

# International Newsletter

01/11

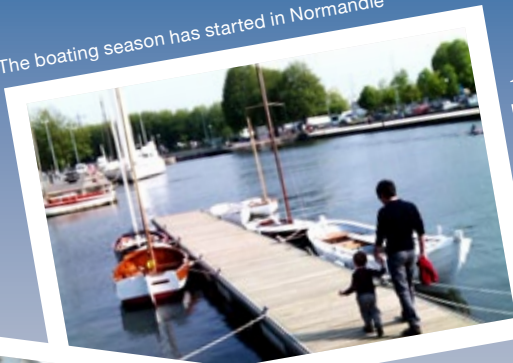
Welcome to the international newsletter from Hordaland County Council, giving you a short introduction to the county's international activities during the last 6 months. Although the list is not extensive, we nevertheless hope to give you an idea of the breadth of activities that takes place within our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

This spring has again been a very active one, with many activities taking place - both within the international projects that we take part in, with our regions of cooperation or organised by our schools. These international interactions bring a wide range of new experiences and impulses back to the County Council.

“Kom mai du skjøne milde...”

May came with festivities and spring blossoming to our partner regions

The boating season has started in Normandie



17th of May parade in Kirkwall, Orkney



International Hansa Festival in Kaunas



Official opening of the “Hordaland Terrace” at the Norwegian Church in Cardiff



Erfurt in bloom, Thüringen



## 1. Our partner regions

### Basse-Normandie, France



#### Continued cooperation between the schools

Several schools in Hordaland have set up bilateral links with schools in Basse-Normandie. For spring 2011 some of these activities include:

Voss agricultural school has established links with Lycée Agricole de Coutance and hope to send students there on Leonardo scholarships this fall. The students have already established contact by e-mail. Arrangements for exchanges with a (Norwegian-run) equestrian centre in Normandie are also being finalised.

Following the visits from the Voss students to Bayeux in October, 30 students, plus their teachers, from Lycée Alain Chartier in Bayeux visited Voss for a week in March. They experienced both the Norwegian schooling system as well as the great skiing facilities at Voss.



*The students from Bayeux at Fløyen (Photo:Voss gymnas)*

Björgvin videregående has new links with Lycée Sivard de Beaulieu in Carentan. The students are already in contact via e-mail, but the first trip to Carentan for the Norwegian students are not planned until September 2011. Two teachers from Björgvin visited Carentan in June to plan the forthcoming exchange more in detail.

Sandsli videregående has had a very successful placement of two students in the kitchen of Hôtel Lion d'Or in Bayeux, organised by their partner school Lycée Rabelais. The students were there for three weeks in February/March with scholarships from the Leonardo programme. At the same time, teachers from Sandsli visited other restaurants in the Caen area that might accommodate future apprentices. In May, teachers from Lycée Rabelais visited Sandsli and several hotels/restaurants in the Bergen area to plan for future placements of French students.



*Sandsli students with time off to visit Mt. Saint Michel*

#### Study visit from Academie de Caen in February

Exchange of best practice is an important aspect of the relationship between the regions. This winter, it was the educational authorities in Basse-Normandie who wanted to learn from Hordaland and the way we organise our international educational activities. Jean-Christophe Tailpied who is in charge of the international relations of the Academie de Caen, the national educational authorities' regional representation, received a two-week-scholarship from the Comenius programme in order to study the international educational activities in general and the organisation of the "Hordaland classes" abroad in particular. As Hordaland County Council is setting up a new "class" in Normandie, the Normand authorities wanted to learn the details of how these classes were integrated into the educational system; both in terms of legal, pedagogical and administrative aspects in order to evaluate what it would take to establish a similar offer in France.

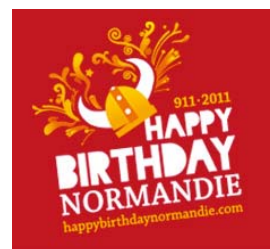
#### First 4 students to the "Hordaland class in Normandie" selected

The "Hordaland class in Normandie" was approved by the County Executive Board in Hordaland in March 2010, with a proposed start in the fall of 2011. Voss gymnas, the coordinating school in Hordaland has, together with the host schools and the education authorities in Normandie, done a tremendous job in putting all the details for this pilot year in place. In May, 7 applicants were interviewed by representatives from both regions. 4 students have now been offered the opportunity to spend the next school year at different schools in Basse-Normandie.

#### 1100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for historical Normandie

All through 2011 Basse-Normandie will celebrate the 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peace treaty, signed in 911, that marked the birth of the Duchy of Normandie. The Viking chief Rollon, believed to be "Gange-Rolf", originally from Sunnmøre on the Norwegian west coast, landed in France around year 876 after a stay in England. In 911 he signed a peace treaty with the king of the Franks, Charles the Simple, through which he received the Duchy of Normandie.

The 1100th anniversary will be celebrated with an extensive program of events and festivities, many of them marking the "Viking past" of Normandie. More information can be found on [www.happybirthdaynormandie.com](http://www.happybirthdaynormandie.com).



Hordaland County Council will take part in the celebrations though the joint exhibition on past and present use of wood – showing the close ties between Normandie and the Norwegian west coast.

## Work on the joint exhibition well on its way

The theme for the joint exhibition between the two regions is the use of wood in construction of boats and houses in Hordaland and Basse-Normandie. There is a focus on the historic and traditional use of wood in both regions, as well as the more modern use of wood as a resource. The environmental aspect is included. From the Norwegian side there is a particular focus on restoration techniques, the passing on of traditional techniques and how to secure and develop immaterial cultural heritage. The museums are well on their way producing the exhibition which will have both panels with photo and text, wooden artefacts and model of boats and buildings. In addition there will be 4 meter long textiles with poems by Olav H. Hauge, as well as photos, hanging from the ceiling. Hauge's poems have many references to tools, wood, craftsmanship etc, so they are a perfect match. Many of the poems have been translated into French by French artist based in Norway, Francois Monnet.

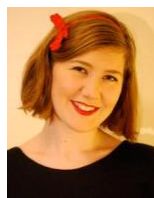


*The workshop at Oselvar Boat Builders*

Those who work together on the exhibition are the Museum Centre in Hordaland (project coordinator), Hardanger Voss Museum, Oselvarverkstaden and the Bryggen Foundation. Sunnhordaland Museum is also participating and they will present their program "I'm building a boat" in Caen the week after the official opening of the exhibition, which is on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2011. Builders from the Oselvar Boat Builders and Hardanger Ship Preservation Centre will also demonstrate different building techniques.

## Student from Caen on placement at the museum centre in Salhus

Ebba Bjerkander, Swedish master student in applied languages at the University of Caen has been on placement at the Museum Centre of Hordaland (MuHo) for seven weeks this March/April. The topic for her master thesis is communication and project management and she has thus been involved in the ongoing exhibition project between museums in Hordaland and Normandie. Director at MuHo, Atle Ove Martinussen, appraises her contribution to the dialogue between the project partners and in translating project documents. What she has been able to learn more about is methods of communications, cooperation and international project work. She has also learned to make



digital stories. She has made two stories that will be used as part of the exhibition and which can also be found on the centre's website <http://www.vimeo.com/muho>. This has given her concrete results of her training. "I would not hesitate to accept master students from France or other countries in the future and would recommend it to other museums" says Director at MuHo, Atle Ove Martinussen

## Exchange of practise within cultural administration

The first two weeks of May Tone Stedal Haugland from the Department of Culture and Sports was in Basse-Normandie with a scholarship from the Leonardo-programme. This was a part of an exchange between the cultural departments of the two regions; last August, Hordaland hosted a group from Basse-Normandie with representatives from both the Cultural Department of the region and the regional structures of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education.



*Musée des Beaux Arts in Caen*

An important part of the stay was study how the cultural policies of the region were put into practise. There were also meetings to work on common projects already started, such as exchange of visual artists/ Artist in Residence, which was initiated after the visit last August, and the first artist to visit Hordaland were now picked to a three month residency at the USF. There were also meetings on the exhibition on wood made out by museums in both regions/counties and with the artistic director of the festival Les Boréales about artists and artistic works from Hordaland participating in the festival.

## Cardiff, Wales



## The Norwegian church in Cardiff reopened

The old Norwegian Seaman's Church in Cardiff Bay has been closed since October 2010 due to extensive renovations. Both the exterior and the interior of the Norwegian Church Arts Centre have been refurbished and modernised, making it more accessible for the public. The kitchen and cafeteria area has also been extended to better cater for the large number of visitors it receives. Hordaland County Council's contribution is a new decking – the Hordaland Terrace, where the council has provided timber, design and craftsmanship – the timber arriving eco-friendly by sailing ship last July. The official reopening took place on the Norwegian national

day, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg underlined in her speech the strong symbolic power of the church, marking the close relations between Cardiff and Hordaland. [More](#)



The new "Hordaland Terrace" in Cardiff

### Work placement at restaurant Jamie's Italian in Cardiff

Three students from Fitjar videregående skole was on a two week work placement at Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurant in Cardiff in May. The agreement to offer work placements to students from Fitjar came after a meeting at the restaurant with teachers from Fitjar during Cardiff's Food and Drink Festival in July 2010. The teachers from Fitjar were operating Hordaland's stand. Teachers from Fitjar went over to Cardiff again to plan the placement in detail and, finally, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, three very excited students left for Wales. The reception by the staff at Jamie's was warm and the trainees were put to work already on the first day. They appreciated the strict rules and systems that the restaurant operated by, and got to work at all the different "stations" of the restaurant. Upon their return to Hordaland, the students were very happy with their stay and realised that their competence within the field had grown tremendously. The students and the school wish to thank Jamie's Italian restaurant for a memorable stay, as well as Susan Jones from Cardiff County for helping to organise it.



Outside the restaurant in Cardiff (photo: Fitjar vgs)

### 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hordaland class in Cardiff

The cooperation that gives young people in Hordaland the opportunity to go to school in Wales for a year, celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. Since the first students left Hordaland in the fall of 1996, approximately 270 students have taken their second year of upper secondary at schools in Cardiff and the neighbouring county Vale of Glamorgan. The program is still organised as it was from the start: to ensure that the students are well integrated, they are spread out at different schools and they live in private homes. Hordaland County Council cooperates with six different schools, and many of the host families have had Norwegian students living with them for many years. Knarvik videregående is the coordinator of the programme which is open to students from all over Hordaland. During the reopening of The Norwegian Church Art Centre on May 17<sup>th</sup> both the County Mayor of Hordaland and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff highlighted the student exchange as a highly valuable part of the cooperation between the regions.



16 students from 10 different schools in Hordaland (photo: Knarvik vgs)

On June 10<sup>th</sup> it was time for the farewell party for the 16 students; 13 girls and 3 boys who were now finishing up an exciting and different school year. The former Seamen's Church in Cardiff was filled up with teachers, students, host families, and not to forget parents and siblings that had flown over from Norway to attend. And on September 2<sup>nd</sup> a new group of students will board the plane to Cardiff...

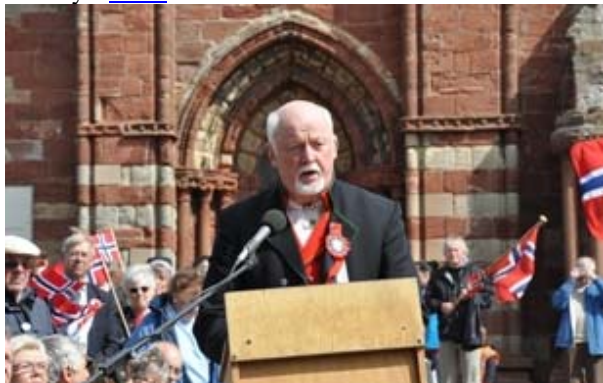
Orkney  
Islands,  
Scotland



### Norwegian National Day celebrations at Orkney

Orkney Norway Friendship Association was once again the organisers behind the Norwegian National Day celebrations in Kirkwall on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The day started with a ceremony of laying down flowers on the graves of Norwegian sailors that were killed during WWII and a concert in the St. Magnus Cathedral. The main event was, however, the parade through the city centre of Kirkwall, ending up at the Market Green where there was entertainment by schoolchildren from Stromness and

Glaitness Primary Schools. Former County Mayor, and current member of the county's executive board, Magnar Lussand represented Hordaland County Council in these events. In his speech, during the Dinner dance he highlighted the effort by the two friendship associations to build bridges between the people of Hordaland and the Orkneys. [More](#)



*Magnar Lussand gives the May 17<sup>th</sup> speech outside St. Magnus Cathedral (photo: Orkney Norway Freindship Assoc.)*

### Exchange of High School students

Every year, two students from each region are given the opportunity to spend a year in the sister-region. For the school year 2010/11 two students from Hordaland (Tertnes videregående and Øystese gymnas) were accepted to Kirkwall Grammar School, while one student from Kirkwall was enrolled for a year at Voss Folkehøgskole. The two Hordaland students in Kirkwall have experienced a year where many things are different to what they are used to – both inside and outside the classroom. Both students lived in dormitories during the week and local host families during the week-ends. [More](#)



*The two Hordaland students together with the Director General and County Mayor of Hordaland, in December*

### Kaunas, Lithuania



#### Visit by folk music group Bociiai to Bergen

The group Bociiai, meaning “the elders” was established in Kaunas 15 years ago. They sing and play traditional Lithuanian music. They have performed at musical festivals in different European countries, but they also like to perform for other seniors. Bociiai visited Bergen

from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of May, experiencing, among other things, the Norwegian national day celebrations on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On 18<sup>th</sup> of May, the group played concerts on three different senior centres and nursing homes in Bergen. The group's repertoire of traditional songs, waltzes and polkas, accompanied by accordion and violins was a great success with the local audiences.



The concerts were arranged in cooperation with the [Cultural Walking Cane in Bergen](#) which provides cultural experiences to the senior citizens (similar to what the [Cultural Rucksack](#) does for schoolchildren). [More](#)

#### International Hansa Days in Kaunas – May 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

The Hanseatic League which dominated trade along the coast of Northern Europe in the 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries celebrates their history every year with a large event called “Hansa Days”, rotating among the Hanseatic towns. This year it was Kaunas' turn. Representatives from Hordaland County participated in the official programme for the twin cities, and the reception held by the Mayor in the beautiful old Town Hall was a highlight. “We are celebrating many hundreds of years of trade and friendship, at the same time as we are looking forward to many years with good cooperation, said the new Mayor of Kaunas City, Rimaitis Mikiaitis, when he opened the Hansa Days.

As member of the Hanseatic League, the city of Bergen took part in the festivities with 85 different Hansa towns, marketing Bergen having network meetings with fellow cities. The local food samples in the Bergen pavilion were popular with the visitors.



The Hansa Days had a rich programme; the Old Town with the market place and the pavilions from the Hansa towns, and the city itself with cultural arrangements, art

exhibitions and hundreds of small market stalls where locals were selling food and craft products.

Marit Einen from International Section also got the opportunity to discuss future cooperation with the Office for International Affairs in Kaunas, Kaunas National Institute for Regional Development and Kaunas District Municipality.

## Thüringen, Germany



### Visit from the City of Erfurt

In January, the Director of Education of the City of Erfurt, Dr Werner Ungewiß and the Mayor of Erfurt, Mrs Tamara Thierbach, responsible for Culture and Education, paid a visit to Bergen in order to discuss the cooperation between Hordaland County Council and the City of Erfurt. They had meetings with the Chief Executive and the County Mayor of Hordaland, and also with the Department of Education and the International Section, where they expressed how pleased they are with the ongoing cooperation, and that they want to enlarge it even further. Among other things, they would like to include other subjects, in addition to electronics, in the school cooperation. They would also like to extend the exchange of students, so that German students would also have the possibility to attend Norwegian schools.



Visit to the newest school in Hordaland, Nordahl Grieg Upper Secondary School in Bergen

During the stay, they also visited the municipality of Fjell, which they cooperate with in a Comenius Regio project. They met representatives from the schools and the municipality of Fjell involved in the project.

### Students for new electro class selected

After a one year break, there will be a new class of electro students from Hordaland in Erfurt starting this autumn. To ensure that everyone that was eligible for this “class” had actually heard of it, the coordinators from Askøy videregående toured the county making sure that the information was passed on to all those studying electro. And the effort paid off! 20 students applied, making it possible to select the absolute best and most motivated ones. A group of 9 students; 2 girls and 7 boys, will be placed in three classes at Andreas Gordon Schule in Erfurt, in classes focusing on data and electronics, electric energy and automation.

## 2. Cooperation through international organisations

### Association of European Regions (AER)



Hordaland is one of 270 member regions in AER, which was founded in 1985 to increase the dialog and cooperation between European regions.

Hordaland County Council is member of AER, the largest independent organisation for regions in Europe. Important focus areas this year are “Europe 2020”, recovery from the economic crises, public health, climate change and energy. “Youth and participation” has also high priority, where AER is working to ensure that young people play an active role in political processes and that their views are taken into account in political decisions. A new working group on “Entrepreneurship and Innovation” was established at the Committee 1 meeting in Fredrikstad, Norway in March 2011.

AER-Norway is an arena for cooperation and strategic discussions on what themes the Norwegian member regions want AER to promote. Marit Einen from the International Section participated at the meeting 27 April. Important subjects on the agenda this spring has been public health, regional airports, innovation and youth participation both in local communities and in the AER Youth Network. [More](#)

### Committee on Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR)



Hordaland is one of 156 member regions in CPMR. The CPMR works to secure a development across the European regions, regardless of their geographical location.

The political Bureau meeting which was held in the Azores on 3<sup>rd</sup> of June provided an opportunity to hold a round table session on “European solidarity: moving from theory into practice at regional level”. Debates also focused on the cohesion policy negotiations and in particular the campaigning led by the Regions, the Review of the Trans-European Transport Network, the state of progress of the maritime agenda and the European Commission’s Communication on the future of EU neighbourhood policy and the Black Sea Strategy.



The meeting in the Azores also marked the start of a process to promote European solidarity, a process to conclude in a more broad-based event to be held in Brussels at the beginning of next year. The idea is to affirm that solidarity is at the root of Europe and that it can be both political as well as territorial, and hence a cohesion policy for all European regions. [More](#)

## North Sea Commission (NSC)



The North Sea Commission was founded in 1989 as a sub-commission to CPMR, in order to facilitate and enhance partnerships between regions by the North Sea. The NSC has 36 member regions, 15 from Norway. Deputy Mayor Tom Christer Nilsen from Hordaland County Council is the Norwegian representative in the Executive Committee. [More](#)

The main political focus this spring has been on the strategy document "North Sea Region 2020" which is to be presented at the General Assembly on June 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to make sure that all relevant voices were heard in the process, NSC invited all concerned stakeholders to a conference in Middelburg, Netherlands in March. Through the course of two days with plenary speeches and workshops, a wide range of concrete proposals were given to the strategic committee. The thematic working groups within the NSC have also done a tremendous work identifying important aspects to be included in the document. During the meeting of the Executive Committee in Southend, UK, in April, some key decisions were made as to the scope and format of the strategy document. The short term goal is now for the NSC General Assembly, which will take place in Brugge, Belgium from June 21<sup>st</sup>, to mark the start of a discussion on both the content and the future use of this strategy document. It will also mark the start of a wider consultation process that will take place within the member regions and with relevant stakeholders. [More](#)



*Cherry blossom in Southend-on-Sea*

## Regional cooperation in Norway: The Regional Council for Western Norway

The Regional Council for Western Norway is an organization consisting of 4 County Councils on the west coast of Norway: Møre og Romsdal, Sogn og Fjordane,

Hordaland and Rogaland. The council consists of 5 politicians elected from each of the county councils. The leadership and the secretariat alternate between the member counties, and Rogaland has the leadership in 2011. The focus areas of the council are; international affairs, culture, business development and innovation, energy, climate and environment, coastal resource management and transport. Administrative groups have been established for these topic areas. [More](#)

This spring, the international group has had one meeting, in Stavanger in April. The topics for discussion were issues on the European agenda, such as maritime spatial planning and the TEN-T revision. Other discussion point were processes where the counties are, in one way or another, involved, such as the process on the North Sea Region 2020 document and the upcoming pre-project on a future China Strategy for Western Norway.

## 3. Projects

### Interreg IV projects

Hordaland is eligible for participation in the following programs; Interreg IV B: The North Sea Region Program, Northern Periphery Program and the Baltic Sea Program and Interreg IV C; Interregional Cooperation.

### Information from the National Contact Point for the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Program



There was once again plenty of interest from Norwegian partners for the 6<sup>th</sup> call in the programme this spring. A total of 17 applications were submitted, among them eleven full applications, one application for extension and five cluster applications. Seven full projects and 2 cluster project applications involved Norwegian partners. Hordaland was not involved in any of the applications this time around due to an already large commitment as lead partner for two North Sea Region projects.

The Steering Committee approved eight applications: four full applications, one application for extension and three cluster applications. The approved projects will be made public later in June.

Prior to the Call approximately 82 per cent of the funding available in the programme had been allocated to 46 projects. After Steering Committee No. 6, approximately 90 per cent of the funding available has been allocated to 53 projects, three of which are cluster projects.

It would seem likely that all funds for Norwegian partners has now been allocated, this will be confirmed later in the autumn and before the 7<sup>th</sup> call.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Call for Applications will be open from 5 September to 3 October 2011. More information will be

made available on the Programme website in good time before the opening of the Call.

## Interreg IVB – North Sea Region Program

### Coast Alive

The **Coast Alive!** project has a total of 26 partners and sub partners from the Netherlands, UK, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The aim of the project is to develop a set of strategies and procedures for mobilising more people to use local paths and outdoor facilities for recreation and fitness. The project builds on two previous EU-funded projects that developed around 12,000 km of paths. Now the aim is to get people to use them, all year and as often as possible! Through development of a toolkit, with details on the many approaches used to encourage countryside visits, the initiative seeks a lasting legacy. The current focus is very much on populating the website, to be launched at [www.coast-alive.eu](http://www.coast-alive.eu), and development of the toolkit.



The project will continue to support and forge stronger links with the [Appalachian Trail](#). More than 10,000 kms of North Sea Trail and North Sea Cycle Route are now officially designated as part of the International Appalachian Trail.

The spring 2011 has also seen a further development between the Coast Alive project and Eurisy, and in January 2011 the project partner Norfolk hosted the first of two workshops to be held in conjunction with EURISY. The second one will be hosted by Hordaland County Council in Bergen on 20 October 2011 - focussing specifically on the use of satellite technology to monitor the impacts of tourism on the coastline.

### StratMoS

Hordaland County council is one of 29 partners in StratMoS ("Motorways of the Seas Strategic Project") within the North Sea Region Programme. Hordaland became one of the partner regions in the project in December 2008 and has been active in Work Package C (WP C) and Demonstration Project 3a (DP3a). The aim of WP C is to improve the cooperation between several small (in a European context) ports and their hinterland and some specific ports in Northern Europe. The aim of DP3a is to identify the obstacles to



effective transport chains and propose improved "invisible" intermodal transport solutions. Key partners in this work are the main transport firms, stevedores and product owners in Hordaland.



The StratMoS project will present the final report for all the Work Packages and Demonstration Projects at the final conference in Brussels on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2011

The main activities in the project for Hordaland County Council the last months have been to finish up the reports for DP3a. This work has been done in close cooperation with the lead partner, Rogaland County Council, as well as Vest-Agder County Council. [More](#)

### Clean North Sea Shipping

Clean North Sea Shipping (CNSS) is an Interreg IVB project of the North Sea Region Programme. The project has 18 partners, representing Belgium, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands and the UK. Hordaland County Council is the lead beneficiary.



*From the General Assembly in Newcastle, June 2011*

The main focus within the first reporting period of CNSS has been on establishing the work groups and on the development of a joint platform for cooperation. This includes development of joint beneficiary agreement and project manual, web sites for internal and external communication, plus the arrangement of several meetings related to activity development within the different work packages.

Two of the work packages, WP3 and WP4, have worked on the delivery of reports. WP3 – Policy and Strategy development - has compiled a report named “Baseline of knowledge” related to policy development in the clean shipping area. WP4 – Clean Shipping Technology – has compiled a report on “Clean Shipping Technology”. Both reports will be presented at the CNSS Assembly in June 2011. WP5 – Reduction and Handling of Emissions - has not had any major deliverables in this period, but is moving along with good pace with their ship emission inventory, an activity which is due by the end of 2011. CNSS has started to take advantage of social media for improving communication, both internally and towards a wider audience. LinkedIn is increasingly being used by the participants, and separate discussion groups have been established. [More](#)

## Interreg IVB – Baltic Sea Program “Baltic Biogas Bus”

The project Baltic Biogas Bus - BBB, under the Baltic Sea Program started in September 2009. Hordaland County Council, through its transport division Skyss, and HOG Energy (former Hordaland Oil and Gas) are partners in the project. Skyss is primarily a dissemination partner while HOG is an active contributor in several work packages. The objective of the project is to increase the use of biogas as fuel for city buses and by the reducing the climate impact of the transport sector.



At the annual event Gasskonferansen in Bergen, the BBB project hosted a [parallel session](#) on May 5<sup>th</sup> on the topic “Biogas as fuel for buses”. The contributors during this session came from several of the project partners both in Norway, Scandinavia and the Baltic states and presented both technical solutions and policy aspects. [More](#)

## Interreg IVB – Northern Periphery



### ENE-Economusée Northern Europe

The European Interreg IVB project, ENE - Economusée Northern Europe, is now rounded off and the final reporting package being produced.

In Hordaland, all the 5 Economusées are established and open to the public for the summer season, the last ones being the woodcarver at Voss and the glassblower in Bergen. The Hordaland Economusée information and tourist brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

The ENE project was also nominated for the Northern Ireland Tourism [Award for Best New Tourism Project](#) in 2011. A local partner, **Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust** (CCGHT), received the second prize at the award ceremony in Belfast. The Économusée project and CCGHT were "Highly Commended" for their focus on business development, job creation and training of young people. After the ceremony, the Government Minister for Tourism told the project that she "expected to see much more of them".



*Blacksmith Mikkjael in Trollanes became the first Economusée to open on the Faroe Islands*

In similar news, the North Atlantic Cooperation (NORA) has picked the Économusée project to be signposted as a "Best practice example" for development of tourism in the Nordic peripheral areas, in a new publication being produced and printed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. [More](#)

## Craft International - a new NPP Interreg IVB development project is approved

Hordaland is the lead partner in a new project proposal - **Craft International** which is to follow up the successful Economusée project that was closed at the end of March 2011. The project partners are the same but with the Jämtland region in Sweden as a new addition to the family.

The new Interreg IVB project Craft International (CI) was **approved** by the NPP Programme Monitoring Committee at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in Copenhagen. The new project will start up July 1<sup>st</sup> and run until 2013. The project aim is to develop another 22 new Economusées in the Northern Europe regions, of which 5 new ones are to be established in Hordaland and Aurland. The project will also care take and develop further the existing economusées by various business initiatives, marketing efforts and developing the organisational structures.

## EEA Grants Scheme



### Visit to Hordaland from Vratsa region in Bulgaria

A delegation from the Vratsa region in north-western Bulgaria visited Hordaland from 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of March. The 20-person strong delegation was made up of both mayors and business representatives. County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg welcomed the group to the County Council on March 10<sup>th</sup> and gave them an introduction to the county and to the challenges that the region as well as the county council are currently facing. Key persons from the Department of Regional Development were also invited to give introductions on different aspects within regional development in Hordaland, such as business development and the new regional climate plan. The visit from Vratsa to Hordaland was part of a project supported under the EEA Grants Scheme. [More](#)



## 4. Youth and internationalisation

### Leonardo da Vinci Program



Hordaland County Council is a regional contact point for the LdV-programme. The target groups of the programme are primarily apprentices and students in vocational secondary schools as well as teachers and people responsible for the training in companies and training offices. Every year 50-70 people from the region receive placements in European companies and institutions where they will acquire new skills, both professional and personal.

There are also participants from the Leonardo-programme coming to Norway for placements in local companies and institutions in Hordaland. A roofing apprentice from Thüringen spent 3 weeks in Bergen working in two local companies; he described the stay in Bergen as “an experience for life”.



Upper Secondary schools and training offices send young people abroad, but they also place students from their partners abroad. The big German pharmaceutical company BASF, has cooperated with Laksevåg Upper Secondary school for many years. The two have now signed a formal agreement to send 6-8 students every year to Norway and Germany respectively. It has become very popular for the German apprentices at BASF to come to Norway, due to the well-organised placements and warm welcome both in the companies and at Laksevåg Upper Secondary School.

Hordaland County Council has assisted in the placement of students from 12 vocational secondary schools during the spring term of 2011, and among these, 3 schools that take part in the programme for the first time. Both teachers and participants are extremely pleased with their stay abroad, and want to go on taking part in the Leonardo-programme. They have established good contacts with the host organisations and have also already hosted students from their partners abroad.

Hordaland County Council has about NOK 1.4 million to distribute for 2011. The figures are somewhat higher than last year, and Hordaland County Council, as certified user of the Leonardo da Vinci-programme, is among the largest users of the programme in Norway.

### Leonardo-placements initiated by the County Council Spring 2011

Type of participants	Number	Sending organisation	Target countries
From the County Council	2	Department for Culture and Sports	France and Italy
Instructors	6	from Upper secondary schools	Italy
Students and apprentices	48	Schools and training offices	France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and Slovenia
Accompanying persons	4	Teachers from the schools	Spain, the Netherlands, France and Denmark
Total	60		

The participants have made placements in the following trades: Health Care, Cookery, Design and Art, Gardening, Culture and Sports, Chemical and Processing, Carpentry, Nature Based Tourism, Electronics, Automation, Transport and Logistics, Ventilation, Technical Industrial Production, Mechanics

### Leonardo Partnership Kick-off meeting in Bergen 26-27 January 2011

The Leonardo Partnership project “*Entrepreneurship training and incubator Management*” (2011-12) had their kick-off meeting in Bergen 26-27 January 2011. The lead partner is Bergen University College. Other partners are Odda Upper Secondary School and Hordaland County Council and European institutions from Thüringen, Slovenia, Finland and Austria.

The main objective is to exchange experience from entrepreneurship training and incubator management by

bringing together different partners with experience from these fields, to develop a common framework and to test these in their own institutions.

The Kick off meeting focused on consolidating the partnership, setting activity plans, dividing tasks and presenting relevant cases and institution from Hordaland.



**Youth in Action  
Program**



YOUTH IN ACTION is the EU programme for young people aged 13-30 and youth leaders. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU borders, intercultural dialogue and non-formal learning ("learning by doing"), and encourages the inclusion of all young people. A variety of activities can get EU support, like international youth exchanges, youth democracy projects, local youth initiatives and seminars for youth workers. In addition there is a possibility for all young people aged 18-30 to work and live in one of EU's countries for one year, with all expenses covered for the young person. [More](#)

This spring we had a special focus on European Youth week in May 2011. We organized a youth event in Bergen in cooperation with Bergen Municipality and several NGO's working with immigrant youth. The goal was to bring young people together from different parts of the city, people who might not tend to mingle in every day life. The program included a graffiti jam, a street dance contest, Zumba and skating, and everybody could taste food from different cultures. The theme for the graffiti-jam was "Who are you?" which motivated young people to reflect over their own identity, to express themselves and to show others their world. Young people have important roles in society, and with Europe being a multicultural society, emphasizing, sharing and celebrating these cultural differences is even more important. [More](#)



*Dance battle as part of the European Youth Week*

New Youth in Action activities have been developed the first months of 2011. EU has given us funding to send five Norwegian volunteers on 8-12 months projects to Greece (Athens), Lithuania (Vilnius), Germany (Görwihl) and Scotland (Edinburgh). We organized several Youth in Action seminars for those working with young people in Hordaland, for example on developing youth initiative projects and coaching youth groups for youth workers.

A new youth initiative project has received EU-funding. The target group of the project is young people with

immigrant background, and the project will help them during a whole school year to integrate better in the Norwegian society. Activities include several excursions to Norwegian youth organizations and a typical Norwegian "hyttetur" (a weekend trip to a cabin), which will make the young people to understand better the culture in their newly arrived country.

We have also been working on creating new networks between organizations in Europe working with youth with fewer opportunities, in order to develop future Youth in Action projects.

## Active High Schools

Many of the high schools in Hordaland are very active in the international field. Below, you will find a couple of examples of activities from the last 6 months

### European project for aspiring car mechanics at Slåtthaug

Helped by scholarships from the Leonardo da Vinci programme, Slåtthaug videregående started the project "Modern technology and data communication in vehicles" in autumn 2008 together with schools in Lübeck (Germany), Næstved (Denmark) and Gdansk (Poland). Workshops have already been held in Lübeck (topic: motor steering) and Bergen (topic: transmission) and during spring 2011, 5 students from Slåtthaug participated in a workshop in Denmark on air-condition. The project will finish in Gdansk in 2012.

The feed-back from the participating students have been nothing but positive. They create networks with students from the other countries and come home a lot richer in experience. Not only do they learn new technical skills, they also increase their knowledge of other cultures. The project language is English, giving the students a thorough language practice. The participating teachers also make new contacts and get a new arena to discuss different subject matters.



*Car mechanics students from Slåtthaug (photo:Slåtthaug vgs)*

The car project's many positive effects have given the school a motivation to continue working with possible projects for other study programs as well. [More](#)

## Students and teachers from Årstad to Italy

For two weeks in March, 4 teachers and 6 students from Årstad videregående replaced regular classes with a stay at “Istituto d’Istruzione Superiore Viale Adige” in Civitavecchia outside of Rome. The two schools have stayed in contact for several years and this year’s stay was made possible with scholarships from the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

Students and teachers from the second year programme for chefs and waiters could enjoy a thorough introduction to Italian cooking and food- and wine culture.

The group from the second year programme in interior and exhibition design, on the other hand, focused on art history, design, architecture and sculptures. The restoration of cultural heritage is, for example, a field of particular strength in Italy.



In addition to classes at school, something that provided a good overview of the Italian educational system, there were excursions to both Rome and other places of historical interest. The Italian hosts took very good care of the group, and there was even a reception at the town hall and a story in the local newspaper. New friendships were formed and Årstad videregående hopes that new students will get the same opportunity next year. [More](#)

## Good results for BHG students in “China Bridge”

Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, “China Bridge” was arranged for the 10<sup>th</sup> time internationally and the first time in Norway. The event took place in Bergen with the Chinese ambassador present. This is a prestigious international competition, hosted in many countries, that measures Chinese language proficiency. The competition in Bergen had participants from both upper secondary and university level.

At the secondary level, all seven participants came from BHG (Bergen Upper Secondary School of Commerce). The level was impressive and three students qualified for the semi final in Chongqing, China, in October 2011. All students who reach the final in Beijing will be offered scholarships to study in China (4 years, 1 year or 6 months depending on results). Needless to say, this is an enormous motivation for the participants.

The principal aim of the “China Bridge” event in Bergen was to provide Norwegian students and students an opportunity to show their Chinese proficiency and talent,

and secondly to open up for contact with China and Chinese culture.



Students from BHG together with representatives of the organisers (photo: BHG)

China Bridge was arranged by the Confucius Institute in Bergen, together with the Chinese Embassy and the Chamber of Commerce in Bergen. [More](#)

## 5. West Norway Office in Brussels

Through its presence in Brussels, the West Norway Office (WNO) continues to provide information services, increase the knowledge about the Norway/EU-relations and constitute a liaison between its members in West Norway and the EU.

The spring 2011 WNO seminars and thematic presentations attracted around 300 participants - both in the EU capital and in West Norway. In these events WNO has hosted politicians, administrative staff and students. They have showed an interest in EU issues, a wish to understand the EU functioning, to know what is at stake in Brussels and how EU policies are shaped, but also a will to be informed on various opportunities through EU programmes and projects. In parallel, WNO have published 10 general newsletters and 10 newsletters focused more specifically on European energy matters, in which we provide relevant EU information for our members.

The “European Union Sustainable Energy Week 2011 - EUSEW” was the main event for our office this spring. The WNO co-organised with European regional partners (Central Denmark, East of England and Mid-Norway) a seminar under the heading “*Winds of Change in the North Sea: The industrial, societal and governance challenges of implementing off-shore wind energy*”, emphasizing good practices in the off-shore wind energy area and bringing out opportunities for the future, notably for local and regional development and growth. During the same week, two local EUSEW conferences took place in parallel in Bergen: “*A climate Perspective on Energy - challenges and opportunities*” and “*Energiseminar 2011*”.

WNO acts as an intermediary between West Norway and local entities and the European Union in several areas. Amongst other things, the office encourages representatives from the region to participate in events on relevant issues that are organized by the EU. The European Commission conference “Culture in Motion” was an event of this kind, and WNO also gathered the

participants from West Norway in their premises for further work on this topic just after the Conference. We also continued the fruitful collaboration with other Norwegian and international stakeholders in Brussels in order to answer to the needs and requests of our members.

*The speakers of "Winds of Change in the North Sea"-*



*seminar during the EUSEW 2011 (photo: WNO)*

In April, WNO was appointed as "lead partner" for a regional partnership organizing an OPEN DAYS event for the first time. The themes developed by the partnership will focus on health in the framework of Europe 2020 - the EU strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The "2020 Regions - Acting for a Healthy Future" seminar will be co-organised with Central Denmark, Centro Region of Portugal, East of England, Mid-Norway and Warmia & Mazury, and will take place on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2011, in Norway House, Brussels. [More](#)

## 6. Other activities

### Europe Day celebrated in Bergen

Europe Day on May 9<sup>th</sup> is marked every year to commemorate the Schuman Declaration, the speech by French foreign minister Robert Schuman on May 9<sup>th</sup> 1950 that marks the start of the European Union. Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, EU's ambassador to Norway János Herman hosted a celebration of Europe Day in Bergen – for the first time. In addition to hosting a reception for representatives from the city of Bergen, Hordaland County Council,

Innovation Norway, the university etc, the ambassador also gave a lecture at the University of Bergen. The lecture for the bachelor students in "Europe Studies" was titled "*The changing role of EU in the world*".



As part of the "EU comes to your school"-initiative, the EU ambassador also visited Bjørgvin videregående to talk to the students about current EU issues. [More](#)

### Visit to Västra Götaland County

Representatives from the Department of Regional Development in Hordaland County Council visited Västra Götaland County on the western coast of Sweden in March 2011. The delegation from Hordaland met with staff from Västra Götaland County dealing with economical development, analysis and documentation, international relations and cooperation with the municipalities in the region. Presentations were given about the overall strategy concerning regional development and cooperation with the municipalities. International cooperation and innovation were also given attention in the discussions.

Västra Götaland County and Hordaland County Council have a lot in common. Both Västra Götaland and Hordaland are regions of economical development, especially with a strong emphasis on maritime development. The two regions are both hosting the second largest city of their respective countries, and both regions have large peripheral areas.



*Participants from the county councils of Hordaland and Västra Götaland*

### Regional China network meets in Bergen

Several Norwegian counties and cities have formalised relations to China. In order to take advantage of the many experiences that have been made through these cooperations, a "Regional China Network" has been established. This is an informal network where the objective is to exchange information and advice - across the Norwegian regions. In May, the network met for a two-day seminar in Bergen on the topic "education and competence". The city of Bergen has four of the eight lower secondary schools that offer a Chinese language program in Norway and Hordaland county has one of four upper secondary schools. Bergen also has the only Confucius Institute in Norway. These programs were all presented to the seminar participants, along with experiences from other counties. During a visit to the University of Bergen, the China relations of the university, as well as those of the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration - NHH, were also highlighted.

## Visit to Liguria and Genova

Representatives from the Department of Regional Development in Hordaland County Council visited Genova and the region of Liguria in May 2011. In the delegation was also a representative from Department of Marine Engineering, Bergen University College.

Several schools in Hordaland have sent students to different restaurants in Genova and Liguria the last six years. Contact has also been established with the Chamber of Commerce in Genova concerning different projects related to food. The background of the visit was to renew and strengthen the already existing links and contacts between the two regions. A dialogue with the Chamber of Commerce in Genova was initiated to put together a comprehensive programme for the delegation from Hordaland. Both visits to Genova Urban Lab and to the Chamber of Commerce in Genova were incorporated in the programme. Genova Urban Lab is the authorities in Genova's tool for provident urban planning. A visit to the Faculty of Marine Engineering at the University of Genova was also arranged for in the programme, as well as a visit to Cinque Terre National Park, [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#).



From Urban Lab in Genova

## Chinese musicians at school concerts in Hordaland

Hordaland County Council has cooperated with Concerts Norway (Rikskonsertene) on school concerts in China since 2007. After sending several of our musicians to schools in Beijing and Shanghai, we finally had the pleasure of welcoming Chinese musicians to school concerts in Hordaland, this May. The concert program "Music – Friendship" was developed together by the five musicians, during the rehearsal period and the key words were understanding and respect for each other's musical expressions. The two Chinese musicians were Ge Yong and Chen Yue from China Music Conservatory in Beijing, both highly respected performers in China. They have toured in both Asia and Europe – and now also to schools in Hordaland! In the school concerts they performed with Sigurd Ulveseth, Frank Jakobsen and Arild Seim, all well-known artists in our school programs. Between May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the group performed in 9 different schools, giving children 10-12 years old a unique experience of Norwegian and Chinese music, not to mention the music you get when you

combine the two. More schools will get the opportunity to experience this when the show returns this fall.

## Hordaland represented at OTC in Houston

For the fifth year running the Bergen region was represented at the *Offshore Technology Conference – OTC* in Houston in May. A delegation of approximately 55 persons representing public authorities, businesses and the R&D sector joined the program put together by Business Region Bergen (BRB), HOG Energy and the NCE Subsea Cluster. Deputy County Mayor Tom Christer Nilsen represented Hordaland County Council, together with Arthur Arnesen from the Department of Regional Development. The program consisted of site visits and seminar, in addition to visits to the conference's exhibition area.



The Bergen delegation in the exhibition area (Photo: BRB)

During the conference the Norwegian Consulate General, Business Region Bergen, Innovation Norway and INTSOK arranged an [Oil Spill seminar](#): "The Blowout at Macondo - looking back at the Oil Spill one year later" where Norwegian experiences in oil spill response was among those presented. Best practice from our region was also presented in a workshop on *Challenges and opportunities for the Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) industry* ([More](#)). NCE Subsea arranged the seminar *Banking and Financial Services for Norwegian Companies in the U.S* ([More](#)). There was also a company visit to Beerenberg Inc. a subsidiary of the Norwegian company Berenberg ASA. Here the delegation participated in the opening of the new site in Houston and got a presentation of their newest product "Green Turtle". Green Turtle is expected to be an important tool in the decommissioning market in the Mexican Gulf. [More](#)

## Historic Scotland visits Hordaland and Tyssedal

Norwegian Museum of Hydropower and Industry in Tyssedal, Odda, is represented by its director Randi Bårtvedt in the organisation TICCIH (The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage). Through this network they have engaged in cooperation with Historic Scotland and Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland on mapping and digitising industrial cultural heritage. The Scottish representatives visited Tyssedal in May to better familiarise themselves with the work being carried out

there. The visit finished up with a workshop at Hordaland County Council where representatives from NVE, Statkraft, Fritt Ord and the Knitting Museum in Salhus joined the group. The final aim is to develop “a publically accessible online resource on individual themes relating to industrial heritage to allow for comparative information to be shared and new data to be gathered worldwide”. Mapping hydroelectric power installations in Norway and Scotland is merely a first step of the way.



*The Hydroelectric power plant in Tyssedal*

### Good results for cultural organisations from Hordaland within EU’s Culture programme

Five cultural projects from Hordaland have been approved for support under EU’s Culture programme in 2011. The organisations and institutions from Hordaland that have succeeded in presenting successful applications for this program are: Pikel Production, West Norway Jazz Centre, Bergen National Academy of the Arts, the Foundation Bergen International Theatre and Den Nye Opera. In total they have been awarded NOK 44,2 millions in project means, the latter two organisations holding the larger projects with approx. 20 millions in support each. [More](#)

### Comenius Regio projects with Slovenia

The International Section has supported different municipals in using the Comenius Regio Programme as starting point for closer cooperation with Slovenian regions. This year the focus has been on challenges like functional illiteracy and creating better culture and sports education.



*Visit to primary school in Ormoz, Slovenia*

We experience that the municipalities in Slovenia and Hordaland have common challenges and are searching

for better methods and approaches to meet these. Using NGOs as important stakeholders in educational matters is among the approaches that Hordaland can learn from the Slovenians. And what may be the most important aspect is that there is a great interest from both sides to develop the relationship further. The process of writing project proposals has already created close partnerships and plans for further cooperation. The Norwegian Ambassador to Slovenia, Guro Vikør has supported the work, by creating networking arenas and helped making programmes for visits.

These days we are waiting for the answers from the National Agency on whether the proposals have been accepted or not.

### Students from Hjeltnes met the Norwegian King and Queen in Slovenia

Three students from the Nature based Tourism Program at Hjeltnes Horticultural College attended a three week internship at the biotechnical centre in Naklo, Slovenia with scholarships from the Leonardo programme. With them the students had a pine tree grown at the school to be planted in the Memorial Park in Kamniski, a park were all the nations that have lost someone in the Kamnik Alps have planted a tree to commemorate them. As the Norwegian tree had rotted, the Norwegian ambassador to Slovenia, Ms Guri Vikør, herself from the community of Ulvik in Hardanger, wanted the new tree to come from Ulvik and from Hjeltnes. The Hjeltnes students participated in planting the new Norwegian tree and the ambassador also invited them to a dinner function for the Norwegian King and Queen who were on official state visit to Slovenia at the time. This was truly the opportunity of a lifetime for the boys, who even got to have a conversation with the king. There is no end to the opportunities that comes with the Leonardo da Vinci programme! [More](#)



From left: Rector at Naklo Biotechnical Centre, wife of the Slovenian president, students Ronnie Leeninga and Thomas Espeland, Nusa Zibert (Naklo Biotech. Center), student Bjørn Færestad, HRH King Harald, HRH Queen Sonja and Ambassador Guro Vikør. Slovenian president Türk is behind the ambassador (photo: Norwegian Embassy, Slovenia)

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

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