

Nordic network for professionals working with language cafes, reading clubs and other similar initiatives at public libraries

The purpose of the network is to share experiences and best practices across the Nordic region regarding language cafes and similar initiatives such as reading clubs, citizenship courses, where libraries offers general training of language and cultural understanding, as well as helping with specific language, cultural and digital everyday challenges, social contact and contact with authorities, etc.

The network is part of the Nordic project "Kulturlivets og frivillighedens rolle i integrering og inkludering" - also called "Inkluderende kulturliv i Norden". The network fulfills a role in the part of the project that deals with the development of inclusive communities.

Meetings

The network meet at local libraries twice a year - spring and autumn in turn in the Nordic countries. When possible and relevant network meetings will be held in conjunction with conferences, which will provide audience, economic and participatory synergies.

- December 5th 2017 in Bergen
- May 2018 in Reykjavik in connection with the conference "Samarbejde på tværs af samfundet"
- November 2018 in Copenhagen in connection with the closing conference in another Nordic project, which aims to establish a common Nordic platform and offers e-books and audiobooks in foreign language
- In 2019 the meetings will be held in Sweden and Finland

To optimize the transnational exchange of experience, the meetings will include 2-3 presentations on experiences from other Nordic countries than the host country, as well as structured experience exchange sessions where the participants get to know each other.

Organization

The network is organized with a secretariat that will be taken care of by Vibeke Nielsen from Royal Danish Library during the project period. The secretariat maintains a membership list and are responsible for planning and conducting the meetings as well as maintaining a website dedicated to the network.

It is expected the network will continue after the end of the project period, where the secretarial service then will circulate between the countries.

Financing

The network is funded by the Nordic project "Inclusive Cultural Life in the Nordic Region". The network is paying for speakers and catering during the meetings. It is free to attend network meetings, but participants must pay for transportation and optionally accommodation. It will be single-day meetings, but with the option of self-catering communal dining for the evening.