

# BEST PRACTICES CROSS BORDER ORGANISATIONS IN DENMARK

1. GRÆNSEFORENINGEN (THE BORDER-ORGANISATION)
2. KULTURBRO – KULTUR BRÜCKE
3. FORENINGEN NORDEN (THE NORDIC ORGANISATION)



# 1. Grænseforeningen (The Border association)

- Aim: Through public education Grænseforeningen want to maintain support for the cultural work of the Danish minority in South Schleswig.
- The Danish minority in Germany comprises about 50,000 people, organized in a rich social life. There are approx. 50 schools, as many kindergartens, also churches, libraries, widespread associations, clubs, a Danish newspaper (Flensburg Avis) and a Danish minded political party, the SSW.
- The Danish minority receives an annual state subsidy from Denmark of around 520 million. DKK (70 mio €) for the operation of its cultural institutions, etc.
- Grænseforeningen is the civil support behind this grant.
- Started after the 1<sup>st</sup> World War when the Danish minority was recognized

# Activities carried out

- Since 1919, hundreds of South Schleswig schoolchildren each year have been on a holiday in Denmark. Today the task is of a pedagogical nature: the German children learn about Danish conditions, culture and language. It is now seen as a cultural exchange based on the assumption that both the German and the Danish children benefit greatly from getting to know each other. The program is runned by volunteers.
- Lobbying activities – Protesting against increased border control etc.

## 2. Kulturbro (Cultural Bridge)

- The objective of Kulturbro-Kulturbrücke is to promote cross-border cultural cooperation in the broad sense. The project provides a common fund for innovative cross-border micro-projects. It gives project organizers the motivation to think about their projects "across the border".
- Funded by:
  - EU - the European Regional Development Fund.
  - The region's partners (municipalities)
  - The Danish Ministry of Culture
  - The Ministerium für Bildung und Kultur des Landes Schleswig-Holstein

- Projects must take place in the region and have at least one Danish and one German partner. The project must be carried out in active collaboration between project partners.
- The pool of 1.4 million annually. DKK is used to support projects within the fields of culture, language, sports, children and adolescents.
- The funds are distributed among culture & language projects (2/3) and projects within the areas of youth and sports (1/3).

# Example of a project carried out

- Cooperation between sports associations/clubs
  - Swimming competitions
  - Training camps
  - Exchange of trainers
  - Workshops for administrative volunteers
- For more information about these funds: [www.](http://www.)

### 3. Foreningen Norden (The Nordic association)

- Aim: In all areas to strengthen and develop the Nordic peoples collaboration internally and externally.
- Working for increased cooperation across the Nordic borders by focusing on school and education, information, youth exchanges, twinning culture etc.
- Nordic Association was created in the shadow of World War I in the three Nordic countries Denmark, Sweden and Norway and quickly started a joint work for peaceful coexistence and political objectives in the Nordic region
- Later NORDEN associations were founded in Finland and Iceland as well as in the autonomous territories Åland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

# Nord jobb

- Nordjobb summer jobs, housing and recreation program in other Nordic countries.
- Nordjobb gives an opportunity to gain work experience in another Nordic country, develop a network, enjoy Nordic culture and improve Nordic language understanding.
- Nordjobb works primarily in arranging jobs for young people between 18-28 years. They assist in finding accommodation and offer a recreational program.
- Nordjobb assist employers and employees if questions and problems arise.



# Discussion

- Are there related border issues in the Central European Countries?
- Are there any similar organisations/programs in your countries?
- Should the establishment of border associations, programs etc. be encouraged?
- Could border associations – existing or upcoming be the foundation for increased cross-border volunteering?

# Additional information

- For any additional information about the best practices presented please feel free to contact Lea Møberg Kristensen: [lea@crossingborder.org](mailto:lea@crossingborder.org)
- Or check the websites of the organisations/funds presented:
  1. <http://www.graenseforeningen.dk/>
  2. <http://www.region.dk/wm251640>
  3. <http://www.foreningen-norden.dk/>