



A big step forward

Niels Højberg, CEO of Aarhus Municipality, at a meeting

In the spring 2015 AarhusSomali held five meetings concerning active participation in society for Somali-Danes in Aarhus, and about how to get influence on

Cooperation with Aarhus Municipality

the political and administrative levels in Aarhus Municipality. We invited experts on integration and advocacy from Denmark and from abroad.

The meetings were arranged in cooperation with FO-Aarhus and with top officials from Aarhus Municipality taking part in them.

At one of the meetings the CEO of Aarhus Municipality was challenged about more inclusion and responsibility for the Somali community in Aarhus concerning municipal integrational projects. This led to a series of roundtable meetings, with the members of AarhusSomali coordination committee and top officials from Aarhus Municipality, headed by the CEO.

Four projects - with AarhusSomali project managers

With Aarhus Municipality and AarhusSomali as partners, the roundtable meetings resulted in these four projects:

Entrepreneurship:

Focus on starting your own business

Jobs for Somali-Danes:

Creating network in order to get jobs for highly educated Somali-Danes

Better image for Somali-Danes:

The Blue Stars - educated Somali-Danish young people fighting prejudice by telling their personal stories.

Somali cultural festival:

Takes place in Aarhus July 2017



Ali Yusuf talking about the entrepreneurship project



Blue Star Safaa Mohamed Ali talking to elderly people at a meeting

AarhusSomali



Diversity in the City of Smiles

AarhusSomali is an umbrella organisation for 13 Somali associations in Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark with 335.000 inhabitants. A little more than 4.000, living here, have their roots in Somalia, over half of them are children, most of them born in Aarhus.

AarhusSomali has existed since May 2010, where it organized its first big Somali Cultural Festival in The Concert Hall Aarhus with 400 participants, half with Danish and half with Somali origin.

In 2010 AarhusSomali also launched the website aarhusomali.dk, which since has been telling about the life of the Somali-Danes living in Aarhus, called: "The City of Smiles".



www.aarhusomali.dk

Somali cultural festivals

AarhuSomali has organized a number of cultural festivals in order to enjoy our own culture and proudly present it to the rest of Aarhus, in 2010 and twice in 2013 with Maryam Mursal, Hadraawi and other Somali cultural personalities.



AarhuSomali has organized several public meetings with a wide range of current topics, like the situation in Somalia and the Danish immigration laws. Before parliamentary and municipal elections, in 2011, 2013 and 2015 we have arranged election meetings.

Taking active part in society



AarhuSomali is working hard to provide better conditions for the Somalis living in Aarhus

and to encourage active participating in society on all levels. A very big obstacle for all this is the prejudice against Somalis in Denmark.

Taking part in the public debate

While the associations behind AarhuSomali have their own activities, AarhuSomali is working on the political level with visibility in the public sphere and in the medias. We have raised several political debates concerning racism and other important topics for the Somali minority.

AarhuSomali regularly takes part in the public debate, about how Somalis are living and behaving, in order to fight prejudice. This has been done with press releases, frequently quoted in the medias, and on the website aarhusomali.dk. The AarhuSomali spokesmen have often been interviewed for television, radio and newspapers - Danish and international.

Supporting education for children

AarhuSomali has organized homework cafés for Somali schoolchildren, with economical support from The Ministry of Integration and Social Affairs.

AarhuSomali has for Aarhus Municipality suggested action and projects concerning anti-radicalization and social problems related to khat-chewing.

For several years AarhuSomali has had a very good cooperation and dialogue with The Embassy of The United States of Amerika in Denmark.



Awards and public recognition

For the great effort with the homework cafés, Aarhus Municipality in 2011 nominated AarhuSomali for the very prestigious Integration Award from The Ministry of Integration and Social Affairs.

The same year Mulki Hussein, then member of the AarhuSomali coordination committee, was nominated for the Danish award, "The heroe of the year", and in 2012 Mulki Hussein was nominated for the Aarhus Municipality Integration Award.



In 2015 AarhuSomali was nominated to Fællesskabsprisen (The Community Award) which is country-wide and very prestigious.



In 2017 the former spokesman for AarhuSomali, Abdirahman Iidle, was awarded as "The social activist of the year 2016" in social housing areas in Aarhus.

