

# NORDIC COOPERATION - ARENA FOR AREA AND URBAN PLANNING

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## Abstract:

Norwegian Association of Municipal Engineers (NKF) has taken the initiative to establish a Nordic cooperation arena in the area of land use planning sector. The initiative was turned to the (NKS - Nordisk Kommunalteknisk Samarbeidskomite), which is an established partnership arena consisting of sister organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries (Estonia).

NKF will tell about the progress which led to a cooperation of organizations in Scandinavia and Estonia. How did we organize this? What is the statutes? How ambitious could such a cooperation be?

This way of making cooperation could also be an inspiration for other regions/countries/organizations, and maybe for other sectors.

## Nordic Cooperation – Municipal – Area and Urban planning

The Norwegian Association of municipal Engineers (NKF), together with its sister organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries (Estonia) established a Nordic collaboration arena for municipal land-use and urban planning.

This collaboration was planned together with (NKS - Nordic-Baltic Municipal Technical Cooperation Committee), which is an existing and established arena consisting of management for the corresponding organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

NKS consists of:

Swedish Municipal Technical Association - [www.skt.se](http://www.skt.se)

Municipal Technical Director Association - [www.ktc.dk/foreningen](http://www.ktc.dk/foreningen)

Finnish Municipal Engineering Association - [www.kuntatekniikka.fi/Sivut/default.aspx](http://www.kuntatekniikka.fi/Sivut/default.aspx)

Samtøk Tæknimanna Sveitarfelaga - [www.evjar.is/sats/](http://www.evjar.is/sats/)

EKU – Estonian Association of Municipal Engineering - [www.eku.ee/](http://www.eku.ee/)

Norwegian Municipal Technical Association – [www.kommunalteknikk.no](http://www.kommunalteknikk.no)

The reason for this cooperation is for associations or organizations that wish to provide their members with new professional offers through experience and knowledge exchanges in this field. This could help to create arenas for the exchange of "best practices".

Through cooperation within communities across borders, professional inspiration and renewal can be obtained and applied to their daily work. It can be motivating for professionals to participate in such a context.

A presentation of the status of this cooperation has been given at the IFME World Congress in Helsinki, in 2012.

In advance of the establishment, some research was carried out, as to whether there were any European venues for cooperation in land use and urban planning, such as:

URBACT, [www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu)

Eurocities, [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

La Biennale, [www.biennaleurbanistica.eu](http://www.biennaleurbanistica.eu)

International Federation for Housing and Planning, [www.ifhp.org](http://www.ifhp.org)

Building Case Area:

Norwegian Municipal Technical Association - building case currently cooperates with Nordic sister organizations in building cases. NKF Building Case participates in the European liaison body CEBC, Consortium of European Building Control, [www.cebc.eu](http://www.cebc.eu). CEBC's main focus is on building and building control, and quality development within this sector. CEBC organizes two meetings per year. Today CEBC consists of approximately 26 member organizations from 26 member countries. CEBC have established thematic groups dealing with various relevant professional topics, within this area.

We have not been able to find out whether there is some form of cooperation or member organizations at this level of land-use planning, for small and medium-sized cities and municipalities. The existing organizations focus generally on urban issues, and the challenges that are associated with major cities and major regions.

The group believes that there may be a need for a venue, where the focus is on land and urban challenges in smaller towns, and more rural areas.

It has been shown that this cooperation is interesting for smaller cities, towns and smaller municipalities.

Here are some examples of focus areas where cooperation can have advantages:

- Housing policy, housing planning
- Energy (renewable energy, residential planning)
- Urban Planning
- "Shrinking cities»
- Environmental Challenges
- Legislation development
- Landscape
- Large areas of land
- Cold Climate
- Study Tours (groups)

NKF wants to use IFME World Congress in Rotorua as an opportunity to talk about the cooperation. Representatives from NKF are happy to arrange meetings with interested organizations or groups during the congress in Rotorua, to provide briefings, and to discuss how such cooperation can be organized and implemented, in practice.

How can you establish a flexible organization, which resources are necessary for such cooperation, and how to develop interest and engage members?

We want to see if the IFME World Congress can be such a venue. This conference builds on topics that are very relevant, to this particular audience.

Basically, we can look at existing arrangements with the relevant organizations, existing conferences, annual meetings and other cooperative projects.

Other examples may include:

The Norwegian Association of municipal Engineers (NKF) conferences (Tromsø conference), and in August (Oslo-Copenhagen) are existing venues that can be expanded to include Nordic professional themes.

The Danish organization may receive a request and a call from our event committees and consider what form of assistance that can be provided, in the form of any inspections, or other participation in the conference, while the conference is in Denmark.

Danske Planning Directors be at a conference on the boat from Copenhagen to Oslo, in April 2015. NKF will offer technical assistance for this conference, while they are in Oslo.

## Establishment

In May 2013, there was a meeting arranged in Stockholm, where the academic representatives of the various organizations met to discuss whether there are grounds to establish a partnership. It was agreed that this group would be established as an expert committee, and that a mandate should be drawn up for this cooperation.

The group met again in Reykjavik, in November 2013, where they agreed on a mandate for cooperation. This mandate was approved, and subsequently updated and corrected in 2014.

Nordic Planning Committee.

Statutes and mandate for collaboration.

Date: 2. January 2015

### 1 Purpose

The Nordic Planning Committee is a collaboration that provides the participants with professional input and innovation, within the area and community planning sector, through sharing knowledge. It is focused on, and envisioned for rural areas, and small and medium-sized municipalities. Sharing of knowledge will contribute to the improvement of Nordic municipalities and Baltic countries.

The knowledge sharing shall lead to better practice in community planning and development.

The knowledge sharing can be done in many ways, from conferences, collaboration projects, visiting examples of physical planning, article production and through electronic media.

### 2. Membership

The Nordic Planning Committee is an open collaboration between organizations. There are no fees for participation. Organizations from other countries are welcome to participate on the same terms.

### 3. The agenda

It is a requirement that an activity plan for cooperation, is produced every year.

### 4. Structure of organizing

The participants divide responsibility for the coordinating function, with a rotation every other year.

The Norwegian Association of Municipal Engineers is now the holder of the coordination function, until the 1th of January 2016.

Physical meetings are held once a year.

At least two e-conferences per year (Skype or telephone).

Each member can choose who is going to be their participant for the meetings.

There are no restrictions on the number of participants from each member.

English will be used as the official language, in all communication, and all documents produced from this collaboration.

The Nordic Planning Committee has established a communication platform on Facebook – “Nordic Cooperation - Community Planning”.

### 5. Administration

There are no administrative funds available in the Nordic Planning collaboration.

There are no allowances for the participants in the Nordic Planning Committee.

Smaller workgroups can be created, and financed by the participants of the group, or through external financing.

The holder of the coordinating function is responsible for distributing meeting minutes, meeting facilities, agenda, reports and other connected tasks.

### 6. Costs and budget

Each participant organization must finance their own expenses in relation to meetings and other related costs.

Each participant may apply for financing for development and operation of the Nordic Planning collaboration, from other sources.

The holder of the coordinating function handles smaller costs, such as rental of the meeting room, copying, and other related costs.

Cooperation is not organized with directors, annual meetings and elections. There is no membership fee. The Norwegian Association of municipal Engineers (NKF), has taken on the responsibility of Secretary in 2014/2015.

It is a feature of the cooperation, that the administrative organization should be small, and that it should be easy for other organizations to join the partnership.

The Norwegian Association of municipal Engineers (NKF), was granted (after application) NKR 100,000 - from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in 2014, to develop this cooperation. This award is a great help to develop the cooperation.

The experience so far, is that it requires patience and willingness to apply long-term efforts, to establish and develop such a venue. It is very important that the participating confederations express a clear willingness to prioritize this, and that those members who are elected as representatives, have the willingness and the ability, to be involved in developing and sharing knowledge.

Our experience is, that it has taken time to work out the methods for working, and to define that level such a cooperation should have. We have created a work plan for 2015, which looks like this:

### Municipality Planning Committee

#### Activity Plan 2015

Activity	Responsibility	Timetable	Budget	Finance
Annual physical meeting, minimum 1-one meeting	Expert Committee	7.-8.may 2015, Hotel Scandic Palace, Tallinn, Estonia Juri will make a tentative programme	3.000 €	Each Member Organization and external Financing Member organization cover the travel costs, and the project finances accomodation and meals
Telephone Conferences 4 meetings. Skype (we try to set up skype meeting)	Expert Committee	January 21, 2015, at 09.00  Decide a time for the next telephone conference		NKF
How each country is organized in the planning system, from national, regional and municipality level with some examples of actual cases	Each member of the committee, or some qualified person in or nearby the national organisations	2015	3.000 € (translating to english)	Requires some external Financing and financing from the project. Each member has make a budget of the production cost and the translation cost

Minimum 1- one example of best practice – guidelines, routines, etc  NKF DP SKT  EKMU FIN ICE	Expert Committee		2.000 € (translating to english, publishing )	Requires some external Financing and financing from the project. Each member has make a budget of the production cost and the translation cost
All Member organizations should create an article that can be published in each other's media channels	Expert Committee	2015	1.200 €	
Develop a study on small or medium-sized cities and municipalities neighborhoods to large cities or regional. The study deals with the challenges and opportunities of urban and community development.	?	2016	12.000 €	Requires external Financing
Facebook will be used as new platform for communication and information. Facebook group are established : Nordic Cooperation - Community Planning	NKF	2015	0	
NKF – Tromsø Conference  The link:  <a href="http://www.cvent.com/events/troms-konferansen-for-plan-og-byggesak-2015/event-summary-">http://www.cvent.com/events/troms-konferansen-for-plan-og-byggesak-2015/event-summary-</a>		2.-3 february 2015		

<a href="https://www.19e09c1c9afa4323a243078b4e095cd4.aspx">19e09c1c9afa4323a243078b4e095cd4.aspx</a> NKF – conference, Oslo – Copenhagen		24.-25 august 2015		
Danske Planchefer – conference at the Norwegian Boat, DFDS	Danske Planchefer	24. april 2015		

As stated in this annual plan, a cautious level of ambition is set for the activities. The experience so far, is that it takes time to develop a themed fabric.



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