

# Session on democracy, dialogue and Participation



Marie Karlberg  
Nordic Council of Ministers  
2020-11-24

# The Nordic Co-operation

- One of the oldest and most comprehensive regional collaborations in the world
- After WW2, small countries needed to work together
- Nordic Council (1952) – Inter-parliamentary forum
- Nordic Council of Ministers (1971) – Inter-governmental body
- Nordic Culture Fund set up in 1967



# Nordic Council of Ministers 1971



# Nordic Council of Ministers

- Prime Ministers
- Ministers for Co-operation
- Country holding the presidency  
(rotates annually)
- Secretary General: Paula Lehtomäki



The Nordic Council of Ministers consists of the ministers for Nordic Co-operation, **10 ministerial councils** covering different sectors and **one ad hoc Council of Ministers** for Digitalisation. They are supported by 16 committees of senior officials and a high-level group (digitalisation).



The **Secretary General** is responsible for the day-to-day running of the intergovernmental co-operation.

**12 Nordic institutions and the three Baltic offices**

## The Nordic Council of Ministers



### Secretary General The Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat



# NCM Vision 2030



# Our vision 2030

## A **green** Nordic region

Together, we will promote a green transition of our societies and work towards carbon neutrality and a sustainable circular and bio-based economy.

## A **competitive** Nordic region

Together, we will promote green growth in the Nordic region based on knowledge, innovation, mobility and digital integration.



**The Nordic  
region will  
become the most  
sustainable and  
integrated region  
in the world**

## A **socially sustainable** Nordic region

Together, we will promote an inclusive, equal and interconnected region with shared values and strengthened cultural exchange and welfare.



# Democracy, Dialogue, Participation & Inclusiveness – how does it work?

- There are different levels within the NCM (from setting the political direction to implementation) which forms a feedback loop;
  - (i) the political level –the **Ministerial Council(s) (MC)**
  - (ii) ... which is serviced by the **Nordic Committee(s) of Senior Officials**
  - (iii) ... implementing actions are carried out by a **working group(s)**
  - (iv) In addition to (iii) several MCs use **Nordic Institutions** for instance Nordregio, Nordic Innovation as an implementing partner



# Example: Urban planning

## Ministerial Council

Political direction  
Anchoring action plans  
Declarations

## Committee of Senior officials

Evaluation  
Feedback

## Vision 2030

Example - A Green Nordic Region goal 1 efforts to support transition towards carbon neutrality

## Committee of senior officials

Action plans

Working Group  
TF on Sustainable Cities  
Initiative committee  
Nordic Institution

External actors and networks



# Thank you!

