



Wadden Sea Region Culture

Third Meeting

Hamburg, 26 April 2013

Final Draft Minutes

1. Opening

Document: WSF-C 2013-1 Draft Agenda

Manfred Vollmer from the WSF welcomed the participants and opened the meeting on 26 April 2013 at 11:00 hours. The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

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

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

Document: WSF-Culture 2012-2 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of WSF-Culture 2012-2, Zeerijp, 12 October 2012.

3. Announcements

Andrea Möller reported about the preparations of Leeuwarden to become the EU cultural capital 2018. The main themes will be on the sustainability of culture and nature, the interaction between city and countryside and on the differences between cultures and individuals.

Martin Döring informed about a project dealing with a management plan on climate adaptation till 2100. A project outline has been elaborated.

Anne Mette Laursen announced a Wadden Sea Sculptures exhibition, which will be opened in September 2014. The exhibition wanted to create lasting links between artist from Wadden Sea-like countries around the world and the inhabitants of the Danish Wadden Sea area.

Stan Coenders introduced the Foundation WaddenArt with the project Hardtslag, which links arts and culture with health and vitality of a region. Some events had taken place with a focus on the project presentation and podium discussion on 12 October last year. An exhibition was presented at the Wattenmeerhaus Wilhelmshaven in March and April 2013.

4. Results of online survey "Heimat"

The Institute for Coastal Research at the Helmholtz Centre Geesthacht together with the Dutch foundation WaddenArt has completed a survey on cultural identity in the WSR. The meeting was informed by two presentations about the perception of Heimat and identity in the coastal region from Denmark to The Netherlands.

Katharina Philipp presented a survey of the Dutch and German Wadden Sea Region how the population perceives their region. Following, Stan Coenders presented results of an online survey on the same issue with slightly different questions.

The meeting very much welcomed the presentations and discussed some outputs in more detail. In the view of the people living in the region, the natural landscape with its open space and large coastline played a dominant role. Amongst others, a threat was seen in the increasing tourism industry and the heavy development of wind farms.

The results will be made public in due time.

It can be stated that the results of these surveys are different to views of the economic sectors, which means that the population is not enough integrated in the discussion about socio-economic developments. The findings can be used for an initiative to stimulate a debate about a common, integrated vision for the Wadden Sea Region.

5. Cultural and art manifestation

The topic was skipped as the announced information was not available.

6. Organ culture

As announced earlier, the exhibition "Orgeln an der Nordsee – Kultur der Marschen" was opened on 13 April in Hamburg. Konrad Küster briefly introduced concept and contents of the exhibition and emphasized the outstanding value. Following the meeting, the culture group visited the exhibition in the St. Jacobi church in Hamburg. On many charts, the history of the organ culture was explained. Small films, animations and audio samples deepened the appreciation of the old marsh organs.

7. The role of cultural identity in the WSR

Recalling the results of the surveys described above, it was stated that the identity with the region was quite established. Some aspects could be further analysed such as the variations among age groups or professional groups.

It was agreed to strengthen the network in cultural identity and initiate new projects. Also a broader cooperation with projects, which have started already, such as the Danish Wadden Culture exhibition 2014 and the Dutch culture capital 2018, should be strengthened.

With regard to the trilateral Wadden Sea Conference it was agreed to contribute with a cultural event. Beside the presentation of cultural surveys and identity issues, the organ exhibition should be brought to Tønder and if possible, an organ concert should be organized in the church of Moegeltønder. The Wadden Sea Sculpture exhibition and the Vadehavsfestival should also be introduced as upcoming cultural events in the Wadden Sea Region. The secretariat will check the feasibility of implementation with the organizers of the conference.

8. Work topics

The agenda item was postponed.

9. Any other business

No other business discussed

10. Next meeting

The meeting agreed on 10 September 2013 as next meeting date. The meeting will take place in Hamburg.

11. Closing

The meeting was closed at 15:30 hours on 26 April.

Annex 2

**Wadden Sea Region Culture
Third Meeting**

Hamburg, 26 April 2013

Agenda

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the minutes WSF-Culture 2012-1**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Results of online survey "Heimat"**
- Agenda item 5. Cultural and art manifestation**
- Agenda item 6. Organ Culture**
- Agenda item 7. The role of cultural identity in the WSR**
- Agenda item 8. Work Topics**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**