

# Nordic town twinning-meeting in Skien

October 7th. & 8th. 2021

## Attendees:

Skien: Karin Mathisen, Ole Geir Hoppestad, Harald Haraldsen, Solveig Rollesen, Guro Honningdal, Rune J Eide

Thisted: Peter Skriver Nielsen, Eleonora Holmgaard Hornstrup, Lars Sloth, Eva Sjælland

Uddevalla: Elving Anderson, Alf Gillberg, Christina Nilsson, Ing-Marie Lagneus, Stellan Hedendahl

Mosfellsbær: Rósa Traustadóttir, Hugrun Òsk Òlafsdóttir

Loimaa: Teija Ek-Marjamäki, Anne Åkerblom, Monika Antikainen

## Headlines from group meetings on Thursday 7th.

On Thursday 7th. There were group discussions regarding headlines and thematic for next year's town twinning conference in Skien and the twin city-agreement.

**Group 1:** *Karin Mathisen, Elving Anderson, Guro Honningdal, Anne Åkerblom, Eva Sjælland.*

## Conference

Heading: Young people's engagement:

- Activities
- Their voice in the democracy. Local-->global
- Youth council
- Their role in the municipality and local democracy.

Sub-heading: Climate-footprint

- Young engagement
- The youth's effort on climate and sustainability in their own locale environment.
- Circular economy

Who and what:

- Teenagers 13-18 years
- Meet between youth councils, student councils and cultural youth councils.
- Climate footprint --> Start with the travel to Skien
- Youth discussion on community and participation in their own municipality. Perhaps find a new model?
- Content related to "Fritidskortet". Governmental supported leisure activities for all youths in a specific age group.
- Maybe Erasmus+, Nord-job.
- Job-exchange. Employees on the library or culture school could come and work a few days before the conference?

Practical:

- 10-12 youths traveling by bus from Denmark and Sweden.
- Consider to establish a digital platform for the twin city-cooperation. Web-site or app

### Agreement

The agreement is a good framework as it is now.

Extend the guidelines to include more activities? An appendix or action plan that describes themes or other things we want to cooperate on.

**Group 2:** *Ole Geir Hoppestad, Teija Ek-Marjamäki, Ròsa Trastadóttir, Eleonora Holmgaard Hornstrup, Stellan Hedendahl.*

### Conference

Two subject about young people.

1. How can we make all youth interested in school? Too many people does not succed in school. How can we change the thinking? How can we facilitate that all young people have a job?
2. Young and climate: What can the local government do for a better environment?

We should ask people from school, social workers and "fritidsledare" to get young people that are interested to talk about these subjects. It is a huge challenge to get the discussion interested for both adult and young. The young ones should participate in some parts and other parts they will do by themselves. It is also important that we invite social workers etc. to learn and talk to other social workers from other countries

**Group 3:** *Christina Nilsson, Harald Haraldsen, Lars Sloth, Alf Gillberg, Hùgrun Òsk Òlafsdóttir*

### Conference

Theme for conference:

Main theme: Youths (not child and youth)

Sub-themes:

- Young entrepreneurship
- Youths and outsidersness

Practical:

- Every town needs to decide how many young people they will send for the youth project.
- Conference guests come the day before and the conference starts the day after kl.9:00. Have the conference for a whole day and then until 3:00 the second day.

Who and what:

- NART: are we going to have the artists again in Skien?
- Foreningen Norden: they want to have some time at the conference. 2 hours for the people of the Foreningen Norden to have their own meeting.
- Group meetings: We suggest that group meetings will not be at the conference.
- How to upscale youth participation in the conference?
- How to integrate youths

**Group 4:** *Peter Skriver Nielsen, Ing-Marie Lagneus, Solveig Rollefsen, Monika Antikainen*

The group discussed several topics regarding youths:

- Having a context
- Building a good self-confidence
- Experience mastery to prevent exclusion.

The importance of **early intervention** was one of the key words.

The model with young entrepreneurs is good, but mainly done in upper secondary school (gymnasium). For example in Skien, the municipality does not provide education for over 15 year olds. Therefore the group wanted to focus on things that can be done within the municipality – e.g. culture, sports, youth services and to increase the opportunity to have a hobby via school.

Also, to shift the focus from computers and cell phones to do things with your hands both in schools and spare time.

Poverty and climate change was also discussed, as well as including the youth from each city via the youth councils.

Foreningen Norden wants a little bit time for themselves during the conference.

Did not discuss the town twinning agreement

### Summary group meetings

**Theme:** Youths

**When:** Two full days. Starting 21.09.2022 or 22.09.2022

#### **Content headlines:**

- NART
- Digital town twinning platform
- Book launch
- Some time alone for Foreningen Norden
- Young engagement
- «Talenthuset»
- «Fritidskortet»
- Look to Mosfellsbærs organizing of theme-meetings in 2018.

### **Number of participants**

Thisted: 10 youths + 12 grown ups

Uddevalla: 10 youths + 20 grown ups

Mosfellsbær & Loimaa must check.

### **Practical**

Possible inexpensive accommodation at Fritidsparken.

### **Deadline**

Conference theme and participation must be decided within the 1st. of March.

## Summary town twinning agreement

Skien have a [political decision from March 2021](#) on adding specific content into the agreement.

The meeting attendees presented their views and the following topics where discussed:

- English vs. Nordic language.
- Nordic values
- Child and youths in the cooperation
- Action plan

### **Decisions:**

- The town twinning agreement shall be written in English and a Nordic language.
- The measures shall have a specific point regarding youths. As a part of existing point 2 or added as a new point 6.
- An action plan shall be developed by March 2022 with input from all the cities.
- Digital content regarding the town twinning cooperation shall be developed.

PS: Recommendation from Foreningen Norden Skien: <https://radio.nrk.no/serie/norsken-svensken-og-dansken>

Rune J Eide - Secretary