

Agreement
between
the Faroe Islands and Shetland
regarding
Culture, Education and Research

Preamble

To develop and strengthen cooperation between the Faroe Islands and Shetland, and in acknowledgement of the fact that

- the Faroe Islands and Shetland have a mutual interest in developing and strengthening their cultural, educational and research relations

We, the Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council, have concluded that formal cooperation on the above matters through an agreement is necessary, the content of which is set forth as follows:

Objectives

The intention of this agreement is to create increased cooperation between the Faroe Islands and Shetland within the area of culture, including sports and voluntary work with children and youth, and also encompassing education and research. The agreement will promote the ideals of inclusivity and equality of opportunity for all members of the communities.

With this cooperation we aim to achieve a sharing of knowledge and experience between the Faroe Islands and Shetland, and mutual inspiration, for the benefit of culture, education and research.

This agreement is also intended to facilitate the implementation and realisation of projects and activities of mutual interest.

Finally, this agreement is seen as an opportunity to develop cooperation between the Faroe Islands, Shetland and neighbouring Westnordic countries.

Resources

Cooperation shall be promoted through

1. dialogue, at all levels, concerning cultural, educational and research matters,
2. coordinated efforts in areas of interest to both the Faroe Islands and Shetland,
3. encouragement of exchange schemes for artists, sports performers and persons dealing with cultural matters,
4. encouragement of opportunities to access each other's educational and research institutions,
5. support for the development of cultural, educational and research projects involving the Faroe Islands and Shetland,
6. the encouragement of organisations, associations and individuals to inspire one another and to cooperate on projects.

To ensure the implementation of the above, the respective authorities agree to the following guidelines:

Agendas

Agendas shall be determined by agreement between Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council.

The agendas will deal with specific projects of mutual importance to Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council, and projects initiated by community organisations and individuals.

Dialogue

There will be at least one formal meeting a year between Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council to deal with the agenda items. The venue will alternate between the Faroe Islands and Shetland.

Exchange scheme

An exchange scheme shall promote opportunities for all people involved in cultural activities in the Faroe Islands and Shetland, and enable them to share knowledge and experience and learn from each other.

Access to education and research institutions

The agreement seeks positively to promote and encourage access to each other's educational and research institutions.

Project support

Economic support may be given to projects that are encompassed by the chosen objectives, and that will benefit the realisation of the exchange scheme.

Financial support for Cooperation

Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council respectively shall set aside from their annual budgets a special allowance for the fulfilment of this agreement. The respective authorities shall, at the earliest stage possible in the budget process, brief each other on proposals involving changes compared to allocations in previous years.

Implementation

This agreement shall commence on 1st January 2004.

Agreement duration

The agreement is not subject to a time limitation factor or cessation, but the agreement can be terminated by either party adhering to the termination procedure.

The agreement shall be evaluated after each elapsed two-year period, and a joint report drafted accordingly.

Amendments to the Agreement

Proposed amendments to the agreement should be submitted by either party three months in advance of the annual meeting.

Termination of the Agreement

This agreement can be terminated by either of the parties, by submitting one year in advance a written request to that effect. The termination shall be effective from the 1st of January thereafter.

Agreement ratification on behalf of the Mentamálaráðið and Shetland Islands Council.

On the 10th of November 2003

Annita á Fríðriksmørk
Minister of Cultural Affairs

Edward John Knight
Spokesperson for Culture and Recreation
Shetland Islands Council

Appendix

The themes for 2004-5 will comprise:

- A conference and publication concerning the work of Dr Jákup Jakobsen in the Faroe Islands and Shetland
- Opportunity for sporting competition in Shetland as preparation for the NatWest Island Games in 2005

- Projects of mutual interest to the Faroe Islands and Shetland, initiated by community organisations or individuals, such as:
 - o Sport cooperation
 - o The arts
 - o Archaeological and historical themes
 - o Cultural cooperation, focusing on the Nordic origin of both countries.

The opening of the new Museum and Archives in Lerwick in 2006 may be the occasion for a joint historical and archaeological project.