
SAFEGUARDING LOCAL DEMOCRACY



Nordic Safe Cities
Alliance
2024 - 2026

MEMBERSHIP 2024 – 2026

- 5 Why Take Part in Nordic Safe Cities?
- 6 What You Get as a Member
- 9 About Nordic Safe Cities
- 13 The Democracy Leadership Standards
- 16 Nordic Safe City Blueprint Initiatives
- 20 Value as a Member
- 23 Advice & Support
- 24 Innovate & Pioneer
- 26 Membership & Contribution
- 30 Nordic Safe Cities Organisation
- 32 Our Partner Organisations

Published by:
[Nordic Safe Cities](#)

Design:
[Assembly / www.assembly.design](#)

Photography:
Ronas Korkmaz: 21, 25
Siv Dolmen: 22
Rolf Dammen: 28, 29





Nordic Safe Cities is an important network, because with the situation we have in the world today, we have to learn rapidly from each other, if we are going to save the common Nordic approach against the issues we face together.

Nordic Safe Cities Member



WHY TAKE PART IN NORDIC SAFE CITIES?

The war in Europe, polarizing conspiracy theories and anti-democratic opinions have created a new security and safety paradigm in the Nordic countries. We face challenges with new technology and the normalization of extremism in the daily life and online, which threatens our democratic security and safety.

This new reality is constantly reshaping the nordics, influencing measures to ensure safety and social cohesion in our cities in both the short and long run.

The need to safeguard our democracy and promote the Nordic values of equality, human rights, trust, and freedom of speech has grown ever more important and unites cities in the Nordics around common challenges.

And although the Nordic societies are characterised by more trust, less inequality, and more cohesion than most other parts of the world, belief in democracy is not as strong as it was ten

years ago. We cannot take democracy for granted. This is at the core of the collaboration in Nordic Safe Cities.

It is more timely than ever to unite and work together in the Nordics, to safeguard and shape our safe democracies to enable social cohesion and prevent polarisation and extremism.

In the Nordic Safe Cities alliance, we have agreed to stand strong together and continuously uphold our common Nordic values.

We support Nordic governments, municipalities, police and local professionals to combat these threats and create safe and resilient local communities that can stand against polarisation, hatred, and extremist violence.

Join us to access a unique pool of knowledge partners and get colleagues and funding to support your effort to ensure democratic safety in your city.

WHAT YOU GET AS A MEMBER

Access

Gain access to a trans-national network of various cities across 5 Nordic countries and +800 researchers, experts and professionals who work with extremism and safety on a daily basis. You get exclusive access to new prevention tools, strategies, research and policies that are used in various other cities throughout the Nordics.

Support

As a member you receive 1:1 guidance, support, and counselling on how to address and prevent issues concerning polarisation, hate, extremism and violence – especially in times of crisis

Trusted colleagues

Build new relations with local practitioners, experts in the field of polarisation, safety and security, policy makers and civil society organisations from the entire Nordic region to learn from their experiences to strengthen your own work locally.

Funding to pioneer

Nordic Safe Cities works directly with you to receive seed funding from key Nordic funds aimed at piloting new prevention concepts. As part of the alliance, you get the opportunity to test and initiate new preventive efforts and tools together with colleagues from all the Nordic countries, Nordic organisations and international P/CVE experts.

Political relations

Nordic Safe Cities facilitates and promotes collegial relations between political representation in our member cities to ensure easy access to decision makers.

Groundbreaking digital prevention

A special focus in 2024-2026 will be to support digital knowhow and digital prevention in cities substantially through our Safe Digital City concept and increase the collaboration and involvement of civil society organisations.

A place to promote the youth

As a part of Nordic Safe Cities you get the possibility to promote and celebrate remarkable young pioneers in your city and include them in the Nordic Pioneers network to enable and enhance the reach and scalability of their democratic initiatives thereby improving youth engagement locally.



NSC is so useful because you have practitioners who are working often in silos in their cities, but when Nordic Safe Cities gather everyone across countries it gives them new ideas on how to tackle different issues which varies from tackling hate speech online, how to reach youth in relation to safety, counter extremism, how to deal with minorities, and how to manage this space.

*Magnus Ransstorp
Co-Chair, Nordic Safe Cities Board*





There is a need for more Nordic Collaborations because we are living in a time, to point out the truth, that is more and more difficult. We need more information on topics that are difficult. In the network we have experts who have worked on these challenges for decades, and we are benefiting from their wisdom and their information.

Nordic Safe Cities Member



ABOUT NORDIC SAFE CITIES

Nordic Safe Cities works to create safe Nordic democracies and prevent polarisation and extremism.

Nordic Safe Cities works in the entire Nordic to innovate and pioneer new initiatives with local authorities, cities, organisations and youth to create more safety and social cohesion.

At the same time, we unite key Nordic stakeholders around sharing knowledge and experiences.

We have member cities throughout the entire Nordic plus 100+ partners from civil society, academia, police and youth organisations.

Nordic Safe Cities was founded with support from the Nordic Council of Ministers on the backdrop of the terror attack in Copenhagen in 2015.

In 2020 Nordic Safe Cities became an independent nonprofit organisation with a board of directors led by Ka-

ren Hækkerup, former Danish Minister of Justice and general secretary in UNICEF Denmark.

We focus on three target groups:

1
Mayors and politicians

2
The city's professionals, police and civil society

3
The youth

We aim to meet the needs of our member cities to strengthen their prevention strategies, tools and policies.

Our member cities gain great value from exchanging information and innovating practices across the Nordic Region - and we are the only NGO that provides this service across the Nordics.

We advise our member cities on strategies and initiatives and provide immediate support in times of crisis, and we bring together leading researchers, police, politicians, and practitioners to discuss topics, share best practices and catalyse action in the civil society and on a political level.

This work is possible because the political leadership of the member cities are involved in our work, and because the network is politically rooted in the city councils. It exemplifies the invaluable resources we use when facing new challenges and continuing our pathway to more safe, inclusive, and open Nordic societies.



I am involved in the network activities at the EU level, and I have become more confident and sure than ever that we need Nordic collaboration. It is much easier to discuss these topics among Nordic countries because we have a lot of similarities but we also have different approaches that we can share. Nordic Safe Cities is the platform where we can really dive deep into the topics that are important to us.

*Tarja Mankinen
Board Member, Nordic Safe Cities Board*





THE DEMOCRACY LEADERSHIP STANDARDS ©

SAFEGUARDING LOCAL NORDIC DEMOCRACY

In Nordic Safe Cities we have integrated the Democracy Leadership Standards in the alliance as a key tool to lead the work in our alliance.

All Nordic Safe Cities members, upon joining the alliance, commit to working on these standards in their cities. Additionally, each city will report annually on the leadership standards to the Nordic Safe Cities organisation with relevant data, challenges, policies, and promising practice in a short and concise reporting format.

The member cities can use the Nordic Safe Cities organization and its alliance of cities and organizations to enhance their efforts in each of the standards. These standards can also serve as means for member cities to demonstrate their leadership in safeguarding democracy within their respective cities.

The selected targets and topics that the democracy standards express, derive from the Nordic Safe Cities blueprint themes and the topics member cities currently are working on across the Nordic region to safeguard democracy and prevent extremism.



I think that these standards are a great initiative. They provide us with a useful framework and concrete goals which we can measure our efforts against. They also provide us with a common language and understanding of the challenges facing our societies, which can in turn facilitate a more productive dialogue within this network.

Lisbeth Hammer Krog
Mayor, City of Bærum

1

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK FOR ALL

- Promote an inclusive democratic system where every citizen takes part and feel they are listened to, valued and actively engaged.
- Embrace diversity in cities by tackling discrimination and hate.

2

EMPOWER YOUTH TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

- Cultivate and promote a democratic mindset, culture, and resilience in the next generation.
- Include youth in decision- and policy making.
- Support and encourage young democracy pioneers to build safe and inclusive communities.

3

TAKE ACTION TO SAFEGUARD DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

- Shield youth from digital risks and enhance their digital democratic resilience.
- Protect digital democracy at the local level and work to combat digital hate and extremism.
- Ensure that ongoing democracy-building efforts effectively consider both on- and offline dynamics of extremism, conspiracy thinking and online polarisation.

4

ALLOCATE FOR SAFE DEMOCRACY BUDGETING

- Invest in prevention and policies to safeguard democracy in your city on a systematic and long-term level across city sectors and civil society.

5

PIONEER NEW SOLUTIONS TO WICKED PROBLEMS

- Test and pioneer new solutions to wicked problems of building democracy and preventing extremism or adapt successful initiatives that have been tested in other cities.
- Embrace trial and error methodology to produce and champion new solutions to ensure democratic safety.
- Share difficult challenges and learnings from both successes and failures with member cities.

6

UTILIZE THE JOINT FORCES IN THE CITY TO SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY

- Enable a strong collaboration and governance between the city, police, and civil society.
- Unleash the potential of civil society, amplify their influence, and enable effective systems of information sharing.
- Support local organisations in their efforts to promote democratic values such as the freedom of speech, equality, trust, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

7

OUR NORDIC COMMITMENT

- Commit to share insights, policies, and practices on the democracy standards once a year.
- Commit to participate in the annual Nordic Safe Cities event and quarterly digital check-ins.
- Strive to provide our utmost support to other cities through the Nordic Safe Cities network and activities throughout the year.

NORDIC SAFE CITY BLUEPRINT INITIATIVES

The Nordic Safe City Blueprint is the strategic foundation for Nordic Safe Cities' priorities and activities in 2024-2026. It outlines our main cross Nordic initiatives that all members and partners can join.

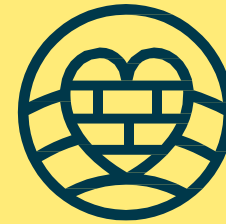
They are mission driven initiatives where we share and scale promising concepts that can be used at the national and local level and develop our own concepts where there is a lack of methodology to tackle a problem.

When working with the Nordic Safe Cities Blueprint themes, we encourage all partners to work across sectors in their own city/country and work mission driven to safeguard democracy and prevent extremism and polarization.



I would first like to thank Nordic Safe Cities [...]. Opportunities like these, where elected officials from the Nordic region can share experiences of preventing and combating polarisation, hate and violent extremism, are especially important in times like these.

Alexander Ojanne,
Vice Mayor for Social Affairs and
Public Safety, City of Stockholm



A City For All

Embrace diversity and safeguard democratic values.

Tackle discrimination and hate
Address polarisation and segregation

Leave no neighbourhood behind



Empower Youth to Shape Democracy

Cultivate democracy mindset with youth
Support and encourage young democracy pioneers to build safe and inclusive communities.



Safe Digital Cities

Understand and protect digital democracy at the local level and work to combat digital hate and extremism.

Transform prevention to safeguard local digital democracy





It is very useful to work with democracy together with other municipalities - then we can exchange practical experiences, and both we and the young people we collaborate with get a real experience of participating in larger communities across cities in Norway. The collaboration has also made knowledge, research and resources available across the Nordic countries, which is necessary if we are to work knowledge-based on building a democratic culture.

Nordic Safe Cities Member



This is the one setting where the Nordic countries can come together and talk about how we can make our societies safer and better. We share so many similarities that without a forum, where the focus is solely Nordic, we would absolutely lose something.

*Anneli Portmann,
Senior Specialist, Finnish Institute
for Health and Welfare (THL)*



INFORM & CONNECT

We connect your city with politicians, professionals, youth, and experts from other Nordic cities.

Through these connections, you gain a platform to engage in discussions on challenging topics, share common challenges and best practices, disseminate innovative ideas, and catalyze collective action. The goal is to foster a collaborative environment that transcends boundaries, enabling the exchange of knowledge and the advancement of shared goals among Nordic cities.

From 2024, the following activities will be carried out:

1 Nordic Safe Cities Camp where we gather practitioners, academics, youth and decision makers from our member cities, organisations, and partners from across the Nordic region, to improve our ability to safeguard democracy together.

1 General Assembly setting the strategic direction of the alliance together with all members.

1 bi-annually summit for mayors and practitioners to set the strategic direction together and reinforce our Nordic collaboration to safeguard democracy and social cohesion.

5 Nordic Democracy Briefings which highlights the newest and most relevant research on what works within the field of preventing extremism and radicalization including additional food for thought.

Bi-monthly information-and knowledge-sharing webinars with an opportunity to connect and discuss emerging topics or local challenges.

In depth task forces on particularly difficult themes, which you can choose to take part in.





VALUE AS A MEMBER

ADVICE & SUPPORT

Gain exclusive access to expert advice and personalized support for your municipality. Our advisory and support encompass guiding your cities in the development of innovative strategies, policies, and initiatives. Moreover, we stand ready to provide immediate assistance during times of crisis, ensuring that your municipality receives timely and effective support tailored to specific needs and challenges.

From 2024, the following activities will be carried out:

We give you **1:1 sparring** (minimum) once a year with a number of professionals from the Nordic Safe Cities organisation on your strategy, policy or initiatives of your choice.

We provide **constructive critical review** of strategies or concepts before they are initiated or ongoing support during implementation of existing policies or concepts.

We offer you direct access to top professionals that provide **support and guidance on how to handle emergency situations** such as Quran burnings or the rise of extremist tensions and public intimidation in local communities. This support enables your city to be at the forefront of the situation and take immediate action.

This is all tailored to match the specific needs and processes of your city. All sparring with Swedish, Norwegian and Danish cities are conducted in Nordic languages, while with Iceland and Finland, as well as our joint events, are conducted in English.



It is crucial to share information through Nordic Safe Cities and establish communication channels within our cities. Nordic cities face similar problems and negative phenomena, and many actors, including criminal groups, collaborate without respecting borders. This requires a broader perspective.

*Pekka Timonen,
Mayor, City of Vantaa*

INNOVATE & PIONEER

We offer you the chance to collaborate with our alliance and other member cities in innovating the field of prevention. Together, we can co-create novel concepts, initiatives, and policies that tackle complex issues or address areas with limited existing methodologies or best practices. From 2024, the following activities will be carried out:

We offer direct assistance in **securing seed funding** for the piloting of new, innovative ideas and initiatives, especially in areas where established best practices are lacking. Our support extends beyond just financial aid; we provide essential partnerships, infrastructure, and funding to facilitate the testing and innovation process. By offering a comprehensive package, we aim to explore uncharted territories, bringing pioneering concepts to life in environments where conventional testing may be difficult to undertake alone.

Through the **Safe Digital City** we provide city members with access to a groundbreaking online algorithm and some of the

newest tools for safeguarding digital democracy and safety. The Safe Digital City initiative enables politicians and practitioners to receive comprehensive analyses of digital hate within their municipality, facilitating the implementation of precise and tailor-made prevention practices. The goal is to enhance digital democracy and safety within the community.

Every year, we celebrate the bold initiatives undertaken by young individuals to foster more cohesive and secure communities in the Nordic region. Through our **Nordic Pioneers initiative**, you have the chance to showcase the efforts of your youth in an annual award ceremony and integrate them into the Nordic Pioneer Network. This inclusion empowers local youth to enhance and expand their initiatives, ultimately contributing to the advancement of democratic youth engagement in your city.

Safer Cities Norway is a unique cooperation with Gjensidigestiftelsen that allows for Norwegian member cities to access

direct funds to innovate and pioneer their own local concepts aimed at building democratic resilience and values in close collaboration with Nordic Safe Cities and a team of dedicated experts and sparring partners.



This network is far more professional than other networks we participate in. It is better funded and more staffed and they are good at keeping projects alive and finding new ways of interacting, giving out information, creating ways of making discussions and presenting things.

Nordic Safe Cities Member



The sharing of knowledge is vital for the future. We got this great digital research analysis of hate speech in Kristiansand which we have used as a document for working out new workshops, new ways of speaking to youth, and new arenas to think. It has also benefited the youths' individual organisation work. Hate speech online is difficult but with this analysis we have a paper to point out that this is a concern for our city and we need to work on this continuously.

Nordic Safe Cities Member



MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION

ANNUAL INVESTMENT

Membership and participation in Nordic Safe Cities costs € 10.000 annually.

You commit to a minimum of three years of membership to ensure long-term cooperation.

Membership is tailored to strengthen your local work and adapt your processes in the best possible way.

At the physical events, you can participate with a team of up to 5 people from each member city unless otherwise agreed.

Travel expenses and accommodation at events are not included in the price.

EXPECTATIONS TO YOUR CONTRIBUTION

We expect that the membership is approved at the political level, and that participation is strategically integrated to the safety and prevention activities of the city. We expect the city to be active participants in the network and thereby contribute to the growth and knowledge pool of the network.

There must be one consistent contact person, but participation at events can be distributed across the city.



Nordic Safe Cities is an important meeting point between practitioners and policymakers and researchers in the Nordic countries, where experiences, innovative practices, ideas and knowledge is shared and discussed.

*Tore Bjørge
Director, C-Rex*





NORDIC SAFE CITIES ORGANISATION



Nordic Safe Cities is led by a Board of Directors and a secretariat located in Copenhagen, Denmark, together with a group of associated safe city advisors



*Jeppe Albers,
Executive Director*



*Lotte Fast Carlsen,
Deputy Director*



*Morten Frølich,
Head of Communications*



*Sebastian Jørgensen,
Project Manager*



*Emil Mønster,
Project Manager*



*Ella Federley Ottoson,
Project Coordinator*



*Kine Aure Nilsen,
Project Coordinator*



*My Bergklint,
Project Coordinator*



*Bjørn Ihler,
Safe City Advisor*



*Kasper Fisker,
Safe City Advisor*



*Louise Fiil Hansen,
Safe City Advisor*



*Niddal El-Jabri,
Safe City Advisor*



*Robin Andersson Malmros,
Safe City Advisor*



*Tore Bjørge,
Safe City Advisor*



*Tore Hamming,
Safe City Advisor*



*Yngve Carlsson,
Safe City Advisor*



*Karen Hækkerup,
Chairman of the Board*



*Laila Bokhari,
Co-Chair, Nordic Safe
Cities Board*



*Magnus Ranstorp,
Co-Chair, Nordic Safe
Cities Board*



*Anna König Jerlmy,
Nordic Safe Cities
Board Member*



*Erik Rostoft,
Nordic Safe Cities
Board Member*



*Tarja Mankinen,
Nordic Safe Cities
Board Member*

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Nordic Safe Cities work closely with +50 Nordic and international organisations, think tanks and networks with expertise in the prevention of polarisation and violent extremism.

We offer a window to the world to showcase your city abroad and provide information and inspiration on how extremism and hate are tackled in other parts of the world, and our member cities have gained great value from our network of partners over the years.

Together with these partners, we aim to improve our ability to safeguard democracy in the Nordics and in your city and promote the Nordic prevention model and the work done in our member cities to an international audience and stakeholders.



"As a partner organisation, Nordic Safe Cities has contributed significantly to improve both the outreach and impact of The Gjensidige Foundation. Our cooperation started in 2020, and together we have collaborated on more than +10 initiatives that develop civic and democratic engagement in municipalities throughout Norway. Their network, know-how and tools to increase social cohesion, democratic engagement and prevent extremism and polarisation have made a significant impact on Norwegian communities."

*Ingrid Tollånes
Director of Gifts, The Gjensidige Foundation*





Nordic
Safe Cities

