



Culture & Tourism Group, XXXVI Meeting, Egmond aan Zee (Noord-Holland) 23 June 2009

MINUTES

The meeting was held at the Zuiderduin Hotel in Egmond aan Zee. Immediately before the meeting of the Culture & Tourism Group, there was the first joint meeting of all five thematic groups of the NSC, led by NSC President Gunn Marit Helgesen.

Delegates:

Cllr Harry van Waveren	Chair	Province of Zeeland (Netherlands) *
Cllr Lars Nordström	Vice-Chair	Västra Götaland Region (Sweden)
Mr Geir Sør-Reime	Advisor	Rogaland County Council (Norway)
Cllr Kevin Salmond		Angus Council (Scotland)
Mrs Conny Boersma		Province of Zeeland (Netherlands) *
Mr Tomas Olson		Västra Götaland Region (Sweden)
Mrs Karen Greve Somerset		Central Denmark Region *
Mr Mike Knights		East of England Regional Assembly
Mrs Alison Smith		Angus Council (Scotland)
Mr Craig Lafferty		Angus Council (Scotland)

* Present only during the first half of the meeting, up to and including item 6.

1. Meetings in September in Brussels 28-30 September 2009

The Group will try and send participants to the annual conference of the Culture programme 28 September (called Culture in Motion), and is seeking invitation to participate in the mid-term evaluation of the European Cultural Agenda 29-30 September, called European Cultural Forum. Lars Nordström indicated that he could probably attend.

The group encourages all members to participate at the Culture in Motion event, and will inform members as soon as we know how many delegates we can send to the Cultural Forum.

2. Meeting with DG Enterprise

Tomas has been checking the cost of a separate report from us, but has found that the recent OECD report could be a good starting point for us. (Cf. item 9).

3. Meeting in Denmark March 2010

It was suggested that this meeting might be combined with a Coast Alive! Meeting. There will probably also be a meeting combined with the NSC Annual General Assembly, in Stavanger 16 June 2010.

Cf. also item 9.



4. Conference

It was suggested that our group seeks support from the ExCom for a conference for all thematic groups either on territorial cohesion or energy and climate change. Cf. also item 9.

5. Maritime strategy for the North Sea

It has been decided that the maritime resources group should coordinate a NSC project on a maritime strategy for the North Sea, and that all groups should appoint a contact person.

Conny Boersma was appointed as the contact person from the Culture & Tourism group.

6. NECSTour Conference

Tomas reported from this conference (held in England 17-19 June) and also handed out the program and more info about the group.

NECSTouR is an open network of European regions, whose aim is to develop and strengthen a coherent framework for the coordination of regional development programmes and research on sustainable and competitive tourism following the communication published by the European Commission, entitled "Agenda for European sustainable and competitive tourism".

In the year 2008 NECSTOUR's founding members worked together in order to establish the networks' governance rules, objectives and strategy.

More on NECSTour on

<http://www.necstour.eu/necstour/necstour.page>

7. Introduction of delegates

All delegates present at this stage presented themselves.

8. General discussion about the group

It was underlined that the outcomes of the group's work must be better communicated and demonstrates, as to justify members' participation in the group. It is also important to link between the European agenda and the local and regional impact and relate our work to strategic issues in our member regions.

It was also suggested that we now look into also other funding schemes than the Interreg programs, for example Leader, Comenius, Youth for Europe and the Culture program.

9. Conference on sustainable tourism, cultural tourism and employment



Based on the OECD report mentioned under item 2, it was now suggested that we organise a workshop on this theme in the autumn, and combines it with a regular meeting of the group (similar to the workshops and meeting in Zeeland last year). It was suggested the dates 2-3 December 2009, and that Angus Council should host this conference.

10. Project bourse

(Numbers refer to previous minutes)

a. Food project

Craig Lafferty reported and corrected previous report. The pre-assessment pointed out that the project ought to have a broader, more varied partnership and therefore, the project was held over to next call. The project will participate in the partner search tomorrow.

c. CoastAlive!

The extension has now been approved.

l. Ancestral tourism

The announced paper was not yet ready. Alison will seek an update from Stuart.

n. Blue Ribbon

This project was not approved in the 4th call.

u. WHIRL

Mike is still working on this.

v. liveArch, now renamed OpenArch

Work is now progressing well for this year's call in the Culture program.

w. Storytelling

Geir has been working with storytelling centres and has encouraged them to work on a Culture program application.

It was suggested that we should look into ways of updating the project ideas list more regularly.