



**Green NGO practice in the Baltic Sea Region.  
A Symposium Compendium**



**GreenADeN**

Nordic Green Minds for Prosperous Tomorrow

## **Green NGO practice in the Baltic Sea Region. A Symposium Compendium.**

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This Compendium includes presentations of green NGO practice from the 2-day online Symposium, 17th – 18th of September 2024, entitled: “EU’s Green Deal and NCM’s Green Vision 2030 - the policy strategies and the role of NGOs”.

The symposium was part of the development project, entitled: “Green Skills Adaptation and Development for the Nordic Region (GreenADeN), June 2023 – October 2024”, supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers’ new Prosperous Future Programme for Civil Society Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

For more information, see the project portal: <https://www.inai.fi/projects/greenaden>

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# Introduction to the Symposium Compendium

By Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, Chief Executive, Interfolk

## The project context

This Symposium Compendium includes presentations of green NGO practice from the 2-day online Symposium, 17th – 18th of September 2024, entitled: “EU’s Green Deal and NCM’s Green Vision 2030 - the policy strategies and the role of NGOs”.

The symposium is part of the development project, entitled: “Green Skills Adaptation and Development for the Nordic Region (GreenADeN), June 2023 – October 2024”, supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers’ new Prosperous Future Programme for Civil Society Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The objective of the GreenADeN project has been to promote green skills development in Nordic and Baltic countries. The project discusses topics of long-term targets in mitigation of climate change in compliance with the Nordic Vision 2030 and the European Green Deal agenda.

The partnership consists of four organisations from Nordic and Baltic states working in the area of adult education and civil society development. The partners are:

- Coordinator: Innovation Acceleration Institute, Kemi, Finland – see [www.inai.fi](http://www.inai.fi)  
Represented by Andrei Rybin, Director. Mail: [andrei.rybin@inai.fi](mailto:andrei.rybin@inai.fi)
- Partner: Húsavík Academic Center, Iceland – see [www.hac.is](http://www.hac.is)  
Represented by Arnþrúður Dagsdóttir, project leader. Mail: [ditta@hac.is](mailto:ditta@hac.is)
- Partner: Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonia – see <https://ctc.ee>  
Represented by Margit Säre, chairperson: Mail: [margitsare@gmail.com](mailto:margitsare@gmail.com)
- Partner: Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society, , Denmark – see <https://interfolk.dk>  
Represented by Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive. Mail: [hjv@interfolk.dk](mailto:hjv@interfolk.dk)

For more information, see the project portal: <https://www.inai.fi/projects/greenaden>

## The Symposium

The objectives of the symposium were:

- To present the EU strategies in the Paris Agreement and European Green Deal agenda and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the strategies.
- To present the Nordic Council of Ministers’ 2030 green visions and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the visions.
- To present good NGO practice examples from the Nordic – Baltic countries.

The learning methods were adapted to the format of an online symposium, including:

- To use short plenary presentations without plenary questions and answers.
- To use short workshop sessions with follow-up debates in 4 groups of 5-6 people, all of which have a moderator and common leading questions.

The symposium materials included:

EU documents:

- [Communication from the Commission - European Green Deal. COM/2019/640 final](#)
- [Annex to the Communication - Roadmap - Key actions. COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

NCM documents:

- [Our Vision 2030. The Nordic Region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world. 20.08.2019.](#) By the Nordic prime ministers. Ministers for Co-operation (MR-SAM)
- [Action Plan Vision 2030 - for 2021 to 2024.](#) 14.12.20. By Nordic Council of Ministers
- [Guidelines for involving civil society in work relating to Our Vision 2030.](#) 12.02.21. By Secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Presentations at the symposium:

- PowerPoints and afterwards short summarising articles, which has been adapted to the follow-up Symposium Compendium.

## The compendium

The topics of the first day of the Symposium were:

- To present the EU strategies in the Paris Agreement and European Green Deal agenda and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the strategies.
- To present the Nordic Council of Ministers' 2030 green visions and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the visions.

The topics of the second day of the Symposium were:

- To present four examples of good green NGO practice from the Nordic – Baltic countries.

In this compendium we present these four green practice examples as a mean to promote current innovative NGO-activities that can make an important difference for the green transition in our societies.

We also hope the Compendium can help to promote the needed exchange of good practices, knowledge transfer, mutual inspiration, and new cross-border networking among NGOs in the Nordic and Baltic Sea region.

# Green practice examples from Peipsi (EE)

By Margit Säre, chairperson, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

## Introduction

Our planet faces serious problems in areas such as biodiversity loss, limited natural resources, the impacts of climate change, etc. Thus, during the last decade, environmental education gained huge importance.

NGOs in Estonia actively work to raise public awareness about environmental issues such as biodiversity, climate change and sustainable practices. While schools provide basic knowledge about the nature and environment, NGOs often complement this by offering specialized programs, workshops, and campaigns and not only to children but different age groups of the society.

The Estonian NGO: Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation works already for 25 years to promote sustainable development of transboundary Lake Peipsi region.

## Lake Peipsi region

Lake Peipsi is the largest transboundary water body in Europe and the fourth largest lake in Europe. The area of the lake is 3555 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 44% belongs to the Republic of Estonia and 56% to the Russian Federation.

It is a unique and ecologically significant area known for its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and socio-economic importance. Lake Peipsi is being affected by climate change, which impacts its ecosystem, water quality, and regional socio-economic activities.



Lake Peipsi is the largest transboundary lake in Europe: 3555 km<sup>2</sup>, where 44% belongs to Estonia, 56% to Russia. Cooperation between the two countries now almost does not exist.



## Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation activities

Peipsi Center works together with regional educational institutions, museums, municipalities etc. We have developed various global/nature education materials, developed outdoors programs, campaigns or exhibitions. We use lot of digital material, orientation games, organize LARPs (Live Action Role Plays) etc. Recent research also suggests, non-formal and interactive approaches to ecological education are more effective than purely fact-based teaching.

One of our focus areas the last years has been biodiversity protection; more precisely on preserving and promoting heritage plants. Heritage plants, sometimes known as heirlooms, are a type of plant found or grown in gardens more than 50 years ago and are important for several ecological, cultural, and economic reasons.



One of our focus points is on biodiversity protection; also on preserving and promoting heritage plants (i.e. a plant grown in local gardens more than 50 year).

Their value lies in their genetic origin and cultural heritage, in the diversification of nature.

Awareness raising is important among different groups of society.

These plants are typically varieties that have been cultivated for generations, often passed down through families or communities, and are valued for their unique characteristics, resilience, and historical significance.

Heritage plants represent a wide range of genetic diversity compared to modern commercial varieties, which are often bred for uniformity and large-scale production. Promoting heritage plants helps maintain a broader genetic pool, which is crucial for the long-term resilience of crops and ecosystems.

## Heritage plants and local traditions

In Lake Peipsi region we can see that heritage plants carry with them a deep connection to local traditions, cuisines, and agricultural practices. Promoting these plants helps preserve cultural identities and historical continuity.

The area has been known for the onions, chicory, cucumber. Peipsi onions are still cultivated in the area according to centuries-old traditions and it is a difficult multi-annual and -stage craft. Peipsi onion is grown in old believers' villages, who have brought the seeds and special cultivation methods with them when they fled to this region in 17th century.



Peipsiland is known for the onions, chicory, cucumber.

As a part of CRRV Inequalities Matter project we took initiative in cooperation with Peipsimaa Museum and local initiative group and started to develop raised plant beds in spring. The gardening works involved pensioners club, and youth centre. We invited people to bring old varieties of plants from their gardens. Today you can find in our heritage garden different edible plants such as Peipsi onions, chicory, rhubarb; heritage flowers (phlox, peonies, dahlia, lilac). It was also important to learn about the stories of the plants, where they were grown etc.

We also organised seminar on importance of heritage plants, taught people how to make onion braids and best onion pie.

## Lessons learned

- NGOs are essential in educating the public about the importance of biodiversity and the threats it faces (different awareness campaigns, outreach initiatives to people from different age and social groups).
- The involvement of community in environmental activities fosters a connection to the region's natural and cultural heritage, and to biodiversity protection in a wider sense.
- Promotion of green values goes hand in hand with promoting, social inclusion, active citizenship, and community spirit.
- Environmental education should focus on the importance of individual responsibility as well as the role of collective action.



# Green practice examples from Middelfart (DK)

By Susanne Juhl Paaske, General Manager, Volunteer Centre Middelfart

## Introduction

Frivilligcenter Middelfart is a voluntary social association. Our core task is to make visible the voluntary social work in Middelfart Municipality (a municipality with 40,000 inhabitants located on the island of Funen in Denmark). We mediate voluntary work, we make our member associations visible (the 80 associations that work within the voluntary social area), we show people the way to the association's offers and support the associations with networks, courses, premises and consulting help.

In the period 2023 to 2024, we participated in an Erasmus project [www.micropolis.club](http://www.micropolis.club)

The purpose of the project was, among other things, to look at how associations work with the environment and sustainability. In collaboration with Middelfart Municipality, we carried out a questionnaire survey - where we asked all associations in which way they work with sustainability - and the simple answer was: the associations do not.

Knowing that the area was new for the associations, our strategy was to implement simple green initiatives. We had an idea that we would not pressure the associations to think green - but instead inspire and make it easy for the associations. We implemented three main initiatives with the objective to promote green values and practices:

1. Two workshops focused on how to use old clothes and textiles to make new clothes.
2. A "Green menu" where we listed various easy green actions that the associations could immediately implement in their association by picking the points that they had time and money for.
3. Participating in this year's Climate People's Meeting in Middelfart.

## Workshops on recycling old textiles

The objective was to promote environmental sustainability and green values by recycling old textiles. The new local training courses/workshops that include green aims and values in the context of cultural activities were developed with reference to the preceding surveys among associations in Middelfart municipality. Here, the survey showed that virtually none of the associations had incorporated green values and practices regarding environmental sustainability and nature protection.

The Volunteer Centre Middelfart completed in collaboration with Middelfart Culture and Library (during the Libraries' World Goals Week), two workshops to introduce the concepts of environmental sustainability and nature protection in a calm and "safe" way - namely through popular workshops which addressed a broad target group. The approach

was chosen as the areas are new to association life and we as a volunteer centre do not want to "pull" a lot of "should and should" over the heads of the associations.

### ***Workshop 1: Clothing crisis, sewing and recycling***

The first workshop was a one-hour workshop/presentation about the clothing crisis, sewing and recycling. In 2018, Stine Højland decided to no longer buy newly produced clothes. The decision led to changed habits and new experiences and became the start of the company ATTER - with a simple concept: to sew clothes from recycled materials

At the workshop, the participants could learn the story of ATTER and the green vision behind. The participants also received advice about entrepreneurship, seams and zig-zag and the joy of approaching sewing and creativity more freely and experimentally. The workshop was free.



Stine Højland from ATTER at the first workshop introduce sustainable clothes production for 22 participants at Middelfart Library in cooperation with Volunteer Center Middelfart, April 2024.

### ***Workshop 2: Old textiles made into new things***

The afternoon was spent making bags out of old t-shirts. Recycling designer Tina Amlund from UkendtFyn guided and gave a lot of tips and tricks to upcycle everything we find in the recycling shop or have lying at the back of the wardrobe.

Simple whimsical ideas that are easy to get started with. There were T-shirts ready for the participants to use - but they could also bring their own T-shirts. The workshop was held at the same time as The Repair Café - a café where volunteers sit and repair everything from lamps to coffee machines.

### **Learning points**

For the Volunteer Centre, it was a completely new task to work with climate and sustainability. We therefore needed to find an easy-to-digest approach to the subject - so both associations and citizens would want to participate. Both presenters are known in Denmark for their recycling of textiles and they both have many followers on Instagram. We

learned that many of the participants had just heard about the event via Instagram and therefore wanted to participate - so that way the Volunteer Center and Middelfart Library and Culture got a lot of easy PR.

We also learned that some of the participants from both lectures and workshops called for communities where, for example, they could work with textiles. Middelfart Culture and Library already hosts a Repair Café a few times a month and it was suggested that such groups who work with textiles could become part of the Repair Café. A learning point was therefore that after this type of lecture and workshop it is appropriate to allocate resources to talk to those participants, listen to their ideas and be helpful in putting new local initiatives into action or showing the way to existing offers.

## A green Menu

The objective was to promote environmental sustainability in the context of social associations by focusing on how to incorporate green values in their activities.

The Volunteer Centres in Denmark in general have, until recently, not paid much attention to the environment and sustainability in relation to our member associations – so there is not much experience or methods available to encourage the social NGOs to focus on these topics in the associations' work. Therefore, the Volunteer Centre Middelfart prepared a "green menu" with suggestions for how the associations can quietly incorporate the topics into their daily association work. The menu contains the following proposals – as well as an offer to the associations regarding sparring on specific initiatives in their respective associations.



Green ideas made during the workshops at Peoples Climate Meeting, August 2024.

The Green Menu - the path to more sustainability in associations:

Choose foods wisely:

- As far as possible, choose products that are grown and produced in our local area.
- Go for organic products or at least unsprayed products, when possible, to among other things, take care of the groundwater and strengthen biodiversity.

- Let the season decide which Danish (local) vegetables you use. - Always choose light and low-fat when you serve meat. Chicken is one of the types of meat that emits the least CO<sub>2</sub> per kg.
- If you are not responsible for the food yourself, make demands on the food suppliers for the raw materials they use. You can make demands on how high an organic percentage they must have, and how much locally produced they use.

Avoid food waste and unnecessary packaging:

- Avoid disposable dishes as much as possible and use dishwasher-friendly alternatives instead.
- Always serve water in pitchers for meetings and similar events.
- Make it mandatory to use registration for meals. It gives you an overview of how much food you have to cook. In this way, you minimize excess food.
- When food is left over, you can give it to your members/volunteers for free.

Sustainable procurement:

- If it is not possible to repair or buy used, it is important that you consider what you need before you buy. Is it necessary to hand out t-shirts at an event? Or can you buy event t-shirts that can be used year after year?
- When you make goodie bags and other things like that, use things that can have a function for the recipient in their daily life. In this way, you help to ensure that things are not thrown away.
- Request sustainable products from the contributors when you have to put together your goodie bag. In this way, you send a strong signal that your association takes sustainability seriously.

Transportation:

- Put carpooling into the system. It can be on messenger, SMS, a Facebook group or similar.

Waste resources:

- Give your members and volunteers a mini course on how to handle and sort the waste.

### **Learning points**

For the Volunteer Centre, it is new to have to work with subjects such as the climate and sustainability. We have had many discussions about whether we could allow ourselves to impose a set of rules for correct behaviour on associations.

The result was that we have taken a baby step and initially offered the associations the above menu - as a light and gentle appetizer for them to start thinking about the environment and sustainability. Later, the plan is to offer the associations sparring on how they can include the climate and sustainability in their statutes.



## People's Climate meeting

**Objective:** To promote more cooperation between the different NGO areas, which could open for both knowledge transfer, activity development, and improved communication to the wider communities.

**Pilot activity:** The Volunteer Centre Middelfart did in cooperation with a group of social voluntary associations take part in and had stalls and activities in a bigger event about sustainability: the yearly People's Climate meeting in Middelfart, august 2024. For the first time, the Volunteer Centre Middelfart and the many related social associations were invited to take part in the meeting.

One of the activities held was a debate event where, among other things, the associations' responsibilities in connection with the environment and sustainability was discussed – led by a panel of invited people from association life, and afterwards there was plenary discussions. In addition, "best practice" discussions were held in small groups – here the associations' own recommendations and wishes in connection with the association life, the environment and sustainability were discussed.



People visit the stall of the Library at the People's Climate Meeting, august 2023

### Learning points

Larger events can be used to focus on some of the topics that contribute to creating an attractive "micropolis". The process of planning provides valuable insight into the selected topics, and it provides an opportunity to discuss how best to bring associations and volunteers together for joint activities.

We here recommend prioritizing activities during the event that activate members and involve audiences and create networking opportunities that speak more directly into the associations' own everyday life. If the subject, for example, is sustainability and circular economy, it will be obvious that you get to discuss this very concretely or bring the things that you can advantageously share between the involved people.



# Green practice examples from Husavik (IS)

By Helena Eydís Ingólfssdóttir, project leader, Husavik Academic Center

## LOFTUM I

Educational plan on environmental and climate issues for the Municipalities in Northeast Iceland.



The project LOFTUM I, revolves around analysing the educational needs of local government staff, elected representatives, and committee members at the municipalities in Northeast Iceland and prepare an educational plan for up to 6 semesters.

The beginning of the project relates to the regional plans of action or RPA for the region, as one of the goals of the RPA in the Northeast Iceland was to prepare an educational plan on environmental and climate issues. In Iceland, regional action plans are accompanied by funding from the Ministry of infrastructure, ministry of culture and business affairs, which local associations of municipalities in each region of the country are responsible for distributing to projects that brings the area closer to the goals of the regional strategic plan, promotes the region, and helps to make it more competitive with other regions e.g. the capital area.

## Successful cooperation

There are two lifelong learning centres in the Northeast of Iceland, HAC and SÍMEY, and they joined hands, prepared an application that was accepted by the regional association.

HAC and SÍMEY are specialized in education for adults and education in the labour market and were joined by experts in environmental and climate issues who formed a steering group for the project.

Representatives in the steering group came from the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the

Environment Agency of Iceland, Landvernd – Icelandic Environmental Association and the Regional associations of municipalities. They assisted in identifying what was most important for municipal staff and members of the local government to know and be familiar with regarding environmental and climate issues to be able to make informed decisions and successfully implement through tangible actions.



## The objective

The steering group also aided in categorizing the information; into general knowledge which should be widely known, and specific knowledge which is essential for key personnel in the environmental, planning, and implementation sectors within the municipalities, as well as for elected officials and members of standing committees that focus on these areas.

The objective was to assess the necessity for training and education about the environment and climate related issues among the municipal employees and elected representatives in the local governments in NE-Iceland. Additionally, the aim was to develop a training plan tailored to the specific training needs of the group.

## Desk research and survey

In the desk research the staff looked at laws, regulations, public policy and more related to the subject, primarily environmental and climate issues. Next, they worked on the survey, submitted a draft to the steering committee, and when the steering committee and staff were satisfied with the survey, they got several people who had worked within the municipalities in the area to test the questionnaire. Slight improvements were made to the list after that, and as a result it was sent to all staff, elected representatives and representatives in the municipalities' standing committees.

Upon reviewing the survey results, it became apparent that there was a need for a more detailed information from the respondent groups that answered the part of the questionnaire that dealt with the need for specific knowledge, skills, and competence and therefore specific education on environmental and climate issues. Consequently, two focus groups were convened in order to gather this detailed information.

After that, an educational plan spanning six semesters was devised, based on the results of the survey and interviews with the focus groups.

## LOFTUM II

*Represent the next phase of the project and the one that is currently ongoing.*



## The educational plan and a new beginning

Upon finalization of the educational plan, the initial project was officially concluded. However, this juncture also marked a new beginning where a decision had to be made as to whether the project would continue. The board of the regional association of municipalities agreed to provide funding for the project for three years or 6 semesters, and therefore LOFTUM II, which is the next phase of the project and the one that is currently ongoing, could be launched.

In autumn 2023 the educational plan was launched; the first courses were held and recently those who are now working on the project launched an online school for the municipalities staff and members of the local governments in Northeast Iceland.



## Green practice examples from Amager (DK)

By Dorte Grastrup-Hansen, director, Miljøpunkt Amager

### Who am I?

My name is Dorte Grastrup-Hansen, and I am the director of a small NGO in Amager, called Miljøpunkt Amager, and I have been the director since 2019, but I have been working in this field since 2008. I have a masters degree in biology from 1998, and a masters in Green Transition from 2017.

### Who is Miljøpunkt Amager?

Miljøpunkt Amager is a local environmental centre and covers the areas of Amager that belong to the Municipality of Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. Miljøpunkt Amager's vision is that everyone finds joy in contributing to sustainable development. It is the task of Miljøpunkt Amager to motivate citizens, institutions, associations and companies in Amager to participate actively in sustainable development. We work locally with an eye to regional, national and global contexts. Work is based on environmental sustainability, but the environmental point has a holistic view of sustainability, which also includes economic and social elements.

We are a fund that was established in August in 2003. So, we had 20 years anniversary last year. We are five employees, and we are funded by the Municipality of Copenhagen through the Amager East Local Council and Amager West Local Council, and we also apply for external funding. In recent years we have been funded by the EU Horizon 2020, ICLEI Action Fund, the environmental agency of Denmark, Nordea-fonden and different funds from the municipality.

We have a board with six members where both local councils are represented, as well as representatives from local associations and the municipality. The board meets six to seven times a year.

We have a four-year plan that was approved last year by the board and also by the local councils, and in Danish it is called Grøn Handleplan, and it means a green action plan. The green action plan is divided thematically into four action areas. Within the areas of action, Miljøpunkt Amager makes a special effort to create results and raise awareness of the local environmental work. It must be seen as a holistic plan, where the aim is to create synergies between the projects.

The four main topics we work with in Amager is: Blue and green urban nature, Communities action, Clean air and Circular, everyday life.

I will bring you some examples as you can see in the presentation. All of our projects are related to the SDG's, mainly number 3, 11, 12 and 17 and the planetary boundaries.

## Five local cases

- Clean neighbourhood – external funding twice, almost 600 people participated, more than 700 kg carbage was collected, participate in World Cleanup Day 20 September 2024, and new tradition with New Year Cleanup.
- Repair cafe Amager – started two years ago, volunteers are fixing electronics and textiles, and do mending. High success rates - more than 70 % are fixed.
- Biodiversity and community – external funding. In 2024 a lawn was transformed to a flourishing area for the locals and school next door with more biodiversity.
- Donut Cinema – started back in 2022, focus on the planetary boundaries with a film followed by a debate, part of the Global Donut Day – in 2024 there are Global Donut Days from 6-9 November.
- Local climate meeting – first time in June 2024, people are meeting up in project groups with topics about food, biodiversity, traffic etc.

## Take home these messages

- We always work in partnerships because we are a small team of five employees and we have many projects, and we like to create synergies with other people. We have around 60 events a year.
- We work community based with local schools, associations, companies etc, and we also spend time expanding our network. We try to engage both children, youth, adults, families. And also work on a lot of different topics so reach out broadly.
- We use the planetary boundaries as our framework, so the things we are doing are having an impact and we start with the most important things first.
- There's no quick fix in this green transition. We have been working in this field for 20 years, but we still have a lot of things to do.

## Follow us

We have a monthly newsletter with more than 3000 followers. It's in Danish, but sometimes we refer to internationally campaigns, so you might be able to understand some of it.

Link to homepage <https://miljopunkt-amager.dk/>

Link to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/miljopunkt.amager/>

Link to Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/miljopunktamager/>

Link to LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/milj-punkt-amager/>



# Annexes: Power-Point presentations

## Green practice examples from Peipsi (EE)

By Margit Säre, chairperson, Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation



**The role of NGOs in a sustainable transition in the Baltic Sea region**

Good practices of Peipsi Center for Transboundary  
Cooperation, Estonia

Margit Säre



NGO Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation works since 1994 with nature education and -tourism, civil society/ community development in Lake Peipsi region.

We work with NGOs, schools, museums, municipalities, research institutes in Estonia, EU; also EaP countries (Moldova, Armenia, Georgia)



Important Natura, Ramsar areas, Peipsi - Alutaguse National Park.

Lake Peipsi is the largest transboundary lake in Europe -3555 km<sup>2</sup>: 44% belongs to Estonia, 56% to Russia.

Cooperation now almost no existent.

Several problem areas of Lake Peipsi are human caused /influenced.

Eutrophication, caused by the high nutrient load, is a major threat to water quality in the lake.

Climate change influence: water temperatures keeps rising and durations of ice and snow cover decreases.

### Interactive environmental education methods



- We have learned that solution-based and creative approaches tend to be more effective.
- Some methods offer an opportunity to integrate traditional and creative ways of teaching and learning : e.g. Live-Action Role Play (LARP) method; or combine biodiversity and cultural heritage learning - e.g. heritage plants gardening
- We use a lot of digital methods: online quizzes, orientation game, educational videos on region heritage plants/ biodiversity

One of our focus is on biodiversity protection; also on preserving / promoting heritage plants (. a plant grown in local gardens more than 50 y). Their value lies in their genetic origin and cultural heritage, in the diversification of nature.

Awareness raising is important among different groups of society



## Peipsiland heritage plants

Peipsiland is known for the onions, chicory, cucumber.

Peipsi onions are cultivated according to 3 centuries-old traditions and it is a difficult multi-annual and -stage craft.

Peipsi onion is grown in old believers villages who have brought the seeds and special cultivation methods with them when they fled to this region 17th century.





## Peipsiland community garden

In cooperation with Peipsimaa Museum we were creating plant beds, where you can find Peipsi onions, chicory, turnips; heritage flowers (phlox, peonies, dahlia).

Our project seeks to conserve local biodiversity and highlight the significance of traditional species.

The gardening works involved pensioners club, and youth center. We also organised seminar on heritage plants, taught how to make onion braids

The involvement of community fosters a connection to the region's natural and cultural heritage and understanding on its value



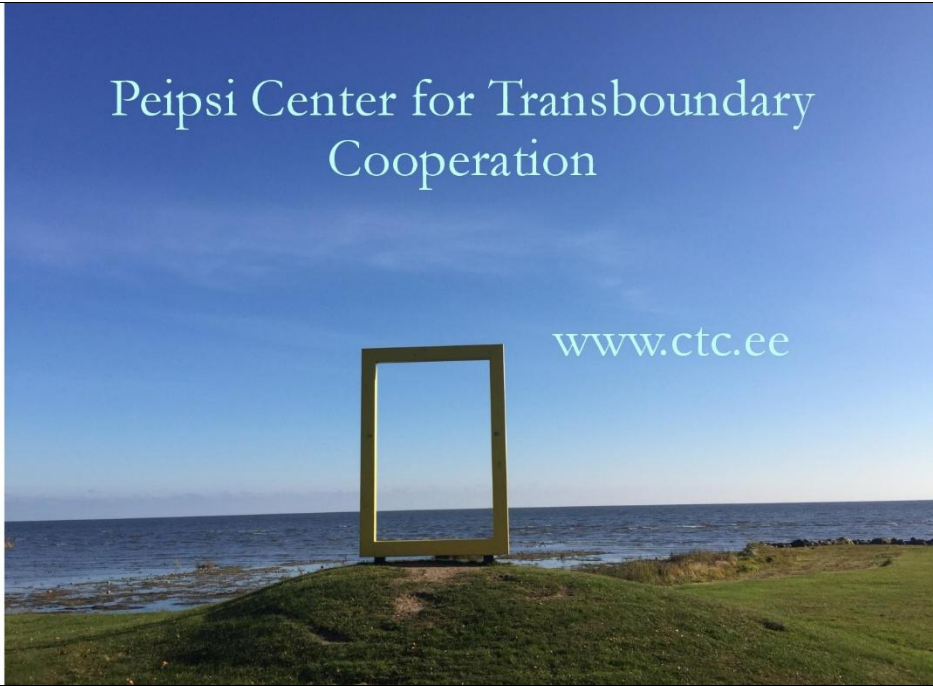
## Lessons learned

- NGOs are essential in educating the public about the importance of biodiversity and the threats it faces (different awareness campaigns, outreach initiatives to people from different age and social groups)
- The involvement of community in environmental activities fosters a connection to the region's natural and cultural heritage, and to biodiversity protection in a wider sense
- Promotion of green values goes hand in hand with promoting, social inclusion, active citizenship, and community spirit



# Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation

[www.ctc.ee](http://www.ctc.ee)





## Green practice examples from Middelfart (DK)

By Susanne Juhl Paaske, General Manager, Volunteer Centre Middelfart

### Green NGOs initiatives in social volunteer work



Volunteer Center Middelfart

Susanne Juhl Paaske

18.09.2024

- **Facts: Volunteer center Middelfart**
- **Green catalyser: ERASMUS projekt - Micropolis**
- **Pilotprojekts 1-4**
- **Learning outcome**



---

A voluntary social effort can be understood as an activity or effort aimed at increasing the welfare or care of individuals or groups, and as efforts aimed at solving welfare problems within the social area.

---

- **Nongovernmental**
- **Nonprofit**
- **One volunteer center in each municipality**
- **In Middelfart 80 member organizations**
- **Funded ½ by the government and ½ by the municipality**
- **Budget 94.000 euro annually**

#### Members

- Nonprofit
- NonGovernmental
- Operates locally
- Vulnerable children, families, young People, elderly, refugees, disabled, illness, patient associations etc.
- E.G. Red Cross, Danish Refugee Aid, Older Case, Self Help Groups, Mentoring



## Participation in Micropolis 2023/24 (Erasmus) = awareness about green agenda

[www.micropolis.club](http://www.micropolis.club)



## Survey: What is your green agenda?



The member organizations answer:  
"None"



**Thoughts:  
Keep it simple and  
(if possible) fun  
and we do not  
want to impose  
our green agenda  
onto our member  
organizations**

New arena for the organizations  
within the social field

- Workshops - with a light theme and a broad appeal
- Green Menu - how to be green in your organization in an easy way
- Debate and workshop annual national climate conference in Middelfart

## **Pilot 1**

Cloth made out of old used bed  
linen



Cultural activities with added community values.  
Pilot work in Middelfart Municipality





### **OASE CAFÉ – ON CLOTHES CRISIS, SEWING AND RECYCLING**

Tuesday 23 April at 17.00-18.00  
The library, KulturØen \* Free

In 2018, Stine Højland decided to no longer buy newly produced clothes. The decision led to changed habits and new experiences and was the start of the company ATTER (AGAIN) - with a simple concept: to sew clothes from recycled materials.

Get the story of ATTER and the green vision behind it. Get tips and advice on entrepreneurship, seam allowance and zig-zag, and hear about the joy of approaching sewing and creativity more freely and experimentally.

Organized by Frivilligcenter Middelfart and Middelfart Culture & Library.

## **Pilot 2**

From old to new - together with  
repair café





### WORKSHOP – FROM OLD TO NEW

Saturday 27 April at 13.00-17.00

The library, KulturØen \* Free

Why throw away old clothes when they can be recycled? This afternoon we make bags out of old t-shirts. Recycling designer, Tina Amlund from UkendtFyn, guides and gives lots of tips and tricks to upcycle everything, we find in recycling or have lying at the back of the wardrobe. Simple whimsical ideas that are easy to get started with. There are t-shirts ready, but you are also welcome to bring your own t-shirt.

Stop by KulturØen and unleash your creativity. In connection with the workshop, you can also get help with clothing repairs from seamstresses from the Repaircaféen. Everyone is welcome.

Organised by Frivilligcenter Middelfart og Middelfart Kultur & Bibliotek.

## Pilot 3

### A green menu



#### Sustainable procurement:

If it is not possible to repair or buy used, it is important that you consider what you need before you buy.

Is it necessary to hand out t-shirts at an event? Or can you buy event t-shirts that can be used year after year?

When you make goodie bags and other things like that, use things that can have a function for the recipient in their daily life. In this way, you help to ensure that things are not thrown away.

Request sustainable products from the contributors when you have to put together your goodie bag. In this way, you send a strong signal that your association takes sustainability seriously.

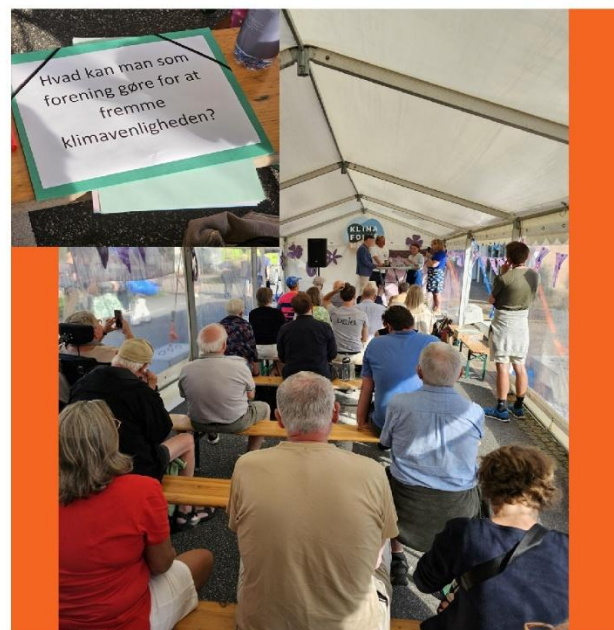
Transportation: - Put carpooling into the system. It can be on messenger, SMS, a Facebook group or similar.

## Pilot 4

Participation in national climate meeting  
Panel debate - and best practice workshop



To which degree should  
NGOs take part in the  
climate battle?







## Learning outcome



- Yes! The organizations are curious on green agendas
- Our initiatives gives us new PR and network - new participants
- E.G. Our board have put green on every board meeting
- The organizations want to implement green in their strategies and dailyday life - as long as it is easy and don't take up too much time - and it helps if its done in a fun way
- Next plan: help organizations to make their own green strategies - customized solutions and continue to inspire them on how to become more green
- Baby steps - because they are occupied with their main mission
- every second saturday - creative café recycled materials



**Thank you**

**Susanne Paaske**  
[Info@frivilligcentermiddelfart.dk](mailto:Info@frivilligcentermiddelfart.dk)



## Green practice examples from Husavik (IS)


By Helena Eydís Ingólfssdóttir, project leader, Husavik Academic Center

Educational plan on environmental and climate issues

### LOFTUM I

For whom:  
Municipalities in Northeast Iceland

Financing:  
Support from the association of municipalities of Northeast Iceland through the regional plan of action (RPA).

By A bad cherry - <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=74503402>

## Partners



**Advisors**

Icelandic Met Office  
The Environment Agency of Iceland  
Landvernd - Icelandic Environmental Association  
The association of municipalities of Northeast Iceland



**SÍMEY**

Adult educational/Life Long Learning center

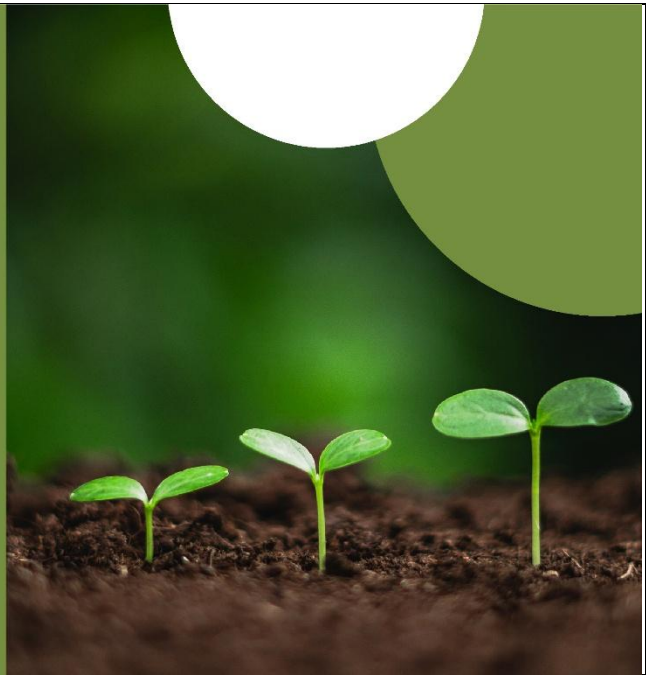


**Pekkingarnet Píngeyinga**

Life Long Learning center  
Research center  
Services for universities and university students  
Innovation

## Our objective was

- to assess the need for training and education related to the environment and climate, among the municipal employees and elected representatives in the local governments in NE-Iceland
- to prepare a training plan based on the training needs of the group



## How? What? When?



- Desktop research (law, regulations, public policy, e.t.c.)
- Carrying out the survey - test questionnaire
- Survey sent to staff and elected officials via e-mail
- Focus groups of local experts
- The result used when preparing an education plan
- 6-7 courses per term
- Up to 6 semesters
- Autumn 2023-Spring 2026









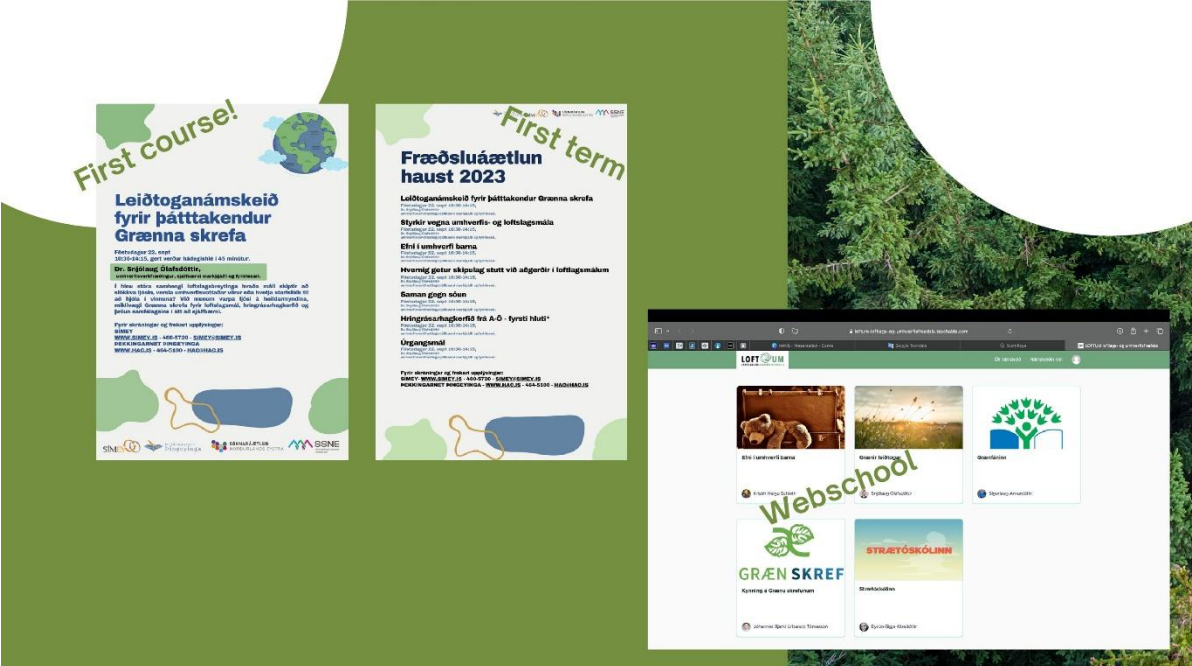




Next step...

# LOFTUM II

Implementing of the educationl plan  
Use existing courses and new ones  
Local and online courses - e-school  
Different target groups  
Free for the municipalities  
Duation 2-3 years



**First course!**

## Leiðtoganámskeið fyrir þátttakendur Grænna skrefa

Fréttir 20. apríl 2023  
Leiðtoganámskeið fyrir þátttakendur Grænna skrefa

**Dr. Brjánn Guðmundsson**,  
leiðtogaáhrifsmann, leiðtogaáhrifsmann og höfundur.

Í þessu námi munum við skoðast á hvernig við getum farið með umhverfið okkar og hvernig við getum farið með umhverfið okkar og hvernig við getum farið með umhverfið okkar.

Þessi námskeið er ókeypis og er opið öllum.

Netfang: [BRJANN@GRENNA.SKREF.IS](mailto:BRJANN@GRENNA.SKREF.IS)  
Sími: 460-8700 - 8600-8600  
Vefsíða: [WWW.GRENNA.SKREF.IS](http://WWW.GRENNA.SKREF.IS)

**First term**

## Fræðsluáætlun haust 2023

Leiðtoganámskeið fyrir þátttakendur Grænna skrefa

Styrkir vegna umhverfis- og loftslagsmála

**Skjal 1 umhverfis- og loftslagsmála**

Hvernig getur skipting sturt við aðgerðir í loftslagsmálum

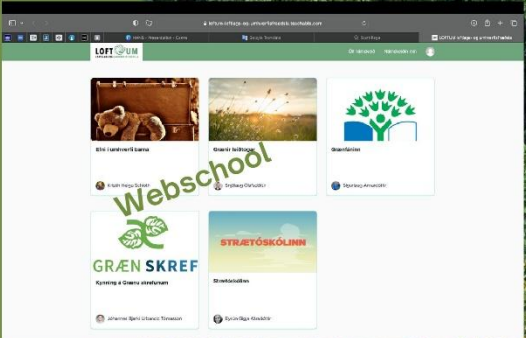
**Samantekt á námi**

Hvernig getur skipting sturt við aðgerðir í loftslagsmálum

**Heimildir**

Þessi námskeið er ókeypis og er opið öllum.

Netfang: [BRJANN@GRENNA.SKREF.IS](mailto:BRJANN@GRENNA.SKREF.IS)  
Sími: 460-8700 - 8600-8600  
Vefsíða: [WWW.GRENNA.SKREF.IS](http://WWW.GRENNA.SKREF.IS)



LOFTUM II

WebSchool

GRÆN SKREF

STRÆTÓSKÓLINN



## Green practice examples from Amager (DK)

By Dorte Grastrup-Hansen, director, Miljøpunkt Amager

# GOOD GREEN PRACTICE IN AMAGER, DENMARK



AMAGER

Dorte Grastrup-Hansen  
Director

18 September 2024

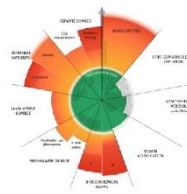
## What and who is **MILJØPUNKT AMAGER**

- Fund from 1 August 2003
- 5 employees
- 6 board members
- Funded by Municipality of Copenhagen
- External funding

## Four year PLAN

*Four topics with focus at SDG's and planetary boundaries*

- Blue and green urban nature
- Communities of action
- Clean air
- Circular everyday life



## Five local CASES

- Clean neighbourhood
- Repair Cafe Amager
- Biodiversity and community
- 2 x communities of action











## Take home **MESSAGES**

- Partnerships
- Community based
- Planetary boundaries
- No quick fix

**THANKS**

**FOLLOW** us



**MAIL** [dorte@miljopunkt-amager.dk](mailto:dorte@miljopunkt-amager.dk)



## **EU's Green Deal and NCM's Green Vision 2030 - the policy strategies and the role of NGOs**

**Online 2-day symposium,  
Tuesday – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**



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**Program, v4, 11.09.2024**

**This program version may be subject to minor changes without notice**

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The symposium is supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers' Prosperous Future Programme for Civil Society Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

This program only reflects the views of the Prosperous Future project group, and neither the administrator of the programme nor the Nordic Council of Ministers can be held responsible for its use.



## 1. Frame

### Titel of Symposium

EU's Green Deal and NCM's Green Vision 2030 - the policy strategies and the role of NGOs

### Time, type and language

**Online 2-day symposium, Tuesday – Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**

The 2-day event only has 3 hours each day from 10:30 – 12:00, and 12:30 – 14:00 CET (11.30 – 13 and 13:30 – 15 Finnish and Baltic time). The language used is English.

### Participants

We invite approx. 30 participants from the Nordic-Baltic states, including 9 speakers and 5 group moderators. The participants will be the project team plus a mix of representative NGOs, opinion formers, politicians.

### Symposium fee

It is free to participate for the invited participants. As a peer-to-peer symposium, the participants is invited and it is not open for free enrolment.

### Part of the Prosperous Future project: GreenADeN

The Symposium is part of the development project, entitled: "Green Skills Adaptation and Development for the Nordic Region (GreenADeN), June 2023 – October 2024", supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers' new Prosperous Future Programme for Civil Society Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

## 2. Objectives, learning methods, and materials

### Objectives

- To present the EU strategies in the Paris Agreement and European Green Deal agenda and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the strategies.
- To present the Nordic Council of Ministers' 2030 green visions and especially their view on how civil society associations can contribute to realize the visions.
- To present good NGO practice examples from the Nordic – Baltic countries.

### Learning methods

As an online symposium, there is a need for short sessions. The programme will alternate between short plenary presentations and short summarizing group debates in 5 smaller groups of 5-6 people, all of which have a moderator and common leading questions.

### Symposium materials

#### EU documents:

- [Communication from the Commission - The European Green Deal. COM/2019/640 final](#)
- [Annex to the Communication - Roadmap - Key actions. COM\(2019\) 640 final](#)

#### NCM documents:

- [Our Vision 2030. The Nordic Region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world. 20.08.2019.](#) By the Nordic prime ministers. Ministers for Co-operation (MR-SAM)
- [Action Plan Vision 2030 - for 2021 to 2024.](#) 14.12.20. By The Nordic Council of Ministers
- [Guidelines for involving civil society in work relating to Our Vision 2030.](#) 12.02.21. By Secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers

### 3. Day-to-day-programme

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> of September: 10:30 – 12:00 and 12:30 – 14:00:**

➤ **Main topic: The relation between the EU and Nordic green policies**

- 10:30 – 10:40 **Welcome and** presentation of the Symposium programme  
Moderator: Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive, Interfolk
- 10:40 – 10:50 **Introduction** to the GreenADeN project and the other project activities.  
By Andrei Rybin, director, Innovation Acceleration institute ry, InAI,  
and coordinator of the GreenADeN project.
- 10:50 – 11:10 1<sup>st</sup> presentation: EUs Green deal agenda and climate policies  
By Niels Fuglsang, [Danish Social Democrat, MEP](#)
- 11:10 – 11:30 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation: The NGOs role in the EU strategies.  
By Uffe Hvidkær, [Europe Dialogue](#)
- 11:35 – 11:55 Group work I (5 groups): Presentation round and dialogue about the EU policies.  
*The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker have short visits to the four groups for Q/A.*  
*Lead questions:*
  - *Key points in EUs Green Deal strategies*
  - *What role do the NGOs have in the Green Deal action plans*
  - *How can EU better support the NGOs to strengthen their green activities.*
- 12.00 – 12.30 Lunch break*
- 12:30 – 12:35 Introduction to the second session, by Interfolk
- 12:40 – 13:00 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation: NCMs Vision 2030 of a sustainable Baltic Sea region.  
By Hanna Bökmark, Project Officer/Office of the Secretary General  
at [Nordic Council of Ministers](#)
- 13:05 – 13:25 4<sup>th</sup> presentation: The NGOs role in the Nordic vision 2030.  
By Ole Meldgaard, member of NCM's civil society network, [Nordic CIV](#)
- 13:30 – 13:50 Group work II (5 groups): Presentation round and dialogue about the Nordic policies  
*The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> speaker have short visits to the four groups for Q/A.*  
*Lead questions:*
  - *Key points in NCMs Vision 2030*
  - *What role do the NGOs have in NCMs Action Plans*
  - *How can NCM better support the NGO to strengthen their green activities.*
- 13:55 – 14:00 Wrap-up and outline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day

## Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2024: 10:30 – 12:00 and 12:30 – 14:00:

### ➤ Main topic: The role of NGOs in a sustainable transition in the Baltic Sea region

- 10:30 – 10:35 Good morning and short introduction to the sessions the second day,  
Moderator: Uffe Hvidkjær
- 10:40 – 11:00 5<sup>th</sup> presentation: The role of NGOs in the green transition.  
By Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, leader of [Interfolk](#)
- 11:05 – 11:30 Group work III (5 groups): Presentation round and dialogue about the NGOs role in the green strategies in EU and NCM  
*The 5<sup>th</sup> speaker has short visits to the four groups for Q/A.*
- Lead questions:*
- *Why is the civil society and the NGO activities important?*
  - *Which type of NGOs are most important for green transitions?*
  - *How can EU and NCM help to strengthen the capacities of the NGOs to plan and implement green activities (promote the green transition)?*
- 11:30 – 12:00 *Lunch break*
- 12:00 – 12:05 Introduction to the final session,  
Moderator: Uffe Hvidkjær
- 12:05 – 12:20 6<sup>th</sup> presentation: Good green NGO practice in Estonia  
By Margit Säre, chairwoman, Peipsi Center
- 12:25 – 12:40 7<sup>th</sup> presentation: Green NGO initiatives in social volunteer work  
By Susanne Juhl Paaske, General Manager, Volunteer Centre Middelfart
- 12:45 – 13:00 8<sup>th</sup> presentation: Good green NGO practice in Iceland  
By Helena Eydís Ingólfssdóttir, project leader, Husavik Academic Center
- 13:05 – 13:20 9<sup>th</sup> presentation: Good green practice in Denmark  
By Dorte Grastrup-Hansen, centre leader for Miljøpunkt Amager.
- 13:20 – 13:45 Group work III (4 groups): Presentation round and dialogue about the impact of good green NGO practises in the Baltic Sea region  
*The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> speaker have short visits to the four groups for Q/A.*
- Lead questions:*
- *Key learning points from the four green practice examples?*
  - *What type of green practice can inspire your organisation?*
  - *Could green cross-border cooperation be relevant for your organisation?*
- 13:45 – 13:55 Wrap-up, mention the Symposium Compendium, Farewell

## Symposium Compendium

The plenary can be shown as PowerPoints at the Symposium and summarized in short articles by the speakers. The articles will afterwards be presented in the Symposium Compendium, we will disseminate extensively to our target groups in the Baltic Sea area as well as to the symposium participants.

## 4. Symposium Organisers

### The Danish planning team of the symposium

include:

- Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive, Interfolk.  
Mail: [hjv@interfolk.dk](mailto:hjv@interfolk.dk)
- Ole Meldgaard, member of [CIVIC](#) – NGO-network established by Nordic Council of Ministers, and member of the Coordination Committee of the [Baltic Sea NGO Network, Denmark](#).  
Mail: [olemeldgaard1@gmail.com](mailto:olemeldgaard1@gmail.com)
- Uffe Hvidkjær, Chair and founder, [Europe Dialogue](#)  
Mail: [uhvidkaer@gmail.com](mailto:uhvidkaer@gmail.com)

### The GreenADeN project team – contact information

The Prosperous Future project team include:

- Coordinator: Innovation Acceleration Institute, Kemi, Finland – see [www.inai.fi](http://www.inai.fi)  
Represented by Andrei Rybin, Director. Mail: [andrei.rybin@inai.fi](mailto:andrei.rybin@inai.fi)
- Partner: Húsavík Academic Center, Iceland – see [www.hac.is](http://www.hac.is)  
Represented by Arnþrúður Dagsdóttir, project leader. Mail: [ditta@hac.is](mailto:ditta@hac.is)
- Partner: Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation, Estonia – see <https://ctc.ee/en>  
Represented by Margit Säre, chairwoman / project manager. Mail: [margitsare@gmail.com](mailto:margitsare@gmail.com)
- Partner: Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society, , Denmark – see <https://interfolk.dk/>  
Represented by Hans Jørgen Vodsgaard, chief executive. Mail: [hjv@interfolk.dk](mailto:hjv@interfolk.dk)





Nordic Council  
of Ministers

## **Green NGO practice in the Baltic Sea Region. A Symposium Compendium**

**This Symposium Compendium has been published in the framework of the development project, entitled: "Green Skills Adaptation and Development for the Nordic Region (GreenADeN), June 2023 – Oct 2024", supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers' new Prosperous Future Programme for Civil Society Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.**

**The partnership circle includes: Interfolk, Institute for Civil Society (DK), Innovation Acceleration Institute (FI), Húsavík Academic Center (IS), and Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation (EE).**

**The Report presents examples of green practice and innovative approaches by NGO's to promote green values and practises regarding environmental sustainability and nature protection in the Baltic Sea Region.**



**GreenADeN**

Nordic Green Minds for Prosperous Tomorrow