

# International Newsletter 02/16



# Contents

1. OUR PARTNER REGIONS.....	3
2. COOPERATION THROUGH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.....	7
3. PROJECTS .....	10
4. YOUTH AND INTERNATIONALISATION .....	14
5. WEST NORWAY OFFICE IN BRUSSELS.....	26
6. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES .....	27

**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 through membership in European organisations. Hordaland has been an active member of the North Sea Commission. We are also a member of the 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 a short introduction to the county's international activities over the previous six months. The overview is not extensive, but nevertheless we hope it gives an idea of the breadth of international activities that take place within our region.

All photos are produced by Hordaland County Council, unless otherwise stated.

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

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**Front page:** *Kickoff for the ASCENT project in Dun Lewey, Co. Donegal*

**Photographer:** *Ascent.*

# 1. OUR PARTNER REGIONS

## Normandy, France

### Success for Hordaland artist Thea Hjelmeland with L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie

*As a commissioned project for this year's Festival les Boreales, L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie arranged and performed Thea Hjelmeland's music. This performance where Hjelmeland and the orchestra performed together was reviewed to be one of the best shows in this year's festival.*

Festival les Boreales has followed the singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Thea Hjelmeland, for several years. Hjelmeland has also lived in France for a period of time. She performed in the festival before she released her first album. Hjelmeland has received great recognition and awards for her music the last years, especially for her 2nd album "Solar Plexus" which was released in 2014.

Festival Les Boreales takes place in Normandy each November, and is the biggest festival with a Nordic focus outside the Nordic countries. It is an interdisciplinary festival and over the years different artists from Hordaland have been able to participate within different art forms and genres including the author Gunnar Stålesen, our national dance company Carte Blanche, Edvard Munch paintings from the art museum of Bergen and the death metal band Gogoroth. A brand has been created – Made in Hordaland – for the artists from our county who participate in the festival programme. It is the artistic director of the festival who is responsible for the artistic content in the festival program, but there is good contact between the cultural department in the county council and the festival, and the festival is given a grant from Hordaland for the Made in Hordaland parts of the program. This is a vital and important part of the cooperation between Hordaland and Normandy.

### Artist-in-Residency

The artist Johanna Lettmayer has been on a three months stay in Caen in Normandy as a part of the Normandy-Hordaland cooperation agreement. The agreement gives a recently graduated artist the opportunity to go on exchange for several months.

Conseil Régional de Normandie, Hordaland County Council, Esam Caen/Cherbourg and Bergen Academy of Art and Design cooperate on the exchange of artists. Hordaland and Normandy alternate in hosting each other's artists. This year an artist from Hordaland visited Normandy. The artist received a scholarship of NOK 30.000 from Hordaland County Council, and both accommodation and access to an atelier are arranged for by Esam. Johanna Lettmayer was chosen by jury with representatives from both Hordaland and Normandy.

### The Cultural Rucksack

As a part of the Normandy-Hordaland cooperation agreement the puppetry theater group Cie Akseleere from Normandy toured Hordaland for two weeks.

The tour was part of the programme of art and cultural mediation in the schools in Hordaland, Den kulturelle skolesekken (Cultural Rucksack). This is the fourth year that artists and acts from Normandy have toured Hordaland. The acts from Normandy have had an emphasis on theater and circus. Cie Akseleere performed at Bømlo Arts Centre, at Husnes Arts Centre, and at Voss Arts Centre 25th-28th October.



*Thea Hjelmeland performing with L'Orchestre Régional de Normandie at the Festival les Boreales. Photographer: Agence Franck Castel.*

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## Orkney Islands, Scotland

*Hordaland County Council visited the Orkney Islands for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in December. Chair of the Committee for culture, sports and regional development (KIRU), Beate Husa, represented Hordaland at the tree lighting ceremony. As a part of the annual celebrations fiddlers Frank Rolland and Alexander Olavson Røynstrand also toured the primary schools on Orkney the week before.*

The weekend started with the annual Friday Dinner-dance hosted by the Orkney Norwegian Friend Association (ONFA). Hordaland County Council was represented by Beate Husa

(Chair KIRU), Ronny Skaar (Head of Section for Arts and Culture) and Einar Stokka (Advisor, Section for research, internationalization and analysis). Convener Steven Heddle, the Honorary Consul to Norway Leslie Burgher and Lord Lieutenant Bill Spence were also present. Beate Husa thanked the Chairman of ONFA Ishbel Borland for the friendship and all assistance during the celebrations.

Saturday it was time for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. For more than thirty years Orkney Islands and Hordaland County Council have had a friendship agreement. To mark this long-lasting collaboration Hordaland County Council gives a Christmas tree to the people of the Orkney Islands, which stands outside of the grand St Magnus Cathedral.

As a part of the friendship agreement Hordaland offers a cultural tour of the primary schools around Orkney Islands. This is a very appreciated and interesting arrangement, both for the pupils and for the musicians. The musicians visiting Orkney this year were Frank Rolland, the experienced county musician, and Alexander Røynesland, this year's winner of the Folk Musician Award in Hordaland. They toured the primary schools, showing the pupils Norwegian folk tunes and dancing. For the first time this year the musicians from Hordaland also held a Master class with young music students, which was a great success. Teacher and fiddler Douglas Montgomery and representatives from Hordaland County Council agreed that this was a fruitful cooperation and something one should consider repeating in the future. The master class ended with a joint act in St Magnus cathedral on Saturday and Sunday.

In 2017 the Orkney Islands will celebrate the 900th anniversary of St. Magnus cathedral with a whole range of events throughout the year. A meeting between Beate Husa and Ronny Skaar, and Leslie Burgher, Chariman of the board of St. Magnus festival, was held in order to discuss possible cultural collaboration during next year's celebrations. The historic ties between Orkney and Norway are strong, and something to celebrate during this year's anniversary.



Frank Rolland and Alexander Røynesland performing with local students in the St Magnus cathedral. Photographer: Leslie Burgher

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## Edinburgh, Scotland

### Edinburgh Christmas 2016

Deputy County Mayor, Pål Kårbø, led a small delegation to Edinburgh this year in order to hand over the gifted Christmas tree from Hordaland to the city of Edinburgh and to take part in the opening of Edinburgh Christmas. Hordaland musicians Reidun Horvei, soprano, and Inger-Kristine Riber, piano, took part in the celebrations to mark the opening of the Edinburgh Christmas street. Edinburgh Christmas has a special atmosphere with a huge traditional German style Christmas market and funfair and Christmas lights along the main shopping streets. Several thousand people had found their way to the city centre as darkness was falling.

Pål Kårbø and Edinburgh's Deputy Lord Provost, Steven Cardownie highlighted the cooperation between the cities as part of the event. Each year Hordaland also co-organises the Royal Norwegian Advent Concert in St Giles Cathedral with the Honorary Consul General of Norway. The Hordaland musicians joined the Schola Cantorum of Edinburgh conducted by Eric von Ibler to give a memorable performance in these stunning surroundings. The delegation left Edinburgh with the intention of building further on our good relations and ongoing projects and our thanks go to the city and to the Lord Provost, Donald Wilson, for the hospitality received.



Deputy County Mayor, Pål Kårbø, during the Royal Norwegian Advent Concert in Edinburgh.

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## Hordaland classes

### Students in Missouri became state champs

*Although most of the Hordaland classes are in Europe, Hordaland County Council also has a Hordaland class in Missouri, USA, at Saint Paul Lutheran High School. In 2016 the Norwegian students contributed to the school winning two state championships!*

For many years Hordaland has sent students to Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Missouri. Living and going to school in this "Norwegian" part of the US is a great experience for the



*The winners of the Missouri soccer state championship. Involved students from Hordaland - Sverre Jervell, Simon Høyland and Håvard Stranden from Øystese Upper Secondary School, Frode Hitland from U. Pihl Upper Secondary School, Marius Økland Unnvik and Adrian Strøm from Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School, and Oddne Teigenes from Odda Upper Secondary School.*

students, as they experience a new cultural setting, improve their English, and grow as individuals. Sverre Jervell, from Øystese Upper Secondary School, is one of the 27 students from Hordaland currently in Missouri:

– Studying in USA is a bit different from studying back home. We have the same schedule and the same subjects every day at the same times. Each class is 45-minutes long, and

therefore shorter than in Norway. We therefore have more classes in a day, but have approximately just as long school days as in Norway. We live at the school, and eat every meal here. We also get a warm lunch. The food contains more fat and sugar than the Norwegian food, and it sometimes disappoints us. Studying abroad expands your horizons and creates new relationships, but you also feel homesick from time to time.



*The Hordaland class in Normandy*  
The 14 students from Hordaland, currently undertaking their second year of upper secondary school in Normandy, eating lunch with headmistress Unn Fauskanger at Café Bistronomie in Caen. The café has become a traditional place for the headmistress to invite the students for lunch and a chat when visiting Normandy. The students are placed at four different schools in the region. They were chatting cheerfully during the lunch, and the visitors from Hordaland were impressed by the level of French the students had achieved after only two months in Normandy.



*The hordaland class in Cardiff*  
Here is the Cardiff class of 2016-2017. On the last weekend of October the Cardiff class had a tutorial in Norwegian. The topic of the day was the Renaissance. The students came to class well prepared and eager to participate, and Hege Cruickshank, coordinator and Norwegian teacher, was happy to see the students again. The 19 Norwegian students attend five different schools in the Cardiff area, and they meet with the Norwegian teacher several times a year to go through the curriculum in Norwegian language and literature. On Sunday 23rd October the class headed for a three-day trip around Wales, together with teachers Ronny Arildsen and Hege Cruickshank. They went to Tenby, Broad Haven and Hay-on-Wye, and on the last day they visited the Big Pit in Blaenavon to get a glimpse of Wales' coal mining history. The last night they stayed at a haunted hotel in Hay-on-Wye, and the students insist they met several of the ghosts. (One of the girls took this snapshot to prove it:)



*The Hordaland class in Thüringen.*

*Reception at the town hall in Erfurt, Thüringen. The Hordaland Class met with the Mayor Andreas Bausewein Thursday 3rd November 2016. Also present was the leader of Department of Education, Dr. Werner Ungewiss, and teachers, students, employees at the boarding house, as well as company managers who were working with the students.*



## 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) in General studies or Electronics. After the school year abroad the students return to Hordaland and are either accepted into a third and final school year (Vg3) or into work practice (Electronics). The exchange programme guarantees the same rights as other educational programmes, for example, the right to a student living allowance and travel grant from The Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Statens Lånekasse for Utdanning).

**How Many?**  
77 "Hordaland class" students are doing their second school year abroad during the school year 2016-17.

**Cooperative countries**  
Four secondary schools in Hordaland coordinate the "Hordaland class" programme and are responsible for the follow-up of the students while abroad. The second year students attend schools in:

- Cardiff, Wales UK (19 students)
- Erfurt, Germany (18 students – 8 students within General studies and 10 students within Electronics)
- Normandy, France (14 students)
- Missouri, USA (27 students)

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

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In addition to studying, many of the students are involved in the school's sports activities as well. The concept with school teams is different from Norway, and Sverre Jervell explains that there are other sports which dominate:

–The soccer-level is not very high compared to Norwegian soccer. But it proved to be a great challenge anyway, especially when we meet the top teams in the state. Volleyball has a more similar level compared to Norwegian-volleyball. Basketball, on the other hand, is way better than in Norway. A big part of the American students at the school are involved in basketball, and have been from a very young age. The American-football team has the greatest status by far. On home games, the stadium is often full and it is always a great atmosphere. The crowd contains a lot of students, but also parents, teachers and other people from the local area. Also games which are played in an indoor arena gather a lot of people. Soccer has a somewhat lower status, but had a lot of people coming over for the State Championship in St. Louis.

In 2016 both the school soccer team and the school volleyball team won the state championship. Lea Gjerde from Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School and Maren Norheim from Øystese Upper Secondary School were part of the school volleyball team. Seven of the Norwegian students played in the soccer team. Sverre says it was an exciting experience:

– We started by playing a lot of games nearby and got a great record. We were rated the best team in our district, which gave us easier opponents in the district championship. After winning it, we went through sectionals against other district-champs. Then we got to the state championship, contained by the four best teams in the state. We started it all off by playing a semi-final, which we comfortably won 5-1. The final was really close and tense through the whole game, but we made it after all. 1-0 was the final score. We couldn't have made it without our team-spirit and great effort by every single player. Every Norwegian contributed to the state title, but one who is worth mentioning in the final was Simon Høyland. He was the last Saint Paul player to touch the ball before it crossed the line for the winning goal.

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## 2. COOPERATION THROUGH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



### North Sea Commission

***Hordaland has returned to their former position as ordinary member of the North Sea Commission, having run the Secretariat until June 2016.***

Membership involves participating in the thematic working groups. Hordaland has both political and administrative representation at the meetings. Here we can give input to thematic discussions, share best practice and discuss around possible project development.

For example, Marine Resources Group is working on concrete actions to realise the discard ban and on maritime spatial planning. The next meeting will be held in Bergen in January 2017 where Norwegian long standing experience with a similar discard ban will be highlighted as best practice.

Meanwhile the Energy and Climate Group sees several overlapping areas with the transport group. Through the NSC working group, Hordaland was invited to join the "Hydrogen Joint Undertaking", an important network which can help develop our hydrogen strategy further.

We are yet to appoint political and administrative representation to the new group on Attractive and Sustainable Communities. This new group will start up in 2017 and follow up on the work of the former Culture and Tourism Group and the Economic Development Group.

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### CPMR

Hordaland follows the political processes closely at CPMR. The most relevant themes for us include the maritime agenda, transport policy and energy and climate change issues. CPMR work systematically on the future of cohesion policy which we also follow, where this is relevant for the EEA agreement.

Regrettably we were unable to attend the General Assembly on Azores in November but we are able to update ourselves fully on all processes through our contacts and the official minutes.

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### UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

***As the first organisation in the Nordic countries Oselvarverkstaden, Oselvar boat-reframing, has been included in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, in the category Good Safeguarding Practices. The honour was announced during the UNESCO meeting in Addis Ababa at the end of November. Oselvarverkstaden was nominated by the Ministry of Culture in 2015, and is now one of only 17 programmes on the list.***

Previously western Norway's main mode of transportation, also used for recreation, the wooden oselvar boat almost became obsolete with the introduction of modern boats in the



*Oselvarver boat-reframing was included on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. From left: Berit Osmundsen (general manager Oselvarverkstaden), Stig Salbu Henneman (boat bulilder), Kjell Magnus Økland (textbook author), Åsmund Lien (former general manager Oselvarverkstaden), Leif Harald Amundsen (boat bulilder), Vidar Langeland (administrative staff Oselvarverkstaden), David Sandved (County Curator), Lisbeth L. Axelsen (Director of Culture Os municipality), Per Morten Ekerhovd (Director of Culture & Sports Hordaland County Council), Norvald Skåtøy (Chairman Oselvarverkstaden) og Terje Søviknes (mayor Os municipality).*

1940s. This was also due to government price restrictions forcing builders to find alternative work and greater road transport in the 1960s. To help safeguard the traditional practice, the Os Båtbyggerlag (boat-builders guild), Os Municipality and Hordaland County, supported by the Arts Council Norway, founded the non-profit boatyard and workshop foundation Oselvarverkstaden.

–The UNESCO listing shows that the measures taken by Os municipality, Hordaland County Council and Os boat-builders guild was ahead of its time, and an important measure to safeguard this traditional practice, says County Mayor Anne Gine Hestetun.

Hordaland County Council has for the last 20 years contributed with financial support, which has increased over the years. Operating since 1997, Oselvarverkstaden recruits apprentice boat builders, facilitates the transmission of expert know-how on building techniques (normally passed down from father to son), attracts active builders providing them with infrastructure and supports the oselvar manufacturing market. The builders also conduct field studies, demonstrations and participate in seminars and exhibitions, locally and internationally.

The wooden oselvar boat originates from a 1000-year-old tradition, and the boat of today has been in use since the 1800s. UNESCO has now expressed the importance of keeping this tradition alive.

–This is a benchmark on how conscious regional cultural politics can ensure the cultural heritage in Hordaland and at the same time get international attention, says Beate

Husa Chair of the Committee for culture, sports and regional development.

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## UNESCO City of Gastronomy

*In September 2016 a delegation from Dénia, a city in Denia, visited Bergen to experience the gastronomic traditions of our region. Bergen was included as a new member of the UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy (UCCN) in 2015, along with the city of Denia.*

Dénia participated at the Bergen Food Festival 2nd-4th September. At the opening live show chefs from the gastronomy city showed how to make their signature dish paella. The delegation from Dénia then visited Hardanger and experienced the rich local food culture there.

–We really wanted to show our Spanish friends the local dish of our region. We were thrilled that Hardanger Business Garden were happy to invite our visitors to Hardanger, says Heidi Bjonnes Larsen from Hordaland County Council.

The delegation from Dénia included the Mayor of Dénia, a chef and restaurateur, a wine producer, and representatives from the tourism industry. During the trip to Hardanger the delegation visited a local award winning producer of frutis, Nøring, Linga salmon, who produce farmed salmon, Steinstø fruit farm and Spilde cider farm.

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*The delegation from UNESCO Gastronomy city Dénia visiting Steinstø fruit farm in Hardanger.*

## “UNESCO”

– In 1945, UNESCO was created in order to respond to the firm belief of nations that political and economic agreements are not enough to build a lasting peace. Peace must be established on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

– The term 'cultural heritage' has changed content considerably in recent decades, partially owing to the instruments developed by UNESCO. Cultural heritage does not end at monuments and collections of objects. It also includes traditions or living expressions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants.

– The Register of Best Safeguarding Practices allows states' parties, communities and other stakeholders to share successful safeguarding experiences and examples of how they surmounted challenges faced in the transmission of their living heritage, its practice and knowledge to the future generation.

## Vestlandsrådet (Council of Western Norway)

*Council of Western Norway is a political cooperation platform for the four counties on the Norwegian West coast; among them Hordaland County Council. The main areas for cooperation are transport and infrastructure, development of tourism, internationalisation and energy. This autumn the Council looked at the role of Western Norway in light of EU energy union.*

When the proposal of EU's energy union was presented in 2015 it became clear that it had implications for Norway and for Western Norway in particular. The Energy Union focuses



on five mutually supportive dimensions: Energy security, solidarity and trust; the internal energy market; energy efficiency as a contribution to the moderation of energy demand; decarbonisation of the economy; and research, innovation and competitiveness.

EU's energy policy is important to Norway through the European Economic Area treaty and due to the fact that EU is the most important market for Norwegian energy. Norway is in close dialogue with EU in this field and has provided active contributions and influence throughout the energy union process.

Norwegian energy is also important for the EU. EU imports 24% of its natural gas from Norway (2013). The Norwegian gas is important in view of both energy supply and energy security. To link up with Norwegian renewable energy production is another aspect that is relevant in light of energy security and decarbonisation. Norway as a green battery for Europe is an interesting aspect in the relationship between Norway and the EU. The Norwegian hydropower is green and has the added advantage of energy storage. There are already cables between Norway and Denmark, Germany and the UK. Further cables are being developed. Norway has signed an agreement with other North Sea countries to strengthen energy cooperation in the North Sea.

The Council of Western Norway are looking into what opportunities EU's energy union can bring to local business and value creation, while maintaining a holistic energy planning and avoiding harm to nature. As a starting point, Council of Western Norway gathered statistical information about the energy sector in the four counties in order to map Norwegian contribution to EU's energy union. The statistical database will be followed up by a joint analysis or project. A political ad hoc steering committee has been established to steer and monitor the work. Work will continue in 2017.

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## 3. PROJECTS



### Interreg V B – North Sea Region

#### Interview with the National Contact Point

*Hordaland County Council hosts the National Contact Point for Interreg North Sea Region Programme. We posed some questions to Kate Clarke:*

**You have been working at the NSR National Contact Point for 10 years now. What are the latest developments?**

The latest programme 2014-2020 has a new two phase application process. All projects have to submit an Expression of Interest and only those which are approved by the programme steering committee can go further to apply for funding as a full application. There is also a strengthened focus on achievable and measurable results which need to be shown within the life of the project.

**Why should we apply to this programme?**

The North Sea cooperation area is well developed on many fronts and has long historical and cultural ties through



National contact point for Interreg North Sea programme, Kate Clarke.

#### “The North Sea Region programme”

**What?**

The North Sea Region programme aims to support development and foster sustained economic growth across the North Sea Region. The NSR programme supports activities and pilots in the areas:

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
2. Efficient use of resources;
3. Adjustments to climate change and conservation and protection of the environment; and
4. Sustainable transport.

**Who?**

A total of seven countries and regions around the North Sea coastline are part of the programme.

**How much?**

The total budget for 2014-2020 is €167,253,971.

trade and seafaring. We are able to communicate well and understand each other so that a high success rate in projects has been the norm. We also face common challenges and can learn from each other. The Dutch for example have a wealth of experience and best practice in relation to water management and climate adaptation. The shared resource of the North Sea itself must be managed properly in relation to such important areas as natural resources and energy for example.

A coordinated approach by building networks and sharing development and experience is part of what Interreg is about.

**Can you mention a good example of a project which has given benefits to the whole region?**

It is important for these kind of Interreg projects that they have an impact across the whole North Sea region. One of the projects led from Norway, InForCare, is a good example of this and will look at new models for developing innovation in service delivery by optimizing informal and formal networks to address our common demographic and healthcare challenges.

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Kickoff for the ASCENT project in Dun Lewey, Co. Donegal

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



Northern Periphery and  
Arctic Programme  
2014–2020

### ASCENT

*The ASCENT (Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools) project had its first meeting and official launch in Co. Donegal, Ireland on 17th-18th October. The project seeks to explore new concepts for balancing tourism, cultural and economic interests with environmental needs. Hordaland's case in the project will be the Trolltunga region in Odda, which has become an iconic travel destination worldwide.*

The five partners were enthusiastic about the opportunity to work together to address challenges relevant to their own sites through Ascent, and are continuing to talk in order to plan the activities in the project. Joint problems the partners are keen to solve include upland path management and construction, upskilling of path builders and planners, improving safety measures for visitors and finding suitable solutions for the issue of rubbish and waste. A key point is also enhancing the interface with the tourism marketing drive to ensure visitors have the knowledge and the tools to move in the area safely and without causing undue damage to the area.

A study trip is planned for the end of March, when the partners will meet along with some of their local stakeholders in Cairngorn, Scotland. The aim of the trip is to study best practices in the Cairngorn district, as well as learning more about the partner countries own best practice when it comes to their sites.

The project's lead partner is Donegal County Council, together with partners Hordaland, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (Northern Ireland), Soil Conservation Service of Iceland, Metsähallitus Parks & Wildlife Finland and Gaeltacht Regional Authority (Ireland) and Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (United Kingdom).

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**Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme**  
2014–2020



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## New Économusée in Hordaland

*The Leader of the City Council of Bergen, Mr. Harald Schelderup and the County Mayor of Hordaland County Council, Mrs. Anne Gine Hestetun, together officially opened the 12th new Économusée in Norway, Arven, on 26th August. The traditional silver factory, Arven, lets you experience some of the Bergen's best gold - and silversmiths at work.*

Theodor Olsen company started making silver products in 1868. Today, the company has been renamed Arven (i.e. the Heritage). Arven produces everything from plates used for the winner of the prestigious international Bocuse D'Or competition in gastronomy, to solid silver cutlery or baby's first shoes, coated in real silver. Arven recently merged with a goldsmith company, adding to the number of skilled employees and the product range.

The workmanship is second to none. From daybreak to sunset, these artisans are at work, producing the most wonderful designs in jewellery, vases or goblets. Precious metals surrender their obstinacy to Theodor Olsen's creations in a way hard to match anywhere. This company is committed to keeping the highly specialised craft alive for future generations.

Arven is located close to the Unesco world heritage area of Bryggen, in an area which was central for the development of the very first recognised silver and goldsmiths in historic Bergen. Arven will serve both the tourist market and the needs of local citizens for traditional and innovative silver and jewellery products.

The company has 36 employees, who are all happy to join the Economusée network, with their new location and high quality workspaces in newly renovated buildings.

### The Craft Reach project

Hordaland County Council brought the concept of Économusée from Canada to Europe in 2007. The Interreg Craft Reach/Économusée project is funded by the NPA Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme and is in its 3rd phase. The Council has been Lead Partner of the Économusée project for almost eight years. However, The Royal Norwegian Society in Western Norway ("Norges Vel"), as the new Lead partner, now administers the project. Hordaland County Council provides financial support and staff for project implementation. By the end of the current Craft Reach project, the goal is that the Économusée Northern Europe network will have more than 75 artisan members in eight countries. This is a fantastic target for the work over the next three years. The EU project is progressing well on the West Coast of Norway and among the 7 other international partner regions.

### A living heritage

Leader of the Economic Development section in Hordaland County Council, Mette Nora Sætre, explains that we will see more of these kinds of companies under development in Western Norway in 2017. Economusees are not a museum but a living sustainable craft company. The Economusees often work together in the network, and learn and support each other as visitor centres. Three more Économusées will be established on the West Coast before the end of the Craft



Goldsmith Stian Wasmuth working at Arven, the Économusée in Hordaland




**Économusée**

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

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

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

Reach project, of which two will be established in the County of Møre og Romsdal.

The next Economusee in Western Norway will be the Ciderhouse at Balestrand, which will open 19th May 2017.

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## Staff Mobility

### – cross sectorial mobilities

*In the 2016 call for application Hordaland County Council was awarded with 163 mobilities, distributed on VET learners, teachers and staff in different companies.*

For staff projects in private and public organizations/businesses Department of Regional Development got 54 mobilities, 50 731 € in total. These are all cross sectoral / interdisciplinary projects and the topics cover a wide field of subjects: Recruitment and training in maritime VET (vocational education and training); Green industrial symbiosis; Innovative healthcare services in municipalities; Management of forest genetic

resources; Implementing local food traditions and enhance recruitment to VET in the food/agricultural sector; Assessment of practice competence in VET health and care; Exchange of best practice between Creative Gastronomy cities. These projects will start up in 2017.

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## Centre for Development of Institutional and Home Care Services (USHT)

*Through participation in the Erasmus+ programme Centre for Development of Institutional and Home Care Services (Utviklingssenter for sykehjem og hjemmetjenester i Hordaland - USHT) has had the possibility to strengthen their work, linking it closer up to international best practice.*

USHT has for the last 3 years sent out more than 30 people on Erasmus+ staff mobility projects. This has been a cross-sectoral project which has included experts and professionals from partners such as local municipalities, VET-schools (vocational and educational training) and Bergen University. The projects have been linked up to current issues, such as dental health, welfare technology, habilitation, patient safety, and palliative treatment. Per Waardal from USHT explains:

– Linking the projects up to issues that are already on our agenda makes the results even better. In that way we have strengthened already ongoing work by learning from best practice internationally.

One example is the project group that went to Gothenburg and Mariestad in 2016. The group included dentists, dental assistants, professionals from home nursing care, and representatives from the dental assistant education. In Mariestad the group studied a project on dental care in home nursing care, which is similar to an ongoing project in Hordaland. In Gothenburg the group learned more about new welfare technological solutions for home nursing care.

–In addition to acquiring new competences from some of the best professionals internationally, there is a second important effect from these projects. By creating new cross-sectoral project groups, the dialogue and collaboration between the different partners in Hordaland has been strengthened.

Per Waardal says that especially the dialogue between USHT and the VET-schools has become reinforced. This is extremely important because of the central role VET-schools have in introducing new methodology, like welfare technology and software for document management. The fact that we have had the chance to give grants to ordinary professionals within the services has also been significant.

– Erasmus+ has given USHT the possibility to work with competence building with an international perspective. This gives our work more depth and gives us wider reference. With several of our international partners we have now had a continuous collaboration for several years.

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## 4. YOUTH AND INTERNATIONALISATION



### Vocational education and training Learners'/ Teachers' Mobility

In the 2016 call for proposals HFK was awarded with approximately 90 mobility projects for VET students, apprentices and teachers.

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### Erasmus+ Apprentices (VET Mobility)

Thanks to funding through the Erasmus+ programme, Hordaland County Council was able to send six apprentices, from various disciplines, on work placements in four different European countries this autumn. Tuva Villa and Princess Williams, both training to become chefs, had a three-month work placement each at Dill restaurant in Reykjavik, Iceland and Mathias Dahlgren restaurant in Stockholm, Sweden, respectively. Daniel Berg had his placement at Arla Foods in Denmark, learning more about industrial food production while Celine Lønborg, a hair dresser apprentice, had her one-month work placement at Zenz Organic Hairdresser, also in Denmark, learning more about the use of organic and green hair products. The last two, Frida Dalsbø and Cesilie Hansen, both apprentices in office and administrative work, have had their work placements in London, England, at Ashurst law firm and the Norwegian British Chamber of Commerce.

It is the Training Offices that are responsible for the apprentices while they are abroad. However, since Hordaland County Council is responsible for the administrative work in relation to their placements, we have been fortunate enough to follow all of the apprentices closely, from the time of preparations and planning throughout to the end of their work placement and mobility stays. Common feedback from all of the apprentices is that this has been an amazing opportunity for them. They have learned more about their trade, and have become familiar with new or different working methods and equipment. They have also had to adjust to sometimes completely different working environments as well as a new culture and language. They have become more confident in their ability to

communicate in a different language and some of them were able to pick up a brand new language in the process.

Hordaland County Council and representatives from the Training Office were also lucky enough to visit Tuva during her placement in Reykjavik. This provided us with the opportunity to learn more about education and training in the host country, as well as becoming familiar with the work place. In addition, it gave us chance to see the apprentice "in action" and talk about the structure and development of current and future work placements.

None of the apprentices regret signing up for a work placement abroad and they would all recommend it to others. Princess encourages anyone who considers it to just do it, claiming all it takes is to show genuine interest and a willingness to learn.



*Tuva Villa had her mobility placement at Dill Restaurant in Reykjavik.*

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### Work placement in London, UK

Cesilie Hansen and Frida M. Dalsbø are both apprentices in office and administrative work at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). They applied to Hordaland County Council for an Erasmus+ Mobility placement, and were awarded with funding to do a 3-month work practice in London. In addition to applying for funding, and as part of their training, they were also responsible for organising their stay, such as finding a

work place and accommodation. It took a bit of effort finding jobs as they experienced that London is a popular city and have a lot of people who are willing to work for free. Utilising their network at NHH, and after sending off their CVs and doing interviews, they both managed to secure good work placements in the end. Cesilie worked at The Norwegian-British Chamber of Commerce, while Frida worked at the law firm Ashurst London. Frida says that the experience of organising the stay taught her to be patient and to never give up.

#### Work tasks

The two apprentices have had different and varied work tasks during their placements. Frida worked within different teams in the Ashurst HR department, and after a while she was given more responsibility in the Learning and Development team. – I got more responsibility and felt like one of the other employees. I organised all the admin work when we for example had training sessions, making different sessions in a system called Learn, booking rooms, archiving, re-branding PowerPoints, etc. Cesilie participated in and helped arranging several events, such as Nordic Drinks, a Social Media Workshop event, and a Brexit event at the Norwegian Ambassador's Residence in London. – One of the main tasks working for NBCC was to arrange networking events for both members and non-members, with a twist of different topics, Cecilie continues to say that – Not only have I learned a lot by the administrative tasks I've done, but I've also met many people who truly can be an inspiration for me as a businesswoman.

#### Out of the comfort zone

Through this experience, both Cesilie and Frida have experienced personal growth as well as gained important skills and competences beyond those directly linked to their work. Frida says that – The feeling of independence is something everyone should experience. You get to challenge yourself with another culture and language. Cesilie also experienced the importance of stepping out of the comfort zone saying that – Being in London, I can see that I've learned a lot both personally and in the business environment. I've had to challenge myself, get



*Frida M. Dalsbø (on the right) was on a 3-month work practice in London.*

out of my comfort zone, and be an independent woman in a new country. The first difference I noticed was of course the language. Even though we learn English from young age in Norway and I knew it pretty well, I still wasn't that comfortable talking English (especially not in front of a lot of people). Therefore, I was happy to see that this turned out to not be any problem at all. Not many weeks had passed before I even started thinking in English.

Working in another country for a longer period of time also made Frida and Cesilie more aware of cultural differences. Cesilie says that it is good to be aware of the different ways

## ERASMUS+ and Hordaland County Council

#### What?

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

#### Why?

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

#### How?

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

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



"Winds and Tides". The view from the electrical ferry Ampere

Norwegians and the English communicate, as Norwegians tends to be more straight forward in their communications and the English are a lot more polite. Frida also says that the work culture is different in England, as – London's a big and busy city with a competitive work environment. Companies are often global so you are "competing" with companies and people from all over the world. Which leads to a high performance culture and people need to be very dedicated to their jobs and often do more than expected.

#### No regrets

Both Frida and Cesilie would recommend and encourage others to take advantage of the great opportunity that Erasmus+ gives students and apprentices. – Going to another country to work there for a period of time, is an experience you won't get by always staying at the same place. This is not only for your future career, but also for personal development. Being independent and self-confident is not something many get for free claims Cesilie and continues by saying that – I'm so grateful for this journey, and wouldn't have missed it for anything. The greatest part about this is that everyone has the opportunity to apply, so why not do it? I promise that it's something you'll never regret!.

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## Erasmus+ project "Winds and Tides" – Visit from Normandie

*In our last edition we presented the Knarvik Upper Secondary School's new international project Winds and Tides. In cooperation with Conseil Régional de Normandie in France, and Energy Skill Partnership in Scotland, the project aims at adapting the vocational education and training offered to the development of the growing industry of wind and tidal energy. This fall it was time for student exchange between the regions, with the Norwegian students visiting Scotland and the French students visiting Hordaland.*

The project aims at creating and experimenting with a new training offer which is to accompany the development of the growing marine renewable energy industry. The production of renewable energy will need more qualified personnel, particularly in terms of installation and maintenance.

In September, students from Knarvik Upper Secondary School visited Scotland and the Orkney Islands for two weeks. The students, who study TAF (Technical and general studies), visited many different companies and facilities, among them the European Marine Energy Centre at Orkney, the world's

leading facility for testing wave and tidal energy converters, and Whitelee Windfarm, UK's largest onshore windfarm, located outside Glasgow. The visit was a great experience for the Norwegian students, learning a lot about how the world leading expertise on renewable energy works.

In November, two teachers and 12 students from Normandy visited Hordaland for two weeks. The students came to learn more about the renewable energy industry and related industries in Hordaland. The French students got to experience elements of offshore wind operation, visited BBK Matre, the largest hydropower plant in Norway, and also other industry in the region like Rolls-Royce Engines Bergen and Framo Services.

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## Tertnes Work practice in London

In November, four students from Tertnes Upper Secondary School spent three weeks in London, working and living like Londoners. As a part of the ERASMUS+ VET Mobility Programme, they carried out work practice in shops like Oxfam and BHF, Leonardo Hotel Heathrow, and London Duck Tours. The preparations started months earlier, when it was announced among the students that they could apply for four spots in the programme. CVs and applications were written, and soon after interviews were carried out. After a few months of waiting and preparing, the group of students, accompanied by their teacher, arrived in London and met with ADC College, our partner in this programme. The students were then met by their host families, and the London experience had finally started. After a short introduction at ADC, they quickly settled in at work and at their host families.

During the three weeks, the girls gained priceless experience, both professionally and personally. Public transport is an integral part of living and working in London, and the girls soon found their way around London in this huge system.



*Benedicte, Tonje, Eira, Julie from Tertnes Upper Secondary School stayed in London for three weeks*

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## Strategic partnerships

### Sustainable development - How is Europe dealing with that challenge within 2020?



*Teachers from Finland, Germany and Spain at a salmon farm in Hordaland*

***U. Phil Upper Secondary School has joined partners from Finland, Germany and Spain in a project which intends to involve all the pupils of the participating schools in working with the concept "sustainable development" in an interdisciplinary approach. The project is financed with funding from the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme.***

The objectives of this project are to target pupils with low skills and early school leaving, as well as making every pupil at our schools more conscious about how to be part of a European "sustainable development". The project is innovative because we will focus on developing teaching methods that will be specially designed for pupils with low skills and based on a non-theoretical approach to the subjects. It is complementary to other projects we had with our partners' schools because we will be dealing with a topic that is also a European issue, like we did with migration or biodiversity.

We had a workshop with the teachers from the schools that are involved in the project in Bergen in October 2016. We agreed on practical things as the dates for the workshops and sustainable development days. We agreed on the issue for the workshop in Bergen that will take place at the beginning of February: how to be a sustainable consumer? Spain will host the next workshop in April. We also agreed on the issue for this workshop: how to achieve a sustainable consumption of water in the agricultural sector?

We visited a salmon farm and agreed that it could be an interesting subject for the pupils to work on: How sustainable is the salmon production in Norway. This main topic leads to many questions: Is fish more sustainable food than meat? Is local food more sustainable than ecological food? Is packaging and transport of salmon all over the world sustainable? How sustainable is the use of chemical and medicines to kill lice? Can salmon be produced only indoors all over the world? This can be related to subjects as geography, natural sciences, biology or social sciences.

The methodology that will be used is to involve pupils with low skills aged between 15 and 17 in organising four topical workshops. They will have some days during which the issue chosen by the school will be presented in a very concrete and interdisciplinary way. Then they will have one day to work on a proposal on how their newly gained knowledge may be implemented in the content of a "sustainable development day" for all/a majority of the pupils of the school that they visited. These sustainable development days will have both an international as well as an interdisciplinary perspective to them about the issues that have been chosen.

With this project, we expect to raise awareness among pupils and staff about sustainable development, to enhance the role of education in order to encourage social cohesion, and to improve cooperation skills and communicative skills among the pupils, and also among the participating institutions.

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## The sound project "The City Rings"

*Laksevåg Upper Secondary School is the main coordinator for a very interesting and challenging Erasmus+ project which was kicked off in Bergen in September 2015. Students from six European countries (Norway, Finland, Belgium, France, Italy and Turkey) take part in the project that will be finalised in Belgium in the middle of March 2017.*

The project focuses on sound and its impact on people in a past, present and future perspective. It aims at making students more aware of the sounds that they are surrounded by unconsciously as well as the sounds that they deliberately choose to be surrounded by. At bilateral and transnational meetings students from all the partner schools cooperate in workshops. They work with sound-related tasks and exchange their views on sound and how the sound environment in their respective hometowns can be improved. In the end their ideas and suggestions will be written down in a sound charter that in turn will be presented to the different city councils by the students.

So far there have been several bilateral exchanges of students between the different participating schools, and one transnational meeting in Vasa, Finland (February 2016) where more than 70 students met and worked in groups with sound-related topics. Some had a brief course in sign language, while others searched for sounds in the city of Vasa. One group was introduced to the sound equipment of a modern studio, while another one concentrated on the relation between sound and movement. The students also presented their hometowns through sounds and pictures, and they revealed and compared the level of sound in their schools, measured in classrooms, canteens, sports halls etc.

Laksevåg was visited by Finnish students in November 2015 and by Belgian students in November 2016. The Belgian guests and their Norwegian host students got an interesting lecture on the functions of the human ear at Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School. Afterwards they were taken on a guided tour of the school to see how different sound devices

have been installed in different rooms to ease educational conditions for deaf students and students with hearing disabilities.

The Belgians were also taken on an excursion to Norheimsund and the Hardangerfjord in order to experience the sounds of western Norway: The sound of passing through tunnels, the sound of waterfall (partly frozen) at Steinsdalsfossen, and the sound of boating, rolling waves and fish farming at sea

During the social evening at school, where parents and teachers were present, the students presented the results of their joint group work on a topic within the field of Sound and science. Laksevåg's topic was sound and sensitivity, and the students gave informative PowerPoint presentations on different tasks related to this topic.

Our students enjoyed being hosts for the Belgians and look very much forward to meeting their new friends in Waregem in Belgium in March 2017. But before they go they will have to interview people in charge of city planning and the conservation in the city of Bergen. They must also find and document their favourite sound spot in Bergen and interview ordinary people about their experience of the sound environment in the centre of town. The students' ultimate goal will be to contribute to making Bergen a healthy and sound city for all its inhabitants in the future.



*Students dressed in survival suits ready to be transported to the seafarm near Tørrvikbygd.*

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## "Life is a project, be an entrepreneur, make it successful"

*Fitjar Upper Secondary School has joined the strategic partnership "Life is a project, be an entrepreneur, make it successful". Together with secondary schools from seven other European countries, Fitjar will look closer at entrepreneurship as the main power in innovation, competitiveness and growth.*



Participants in the "Life is a project, be an entrepreneur, make it successful" project

The project will consider entrepreneurship more widely, by learning how to start a business. It will include the development of personal qualities and skills such as creativity, initiative, self-confidence. "Life is a project, be an entrepreneur, make it successful" will also unite the efforts of the pedagogues of 7 countries for forming the key competences – communication in foreign languages, digital competences and entrepreneurship, which are part of the eight competences according to the EU Commission of education.

The aim of the project is to create a virtual international company with integrated advertising services. It will combine the activities of the student companies established in all schools that are advertising agencies with different activity. Students will acquire financial knowledge to create, manage and develop their small enterprise.

An important objective of the project is the training of teachers who implement the entrepreneurship teaching in schools. The participating teachers, who teach students from 7 countries aged 14 – 18 from secondary schools with technological profile Entrepreneurship - Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Estonia and professional schools: Entrepreneurship and Crafts - Norway; footwear industry - Turkey; Technical - Romania. The project will have 2 organizational meetings and 4 training of teachers and students.

Throughout the project, students will interact with its partners through a variety of social networks, and in support of their training they will use online entrepreneurship platforms. The conduction of an innovation camp and workshop for business ideas will lead to development of their entrepreneurial attitudes, motivate them to be creative and generate ideas on a specific business challenge.

The schools which have implemented the project "Life is a project, be an entrepreneur, make it successful" will make proposals to the educational ministries of their countries for

approval of training modules on entrepreneurship in the public schools.

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## A pedagogical and Cultural approach to inclusion of foreign cultures

*This year, Askøy Upper Secondary School and Kleppestø kindergarten have joined a strategic partnership with schools and kindergartens in Germany and Denmark. The project is called "A pedagogical and Cultural approach to inclusion of foreign cultures" and was initiated by partners in Erfurt, Germany.*

During the fall of 2015 the Syrian refugee crisis got a lot of attention throughout Europe. As a result of the war in Syria large numbers of refugees came across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, and also to Norway. The large number of refugees lead to a need for more resources and skills in integration and teaching. Askøy Upper Secondary School has a partner school in Erfurt, Andreas Gordon Schule. They wanted to start an Erasmus+ project which would develop a toolbox on methods for integration, based on reciprocity between the cultures. In order to give best possible arrangements, organisations from culture, sports and voluntary sector have also been included.

The essence of the project is the mind-set advocated by Fargespill (Kaleidoscope), an ensemble in Bergen consisting of children and youths from all over the world. Fargespill focuses on "when different cultures meet, what happens if we look for gold instead of dirt?".

The project will have meetings every sixth months, in Askøy, Erfurt and Randers, and will have its closing meeting at Askøy



Askøy Upper Secondary School and Kleppstø kindergarten have participated in a project on inclusion, based on the mind-set from Fargespill (kaleidoscope)

in April 2018. In addition, the teachers and organisations will communicate through the teaching platform Moodle. The aim for the project is to produce tools for inclusion of other cultures that can be disseminated to other organisations.

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## The right skills in construction industry sector

*Bergen Technical College is the only technical college in Norway which received project funding through the NordPlus Adult programme. The project focusses on future demands, skills and qualifications of the building and construction sector which is in urgent need of qualified labour to keep up with technological progress, environmental requirements and hard competition.*

The aim of the project "The Right Skills for vocational training in construction industry sector", is to enhance cooperation in adult learning between the Nordic and Baltic countries. The project is a cooperation between three countries: Kaunas Vocational training centre of social services and construction business specialists, Lithuania; Center of Education in Denmark and Bergen Technical College in Norway.

The project started with an analysis and evaluation of the educational situation at each of the colleges. Then the partners looked to the future and tried to get an overview of coming trends and developments in the building and construction sector, how to meet future challenges, and what skills and qualifications graduating students possess. Most important: how to fill the gap between what will be needed in the building and construction sector and what is offered by the educational institutions?

### Sector in rapid technological change

Basic findings of demands and requirements of a sector in rapid technological change which will affect education:

- new technology like Building Information Modelling (BIM) and 3D printing will become more common
- environmental concerns and energy efficiency have to be more strongly integrated in educational activities and curricula.
- competencies to work across disciplines and borders will be needed

- communication skills and cultural awareness will become more and more important as most workplaces are multilingual and multicultural.
- education and work life should be better integrated to qualify students for a work reality of technological innovations, ability to embrace changes, strong national and international competition
- there will be great demand for skilled labour in building and construction in the future. The percentage of drop-outs from vocational training is high and comprehensive measure must be taken to stop this negative trend and rather make a future career in the sector attractive to young people.

### How to fill the gap?

To fill the gap between education and work life in the building and construction sector the students must be prepared for new work methods, new building materials, technological changes, digitalization, multicultural work environment, hard competition and international cooperation. An exciting and challenging future lays ahead of those who pursue a career in building and construction, but education and work life must take the necessary steps in due time to recruit young people.



Visit to the Mother-and Child Hospital in Bergen while under construction. This hospital is an outstanding example of modern building materials, new techniques and multicultural labour which demands language competence and cultural understanding

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**Nordplus Adult programme**

*Nordplus is the Nordic Council of Ministers' most important programme in the area of lifelong learning. More than 10,000 people in the Nordic and Baltic region benefit from it every year.*

**Objectives of the NordPlus Adult programme:**

- strengthen the link between adult learning and work life
- support adult learners' efforts to integrate more successfully into the labour market

<http://www.nordplusonline.org/>

## Other school projects

### The Nordic countries, so similar and so different.

The aim of the Nordic twinning cities network is to strengthen cooperation and cultural identity among pupils, teachers and school leaders. The fact that all participants in these activities express themselves in their own mother tongue increases the mutual linguistic comprehension among the Nordic countries.

The cooperation between the Nordic twinning cities Turku (Finland), Aarhus (Denmark), Gothenburg (Sweden) and Bergen (Norway) consists of teachers exchanges, school camps, youth conferences and meetings between school leaders. Hordaland County Council and Flensburg in Southern Schleswig in Germany are also part of this Nordic network.

### Nordic Youth Conference in Gothenburg

The annual Nordic Youth Conference (VUK) rotates from city to city. This autumn the conference was hosted by Gothenburg from the 25th to the 30th of September, and gathered 48 upper secondary school pupils (17-18 years old). From Hordaland, six pupils from three different schools participated. They were part of the discussions: –What will the Nordic countries look like in ten years' time; –A new Nordic identity and –So similar and so different. The young people worked together in groups for a whole week, and finally on Friday they gave presentations on the different topics. The pupils participated full of enthusiasm in role-play games and performances, and it became clear that VUK 2016 had enhanced both Nordic cultural identity and linguistic understanding among the participants. The host city Gothenburg had done a fabulous job for their young guests.



VUK Gothenburg

### Discussing new curricula in Turku

Turku in Finland hosted a teachers' exchange and a headmaster meeting in November 2016. Finland is in the process of preparing new curricula and the meetings in Turku put focus on the changes and challenges this may bring. The new curricula will encompass wider and emphasise more skills and



Director of The Swedish language services in Turku, Liliane Kjellman.

collaboration across disciplines. Themes like globalisation, climate change and a sustainable future are at the core of these plans. Two teachers from Fyllingsdalen Upper Secondary School were observers at different schools for two days, and they had a good relationship with the Finnish teachers. They discussed the new plans from the teachers' point of view. The Finnish host had made an interesting programme with both professional input, culture at the Swedish theatre in Turku and dinner prepared by pupils at a vocational institute.

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### The first Chinese classroom in Norway

–This can be a bridge between China and Norway, says the Chinese ambassador in Norway Wang Min. He opened the first Confucius classroom in Norway, at Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School in Bergen. The classroom is a resource centre for increased understanding of the Chinese language, culture and history.

–This is a milestone in the educational collaboration between our two countries. In order to understand China, one has to learn the country's language, people and history. We need people who have a deeper understanding of China. These pupils who study Chinese will become the ambassadors for Norway and China, says ambassador Wang Min.

### Success, ten years after

The Director of Education, Svein Heggheim, has been working on the establishment of the Chinese classroom for almost 10 years

–Nine years ago we tried to establish the Chinese classroom for the first time. We started with 24 pupils in 2008. Through the cooperation with Bergen Confucius Institute, we recruited professional teachers. It is difficult to learn a language which is so different from ours, but it is important that we have contact with China and are able to speak Chinese, says Svein Heggheim.

### A resource for Hordaland

The Chinese classroom is a resource for Hordaland with Chinese literature, films and calligraphy equipment. The three upper secondary schools Amalie Skram, Sandsli and Osterøy offer Chinese language classes, and the Chinese classroom will be an arena for school cooperation.

–We have started exchanges with China. We send Norwegian pupils to China and we host Chinese pupils, for one school year. Our aim with these exchanges is mutual respect. We need to learn about each other's cultures and to respect the different ways of living, says the headmaster of Amalie Skram Upper Secondary, Bjørn Lyngedal. Forty pupils study Chinese at his school.

### Entertainment in Chinese

The pupils studying Chinese gave a performance during the opening. It is no coincidence that they chose this language: –China is a growing economy and it is an advantage to speak the language. We get the chance to work there. We think it is cool to speak Chinese. It is hard work, but that's alright, says Kaia Pettersen, Victoria Fagerås, Lea Knutsen, Iris Hjelle and Oda Øvsthus.

The Chinese classroom is a cooperation between Hordaland County Council, the upper secondary schools Amalie Skram / Sandsli /Osterøy, Bergen Confucius Institute and the Chinese embassy.



In the Chinese Classroom, the Chinese Ambassador Wang Min, and headmaster at Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School, Bjørn Lyngedal

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## Methodology from Hordaland presented at international Conference in Madrid

*Reinhardt Jåstad Røyset, teacher at Holen Lower Secondary School, and Kjell Helge Kleppestø, head of Center for vocational guidance at HFK has developed a seminar concept for teachers, teaching the subject Educational choice, at the lower secondary school level. The seminar is trying to develop new teaching perspectives and methods, focusing on the concept "youth coach". In november Røyset and Kleppestø was invited to the congress International Association for Educational and Vocational guidance (IAEVG) in Madrid to share more about their work.*

Since 2008 the subject "Educational choices" has been a compulsory subject in the curriculum of the Norwegian Lower Secondary school. One purpose is to strengthen the pupils'

decision making skills, and develop career competencies. But many teachers lack competency in what may be taught in the subject in order for the students to improve their own knowledge for themselves, their skills in decision making, their awareness of the possible ways to choose direction.

When young students are asked, a few select factors are mentioned as especially important to play a deciding role. Parents are mentioned as crucial in the process of choosing education in upper secondary school, but even more important part in the choice process is played by close friends and classmates. It will thus be important to teach them how to talk together in a more counselling way, and thus the concept Youth coach has been explored.

The core of the seminar concept is to show teachers how to empower young students to become each other's coaches. The model used is called SWiT: S (Situation today), Wi (Wish for an improvement), T (measures to Transform into a better situation). Each part of the SWiT-model refers to a stage in the change process. The first set of skills help the students to better analyze their current situation and how challenges can be changed or improved for the better. After analysing their current situation, they visualise how they want their situation to improve. The third stage of this process involves applying concrete measures to move away from today's challenges and towards an improved situation.

This methodology has been very well received by the teachers and pupils in Hordaland, and can show positive results. Based on this, Jåstad Røyset and Kjell Helge Kleppestø were invited to speak at the IAEVG congress in Madrid in November 2016. The congress holds high regard as a meeting place that gathers scientists, academics and professionals from all over Europe. Røyset and Kleppestø found that there was huge interest in this methodology, especially how they practically have managed to implement it. Contact was made with several research communities in Europe, who wanted to cooperate. Potential future partner countries are Denmark, Island and UK.



Kjell Helge Kleppestø, head of Center for vocational guidance at HFK and Reinhardt Jåstad Røyset (on the right), teacher at Holen Lower Secondary School, at the IAEVG congress in Madrid

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## Hyssingen Production School in Portugal

*When Hordaland Football Association arranged a tournament for mentally handicapped in Algarve, students from Hyssingen Production School were asked to make the official tournament song. Students from Hyssingen also participated on the trip to Portugal.*

In Hordaland the football association has established a football league for mentally handicapped called Stjerneserien (The Star League) that runs through the year. The summer of 2016 Hordaland Football Association, in cooperation with Algarve Sport & Events AS, hosted the tournament Algarve Friendly Matches for the second time. During the week, the teams trained together, had workshops on Fair Play, and enjoyed the sun. But most importantly, the Portuguese and Norwegian teams played each other during the Algarve Friendly Matches.

Hyssingen Production School, a project for students that has dropped out of formal education, was asked to make the official song for the tournament. The song, called "Campeones" was recorded and produced by the students on the cultural workshop at Hyssingen. The main theme of the song was the joy of playing football, and that in football it doesn't matter if you are different. In April, in between matches in Stjerneligaen, 220 players were gathered into a giant choir. The choir was recorded and this was used in the finale version of Campeones. Students from Hyssingen also played a match against two of the teams from Stjerneligaen.

When the teams from Hordaland went to Portugal, three of the students and a teacher from Hyssingen joined the trip. This was the same student that produced the song. During the tournament in Algarve the students documented the action, and later produced a mini documentary from the events.

During the stay the students from Hyssingen visited an institution for disabled youths, which also has a programme for youths that have dropped out from upper secondary school.



*The tournament Algarve Friendly Matches.*

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# Erasmus+

## Erasmus+: Youth in Action

### European Voluntary Service in Portugal

<https://www.facebook.com/EVSVertigem>



*Malin and Conny from Hordaland travelled to Portugal this Autumn and worked as European volunteers for the organization Vertigem. Two short interviews were published on Facebook - 2 December 2016:*

#### CONNYP

*Conny is 19 years old. She lives in Norway in a big city called Bergen. She was here in Porto de Mós for 1 month. She is a very funny person and she loves to joke around with people – in a nice and funny way.*

#### WHY PORTUGAL?

I wanted to leave my comfort zone and see something new. I really need this, because I want to find out what I really want in my life

#### WHY THIS PROJECT? DO YOU LIKE IT?

It was the most interesting of all my options and also my Dad was thinking I would like this one better than the others. This project is very varied. I enjoyed the time, we were picking olives, teaching children English words and had fun in a house for old people. In the beginning, I needed to get used to the "Portuguese style". But I wanted to see and learn something new, so it was okay in the end.

#### WAS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO LEARN PORTUGUESE?

Yes, because I just had 3 Portuguese classes. I didn't have enough time to learn it very well, but some words I know.

#### WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO AFTERWARDS?

I will find a job and work there until summer 2017 and then I'm going to try to finish school. I will save all the money for my next adventure. Or maybe I'll come back and explore Portugal.

#### ARE YOU HAPPY TO GO HOME?



I have different feelings about this. It was really nice. I like the people here and I had an awesome time. I learned a lot about myself, I have more experience about everything and I'm very thankful. I'm happy to go back to my comfort zone but I'm sure it will not be the same like before. I will be different, but in a good way. I also have sad feelings because I miss all the people here and my new friends.

**MALIN**

*Malin is a 17 year old girl. She lives in Bergen, Norway. She wanted to see something new in her life and decided to go to Portugal. She is a short-term volunteer. It is time for her to go home, so here is a short interview with her.*

**WHY PORTUGAL?**

I was in Portugal before, but I was very little and I can't remember. I also wanted to have more sun, because in Norway it is very cold and dark.

**WHY THIS PROJECT? DO YOU LIKE IT?**

I wanted to travel and I had three options, Greece, Portugal or Slovenia. And then I chose Portugal, because I can go home for Christmas. And maybe because I'm going to start to work in a flower shop, I was thinking I could learn here much about the nature, flowers and stuff like that. But I also worked with children and in a house of old people here in Portugal. I really like that, because I was in school for healthcare. The people here are very nice and I enjoyed the time with them. It was very sad that I couldn't talk with them, because of the language but I understood some words and I understand what they are talking about, but not the details.

**WAS IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO LEARN PORTUGUESE?**

Yes, a little bit. Because I didn't have enough time to learn it and I didn't use it a lot. If I would be here for a longer time, I'm sure I could learn it.

**YOU WANT TO WORK IN A FLOWERSHOP?**

Yes, but maybe just over Christmas. I'll check first, if I really like it. I also love make up. It would be very interesting for me to start an education for a make up artist.

**ARE YOU HAPPY TO GO HOME?**

Yes, I am! Because I really miss my family and friends and there is also a No, because I found here some friends. I learned here a lot about myself, I also learned a little bit to cook and to take care about myself, because here was no Mom and Dad. It was an amazing time for me and I'll never forget – Bezerra, Porto de Mós, the people here and specially my roommates.

*Malin and Conny from Hordaland travelled to Portugal this Autumn and worked as European volunteers for the organization Vertigem*

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**European Commission mentioned Hordaland**

## Erasmus+: Youth in Action

### What?

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

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

### Who?

Young people 17-30 years

### How long?

1-12 months

### Why?

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

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overall effects of these types of projects are great. 94% of the participants improved their key competences and skills relevant for employability, and 92% are more tolerant towards other people's values and behaviour. In the light of these numbers the project Shared Responsibility, and its focus on including more young people into the education system and increase youth employability, is of high importance.

*The project Shared responsibility was mentioned as an example of best practice by the European Commission.*

## AKTIV UNGDOM



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## project in Erasmus+ Annual Report 2015

*Hordaland County Council has for the last couple of years established a very promising project called Shared Responsibility. In the Erasmus+ Programme Annual Report 2015 from the European Commission the project was mentioned as best practice for youth mobility projects.*

Shared responsibility is a youth mobility project that aims to fight rising levels of youth unemployment. The specific target group of the project is young people (16+) who have dropped out of formal education systems. To guide this group of youth in a positive direction, the project aims to facilitate transition of young drop-outs to employment or formal education.

The European Commission makes an annual report on Erasmus+. The annual report for 2015 was published in November 2016. The report states that there has been a high demand for Key Action 1 youth mobility action projects. As a matter of fact, there was a 35 % increase with a total of 16.000 applications. Of the 5500 Erasmus+ projects in 2015, the project Shared Responsibility by Hordaland County Council was one of two projects that were highlighted in the report.

The report shows there is a high level of interest in non-formal learning activities in the field of youth, and also that the

## ERASMUS+ & PREVENTION OF EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

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

From: Erasmus+ programme guide - part A

## 5. WEST NORWAY OFFICE IN BRUSSELS

*The West Norway Office (WNO) has, over the course of the fall of 2016, continued its efforts to further strengthen the ties between its members and relevant European actors. By providing extensive information services, promoting and facilitating regional cooperation between European stakeholders, and increasing the knowledge of Norway-EU relations, WNO continues to function as a liaison between West Norway and regional actors in the EU.*

Throughout this fall, WNO has received over 350 visitors. Welcoming politicians, administrative staff, and students from West Norway, WNO has engaged in competence building and strived to connect our visitors to their counterparts in Brussels. In September, WNO had the pleasure of welcoming the control committee of Hordaland County to Brussels, highlighting how WNO is relevant to their work and introducing them to, among others, representatives from EFTA and the European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF giving them European perspectives on issues that are central in the work of the control committees of the counties.

As a member of the consortium Smart Partnership for New Skills, WNO co-hosted the seminar "How can cities and regions deliver the skills of the future" during this year's European Week of Regions and Cities in October. Exploring ideas on closing the skills gap by matching skills with business needs, senior advisor at Hordaland County Council, Stian S. Ludvigsen, provided examples of how to determine regional offer and demand of labor. Striking a chord with the international attendees, his presentation laid the foundation for engaging debates among regional representatives from all over Europe.

Representatives from the Hordaland County Council administration also attended the European Week of Regions and Cities participating in a wide range of workshops with particular relevance for their field of work.



*Stian Ludvigsen from Section for research, internationalisation and analysis, Hordaland County council, during his presentation at Open Days in Brussels.*

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*Representatives from the Hordaland County Council administration also attended the European Week of Regions and Cities participating*

### West Norway office

*The West Norway Office (WNO) is working as a liaison between its members in West Norway and European actors in Brussels.*

**The main tasks of the office are:**

- to provide its members with information services,
- to promote the region and its members as cooperation partners for European projects, and
- to increase the knowledge on EU-Norway relations in the region.

**Members:** in addition to Hordaland County Council, nine municipalities in Hordaland as well as the energy company BKK are members of the WNO.

**Internet:** <http://www.west-norway.no/west-norway-office-in-brussels/sels/>

## 6. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Minister of EEA and EU affairs visits Hordaland County Council

*Minister of EEA and EU affairs Elisabeth Vik Aspaker visited Hordaland County Council in November 2016. The aim of the visit was to learn about Hordaland County Council's experience in running the North Sea Commission from 2014-2016, and also to discuss challenges and new opportunities from a regional perspective.*

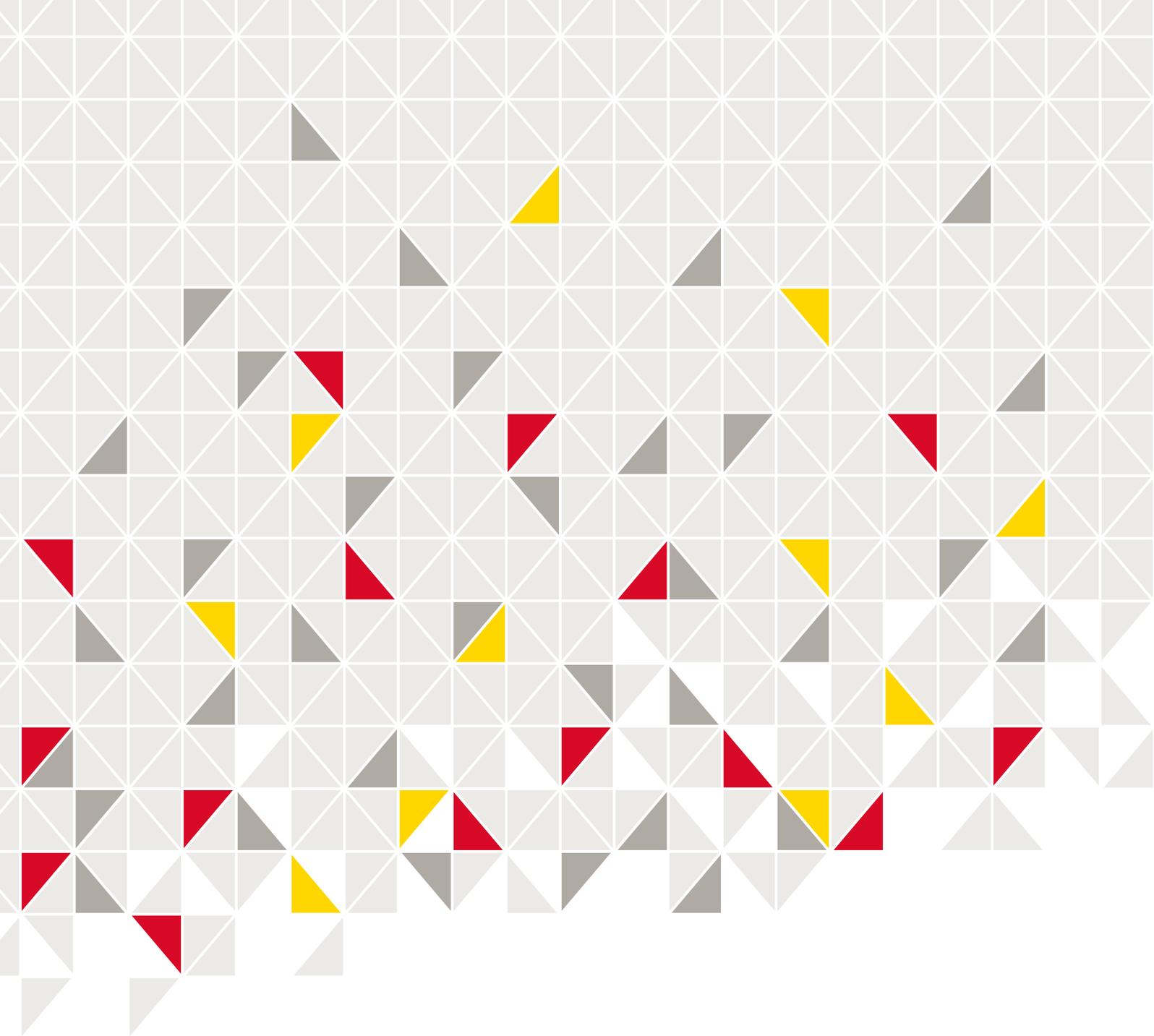
A meeting place to exchange information is important in light of the idea of a team Norway; where all governmental levels, organisations and other parties involved in promoting Norwegian interests pull in the same direction. Hordaland County Council was given the opportunity to inform the Minister about ongoing processes at regional level in preparation for the ongoing regional reform, about current affairs in Hordaland, and to raise the challenges we see for internationalisation and cooperation between different governmental levels. The ministry is in the process of signing agreements with the countries that are eligible under the EEA – grants programmes. The county councils are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities in the programmes and the minister underlined that Norwegian partners have something to learn from the new EU member states.

Tom-Christer Nilsen, then county mayor of Hordaland County was president in the North Sea Commission from 2014 to 2016. Hordaland was responsible for running the secretariat during that period. Running this international organisation gives the opportunity to set the agenda and better link regional concerns with the opportunities the North Sea Commission provides. Cllr. Nilsen set the North Sea grid as a priority issue on the North Sea Commission agenda. This is an issue that is important for Hordaland as a region and the North Sea region as a whole. Although Norway is not a member of the EU, Cllr. Nilsen, as a Norwegian politician, was able to access the EU institutions and deliver a clear message, since he was given legitimation through his position and was backed by a secretariat which could prepare and follow up the work. As Hordaland no longer holds the presidency and secretariat, it is even more important to have a strategy for how to use this channel and cooperation platform the North Sea Commission provides. Hordaland and other regions' engagement in the North Sea Commission could be better coordinated with the activities of the Ministry for mutual benefit.

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*Minister of EEA and EU affairs visited Hordaland county Council. From left: Camilla Løvaas Stavnes (international advisor HFK), Bård Sandal (Director of Regional Development HFK), Kathrin Jakobsen (Head of Research, Internationalisation and Analysis HFK), Beate Husa (Chair of Committee for Culture, Sports and Regional Development HFK); Elisabeth Vik Aspaker (Minister of EEA and EU affairs), Rune Haugsdal (Chief Executive of Hordaland county council), Merete Mikkelsen (Director West Norway Office in Brussels).*



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

