Working Together on Solutions for the Future

Danish Presidency 2020
Appendix
The vision for Nordic co-operation is that the Nordic region will become the most integrated and sustainable region in the world. This will require work on green transition throughout the region. The Nordic electricity market has been a crucial factor in integrating renewable energy into the electricity system. In the same way, the Danish Presidency wants to make the transition to green energy in areas outside of the Nordic electricity market a central position of strength.

First of all, working under the auspices of Nordic Energy Research (NEF), the project will gather experiences in a Nordic islands network in order to build on work already being done. The green transition of islands is an important global step toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 11, 12, 13 and 17. The network will reach out and offer Nordic solutions to small communities around the world, e.g. by sharing the ideas and results generated by the project. The ambition is that the network will continue under the auspices of NEF after the end of the project.

Secondly, the project will identify and alleviate some of the challenges to achieving the islands’ ambitions. In particular, it will focus on how electricity systems are often too small to constitute an actual energy market that can provide flexibility. To help address this, the project will seek to develop cost-effective calculation models that ensure flexibility in smaller electricity systems.

Thirdly, on the basis of these studies, the project will test potential payment models in two large-scale demonstration projects. The first will look into flexibility in the transport sector when using mobile units powered by electricity – primarily electric cars, but also boats and ships. The second will focus on the heating sector, including the management of heat pumps or larger systems connected via a central heat pump.

The project will bring together Nordic island communities and other isolated areas to form a strong and enduring network, and create new Nordic positions of strength by addressing some of the challenges associated with the green transition.

THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO THE FOLLOWING SDGS IN PARTICULAR
Sustainable development of coastal communities in the Nordic region

The project will focus on the sustainable future development of coastal communities in the Nordic region. Nordic coastal communities have historically been dependent on marine resources. However, the nature of this dependence has changed significantly over time, in line with these coastal communities’ economic, political and socio-cultural situations.

How do we ensure that children and young people in these coastal communities can envision a future for themselves in their own communities? The Nordic region’s small and often peripheral coastal communities face a number of demographic challenges, in the form of ageing populations and young people being drawn to larger population centres. Sustainable development will be crucial to ensuring a high degree of social cohesion and making sure that coastal communities are not left behind.

The project will adopt a holistic Nordic approach to the long-term management of marine resources. The objective is to maximise the financial potential of the fishing industry while ensuring a safe environment in which people can grow up and work.

We want to strengthen young people’s belief in themselves and their ability to provide for themselves and make a positive contribution to society. We want to make young people feel connected to the sea, so that they become more interested in the maritime sector in a way that is more sustainable for the sea and its resources.

Three sub-projects will lay the foundations for this:

1. Sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources by Nordic coastal communities (NorSustain)
A number of Nordic marine research institutes will work together to ensure sustainable and robust resource management in relation to fisheries. The established Nordic scientific network guarantees a platform for planning socially valuable research that meets the needs of the Nordic countries.

2. Sustainable value chains in Nordic coastal communities (NorValue)
This project aims to update and future-proof the shared knowledge and experience of the importance of marine resources for value creation in coastal communities and sustainable development in the Nordic region of today.

3. Maritime safety (NorSafe)
The project aims to reduce the number of fatal and other accidents at sea in the Nordic region by introducing basic maritime skills in Nordic schools for pupils aged 13 and older. This will be delivered using a learning portal as well as hands-on training.

THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO THE FOLLOWING SDGS IN PARTICULAR

5. Gender equality
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
11. Sustainable cities and communities
14. Life on land
Nordic Young People in Sustainable Communities

All of the Nordic countries have committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The inclusion of young people is crucial to setting a course toward sustainable development. As such, the Nordic countries have a shared responsibility to ensure that young people have the frameworks, competencies and opportunities for democratic participation that are prerequisites for positive and sustainable living conditions.

The Nordic countries have a great deal in common, as do Nordic young people. Among other things, they tend to have a high degree of trust in public institutions, they support high levels of welfare and equality, they are highly educated, and they are more concerned with global than national problems. Unfortunately, increasing numbers of young people in Nordic countries, particularly women, do not enjoy an adequate standard of wellbeing. Many have difficulty sleeping, lack self-confidence and belief in their own abilities, cut themselves off, self-harm, drop out of education and training and are victims of bullying and shaming on social media. As a consequence, more and more young people in the Nordic region are at risk of ending up lonely and excluded. In order to break this trend and make serious progress toward sustainable and inclusive societies, we need to understand why increasing numbers of young people fare so poorly.

One overarching objective is, therefore, to engage young Nordic women and men in communities and focus on their democratic citizenship, cultural involvement and mental wellbeing. This will entail enhancing the skills and knowledge of the professionals who work with young people, as well as creating spaces both inside and outside of schools that will nurture sustainable communities for young people. The project also aims to combat exclusion and promote mental wellbeing by strengthening communities across the Nordic countries, and by enhancing co-operation between the fields of health and social care.

The starting point for the project is a recognition of the fact that young people will play a crucial role in creating change and sustainable development. This makes it absolutely crucial to involve youth organisations and establish strong contacts between young people. The project will also focus on including young people who do not typically engage in organised activities.

Nordic Young People in Sustainable Communities will consist of the following elements:

1. Nordic accreditation of learning materials and methods that support and strengthen school pupils’ democratic participation, as well as a pilot project that offers relevant skills training to Nordic educational institutions.

2. Political events or similar activities conducted by, for or in conjunction with Nordic young people that create space for democratic dialogue and strengthen their democratic citizenship and cultural involvement.

3. Nordic collaboration on improving the psychological wellbeing of young women and men in the Nordic region, with a focus on both the causes of their problems and on coherent health and social care solutions for children and young people with mental health issues.

This project relates specifically to Nordic countries’ work on achieving the UN SDGs and builds on ongoing activities under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers. It seeks to promote dialogue between young people and encourage active citizenship.

THE PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TO THE FOLLOWING SDGS IN PARTICULAR

- **Good Health and Well-being (3)**
- **Quality Education (4)**
- **Gender Equality (5)**
- **Reduced Inequalities (10)**