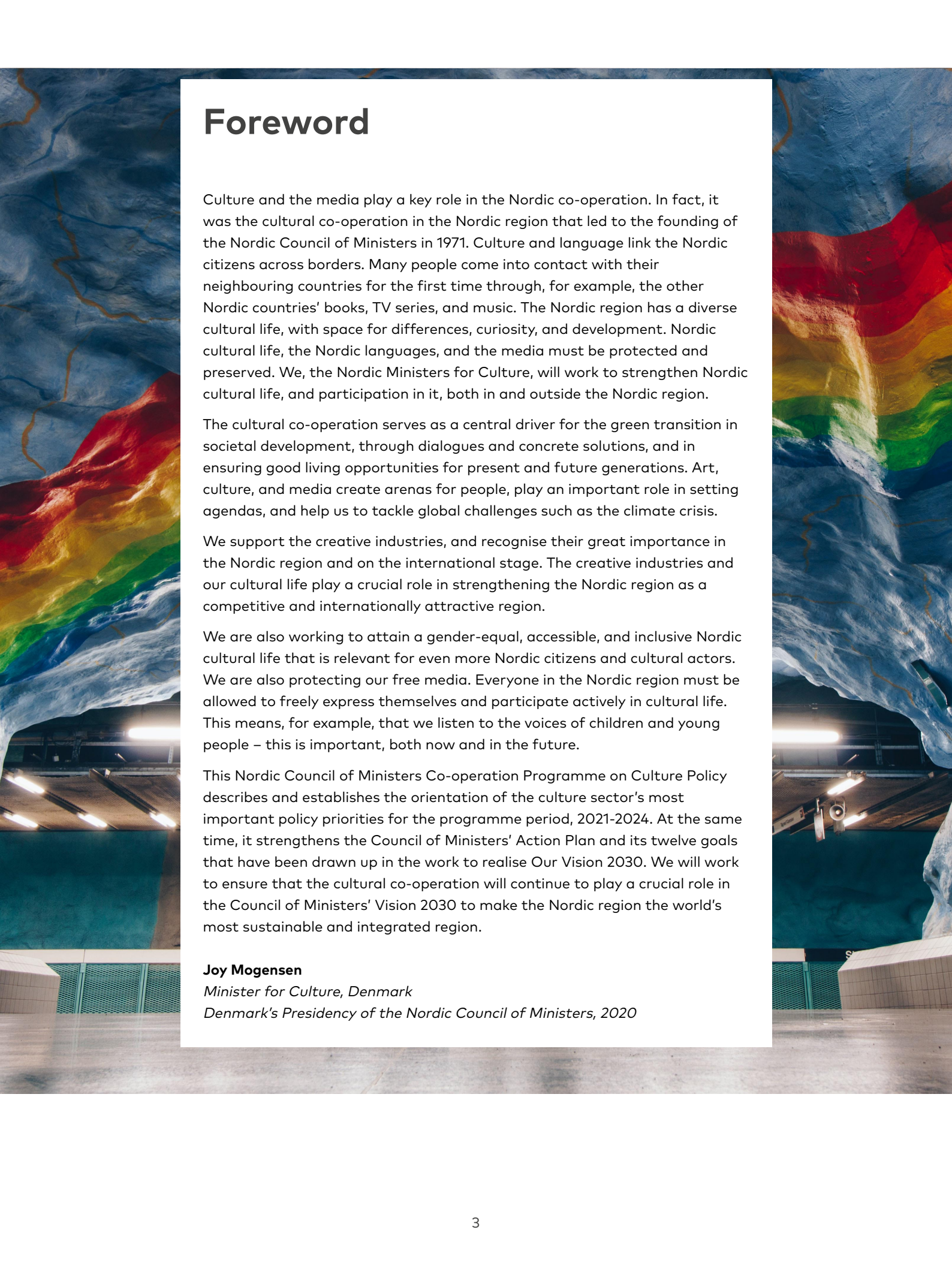
Art and culture – driving force for sustainable development in the Nordic region



Co-operation
programme
on culture policy
2021-2024

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Foreword

Culture and the media play a key role in the Nordic co-operation. In fact, it was the cultural co-operation in the Nordic region that led to the founding of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1971. Culture and language link the Nordic citizens across borders. Many people come into contact with their neighbouring countries for the first time through, for example, the other Nordic countries' books, TV series, and music. The Nordic region has a diverse cultural life, with space for differences, curiosity, and development. Nordic cultural life, the Nordic languages, and the media must be protected and preserved. We, the Nordic Ministers for Culture, will work to strengthen Nordic cultural life, and participation in it, both in and outside the Nordic region.

The cultural co-operation serves as a central driver for the green transition in societal development, through dialogues and concrete solutions, and in ensuring good living opportunities for present and future generations. Art, culture, and media create arenas for people, play an important role in setting agendas, and help us to tackle global challenges such as the climate crisis.

We support the creative industries, and recognise their great importance in the Nordic region and on the international stage. The creative industries and our cultural life play a crucial role in strengthening the Nordic region as a competitive and internationally attractive region.

We are also working to attain a gender-equal, accessible, and inclusive Nordic cultural life that is relevant for even more Nordic citizens and cultural actors. We are also protecting our free media. Everyone in the Nordic region must be allowed to freely express themselves and participate actively in cultural life. This means, for example, that we listen to the voices of children and young people – this is important, both now and in the future.

This Nordic Council of Ministers Co-operation Programme on Culture Policy describes and establishes the orientation of the culture sector's most important policy priorities for the programme period, 2021-2024. At the same time, it strengthens the Council of Ministers' Action Plan and its twelve goals that have been drawn up in the work to realise Our Vision 2030. We will work to ensure that the cultural co-operation will continue to play a crucial role in the Council of Ministers' Vision 2030 to make the Nordic region the world's most sustainable and integrated region.

Joy Mogensen

Minister for Culture, Denmark

Denmark's Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, 2020

Introduction

The Co-operation Programme on Culture Policy was adopted by the Nordic Ministers for Culture (MR-K) on 28 October 2020. The programme is based on cultural life in the Nordic region, and will contribute to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision that, in 2030, the Nordic region will be the world's most sustainable and integrated region, and the three strategic priorities: a green, competitive, and socially sustainable Nordic region. The Co-operation Programme interacts with the Action Plan's twelve goals and specifies the tangible areas in the culture sector that will be in focus. The programme sets the course for the culture ministers' co-operation, and shows how culture, art and media can contribute to ensuring the strategic priorities of the vision, and which concrete areas in the cultural sector should be in focus. The Co-operation Programme also supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Co-operation Programme for Culture Policy 2021-2024 will strengthen the sense of community, development, and collaboration within the culture sector throughout the Nordic region. The ambition is to bring the cultural heritage to life and to promote inclusive and innovative Nordic art and culture that also helps to brand the Nordic region as a sustainable, competitive, and attractive cultural region.

Media, art, and culture shall be free. They shall be allowed to function, be created, and spread freely. The arm's length principle is a common value for the culture policy co-operation.

A basic prerequisite for the Nordic co-operation on culture is the principle of Nordic added value – that the co-operation takes place in areas in which the Nordic countries have common interests and challenges. Exchange of experiences, skills and expertise, and the building of networks, will enable efficiency and development.

A child rights and youth perspective, gender equality, and sustainable development will be mainstreamed throughout the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Children and young people are important, both as initiators, participants, co-creators, and as a target group. Gender equality is a prerequisite for a vibrant cultural life in the Nordic region, and a gender-equal cultural life can show the way for gender equality also in other societal areas. Culture and media initiatives also contribute to sustainable and democratic Nordic societies.

In a globalised world, the cross-border contacts and cultural exchanges are becoming increasingly important. Artistic freedom, freedom of expression, and media freedom also play a role in international collaboration. Initiatives in these areas are crucial for democratic and thereby sustainable Nordic societies, despite global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

The basic premise of the Nordic cultural co-operation is that everyone will have equal opportunities to participate and exert influence. A gender-equal and equitable art and cultural life, free from discrimination and accessible to everyone, contributes to a sense of belonging in the Nordic society, but requires new and structural efforts. The Co-operation Programme therefore places emphasis on diversity and inclusion regardless of socioeconomic background, ethnicity, disability, religion, migration status, age, or other status. Empowerment of indigenous peoples and national minorities will also be emphasised.

Research-based studies and culture and media statistics will ensure that policy

**"Syv og en halv milliard
mennesker på samme planet.
Hver eneste av dem har sin egen,
unike historie. Alle sammen teller.
En av dem er deg!"**

*From **Alle sammen teller** by Kristin Roskifte, winner of the 2019
Nordic Council Children and Young People's Literature Prize*



WE CAN BE HEROES¹ / KIDS IN JAZZ 2019² / COLORED GIRLS, NEW NORDIC VOICES³

Strategic priorities

Culture is an all-embracing and supporting force that creates trust in our societies, particularly in our efforts to attain a green Nordic region, a competitive Nordic region, and a socially sustainable Nordic region. By experiencing art and culture, we learn to understand ourselves and each other.

→ **A green Nordic region:** A green cultural life ensures good living opportunities for present and future generations

→ **A competitive Nordic region:** Vibrant art and cultural life in and outside our region contributes to green growth

→ **A socially sustainable Nordic region:** An inclusive Nordic cultural life promotes democracy, diversity, and quality of life

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1. We can be heroes, Sansusi Wellbeing Residency Programme (with funding from the Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture), photo (cropped): Daniel Oross
 2. Kids in Jazz 2019, workshops and concerts for and with children aged 7 to 15 (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)
 3. Colored Girls, New Nordic Voices, multiple stagings of Nordic and global classics (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)

Our Vision 2030

A **competitive** Nordic region

Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.



The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world

A **green** Nordic region

Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.



HAPPY END⁴ / KARI STEIHAUG⁵ / NORDIC ACTIONS ON NATURE⁶

A green Nordic region: A green cultural life ensures good living opportunities for present and future generations

Goal: A green cultural life for present and future generations

Collaborating across the Nordic region creates opportunities for developing good examples and methods for green culture creation, production, and distribution. By highlighting and sharing these with other sectors, we can stimulate collaboration on socially and environmentally sustainable cultural experiences.

The perspectives of artists and creators and knowledge within the cultural heritage offer opportunities and tools to understand the major challenges of our time, such as the climate crisis. Art and culture can create and mediate experiences that give new insights and quality of life, without wasting the Earth's resources.

Small-scale and local cultural enterprises that work sustainably contribute to maintaining vibrant rural areas and valuable cultural landscapes throughout the Nordic region. Utilising and disseminating the intangible cultural heritage in the form of traditional knowledge promotes the transition to a more sustainable society. Conscious formation through architecture, form and design and a green approach in

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- 4. Happy End, stories about and with ageing bodies in collaboration with nursing homes throughout the Nordic Region (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)
 - 5. Kari Steihaug, Syersken i Trastevere, installation of unravelling clothes / knitted pictures, shown at the Nordic House in the Faroe Islands in 2021
 - 6. Nordic Actions on Nature, collaboration by Nordic performance artists on the environment and sustainability (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)

planning of urban environments contribute to more humane living environments.

Green arts and cultural life is important for the present time and the future. The Nordic civil society and particularly children and young people will therefore be active agents of change in a green transition of the culture sector in the Nordic region.

We will:

- Promote new initiatives, ideas, and knowledge for green initiatives in art, culture, and media policy.
- Place a focus on the creative industries as pioneers in green production and consumption.
- Promote green preservation, use and development of the cultural heritage in conformity with international conventions.

**"Glem aldrig den nye generation,
når endelig den henvender sig til
dig."**

*From **Climate Song** by Rasmus Lyberth, nominated for the 2020 Nordic Council Music Prize*



SIRKUM POLARIS AND NUUA⁷ / PROJEKT JACOB⁸ / STAGES – NEW NORDIC
PERFORMING ARTS⁹

A competitive Nordic region:

Vibrant art and cultural life in and outside our region contributes to green growth

Goal: Innovative art and culture consolidates the Nordic region as an attractive and visible cultural region on the world map

International attention contributes to greater visibility for Nordic artists and cultural actors also within the Nordic region. The creative industries in the Nordic region help to secure investments in, marketing, distribution, and visibility of renowned enterprises also within other sectors. Nordic cultural diplomacy contributes to dialogue and collaboration with other countries, and increases the visibility of Nordic art and culture and the Nordic region. Attention also directs focus to new Nordic models for sustainability, innovation, and (digital) mobility. The culture policy initiatives that the ministers for culture initiate outside our region have a positive effect on political and economic collaboration within a broad spectrum of areas between the Nordic region and the rest of the world.

Collaboration and knowledge about the neighbouring countries' art and languages

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- 7. Sirkum Polaris and Nuua, Kulovalkea (with funding from the Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture), photo (cropped): Valpuri Kaarninen
 - 8. Projekt Jacob, Nuuk Nordic Festival, Greenland (with funding from the Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programme for Culture), photo (cropped): Andreas Daugstad Leonardsen
 - 9. Stages - New Nordic Performing Arts, Platform and festival for new Nordic performing arts (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme), photo (cropped): Malin Schiller

help to forge bonds within the region. The Nordic co-operation on culture recognises and values collaborations on the global arena, including the Arctic area including Sápmi and relevant international organisations.

We will:

- Support the possibilities for artists and cultural actors to reach out, both in and outside the Nordic region.
- Brand the Nordic region as an attractive and creative region that strengthens the collective competitiveness in the Nordic region.
- Examine new opportunities within international collaboration in the culture and media field.

**"Glem de frie markedskræfter,
min ven. Varepriserne refererer
ikke længere til nogen værdi i
fortiden eller nuet, de er mest af
alt fremtidens genfærd."**

*From **Efter solen** by Jonas Eika, winner of the 2019 Nordic Council Literature Prize*



ART WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN ON THE TOPIC OF CLIMATE¹⁰ / ANERSAAQ¹¹ / MY GAY SISTER¹²

A socially sustainable Nordic region:

An inclusive Nordic cultural life promotes democracy, diversity, and quality of life

Goal: A gender-equal and inclusive art and cultural life that is accessible to all throughout the Nordic region

Open, inclusive and gender-equal societies in the Nordic countries contribute to a rich, innovative, and versatile cultural life. Artistic freedom, freedom of expression, and media freedom are important for the Nordic co-operation on culture, and lay the foundation for a democratic society.

Within the Nordic co-operation, it is important to be able to initiate and promote culture policy discussions and debates where diverse voices can be heard. New digital platforms are changing the conditions for democracy and freedom of expression, and here art and culture can be important. Media and information literacy also plays a key role, and are becoming increasingly important for participation and inclusion in democratic processes. Independent media that can deliver both critical and solution-oriented quality journalism are important in the work to attain a socially sustainable

10. Art workshop for children on the topic of climate, World Village festival, Helsinki, photo (cropped): Seppo Samuli

11. Anersaaq, mobile media art project in the public realm (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)

12. My Gay Sister (still image) from Nordic Junior Sessions which explores and disseminates films for children and young people in the Nordic Region (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)

Nordic region.

New and systematic initiatives for creating structural changes are needed, to reach gender equality, inclusion, and diversity in cultural life. The challenges concern not only audiences, but also the conditions for cultural workers, career opportunities, cultural economy, power structures, and various recognition and selection mechanisms.

Children and young people are prioritised, both as initiators, participants, co-creators, and as a target group. More initiatives for children and young people's cultural and language understanding in the Nordic region promote the sense of coherence, trust, and vibrant societies.

We will:

- Work for a free and open culture of expression that promotes arenas for dialogue, meetings, and democracy, with respect for the arm's length principle, and that supports the artistic freedom, freedom of expression, and media freedom throughout the Nordic region and in international contexts.
- Promote an inclusive art and cultural life, freely available to everyone, where children and young people can also be initiators, practitioners, co-creators, or participants.
- Show the way for gender equality and equal opportunities in cultural life.
- Help improve access to, and knowledge of, the culture and languages of the neighbouring Nordic countries.

"Fúkkalyktin lúrir í loftinu. Ég kannast við ljósakrónuna í loftinu en birtan er mött og grá og skortir ljóma."

*From **Ör** by Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, winner of the 2018 Nordic Council Literature Prize*



Appendix

Organisation of the co-operation, and collaboration with international actors

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the official inter-governmental body for co-operation in the Nordic Region. The culture ministers from the Nordic countries, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland, i.e. the Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture (MR-K), have the overarching responsibility for, and lead, cultural co-operation in the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Committee of Senior Officials for Culture (EK-K), which consists of officials from the ministries of culture in the Nordic countries, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland, leads the work in preparing culture policy proposals for the ministers of culture for consideration and decisions. The Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers prepares the issues that are taken up in the Council of Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials, and ensures that all decisions on culture policy are implemented in practice.

The Nordic Council of Ministers' cultural institutions and culture funding programmes play an important role in the Council of Ministers for Culture, and for the implementation of both the vision and the co-operation programme on culture policy. The activities of the institutions and the contribution of the funding programmes reach far out in the Nordic, Nordic-Baltic, and international cultural life, to individual artists, to voluntary and public cultural organisations, and to the general public that takes part of Nordic art and culture. The arm's length principle is a key feature of the entire Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation on culture policy.

The Nordic Council of Ministers for Culture collaborates with different international organisations and initiatives, including UNESCO, with which the Nordic countries also have close collaboration. The Council of Ministers for Culture is also participating in the EU Baltic Sea Collaboration, *Priority Area Culture*, and takes initiative in the Arctic culture collaboration.

The Nordic co-operation on culture policy is important for both the surrounding world and the population in all parts of the Nordic region, and reflects the

13. Skyggeboxer, Nordic Junior Sessions (with funding from the Culture and Art Programme)

foundation of common values on which the Nordic countries stand. Nordic cultural initiatives, both large and small, stimulate art and cultural life in and outside the Nordic region, encourage mutual understanding of the Nordic languages, promote creative industries, and help to build up knowledge and collect statistics on culture and media. Media policy is an integrated part of the Nordic co-operation on culture policy.

Co-operation on culture and understanding of Nordic language promotes mobility and integration in the Nordic region, which in turn leads to greater cultural and linguistic understanding. Film and TV production, translation of literature, and support for the dissemination of Nordic art and culture also spreads knowledge about the different languages in the Nordic region. By facilitating and enabling experiences that arouse interest in and knowledge about culture and language across the Nordic borders, the culture sector plays a crucial role in the official Nordic co-operation. The culture sector collaborates with the education sector on projects and initiatives that strengthen understanding of the Nordic languages.

To reach the goals, the culture sector must also collaborate with other sectors, such as the gender equality, environment and climate, business, social, and digital sectors.

Sustainable development, gender equality, and a child rights and youth perspective

Sustainable development, gender equality, and a child rights and youth perspective is to permeate all the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Mainstreaming these perspectives is a prerequisite to attaining the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision that the Nordic region will be "the world's most sustainable and integrated region in 2030."

In practice, this means that these perspectives will systematically influence all activities in the Nordic Council of Ministers. The perspectives will be incorporated in all stages of planning, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation. The responsibility falls on the decision-making bodies, employees, and actors that usually participate in the work, and will be carried out in accordance with the Nordic Council of Ministers *Policy for mainstreaming sustainable development, gender equality, and a child rights and youth perspective*. [Link to the policy](#).

The Nordic Council of Ministers will not only mainstream these three perspectives to live up to the political decisions. It is also important to 'practice what you preach'. Mainstreaming these perspectives ensures that the activity is of high quality and relevant, and ensures awareness of what consequences and effects the decisions and projects have on the environment, the society, and the citizens in the Nordic region.

Evaluation of the Co-operation Programme

The Co-operation Programme on Culture Policy is in effect for four years (2021-2024). The programme will be evaluated before the end of the programme period. This evaluation will include an examination of whether and how the goals defined in the co-operation programme have been reached. The evaluation will also consider how these have contributed to the realisation of the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision that *the Nordic region will be the world's most sustainable and integrated region*, and its three strategic priorities: a green, competitive, and socially sustainable Nordic region.

The twelve goals of the Action Plan

A green Nordic region

- Strengthen research and development and the promotion of solutions that support carbon neutrality and climate adaptation, including in relation to transport, construction, food, and energy.
- Help to safeguard biodiversity and ensure the sustainable use of the Nordic Region's nature and seas.
- Promote a circular and bio-based economy, sustainable and competitive production, sustainable food systems, and resource-efficient and non-toxic cycles in the Nordic Region.
- Make it much easier and more attractive for Nordic consumers to prioritise healthy and environmentally and climate-friendly choices, with joint efforts relating to sustainable consumption.
- Contribute to the positive development of international co-operation on the environment and climate, such as by promoting Nordic green solutions in the rest of the world.

A competitive Nordic region

- Support knowledge and innovation and make it easier for companies throughout the Nordic Region to take full advantage of the development opportunities created by the green, technological, and digital transformation and the growing bioeconomy.
- Develop skills and well-functioning labour markets that match the requirements of the green transition and digital developments, and that support freedom of movement in the Nordic Region.
- Leverage digitalisation and education to bind the Nordic countries even closer together.

A socially sustainable Nordic region

- Contribute to good, equal, and secure health and welfare for all.
- Work to involve everyone living in the Nordic Region in the green transition and digital developments, utilise the potential of this transition, and counteract the widening of gaps in society as a result of this transition.
- Give Nordic civil society, and especially children and young people, a louder voice and greater participation in Nordic co-operation, as well as increase their knowledge of the languages and cultures of neighbouring countries.

- Maintain trust and cohesion in the Nordic Region, its shared values, and the Nordic community with an emphasis on culture, democracy, equality, inclusion, nondiscrimination, and freedom of expression.

Initiatives in the Action Plan that include the culture sector

- The Nordic region as a leader for a sustainable and competitive construction, industrial facility, and property sector with reduced climate impact
- Nordic initiative on sustainable lifestyles
- Nordic initiative on media literacy
- Strengthened initiative for children and young people's culture and language understanding in the Nordic region
- Democracy, inclusion, and cohesion in the Nordic region

Strategic mandates for the Nordic Council of Ministers' five cultural institutions for 2021–2024

Each of the five pan-Nordic cultural institutions has a strategic mandate decided by the Nordic ministers for culture (MR-K) that lays out frameworks for the purposes and activities of the institutions. The term of the mandates is four years, mirroring the co-operation programme.

- Nordic House in Reykjavik (NOREY)
- Nordic House in the Faroe Islands (NLH)
- Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA)
- Nordic Institute on Åland (NIPÅ)
- Nordic Culture Point (NKK)

Strategic mandate for the Nordic House in Reykjavik (NOREY) for 2021–2024

This strategic mandate is part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation programme on culture policy for 2021 to 2024 and was decided by the Nordic ministers for culture on 1 December 2020.

Art and culture are inroads for people to become familiar with, get closer to, and understand other countries and their populations and communities. In order for the Nordic Region to be an integrated region, it is essential that platforms are in place that serve as long-term and ongoing interfaces between people and countries. With its public presence and visibility as well as its direct relations with civil society, the Nordic House in Reykjavík (NOREY) is one such platform and therefore plays a strategic role in efforts to achieve the objectives of the co-operation programme on culture policy and of the action plan for 2021 to 2024 linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision.

The Nordic House in Reykjavík shall promote understanding and knowledge of the role of art and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development. This includes initiating and communicating good examples, as well as inspiring green cultural production, distribution, and consumption.

Exchanges between practitioners of art and culture from different Nordic countries expand artistic horizons and assist in renewal, skills development, and the creation of networks, which in turn contribute to a competitive culture sector. The Nordic House shall facilitate, support, and serve as an arena for such exchanges.

The activities of the Nordic House shall reflect a diversity of artistic and cultural expressions and be relevant and accessible to cultural practitioners and the public regardless of age, gender, language, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexual orientation, religion, place of residence, or socio-economic circumstances. Freedom of expression, artistic freedom, equality, and gender equality must be core principles of the institutions' activities, promoting trust and a sense of belonging in the Nordic Region.

Children and young people are a priority target group of the institution's activities. Special emphasis must be placed on strengthening the voices, initiatives, and creativity of children and young people in Nordic co-operation. Taking into account children and young people's individual circumstances, the Nordic House shall stimulate their curiosity in and knowledge of other Nordic countries' cultures, languages, and communities.

The objectives of the strategic mandate shall be embodied in performance targets in the annual budget and notice of funding.

Strategic mandate for the Nordic House in the Faroe Islands (NLH) for 2021–2024

This strategic mandate is part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation programme on culture policy for 2021 to 2024 and was decided by the Nordic ministers for culture on 1 December 2020.

Art and culture are inroads for people to become familiar with, get closer to, and understand other countries and their populations and communities. In order for the Nordic Region to be an integrated region, it is essential that platforms are in place that serve as long-term and ongoing interfaces between people and countries. With its public presence and visibility as well as its direct relations with civil society, the Nordic House in the Faroe Islands (NLH) is one such platform and therefore plays a strategic role in efforts to achieve the objectives of the co-operation programme on culture policy and of the action plan for 2021 to 2024 linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision.

The Nordic House in the Faroe Islands shall promote understanding and knowledge of the role of art and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development. This includes initiating and communicating good examples, as well as inspiring green cultural production, distribution, and consumption.

Exchanges between practitioners of art and culture from different Nordic countries expand artistic horizons and assist in renewal, skills development, and the creation of networks, which in turn contribute to a competitive culture sector. The Nordic House shall facilitate, support, and serve as an arena for such exchanges.

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Children and young people are a priority target group of the institution's activities. Special emphasis must be placed on strengthening the voices, initiatives, and creativity of children and young people in Nordic co-operation. Taking into account children and young people's individual circumstances, the Nordic House must stimulate their curiosity in and knowledge of other Nordic countries' cultures, languages, and communities.

The Nordic House will be a catalyst and arena for sustainable Nordic co-operation within the culture sector.

The objectives of the strategic mandate shall be embodied in performance targets in the annual budget and notice of funding.

Strategic mandate for the Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA) for 2021–2024

This strategic mandate is part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation programme on culture policy for 2021 to 2024 and was decided by the Nordic ministers for culture on 1 December 2020.

Art and culture are inroads for people to become familiar with, get closer to, and understand other countries and their populations and communities. In order for the Nordic Region to be an integrated region, it is essential that platforms are in place that serve as long-term and ongoing interfaces between people and countries. With its public presence and visibility as well as its direct relations with civil society, the Nordic Institute in Greenland (NAPA) is one such platform and therefore plays a strategic role in efforts to achieve the objectives of the co-operation programme on culture policy and of the action plan for 2021 to 2024 linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision.

NAPA shall promote understanding and knowledge of the role of art and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development. This includes initiating and communicating good examples, as well as inspiring green cultural production, distribution, and consumption.

Exchanges between practitioners of art and culture from different Nordic countries expand artistic horizons and assist in renewal, skills development, and the creation of networks, which in turn contribute to a competitive culture sector. NAPA shall facilitate, support, and serve as an arena for such exchanges.

The activities of NAPA must reflect a diversity of artistic and cultural expressions and be relevant and accessible to cultural practitioners and the public regardless of age, gender, language, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexual orientation, religion, place of residence, or socio-economic circumstances. Freedom of expression, artistic freedom, equality, and gender equality must be core principles of the institutions' activities, promoting trust and a sense of belonging in the Nordic Region.

Children and young people are a priority target group of the institution's activities. Special emphasis must be placed on strengthening the voices, initiatives, and creativity of children and young people in Nordic co-operation. Taking into account children and young people's individual circumstances, NAPA must stimulate their curiosity in and knowledge of other Nordic countries' cultures, languages, and communities.

By supporting cultural projects based on sustainable co-operation between Nordic and Nordic-Arctic actors, NAPA will promote intercultural understanding and Nordic co-operation's relevance to and natural role in both Greenland's culture scene and its civil society.

NAPA will make Arctic perspectives visible in Nordic co-operation on culture and in the Nordic Region, as well as be a Nordic voice in Arctic co-operation on culture.

The objectives of the strategic mandate shall be embodied in performance targets in the annual budget and notice of funding.

Strategic mandate for the Nordic Institute on Åland (NIPÅ) for 2021–2024

This strategic mandate is part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation programme on culture policy for 2021 to 2024 and was decided by the Nordic ministers for culture on 1 December 2020.

Art and culture are inroads for people to become familiar with, get closer to, and understand other countries and their populations and communities. In order for the Nordic Region to be an integrated region, it is essential that platforms are in place that serve as long-term and ongoing interfaces between people and countries. With its public presence and visibility as well as its direct relations with civil society, the Nordic Institute on Åland (NIPÅ) is one such platform and therefore plays a strategic role in efforts to achieve the objectives of the co-operation programme on culture policy and of the action plan for 2021 to 2024 linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision.

NIPÅ shall promote understanding and knowledge of the role of art and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development. This includes initiating and communicating good examples, as well as inspiring green cultural production, distribution, and consumption.

Exchanges between practitioners of art and culture from different Nordic countries expand artistic horizons and assist in renewal, skills development, and the creation of networks, which in turn contribute to a competitive culture sector. NIPÅ shall facilitate, support, and serve as an arena for such exchanges.

The activities of NIPÅ must reflect a diversity of artistic and cultural expressions and be relevant and accessible to cultural practitioners and the public regardless of age, gender, language, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexual orientation, religion, place of residence, or socio-economic circumstances. Freedom of expression, artistic freedom, equality, and gender equality must be core principles of the institutions' activities, promoting trust and a sense of belonging in the Nordic Region.

Children and young people are a priority target group of the institution's activities. Special emphasis must be placed on strengthening the voices, initiatives, and creativity of children and young people in Nordic co-operation. Taking into account children and young people's individual circumstances, NIPÅ must stimulate their curiosity in and knowledge of other Nordic countries' cultures, languages, and communities.

NIPÅ shall contribute to Nordic co-operation being perceived as relevant to and having a natural role in Åland's culture scene and relevant parts of Ålandic civil society. A good foothold in Ålandic society generates interest and involvement in Nordic co-operation.

The objectives of the strategic mandate shall be embodied in performance targets in the annual budget and notice of funding.

Strategic mandate for Nordic Culture Point (NKK) for 2021–2024

This strategic mandate is part of the Nordic Council of Ministers' co-operation programme on culture policy for 2021 to 2024 and was decided by the Nordic ministers for culture on 1 December 2020.

Art and culture are inroads for people to become familiar with, get closer to, and understand other countries and their populations and communities. In order for the Nordic Region to be an integrated region, it is essential that platforms are in place that serve as long-term and ongoing interfaces between people and countries. With its public presence and visibility as well as its direct relations with civil society, Nordic Culture Point (NKK) is one such platform and therefore plays a strategic role in efforts to achieve the objectives of the co-operation programme on culture policy and of the action plan for 2021 to 2024 linked to the Nordic Council of Ministers' vision.

Nordic Culture Point shall promote understanding and knowledge of the role of art and culture as a prerequisite for sustainable development. This includes initiating and communicating good examples, as well as inspiring green cultural production, distribution, and consumption.

Exchanges between practitioners of art and culture from different Nordic countries expand artistic horizons and assist in renewal, skills development, and the creation of networks, which in turn contribute to a competitive culture sector. Nordic Culture Point shall facilitate, support, and serve as an arena for such exchanges.

The activities of Nordic Culture Point must reflect a diversity of artistic and cultural expressions and be relevant and accessible to cultural practitioners and the public regardless of age, gender, language, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexual orientation, religion, place of residence, or socio-economic circumstances. Freedom of expression, artistic freedom, equality, and gender equality must be core principles of the institutions' activities, promoting trust and a sense of belonging in the Nordic Region.

Children and young people are a priority target group of the institution's activities. Special emphasis must be placed on strengthening the voices, initiatives, and creativity of children and young people in Nordic co-operation. Taking into account children and young people's individual circumstances, Nordic Culture Point must stimulate their curiosity in and knowledge of other Nordic countries' cultures, languages, and communities.

Nordic Culture Point administers the Nordic Council of Ministers' funding programmes and in so doing contributes to the continued renewal of Nordic and Nordic-Baltic co-operation on culture.

The objectives of the strategic mandate shall be embodied in performance targets in the annual budget and notice of funding.

About this publication

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Image behind the foreword: Enno Hallek and Åke Pallarp, Rainbows on Stockholm's Stadion metro station (1973), photo: Unsplash

Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland.

Nordic co-operation has firm traditions in politics, the economy, and culture. It plays an important role in European and international collaboration, and aims at creating a strong Nordic community in a strong Europe.

Nordic co-operation seeks to safeguard Nordic and regional interests and principles in the global community. Shared Nordic values help the region solidify its position as one of the world's most innovative and competitive.

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How the Co-operation Programme relates to Our Vision 2030

All activities in the Nordic Council of Ministers will contribute to fulfilling our vision that the Nordic region will be the world's most sustainable and integrated region in 2030. The co-operation programme describes how the culture sector will work with the three strategic priority areas and contribute to reaching the 12 objectives in the Action Plan 2021-24 in the work to attain Our Vision 2030.

→ norden.org for the Action Plan and other co-operation programmes