

COOPERATION AGREEMENT

2022-2029

Bodø, Jönköping, Kuopio, Svendborg





1 Parties to the Agreement and Locations of Future Sister City Conferences

Jönköping, Sweden, 2023

Bodø, Norway, 2024*

Svendborg, Denmark, 2026

Kuopio, Finland, 2028

*The Sister City Conference in Bodø will be held one year earlier than originally scheduled at Bodø's request.

2 Term of the Agreement

This Agreement comes into effect in 2022, when the previous agreement expires. The sister city relationship between the above Parties, which began in the 1940s, will continue under this Agreement until 2029.

The Agreement comes into effect when it has been approved by the responsible politician or mayor of Bodø, Jönköping, Svendborg and Kuopio. The Agreement must be ratified by all Parties by 30. November 2021.

3 Aims of the Agreement

The Parties to this Agreement will continue and develop mutual international cooperation for the benefit of their citizens. The overall objective is to raise the importance of Nordic social equality and non-discrimination at the global level.

In particular, the Agreement aims to promote sustainable development and the wellbeing of citizens in the following areas as well as collaboration between experts.

- Wellbeing and Involvement of Children and Young People
- Know-how and Business Life
- Art and Culture
- Leisure and Sport

4 Forms of Cooperation under the Agreement

All of the following forms of cooperation can be conducted as video meetings/conferences if necessary.

A two-year Action Plan will be drawn up in connection with the Preparatory Meeting and presented at the Sister City Conference. A summary of the previous two years' activities will be presented at the Sister City Conference and distributed to all Parties for publication and follow-up actions.



Preparatory Meeting

The host city shall convene an administrative Preparatory Meeting no later than six (6) months before the Sister City Conference. Each city's designated contact person shall be invited to the Meeting. If it so wishes, the host city can hold the Preparatory Meeting by video link, which will enable a larger number of participants.

The Preparatory Meeting will plan the programme of the Sister City Conference and evaluate together summary of activities. In addition, the Meeting will address possible areas of cooperation that each city has considered beforehand.

Sister City Conference

Each city, in turn, will host the official Sister City Conference. The Conference will be held biennially. The duration of the Conference is two whole days, excluding the arrival and departure days.

The official Conference programme consists of the aims stated in Section 3 and matters specified separately at the Preparatory Meeting. The host city will present the summary of activities, which will have been prepared jointly by the cities' contact persons.

It is the host city's responsibility to invite delegations from the other cities to the Conference three (3) months before it is due to be held. Invitations shall be directed to a maximum of eight (8) representatives from each city. The size of the delegations may, for special reasons, be stipulated at the Preparatory Meeting. In each case, account must also be taken of the themes specified in the Agreement and Action Plan with regard to the participation of experts.

It is assumed that the Conference will be attended by e.g. the mayor, political leaders and administrative representatives (max 8 persons) from each city. The cities are free to choose their representatives taking into account the designated sister city contact person or deputy and a possible request for administrative / professional representatives from particular fields. The cities are responsible for ensuring the participation of the Föreningen Norden association (1 person) if there is an active local association. In the lack of the presence of Föreningen Norden, a city may send a politician, administrator in replacement to the Sister City Conference. Föreningen Norden, in particular, will play an active role in cooperation between the cities by participating in the Sister City Conferences and other activities.

Content Cooperation and Themed Video Meetings

It is desirable and beneficial for cooperation to hold discussions between experts on the themes specified in the Agreement. Experts from the sister cities can also be invited to participate in relevant themed video meetings, conferences, visits and events. Content cooperation shall always be agreed separately, and themed video meetings shall be agreed in conjunction with the Action Plan.



5 Expenses and Hospitality

Each city is responsible for travel and accommodation expenses involved in official meetings and other visits. The host city shall take care of hotel block bookings in advance.

The host city shall be responsible for hospitality expenses relating to the Sister City Conference and Preparatory Meeting. These expenses comprise the programmed meals, visits and functions as well as transport within the locality.

The cities can organise cooperation and visits outside the Agreement, in which cases expenses shall be agreed separately.

6 Contact Persons

Each city shall appoint a contact person and deputy from its own administration for the purpose of Nordic sister city cooperation. The person in question shall participate in all activities specified in the Agreement and serve as a contact in dealings with the other cities. The cities must inform the other Parties of any changes in their designated contacts.

7 Communication and Contact Language

Common ground rules shall be agreed for communication. The focus of communication will be on Nordic wellbeing, equality, sustainable development and citizen involvement. Each city will highlight these themes in its publicity through its own channels. Normal everyday posts expressing these themes will be given specific topic tags on social media, so that they can be followed in the sister cities and anywhere in the world.

The official language of conferences, meetings and email communication is English.

8 Changes to the Agreement

This Agreement can be changed only if all Parties agree in writing to the changes.

9 Other Agreed Matters

This Cooperation Agreement is made in English. Each Party is responsible for translating it into their own language if necessary.

Where possible, and to be agreed separately in each case, interpretation into the native language will be provided during the Sister City Conference. The Party requiring interpretation shall be responsible for the cost of the interpreter.



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Bodø

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