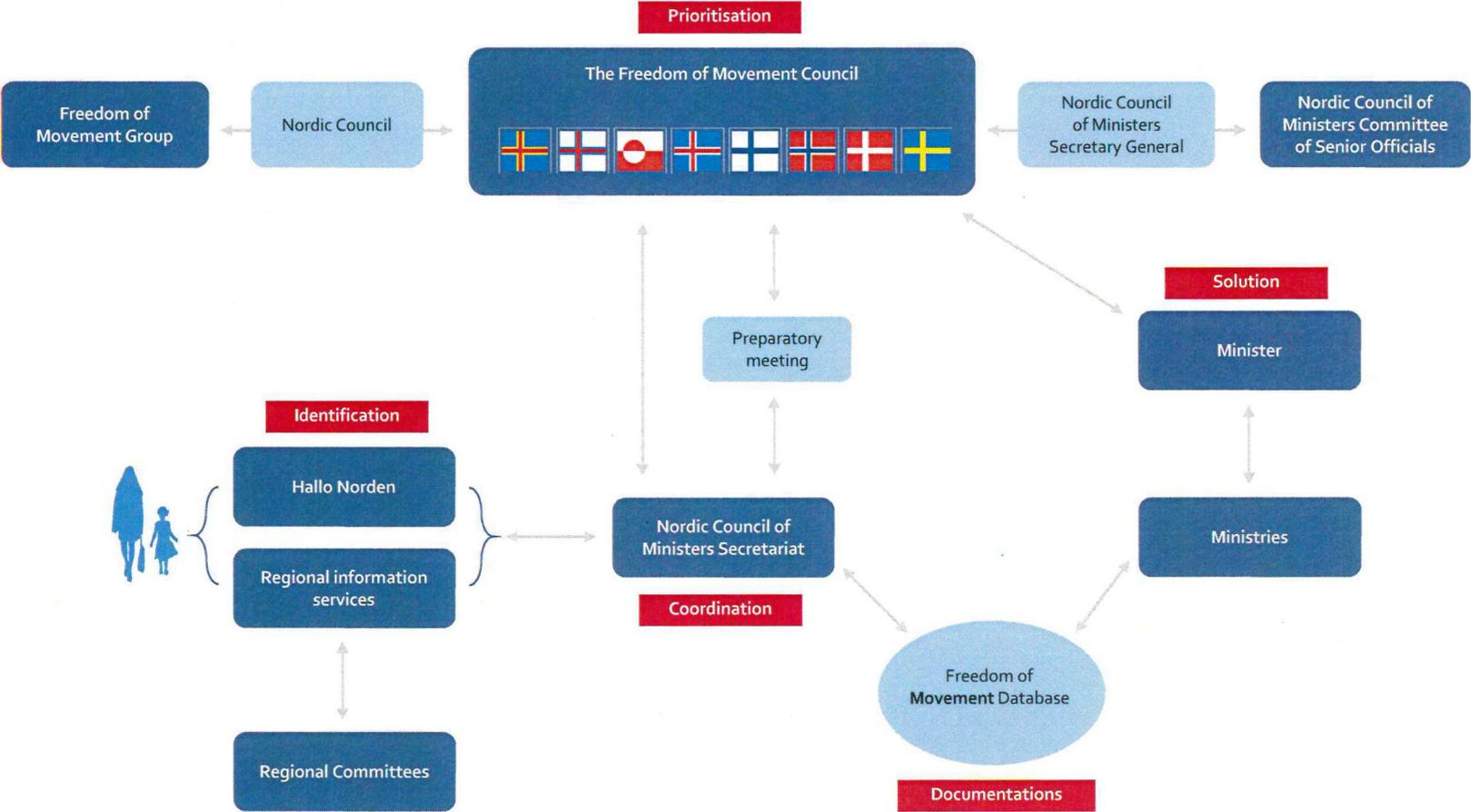


The Freedom of Movement Council



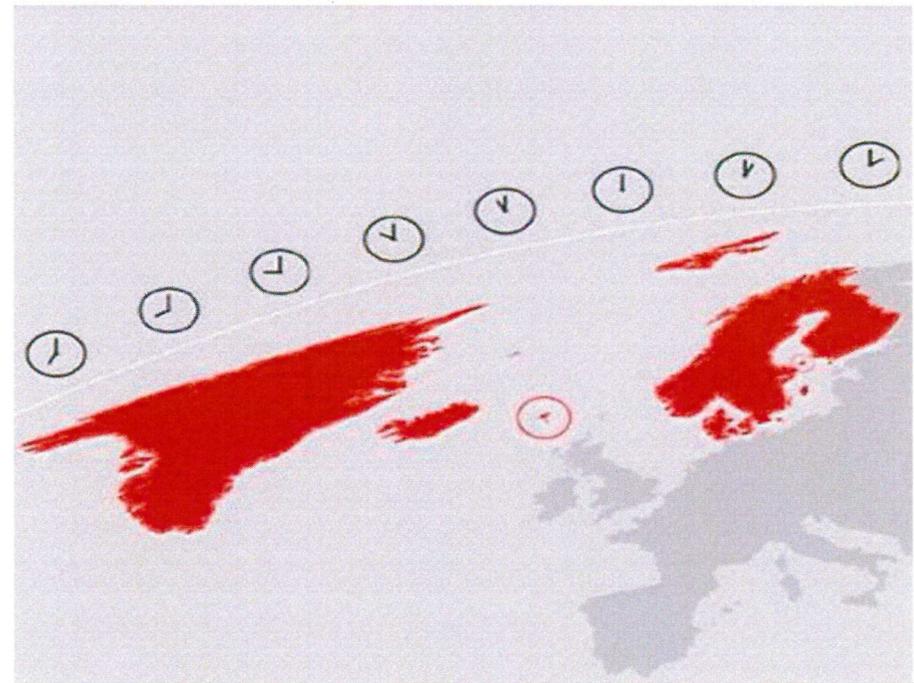
Nordic Council
of Ministers

The Freedom of Movement Council



The Nordic Region

- The five countries
- Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland
- The three autonomous territories
- The Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland



The Nordic Region



26 million
citizens



2,3 million businesses



12,5 million employees



8800 billion
GDP



The Nordic Region



5. largest
economy in Europe



11. largest economy in
the world



The Nordic Region



The world's most peaceful region



The world's most democratic region



The world's second happiest population



The Nordic Region



No. 1
in Winter Olympics



No. 2
in Summer Olympics



6 Eurovision victories
since 2000



— Labour and movement in the Nordic Region

- 70.000 cross-border commuters.
- 58.000 moved in 2011 to another Nordic country.



Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Council of Ministers is the official body for Nordic intergovernmental co-operation.

- The Prime ministers have the overall responsibility, and delegate it to the Ministers of Nordic Cooperation
- There are 10 councils, each concentrating on a specific subject
- The appropriate ministers meet a couple of times a year
- All decisions must be adopted unanimously
- Supported by Committees of Senior Officials and a number of working Groups
 - Freedom of Movement Council



A long journey, with many milestones

Nordic Council (1952)

Passport Union (1957)

Helsinki Treaty (1962)

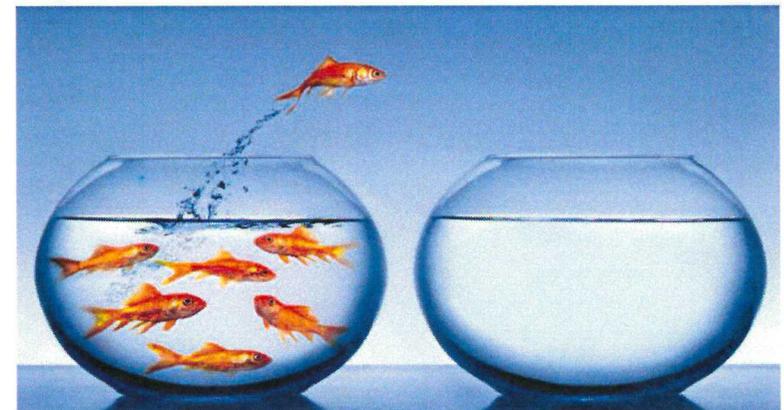
Nordic Council of Ministers (1971)

Agreement on a fully integrated
labour market (1982)

Nordic Language Convention (1987)

The Swan Label (1989)

Free access to higher education (1996)



The Freedom of Movement Council was established in 2014 on the initiative of the Nordic Prime Ministers.

The Nordic Council of Ministers



Political statements

"We, the prime ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and the Heads of Home Rule Government of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland agree that the promotion of freedom of movement in order to create jobs and growth in the Nordic countries is one of the key challenges faced by Nordic co-operation."

Declaration by the Nordic prime ministers on the work against border barriers, 29 October 2013 (non-official translation)



Focus on information and elimination of border obstacles

In order to facilitate freedom of movement in the Nordic Region for individuals as well as businesses, The Nordic Council of Ministers is investing in information and elimination of border obstacles.

Focus on three main areas:

- Break down existing border obstacles
- Prevent new border obstacles to occur
- Enhance and improve information efforts



The Freedom of Movement Council (2014–2021)

The Nordic Council of Ministers

Members:

A unique composition of individuals with firm political, professional and administrative backgrounds.

The Nordic countries, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland

The Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Representative from the Nordic Council

Meetings:

One annual kickoff meeting.

Four operational meetings.



Kickoff-meeting, Snekersten (DK), 18-19 February 2014

Image credit: Christiaan Dirksen



The Freedom of Movement Council (2014–)

1. Focus on labour market, social welfare and education
2. Each national member prioritizes 3–5 barriers
3. Solve 8–12 barriers in total/year through agreements or changes in legislation



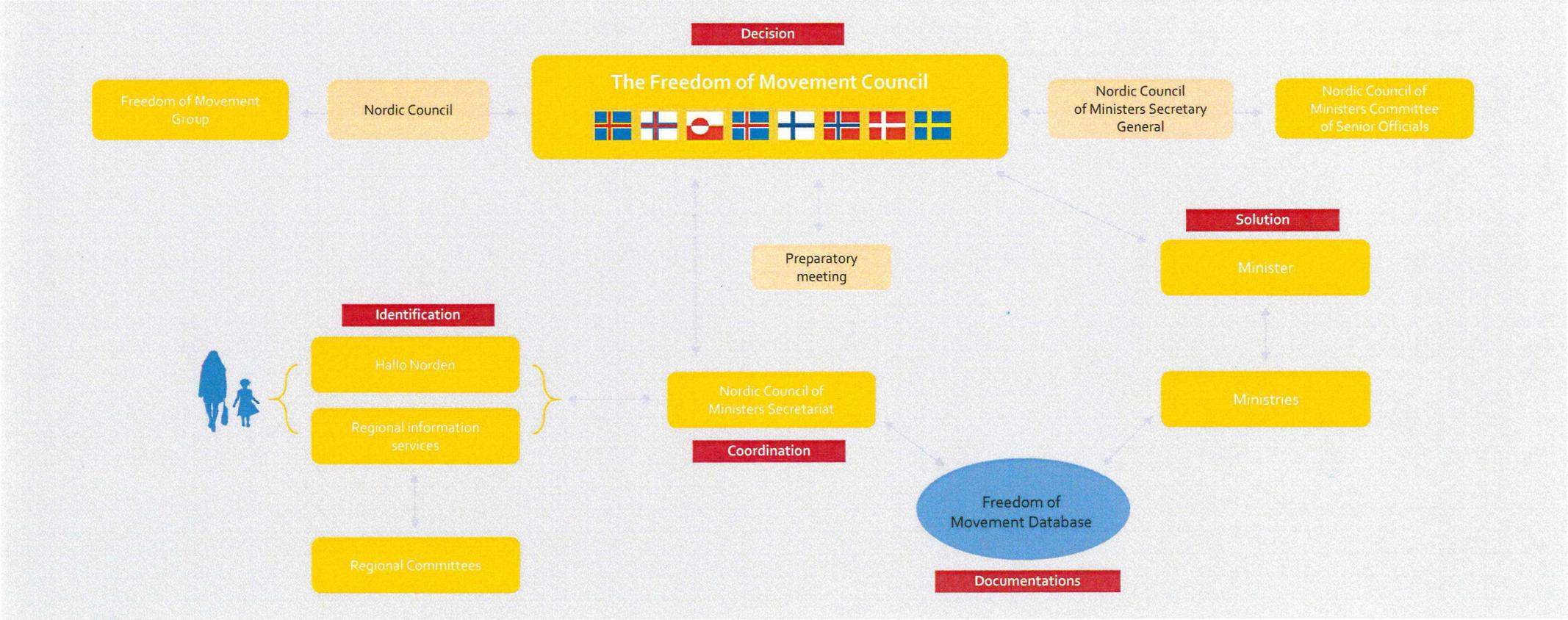
Cooperation on regional-, national- and Nordic level

— The Freedom of Movement Council cooperates with:

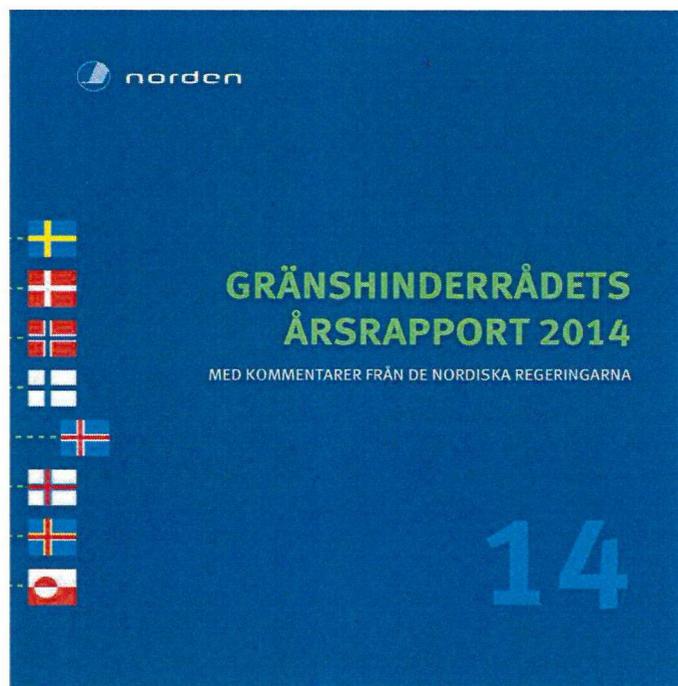
1. Regional information services and committees.
2. National stakeholders and the effort is linked to the operational level in the countries.
3. Nordic Council of Ministers
 1. for Labour (MR-A)
 2. for Health and Social Affairs (MR-S)
 3. for Finance (MR-FINANS)
 4. for Education and Research (MR-U)
 5. for Business, Energy & Regional Policy (MR-NER)



The Freedom of Movement Council



The Freedom of movement council annual report



Administrative approach

- Discussion topic:
- What are the factors for success of this cooperation?
- To what extent does the annual report contribute?



Thanks.

