

# International Newsletter 01/16





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**Hordaland County Council** is responsible for county policies within the following fields: Higher secondary education, cultural affairs, public transport, dental health, economic development and regional planning, including the development of the road system.

Hordaland County Council is involved in many international projects and activities. Our region has signed cooperation agreements with several partner regions abroad. The «Hordaland class» programme gives an opportunity for Upper secondary school students in Hordaland, to study in several of these partner regions for one school year. We also cooperate with other countries as a member of European organisations. The County Mayor of Hordaland has been elected as president of the North Sea Commission and the NSC secretariat has been set up in Hordaland. We are also member of West Norway Office, one of six Norwegian regional offices in Brussels. EU-programmes such as Interreg and Erasmus+ are among the most important tools for internationalisation in Hordaland.

Hordaland County Council publishes an International Newsletter twice a year, giving you a short introduction to the county's international activities over the previous six months. The list is not extensive, but nevertheless we hope it gives an idea of the breadth of international activities that take place within our region.

All photos are produced by Hordaland County Council, unless otherwise stated.  
For more information: [www.hordaland.no/internasjonalt](http://www.hordaland.no/internasjonalt)  
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**Front page:** *Trolltunga in Odda, Hordaland. Hordaland County Council is delighted to be joining ASCENT, a project under the Interreg -Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The ASCENT project seeks to explore new concepts for balancing tourism, cultural and economic interests with environmental needs. Hordaland's case in the project will be the Trolltunga region in Odda, which has become an iconic travel destination worldwide.*

**Photographer:** *Scott Sporleder/Matador Network/Fjord Norge*

# 1. OUR PARTNER REGIONS

## Normandy, France

### The Atlantic Wall, a part of our European history

*Why should the remnants of the Atlantic Wall be preserved and how can World War II memorials be presented to the public? These were two of the discussion topics at the workshop: «Making the Atlantic Wall a meaningful place of remembrance, a part of our heritage».*

Museum Vest in Hordaland and the French institution "La Fabrique de patrimoines" initiated this workshop on 3rd-4th June 2016 in Caen, Normandy. Around eighty representatives from different European institutions participated in the workshop and exchanged experiences and views on this topic.

Elizabeth Warren from Hordaland County Council participated in the workshop:

–It is important to gather knowledge about dissemination, research and management of the war memorials, and discuss how this is done in different countries. The Atlantic Wall is a part of our European history and heritage.

This workshop shows how international cooperation projects can develop. Museum Vest had their first initial meetings in Caen in 2012, which resulted in a common photo-exhibition in 2014. This has now grown into a network of institutions from many countries in Europe with the Atlantic Wall as a common theme for cooperation. At the foundation of everything lies the cooperation agreement signed by Hordaland County Council and Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie in 1993.

Hordaland County Council was one of the financial contributors to the workshop. Two Norwegian students from Bergen Academy of Art and Design made photographs of war memorials which they will use for an exhibition in the future.



*Military and historic reconstruction of parachutists on D-Day in La Fièvre, near Sainte-Mère-Église, Normandy.*

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### The Atlantic Wall

- An extensive system of coastal defence and fortifications built by Nazi Germany 1942 and 1944 along the coast of continental Europe and Scandinavia.
- Defence against an anticipated Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe from Great Britain during World War II. When the Allies eventually invaded the Normandy beaches in 1944, most of the defences were stormed within hours.
- Today, ruins of the wall exist in all of the nations where the wall was built, although many structures have fallen into the ocean or have been demolished over the years.
- Example in Hordaland: Fjell Fortress  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic\\_Wall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Wall)



### Hordaland-Normandy student exchange

*Jorid Skiple coordinates the student exchanges between Hordaland and Normandy. She is a French teacher at Voss Upper Secondary School. We asked her some questions about the school year 2015–2016:*

#### How did it go for the students from Hordaland in Normandy?

It has, as usual, been an exciting and rewarding year for our students in France. This year eleven lucky students from ten different schools in Hordaland completed their second year of upper secondary education (Vg2) at a lycée in Normandy. The students go now straight into the final school year (Vg3) in Hordaland again.

#### Which schools do they go to and how are they accommodated during the school year?

The students go to four schools in different parts of Normandy, Northwest France. Two of the schools are located in Caen, while the other two are situated in smaller cities in the Southern and Western part of the region, Argentan and Coutances. The students live at boarding school during the week and in host families during the weekends.



The Hordaland Class in France 2015–2016

### Hordaland has also hosted students from Normandy. Can you tell us more about it?

For the second consecutive year, Normandy sent students to Hordaland. Five students, one boy and four girls, went to Voss Upper Secondary School during five weeks in February and March. During the Winter-holidays they were hosted by Stord Upper Secondary School. The French students attended ordinary education in a Vg1-class, and they had extra Norwegian language lessons. Norway has not the same boarding school system as in France, so the students stayed with host families the whole time. Some of the students lived high in the mountains and others by the deep fjords, and on the island of Stord they also experienced our coast. So they experienced varied nature and activities in our region and they were very satisfied with their stay.

### What are the benefits of these student exchanges between Hordaland and Normandy?

Student exchanges have many positive effects. Not only can you learn a language fluently and get insight into another culture, you also learn a lot about yourself and how to cope with challenges. The advantage of travelling to a non-English-speaking country is the enormous language learning potential. It may be difficult in the beginning, but it turns into a victory when you understand and manage the foreign language better after a while. It is fantastic that Hordaland County Council sends 10-14 students to France every year. They come back with advanced skills in French language, society and culture. This helps the students to be well prepared for

further studies, work and career, and also strengthens other foreign language abilities.

### What are the plans for the coming school year?

In the autumn, 14 new students will travel to Normandy and take part of their upper secondary education in France. We have established good cooperation with the region and the schools in Normandy, and they also want to continue to send more students to Hordaland. As this is a student exchange between Hordaland County and the region of Normandy, more upper secondary schools in Hordaland will get the possibility of hosting French students in the coming years.

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## Artist in residence

*The Normandy-Hordaland cooperation agreement opens up fantastic opportunities for recently graduated artists. Every other year the region of Normandy hosts an artist from Hordaland and the following year it is vice versa. This year Hordaland had a Normandy artist in residence for several months.*

Conseil Régional de Normandie, Hordaland County Council, Esam Caen/Cherbourg and Bergen Academy of Art and Design cooperate on the exchange of artists. The artists receive a scholarship from their respective regional councils, and both accommodation and access to an atelier are arranged for.

In January 2016 the artist, Margot Canneviere, arrived in Hordaland and stayed for three months. On behalf of Hordaland County Council, Hordaland Art Centre followed up on the artist and introduced her into the art- and design world of Hordaland.

–I enjoyed my stay in the beautiful city of Bergen very much. I learned different techniques, especially serigrafi was interesting, and I got good feedback on my Open Studio. I left Bergen with new project ideas, so this stay was very constructive for my work, says Margot Canneviere.

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*Open Studio in Bergen. Photographer: Margot Canneviere.*





West Mainland Strathspey & Reel Society from Orkney Islands, performed in the heart of Bergen, at Torgallmenningen.

## Orkney Islands, Scotland

### Musicians from Orkney perform in the Bergen and Voss

*In June this year 23 members of the West Mainland Strathspey & Reel Society (WMSRS) flew from Orkney to Bergen. They decided to go to Bergen and Voss because they had made many friends and contacts through Orkney's twinning with Hordaland and the Orkney Norway Friendship Association.*

They first travelled to Voss for three days, where they had a concert with Bygdaklang, the choir who had visited Orkney previously. In Bergen they performed at Gamle Bergen, joined with the Sotra Folk dance group and finally played at Torgallmenningen in the Centre of Bergen.

Ishbel Borland from WMSRS says:

–We want to thank Hordaland County Council for getting us the required permit to play at Torgallmenningen and even finding out about where to plug in our electric piano!

–This was our third visit and we had a wonderful time, making new friends and catching up with those we already knew. Hopefully these friendships will flourish as our youngsters are already planning our next visit!

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## Kaunas, Lithuania

### Kaunas meets Hordaland at the Hanseatic Days in Bergen

*A delegation from the Hanseatic City of Kaunas visited the 36th International Hanseatic Days in Bergen and took the opportunity to hold a meeting with Hordaland County Council.*

Since the two cooperation partners met last time, new politicians have entered the scene on both sides. Vice County Mayor of Hordaland, Pål Kårbø, hosted the meeting in Bergen. On the agenda was the exchange of information between our organisations on current affairs, policies and priorities in general. More specifically, recent developments in the field of cultural affairs were discussed, like Kaunas' bid to become European Capital of Culture in 2022, which also has received political endorsement from Hordaland County Council.

Face-to-face meetings are very important for international cooperation, as it strengthens our partnership and mutual understanding.



*"It's Kaunastic" – at the stand of Kaunas City at the 36th International Hanseatic Days in Bergen, 9-12 June 2016, from the left: Visvaldas Varžinskas, Chairman of Committee of Sustainable Development and Investments, Darius Razmislėvičius, Chairman of Health Protection of Social Affairs Committee, and Inga Pažerėkaitė, Chief specialist for tourism issues.*



*Kaunas meets Hordaland, from the left: Albinas Vilčinskas, Head of Culture Division; Kjell Håland, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Culture, Sports and Regional Development; Inga Pažereckaitė, Chief specialist for tourism issues; Kathrin Jakobsen, Head of Section for Research, Internationalisation and Analysis; Darius Razmislevičius, Chairman of Health Protection of Social Affairs Committee; Visvaldas Varžinskas, Chairman of Committee of Sustainable Development and Investments, Pål Kårbo, Vice County Mayor, and Per-Morten Ekerhovd, Director of Department of Culture & Sports.*

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## Erasmus+ conference in Kaunas

*“What are the benefits of an international partnership to students’ achievements?” was the main topic addressed at an Erasmus+ conference, organised by the City of Kaunas and Kaunas in-service-teacher-trainer centre, in Lithuania.*

In April this year, Hordaland County Council was invited to participate at an international conference in Kaunas. The aim of the conference was to share experiences of, and encourage participation in international projects, and to discuss the benefits such projects can have on improving students’ achievements. In addition to local school authorities and guests from Kaunas City’s partners, representatives from Kaunas City educational institutions and international participants from Norway, Finland and Estonia were invited to attend and give speeches at the conference.

### School visits

The participants were also invited to visit some of the schools in Kaunas. As well as giving a better understanding of the Lithuanian school system, these visits allowed for deeper insight into the various international projects. The schools showed how they involve teachers, pupils and parents in various projects and how project results were displayed and disseminated. One school had also introduced 3D-imaging as a technological aid in teaching subjects such as Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.

–The days spent in Kaunas created a great arena for discussing and sharing experiences on a range of different topics within the Erasmus+ programme, as well as providing great networking opportunities, concluded the participants from Hordaland County Council, Lene Fjeldsbø and Marit Einen.

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## Kaunas and Hordaland focus on anti-corruption

*“Good models for public administration and services” was on the agenda when six Lithuanian municipalities from the Kaunas region visited Hordaland 16th -17th June 2016. Both politicians and professionals, in total 40 persons, had a two-day busy programme on anti-corruption work, strategic planning, social and health care services, and cooperation between municipalities.*

The aim of this EEA Grants project is to increase administrative competences, exchange experiences and good models, and show how public administration, processes and services are carried out by local and regional authorities in Norway. Lithuanian Regional Research Institute in Kaunas is the coordinator and the project is based on the cooperation agreement signed by Hordaland County Council and Kaunas City in 1998.

In Hordaland County Council (HCC), Tor Dølvik from Transparency International Norway gave a presentation on principles and organisation of anti-corruption work. The ethical guidelines in HCC, Kvam and Fjell municipalities were exemplified as “real life” cases.

Another topic that also attracted great interest was the presentation of strategic planning and cooperation between regional and local authorities in Hordaland.

### Municipal cooperation

The delegation also visited the municipalities of Fjell and Kvam. Main topics were municipal planning, development of regional centers, social and health care services and cooperation between municipalities. Rimantas Dupkas gave a general presentation of the six Lithuanian municipalities participating in the project. The Lithuanians raised many questions and were eager to discuss the differences in our cultures and on how the local administrations work. Guided visits to Fjell Fortress, Sotra Arena and Steinsdalsfossen were met with enthusiasm and gave time for networking and small talk. The Lithuanian municipalities also exchanged some first ideas with Kvam and Fjell on future cooperation.

In addition to Hordaland, the Lithuanian delegation also visited Sogndal and Oslo.

As part of the project, best practices from Norway will be presented at the final conference in Kaunas, in autumn 2016.



*Project coordinator professor Rimantas Dupkas, Lithuanian Regional Institute/ Kaunas Technological University, giving a presentation at Hordaland County Council.*

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The Lithuanian delegation together with representatives from Hordaland County Council and Fjell Municipality.



For more information about EEA, see page:26.

## Cardiff, Wales

### Sound like true Cardiffians

*– The Hordaland students in Wales are usually the only Norwegians in their class, the but they are met with warm and genuine kindness by teachers and class mates. It doesn't take long before they are well integrated and have made a lot of friends. They pick up the accent quickly, and by the end of the year they sound like true Cardiffians.*

This is the experience of Hege Cruickshank at Knarvik Upper Secondary School. She coordinates the Hordaland Class in Wales. In the school year 2015–2016, 13 students from different schools in Hordaland attended five different schools in Cardiff and Barry.

In addition to school and homework, the students have visited different parts of Wales and seen villages, beaches, cliffs and rivers. They have tried different extreme sports, like parachuting, paddled canoes down the river Wye and had a go at sports like netball and rugby. They have been invited by Cardiff County to visit Cardiff Castle, and they have explored the city of Cardiff during daytime and nighttime.

### Grass, sheep and Welsh people

In October the Hordaland class went for their traditional tour around Wales, where they got to see "grass, sheep and Welsh people", as Eirin Haugsvær Monsen put it in her speech at the Farewell Reception in the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay. Lady Mayor was present, and she enjoyed a great show put together by the students, who wished to express their gratitude for everything they had experienced during their year in Wales.

Their last exams were in the middle of June, and then it was time to leave Cardiff for now. But some of them have already booked tickets for their next visit to Cardiff this autumn, and some are determined to come back to Cardiff in a couple of years to study.



In front of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay, the Hordaland Class in Wales, together with the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Monica Walsh and Lady Mayoress Mrs Maria Harvey.

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## Hordaland class

Hordaland class is an exchange programme open to all students from Hordaland who have completed the first year of upper secondary school (Vg1) within specialisation in General studies or Electronics. After the school year abroad the students return to Hordaland and are either accepted into a third and final school year (Vg3) or into work practice (Electronics).

### How Many?

71 "Hordaland class" students spent their Vg2 school year abroad during the school year 2015–16.

### Cooperative countries

Four secondary schools in Hordaland coordinate the "Hordaland class" programme and follow-up the students abroad. The second year students can attend schools in:

- Cardiff, Wales UK (13 students)
- Erfurt, Germany (17 students)
- Normandy, France (11 students)
- Missouri, USA (25 students)

### Why?

The aim of the "Hordaland class" programme is to give students in Hordaland the opportunity to live and go to school abroad. Increased knowledge of languages, intercultural competence and new friendships and networks will equip the students with highly valuable skills regarding the global and multicultural society.

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## Thüringen, Germany

### A rewarding school year in Thüringen

*– It has been a very rewarding school year, says Margrete Valle. She is one of nine Electricity and electronics students who have taken their second year of upper secondary school in Thüringen, Germany. – It was a lot of hard work, but we have learned a lot and become more mature.*

Last year Margrete, from Os in Hordaland, completed her first year of upper secondary school at Bergen Maritime Upper Secondary School, but she longed for new challenges and decided to apply for a school year abroad. After an interview with the coordinating school, Askøy Upper Secondary School,



*In the middle, Margrete Valle, right after receiving her diploma at Erfurt City Hall, accompanied by two employees from the enterprise where she was apprentice: Elektro Schröder. Women in male-dominated professions!*

she was accepted to undertake her second year in Germany. – We started the school year at Askøy with two months of intensive language learning before leaving for Germany at the end of October. It was hard in the beginning as everything was in German, but we just had to get stuck into it and start using the language.

The Hordaland students could choose between three specialisations: Electrical Power, Computer and Electronics, and Automation. A normal day at Andreas Gordon Schule lasted from eight o'clock till half past two.

### More formal

–The people in Germany are more formal, and we noticed that the students had more respect for each other than we are used to in Norway. The educational system is generally more theoretical. They taught us both theory and calculations, but we also had work placements in different enterprises for three weeks.

### Margrete enjoyed her stay in Germany very much.

– Erfurt is a beautiful and open city about the same size as Bergen. It is an old city and almost all buildings survived the bombings of World War II. There were a lot of events in the city, such as the Christmas Market. In our spare time we played football and did rock climbing. We felt very included and well taken care of, and we managed to get many friends and learn more German.

At the end of the year the Norwegian students received their diploma at the Erfurt City Hall. Fellow students, school representatives as well as the enterprises, which had hosted them as apprentices, were also present.

### All passed their exams

Liv Skipenes at Askøy Upper Secondary School, coordinates the Hordaland Classes in Thüringen and she visited the students in Thüringen regularly.

– Askøy Upper Secondary School has sent students to Germany since 2007. We are very proud that all the students passed their exams. The students are extraordinarily nice and eager to learn, and it is very exciting to work with this project, says Liv.



The students returned to Hordaland in the middle of May, where they continued their school year, spending two days a week in an enterprise and three days at Askøy Upper Secondary school completing subjects such as Norwegian, English and Social Studies. The students also have to write a final report about their stay abroad, and take a final German exam, both oral and written.

–This autumn I will start my apprenticeship to become an electrician, and afterwards I can continue studying to become an engineer or a civil engineer. I would recommend others to apply for the Hordaland class in Erfurt, but you have to be prepared to work hard. It is not a vacation, emphasises Margrete Valle.

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*Happy Electricity and Electronics students from Hordaland, celebrating their final exam at a cafe in Erfurt.*

## Edinburgh, Scotland

### The Bergen Pavilion in the Pop-Up Cities Expo in Edinburgh

*From June to August 2016, Edinburgh's Mound Square was transformed into a village of city pavilions representing Bergen, Dundee, Rotterdam, Vilnius and host city Edinburgh. The impressive installations attracted an audience close to 115,000 as a headline event of the Festival of Architecture.*

As a follow up to the discussions during the annual Christmas celebrations in Edinburgh in November 2015 (arranged by The Royal Norwegian Consulate and Hordaland County Council) the City of Bergen was invited to contribute to the Festival of Architecture 2016. The Festival is a year-long, Scotland-wide

celebration led by The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), bringing Scottish architecture to life. The festival is a key part of the 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, with more than over 400 events taking place.

The City of Bergen, in cooperation with The Bergen Academy of Art and Design (Kunsthøgskolen), Hordaland County Council and The Norwegian State Housing Bank (Husbanken), decided to organise a pavilion at the Pop-up Cities Expo 2016 in Edinburgh.

The Expo was a real highlight of the year-long Festival of Architecture. Neil Baxter, CEO of RIAS, said:

–This exhibition attracted nearly four times the expected audience which was estimated on the basis of past events in this fantastic location. This is due to the tremendous quality of the five pavilions, the sense of intrigue created by the 'stockade' designed by Collective Architecture, the public interest in innovative architecture and a very big sign declaring, «welcome».

After the closing date, Bergen's pavilion was gifted to Scotland and it is planned to relocate it at the Helix in Falkirk, beside The Kelpies.

The Expo was an excellent opportunity to put Hordaland on display. The pavilion, being derived from the pedagogical approach developed by the annual Bergen International Wood Festival, was constructed on-site from wood by the team from the Bergen Academy of Arts and Design, emphasizing green city development in the county capital.

The event also included the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop. She participated in the Cities talk in July, where Commissioner for City Development in the City of Bergen, Anna Elisa Tryti and Professor Petter Bergerud at The Bergen Academy of Art and Design gave separate lectures on city development issues and the design of expressive wood constructions.



*Seen from the Bergen Pavilion: Neil Baxter, RIAS, shows the Edinburgh Pavilion (Konishi Gaffney Architects) to Anna Elisa Tryti og Peter Hatlebakk, Bergen municipality and Petter Bergerud, Bergen Academy of Art and Design.*

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## Visit from Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI)

*Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation aims to bring low carbon leaders and practitioners from business, finance and the public sector together to turn good ideas into reality. Last year Ed Craig from ECCI took Vice County Mayor Pål Kårbø and two other representatives from Hordaland County Council on a guided tour at the award winning energy efficiency hub in Edinburgh. This year, Edinburgh Centre's Head of Enterprise & Innovation was received by Hordaland.*

Following the meetings arranged by David Windmill, Honorary Norwegian Consul General in Edinburgh in November 2015, Ed Craig from Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation visited Bergen 25th -26th of April 2016. While Hordaland County Council was his host, he had meetings with several organizations in the fields of research, innovation and regional development.

The method for low carbon innovation that Ed Craig presented, gave inspiration and was met with special interest from Bergen Technology Transfer <https://bergento.no/>. ECCI collaborates with government, enterprise and academics to help craft smart climate and energy policy. ECCI runs a range of projects, learning programmes and initiatives that get businesses, organisations and individuals working together in new ways for a low carbon future.



*Ed Craig (left) presented ECCI's method for low carbon innovation to academia and business developers in Bergen, Hordaland. He was met with special interest from Bergen Technology Transfer, here represented by project manager Hans Fredrik Hag.*

–We can only create a better, healthier, safer future if we have the right people, ideas, technology and resources collaborating to make it happen, says Ed Craig from ECCI. <http://edinburgh-centre.org/>

Time will tell if there is future cooperation between our two regions on low carbon innovation ahead.

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## 2. COOPERATION THROUGH EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS



*North Sea Commission News Flash*

*25th Annual Business Meeting*

*71st Executive Committee Meeting*

*Preparatory action event in Den Haag*





The Legoland Declaration – “Building blocks for the future” was adopted as a follow up to the Assen Declaration from 2015 and is meant as a general statement for the Commission and other European bodies, as well as our national governments, calling for closer and better coordinated cooperation among the member states around the North Sea in order to realise our potential and protect our natural resources.

#### Preparatory Action Den Haag

DG MARE hosted the second event under Preparatory Action on 20th–21st June 2016 in The Hague. The aim of the workshop was to find new and better ways to develop strategic cooperation for the North Sea as a region. The workshop discussed what forms such a platform for cooperation could take and what content the stakeholders would like to see in such a cooperation platform. Among the keynote speakers were Donne Slangen from the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Environment, Claus Schultze from DG Mare, and Marcella Smyth, Chair of the Atlantic Strategy Group. NSC President, Kerstin Brunnström, summed up the event by focusing on the needs that had been uncovered during the event including the need for a clear political will and direction, using the North Sea Region 2020 Strategy as an example.

#### New NSC secretariat

Following the presidential election, the NSC secretariat moves to Västra Götaland.

For more news, documents and forthcoming events, go to [www.northsea.org](http://www.northsea.org)

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#### North Sea Conference in Billund

15th–17th June 2016 the region of Southern Denmark hosted the North Sea Conference in Billund. Over 350 delegates gathered for 30 different workshops and sessions. NSC hosted three workshops during the conference including:

- a workshop on Blue Growth and Smart Specialisation. Speakers were Dr. Irene McMaster from European Policies Research Centre, and Damien Périssé from CPMR.
- North Sea Interegg project NorthSEE held a workshop moderated by Lodewijk Abspoel from the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment about how to involve stakeholders in Marine Spatial Planning processes.
- Vice-President John Lamb moderated a workshop giving an overview of NSC achievements and processes over the past two year.

#### 25th Annual Business Meeting

Cllr Kerstin Brunnström from Västra Götaland was elected President for the NSC 2016–2018 and Cllr Andreas Lervik from Østfold fylkeskommune was elected Vice-President 2016–2018.

The Secretariat presented the revised North Sea Region 2020 Strategy. The revision process has taken two years and has involved external expert, Dr. Irene McMaster from European Policies Research Centre at Strathclyde University. The revised strategy is now more streamlined and updated in relation to the current political status and the current challenges the members face.

Examples of best practice, “North Sea Region in numbers” statistical document and the updated action plan will be added as addendums to the strategy paper.



*The Hordaland secretariat wishes to thank everyone for all cooperation the last two years, and good luck with the work ahead!*

## 3. PROJECTS



### Interreg V B – North Sea Region

#### Update from National Contact Point for Interreg North Sea Region Programme VB

Hordaland County Council hosts the National Contact Point for North Sea Region Programme. The contact point is part of a network of all participating countries in the programme area and gives support and advice to Norwegian project applicants and project participants.

The Steering Committee approved 12 full project applications and 25 Expressions of Interest at the first meeting in November last year. The programme has now allocated about 16% of the programme budget which amounts in total to € 167 million. The programme launched the second call for project applications in the spring and project applicants could once again apply under phase one and submit an Expression of Interest. Earlier approved Expressions of Interest could also now apply as full projects. 46 Expressions of Interest and 25 full applications were submitted within the deadline. Norwegian partners are very active in the programme area and 13 of the full projects included Norwegian partners. Results from this round will be known in November.

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### Interreg V B – Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme Area

#### Hordaland joins ASCENT

*The ASCENT project seeks to explore new concepts for balancing tourism, cultural and economic interests with environmental needs. Hordaland County Council is delighted to be joining ASCENT, a project under the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The project's lead partner is Donegal County Council and Hordaland will be joining the project as a partner together with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Northern Ireland), Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland and Gaeltacht Regional Authority (Ireland) and Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (United Kingdom). ASCENT is set to start in September 2016.*

The ASCENT (Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools) project will bring together local and environmental

*Trolltunga in Odda, Hordaland. Photo from Scott Sporleder/Matador Network/ Fjord Norge*



authorities to collectively address the environmental challenges facing the conservation and enhancement of areas of natural beauty in the partner regions. The ASCENT project will develop management plans across the programme area to assist local authorities and other stakeholders to monitor these sites and implement innovative measures to ensure their economic and environmental sustainability. It will seek to explore new concepts for balancing tourism, cultural and economic interests with environmental needs.

Project outputs include learning, exchange of ideas and measures to arrest the decline and degradation of Natura 2000 sites and other sites caused by unregulated / unrestricted access to mountains.

### Trolltunga

Hordaland's case in the project will be the Trolltunga region in Odda, which has become an iconic travel destination worldwide. The trademark troll's tongue rock formation has, in spite of being only accessible via a 22 km round trip on foot, attracted as many as 80 000 visitors in 2015. The area's location on the border of the Hardangervidda national park at 1100 metres above sea level makes the area vulnerable to the impact of hikers in large numbers. Most importantly, the difficulties in regulating access to the area represents a danger to the many hikers who set out without suitable equipment, fitness level or understanding and respect for natural elements.

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## Two new Économusées in Hordaland

*The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Monica Mæland, officially opened the 11th new Économusée in Norway on 16th April, the Oleana textile factory. Oleana produces woolen fabrics of good quality and patterns with a special history. The textile company has 70 employees and has large floor areas at historic industrial buildings at Ytre Arna, just outside city centre of Bergen, at their disposal. The Minister of Trade and Industry is very impressed with the investment and enthusiasm of Oleana in setting up a new Économusée visitor centre in Hordaland.*

### The Craft Reach project

Hordaland County Council brought the concept of Économusée from Canada to Europe in 2007. The Interreg Craft Reach/Économusée project is funded by the NPA Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme and is in its 3rd phase. The Council has been Lead Partner of the Économusée project for almost eight years. However, The Royal Norwegian Society in Western Norway ("Norges Vel"), as the new Lead partner, now administrates the project. Hordaland County Council provides economic and staff support to the project implementation.

By the end of the current Craft Reach project, the Économusée Northern Europe network will have more than 75 artisan members in eight countries. This is a fantastic target for the work over the next three years. The EU project is progressing well on the West coast of Norway.

### Family company

–Oleana is a relatively newly established company of 25 years. It is also a family company that develops their own designs and produces quality products; a company that manages to compete in a difficult market both in Norway and internationally. We wish to see more family companies like this in Norway. Oleana is also a textile company of which there are almost none left in Norway. Today the Government has also received many good inputs to our industrial policy, said Minister Monica Mæland when she cut the ribbon for the official opening.

### A living heritage

Leader of the Economic Development section in Hordaland County Council, Mette Nora Sætre, responded that we would like to see more of these kinds of companies under development in the county:

– Oleana produces modern garments with traditional machinery and handicrafts. This is not a museum but a living sustainable company. It has become a member of the Norwegian family of Économusée companies which work together and learn and support each other as visitor centres. There will be four more Économusées to come on the West Coast before the end of the Craft Reach project and the next will open in Bergen in August.

### The next Économusée

The next Économusée "Arven" will officially open 26th August, in the city centre of Bergen. Theodor Olsen started making silver products in 1868. Today the company Arven covers the entire range from plates used for the winner of the prestigious international Bocuse D'Or competition in gastronomy to solid silver cutlery or baby's first shoes, coated in real silver.

The workmanship is second to none. From daybreak to sunset, these artisans are at work, producing the most wonderful designs in jewellery, vases or goblets. Precious metals surrender their obstinacy to Theodor Olsen's creations in a way hard to match anywhere. This company is committed to keeping the highly specialised craft alive for future generations. <http://www.arven.no/>



*On a guided tour at the new Économusée textile factory Oleana. From the left, the Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry Monica Mæland, Mette Nora Sætre from Hordaland County Council and one of Oleana's owners Signe Aarhus. Helga Stang is sitting at the sewing machine.*



**Économusée**

An Économusée showcases traditional trades and know-how by promoting the establishment of Économusée. An Économusée company must fulfill the following criteria:

- Use of a traditional craft technique (know-how or savoir-faire) in its production
- Production of traditional and/or contemporary products with cultural connotation
- Open doors to the public in order to promote its know-how and its craft people
- Has a site designed for the animation and interpretation of its production

[www.economusee.eu/](http://www.economusee.eu/)



## Erasmus+ Staff Mobility

Spring 2016 Hordaland County Council sent a total of 47 employees on staff placements through the Erasmus+ Mobility programme. As the programme strongly encourages cross-sectorial cooperation, most of the staff projects have been group/network mobilities. They have mainly been coordinated by competence organisations with sectoral cooperation as part of their mission.

In line with the County's strategies for regional development, we are using these mobilities to enhance competence, strengthen regional and European cooperation and exchange of best practice. We promote and support staff mobility projects in the different sectors that aim to involve VET schools in their work for sustainable regional development. The staff projects have especially focused on cooperation between VET schools, public sector, sectoral alliances and businesses. For example, this spring we have supported projects on: established European network within the fish monger industry, support of innovation in the healthcare sector, reduction of skills gap, learning new skills in VET and exchange of models for preventing early school leaving.

In the 2016 call for proposals we were awarded approximately 50 staff mobilities.

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## Competence development for fishmongers

*Norwegian fishmongers went to Sweden to get more experience on how to strengthen marked position by differentiating specialist stores. Twelve different enterprises and organisations were represented in the Hordaland delegation. The Erasmus+ mobility to Gothenburg was a valuable experience for the fish monger network "Smak av kysten", which is about to be established.*

In Norway there is a decrease in the number of fishmongers and specialist stores. Through the network "Smak av kysten" (translated in English: "Taste of the coast") a selection of the specialist stores intend to cooperate on competence development in order to strengthen their attractiveness. This will be done by sharing best practice and shared measures on marked and product development. Two of the most central aspects are strengthening recruitment and common educational practices.

In order to gather experience from a comparative marked the group went to Gothenburg in Sweden 24th-26th April 2016. The group visited several stores and a fish auction, and held several meetings with Göteborgs Fiskehandlereförening and Sjömatfrämjandet. During the meetings different challenges and opportunities were discussed, and the Norwegian delegation got valuable information giving inspiration to the further work on competence and marked development back home in Hordaland.

Many stakeholders participated in this Erasmus+ financed mobility project: Fish Me, Fiskekroken Sjøfisk, Knutstad Holen, Snorre Seafood, Fjellskål Fisketorget, Hav Fisk & Skaldyr, HJ Kyvik, Fiskekompaniet, Sjømathuset, Opplæringskontoret for fiskerifag i Hordaland, Hordaland fylkeskommune, og Matarena – Smak av kysten. <http://www.smakavkysten.no/>



Competence development for Norwegian fishmongers in Sweden

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*The Hordaland delegation visits Jac Nijskens (on the right), director of Historische Groentehof in Beesel, the Netherlands, together with project coordinator Vincent Freriks (in the middle).*

## Creative agricultural sector in The Netherlands

*A group from Hordaland visited Maas en Peel municipality, Limburg, 25th-27th April 2016, as part of an Erasmus+ mobility project. The objective was to get acquainted with good practice and innovation in the agriculture field and to learn more about a new model for frontline services in the local community. Participants were representatives from Stend Upper Secondary School, Farmers' Union in Hordaland and HCC. The Dutch coordinator was our long time cooperation partner, the public library in Maas en Peel.*

Some of the main agricultural products in the region are asparagus, all kinds of berries, fruit trees, horses, roses, grapes, meat and milk. The municipality is also a member of the "Region of the taste": [www.regioandesmaak.nl](http://www.regioandesmaak.nl).

It was especially interesting to see how successful actors had created an innovative concept of plural activities supporting one another, for example: combining farming with a farm shop and cafe/restaurant/catering, offering accommodation and play area for children, for some of them including also a smaller children's farm.

They also accentuated the importance of cooperation with other local actors to develop successful businesses. One of the actors was the Fleuren nursery which is the main deliverer of apple trees to farms in Hardanger.

The group also wanted to take a closer look at the Dutch concept of children's farms ("Kinderboerderijen"). These are varying in size and are often situated in towns, parks, or in the middle of residential areas etc. They are often financed by public money and sponsors, and for the most part run by dedicated volunteers. The farms function as competence centres on domestic animals and are visited by a large number of school children and kindergartens throughout the year. One of the larger ones (Hagenhoef) had special focus on employing and educating young people with social challenges and was also running a cafe/restaurant.

The group also had meetings with the agricultural Upper Secondary School and College Citaverde and HAS High School and looked into possible future cooperation, such as the exchange of teachers and students.

Not least, it was impressive to see the newly opened low-threshold front line services in Maas en Peel town hall, which gave the group ideas to take home to our own regional and local public services. Here the inhabitants could meet representatives for all main services anonymously in small cubicles at the large ground floor. They could get a cup of coffee, order passports, address health care and educational questions, refugees and residence permit issues etc. The top modern public library was the very heart of this great seamless meeting place.

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Project leader Ulrica Bjørnar in Göteborg presents welfare technology solutions at a newly established showcase apartment.

## Dental care and Welfare technology – study visit to Sweden

*Centre for Development of Institutional and Home based Services in Hordaland (USHT) hopes to strengthen their competences on Dental care and Welfare technology. The Erasmus+ Mobility programme enabled them financially to send a delegation to Sweden and to get a stronger link with colleagues in their neighbour country.*

The aim was to increase competences and education in these fields in order to secure high quality public services. The delegation consisted of representatives from Åsane Upper Secondary School, Hordaland County Council – Dental services, University in Bergen, Bergen and Tysnes Municipality – Home care services and USHT.

### Very successful visit

–The study visit was very successful. Our Swedish colleagues welcomed us generously and they shared their professional expertise with us. The intention is to follow up on this visit and develop a more formalised cooperation with West Gothenland in the field of Dental care, Welfare technology and exchange of students from upper secondary VET schools. The project has resulted both in stronger regional cooperation within this sector in Hordaland and with our partner organisations in West Gothenland, says Per Waardal from USHT.

USHT has competence development high on the agenda. In the field of dental care they have an ongoing research project, aimed at quality improvement of services offered to patients receiving home care. A network of municipalities exchange competences in the field of Welfare technology.

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## Learning about art handling in Italy

*The development of a new museum of art was the reason for a Hardanger delegation decided to plan a study visit abroad. Odda's Cultural Heritage Consultant, Jorunn Monrad, proposed to travel to Italy and visit highly skilled specialists both in art logistics and restoration. She initiated an Erasmus+ mobility project with the following two aims: to strengthen competences on art logistics and to develop a new subject at Odda Upper Secondary School: "Art handling".*

–We want to build a decent art storage room at the new museum in Hardanger, and the handling of artefacts requires new skills. That's why we would like to offer a new school subject in Odda, both theory and practice. There are few objects that are so difficult to package, transport and handle as objects of art. A student with training in art logistics should therefore have a good chance of getting a job in the transport sector, says Jorunn Monrad.

### Highly skilled

–Italy has highly skilled specialists both in art logistics and restoration, which should not come as a surprise, since half of all the world's art treasures are located in the country. I have lived many years in Italy and have contacts in the art world. It was therefore natural to propose a study visit to Italy, explains Jorunn Monrad.

The Hardanger delegation consisted of representatives from Odda Municipality, Odda Upper Secondary School and Hardanger Council. They visited one of Italy's leading suppliers of materials for curators and artists, Bresciani, and the company Arteria, specialized in the transport and storage of artefacts. In addition, the group visited a school that teaches restoration of art, a restoration workshop and an art gallery.

–We were welcomed with doors wide open. This study visit was crucial for us to build understanding and knowledge about how art should be handled. The group has not only gained insight in this specific subject, but we have also become acquainted with many nice and competent people, concludes Monrad.

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The Odda delegation observes the restoration of a chandelier.



## ERASMUS+ and Hordaland County Council

### What?

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sport. The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth work. Erasmus+ website: [http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm)

### Why?

Erasmus+ will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. It reflects the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

### How?

Hordaland County Council applies for financial support every year in order to provide for:

- Training placements for students and apprentices within Vocational Education and Training (Erasmus+ VET Learners' Mobility)
- Staff in charge of Vocational Education and Training (Erasmus+ VET Staff Mobility)
- Youth and youth workers (Erasmus+: Youth in Action)

## 4. YOUTH AND INTERNATIONALISATION



Erasmus+

### VET Learners' / Teachers' Mobility

Through the Erasmus+ programme, Hordaland County Council has the opportunity to provide young VET learners (Vocational Education and Training) with international experiences. By participating in various work placements abroad, VET students and apprentices gain important skills and intercultural competences.

In addition to gaining valuable experience in their trade, they also learn how to cooperate and communicate in a foreign language and they become more independent and motivated. All of this will make them better equipped for the international labour market and an increasing multicultural society.

This spring (2016), we have sent 90 VET students and apprentices on various mobility projects all over Europe. The Erasmus+ programme also provides opportunities to give VET teachers international experience and competences, and this year, for the first time, we were pleased to also be able to send two groups of teachers on mobility projects. Both groups were involved in projects concerning healthcare, and they visited

partners in Denmark and Spain. Read more about these, and other, projects in the section below.

In the 2016 call for proposals we have been awarded with approximately 90 mobilities for VET students, apprentices and teachers.

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### Apprenticeship placement at a German University

*– It was interesting to meet German apprentices and compare their training to ours, says Mathilde Andersen. She participated in an Erasmus+ funded vocational training placement at a University in Thüringia, Germany earlier this year, together with Ketdao Naree Fredheim. – I would highly recommend other apprentices to do a training placement abroad, but I suggest that they stay a bit longer than us. Nineteen days seemed like a long time before we left, but towards the end of the training placement we felt that it was a bit short, says Ketdao.*

Through their apprenticeship in Office and Administrative work at the Training Office at Hordaland County Council, Mathilde (19) and Ketdao (18) got the opportunity to take part of their training abroad. Their training placement was at the International Office at the Technical University of Ilmenau (Technische Universität Ilmenau), but to get a better understanding of the organisation as a whole, they worked in different departments at the university. They were acquainted with the



Apprenticeship placement at a German University

administration and the daily routine of the offices, as well as experiencing first-hand how a typical work day is for a German apprentice in Public Administration.

#### Different systems

– A major difference from the Norwegian system is that in Germany they need to have the apprenticeship placement in place before they can attend a vocational training school. They are also offered a position at the training institution for a year after they have completed their training and received their certification, says Ketdao.

During their training placement, Mathilde and Ketdao presented the Norwegian apprenticeship system for the German apprentices. Even though the two of them were a bit apprehensive beforehand, they were very pleased after the presentation. Expressing themselves in a foreign language was both challenging and rewarding. – We did learn a few German words, but mainly the conversations were in English. It was good practice, says Mathilde.

#### Rewarding experience

– The most rewarding experience abroad was that we had to

be very independent and sort things out ourselves. This involved a lot of organising and administration, such as booking travel and accommodation, says Mathilde. The two apprentices lived at a youth hostel close to the university campus.

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### Blacksmith students in the Czech Republic

*Last year, Odda Upper Secondary School established contact with Střední Škola, a large vocational school in Jaromer in the Czech Republic, and this year they were ready to send their two first students on a work placement through the Erasmus+ programme. A few days after returning home, the students competed in the Norwegian Championship for Youth Entrepreneurial Skills, and were placed third in the category for best youth business.*

In April, Jørgen Staal and Nils Gjelland, both training to become blacksmiths, headed off for a two-week work placement in the Czech Republic. The first week of their placement was spent at Střední Škola, while the second week was spent in various blacksmith workshops and at a partner school in Uher-ske Hradiste. The Czech Republic was a natural choice as the country has long traditions within the blacksmith trade and is home to some of the best blacksmiths in Europe.

#### Unique learning experience

The students have learned about traditional and historic developments and practices related to the blacksmith and farrier trades. The students had the opportunity to try different techniques and work with materials they would not have had access to in Norway. They have experienced their trade from several different aspects, and have participated in systematic work where they have followed projects from start to finish, made sculptures and various other products, as well as restoration work and surface treatment. Another new experience



Blacksmith students in the Czech Republic

for Jørgen and Nils was the daily 6 am breakfast meeting at the school with the Czech students and teachers.

Jørgen and Nils felt integrated and very well received in the partner organisations. The receiving institutions were hospitable and eager to share their knowledge and expertise with the Norwegian students. Some of the local students also took responsibility for organising some after work social activities, and their spare time was spent sightseeing and visiting various museums.

A few days after returning home, Jørgen and Nils competed in the Norwegian Championship for Youth Entrepreneurial Skills, and placed third in the category for best youth business: Smidig Ungdomsbedrift.

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## Healthcare for the future

*Two groups of VET teachers took part in two different Erasmus+ mobility projects within the healthcare sector this spring.*

### Active care in Spain

In one of the projects, a group of teachers from Slåtthaug Upper Secondary School visited a childcare centre, a school and two nursing homes in Spain to gain in-depth knowledge about "Active Care", and to learn more about how to incorporate this concept into the professional training of future healthcare workers. The project provided opportunities to see how active care was embedded into the overall treatment scheme in the different institutions they visited.



Healthcare for the future

### Welfare technology in Denmark

In the other project, two upper secondary schools, Askøy and Nordahl Grieg, cooperated with the University College of Bergen and Bergen municipality in establishing contact with Aarhus municipality in Denmark to learn more about welfare technology and its uses in the healthcare sector. In addition to meetings with representatives from the municipality, the teachers visited a nursing home and the educational institution Aarhus Tech. They experienced how welfare technology is used in institutions as well as how students are trained in the profession of developing such technology and devices.

Both projects have inspired the participants to develop their teaching material and methods, and to incorporate their new experiences into various healthcare subjects. In addition, the projects have provided opportunities for further cooperation with the institutions abroad, as well as cooperation among schools and institutions at home.

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## Erasmus+ project "Winds and Tides"

*In 2020, 4% of European electricity will be produced from Marine Renewable Energy. Knarvik Upper Secondary School is participating in the Erasmus+ project Winds and Tides. The project aims to adapt the vocational education and training programme to meet the growing industry of wind and tidal energy. The project partners, in addition to this school in Northern Hordaland, are Conseil Régional de Normandie in France, and Energy Skill Partnership in Scotland.*

The project aims at creating and experimenting a new training offer which is to accompany the development of the growing marine renewable energy industry. At the same time as Research and Development mechanisms are being developed, vocational education and training, initial and ongoing, should be ready to meet new requirements of the companies. The creation of the production units using both wind and tidal power will need the education of more qualified personnel, particularly in terms of installation and maintenance.  
<https://windsandtides.com/>

### Normandy

France's first offshore wind turbines will be installed in the region of Normandy. Moreover plans are made for the experimentation and production of electricity through tidal farms, particularly in the Cotentin area. The region needs to educate competent professionals to operate and maintain these new wind and tidal farms.

### Scotland

Scotland has ambitious aspirations for renewable energy, and has many wind farms on land. More wind farms are planned offshore. Work is ongoing to develop skills and training interventions to support the sector with industry and the public sector identifying and developing new programmes. The ambition however is that these should be international programmes and hence this project is very important.



Wind farm.

### Western coast of Norway

Norway is an oil and gas producing country. Renewable energy has mostly focused on hydro-electricity but cannot expand unlimited as we wish to maintain our nature untouched for future generations. As the "oil age" comes to an end, the enterprises on the western coast of Norway will have to find new markets outside the oil supply industry and focus on renewable energies.

Bjørn Brekkan, international coordinator at Knarvik Upper Secondary School, explains:

–There is not so much marine renewable energy industry around us yet, but our school wants to be prepared for new industries. Our target is to show our students that the (TIP/ electronics) skills taught at our school can be used, not only in traditional industries, but also in other branches. This project can also help the industry identify other possible areas to apply the knowledge and expertise built up in our industry. This project is a great opportunity both for us, Hordaland and the rest of Norway.

### Student exchanges

The partner regions have planned student exchanges. The Norwegian students will visit Scotland in September. During 14 days they will travel around Scotland and visit several industries, installations and educational institutions. Knarvik Upper Secondary School will host 12 French students and two teachers in November. They will arrange visits to relevant enterprises and activities in the region.

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## Other School projects

### Supporting the visually impaired in Moldova

*In 2009 the Student Council of Os Upper Secondary School decided to support the humanitarian organisation "Help Moldova". Later on, also Os gymnasium, Fusa and Langhaugen Upper Secondary School joined in. It has become a long-term commitment for all four participating schools. Every year the students collect money for the good cause at the schools' Solidarity Day, and a delegation of school representatives visits Moldova to gain insight into how the money is spent.*

### Help Moldova

«Help Moldova» is an independent humanitarian organisation which supports Europe's decidedly poorest country, Moldova. The aim is to rehabilitate and integrate all visually impaired in the country. This is done by sharing knowledge about low vision patients, and training the doctors about modern technology and methods for treating the visually impaired. The organisation not only helps visually impaired children in hospitals and kindergartens, but also prison inmates have received vision care. <http://www.hjelp-moldova.no/eng/>

### Solidarity Day

Leader of the organisation, optometrist Hans Bjørn Bakket-eig from Os, visited Os Upper Secondary School in 2009. The school's Student Council decided then to support "Help Moldova", and subsequently three more schools in Hordaland joined forces. Every year the four secondary schools organise Solidarity Day. The students carry out "a day's work" at a minimum of 400 NOK (instead of a normal school day) and donate their salary to "Help Moldova". So far, the four schools have collected ca. 1.600.000 NOK.

### Visit Moldova

Every year a delegation of students and teachers from the four schools in Hordaland travel to the capital city of Moldova, Chisinau, in order to learn about what the collected money of the past year has been spent on and about future activities and plans. It has been very rewarding to visit Moldova. Afterwards the students tell the others at school about their experiences and strong impressions. This makes the students understand that it is possible to make a difference and that the money collected is used in a good way. These last years, priority has been given to a new building with an activity room for disabled children, and the Low Vision Center got bigger premises.

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*Distribution of gifts among children in Moldova by Rebecca Vangsnes from Os Upper Secondary School.*

### Three student excursions in Europe

*Tertnes Upper Secondary School organised three excursions for its students to the countries Iceland, Italy and England. All three activities were financed through money collections, the school's own budget and the County Council's internationalisation fund.*

### Iceland

Every year the school organises an excursion to a country outside Scandinavia with the aim to explore geological conditions in a selected area. This year eight students and two teachers visited Iceland from 11th to 15th April. They studied the connections between environment, natural conditions and resources.

### Rome and Florence

24 History and Philosophy students and two teachers travelled to Rome and Florence in Italy, 3rd-7th April. They visited key sites such as the Colosseum, Roman Forum, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Vatican. Central topics during the excursion were identity politics and the use of history, as well as architecture and design.

### London

Seven International English students learnt more about immigration in the multi-cultural City of London. Together with two teachers they visited the museum situated in 19 Princelet Street – The Immigrant Experience. In addition they went on a guided tour at BBC Broadcasting House, to set focus on the role of media. The excursion was carried out during the period 29th February - 3rd March.

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International English students at BBC Broadcasting House in London.

## Hiroshima-Hordaland school exchange

*In our last edition we wrote about the cooperation between the schools Fukyuana Seishikan in Japan and Amalie Skram in Norway. The aim of the Hiroshima-Hordaland school exchange is to increase the students' communicative skills, intercultural understanding and learning motivation. Last school year 2015–16, one student from Hordaland studied at the partner school in Japan. For the coming school year two Japanese students will attend Amalie Skram Upper Secondary school, and one Hordaland student will be at Fukyuana Seishikan in the Japanese region Hiroshima. Meet all four students.*

17 year old Miyu Nojima and Fumika Adachi from Japan have just arrived in Bergen some days ago. Anne Elisabeth Larsen has been showing them around at her school. She returned last month from a ten months stay in Japan, and she will now go straight into the final school year at Amalie Skram.



From the left, the Hiroshima students Miyu Nojima and Fumika Adachi (Rotary exchange student), and Anne Elisabeth Larsen and Julian von Schlanbusch from Hordaland.

### What is the difference between Japanese and Norwegian schools?

Anne: They use school uniforms in Japan, and the days at school are longer, also because most leisure activities are linked to the school. There are usually more discussions during the classes in Norway.

### How hard is it to learn Japanese for a Norwegian?

Anne: It was hard in the beginning and I made so many mistakes. I didn't start learning Japanese before I arrived in Fukuyama. The grammar is totally different and they put the verbs at the end of the phrase. Now I manage to communicate quite well.

Anne shows her Japanese language skills during the interview. She helps the two new arrivals to understand the questions.

### Why do you want to study in Norway?

Miyu: I want to improve my English and Norwegian. It is great that the cooperation between the schools gives us the opportunity to study abroad.

The two Japanese girls will attend parts of the normal Vg1 curriculum, like mathematics and science, and partly have their own programme with English and Norwegian classes.

### What are your plans for the time outside school, and what do you want to see in Norway?

Fumika: playing volleyball and visiting Bryggen.  
Miyu: playing tennis and visiting Oslo.

### How did you spend your time outside school in Japan?

Anne: I had a very nice host family and they helped me a lot both with my homework and other things. I joined an after-school club and I practiced kendo, which is a modern Japanese martial art. I want to continue with that here at Bergen KendoKlubb.

Julian von Schlanbusch is about to travel to Japan. Last year he studied at Bergen Cathedral School. Julian will study in Fukuyama, close to Hiroshima, and live with two host families during the school year 2016–17.

### Do you know any Japanese?

Julian: I started to learn Japanese six months ago. It was just a coincidence that I chose the Japanese language, but now I want to learn more about the country, the culture and the language. I am looking forward to visit the city of Hiroshima.

### Anne, what are your plans for next year, after finishing secondary education?

Anne: I want to improve my Japanese language skills, in order to be able to study in Japan.

We wish all four of you good luck with the coming school year!

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## Erasmus+: Youth in Action

### Prevention of early school leaving

*The project "Mot meets Pluscoach" is a school example of how one Erasmus+ partnership lays the base for new cooperation. Last year Hordaland County Council organised a contact seminar in Bergen, where twenty organisations exchanged best practice in the field of the prevention of early school leaving. Here the partners Pluscoach and MOT Askøy met for the first time. They both wanted both to learn more about each other's work methods and decided to exchange six youth workers. During the successful exchange this spring, two new concrete project ideas were discussed and developed, again with early school leavers as target group.*

A delegation from Askøy visited Pluscoach in the Netherlands during two days in April. Hordaland County Council was also invited and sent two observers from the Follow-up service to the Netherlands. In May six Dutch youth workers travelled to Norway.

#### Pluscoach

Pluscoach offers troubled young people at school a tailored support programme. The power of pluscoaching is its strong links and partnership with school and care providers. The school and coach join forces to give the young person and his family the support and help they need. With this support, the young person can return to school. The last measurements showed that 96% of the young persons with a Pluscoach (12-23 years) are still going to school. <http://www.plusgroep.org/>

Elise Antonsen, leader of the Askøy Student Council, tells about the visit to the Netherlands:

–It was very interesting to hear one of the pupils tell about her experience with Pluscoach. She got help to build self-esteem and she was very satisfied with the help from her Pluscoach.

### Askøy MOT

Askøy municipality uses MOT-methods to work with youth and the development of strong young individuals. MOT offers a comprehensive model for how the local municipality can work together with its young members. This model consists of programmes designed to improve contact with young people at secondary and upper secondary schools as well as encompassing the arena of their leisure time activities. MOT works both for and together with the youth. <http://www.mot.no/english/>

– Young people are the resources in our municipality. Youth involvement is very important. A third of the participants in this EU-project were young people, says Sølvi Folkedal from Askøy Municipality and MOT.

### New projects

Part of the programme in the Netherlands was also a visit to Studio Moio, where early school leavers work on social innovation projects. Studio Moio visited Impact Hub in Bergen and talks about future project cooperation have started. Askøy municipality also plans to establish a host project for EVS volunteers.



Representatives from Pluscoach, Mot Askøy, and Hordaland County Council.

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### ERASMUS+: Prevention of early school leaving

"Fighting rising levels of unemployment – particularly among young people – has become one of the most urgent tasks for European governments. Too many young people leave school prematurely running a high risk of being unemployed and socially marginalised."

From: Erasmus+ programme guide - part A

## An experience of a lifetime in the Netherlands

We interviewed Maiken Ludvigsen Andal and Marianne Ankjær-Jensen from Askøy in Hordaland, both child- and youth work students. They are doing their European Voluntary Service in the Netherlands in July-August 2016.

### What is European Voluntary Service?

Marianne: Young people travel abroad and do voluntary work. EVS is financed through Erasmus+. Here in the Netherlands we are together with 23 other European volunteers from 12 countries.

### What kind of work do you do?

Maiken: We work in a building that looks like a school where children from 4-15 years come in the morning and we organize different holiday activities for them every day in the week. It is for children who cannot go on holidays with their parents.  
Marianne: The children cannot travel to other countries, so that's why we take the countries to them!

### What do you learn?

Maiken: I've learned a lot about different cultures down here. We live with people from different countries in Europe. It is an experience of a lifetime and I am so incredible happy that I got the chance to come here.

Marianne: We have a lot of workshops. Last week we learned about communication when you don't speak the same language, and working with kids with autism, ADHD and brain damage. We also learned face painting.

### How is the group of volunteers?

Maiken: I am glad that you are asking that question. I have no words to describe how wonderful everyone is over here. We are like one big European family who live in a villa. We do everything together: eating, working, sleeping, showering, laughing, weeping...It is amazing to see how happy some people are. For example, three volunteers were over the moon and danced to a You Tube video of Tomorrowland. It is absolutely amazing to see how little it takes to make someone happy down here. At home in Norway we never do this. I think that people here are much happier here than Norwegians. I love the people in this group and I don't want to go home in two weeks time...I think nobody does...



EVS volunteer Marianne in action.

It is the third year in a row that Hordaland sends two volunteers to this project, which has been awarded as the best EVS project in the Netherlands several times. The Group EVS project is a partnership between Don Bosco in the Netherlands, Hordaland County Council and Askøy Municipality.



«We are like one big European family who live in a villa».  
Maiken, from Hordaland, is second from the right.

Don Bosco is a Multi-cultural Youth Centre in The Hague. It has a lot of activities for children and youth with special focus on free time activities and non-formal education.

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## Erasmus+: Youth in Action

### What?

Volunteers participate in EVS through a Sending organisation in the country where they live and a Receiving organisation that receives and hosts them during their period of service.

The volunteer receives free accommodation, food, insurance and pocket money, and most of the travel costs.

### Who?

Young people 17-30 years

### How long?

1-12 months

### Why?

EVS boosts employability in Europe. As a volunteer you can work in a wide range of fields, such as culture, youth, sports, children, arts, animal welfare and environment. At the end of the EVS period, the young volunteer will receive a certificate called Youthpass.

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## 5. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Stockfish symposium at the Hanseatic Days in Bergen

*Remains and traces of stockfish culinary identity can be found in all European countries today. During the Hanseatic Days in Bergen, a historic and gastronomic stockfish conference was organised with focus on interplay created by the stockfish trade along the Hanseatic trade routes. The symposium attracted a large amount of interest from international partners as well as the public in general.*

#### Stockfish trade

Stockfish from Norway and Iceland has been an important staple commodity, providing nutrition and food reserves for the people of Northern Europe. The naturally conserved codfish produced in Norway and Iceland was traded by the Hanseatics to growing markets in Europe for centuries. It is well known that the Hanseatics exchanged the stockfish for grains, clothing and equipment, thus supporting the livelihood of the many fishermen communities along the Norwegian coast. However, Stockfish also supported the growth of artisans, farmers and clergy in European villages and towns with the necessary staple food for daily needs and subsistence. The stockfish can therefore be said to be part of the driving forces for the urbanization and cultural development of European societies since early medieval times.

#### European culinary tradition

Stockfish was used for both celebrations and lent, and was eaten by all classes, from the nobility as well as by the paupers. Europe has a fantastic shared culinary tradition and cultural heritage related to the stockfish trade along the

important Hanseatic trade routes. It is a story that needs to be presented and transmitted from historic and natural sciences to the restaurant kitchens. The story of European stockfish traditions was told and tasted at the symposium on 11th June 2016 in Bergen, organised by Hordaland County Council together with the Academia Europea Bergen Hub.

#### Stockfish symposium

The symposium followed the stockfish story from the importance of the Hanseatics in Bergen and Northern Europe, to the marine and climatic context of the codfish; the origins of the codfish production in Norway; the cultural impact and language, the historic and practical context of the production and trade, the traces of stockfish expansion as a staple food to central European communities, and the wide ranging culinary and cultural context of stockfish to European communities.

The symposium focused mainly on the living culinary traditions of today by selected stockfish presentations from Germany and Italy. Nordland County Council presented their concept of a European culinary route following the travel of Captain Piero Quirini in 1432 from Røst to Venezia. Hordaland County Council presented an idea of including the stockfish traditions into Unesco Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention, as well as to the Bergen region being a member of Unesco Creative Cities Network of Gastronomy since 2015. Plans are made for an Erasmus + stockfish regional partnership project together with Frankenwald and Trentino partners.

All the presentations and films at the symposium can be found in red on this link: <http://acadeuro.b.uib.no/activities/meetings/stocffish-symposium/>

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*The famous woodcarver Allesandro Pavone produced a new «king» stockfish for the Friends of Bryggen during hanse days. The sculpture is being handed over to Chair of Museum Vest, Mrs. Ruth Brudvik by The brotherhood of Bacala dei Frati.*





Mayor of Parma Federico Pizzarotti and visiting delegats from other UNESCO cities of gastronomy. Photo: Città di Parma

## UNESCO City of Gastronomy

*The Italian City of Parma welcomed 13 creative cities of gastronomy to a sub-network meeting. The meeting was a unique opportunity to enhance cooperation and joint initiatives between the UNESCO cities of gastronomy.*

In December 2015, Bergen was designated as a gastronomy city in the UNESCO Creative city network (UCCN). The UCCN has 116 members in 54 counties within 7 different creative fields: design, film, gastronomy, crafts and folk art, literature, music and media art. There are now 18 gastronomy cities in the network.

Bergen and the surrounding region has experienced an increasing interest for local food, creativity and gastronomy and was designated because the city and surrounding region, through the application, has shown a will to apply gastronomy and creativity as a driver for sustainable regional development.

Parma was also designated in December 2015. On the occasion of Cibus 2016 and the World Food Research and Innovation Forum, Parma invited all the gastronomy cities in the network to a sub-network meeting. The meeting was a unique opportunity to enhance cooperation between the cities of gastronomy. Further the meeting provided the opportunity for knowledge sharing, access to innovative ideas and best practices, and ideas for food based economic development.

–Parma was a fantastic host and presented their food culture and heritage. It was inspiring to witness how Parma was ready to seize the opportunities the membership presents, says Heidi Bjonnes Larsen, who represented Hordaland County Council at the meeting in Parma.

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## Heritage protection in Slovenia

*Cerknica is the largest disappearing lake in Slovenia. Due to geological phenomena, the water appears and disappears with the seasons. Former generations have learned to adapt this cyclic rhythm of life, but this unique knowledge will be lost for good unless actively preserved. A new educational programme has now started. PAJN Institute for Sustainable Living and the Museum Centre in Hordaland cooperate on*

*the protection of this unique natural and cultural heritage, a project supported by the EEA and Norway Grants.*

Cerknica is a polje, a field riddled with holes like a Swiss cheese. During rainy periods, usually in the autumn and spring, water comes rushing into the polje. As the water percolates between the rocks, the sinkholes and siphons can't handle the outflow underground, and the polje becomes Lake Cerknica – sometimes in less than a day!

In 2013 Pajn Institute established "Heritage House", to protect the Inner-Carniola area. Heritage House promotes activities such as traditional Drevak boatbuilding (a special type of boat that traditionally is used on Cerknica Lake), organic flax cultivation, spruce oil distillation, iron forging and folk song and traditional storytelling. <http://hisaizrocila.si/en/>

An unique model of passing the old skills from elder guardians of heritage onto young generations was developed at Heritage House. This initiative resulted in the EEA-project: "In the same boat – Young Guardians of Heritage (2014–2016)." The project mission is to preserve intangible cultural heritage, to develop sustainable products and to transmit skills to younger generations, in cooperation with Museum Centre in Hordaland.

–It is important to exchange traditional skills and know-how. It is all about the protection of our planet and sustainable living. We are all in the same boat, says Ljoba Jence, project leader and leader of Heritage House.

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Photographer: Ljoba Jence



### THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

**What?** It is the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe.

**Why?** The funding is targeted on areas where there are clear needs in the beneficiary countries and that are in line with national priorities and wider European goals.

**Which projects?** Funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries to support networking, knowledge exchange and foster project partnerships on initiatives of mutual interest.

**How long?** The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are set up for five-year periods.

### Polish university intends to learn about sustainable urban planning

*How does Hordaland County Council work with public planning, and how do the politicians and administration interact? The University of Lodz in Poland sent a delegation to Bergen in order to learn about planning processes in Norway. The Polish University plans to develop an innovative Bachelor degree curriculum on sustainable urban development. The visit was part of an Eco City project, under the EEA Scholarship Programme.*

Six representatives from the University of Lodz in Poland visited the University of Bergen, Hordaland County Council and Bergen municipality on 3rd March. The visit was part of the Eco City project "Education for sustainable, smart and participatory urban development". The University is making plans for a new study offer on sustainable urban planning, which is very innovative as it will be interdisciplinary and incorporate specialist knowledge of experts and practitioners in public organisations.

The University of Lodz and Hordaland County Council gave presentations and exchanged best practices. The Polish guests showed a special interest in sustainable transport

and infrastructure, and visited both Bergen Light Rail and the new charge station for hydrogen cars. Also the conditions and infrastructure for electric cars in Hordaland were presented.



*The delegation from the University of Lodz*

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### Hydrogen cars drive from Bergen to Italy

*Five countries in five days with zero emissions. Ten hydrogen cars started the road trip in Bergen, Norway, crossing Denmark, Germany and Austria to end in Bolzano, Italy. In Hordaland one out of three cars sold today at the moment is a zero emission car, which is the best-in-class region in EU.*

Ten percent of all cars are electric cars. Hordaland County Council has made this possible by the establishment of fast and normal charging stations in Hordaland. This is why Hyundai wanted the hydrogen car tour to start in the capital of Hordaland, Bergen. But the cars had to start with full tank as the nearest hydrogen-station is in Porsgrunn, in the south-eastern part of Norway. Soon a hydrogen charging station will come into place in Hordaland.



*Vice-Mayor of Hordaland, Pål Kårbø trying a hydrogen car.*

Hydrogen cars can drive up to 600 km. There are only 71 charging stations in Europe, but they have chosen a route which will manage the distance Bergen-Bolzano.

Vice-Mayor of Hordaland, Pål Kårbø says:  
–Hordaland County Council supports zero emission technology. Our Councillors have decided to invest in two hydrogen cars, as soon as a hydrogen charging station has come into place in Bergen.

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## International transport network

International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a world-wide NGO that works to promote public transport in urban areas. UITP has 1,400 members in almost 100 countries from public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Hordaland County Council, Bergen Light Rail and Skyss are members of UITP, together with the City of Bergen.

UITP supports the public transport sector by working to make sustainable mobility issues a political priority, encouraging innovation and by fostering excellence. The aim of the organization is to work to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide.

UITP is a good arena to gain knowledge and network for development of public transport. The organization has different working groups. For Hordaland the groups for Light rail and for Trolley busses are of particular interest. <http://www.uitp.org/>



Bergen Light Rail

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## Nordic library conference in Bergen

*«Libraries Change Lives» was the title of the Nordic conference in Bergen 12th-14th June 2016. The Halmstad conference has been organized since 1991 and is an important meeting place for Nordic librarians and politicians. At the conference current issues are discussed regarding the development of libraries, from a political and strategic perspective. Important topics this year were: the library as an engine for urban development; the role of the public library in the integration of refugees and immigrants and a library's social responsibility.*

The former Libraries and Information Services Manager in Edinburgh Liz McGettigans' key note speech about digital libraries, created enthusiasm. She said that libraries are more important than ever. They challenge google, using librarians expertise to add unique content, let customers contribute and are safe and trusted spaces for children. The greatest threat to libraries is lack of imagination. Librarianship of the future is not for those who seek a quiet refuge or who won't embrace ongoing change in the information, technology and community needs landscapes.

### Regional libraries

New this year was a meeting before the main conference between 26 representatives of regional libraries, discussing topics of mutual interest. For the Norwegian participants it was especially interesting to hear about the experiences of their neighbour colleagues following the regional reforms in Denmark and Sweden.

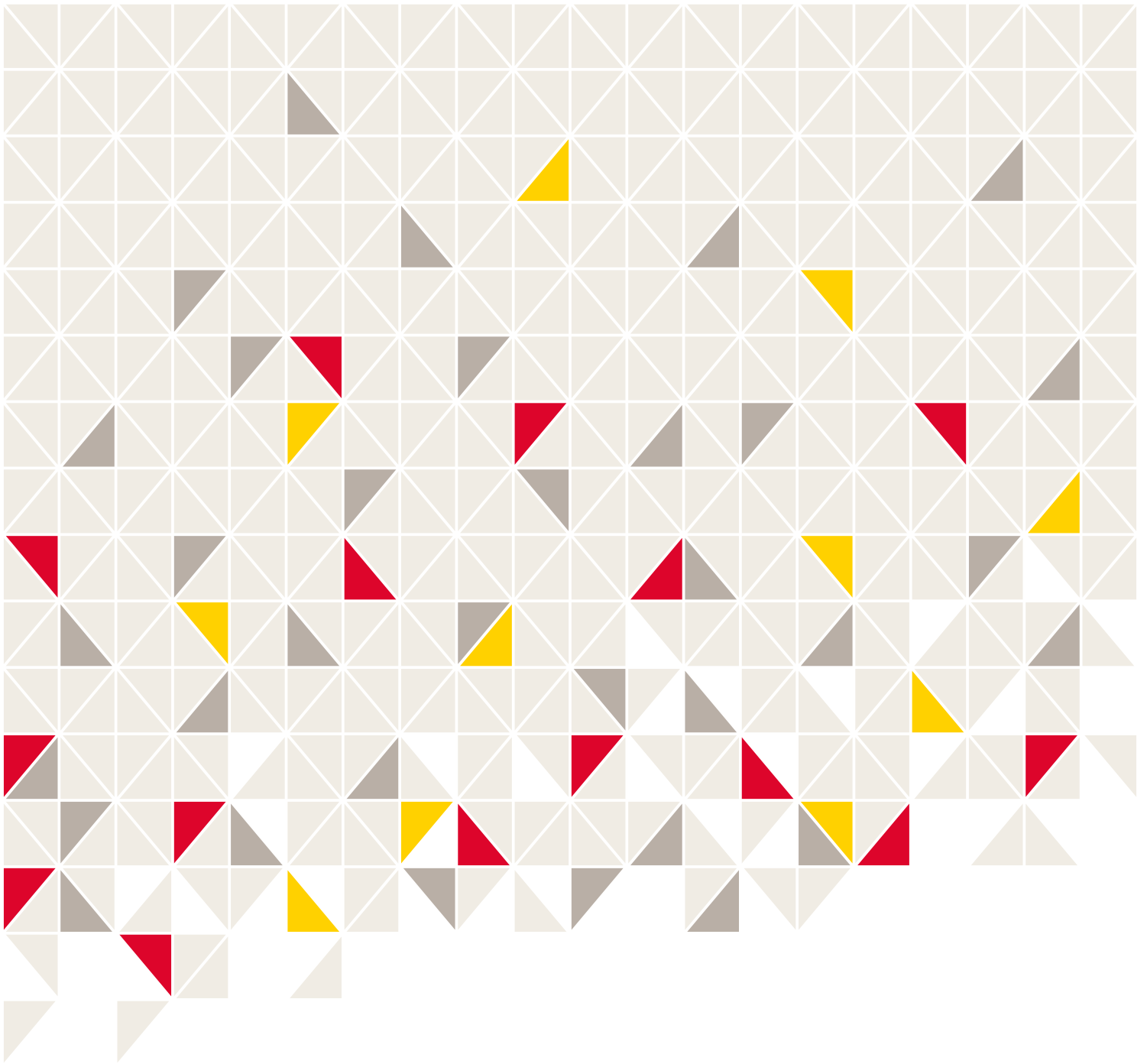
"The conference communicated strongly that libraries are complex institutions with multiple purposes. It is a challenge to communicate this to politicians to make them realise this and to prioritize funding for libraries in tough economic times", says Head of Hordaland County Library Ruth Ørnholt.

In total 155 participants from Norway, Sweden and Denmark were gathered in Bergen, and found the city bathing in sunshine. The conference is named after the city of Halmstad in Sweden, where it was first organized by Halland County Library in 1991. This year it was organized by Hordaland County Library in cooperation with Bergen Public Library, Kultur Halland, Mölndals Public Library, Aarhus Municipality Libraries, with financial support of the National Library and Hordaland County Council.



Finally, the library managers from Oslo, Stockholm and Aarhus discussed what will be the 2020 challenges for libraries.

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Hordaland County Council is responsible for developing Hordaland society. We provide upper secondary education, dental health services and public transport for our citizens. We develop the road system and facilitate growth, economic development and cultural activities. The Council is the county's political decision-making body. As part of national and global society we are responsible for taking care of the past, the present and the future in Hordaland.

