

## Background

Freedom of information and lifelong learning of a general scope are essential for a living democracy, active citizenship, a cultural cohesion and personal autonomy.

In the Nordic countries, the folk high school movement, the liberal adult education and the voluntary associations have been the driving forces of active citizenship and personal development in the civic society.

But the liberal education and voluntary associations experience financial reductions and new demands of promoting employability. In the past few years the public support to essential Nordic and Danish institutions that promotes liberal adult education has been removed.

The background is a shift of paradigm from a humanistic agenda with focus on democracy and human formation to a new instrumental agenda with focus on employability, global economy and development of competences for the working life.

But our Nordic welfare model with a strong civic society and a living democracy deserves more. We need a different view on lifelong learning that maintains the humanistic foundation. Lifelong learning implies learning for life too.

## Contact us

If you have questions or any good ideas you would like to share for activities or common cooperation, – then call or write to us!

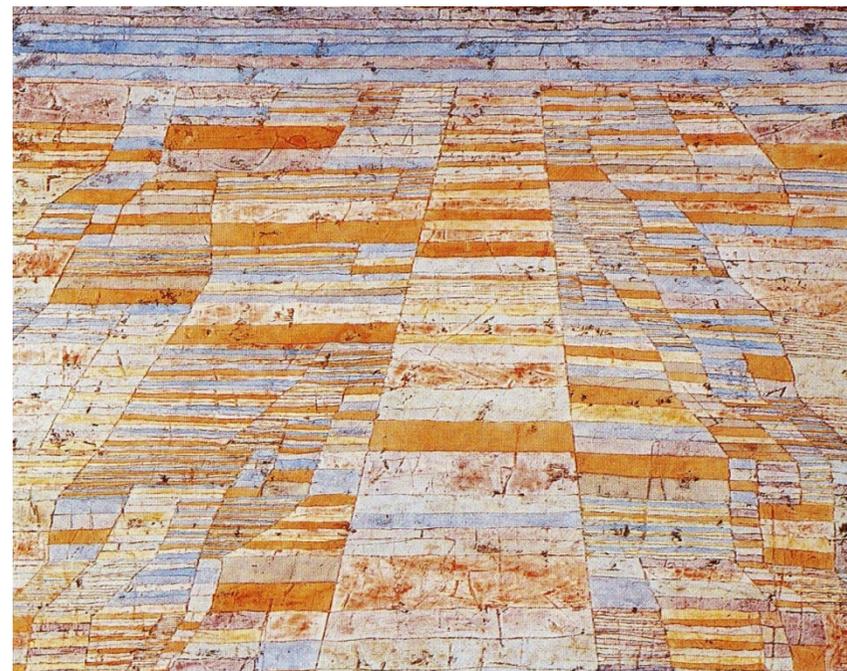
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## Short about us

Interfolk is a non-profit organisation based on individuals sharing the same fundamental ideas and objectives.

Interfolks *objective* is to contribute to popular enlightenment and active citizenship in the context of liberal adult education, voluntary associations and cultural activities in the civic society.

Interfolks *activities* may include research, surveys and development projects, seminars and debate activities, and other cultural activities, - in a Danish, Nordic, Baltic, European context.

### **The association**

Interfolk is a non-profit organisation with registered office in the Municipality of Middelfart, Denmark.

The Association is based on individual membership, and the general meeting hold the supreme authority.

The capital base of the Association shall only be its assets at any time, including members' subscriptions, donations and grants from private or public funds, and other earnings according to the objectives of the association.

Any funds possessed by the Association at the time of liquidation cannot be paid to the members, but shall devolve to institutions or organisations best suited to pursuing the objective of Interfolk.

### **The objectives**

Interfolk will as part of its mission strive

- to create partnerships with Nordic and European associations within liberal adult education, NGO-activities and the spheres of voluntary art and culture;
- to promote liberal adult education and cultural learning that focus on active citizenship, social cohesion and personal autonomy;
- to ensure that the objectives of lifelong learning adhered to by the European Commission and the Nordic Council of Ministers also continues the best of the intentions of the Nordic-European tradition of enlightenment.

The aim being to bridge the gap between the history of our past and the future we are heading towards.

### **The values**

The conceptual basis of Interfolk is based on the humanistic traditions of liberal education and personal formation from the Nordic region as well as the rest of Europe – where the main emphasis is on freedom of mind, personal autonomy, a living democracy, cultural cohesion and social justice.

The aim is to contribute to a renewed dialogue and common activities between partners from the Nordic liberal adult education (characterised by the Grundtvigian ideas) and the broader European tradition of liberal adult learning.

The vision is that these traditions can promote the humanistic and democratic learning capacity in the civil society.

### **The activities**

The activities of Interfolk may include research, surveys, mobility and development projects, courses, seminars and debate activities, and other cultural activities, - in a Danish, Nordic, Baltic and European context.

The activities in 2009 included

- A major survey task regarding validation of values and goals in voluntary cultural organisations in cooperation with the Joint Cultural Councils in Denmark; supported by the Danish Ministry of Culture.
- A development of an e-learning tool for validation of the students learning profile in cooperation with Esbjerg Folk High School; supported by the Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark.
- The initiation of a two year Nordplus Adult development project as coordinator organisation in cooperation with seven partners from the Nordic and Baltic countries; supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- The initiation of a two year Grundtvig multilateral project as coordinator organisation regarding valuation of the learning outcome of amateur culture with partners from the European amateur culture; supported by EU's Executive Agency (EACEA).

Interfolk give high priority to activities in collaborative networks with associations and institutions from the context of liberal education and voluntary associations in the civil society. The reason for this is that multi-focus partnerships sharing the same conceptual basis and aims and collaborating about projects organised in flexible network structures can pave the way for new ideas, new forms of activities, a broader interface and more funding options.