

Til:
Møde:
Dato:
Punkt nr.:
Initialer: CEM
Behandling:



OUF
DANSK UNGDOMS FELLESRÅD

Draft Program for NORDBUK Conference

Draft program for a conference on youth organization and democracy in the Nordic region. The conference will take place in relation to the Danish presidency of NORDBUK in 2015.

Double Democracy

The conference takes its point of departure in the pressure on the "double democracy". On one side, the big, formal democracy has come under pressure from a general trend towards declining participation in general elections, less members of political parties and an increasing distrust towards politicians. This is particularly problematic since a large share of the youth population does not take part in political elections.

"The small democracy" consists of the civil society and the voluntary organizations, functions in parallel with the big democracy, but is also under pressure. Even though traditional organizational life still attracts and engages members, it is to an increasing extent articulated as "old-fashioned". Furthermore, the civil society is put under political pressure to fill welfare functions and faces competition from the project-oriented, temporary form of engagement.

The big and the small democracies are the prerequisites of each other. Surveys show that almost 50 percent of those that assume leadership responsibility within an organization under the Danish Youth Council, also known as the small democracy, will end up assuming leadership responsibility in the big democracy. Thereby, 50 percent of those that end up in municipal councils and schools boards have held leadership responsibilities in the small democracy. What is even more interesting is that the share of young people that have never been a part of the organizational life will not end up taking responsibility for civil society as adults.

Program

The main objective of the conference is to provide inputs to the debate concerning the double democracy, with a special view towards providing the Danish Youth Council with constructive input towards a service check of the organizational life. With the two democracies as its point of departure, the conference aims to set focus on organizational life in the future, and shed light on how a strengthening one democracy can also benefit the other democracy.

The two perspectives, the big and the small democracy, are reflected in a series of workshops and debates described in this program. The program will take place in two tracks, where the delegates will be able to choose between events focusing primarily

on organizational democracy and civil society, and one that focuses mainly on the formal democracy.

Furthermore, there will be plenary lectures, where the two tracks will be combined for presentations with keynote speakers that will clarify the links between the two tracks.

Program

Wednesday

Morning: Arrival and check-in at Dan Hostel Copenhagen City

- 12:00 Lunch and registration
- 13:00 Opening (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kristian Jensen, Minister for Church and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Bertel Haarder, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Per Stig Møller, or Former Minister of Culture, Marianne Jelved)
- 13:15 Plenary session: Topic: The Big and the Small Democracy.
 - Power Presentation (15 min): On Double Democracy (Lars Torpe/Lars Bille)
 - Couch discussion (30 min): Sigge Winther (facilitator), Party Secretaries (The Liberal Party & The Social Democrats), Karina Pedersen)
- 14:00: Coffee breaks
- 14:30 Workshops (Big and small democracy)
 - A: Participation in Elections
 - B: Education in Democracy
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Workshops
 - A: School elections
 - B: Integration
- 17:15 We walk to Christiansborg
- 18:30 Tour of Denmark's parliament – Christiansborg
- 19:30 Dinner in Christiansborg Tower

Thursday

- 09:30 Coffee
- 10:00 Workshops
 - "The Open School" (Big and small democracy)
 - A: The Open School
 - B: Upper Secondary Vocational Schools
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:30 Workshops (Big and small democracy)
 - A: Right to Vote at 16
 - B: Participation in Youth Parties
- 14:00 Plenum session: Sum-up and concluding remarks

Latest possible departures:

- ISL: 19:45 (18:45)
- LET: 19:50 (18:50)
- EST: 20:45 (19:45)
- LIT: 21:05 (20:05)
- FIN: 21:35 (20:35)
- SV: 22:45 (21:45)

- NO: 22:45 (21:45)

Additional night:
Greenland

Participation in Elections (The Big Democracy)

Facilitator: Jens Nygaard Nielsen

- Content:
 - There is a general trend towards declining turnout in Denmark, which can be problematic for the formal democracy in the long term. However, we have seen examples of how this trend can be reversed. That was the case at the municipality elections in 2013, where a range of initiatives managed to increase the turnout with 9.7 percentage points for youth between 18 and 29 years of age. The turning point will be why the falling participation in election is so important and why we see this trend, even though it seems to have been reversed in Denmark.
- Format
 - The workshop is designed as a presentation followed by a discussion. It will be obvious to include representatives from political youth parties that have practical experience with "get-out-the-vote"-campaigns.
- Speakers
 - Authors of a book on the Parliamentary Election Campaign in 2011, Kasper Møller Hansen (20 minutes)
 - Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Youth Councils on election campaigns (max 10 minutes)
- Objective:
 - The objective of the workshop is to present scientific conclusions for the Danish youth organizations, so they can benefit from the empirical evidence on the area. Jointly, the workshop aims to provide inspirations for other Nordic-Baltic Youth Councils that should wish to work on increasing election turnout. Lastly, the workshop provides an opportunity to underline the role of the Danish Youth Council in increasing youth participation in elections.

Education in Democracy (The Small Democracy)

Facilitator: Henrik

- Indhold:
 - The organizational life has traditionally been one of the strongest institutions providing citizens with a basic education in democracy. It continues to serve as an institution for democratic education in the conscience of many key actors. However, it has come under pressure and has been articulated as both dusty, old-fashioned and outdated in its structure and method of work, and many actors wish to see a change in the organization of civil society. In addition, the organizational life has also come under pressure from new modes of organization: Crowdsourcing and project-oriented events and

happenings. There is a need to mark and strengthen the unique contribution of organizational life as a school of democracy.

- Format:
 - o Process workshop aimed at identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the model of civil society organizations in relation when serving as a school of democracy. In addition, compare the formal organizations to project-based modes of engagement and unorganized formats.
- Speakers:
 - o Henrik Bang Bjørgo, Consultant at DUF
 - o Kraftverket or another project-based institution
 - o What are the trends in Denmark and the rest of the Nordic region? Well-functioning events compared to well-functioning organizations. Power-presentations, max 10 minutes.
- Objective:
 - o Promoting the understanding of the organizations and civil society as a model for education in democracy. Identification of the strengths of the traditional organizational life versus the weaknesses of project-based models, in relation to democratic education.

School elections (The Big Democracy)

Facilitator: Jonas

- Content:
 - o The workshop will focus on school elections in the Scandinavian countries. The conference takes place just a few months after Denmark's first national school elections and should shed light on the experiences that Denmark has had from the elections. The workshop should also illustrate the experiences and challenges encountered in Norway and Sweden that have both held several school elections.
- Format:
 - o The workshop opens with a traditional panel debate where Youth Council representatives share experiences with each other and the audience, followed by a general debate on the format and content of the elections. The workshop is an obvious choice for student organizations and youth parties, as they can bring first-hand experiences on successes and failures.
- Speakers:
 - o Representatives from the Danish Youth Council and the Norwegian Youth Council, that have both worked with school elections. For example, Secretary-General of LNU, Martin Østerdal, as well as the communication unit of the Danish Parliament.
 - o Chris Preuss/Jonas Manthey
- Objective:
 - o Share experiences from school elections in the three Scandinavian countries and provide inspiration for future elections. In addition, maintain focus on the school election and its continuation beyond 2017.

New societal groups in organizational life (The Small Democracy)

Facilitator: Clara/Noman

- Content:
 - o The traditional organizational life may appear alienating or excluding towards populations groups that for different reasons have been marginalized in relation to the majority. That goes for both classic societal challenges, but to a large extent also for ethnic and cultural differences – how does the organizational life works in relation to its own culture? The traditional organizations need to crack the code on how to include and attract new population groups that are not included in the traditional middle class.
- Format:
 - o Inspirational workshop with presentations of success stories from all three countries.
Sweden: Powerpresentation from Malmö
Danmark: Clara/Noman
Danmark: Social Democratic Youth, Aalborg.
- Speakers:
 - o Project representatives from different approaches to inclusion work.
- Objective:
 - o Enhancing and expanding participants' insight on how the organizations work with integration and inclusion.

Content:

- The traditional civil society does not seem to include all groups of society. Regarding youth, especially young ethnic minorities are not participating as much as young ethnic danes. In this workshop, we will highlight and discuss how associations can overcome social and cultural differences in order to include more ethnic minorities.
 - The discussion will initially be inspired by two presentations.
 - Lasse Frimand Jensen is a young local politician, from the Social Democratic Youth of Denmark from Ålborg. He established an international sub-group in his party, and thereby engaged europeans living in Aalborg (Northern Denmark) in Danish politics.
 - Musa Kekec, is the former chair-man of an ethnic minority youth organisation called O.N.E, and has during the last 13 years been engaging young ethnic minorites in civil society.
- Aim:
- To build and develop the participants knowledge about how civil society can include more young ethnic minorities.

Right to Vote (The Big Democracy)

Facilitator: ?

- Content:
 - o The Right to Vote at 16 has for an extended period of time been a key issue for the Danish Youth Council, especially at the European level.

The campaign for voting rights at 16 and the expansion of youth's opportunities for participation in the formal democracy is an obvious topic in relation to strengthening the Big Democracy. It is especially relevant to include election surveys and their perspective on youth participation.

- Format:
 - o A presentation regarding the Voting Rights Commission and the empirical evidence that the Danish Youth Council has on the rea can lead to a discussion on the broader aspects of voting rights at 16 in the Nordic countries and in Denmark.
- Speakers:
 - o Michael Hedelund and a small clip from the 100-year anniversary of the Constitution.
 - o Estonia
 - o In addition, it would be obvious to hear the perspectives of a representative from the Norwegian Youth Council, that could share experiences from trial elections for 16-year olds.
- Objectives:
 - o The objective is to share knowledge regarding voting rights at 16 and its consequences. In addition, it would be beneficial for the Danish debate on the area, if the Norwegian experiences with trial elections could be elaborated and shared.

Participation in Political Youth Parties (The Small Democracy)

Facillitator: Morten

- Content:
 - o The workshop aims to shed light on how participation in political youth organizations develops tools that help young people take an active part in the democracy. Examples include the Danish Debating Champitionships, or the People's Assembly can show how youth organizations help set focus on politics for youth.
- Format:
 - o A presentation of the concrete tools and the strengthening of the political confidence that the speaker has received by being active in youth politics. Relevant questions:
 1. How to engage young people?
 2. What are the benefits for young people?
 3. The fear of political opinions
- Speakers:
 - o Karina Pedersen
 - o Morten Ryom
 - o Liberal Alliance Youth
 - o Movie clip from Venstres Ungdom (Liberal Youth)
- Objective:
 - o Bring focus on the tools that participation in youth politics give. Special attention to the tools that helps youth take active part in the formal democracy later in life. The presentation should illustrate the link between the big and the small democracy. Could also serve as promotion of the activities of the Danish Youth Council during the People's Assembly at Bornholm.

The Open School (The small democracy)

Facilitator: Morten

- Content:
 - o The workshop focuses on the opportunities and challenges that the school reform entitled "The Open School" creates for the civil organizations.
- Format:
- Presentation from the Danish Teacher's Organization or a school principal on how the reform works in practice: challenges and opportunities.
- Presentation from a civil society representative with practical experience with the reform
- Speakers:
- Objective:
 - o All Nordic countries are discussing how to integrate formal and non-formal education. The Open School provides opportunities for the organizations that the workshop can shed light on, as well as some practical challenges to be addressed.

Remember the Vocational Schools

Facilitator: ?

- Content:
 - o The workshop should show the democratizing potential of engaging vocational schools in democracy. What are the special challenges in relation to vocational schools, and which initiatives have been successful?
- Format:
 - Presentation of democratic participation by vocational students.
 - Presentation on initiatives by vocational schools during election campaigns.
 - Presentation by youth parties that have focused especially on vocational schools during campaigns.
- Speakers:
- Kasper Sand
- Danish Youth Council
- Danish People's Party's youth (DFU) Danish Social Democratic Youth (SDU)
- Objective:
 - o Set spotlight on the potential of engaging more students from vocational schools in democracy. Present concrete methods and examples that participants can be inspired by.

Culturally:

The participants in the conference will be invited to a dinner in the Tower of Christiansborg.

cem, oktober 2015

