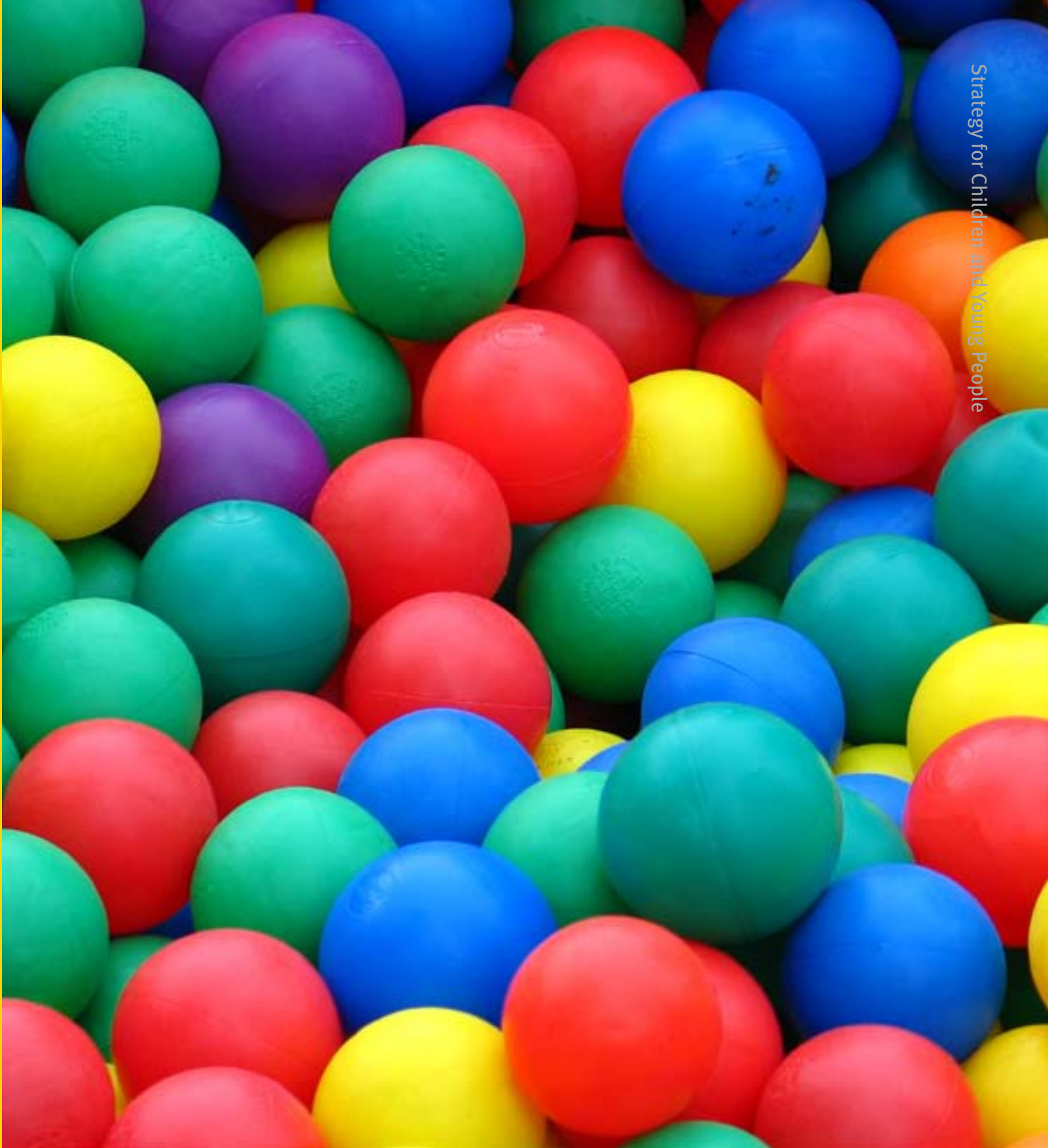


Strategy for Children and Young People





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Nordic co-operation

Nordic co-operation is one of the world's most extensive forms of regional collaboration, involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and three autonomous areas: 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. Common Nordic values help the region solidify its position as one of the world's most innovative and competitive.

Nordic Council of Ministers

Store Strandstræde 18
DK-1255 Copenhagen K
Phone (+45) 3396 0200
Fax (+45) 3396 0202

Nordic Council

Store Strandstræde 18
DK-1255 Copenhagen K
Phone (+45) 3396 0400
Fax (+45) 3311 1870

www.norden.org

Strategy for Children and Young People

Vision

Priorities

Roles and responsibilities



Vision

To make the Nordic Region the best place in the world for children and young people

Children and young people are a top priority for the Nordic Council of Ministers. This strategy document will form the basis for the Council of Ministers' work in all sectors.

Children and young people form the foundation for global development and must therefore, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into the thinking behind the Council of Ministers' globalisation strategy in all sectors.

Youngsters have long been a political priority in the Nordic countries and Autonomous Territories, where work has been based on shared values such as justice, equality,

democracy, openness and partnership. Consistently close co-operation between the Nordic countries has brought greater gains than the individual countries would have achieved on their own. The definition of children and young people covers everyone aged 0–25. The range does, however, vary according to the context.

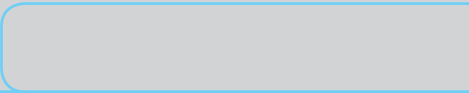
Main objective

The main objective of the Nordic Council of Ministers' policy on children and young people is to promote opportunities for the young to enjoy a decent standard of living and exert influence over their own lives, irrespective of gender, ethnic, cultural or socio-economic background, age, place of residence, sexual orientation or disability.

This work is based upon a human-rights perspective, i.e.:

- The human rights of the young are protected and promoted. All work involving people under 18 years of age is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children and young people have a right to education and training, social and financial security, good health and personal growth.
- Children and young people should be involved in, and exert influence upon, their own lives, their immediate surroundings and their social development.
- Children and young people's well-being is a prerequisite for future sustainable development in the Nordic Region.





Priorities

Most of the work done by the Nordic Council of Ministers has a bearing on children and young people.

As a result, each of the Council of Ministers' sectors must incorporate a youth perspective into all of their activities. The priorities for the next few years will be:

Food: Promotion of better eating habits and quality of life for children and young people, through a closer focus on healthy food culture and on opportunities for physical activity in the countryside, in forests and in towns.

The environment: Development of a partnership that generates added value through the exchange of experiences among the Nordic countries' children and young people, and increases their awareness of the value of our natural environment and its resources. The environment sector must address global challenges, in particular how the fight against climate change will shape our future society and how our consumption and lifestyle have a critical impact on the environment.

The primary industries: Focus on recruiting young people into the primary industries. This should also be seen in relation to village

and coastal development in the Nordic Region.

Culture: Promoting opportunities for youngsters to participate actively in culture and develop their own cultural idioms; guaranteeing access to high-quality Nordic content in digital media such as computer games; making sure that children and young people possess the requisite skills to use modern media; and ensuring that the Nordic Houses and institutions make greater efforts to communicate and stimulate children's and youth culture.

Greater efforts to promote an international perspective in co-operation between culture and schools will be prioritised as part of the globalisation strategy.

Health and social services: Promotion of health and wellbeing among children and young people in the Nordic Region and its adjacent areas. Emphasis is placed on health-promotion work and unity, including efforts to foster a healthy diet, physical activity, mental health and quality of life. Special efforts





will be made to prevent the marginalisation of and promote the best possible conditions for children and young people in vulnerable risk groups, so they are able to avail themselves of the same opportunities for development, health and quality of life as their contemporaries.

Gender equality: Gender equality in Nordic partnerships is all about basic values of respect, equal value, understanding, quality of life, identity and accessibility.

Education and training: Young people's opportunities for a good education. Promoting the development of and research into a quality-based education system on both lower and higher levels of education, so that the Nordic Region is able to strengthen its position as a pioneering region in the development of human resources. Quality-enhancement and -assurance form the basis for several activities and projects. One of these is the globalisation project "Adequate teaching for young people and adults", the overall objective of which is to increase the number of people who complete post-school education or training.

Co-operation with the adjacent areas: The Nordic Council of Ministers will work to improve conditions for children and young people in the adjacent areas, particularly through partnerships on an equal footing with partners in North-West Russia and the Baltic states. The availability of broad-based learning based on democratic values constitutes an integral part of this objective.

Nordic Children's and Youth Committee (NORDBUK): NORDBUK acts in a consultative capacity on Nordic issues, providing input on new methods of participation in democratic processes, diversity, human rights, international co-operation on youth policies and the co-ordination of research.



Roles and responsibilities

A joint responsibility

The joint strategy makes each of the Nordic Council of Ministers' sectors responsible for incorporating a children and youth perspective into all of its activities. It is up to the Council of Ministers to make sure that this political focus generates tangible results.

MR-SAM

The Nordic Ministers for Co-operation (MR-SAM) and the Nordic Committee for Co-operation (NSK) have overall responsibility for co-ordinating Nordic co-operation on children and young people. The

individual councils of ministers are responsible for the specific content of measures adopted in their sectors.

Defining and delegating responsibility

The Nordic Council of Ministers is responsible for achieving the overall strategic goals and for incorporating a children and youth perspective into all relevant action plans. The Council of Ministers analyses how decisions and actions might affect youngsters and defines quantifiable strategic goals.

Nordic Children's and Youth Committee (NORDBUK)

NORDBUK is the Nordic Council of Ministers' advisory and co-ordinating organ for Nordic and international co-operation on issues affecting the young. NORDBUK's activities are guided by this strategy document, the action plan and the priorities set out by the annual programme for the Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. NORDBUK is responsible for co-ordinating and following up on this strategy in accordance with the action plan.

An overall progress report will be submitted to MR-SAM each year. The report will first be processed by NORDBUK, which is responsible for evaluating the content and proposing amendments.



This strategy was adopted by the Nordic Ministers for Co-operation at their meeting in Copenhagen on 3 December March 2009.







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Store Strandstræde 18
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