

## The partnership circle

includes six organisations from five countries, where four are national organisations of voluntary arts and culture, and two provide lifelong learning in a civil society context.

- Interfolk (DK) (Applicant and coordinator) [www.interfolk.dk](http://www.interfolk.dk)
- Cultural Councils in Denmark (DK) [www.kulturellesamraad.dk](http://www.kulturellesamraad.dk)
- Finnish Swedish Youth Association (FI) [www.fsu.fi](http://www.fsu.fi)
- Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiatives (PL) - [www.fundacjaiae.eu](http://www.fundacjaiae.eu)
- Belarusian Non-Governmental Organization "United Way" (BY) - <http://en.ngo.by>
- Lithuanian castles and manors Association (LT) - [www.dvarai.lt](http://www.dvarai.lt)



## This NGO project in the Baltic Sea Region

entitled " Voluntary culture as leverage of cross-cultural activities in sparsely populated areas with an added value for democratic participation" is a 3-year project, carried out in the period, Jan 2016 to Dec 2018.



## The project idea

is to engage volunteers to promote cross-cultural activities in the sparsely populated communities with an added value for civic and democratic participation and community bonding.

*Leaflet, v1, Jan 2014*



For more information - see the project website:  
[www.culture-lever.net](http://www.culture-lever.net)



## Voluntary culture in sparsely populated areas with added value for democratic participation and community bonding



This project has been funded with support from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

NGO project for the Baltic Sea Region, 2016 - 2018



## Background and need

Sparsely populated areas face stark challenges to revive the local communities, but also represent an opportunity to rebuild a community and strengthen local identity through artistic and cultural activities.

Art and culture can play a major role to make our marginal areas more attractive to new residents and businesses, because:

- Art and culture help to create the community and unity that can save a village or area from being emptied of content.
- Inclusion in art and culture gives new life and creates responsible citizens.
- A vibrant cultural life and an enhanced community can create a sustainable society where all citizens are ready to take responsibility for their own and others' lives and for the local community as a whole.



## Objectives

1. To develop innovative ways of outreach to citizens engaged in arts and culture to become resourceful volunteers in cross-cultural activities in the local communities.
2. To complete innovative pilot works in 1-2 sparsely populated communities in the participating countries.
3. To publish a Handbook on methods and best practise as well as a Curricula Compendium for culture volunteers.
4. To provide a comprehensive dissemination of the results to the main target groups in the Baltic Sea region.



The project is based on the concept of “cultural sustainability” meaning that active citizenship, social inclusion and cultural cohesion will be promoted by “citizens help citizens” in a civil society context.

## Main results

The planned outcome is:

- To map series of exemplary and innovative practises and publish a multilateral survey report with recommendations for pilot work.
- To complete a series of local pilot works with cross-culture activities.
- To publish a Nordic Handbook with know-how, methodologies, and best practise.
- To develop training courses for volunteers and publish a Curricula Compendium.

## Envisaged impacts

- The new culture volunteer concept will to some degree be incorporated in the Nordic-Baltic sector of voluntary arts and culture.
- Main stakeholders will know and support the concept political, ideological or financial
- Parts of the communities in sparsely populated areas will be helped to a change, that improves their quality of life.

