

## Innspill til revisjon av North Sea Region 2020

Fra næringsseksjonen, Hordaland fylkeskommune

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### **Evaluation:**

Hordaland County Council's department for Regional Development focuses on establishing networks and clusters of industries which are naturally strong in Hordaland and where the region has advantages compared to others. Energy, maritime industries, marine industries, tourism and cultural industries are strategically important to the region. Therefore, the North Sea Commission's strategy – Contributing to the Europe 2020 is in line with Hordaland County's Regional Development plans and in line with the County's visions for the future.

### **Managing Maritime Space**

1. Maritime Spatial Planning: 4
2. Exploitation of marine resources: 6
3. North Sea Maritime Stakeholder Forum: 3

Evaluation:

1) The Economic Development Section did not see this as one of the main challenges for Hordaland and was therefore given a 4. Current work and regulations would continue the level of planning required despite the North Sea Commissions involvement, despite it being a very important area of NSCs work. 2) Was given the highest priority due to the importance of this industry for the future. A sustainable use of marine resources will be one of the solutions in reaching a green transformation. 3) Was given a 3 – The Economic Development Section understood this focus area as a process leading to focus area of Maritime Spatial Planning (1).

Are there other focus areas your region prioritizes which should be included under Managing Maritime Space?

### **Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport**

1. Promote development of multimodal transport corridors and facilitate modal shift from road to sea: 5
2. Optimizing performance of multimodal logistic chains: 5
3. Clean transport: 5
4. Clean shipping: 5

Evaluation:

The Economic Development Section chose to rank all the above questions as 5. These are all important areas for Hordaland County; however, the Economic Development Section has some suggestions and comments to what pertains above. 1) The importance of involving stakeholders and businesses to the debate about a modal shift from road to sea as they are the users of

transportation and choose the alternatives available, what are the barriers, what are the benefits, (not all sea transportation contribute to clean transport). 2) Similar to that above, but adding why is the performance of multimodal logistic chains poor in the first place? How can we better optimize the logistic chain to avoid unnecessary transport? 3) In order to reach clean transport and clean shipping cooperation between national governance is necessary. International regulations/standards must be established in order to continue competitiveness in the market. Working regionally, nationally or in the North Sea region is not enough, this needs to be addressed at least at a European level. 4) It is not clear what is meant by Clean Shipping. Is this merely a detail of question 3? Or could this perhaps include shipyards, technology, the supply industry, etc.? In case of the latter definition, we would rank Clean Shipping as very important (6).

Are there other focus areas your region prioritizes which should be included under Accessibility and Clean transport?

- One overarching focus on transport should be avoiding unnecessary transport and energy use before looking at how to make it cleaner.
- Involving stakeholders and national actors in order to achieve cooperation and best practice.

## **Tackling Climate Change**

1. Climate change adaptation: 4
2. Low carbon technologies and energy efficiency/green technologies: 6
3. Renewable energy and North Sea energy grid: 6

Evaluation:

1) Hordaland County prioritise mitigation strategies before adaptation strategies. Both strategies are important and should be co-existing, but it is questionable that the North Sea Commission has no strategies/focus areas that covers the challenges of cutting carbon emissions. 2) and 3) was ranked as 6. These are very important for Hordaland as a region. We have well established and easily accessible low-carbon technologies as well as an even greater potential for developing others. A North Sea energy grid is considered very important for Hordaland.

Are there other focus areas your region prioritizes which should be included under Tackling Climate Change?

- Prior to laying out climate change adaptation strategies one should address the challenges of climate change mitigation. It is important to address how the North Sea Commission can contribute to reducing greenhouse gases and cut carbon emission prior to adapting to a changing climate.

## **Attractive and Sustainable Communities**

1. Competitiveness of sectors and enterprises (maritime and culture/tourism): 5
2. Demographic change: 4

### 3. Development of skills and employability: 6

#### Evaluation:

1) and 2) are considered relatively important for Hordaland. We have experienced some migration, particularly from inland villages to the coastal areas. 3) Is considered very important for our region. Continuing developing new skills is necessary in order to continue innovation and establishing new technologies. Employability becomes even more important in the years to come as the oil industry is in decline.

Are there other focus areas your region prioritizes which should be included under Attractive and Sustainable Communities?

In regards to focus area 3) above, the ability to use established competence in the oil and gas industry in other areas will become important in the future. In what areas can subsea engineers or other petroleum specialists work in the future? What industries should the region focus on developing, knowing that we have expertise in oil and gas for example? These are questions that our region is focusing on, and perhaps this is true for many other North Sea regions? Perhaps we could establish a network of competence in the different sectors that could benefit the North Sea region as a whole? A way of sharing experience and technologies.

### **Best practices and other input**

Do you have best practice examples from your region which could demonstrate solutions under one or more of the strategic priority areas?

- Hordaland have expertise particularly in the marine food production could demonstrate solutions under several of the strategic priority areas. The industry has showed that by taking on board research and regulations they are constantly improving the practices of fish-farming is done and marine consumer products are produced.
- Our experience in establishing Clusters, such as SFI, NCE, GCE, is very beneficial for entire industries. This potentially demonstrates solutions under all priority areas.
- One success story of best practice and leading expertise in Hordaland is in clean maritime technology (NCE Maritime CleanTech). Through the National Center of Expertise program (NCE program), the County has contributed to establishing a cluster of clean maritime industries in order to abate the challenges of climate change first hand. The cluster has contributed to develop the first battery powered ferry in the world, and have also launched hybrid solutions for ships.
- A second success story is the sub-sea cluster which was upgraded from a National Centre of Expertise (NCE) to a Global Centre of Expertise (GCE) in 2015. Only the most dynamic and growth-oriented clusters share this status. They are among other in addition to developing new subsea technologies also exploring additional uses of the technology such as among other related to offshore wind and to mineral mining.

The horizontal priority includes innovation, excellence and sustainability. Can you demonstrate how this could be better integrated in the other four strategic priority areas?

- By using established knowledge and competence across sectors, share experience and develop new competence by using what we know.

Is there any other input you would like to give regarding revision of the North Sea Region 2020?

- The connection between regional and national policy areas and legal frameworks should be laid out in the strategy papers. The tools and instruments for establishing a closer bond between the two levels of decision-making could benefit from having a separate strategy or at least be a lot more apparent in the current strategy. It is not clear how the North Sea Commission have an influence on decision-makers, be it regional, national or European. This requires close ties and communication between levels of governance. In this way, one could also review what the Commission has accomplished and how strong an influence the Commission's work has had.
- When revising a plan like this it is also important to look at the broader changes in the world. A number of societal changes have taken place since the plan was implemented. Meta changes related to employment in the North Sea region, economic downturn, the green transformation, amongst other. These changes are severely influencing priorities in the regions.