



Wadden Sea Region Culture

Exploratory Meeting

Hamburg, 01 March 2012

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

Document: WSF-C 2012-1 Draft Agenda

Manfred Vollmer from the WSF welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 01 March at 11:00 hours. The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

2. Introduction to the theme and objectives

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) in cooperation with the WSF is working in the field of cultural landscapes and heritage for quite a long time. Two main projects, Lancewad and LancewadPlan were carried out in the last decade. Recently, several follow-up workshops and meetings took place to work towards landscape characterization and an inventory of maritime archaeology.

Besides these work topics, other initiatives and projects with regard to cultural history, identity and cultural tourism have started in the recent past. Concrete projects like Footprints and AnyQuestions, carried out e.g. by Wadden Art, as well as organ culture were implemented.

The WSF intended to bring the different topics and initiatives together in order to better integrate the cultural issues in the development of the Wadden Sea Region and to further elaborate on the cultural grounds of the people living in the Region.

A permanent working group should link the initiatives, elaborate on common projects and raise awareness in the WSR.

3. Round of introduction

A round of introduction took place to get known to each other.
(see also list of participants in Annex 1)

4. Announcements

No announcements made.

4. Discussion of work topics

The meeting discussed all facets of cultural history and identity in the Wadden Sea Region. Cultural identity was seen as a dynamic development and as a network of different lines. It also changed during the centuries and a loss of importance with the industrialization of the Region could be studied but the values of the cultural history were reinvented in the 20th century again.

It was stated that the different regions on a smaller scale would have a rich cultural history with its traditions, views of identity and valorization. A binding factor between the regions or cohesion within the WSR was lacking. The meeting agreed that in the dealings with cultural history and identity the people would be the main focus point. The reflection on the common ground and the relations within the history was seen as very weak, also in the recent past.

The meeting agreed to establish a working group and to elaborate on the common ground as a framework for projects in the field of cultural history and identity. This would include different cultural aspects like art, literature, traditions, organ culture and other modes of expression. Awareness, also among the political levels, would be an important objective too.

Financial co-financing possibilities would be considered on the basis of projects and activities carried out. EU programs would also be options.

5. Work plan

According to the discussed contents, the meeting agreed to elaborate on concrete actions as basis for future projects:

- Investigations on cross border perception with regard to cultural identity will be carried out by HZG; responsibility Beate Ratter
- A survey among the population in the Danish Wadden Sea Area similar to the ongoing research in the Netherlands and the former survey in Germany (HZG) will be implemented; responsibility Flemming Just (with support by Beate Ratter)
- Elaboration of an online questionnaire as part of cross border perception will be drafted by Wadden Art; responsibility Stan Coenders
- Further elaboration of the WaddenArt project "The heartbeat of a society", which links arts and culture with health and vitality of a region; responsibility Stan Coenders and Jan Beekman
- A basic inventory (internet search) of Wadden Sea culture will be carried out by the WSF secretariat. This inventory will entail information about cultural institutions, programs, projects and activities in the entire Wadden Sea Region; responsibility Manfred Vollmer.

6. Any other business

No other business discussed.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be called in, as soon as sound information about the agreed activities will be available. It is envisaged to hold a meeting in the second half of June 2012.

8. Closing

The WSF secretary thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 16:00 hours on 01 March.