



Wadden Sea Region Culture

Second Meeting

Zeerijp, 12 October 2012

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: WSF-C 2012-2 Draft Agenda

Manfred Vollmer from the WSF welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 12 October at 11:00 hours. The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

2. Adoption of the minutes WSF-Culture 2012-1

Document: WSF-Culture 2012-1 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of WSF-Culture 2012-1, Hamburg, 01 March 2012.

3. Round of introduction

Quite some new participants joined the meeting. To get known to each other, a round of introduction took place.

4. Announcements

Konrad Küster reported about the organ project in the WaddenSea Region (WSR), which was the first organ region with big instruments, demonstrating the richness of the region. He further explained the exhibition project to promote the entire area as a rich organ culture region. Available techniques would be used to present the sound of the organs to a wider audience. The modulated exhibition would be opened on 13 April 2013 in Hamburg. Further presentations could be experienced at the "Krummhörner Orgelfrühling" in May 2013 and later in the Altes Land.

Hans Beek informed about the oldest organ of the regions, the 555 years old gothic organ in Rysum, which was built in Groningen. He further requested a website with information about all cultural products to raise more awareness in the regions.

Jan Beekmann informed about an approach to compile all relevant cultural information, to provide a common platform and to implement one common website for this. He requested a central data base, which could be used in the entire WSR. To get further support, the Waddenacademie would be contacted. It was **agreed** that a small group (Jan Abrahamse, Jan Beekmann, Corry Diertens, Manfred Vollmer) should take the responsibility to proceed with this issue.

Beate Ratter briefly informed about the online survey on "Heimat", which was undertaken in cooperation of the HZG and WaddenArt. More than 400 people participated in the survey. Detailed results would be presented at the next meeting (see also agenda item 5). As there was no Danish partner the survey participation in Denmark remained weak in spite of special efforts to actively involve the Danish side.

Apart from that online survey the HZG undertook a survey along the Dutch Wadden Sea comparable to the studies in Germany from HZG about the sense of place (Heimat) and acceptance of offshore wind energy. Results will be presented in the next meeting.

Nina Hinrichs informed the meeting about cooperation with the Wattenmeerhaus in Wilhelmshaven to present an exhibition "World Heritage Wadden Sea represented in suitcases". The suitcases showed different aesthetic approaches to the Wadden Sea Region that reflect legends, art, nature protection, critical topics and its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stan Coenders informed about Hardtslag Hoogeland, which would be a project that intensively connects people from all levels and disciplines and ages in various activities such as a forum discussion about cultural identity, an art exhibition, interviews by youngsters and innovative entrepreneurs. The results of the interviews would be expressed in works of art. A publication would show the results of a process of one and half year. Further exhibitions were planned in 2013 and one of them would be in cooperation with the Nina Hinrichs project in the Wattenmeerhaus in Wilhelmshaven.

5. Results of online survey "Heimat"

Stan Coenders from WaddenArt reported about the announced survey on cultural identity in the WSR. The survey was a joint project of the Institute for Coastal Research at the Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht together and the Dutch foundation WaddenArt. The aim was to understand what the people who live along the Wadden Sea coast think about their region. 15 questions were placed on the internet to get a broad response. The answers varied a lot between the Netherlands and Germany, from Denmark only a few people responded. The people in the Netherlands were mainly concerned about industrial and harbor development, increasing tourism industry and the number of migrants in the region. Sea level rise, storm floods and coastal protection was only a minor issue, but not in Germany. Many people were worried about the disappearance of traditional culture.

A more detailed report about the results will be given at the next meeting, after an evaluation of the survey and a comparison with the street campaign in Germany of 2009 about identity and risk awareness and the survey along the Dutch Wadden Sea on sense of place and user conflicts of 2011/2012.

6. Cultural and art manifestation

Jan Abrahamse informed the meeting about an initiative, to implement a series of cultural events all along the Wadden Sea coast in 2015. This project would focus on the entire Wadden Sea Region with its cultural and landscape characteristics. It would also be intended to connect landscape issues with various themes of the region, like art, organs, identity.

The overall mission would focus on the consciousness about the values of the cultural history of the WSR, which would be one entity. The activities planned for 2015 would raise the necessary awareness. A weekly TV program from April to October 2015 would promote and support the activities.

The meeting very much welcomed the initiative and the project and agreed to contribute to the implementation and promotion of the project. An outline of the

project will be presented at the next meeting also to discuss further contributions in detail.

7. The role of cultural identity in the WSR

The meeting was invited to debate the role of culture and cultural identity in the WSR also in a broad context of socio-economic developments and the political agenda. At this meeting, a very first start was made and it was common sense that cultural identity was of great importance in the region, also underlined by the several initiatives and project carried out. It was **agreed** to continue the discussion at the next meetings.

8. Work plan

Reflecting the discussions and agreements of the former agenda items, the meeting **agreed** on some concrete actions. These would strengthen the network, deliver sound information on cultural issues and increase the awareness among the population. Actions to be taken:

- a) Evaluation of the survey on cultural identity in the WSR, comparison of the results with the outcome of the German street campaign;
Responsibility: Beate Ratter, Stan Coenders
- b) Elaboration of a data base structure, progress to be made in implementing common website;
Responsibility: Jan Beekman, Jan Abrahamse, Corry Diertens, Manfred Vollmer
- c) Elaboration of a project outline Cultural and Art Manifestation for the next meeting in February; This will include a proposal how the group could contribute to the project;
Responsibility: Jan Abrahamse
- d) Elaboration and preparation of the exhibition organ culture.
Responsibility: Konrad Küster

9. Contribution Wadden Sea Conference

It was **agreed** to address the issue of cultural identity to the higher political level for further support and commitment. The work group will elaborate some concrete deliverables for the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.

10. Any other business

No other business discussed

11. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed on 15 February 2013** as next meeting date. The meeting will take place in Bremen.

12. Closing

The meeting was closed at 15:00 hours on 12 October.