

# International Newsletter



*County Mayor of Hordaland, Tom-Christer Nilsen, was elected President of the North Sea Commission at the Annual General Meeting 27th June 2014, here accompanied by Vice-president Kerstin Brunnstrøm (representing Vestra Gøtaland) and John Lamb (representing Southend on Sea).*

County Mayor of Hordaland elected President of the North Sea Commission, read more on page 8

70th anniversary of D-day landings: A special visit to Hordaland's partner region Lower Normandy, page 2

The Thing Sea Trail: M/S Nybakk on a historical voyage, read more on page 6

Clean North Sea Shipping-project (CNSS): Results and recommendations, read more on page 11

# 1 Our partner regions



## Lower Normandy, France

### 70th anniversary of D-day landings in Normandy

By Kate Clark, International Services

Last year the President of our partner region Lower Normandy, M. Beauvais invited the County Mayor, Mr Tom-Christer Nilsen, to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. The delegation who made the journey from Hordaland included the County Mayor, Director for Regional Development, Mr Bård Sandal, Director for Education, Mr Svein Heggheim and the Head of Section for Museums and Cultural Heritage, Mr Per Morten Ekerhovd.

More than one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers took part in the invasion, mainly from USA, Canada, and Great Britain but also from the other allied countries including the Soviet Union. Over fourteen thousand of these young men lost their lives on the beaches of Normandy on 6th June 1944 in addition to thousands of losses on the German side. The Norwegian government was in exile in London and therefore the Norwegians took part in the landings with the British Airforce and the Royal Navy. Fifty One Norwegians gave their lives in Normandy.

This is the last year the D-Day landings will be marked in this way. The veterans are now all around 90 years old and those that managed to travel this year will clearly not be able to make the journey again. The region of Basse-Normandie had created new medals in a renewed gesture of

gratitude for those who helped with the liberation on 6th June 1944. Seven Norwegian war heroes were among those from five countries – Great Britain, the US, France, Norway and Canada who attended a special veteran medal ceremony hosted by the region. The region of Lower Normandy had also invited their other regions of cooperation to attend the anniversary events and they had organised a full and interesting programme for the delegations.

The delegation from Hordaland attended a “family meeting” with the other invited regions from Canada, China, Macedonia and UK. The themes for the meeting included human rights, remembrance, freedom, UNESCO status and cultural heritage. Mr Sandal and Mr Ekerhovd gave a short speech on these issues. Hordaland has already given their support for the application to put the D-Day beaches on the UNESCO World Heritage listing. The beaches represent the freedom of Europe and have universal cultural significance.

The delegation was able to attend both the national Norwegian remembrance ceremonies. The first in Villons-les Buissons where his majesty the Norwegian King Harald, the Prime Minister Erna Solberg and the Minister for Defence were among the dignitaries who honoured the Norwegians who had lost their lives in this area. The veterans were later honoured by King Harald at a reception on board his royal yacht, where the County Mayor had also been invited to attend.



PHOTO: King Harald greeting the Norwegian veterans 70 years after the D-day landings.

The bi-national ceremony on 6th June at Hermanville-sur-Mer was a moving and memorable experience. King Harald laid a wreath at the Norwegian memorial in honour of those who lost their lives when the Norwegian destroyer “Svenner” was

sunk off Sword Beach at dawn on 6th June 1944, while supporting the British Army landings. The delegation from Hordaland also attended this ceremony. Later that day The County Mayor attended the international memorial ceremony in Ouistreham as a guest of M. Beauvais, along with the national and government leaders of all the countries that took part in the D-Day landing in 1944. The French President gave an exceptional and poignant speech focusing on the bravery of the young men, both allied and German, who fell as victims of Nazi Germany and called again for the beaches to be listed given their universal significance and role in future cultural and peace initiatives.



*PHOTO (from the left): Director for CRECET Pierre Schmidt, Vice-president of Lower Normandy Annie Anne, County Mayor of Hordaland Tom-Christer Nilsen, Director for Museum West Stig Stark-Johanssen, Lord Mayor of Hermanville Jacques Lelandais Hermanville and Lord Mayor Marc Pottier i CRECET.*

“It was an extremely moving experience to have been able to take part at the remembrance ceremony marking the loss of the “Svenner” and to witness the King laying a wreath in remembrance for the victims. I feel honoured to have been able to be present. It is clear to me following my experiences and meeting with the veterans from the Normandy invasion that European cooperation and vision has greater ramifications than financial cooperation. It is a vision for peace in Europe made poignant when seeing the Russian President on the same tribune as the newly elected Ukrainian President” said Mr Nilsen when asked about his experiences on his return. We are grateful to our French partners for their hospitality and for the honour of taking part in this and important memorable event in the name of peace and remembrance in the name of future generations.



## **Emotional meeting between veterans and schools students at the “70 Voices of Freedom” presentation**

By Berit Roksvåg, Department of Education, and Ingrid Siri Thompson, Knarvik Upper Sec. School

School students and veterans met on Tuesday 3 June at Zénith, the large concert hall in Caen. School students from Basse Normandy as well as students from 15 foreign schools, joined civil and military veterans in a solemn, warm ceremony, the theme of which was «la transmission de la mémoire», or «the transmission of memory». Between November 2013 and February 2014 approximately 2500 youths met 70 witnesses from D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. The veterans shared their memories with students and told of their experiences. These meetings were made into a film in which some of the veterans talked about the events of June 1944, as well as a collection of articles where all of the veterans shared their stories.

Four students from Voss Gymnas participated in this project. Together with their partner school, Lycée Alain Chartier in Bayeux, they interviewed Ole Midtveit, a Norwegian veteran from Telavåg, who joined the Allied forces in England at the age of 16. In addition to the film and the collection of articles, three «Trees of freedom» were constructed. These trees, metal in construction, were made by 500 apprentices and school students from various upper secondary schools and training centres in Normandy, and they were planted in the three departments of Orne, Calvados and Manche. The trees' leaves have inscriptions of veterans' quotations.

At the ceremony in Zénith, 31 witnesses were present, along with students, teachers, administration and politicians. The atmosphere was solemn with a generous helping of humour into the mix. Lower Normandy's President Laurent Beauvais officially opened the ceremony, and during his speech, he praised the students' fantastic work and said they should be very proud of the fine result. During the anniversary commemoration, there were many stories, some of them quite powerful. The veterans' message to the young people was strong and clear: this must never happen again. All of the veterans interviewed in Zénith said that the most important thing was to remember what happened and to be able to forgive. This way, one can prevent the outbreak of another war. It was gripping to listen to the witnesses' testimony, and to see and feel the strong bond between generations. One of the veterans received a loud round of applause when he cautioned against language use that may engender racism and intolerance.

*PHOTO (left): Official D-day poster*

### Outdoor exhibition in Basse-Normandie

By Jenny Heggvik, North Sea Traffic Museum  
(text and photo)

Museum Vest og CRÉCET have collaborated on an outdoor exhibition in i Hermanville-sur-Mer. It was opened on 5th June and the opening ceremony was part of the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. County Mayor of Hordaland, Tom-Christer Nilsen and Vice-president of Lower Normandy, Annie Anne, opened the exhibition. This is a “teaser” to a larger exhibition titled “In the Shadow of the Atlantic Wall”, planned in 2016.

Among the topics presented are the Atlantic Wall, resistance work, the German withdrawal, D-day with the sinking of the Norwegian destroyer “Svenner” and the end of the war, all subjects viewed from Norwegian and French side. The exhibition is right at the memorial for the Norwegians who lost their lives.



### The Hordaland class in Normandy

By Jorid Skiple, Voss College, and Ingrid Siri Thompson, Knarvik Upper Secondary School

An exciting and eventful school year will soon be over as our exchange students in France now enter their last week of school in Lower Normandy. Our students have had a wonderful school year. This year in particular they gained a special insight into World War II history and the 70th Anniversary of the Normandy landing on D-Day, June 6, in 1944. This spring there have been various D-Day commemorations in Lower Normandy, and our students have been able to take part as students in the French Upper Secondary school. Different schools visited the Normandy beaches during the school year, and some students took part in other activities organised by the school. Collège Lycée Expérimental, for example, had a film project about the dramatic events of June 1944. The many different commemorations have given the students vivid insights into World War II history, in addition to the many other things they have done and learned by participating in this exchange program with France.

### Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary school in collaboration with Normandy schools

By Sverre Urheim Lie, Nordahl Grieg vgs

Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School offers both general studies and vocational programs. Staff from the school prepare for future cooperation with two schools in Lower Normandy; Collège Lycée Expérimental (CLE) in Caen and Lycée Professionel Maréchal Leclerc in Alencon. A preparatory teacher visit to Caen was arranged in January, and a CLE class is planning for a study trip to Bergen in the autumn. The schools also plan for online activities, where students from the French and Norwegian schools work together in various subjects

Teachers and students from program for Health and Care have established contact with Lycée Professionel Maréchal Leclerc in Alencon. In the coming autumn the French and Norwegian students will share their experiences online and present various projects to each other, and also interact via social media like Skype, Facebook and Google.

Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School considers contact with the French schools to be of great value. This will give the students' education an international dimension. It will also provide new opportunities to practice the school's ideas of sharing and cooperation by the use of technology and online learning methods.

### Knarvik Upper Secondary school in carpentry collaborations

By Patrick D'Incan, Knarvik Upper Sec. School



Our project consisted of a two weeks placement of eight pupils in Upper Normandy. We had established a close contact with Lycée Hébert in Evreux. The enterprises used for the placements are enterprises that already are collaborating with Lycée Augustin Hébert. It was important for us to show our pupils the possibilities and challenges there are in having the opportunity to work in another country. For our pupils it was especially interesting to discover the traditional building techniques in Normandy. The language to be used in the day to day communication in the enterprises and in the families was English. We expect that the participation in the project has motivated our pupils to pursue their careers in carpentry.



## Cardiff, Wales

### The Hordaland class in Cardiff

By Hege Cruickshank, Knarvik Upper Secondary School



On Friday 5th June Cardiff County Council held a Farewell Reception for our seventeen Norwegian students who have just finished their year of study in the Welsh capital. Lord Mayor held a speech where she praised the exchange programme and expressed how much Cardiff County appreciates welcoming young Norwegians every autumn.

The students' parents had come to Cardiff to attend the ceremony. As usual the students took care of the entertainment, and the guests could enjoy both song and music. Lord Mayor was very impressed by their English skills and found their Cardiff accents very charming – and the parents were of course very proud. In their speech the students reflected on what a wonderful experience this year away from home has been, and they told us that they are all determined to come back to Cardiff again sometime in the future. The reception was held at The Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay, which of course is the perfect venue to celebrate the strong bond between Hordaland and Cardiff. Now a long and much deserved summer holiday awaits the students, before they are back in their old classes again in Norway in August.

### Cardiff pupils visit Hordaland

By Kimberly Skjelde, Knarvik Upper Sec. School

This year Knarvik Upper Secondary School helped organize an exchange between students taking International English and students from Cardiff and Vale College, in Cardiff, Wales. Ten students from Knarvik Upper Secondary School spent one week in Cardiff where they stayed with students attending Cardiff and Vale College and participated in a two-day trip along the beautiful coastline of Wales. The students stayed together at a youth hostel in St. David's and also visited St. David's Cathedral.

A few weeks after our trip to Cardiff, students from Knarvik Upper Secondary school hosted their guests from Cardiff for a week. They planned activities and introduced the students from Cardiff to life in Hordaland. All of the students taking International English at Knarvik Upper Secondary School organized an evening of activities for the students from Cardiff. The exchange group also met at a local farm where everyone was introduced to Viking culture and invited to take a trip with a "Viking skip". This was the first time several of the students from Cardiff had ever been on a boat.

During the exchange the entire group of students had to work together, planning and cooking meals, as well as introducing each other to, and accepting, new cultures. All in all, the experience was one that promoted language skills, as well as cultural acceptance and knowledge. This was a memorable experience and one they will not soon forget!



### International Forum on Low Carbon Eco-Cities Planning and Development in Cardiff

By Snorre Waage, Planning Section

It has been estimated by the UN that by 2030 more than 60% of the world's population, some 4.9 billion people, will be living in urban areas. The scale and pace of development of cities are raising enormous economic, social, environmental and governance challenges. With this background, Cardiff University School of Planning and Geography, in collaboration with Cardiff Confucius Institute, hosted the International Forum on Low Carbon Eco-Cities Planning and Development, in March 2014. On this two day event, twelve speakers from the UK, Europe and China were invited to present on their current research, ongoing planning processes and implementation of eco-cities projects. This year's International Forum had a special focus on China, and the tremendous challenges they are facing.

Hordaland County Council was among these twelve invitees, and a representative from the Planning Unit of the Regional Department, presented the ongoing process of the Integrated Land-Use and Transport Plan for the Bergen Region, followed by a panel discussion.



## Orkney Islands, Scotland

### Visit to the Orkney Islands

By Kathrin Jakobsen, International Services

The twinning between Orkney and Hordaland has been especially noticeable within the cultural field. Orkney is a thriving cultural centre with its own famous festival, St Magnus International Festival. This year, the Deputy Mayor of Hordaland Mona Hellesnes visited the festival, 20th – 22nd of June 2014.

The Deputy Mayor also discussed future cooperation with the Chair of the St Magnus International Festival and the Festival director, focused on more regularly activities and activities involving young people. Assistant director in the Department of Culture and Sport, Ronny Skaar, had also meetings with the Orkney Council about a specific project of cooperation for 2015, involving Norwegian and Scottish musicians and school pupils in Orkney.



*PHOTO (from the left): Norwegian Consul in Kirkwall, Bill Spence; Norwegian Ambassador in United Kingdom, Kim Traavik; Fylkesvaraordfører Mona Hellesnes; Norwegian Consul General in Edinburgh, David Michael Windmill; The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop; Artistic Director of the St Magnus International Festival, Alasdair Nichol森; Chair of the St Magnus International Festival, Leslie Burgher. (Photo: bobjonesmedia)*

### Thing Sea Trail 2014

As part of the celebration of 200 years anniversary of the Norwegian constitution, the Thing Sea Trail was arranged in June 2014. The veteran fishing boat M/S Nybakk was an official messenger for the Millennium place Gulatinget, which is the oldest thing in Norway from about 900 a.d. and the “mother thing” for the North Atlantic thing tradition. The Thing Sea Trail started at the Gulating on the 5th June and stopped at the historical things in Isle of Sky, Isle of Man, Dingwall on Highland, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. The trail ended at the Gulating on June 28th. On June 23rd M/S Nybakk visited the Orkneys. Deputy Mayor Mona Hellesnes represented Norway at the ceremony taking place at Orkney Council, because of

the close connection between Hordaland and the Orkneys over several years. The ceremony was a marking of our common Norse legal tradition, closely connected to strong historical, political and cultural bonds.



*PHOTO: Gift exchange at St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall Per-Kåre Nybakk, Nybakk Foundation, Steven Heddle, Orkney Islands Council and Mona Haugland Hellesnes of Hordaland County Council (Photo: Frank Bradford)*

Mona Hellesnes presented a copy of the stone cross on the thingstead of Gulating as a gift from the Gulating to Orkney Council. Many similar crosses were placed in important and strategic places along the coast of Western Norway. An anniversary exhibition on M/S Nybakk was made by Millenium Gulatinget with contribution from museums in Norway.



## Thüringen, Germany

### New academic year for two Hordaland classes in Erfurt

By Liv Skipenes, Askøy Upper Secondary School

#### The electro-class at Andreas Gordon Schule

It has been another successful year at Andreas Gordon Schule, our partner school in Erfurt. The nine pupils in the electro-class have returned home from Germany with a lot of experience. Additionally, they have succeeded in their final electro exam, and they should be really proud of themselves! The Principal, Sigrid Hiller, and Head of Department, Rannveig Solli, were both present at the ceremony in the City Hall where certificates for the pupils were handed out. The ceremony was opened by the leader of the Department of Education in the City of Erfurt, Dr. Werner Unge-wiss and Sigrid Hiller made a speech on behalf of Askøy Upper Secondary School. The pupils gave a presentation illustrating their experiences from different points of view, and at the end the Principal

of Andreas Gordon Schule, Dr. Klaus Dänhardt, handed out the certificates. He also commented on the courage and accomplishments of the young Norwegian pupils. The pupil's contact person in Erfurt, Luisa Ihle, is of invaluable help for the pupils. We look forward to continuing the cooperation with Andreas Gordon Schule and a new group of excited, talented and brave Hordaland pupils are ready for the 2014/15 school year.



### **Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Erfurt**

Last year Askøy Upper Secondary School signed an agreement with the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Erfurt, Germany, giving young people from Hordaland the opportunity to take one year, 11th Grade/Vg2, at the German school. We started off by sending a group of six pupils to the school this past autumn. One of the pupils returned home after a few weeks, but the other five are now in the process of finishing their year at Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium, and will return in July. It has been a fantastic year for the pupils. They have been met with a positive attitude and they have been included and integrated at the school. The pupils feel at home in Germany and have formed many new friendships. Although they have had challenges at school, and attended lessons in subjects that they have been totally unfamiliar with, they have kept their positive attitude and have gradually overcome their problems and learned a lot about learning. We are quite sure that their experiences will be of great help to them when they complete their upper secondary education in Vg3 in various schools in Hordaland next year. We will continue the cooperation and we will send a small group of pupils also next school year. Gradually we hope that the number of applicants will increase and that we can include one more German school in this very interesting and valuable project.

### **European Service Office South Thuringia: 25 years of cooperation**

Regional conferences on current issues have a long tradition in Suhl / South Thuringia. On June 12, 2014 another conference on "Transnational Cooperation" took place. 67 representatives from politics, business and education took this opportunity to exchange experiences. The European Service Office South Thuringia celebrated its 25th anniversary and invited eight European partners amongst others Hordaland County Council.



## **Edinburgh, Scotland**

### **Strengthening the contact between Scottish and Norwegian heritage authorities**

By Per Morten Ekerhovd, Head of Heritage Management and Museums

Based on a cooperation that was initiated in 2012, as referred in the previous newsletter, officials from the Scottish Government and Hordaland County Council have continued to develop the bilateral cooperation.

By Norwegian standards Scotland has developed a ethical, innovative and environmentally aware approach to policy making and has been a source of particular attraction. The "Nordic Baltic Policy Statement" issued by the Scottish Government in 2014 actively promote the progression of wider, deeper relationships with Nordic and Baltic Countries and states: "Officials in the Historic Environment Policy Unit have been working with colleagues in Norway, primarily in Hordaland fylkeskommune, as part of Scotland's first Historic Environment Strategy. As part of that, a partnership initiative on the shared agendas in relation to the historic environment in Scotland and Norway is in the early stages of development. This includes the involvement of Riksantikvaren, Norway's National Heritage Agency, and of officials in the culture department of Norwegian government."

In June 2014 representatives from the Scottish Government participated in a mission to industrial and hydro-power facilities in Rogaland and Hordaland with the purpose to assess their value and significance as heritage. The continued discussion on a strategic partnership will continue with a roundtable conference in Bergen in October 2014, focusing on the common challenges within heritage and landscape issues.



*PHOTO (David Sandved): Røldal power plant, an important technical heritage in Hordaland*

## 2

## Cooperation through international organisations



### North Sea Commission (NSC)

The North Sea Commission (NSC) was founded in 1989 as a sub-commission to Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), in order to facilitate and enhance partnerships between regions by the North Sea. The NSC has thirty-three member regions from eight countries, twelve from Norway.

#### General Assembly

By Kathrin Jakobsen, International Services

The Annual Business Meeting of the North Sea Commission was held in Aberdeenshire on the 27th of June. County Mayor, Tom-Christer Nilsen, was elected President of the North Sea Commission.

Mr Nilsen has been an active member of the North Sea Commission since 2004 and moves from his current position as Vice President. He stressed the need for better coordination around the North Sea basin in his post-election speech. Different sectors including energy, both renewables and traditional oil and gas, shipping, fisheries, and military concerns must work together in order to protect our natural resources in a sustainable way for future generations. Kerstin Brunnstrøm from Vestra Gøtaland, was elected Vice-president.

The Annual Business Meeting was informed about preparatory action for the North Sea region, funded by the European Parliament. The aim of the action is to analyze the North Sea region's growth potential and use the findings to investigate the added value of having a future shared macro-regional strategy for the North Sea area. Future action will depend on how DG Mare responds to the proposal for NSC/CPMR involvement in the process.

#### North Sea Conference

This year's North Sea Conference took place in Aberdeen City and Shire 25th and 26th of June. The conference is a joint conference between the North Sea Region Programme and the North Sea Commission. Focus for the conference was on future perspectives and opportunities for the region, including explaining and discussing the framework of the 2014-2020 North Sea Region Programme.

### North Sea Commission celebrated 25 years of cooperation

By Kate Clarke, International Services (text and photos)

During a 25 year period NSC's member regions have cooperated on important challenges and possibilities in and around the North Sea. This 25th anniversary celebration was marked during a conference in Aalborg, Denmark.



The conference in Aalborg provided a review of NSC activities during the last 25 years and what the members have accomplished through political lobbying towards EU and national authorities. Especially North Sea Commission's partnership in fisheries was highlighted, an initiative established in order to coordinate the different interests in fisheries politics. This partnership demonstrates results that have lasting impact and value. Today there are «Regional Advisory Councils» regarding fisheries in all EU-sea areas and these are a direct result of the work done in NSC.

At the conference there were speakers from both EU-commission and national and regional politicians. The theme "Energy and climate change" can be seen both as a threat and an opportunity for the region. Brendan Devlin, adviser at the EU-commission (DG Energy) had a clear and challenging message to the regions at present. NSC has an important role to play in order to establish a political and legal framework which can lead to a cooperation on energy in the region and secure energy supply for Europe in the future.

One of the workshops was about the establishment of «North Sea Grid» and showed a clear need for better cooperation in the field of energy. Ana Aguado, director for «Friends of the Super-grid», demonstrated clearly how Europe can improve its energy supply. In another workshop Even Husby presented the result and recommendations of the Clean North Sea Shipping project where Hordaland County Council is lead partner. The project goal is to reduce polluting emissions from ships when they are docked.

Many sectors are active in the North Sea and maritime planning need cooperation and interaction. This was mentioned many times at the conference. Wind farms and renewable energy, fisheries and aquaculture, shipping, oil industries, military, tourism – all these sectors have to cooperate in order to ensure sustainable development that takes care of the environment, both on land and at sea. NSC aims to establish one or more stakeholder forum(s) where people involved in research, private and public sector can gather in order to develop a strategy which covers local demand for the local population.



NSC announced an essay competition for youth about the theme: «Thriving North Sea Communities». The three best essay writers were invited to the conference. Toby Greve (right on the photo above) from Denmark won the first price with his idea to organise a youth meeting under the auspices of NSC.

### NSC Marine Resource Group

By Inge Døskeland, Economic Development

During the EU Maritime Days 19th and 20th May in Bremen, County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen led a workshop on “Opportunities for blue and sustainable growth in the North Sea Region”. Important topics were discussed linked to the “North Sea Region 2020” strategy and a potential macro-regional co-operation around the North Sea. The workshop had central speakers from the EU-Parliament, EU-Commission (DG Mare) and JPI Oceans. The County Mayor had also a

political meeting with Member of Parliament Gesine Meißner.



In connection to the NSC stakeholder conference in Ålborg 12-14 March, NSC Marine Resource Group had a meeting. The main focus so far this year has been integrated coastal zone and area planning at sea, which will result in “NSC position paper ICZM & MSP”. Hordaland County Council came up with ideas regarding the development and commercialization of aquaculture. The main priorities are exchange of best practice concerning marine management and coastal planning, sustainable use of marine resources and to put forward a common point of view among the North Sea regions through dialogue.

In order to follow up in concrete actions we need to identify available instruments, for example: lobbying, policy generation, stakeholder involvement etc. In order to use this kind of instruments actively, coordinated action is needed in terms of financed projects as a base for participation and policy making. NSC is also involved in bycatch and discards of fish, as there have been new developments lately regarding rules/ law and technology.

Another topic has been the “exchange of information Research & Development”. For example NSC’s role to facilitate meeting places and applications for Horizon 2020 program. One example is the NSC-MRG meeting in Kiel last year, when Hordaland County Council facilitated a meeting for researchers in the marine sector.



## 3 Projects

### Interreg IV projects

Interreg is the European programme for international cooperation, partly financed by the European Union. Hordaland is eligible for participation in the following Interreg-programs; Interreg IV B: The North Sea Region Program, Northern Periphery Program and the Baltic Sea Program and Interreg IV C: International cooperation.



### Interreg IVB – North Sea Region Programme



#### Clean North Sea Shipping

By Lars Tveit, Section for Economic Development

Public authorities all over Europe express a major concern regarding pollution from a fast growing transport sector and the dramatic impact it has on people's health and on the environment. The EU has made it clear that we urgently need to deal with these problems, and that measures must be put into action to improve transport sustainability and reduce oil dependency. Ships are the largest single emission source for sulphur oxide, particulate material, and nitrogen oxide in the transport sector. As a consequence ports suffer from air pollution owing to the arrival /departure of ships, and to emissions during their stay at berth.

The Clean North Sea Shipping (CNSS) project is part of The North Sea Commission Strategy. The project has focused on challenges caused by air emission and greenhouse gases from ships operating along the North Sea coast and within North Sea ports and harbors. Furthermore, the CNSS project aimed to create awareness, share knowledge and convince influential stakeholders, including regional, national and international politicians, ports, shipping companies and cargo owners, to take action.

#### Partnership and organization

The project started in 2010 with a budget of 4.13 million Euros, and was closed in March 2014. CNSS involved 15 partners / beneficiaries from six countries around the North Sea. The partnership reflects a large diversity of the maritime transport sector and therefore secures and involves relevant public and private stakeholders:

- Ports (major and smaller ones)
- Regions and cities on national and EU level
- Energy suppliers
- Universities / Research centres with a specific focus on maritime affairs
- Shipping certification association

Hordaland County Council has been Lead Beneficiary for the project.

#### The main results, findings and recommendations to the EU Commission from CNSS

Feedback from various and relevant stakeholders, hereunder the EU, is that the CNSS project has produced some excellent results that have a potential beyond what was expected in the project plan. A brief overview is given below:

### *Air Quality*

Substantive work has been carried out by CNSS into the emission status of the North Sea. CNSS have used emission modelling and emission factors to gain a better understanding of how pollutants convolute in the atmosphere at a regional and local level.

### *Recommendation:*

CNSS encourages the use of cutting edge scientific methods to estimate current and future ship emissions and their impact on air quality. The project has developed models and methods to do this, available and free of charge to any potential user.

### *Technology & Fuels*

CNSS have carried out extensive work on the use of technologies and alternative fuels to reduce exhaust gas emissions from ships. More information on technologies and fuels can be found on the website: [www.cleantech.cnss.no](http://www.cleantech.cnss.no).

### *Recommendation:*

CNSS promotes Liquefied Natural Gas fuel and in certain cases Onshore Power Supply as key alternatives to diesel by building infrastructure in ports and on-board ships. LNG is proven to reduce emissions of all pollutants with no waste deposit.

### *Environmental performance - Emission Indices*

Extensive studies of existing environmental indices (ESI and CSI) within CNSS have revealed significant weaknesses and shortfalls, including rule-breaking scenarios and a lack of transparency or obvious rationale in their composition.

### *Recommendation:*

CNSS encourages better use of incentive / indexing schemes to provide a universal approach to green shipping by implementation of MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) of vessel performance.

### *Cross-thematic Policy & Regulation*

Policies and regulation have a significant impact on air quality. Regulations are typically implemented in order to control or reduce the amount of a particular pollutant being emitted.

### *Recommendation:*

CNSS recommends TIER 3 regulations of NOX emissions (from The International Maritime Organisation / UN) to be introduced ASAP rather than being postponed to January 2016. Our studies show that postponement will deteriorate air quality significantly.

Detailed descriptions and documentations are presented in the "Final report – Key Findings and Recommendations" on [www.cnss.no](http://www.cnss.no).

### **The final conference in Bergen**

The conference was held in March 5th & 6th 2014, with participation from a wide range of stakeholders, representing both private and public sector. The list of speakers reflects a high quality event, where technological and political issues were on the agenda. In addition to very relevant and explanatory inputs from CNSS representatives, interesting presentations were made by European Commission, DG Environment (Mr. Guido de Wilt), Norwegian Ministry of Climate & Environment (Mr. Geir Høiby), Port of Los Angeles (Mr. Carter Atkins), and AIDA Cruises (Mrs. Monica Griefahn). We were also honored by having Head of Secretariat, North Sea Region Programme (Mr. Christian Byrith) as our final speaker.

### **Future work - Dissemination of results**

The feedback from the EU on the results and recommendations from CNSS has been very encouraging. As a result of this EU has now approved an application from the partnership, and will co-fund a follow-up project called "Clean North Sea Shipping – Improved Dissemination and Impact", starting in June 2014. The aim is to visualize and make our methods and models operational. Hordaland County Council will be Lead Beneficiary also in this project.



## **Interreg IVB – Northern Periphery**

### **Craft International**

By Terje Inderhaug, project manager

The Craft International project was closed 31st March and the results are impressive in all the 8 countries that participate. The aim of the project was to create 23 new ÉCONOMUSÉE in Northern Europe and establish a network organization for the future. Only Greenland had to postpone one candidate company. Therefore 22 new ÉCONOMUSÉE are all in place in the North Atlantic, and in full operation for the tourist season. However, the international organisation is not yet fully established, and so each partner has to take responsibility for their own ÉCONOMUSÉE and also for keeping the contact flowing between the countries as well as between the craft companies. The website [www.economusee.eu](http://www.economusee.eu) and the internet websale site <https://shop.economusee.com> will provide added value and support the networking of the ÉCONOMUSÉE internationally.

The artisans who participate in this network are innovators in their own fields and able to bring traditional expertise into a modern and relevant context. The artisans are fully prepared to receive

visitors and to demonstrate their craft skills to any visitors. The businesses prove through the project results to be sustainable and they are also able to maintain the high quality levels and attractiveness associated with an ÉCONOMUSÉE artisan.



In Hordaland we have 3 new ÉCONOMUSÉE in place for the tourist season, i.e. a cooper workshop, a fruit farm, a woollen mill. We also have a small and temporary stock fish craft and knowledge centre established at Tracteuren restaurant at the Unesco world heritage centre of Bryggen. The 4th and 5th ÉCONOMUSÉE was a felt maker and a carpet weaver which share the same building in the city of Stavanger. They had their official opening on the 14th March 2014. Infact, we now have 10 operating ÉCONOMUSÉE on the West Coast of Norway, when we include the first 5 companies established as the result of the first NPP-project Economusee in Northern Europe (2008-2011). Even UNESCO is looking at this way of capturing and conveying culture and history. It is so important to maintain the immaterial heritage and this project is an expert at just this. Consequently, the concept was supported at the international Unesco conference held in Bergen at the end of the project period 24th to 26th March. To the attention of General director Irina Bukova (centre on picture) as well as assistant director Francesco Bandarin, the ÉCONOMUSÉE concept was a central theme both as a theoretical case presented by the president of ÉCONOMUSÉE network, Mr. Michel Gervais, and as a practical example by the conference delegate visit to Hillesvåg Woolen Mill ÉCONOMUSÉE.

ÉCONOMUSÉE is a demanding concept, which has also caught the eye of the Norwegian Centre of Excellence for travel and tourism in Norway, who has included the project in their special status collection as a cultural heritage project, and has provided support to develop bookable day trip events in 2014.

Craft International is a success story in the NPP program and it will be presented at several national and international conferences in second half of 2014, as an example of best practice and results. See more on: [www.economusee.eu](http://www.economusee.eu)



## Interreg IVC – International cooperation

### Eco Regions

By Torill Monstad, project manager

2014 is the final year of the Eco Regions project, which started in 2012. The final year has mostly consisted of finalizing all the action plans, based on the exchange of various climate and energy projects between the partners. The action plans for every region consist of concrete plans for how to finance and implement the knowledge and experiences from the good practices in these projects. The final year has also been used to prepare the policy recommendations from the project to the EU. The partners met in Malta (Picture) in March to finalize the policy recommendations. These policy recommendations are based on the experiences all the partners have from our imported and exported projects in Eco Regions.



### The Eco Regions project

The Eco regions project supports eco-innovation and green technologies, especially linked to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The main purpose of the project is to learn from good practices in our partner regions, and stimulate SMEs to a greener production. There are in total 11 partners, from various regions in countries like Finland, Germany, France, Sweden, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Belgium together with Hordaland.

### The imported and exported projects

The Climate Action Plan is Hordalands contribution to the Eco Regions project. In 2013 three delegations from Jämtland, Sweden and Bamberg and Thuringia, Germany visited Hordaland to learn about our Climate Action Plan. Hordaland imported two projects, The Energy Efficiency Network and Portaferm, both from Thuringia, Germany.

See more on: <http://www.ecoregionsproject.eu>



### Staff Mobility

By Marit Einen, International Services (photo: Ragna Flotve, County Governor of Hordaland)

### New competence through internationalisation

During the Spring 2014, International Services in Hordaland County Council has coordinated 11 Leonardo mobility projects for staff/instructors with a total of 35 participants. By exchanging experiences and sharing knowledge in various fields, the projects are tools to increase competence both in the County Council and in other organisations in Hordaland. Besides participants from Hordaland County Council, the projects have had participants from several municipalities, the County Councilor, from sectors like health and care, business and economy, agriculture, education, food & restaurant, electronic archiving and music technology. In line with European policy and EU programme conditions we emphasise on creating cross sectorial and multilevel project groups for smarter and sustainable implementation. Other preconditions for the projects are that they shall enhance cooperation with vocational education within their fields, and use the mobility visits to start planning further project cooperation with their European partners. Here follows a brief introduction to some of the projects:

#### Urban farming: Unneland/Bergen - Slovenia

Unneland Community, situated in one of the sub districts in Bergen, focuses on urban farming and possibilities for production and sale of local food to the nearby market. To learn more about these issues, representatives from the County Governor of Hordaland and Bergen city had a Leonardo placement in the Gorenjska region in Slovenia. The host organisation was Hordaland County Council's long time cooperation partner, the Regional Development Centre of Gorenjska, BSC.

The Centre made a fantastic five days' programme that included visits to urban local farmers, restaurants, food producers, distributors, organisations and local government. The partners shared knowledge and experience and discussed several issues concerning food production, advertising & sale and discovered both differences and similarities. An important issue was of course organisational matters and how urban farming can become a sustainable business. The Hordaland partners learned a lot and met possible partners for future cooperation. They will transfer the new knowledge to other farmers and organisations in Hordaland, and encourage them to take steps towards new products and development.

Unneland Community is planning to discuss a wider project cooperation with Slovenian partners.



The picture (above) shows some of the good ideas from the project: The restaurant Gostilina Kristof focuses on local history and traditional food from local, organic producers. The owner sells products from local farmers and has made a sign board outside the restaurant showing the short distances to the local products they are using in their business. Tools like an app with menu in Braille and a separate restaurant house for two persons are other creative offers.

#### Nordic Gastronomy - visit to Italy

By Heidi Bjønnes Larsen, Section of Economic Development



Plans are made for a new vocational subject at Hjeltnes Secondary School, so-called "Nordic Gastronomy". With the support of the Leonardo da Vinci program, representatives from Hjeltnes Upper Secondary School, Bergen tekniske fagskule, Slow Food Hardanger and Hordaland County Council travelled to Piemonte in Italy to get inspiration and new ideas. The Hordaland delegation was very satisfied with their mobility visit as they not only picked up concrete ideas but also made new contacts with potential Erasmus+ partners. The visits to Slow Food International and University of Gastronomic Science in the city of Bra were of special interest. "We are inspired by the Italians, they take food and drinks seriously", says student inspector Håkon Gjerde.

Both tourism, hotel and restaurant industries have signaled that there is a need for people who have special knowledge regarding food and food culture and who can bring out the food culture in the Nordic countries. The vocational subject «Agrogas-tronomi» aims at educating qualified food ambassadors, providing the students with an understanding of the entire value chain. The students will receive training in chemistry and physiology and learn about what provides good food quality. They will also receive practical and theoretical training regarding the production, processing, manufacture of raw materials from land / sea to the table and learn to share knowledge of the food product and food culture to the guests. Students will even experience the whole value chain within a broad range of plant products, meat products, fish and seafood products, dairy products, baked goods, beverages concur with and without alcohol etc.

### **New Åsane Upper Secondary School - weekend supplier of food to enjoy!**

by Marit Njøten, Åsane Upper Secondary School

Hordaland County Council is planning to build a new school: New Åsane Upper Secondary School. Part of the plan is to establish a butcher/deli at the school. We want to give our students the opportunity to plan, produce and sell their products. In the shop we would also like to offer foods from small local suppliers. This will expand the range of products in the shop, ensure deliveries and also provide experience in ordering goods for our pupils. We will focus on learning by doing and hopefully enhance motivation and reduce absence and dropout.



*The Butcher School in Roskilde, Denmark  
(Photo: Haakon Melsom)*

To learn more about how this might be done we contacted two schools in Denmark and one in Sweden. We visited them in the beginning of May 2014. We invited the Food attaché in Hordaland to join us as he will be important in building a network of contacts with local suppliers in Hordaland.

The visits made us confident that starting up a shop in our school is a very good idea. We will be able to give our pupils an inspiring, good and educationally sound learning arena. We were

impressed by the way the pupils clearly were engaged in the production and management of the different arenas both in the kitchens, restaurants and shops. The visits have inspired us to establish further contact with the three schools to ensure future exchange of knowledge and skills between the three countries

### **Welfare technology in Århus**

By Åslaug Brænde, USHT (text and photo)



Six employees from the municipalities Lindås, Stord and Bergen in Hordaland (photo) spent one week in Århus in Denmark in May 2014 to learn about welfare technology. The Centre for Development of Institutional and Home based Services in Hordaland (USHT) coordinated the project. The hosts in Århus had made a varied and individual program to show the diversity and to share experiences about strategy and implementation. Århus municipality has created five main guidelines:

- 1) We make the citizens stay away – because we believe that the citizens want to live independent .
- 2) Power to the citizens – because we are here to serve them.
- 3) Together with the citizens – because it is in the meeting with the citizens we can create proper care.
- 4) Freedom to the employees – because job satisfaction and innovative thinking assumes degrees of freedom and professionalism.
- 5) Intended leadership – because success depends on strong and good leadership.

The slogan was “freedom technology” rather than “welfare technology” and included all kinds of aid that created more freedom and independence for the users. The group from Hordaland visited a variety of health care units, participated in meetings and explored services. As a follow up, USHT and the municipalities are planning several cooperating activities with their Danish partners. E.g. placements for Danes in Bergen, planning of a welfare technology trade show in Bergen in 2015, and mutual exchange of programmes within welfare technology.

## 4 Youth and Internationalisation



### Learners Mobility

By Lene Mari Fjeldsbø, Department of Education and Training  
(photo: Anette Bakketun)

Hordaland County Council is a regional contact point for the Leonardo da Vinci programme, and is among the most active users of the mobility programme in Norway. The main target groups of the programme are students and apprentices in vocational education, but also teachers and other people responsible for training may take part in the programme. This spring 116 pupils and apprentices from Hordaland had placements in companies and institutions in different European countries. Pupils usually have shorter stays between 2-4 weeks while apprentices have longer stays of 12-13 weeks. The distribution of trades varies and includes study programmes within Food and Beverages, Waiting, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Health work, Child care and Youth worker, Robotics, Building and Construction, Landscaping, and Art, Craft and Design. Target countries this spring have been France, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Italy and Wales. Through this experience the participants gain international competence and new skills.



Laksevåg Upper Secondary School has had a successful cooperation with BASF training centre in Ludwigshafen, Germany, for many years. This spring the school sent 4 Chemical Processing students to Germany for 4 weeks. At BASF the students are divided into groups together with both German and other international students, and the groups rotate at different work stations. The training the students receive during the placement is of high educational value, and the students get to use equipment that is not available to them at school in Norway. The students felt very welcome, and they had new and interesting tasks to do throughout the placement period. In addition to learning new work skills, they learned about German culture and made many new friends. In the words of one of the participants, Anette Bakketun: "An experience I would not be without!"



### Comenius Regio

### Comenius Regio project: "Approaching Delinquent Behaviour at School"

By Berte Karin Fagerås, Fyllingsdalen Upper Secondary School



Artwork on the wall: "Dreams about a world"

(Photo: Grethe Fløholm, Fyllingsdalen Upper Secondary school)

Hordaland County Council, represented by the Department of Education and Fyllingsdalen Upper Secondary School, participated in a Comenius Regio project together with the Association of School Leaders. Hordaland cooperated with partners from the Greek island of Rhodes: school owners, an upper secondary school, the police and two other organisations in the Dodecanese Islands.

The project aims at investigating similarities and differences in approaching delinquent behaviour at school in the two partner regions. The first year the participants gathered information and observed practices.

During the second and final year of the project the focus was on comparing practices and good examples. In April 2014 Hordaland County Council received a visit from Rhodes for the second time. The delegation consisted of teachers, administrative staff and a psychologist. The delegation visited in addition Fyllingsdalen Upper Secondary School and Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School.

In May 2014 a delegation from Bergen with teachers and administrative staff travelled to Rhodes and visited three new schools. The final evaluation of the project is positive and the participants of both countries are very satisfied with the learning outcome.

### Comenius Regio project: “Assessment for Learning”

By Maria Sanchez Olsen, Bjørgvin Upper Secondary School

As representative for the coordinating institution, it is with great pleasure we conclude that our project goals with regard to professional learning and development of a more learning oriented approach to assessment, to a large extent has been a success. There are several key factors that may explain why we consider the project a success.

First of all, more or less the same teachers have participated throughout the project, and they have been dedicated to the exploring of new pedagogical ideas about assessment as an integrated part of the teaching and learning process. Professor Kari Smith has lead the professional learning process together with Maria S. Olsen in a way that has both pushed and inspired teachers to try out new practice, which is crucial for genuine professional learning to take place. In both countries teachers have investigated and critically reviewed how use of ICT can support formative assessment, and we feel certain to claim that most teachers master more tools than before the project.

From an administrative point of view we have experienced how important it is to ensure a close co-operation over time between representatives from county administration, the school, and the university to obtain professional and organisational learning. Several participants have also notably increased their communication skills in English and Spanish. Thanks to all partners in the project, and the teachers in particular, for their keen participation.

We strongly recommend other countries to take part in collective professional learning processes across institutions and country borders.



### Comenius Regio project: Learning Language - Learning Nutrition

Bjørn Brekkan, Knarvik Upper Secondary School

Knarvik Upper Secondary School has just finished a two year bilateral project financed by Comenius Regio. We established contact with our partner school, Institution Robin, 30 km to the south of Lyon, five years ago, and we have mainly cooperated in exchanges involving our students with French as a foreign language. In this two-year project the main focus was on young people's attitudes to food, local food production and consumption. The students in France and Norway have worked on the same topics and visited each other in April and May 2014.

### Cross-cultural cooperation

By Marie Høyvik, Bergen Maritime upper secondary school

As part of the Leonardo da Vinci program, Bergen Maritime videregående skole og fagskole has cooperated with CIFP Hesperides in Cartagena, Spain since 2011. During these years the two schools have established a good relationship and cooperation with the sailing ship Statsraad Lehmkühl, and also this year the captain and crew were happy to welcome Spanish students onboard.



On 6th March this spring four maritime students mustered in Tenerife where they took part in the final preparations to make the ship seaworthy and ready to sail back to Bergen. The Statsraad Lehmkühl left Santa Cruz on March 18th, and the students will stay onboard until June 15th. The students work as part of the crew, and get both valuable work experience and an adventure for life.

### International projects at the “Service and communication programme”

By Ann Haugland, Os Upper Secondary School

Os Upper Secondary School has through several years given help to Moldova through the Norwegian organization “Hjelp Moldova”. The students work outside school one day and give what they earn to this organisation. Moldova is the poorest and most undeveloped country in Europe. We have had visitors from Moldova, both students and

teachers, and every year we send some students and teachers from our school, to follow up the projects we support. These visits make our students more tolerant when it comes to people from other cultures and give them a better understanding and appreciation of their own education and life in general. We believe these visits contribute to greater tolerance for things that are different and give motivation and inspiration to help people that need help.

We are impressed with our students' engagement, and we agree with Egil Rafto: "Nobody can help everybody but everybody can help somebody". More information: [www.hjelp-moldova.no](http://www.hjelp-moldova.no).



Hordaland County Council has been EVS sending and coordinating organisation since 1999. We look back on many successful EVS projects, which have given young people in Hordaland working experience, language skills and international competences.



Vanja Haugland (photo above) who returned from Sardinia in February said: "Today I am looking back on my EVS period with great joy and gratitude. This EVS project has given me the opportunity to contribute positively and become familiar with the Sardinian culture and community, while conducting my own goals to get new experiences, grow as a person and improve my knowledge and understanding of cultures other than my own."



## Youth in Action Program

### Erasmus+: Youth in Action

By Barbara Harterink, International Services

The Youth in Action programme has come to an end (2007-2013) and will be incorporated in the new Erasmus+ programme for education, youth and sports (2014-2020). This spring Hordaland County Council - International Services organised an information seminar for youth workers and organisations, in cooperation with the National Agency Erasmus+: Youth in Action.

The EU will continue to give support to youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service (EVS) and seminars for youth workers. Hordaland County Council will also in future be the regional contact point for EU's programme for youth and give support to youth workers in municipalities and youth organisations in our region.

The last European volunteers, supported through the Youth in Action programme, have now finished their projects and returned home to Hordaland.



Oselververkstaden in Os has very positive experiences as an EVS host organisation. They hosted a French volunteer from May 2013 to June 2014. Jérôme Mascarell (photo) learned during this period how to build one of the typical sailing/rowing boats here in Hordaland: the Oselvar boat. This EVS project is a result of the cooperation between the regions Hordaland and Lower Normandy.

This summer we will send three young people to St. Pierre de Coutances in Lower Normandy to participate in the Youth in Action seminar about waste management: "The Ambassadors of the Reduction of Waste".

## 5

# West Norway Office in Brussels

by West Norway Office



The West Norway Office (WNO) has continued its work as a liaison between its members in West Norway and European actors in Brussels in the spring of 2014. The main tasks of the office is to provide its members with information services, promote the region and its members as cooperation partners for European projects, and to increase the knowledge on EU-Norway relations in the region.

This spring WNO has welcomed politicians, administrative staff, students, teachers and other representatives from the West Norway region at the office premises in Brussels. The visiting groups have attended lectures on different themes by various Norwegian and European actors in Brussels, including WNO. An important part of the WNOs service to its members is to contribute to increased knowledge about EU/EEA matters and their implications for the region. Among the groups visiting this spring has been the Mayor of Bergen and representatives from the City Council (photo). They enjoyed a three-day programme including a meeting with the Norwegian Ambassador to the EU, updates on current issues of interest in areas as transport, energy and environmental policy as well as an introduction to the work of the European Parliament.

The members of the WNO also had the opportunity to increase their EU/EEA knowledge in Bergen in June 2014. A seminar was organised by WNO in cooperation with Hordaland County Council. Here the participants got an introduction to the functions of the EU, the EEA agreement and on current issues and policies in the European Union. How the energy sector in Western Norway is affected by EU regulations was also on the agenda. It is important for WNO to be present in the region and to organise events and seminars in West Norway as well as in Brussels. Several members have received follow up visits from WNO this spring, and in Hordaland this includes Fjell and Bergen municipalities – in addition to the Hordaland County Council administration itself.

WNO is as previous years a part of the European consortium “Smart partnerships for jobs and growth” with other European regional offices that are preparing for this year’s Open Days conference in Brussels in October 2014. The focus of this year’s joint event will be Smart Specialisation in European regions. See more: [www.west-norway.no](http://www.west-norway.no)

## Internship at West Norway Office in Brussels

By Berit Roksvåg, Department of Education and Training

Berit Roksvåg from the Department of Education and Training worked for three weeks in March-April at the West Norway Office (WNO) in Brussels. One of the objectives for the internship at WNO was for the Department of Education and Training to make more active use of WNO in international work. The objective of the internship was to further examine how the Department and our secondary schools can better utilise the regional office in a more targeted manner, focusing on our international strategy.

Roksvåg had meetings with Norwegian and European officials working within the fields of education and culture. All officials pointed out the inherent potential in the EU programmes for the education sector. The Norwegian authorities would like to see more activity within these programmes. The Norwegian contribution to Erasmus+ in 2014 amounts to approximately NOK 220 million and approximately NOK 3.3 billion for the entire duration of the programme period. WNO will support the Department of Education and the schools by further developing good project ideas and seeking relevant collaborative partners through their network and for example by arranging meetings/meeting places between schools. In addition WNO will provide relevant information from the EU to the Department of Education. Possible areas that were discussed included drop-outs, multi-cultural society, youth unemployment and human rights and values.

## 6 Other activities

### Three EEA projects with Poland

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with sixteen EU countries in Central and Southern Europe.

### Library as a multi-cultural meeting place

By Elin Golten, Hordaland County Library

Hordaland County Library is one of six Norwegian partners involved in the Polish-Norwegian project "Library as a Meeting Place for Many Cultures". The project receives EEA support through the program "Promotion of Diversity in Culture and Arts within European Cultural Heritage". Leading partner is the Polish Information Society Development Foundation. The project's objective is to develop a model of a library integrating a diverse local community and to equip librarians with the knowledge and skills necessary in planning and implementing multicultural activities in cooperation with minority groups. The project will be a transfer of knowledge and experiences between Norwegian and Polish libraries through workshops, library visits, and small cooperation projects.

### Polish-Norwegian Music Incubator

This EEA project aims at the development of talent and supporting young artists' entry into the labour



market. Partners in the project are amongst others: The Grieg Academy, Langhaugen Upper Secondary School, and Ignaz Paderewski-musikk college in Bialystok, Poland. The project cooperates with several festivals in both countries. A 80 persons large symphony orchestra with talented musicians in the age of 13-19 years from Hordaland, Sogn og Fjordane and Bialystok gave concerts in Poland in February (photo) and in Os (Oseana) and in Førde in June.

### Better understand than hate

By Piotr Grześków, The Foundation for Promoting Science and Creativity

The Foundation for Promoting Science and Creativity initiated an EEA-funded project together with Norwegian People's Aid and Hordaland County Council. The objective of the project is to promote multiculturalism, fight hateful stereotypes of minorities, and fight verbal aggression, especially online hate speech. The project will be addressed to young people aged 13-16 in the city and county of Nowy Sącz in Poland. It is planned that ten groups of youth leaders will attend workshops on the cultural diversity of the region and the benefits of peaceful co-habitation of different traditions and cultures. Young people will design and implement their own activities in schools and in the local community: campaigns against intolerance, verbal aggression and online hate speech. We will start an online portal presenting workshop scenarios, campaign reports and reports from hate speech monitoring on local websites. The partner organisation Norwegian People's Aid and Solidarity Youth will share their experience with similar projects and host a Polish delegation this autumn.

### Two new Norwegian Centres of Expertise in Hordaland

This spring two new clusters in Hordaland gained status as Norwegian Centre of Expertise, NCE media cluster and NCE Maritime Cleantech. These will come in addition to the already existing NCE clusters for tourism and subsea.

"We are very pleased that the knowledge and business sectors in Hordaland can assert themselves nationally and internationally. The fact that we are rewarded two new Norwegian Centres of Expertise, is an important step to increase awareness of the multiple and innovative business sectors we have here on the west coast and in Hordaland", said County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen.

"The media sector in Hordaland is growing stronger and stronger, and it is very rewarding that the strong competence that we have here in the region is recognized. Concerning Maritime Cleantech we have recently seen what they are capable of delivering - top level engineering skills with a green focus. NCE status shows that the competence and achievement in Hordaland have been noticed", said Deputy Mayor Mona Hellesnes.

Hordaland County Council publishes International Newsletter twice a year, giving you a short introduction to the county's international activities over the last 6 months. Although the list is not extensive, we nevertheless hope to give you an idea of the breadth of international activities that takes place within our region. The next newsletter will be sent out in December 2014.

Editing completed on 30th June 2014



International Services,  
P.O. Box 7900,  
5020 Bergen, Norway

All photos are produced by Hordaland County Council,  
unless where otherwise is noted.

For more information: [www.hordaland.no/internasjonal](http://www.hordaland.no/internasjonal)