

Trollhättan, 9 October 2012

## **Agreement on Nordic cooperation**

### **Background**

The Nordic cities of Trollhättan, Kristiansand, Kerava, Reykjavik and Hjörring have been formal Twin cities within the frame of a twin city agreement that is to trace back to the 50's. The agreement has mainly been a base for youth and culture exchanges. It has also been a possibility for exchange of experiences in-between politicians and senior management from the different Twin cities. During the years the agreement has been updated several times, the last time in May 2000.

In early 2015 Hjörring announced its intentions to terminate its participation in the Twin city collaboration.

During a planning meeting in June the same year Trollhättan, Kristiansand, Kerava, Reykjavik unanimously decided to continue the collaboration within the frames of an agreement on Nordic cooperation.

### **Proposal**

The municipalities of Kerava, Kristiansand, Reykjavik and Trollhättan hereby sign the following agreement on forms and orientation for Nordic cooperation.

Our cooperation as Nordic neighbors is on long term and has the purpose of contributing to friendship, mutual understanding and a sense of solidarity. The Nordic cooperation has the purpose of developing relations and contacts within a wide scale of community life. The Nordic cooperation is to be based on broadness and continuity.

1. Through the agreement we want to create and stimulate contacts in-between citizens and in-between municipal activities, also the agreement should contribute to exchange of knowledge and experiences in-between our politicians and in-between our municipal operations. Within the frame of the agreement there can be contacts and exchanges in-between citizens, enterprises, municipal activities, organizations and NGO:s, schools, politicians and public administration.

2. The Nordic cooperation should be broad and can be developed within different sectors such as:
  - Development within municipal activities, organizational development and development of steering models.
  - Culture and tourism
  - Education
  - Urban planning
  - Business development
  - Social and healthcare
  - Environment
  - Sports
  - Integration processes
3. The municipal executive committee has a special responsibility to stimulate and develop the cooperation. Once every two years a Nordic cooperation meeting is to be held. The purpose of the meeting is monitoring and development of the cooperation. Furthermore the meeting should contribute to exchange of experience and friendship. The hosting of the Nordic cooperation meeting alternates in-between the signing parties. At the Nordic cooperation meeting an agreement on the main focus for the cooperation during the next two years is to be settled. At the Nordic cooperation meeting the coordination responsibility is to be handed over to the municipality that is responsible for the next meeting.
4. Each signing part has the right to withdraw from the collaboration. The withdrawal must be notified to the other partners in written form before the 31st December of the year of expiration of the enclosure to the Nordic cooperation agreement.

The cooperating city's sign this agreement as a frame for the cooperation. Attached to the agreement there is an enclosure that regulates the conditions for the official Nordic cooperation meeting. The enclosure is to be valid for two years periods and thereafter the areas of cooperation in it should be updated if necessary. The agreement is valid as soon as it has been adopted by each city's city council or equivalent.

Trollhättan 11<sup>th</sup> march 2016

Kerava City

Kristiansand Municipality

Reykjanesbar

Trollhättans Municipality

## **Enclosure to Nordic cooperation agreement**

### **Conditions for the official Nordic cooperation agreement 2016-2018**

Once every two years an official Nordic cooperation meeting with the signing parties is to be held. The hosting of the meeting should follow a rotating scheme.

Responsible for coordination and organization is the municipality that is next in line for the hosting of the Nordic cooperation meeting.

Eight delegates from each signing partner are to be invited. The delegations should consist of three to five politicians (no spouses) and one to three civil servants (no spouses).

The hosting municipality carries the costs for lodging, meals and common activities during the Nordic cooperation meeting. Visiting municipalities will carry their own expenses for travel to the Nordic cooperation meeting.

### **Identified Collaboration areas 2016-2018**

For the period 2016-2018 four primary collaboration areas has been identified by the collaborating parties. Those areas are:

- Digitalization
- Youth Issues and activities such as sports and culture
- Processes in the education system, prevention of drop outs
- Integration processes

After each two year period the results of the cooperation in the different areas are to be evaluated and reported at the official Nordic cooperation meeting.

### **Timetable and activities**

Final timetable, specific activities and objectives in each collaboration area are to be defined during the Nordic cooperation meeting in Trollhättan, March 2016.

### **Validity**

The enclosure is valid for two years periods, and thereafter the areas of cooperation in it should be updated if necessary.