

International Newsletter



HORDALAND
COUNTY COUNCIL



1/15

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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

Editor: Barbara.Harterink@hfk.no

Front page: "L'Abbaye-aux-Dames" (The Women's Abbey), housing the Conseil Régional de Basse Normandie. Founded around 1060 by Matilda of Flanders, William the Bastard's spouse, the Abbaye-aux-Dames was consecrated on 18th June 1066 and dedicated to the Holy Trinity. In 1823, the buildings became the 'Hôtel-Dieu' and then the 'Hospice Saint-Louis' in 1908. In 1983, the buildings were bought by the Regional Council of Lower Normandy which, after two years of rehabilitation work, took possession of these places steeped in history.

1. Our partner regions

Basse-Normandie, France

Maths seminar for French teachers in Norway

Hordaland County Council, in cooperation with Voss Upper Secondary School, organized a two day seminar for mathematics teachers from France.

Teachers in France and Norway use different methods when they teach mathematics. This can be a challenge for Hordaland students when they attend classes in Basse-Normandie.

At the seminar the French teachers learned about how we teach mathematics in Norway.

– This will enable us to follow-up on the Hordaland students in a better way, says Xavier Gauchard, inspector at l'Académie de Caen.

Satisfied with the cooperation

The four schools in Basse-Normandie which receive students from Hordaland, sent one teacher each to the seminar, in addition to two inspectors. The participants from both countries were very satisfied with the seminar.

– A connection has been made between teachers from two different educational systems, and this will help to develop the cooperation between Hordaland and Basse-Normandie in an even more positive direction, says Berit Roksvåg from Hordaland County Council.

Contact: Berit.Roksvag@hfk.no



Photo: The French guests, three Norwegian teachers and four French students in the foreground at Voss Upper Secondary School.

Business Region Bergen visited Basse-Normandie

Eight representatives from Business Region Bergen (BRB) travelled to Basse-Normandie in January. They visited Miriade, the regional agency for regional development and innovation. We asked Ole Hope, managing director at BRB and head of the delegation, a couple of questions.

How did you come in contact with Miriade in Basse-Normandie?

In November last year I was part of the Hordaland delegation visiting cooperation region Basse-Normandie. Hordaland County Council's Department of Regional Development initiated several meetings with Miriade.

Why did you want to visit Miriade again?

Basse-Normandie has restructured and organised their public services, in order to strengthen growth and development in the region. For us at Business Region Bergen this is very inspiring. Miriade is some steps ahead of us in their process, as they already have the political and financial foundation in place, which we are working on now. You don't need to reinvent the wheel!

What was the result of this visit?

The outcome was very positive. We got new ideas and new useful contacts. We at Business Region Bergen are now looking into these new ideas and we want to transpose them and develop our own model. We will keep in contact with Miriade and test out ideas and exchange experiences also in future. We invited Miriade to come to Bergen next time.

- Website Miriade: miriade-innovation.fr
- Website Business Region Bergen: www.regionbergen.com



French students at Voss Upper Secondary School

There were four exchange students from Basse-Normandie at Voss Upper Secondary School.

This spring semester Voss Upper Secondary School was the host for the first four exchange students from Basse-Normandie. The students spent two months in ordinary classes as well as participating in various cultural activities. As part of their preparation for their stay in Norway the students attended forty hours of Norwegian language lessons at OFNEC, the French-Norwegian department of the University in Caen.

In November 2012 it was officially agreed to set up a "Hordaland class in Normandie", giving upper secondary school students in Hordaland the chance to spend a school year in Basse-Normandie. The intention was to make this agreement reciprocal, and to give students from Normandy the opportunity to study in Hordaland.

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Photo: The four students from Basse-Normandie in the foreground. In the background from the left: Head of Educational Section Linda Farestveit, Director of Education Svein Heggheim, Headmaster Unn Fauskanger and Roald Steinseide, leader of the Education and Health Committee.

Cardiff, Wales

A Norwegian student in Wales

Meet Christian Kårbø Engelsen from Hordaland, Norway, an exchange student at Barry Comprehensive during the school year 2014–2015:

What was the highlight of your stay in Wales?

Meeting new interesting people from different countries and learning from their way of life in the countries where they come from. I found it interesting and enjoyable to learn about different cultures.



Photo: Hordaland students in Cardiff, with Christian to the far right.

How did you find your school and subjects?

I found the school a bit annoying because of all the small kids I had to share corridors with, since I found them to be pretty immature, noisy and using foul language. The teachers, however, were wonderful and had a reasonable attitude towards learning and therefore gave me a high-quality education.

How did you find staying with a host family?

My host parents were two of the most generous people I have ever known in my life. They were kind to me from the day I moved in until the day I moved out. I therefore found the stay exquisitely pleasant.

Any other comments from your year abroad?

I have learned much from this exchange year and I would do it again if I had to make the choice again. In my eyes, the year was definitely worth it.

Christian was interviewed by his friend Amund Bergland Kvalsvik, student at Whitchurch High School during 2014–2015.

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Photo: Norwegian students at Barry Comprehensive together with class mates.

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, Electronics or Equestrian- and Farrier studies. After the school year abroad the students return to Hordaland and go straight into the final school year (Vg3) or into an apprenticeship (Electronics or Equestrian studies).

Cooperative countries

Five upper secondary schools in Hordaland coordinate the "Hordaland class" programme and the follow-up of the students abroad. The students attend schools in:

- Cardiff (Wales)
- Erfurt (Germany)
- Basse-Normandie (France)
- Bábolna (Hungary)
- Missouri (USA)

How Many?

The 2014-15 school year saw 64 students attending in Hordaland classes. There has been a steady increase in numbers of participants in the programme.

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 network will equip the students with highly valuable skills regarding the global and multicultural society.

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The Hordaland class in USA

In 1998 the first group of students from Hordaland County Council studied at St. Paul Lutheran High, Concordia, Missouri, USA. Since then around 350 students from Hordaland have had the opportunity to be part of "the Hordaland class in USA", coordinated by Øystese Upper Secondary School. Last school semester 25 students from Hordaland studied at St. Paul.

At St. Paul the pupils live in an international environment, as there are about 90 international students at the school. Most of them live on campus. It gives them the opportunity to learn about different cultures and to make contacts with the rest of the world.

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Photo: Group picture of the Hordaland class in Missouri, and parents, in front of the Administration building at St. Paul Lutheran High.

The Hordaland class in Hungary

In March the Norwegian ambassador in Hungary visited students from Voss Upper Secondary School of Agriculture, who attend horse-riding education/training during 6 months in Babolna, Hungary. Voss School of Agriculture has cooperated with schools and horse riding clubs in Babolna since 2008.

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Photo: The horse riding students inspired the Norwegian ambassador Tove Skarstein to take a ride on horseback herself!

Kaunas, Lithuania

Guests from Kaunas City

A delegation from Kaunas City visited Hordaland in April with the intention to gain inspiration and learn from our experiences with internationalization in Upper Secondary Vocational Education and Regional Development. The delegation visited Askøy Upper Secondary School, which has long experience in exchanging students in vocational education, especially with partner organizations in Thüringen.

In recent years Kaunas and Hordaland have cooperated within the social field, and the group used the opportunity to visit some of the organizations who presented "good practices" at conferences in Kaunas.

The representatives from Kaunas City were very pleased with their visit to Hordaland, and will take initiatives to strengthen Erasmus+ activities in cooperation with Upper Secondary Schools. New ideas have been launched on future exchanges between Kaunas and Hordaland, for example in the field of flexible and citizen-oriented health care services.

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Photo: On Mount Fløyen, from the left: Chief Specialist of Non-formal and Pre-school Education Audronė Bukmanaitė, Chief Specialist of International Relations Rima Kubiliute and Deputy Head of Public Management Eglė Andriuškienė from the Kaunas City administration.

Thüringen, Germany

Long lasting partnership

The regions of Hordaland and Thüringen have successfully exchanged apprentices, pupils and staff since the early nineties. This would not have been possible without good partnerships with Leonardo Büro Thüringen at the Technical University in Ilmenau and Europa-Service Büro Südwestthüringen in Erfurt/Suhl.

In April the partner organizations discussed future cooperation in the new Erasmus+ program, with special focus on mobility projects and strategic partnership. New meetings will take place in Bergen in the Autumn in order to prepare for project applications in 2016.

Contact: Marit.Einen@hfk.no



Photo: Europa-Service Büro: Harald Brückner (Director), Katja Schulze, Mélanie Büttner-Nyenhuis and Astrid Friedrich

Apprentice in media and information service

Leonardo-Büro Thüringen has a policy of sending as many apprentices working in TU Ilmenau as possible on placements abroad. As a result of our cooperation, Pia Tchernoschek, apprentice in media and information service, had a three week placement in June at two libraries in Hordaland - Fjell and Bergen Public Library.

Pia tells us that she feels very lucky to get this opportunity to gain knowledge about the Norwegian library services, to practice English and to learn about Norwegian culture and way of life.

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Photo: Pia Tchernoschek at Fjell Public Library

“Crosswise Learning”

The last session of the Grundtvig partnership project “Crosswise Learning” 2013–15 was held in Erfurt in April, arranged by Erfurt Public Library. Voss language school and Voss Library were the Norwegian project partners.

Hordaland County Council – International Services initiated the project and was invited to Erfurt to attend a preliminary evaluation.

The partners reported that the cooperation had strengthened them with valuable knowledge and tools to meet new challenges, including a recent increase in immigrants.

The final report will come in September and the next issue of International Newsletter will contain a more thorough description of the project outcome.

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Edinburgh, Scotland

Craft skills cooperation between Hordaland and Scotland

A delegation from Hordaland visited Scotland this May to start cooperation on different approaches on how to maintain and develop traditional and craft skills in both commercial and public sector contexts.

One of these traditional crafts is blacksmithing. This spring, Odda Upper Secondary School in Hordaland will start a national program for blacksmithing.



Photo: The delegation from Hordaland under Forth Bridge. This bridge is nominated to The World Heritage Site List.

The delegation included many experts in the field of traditional skills and heritage and there were representatives from the public and private sector.

The host organisation was the Scottish Government's Culture and Historic Environment Division in Edinburgh and the mobility project was planned and organised by The Cultural Heritage & Museums Section in Hordaland County Council.

The exchange of competences will allow both countries to learn different approaches to cultural heritage from one another and test them.

The Scottish and Norwegian partners want to collaborate for example on the maintenance of World Heritage and Industrial Heritage, as well as digital technology and specialist approaches to timber and blacksmith skills.

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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: ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus

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: ec.europa.eu/europe2020

How?

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

- learning possibilities for students and teachers (Erasmus+ Learners Mobility),
- staff in charge of Vocational Education and Training (Erasmus+ Staff Mobility)
- youth and youth workers (Erasmus+: Youth in Action).

2. Cooperation through European organisations

North Sea Commission

Interview with NSC President Tom-Christer Nilsen

Why do we need the North Sea Commission?

It is very important to have these kinds of arenas for cooperation at the regional level. The regional views and needs can be different from that of the national level, and it's not always easy to be heard. A region in Germany could have more in common with Hordaland than with a neighbor German region. The common denominator is the North Sea. And within the North Sea there are plenty of challenges that need to be solved and opportunities that need to be pursued. To achieve this, cooperation at the regional level, and between regions and state- and EU level, is essential. The NSC works with this in several ways; sharing of knowledge and views, exchanging and developing new project ideas, and lastly working politically to influence national, European and transnational bodies. We do this by promoting our views and participating in important policy processes.

In June 2014 you were elected President of the North Sea Commission. What are the main topics you have focused on in this position?

One of the most important issues the last year has been related to European Parliament Preparatory Action. This is a process to examine the added value and growth potential associated with coordinated



Photo: NSC President Tom-Christer Nilsen at the North Sea Conference 2015.

cooperation in the North Sea region. A conference in Edinburgh 29th January 2015 named Regional cooperation on energy and maritime spatial planning in the North Sea was a part of this process. Another event will follow later this year.

Another vital topic has been important issues related to the Energy Union. The North Sea is the powerhouse of Europe, both when it comes to oil, gas and renewable energy. To maximize the potential of the region there is a need for more cooperation, including maritime spatial planning. To establish a North Sea Grid is a part of this and could be vital for the new Energy Union.

Can you mention some of the results the NSC has achieved?

Throughout the years the NSC has been a vital player in several important issues. One of them was the establishing of the Interreg North Sea Region



Photo: The North Sea Commission Annual Business meeting in Assen, the Netherlands, 18th June 2015.

Programme that has been running since 1997. The North Sea Regional Advisory Council is also something the NSC helped to establish. The last years two of the main achievements have been to develop the North Sea Region 2020 strategy paper and lobbying for a European Parliament Preparatory Action.

Important activities in 2015

European Parliament

The NSC president Tom-Christer Nilsen was invited to speak at a European Parliament seminar on Energy Union 18th March. The energy union aims at tackling the energy "trilemma" of security of supply, sustainability and affordability. An integrated North Sea grid is fundamental to realise our energy potential. The event was co-hosted by the conservative MEP Ian Duncan from Scotland and the green MEP Bas Eickhout from the Netherlands.

CPMR

The North Sea Commission President attended a series of meetings in Brussels 21st and 22nd April arranged by CPMR on the theme of maritime industries and marine renewable energies. The meetings conveyed a clear message arguing for a strategy on maritime industries and marine renewables. The NSC

President was then part of a round-table discussion at the European Parliament where he was able to put forward a strong case for building the North Sea Grid.

Energy

Friday 29th May the President of the NSC joined Vice President for Energy Union, Maros Sefcovic's delegation as part of the visit to the Cross-border Energy Region of Northern Netherlands/Lower Saxony. President Nilsen had the opportunity for a one to one discussion with Vice President Sefcovic and raised the question of a North Sea Grid at a table discussion on Offshore Energy.

North Sea Conference and ABM

This year's North Sea Conference was in Assen, Netherlands 16th-18th June, and was the largest to date. President Nilsen was one of the opening speakers. NSC was co-organiser and arranged two workshops and several group meetings during the conference, followed by the NSC Annual Business Meeting and Ex-Com 18th June. Sveinung Valle and Mona R. Strømme, both members of NSC thematic groups, were political representatives from Hordaland.

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3. Projects

Interreg IV B – North Sea Region



"Clean North Sea Shipping – Improved Dissemination and Impact"

"Clean North Sea Shipping – Improved Dissemination and Impact" builds on the successful Interreg IVB project "Clean North Sea Shipping", a research driven project on emission and greenhouse gas reduction from ships through the use of available technology and implementation of cleaner energy solutions for ships in ports or at sea. CNSS created awareness and provided key input for strategic and operational policy-building among regional and national stakeholders, politicians, ports and ship owners. As a result from the CNSS-project three emission modelling tools were developed for different purposes and end-users:

1. EMPORT(ANT)

This model is developed to calculate and visualize emissions of ocean going vessels in port areas, and is applicable to most ports. The model is freely available to be installed on any webserver and further developed. It allows for calculating emission scenarios based on alternative fuels or the application of exhaust gas cleaning technologies (www.cnss.no).

2. North Sea Emission Tool

This tool empowers policy and decision makers as well as the industry and scientific community with key information on emission gas spread and congregation in the North Sea region. From ship characteristics, technical details about the engine and speed,

combined with load dependent emission factors, a detailed and up-to-date emission inventory for the North Sea was developed. A webpage demonstrating the use and findings of the emission models will be available at www.shipemissions.eu.

3. The voyage prediction tool

In the CNSS project engine load dependent emission factors for poisonous and GHG gases were developed using emission data from 250 ship's engines. The updated emission factors have been implemented in a voyage emission prediction simulation. Two versions of the tool have been developed; a simplified version suitable for educational purposes on environment and emission factors, and a second version for professionals in the maritime industry (www.cnss.no).

The follow up project CNSS-IDI's main objective is to communicate the tools hence educate the community and better position the maritime industry to handle emission gas related issues and build on the knowledge gained in CNSS.

Hordaland County Council has been Lead Beneficiary for the project. Other partners were Helmholtz Zentrum, Geesthacht, Swedish Maritime Technology Forum, Newcastle University, Antwerp Port Authority and Harlingen Municipality.

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PHOTO: Final conference was held in Bergen, 12th June. Lars Tveit (left), Hordaland County Council, Chairman of Steering Committee and Alan Murphy, Newcastle University, WP3 leader (Policy and Strategy)

Cycling and ride-sharing to reduce carbon emission

The Care North Plus-project is a collaboration between the Nordic countries, with the aim to develop carbon responsible transport strategies for the North Sea Area.

The North Sea Region is dealing with the effects of climate change and declining oil supplies. Still, the traditional understanding of transport causes a continued increase in CO2 emissions.

Enthusiastic pedelec cyclist

County Mayor of Hordaland Tom-Christer Nilsen is an enthusiastic pedelec cyclist.

– A pedel electric bicycle is an effective and environmentally friendly means of transport that I can recommend to anyone, says Tom-Christer Nilsen.

Almost half of all workers in Bergen live less than five kilometers from the workplace, while two-thirds live closer than ten kilometers away. This means that the potential for increased bicycle traffic in the city of Bergen is particularly high.

Encourages ride-sharing

The project "Spontaneous ride-sharing" and the CARE-North plus project hosted a breakfast meeting Bergen in May. Among the issues discussed here was how the political level in the City of Bergen can help support ride-sharing as a method to reduce traffic in the city centre. Practical experiences with ride-sharing were also discussed.

CEO share-rides

Airport director of Bergen Airport Aslak Sverdrup is an enthusiastic ride-sharer. He has plans for how the airport in Bergen and other cities can be designed in order to facilitate ride-sharing, for example by establishing meeting points and car parking for this purpose.

CARE-North+ aims to change the mobility culture by sharing inspiration and joining forces. The partners choose their own focus in the field of "green mobility". Lead Partner is The City of Bremen. The project is closely linked to Hordaland's Climate Action Plan.

Website: www.care-north.eu

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Photo: County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen promotes pedelec cycling.

Interreg IV B – Baltic Sea Region



Extremely low emission from Bio Gas Buses

At the moment there are two maxi buses in Bergen that run on biogas. Tests show that the emission of nitrogen (NO₂) from the biogas buses is close to zero and that the emission of CO₂ and other gases is very low.

–The results are very positive and surprising. We didn't anticipate such good results, says County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen.

Normal buses have 350 times more emission

The emission of NO₂ is equivalent to that of one regular car and a normal diesel bus has emission 350 times more than the bio bus. The test was done by Department of Mechanical and Marine Engineering by the Bergen University College. The low emission is due to the fact that the buses are a hybrid, run by an elec-

tric motor where the electricity comes from a battery which is charged by a biogas motor and by energy from the breaks.

– Buses like these will lead to a better air quality at the most exposed areas in Bergen, says Nilsen.

A natural consequence will be to take this factor into consideration when calling for tender for the public bus services next year.

The new "maxi bus" in Bergen is a result from the Interregional project "Baltic Biogas Bus". Hordaland County Council has been a partner and Bergen based company HOG Energi has been vital for the project.

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Maxibus

- The buses are driven by an electric motor, with a battery charged by a biogas motor and by brake energy.
- The longest bus in Norway, 24 meters, and has special license.
- Capacity of 105 passengers.



Photo: One of the two maxi buses in Bergen that run on biogas.

Interreg – Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme



Craft Reach project

The new Économusée project Craft Reach was approved earlier this spring by the NPA program. This is great news for the partners in Greenland, Iceland, Atlantic Canada, the Faroe Islands, in Northern Ireland, in the Republic of Ireland and in Norway.

Over the next three years these partners will work with local communities and small craft businesses to develop new approaches to business development; look at craft businesses' contributions to community development and look at better engagement with local knowledge and expertise of all ages.

Custodians of local heritage

Craft businesses are such great custodians of local heritage. We must all help capture the knowledge and contribute to the next generation's use of such valuable expertise in the choices they make for their

careers. Strong links to the local community will help retain the young and resourceful in our local communities. The Craft Reach partners are all busy looking for new candidates to join the artisan network right now. In Norway we will develop five more new Economusees.

The Royal Society for Development has taken over the Lead Partner Role

Hordaland County Council has signed a partnership agreement with The Royal Norwegian Society for Development which was established in 1809. The organization has a charitable purpose to create sustainable commercial development for local communities with a future. They achieve this by initiating, developing and carrying out projects. Royal Society for Development is an open and independent membership organization. It is now the Lead partner organization for the Craft



Photo: Hordaland politician Helge Andre Njåstad and Vice Mayor Malene Lyng, Nuuk city, at the Kittat Economusee opening in Greenland in 2013.

Reach project and they will do the project work for transforming new companies into Economusees in Norway and take care of the Economusee network in the future.

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Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Staff Mobility

The Leonardo da Vinci programme ends

For many years, Hordaland County Council's International services has been an active and consistent user of the EU programme Leonardo da Vinci. 2015 marks the end of the programme and this spring has seen the completion of the last mobility projects.

A total number of 41 staff/instructors have participated in mobility project abroad this spring, with Denmark, Sweden, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Germany and Poland as receiving countries. This includes a broad set of project topics, such as school libraries, craft traditions, wool production, cropping, archives, cooking and cultural heritage.

By exchanging experiences and sharing knowledge, the projects are a tool to increase competence both in the County Council and in other organisations and businesses in Hordaland.

While the Leonardo da Vinci program ends now in 2015, Hordaland County Council is already involved in the succeeding programme - Erasmus+. The two

articles below highlight two of this spring's mobility projects.

Contact: Marit.Einen@hfk.no

Strengthening cooperation between school libraries and learning activities

In May a delegation from Hordaland visited several school libraries in Denmark and Sweden. The main aim was to learn how to improve cooperation between libraries and learning activities in vocational schools.

The group included five school librarians, three teachers and three staff members from the Hordaland County Library. The county library in Halmstad was the host organisation and they had planned a very interesting programme. During the mobility project the group visited five school libraries (upper secondary school), two public libraries, one college library, as well as the county library. Other important topics were how the school libraries can contribute to reduce the number of early school leavers and integrate people with minority background into society.

The group was very satisfied with the project and came back to Hordaland with new ideas. As one of the participants writes in her rapport: "Good cooperation between the management/teachers and the librarian is vital when it comes to the best use of the library. At my school, there are now some concrete plans about how the librarian's services can be implemented in the schedule of the school year, and this is a direct result of the Mobility project"

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PHOTO: Front row, from left: Astrid Holmefjord, Laila Kleppe, Berit Bakka, Anne Haugen Pihl. Second row: Eldrid Nicolaysen Sørnes, Leif-Arne Sveltingen, Eiler Jansson, Barbro Mandelid, Yvonne Demirel, Sjur Tarjei Fykse, Ágúst Magnusson og Guri Aarhus. Photo: Astrid Holmefjord.



Photo: Nutritional Developer John Korsten at the farm "Smalahovetunet" in Voss. Smalahove is a Western Norwegian traditional dish made from a sheep's head. Photo: Kari Mostad, Voss Municipality.

Developing a new First Line Service

Dutch partners from Maas en Peel municipality in the Netherlands visited Hordaland in March. The main aim of the mobility project was to exchange experiences in developing a new and better First Line (reception) service in their new town hall.

The group of 12 administrative personnel visited cooperation partners both in Hordaland County Council and in the municipalities Fjell, Voss and Bergen. The group represented library services, adult education, youth work, immigrant services, public information and economic and rural development. The visit was financed by Erasmus+ Adult Education Mobility.

The visitors from Netherlands were divided into different groups based on their own fields of work and were able to meet several interesting institutions in Hordaland, such as the public libraries in Bergen and Voss, Stend Upper Secondary school of Agriculture and Smalahovetunet in Voss.

All in all the programme was succesful with fruitful dialogues, exchange of experience and enjoyable socializing. The visit also resulted in discussions about further cooperation between Maas en Peel and some of the actors in Hordaland.

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4. Youth and internationalisation

Erasmus+ Learners Mobility



Erasmus+ Learners Mobility

Hordaland County Council is one of the most active users of the Erasmus+ programme in Norway. As a regional contact point, we apply for funding on behalf of schools and vocational training offices in the county every year. Our main target groups are pupils and apprentices in vocational education and training.

This spring we have sent 104 pupils and apprentices on various mobility projects all over Europe. In the 2015 application round we applied on behalf of 15 schools and 2 vocational training offices. We were awarded 82 pupil mobilities and 8 apprentices' mobilities. This year we also included mobility projects for teachers in vocational schools, and were awarded with 20 staff mobilities.

All of the vocational educational programmes are represented in the mobility projects and the countries we cooperate with are: United Kingdom, Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, Malta and Italy. Pupils usually have shorter stays between 2–4 weeks, while apprentices have longer stays of 12–13 weeks.

In accordance with national and regional strategies we provide young learners with international opportunities. Through this experience the participants gain important skills and intercultural competence. They learn how to cooperate and communicate in a foreign language and they become more independent and motivated. All of which will make them better equipped for the international labour market and an increasing multicultural society.

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Safe Internet for all!

In case of intensive use of the internet, what are the consequences for your health? This was the topic of the meeting between 16 students and 8 teachers from five different countries, hosted by Os Upper Secondary School in February. They discussed learning distractions, social isolation, sleep problems, mood swings, depression and obesity.

Os Upper Secondary School is one of five participating schools in the project "Safe Internet for all (SIFA)". The project focuses on making the school and the local community aware of the risks and possible negative impacts of the use of internet. During the project period the schools will develop guidelines for the safe use of internet, and prevent negative consequences for the health by training the students in computer skills like the critical use of sources and copyright.

In addition to Os secondary school, there are four other schools in the project: from Greece, Austria, Poland and Sweden. The project runs over two school years, and includes a weeklong student gathering in each of the project countries. The first meeting was about "internet addiction" in Austria 7th - December 13th. After the 2nd meeting in Os in February, the schools will meet again in September in Kos, Greece.

vimeo.com/123264346

Contact: Lisbeth.Holst@hfk.no



Photo: Students at the project "Safe Internet for All" in Austria.

Bring Children From Streets

Laksevåg Upper Secondary School collected hundreds of thousands of Norwegian kroner which went directly to the foundation Bring Children From Streets, supporting projects in Uganda. The school class which brought in the most, was allowed to have lunch with a special guest. Finally, on Friday 10th June she visited Laksevåg Secondary School: Norwegian world boxing champion Cecilia Brækhus!

Former Laksevåg vgs student Richard Kiwanuka started the foundation Bring Children From Streets in Bergen in 2005. The aim of the foundation is to collect financial means in order to support for instance the Nsumba orphanage, sports activities for disadvantaged children, and the establishment of JaJa Nsumba Children Village.

In March two representatives of the Laksevåg vgs Student Council visited the projects in Uganda, together with Richard Kiwanuka and student adviser Åshild Klokkeide Birkeland. During eight days they visited several schools, orphanages and the Katanga slum. The delegation from Laksevåg Secondary School was impressed by the good work of Bring Children From Streets and how much can be done with the money the school collects:

– The money we collected in 2013 has been used to build an assembly place which can be divided in two class rooms. The building is called "Laksevåg", says student adviser Birkeland. Last year's collection has



Photo: To the right, Norwegian world boxing champion Cecilia Brækhus visiting Laksevåg Upper Secondary School. To the left: Head master Tove Føsund and Richard Kiwanuka.



Photo: Thorbjørn Kringstad at work in Knightsbrook hotel in Ireland.

been used to teach students about keeping animals and to educate veterinarians.

Student Frida Kallesøe says that the visit to Uganda gave her a new perspective on life:

– This visit has given me a lot of motivation to collect more money and to help others as much as I can. It is amazing that something that is so little can mean so much!

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Traineeship in Ireland

In February 2015 Sandsli Upper Secondary School sent five Restaurant & Food students to Knightsbrook hotel in Ireland. The students wrote a blog every day about their experiences:

"After these three weeks we have all learned different things. Perseverance: some of the chefs had had to cut vegetables in the past two hours and the waiters polishing cutlery for more than two hours. Not always what we are used to in school. We have been taking orders for the first time as 'waiters'. We have also had the pleasure of having short conversations with customers, feeling proud about managing this. The chefs have been going step by step, from observing, to participate, and then to take own responsibility. After getting familiar with the

place and working methods, we all get more confidence to take more responsibility and perform tasks on its own steam, and thus more knowledge about our subjects, either as a chef or a waiter".

(Restaurant & Food students, Sandsli Secondary School, Ireland 2015)

Sandsli Upper Secondary School has cooperated with Knightsbrook hotel in Ireland for several years. Every year since 2010 the school sends students for a special learning experience. Knightsbrook hotel is a four stars spa and golf hotel and the students get valuable working experience as chef, pastry chef or waiter.

The students learn about new working methods, how to communicate with the guests and colleagues in English and many other practical, cultural and personal skills. This traineeship in Ireland makes the students more attractive jobseekers in an international labor market.

Both the students and the responsible contact persons at the hotel are very positive about the results of this traineeship. The school is planning to send five new students to Ireland during Winter 2016.

Link to the students' blog:
utplasseringirland2015.blogspot.no

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Photo: Lønborg students in Spain, from the left: Malene Reigstad, Silje Mari Langeland, Ingrid Espeseth and Helene Hjeltholm.

Lønborg students get a memory for life

Lønborg Upper Secondary school gave eight students the opportunity to specialize themselves, in March 2015. Four health worker students were in Alfaz del Pi in Spain for two weeks, in cooperation with Fundation Betanien, where they had their practice placements in a nursing home and in homecare. The four child- and youth work students were in kindergartens, organized by Århus Social- og Sundhedskole. The school has cooperated with these two partner organisations on EU-projects for many years.

"A memory for life" the students called their stay abroad. The teachers are very satisfied with the results and support this kind of learning experiences, so the school would have liked to give this opportunity to even more students. Such learning opportunities abroad are not only a good motivation tool, but help the school in the recruitment of students.

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Marketing training for Åsane students

"Welcome to Bergen!" On 22 March a delegation of ten students and teachers from Slovakia arrived at Flesland airport. Students and teachers from Åsane Upper Secondary School showed them around in typical Bergen weather: rain and wet snow. Even in

the winter season it is nice to visit Hordaland, and the guests were especially impressed by the sights of the steep fjords during the round trip "Norway in a nutshell".

The aim of this EEA-financed project is to give students training in the marketing of tourist sites. The students who are involved in this project have chosen the subjects Marketing & Management or International English. After the visit to Bergen, a delegation from Åsane Upper Secondary School visited Senec in April, where they got a sight-seeing in the area of "Sunny Lakes".

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Photo: On Mount Fløyen in Bergen. In the front: Rawan Abobakeer, Selma Pelja, Tram Thi Phuong Le. Back: Per-Christian T.B.Deem, Nikolas Horváth, Jakub Kolláth, Ladislav Tóth, Hannah Jakobsen, Sissel Sin Jakobsen, Erika Filaková, Katarina Kevezdová og Patrik Bolek. PHOTO: Selma Pelja.



Photo: On the ferry from Geiranger to Flåm. From the left: Patrik Bolek, Ladislav Tóth, Olga Hlaváčková, Jakub Kolláth, Jarmila Krasnanská og Erika Filaková. PHOTO: Katarina Kevezdová

Erasmus+: Youth in Action



Saving turtles in Turkey

Young volunteers from Hordaland get valuable skills through the Erasmus+ programme.

– “Save the turtles in Turkey” is one of our most popular EVS-projects, says Barbara Harterink, who coordinates European Voluntary Service (EVS) at Hordaland County Council.

Saving turtles in Turkey

Volunteers from Hordaland County Council go to the Turkish organization “The Third Eye Association of the Mediterranean” (TEAM).

– Their main tasks are cleaning the beaches and informing the local population about the turtles, who leave their eggs on the coast, says Harterink.

The volunteers come from many European countries and work and live together as a group.

European Voluntary Service

Hordaland County Council has been actively involved in European Voluntary Service (EVS) for many years. Since the launch of the new Erasmus+-programme in 2014, International Services has cooperated with the

Follow-up service in order to give this opportunity to early school leavers. In addition the county council collaborates with several municipalities on EVS projects for young people at the age of 18–30.



Photo: Cleaning the coast in Mersin.

Erasmus+: European Voluntary Service (EVS)

What?

As a European volunteer you can work in a wide range of fields, such as culture, youth, sports, children, arts, animal welfare and environment. The volunteer receives free accommodation, food, insurance and pocket money, and most of the travel costs are covered.

Who?

Young people 17–30 years

How long?

1–12 months

Why?

EVS boosts employability in Europe. At the end of the EVS period, the young volunteer will receive a certificate called Youthpass.

– The feedback from most of the returning young people is that they have gained self-confidence, speak better English and have learned about different cultures in Europe, says Harterink.

Contact: Barbara.Harterink@hfk.no



Photo: Volunteer Maren Johansen from Askøy, working for the organisation Solidarités Jeunesses in Beauvoisin, France .

Shared responsibility



–How can different organisations cooperate more with each other, and “share responsibilities”, in order to achieve a better inclusion of early school leavers in society?

This was the central question at the seminar “Shared responsibility” in May, hosted by Hordaland County Council. The 3-day-seminar was financially supported through Erasmus+: Youth in Action.

Three delegations from Hordaland/Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands exchanged best practice and discussed cross-sectorial Erasmus+ projects. Each country delegation consisted of representatives from either the education sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or the public sector.

One day the group visited the new production school Hyssingen in Bergen, and the next day the project Mekkeriet on the island of Askøy. Both provide non-formal learning experiences for young people with fewer opportunities. At the end of the seminar the National Agencies SIU and Bufdir gave feedback on the Erasmus+-project proposals. The outcome of the seminar “Shared responsibility” is new contacts and concrete project ideas for the almost 30 participants.

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A new EU Inclusion & Diversity Strategy

Erasmus+ Youth in Action supports (non-formal) learning opportunities for ALL young people. The programme has a special focus on reaching out to those that are not part of formal education and/or face obstacles in life. The EU

recently launched a new Inclusion & Diversity Strategy in order to give everybody equal access to European youth mobility: ec.europa.eu/youth/news/2015/0526-inclusion-diversity_en.htm

5. West Norway Office in Brussels

Seminar on state aid

West Norway Office and Hordaland County Council organised a seminar on public support schemes/state aid in May. State Aid is an issue closely linked to the EU, because EU regulation in this area is applicable in Norway through the EEA Agreement.

West Norway Office in Brussel

Hordaland County Council continues to be an active member of the West Norway Office (WNO) in Brussels. The main tasks of the office are 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.

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Photo: Expert on State Aid and the EEA Agreement, Per Andreas Bjørgan, was the keynote speaker at the seminar in Bergen. Photo: Merete Mikkelsen, WNO.

6. Other activities

Seeking knowledge in other European countries

Members from the Department of Culture & Sports in Hordaland County visited Copenhagen and Malmö in order to seek knowledge and expertise.

The Norwegian government is currently working on an extensive structural reform. This includes looking into the organization and division of tasks, on the local-regional-national level.

Prepared for the future

The ongoing reform will have an impact on both the county of Hordaland and Hordaland County Council. The purpose of the visit for the management was to obtain up-to-date and comparative expertise from other Nordic countries. The Department of Culture & Sports was especially interested in how Copenhagen and Malmö organize and allocate responsibilities in their field.

Impressed by the Swedes

The Swedish model "kultursamverkans-modellen", especially caught the Norwegians' interest. As a result a number of tasks and funds in the cultural sector have been transferred to the regional level. This was a

result of a Swedish governmental reform in 2011. The responsibility for museums, professional theatre, dance and music activities, libraries, archives, film, various art and cultural initiatives have been transferred to the regional level.

Invited to Norway

In June the Norwegian County directors of Culture gathered in Bergen. The director of Culture in Region Skåne, Gitte Grönfeldt Wille, was invited to share her experiences with an organizational model which allows for culture to be seen as a strong and clear political area.

Contact: [Anna Elisa](mailto:Anna.Elisa)





Photo: In June the Norwegian County directors of Culture gathered in Bergen. Photo previous page, from the left: Researcher Georg Arnestad, The director of Culture in Region Skåne, Gitte Grönfeld Wille and Director of Culture Anna Elisa Tryti.

Hordaland in EUROPAN

The municipalities of Bergen and Os have been chosen to participate in the world's largest competition for young architects, landscape architects and planners – EUROPAN 13.

The aim of the competition is to implement innovative architecture and city development by bringing young architects together with innovative municipalities and developers. The overall theme for this year's competition is Adaptable City.

Assessment of participants

Hordaland County Council participated in the process of finding relevant sites in collaboration with members from the municipalities. The County Council has been involved in choosing the final competition sites and program development.

Sustainable adoption

The theme "Adaptable City" is about the cities' ability to adapt to changed preconditions related to sustainable values. This theme is very relevant for recent Norwegian regional plans, like Regional plan for attractive centres and Regional area and transport plan for the Bergen area.

Important centres in the greater Bergen area

The two EUROPAN-sites are situated within centres with an urgent need to find solutions for different spatial and transport challenges. A huge population growth is predicted in the greater Bergen area and it is of great importance that location of housing and work is close to centres. This will make it easier to walk, bike or use public transport.

The deadline for participation is the 30th June, and the winner will be announced in December 2015.

For more information about the competition see: europan.no

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Sveio's international cooperation success

– Willingness, strategic planning and good cooperation partners. These are the key words International coordinator Olav Bergmål uses to describe the success of the small municipality of Sveio in international cooperation.

International cooperation contributes to local development, and one project leads to two new European projects, says Bergmål.

EU-financed projects

– Almost all our projects are EU-financed, and with some creativity and flexibility we manage to fully finance the international activities in Sveio. In April, an official delegation headed by the Mayor of Sveio, visited Wisznice municipality in Poland. Both municipalities have been cooperating since 2007, for example in the field of youth politics.

– Now in June we discussed a cooperation programme for 2016-2017, containing a youth exchange and a school exchange with Wisznice. We also plan to carry out a 2 year exchange for staff and youth between our institutions working with multi disabled persons.



Photo: European volunteers on a trip to Espevær in Hordaland

In May, Sveio hosted six teachers from Robert Schuman Foundation in Poland.

– We discussed how the public sector in Norway is organized and we showed them several schools in our region. The project was financed with EEA-grants.

–We have also accepted an invitation to take part in a Norway Grant/EEA project in Poznan how to build a Youth council and youth democracy in the region.

European Volunteers

The European volunteers have been important resource persons in the field of youth work and youth clubs, schools, kindergardens and other volunteering Centre.

– Since 2012 we have hosted 12 volunteers, supported through European Voluntary Service. This has been a big success in Sveio and we want to renew this project. We have also been involved in senior volunteering projects in cooperation with Senior Education (“Senioruniversitetet”), which resulted in good European networks for Sveio, says Bergmål.

What are Sveio's international plans for future?

– We want to send new young leaders to Erasmus+: Youth in Action trainings in order to get inspiration and network in Europe. Three new youth exchanges are under planning in Soma, Malaga and Wisznice, in the

field of sports and youth participation.

– Also in the field of education we have ambitions, as we have good experiences from Comenius project cooperation with a school in Northern Italy and Ilmenau in Germany.

Sveio primary school has had good contacts with the school in Ilmenau.

– Hordaland County Council's European Office helped us establish contact in 2000. That was an important assistance in the beginning of our European journey.

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Promoting inclusion in Poland

A new website has been launched in Poland, named “Better understand than hate”, which will monitor online hate speech. In addition the centre “Flerkulturelt Sądcczyzna” will be established as a meeting place for minorities in Nowy Sacz.

This is the concrete result of a Polish-Norwegian project cooperation project, which started last year.

The Foundation for Promoting Science and Creativity initiated the project “Better understand than hate” together with Norwegian People's Aid Bergen and Hordaland County Council. The project is funded by the EEA Grants. The objective of this project is to prevent



Photo: Polish class with guest from Norwegian People's Aid, Åse Vaksinen Sælensminde

and fight xenophobia, racism and discrimination, and addresses young people aged 13–16 in the city and county of Nowy Sacz in Poland.

In Eastern Europe there are considerable challenges related to multiculturalism. Verbal aggression, especially online hate speech, is a major challenge. There are only a few organizations fighting these tendencies in Poland. Norwegian People's Aid has for many years promoted society to include minorities and has developed several excellent tools in fighting prejudices.

In this project the partner organisations Norwegian People's Aid and Solidarity Youth have shared their experiences. Three Polish teachers visited Bergen last Autumn and learned about the Human Library and Norwegian campaigns against intolerance. In January four representatives from Norwegian People's Aid visited Nowy Sacz.

They visited the Foundation and several schools, and they were impressed about how they work and what they have managed to implement in just a short time. Especially the Human Library was very popular. Students were also actively involved in fighting hate speech on the internet. In August a new visit of six students and two teachers to Bergen has been planned.

Norwegian People's Aid Bergen and Solidarity Youth hope that this cooperation will help to increase aware-

ness on such an important issue and that the results of the project will inspire also other regions in Poland.

Project website in English: www.lepiejzrozumiec.pl/index.php/pl/english-version

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The EEA and Norway Grants

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 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe. 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.

Funds are set aside in all beneficiary countries to support networking, knowledge exchange and foster project partnerships on initiatives of mutual interest. The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are set up for five-year periods.

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, leisure activities and culture. 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.



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