

International Newsletter

02/10

Welcome to the international newsletter from Hordaland County Council, giving you a short introduction to the county's international engagement 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 is scheduled to be sent out in late June.

This fall, Hordaland County Council has been engaged in a wide variety of international activities, whether that be within established programs or as bilateral initiatives with our partner regions. In terms of partner regions, the big event this fall has been the massive participation of artists from Hordaland in the cultural festival Les Boréales in Basse-Normandie. As for programs, what stands out is the launch of the Interreg IVB North Sea Region project "Clean North Sea Shipping". Hordaland County, as the lead beneficiary, will work together with 18 partners around the North Sea to reduce air pollution from ships.

The project "Clean North Sea Shipping" was launched in Bergen in October.

Gothenburg harbour (Photo: Gothenburg harbour)



From the kick-off meeting in Bergen



Partners around the North Sea



Cruise harbour in Eidfjord, Hordaland



Inner harbour pollution in Bergen

1. Our partner regions

Basse-Normandie, France



Norman participation in the Bergen Food Festival

Agricultural products are important for the Basse-Normandie region and especially dairy or apple based products (such as Calvados and Camembert) are known around the world. This made the annual Bergen Food Festival, September 10-12, the perfect arena for celebrating the relationship between the two regions and marking the strong participation from Hordaland in this year's Boréales festival in Normandie. The Norman boat "Aztec Lady" was anchored at Bryggen throughout the festival, providing tastings of local products and information about the region. The regional president Laurent Beauvais was heading an 8-person delegation from Normandie over the week-end.



Students from Sandsli vgs serving at the "Aztec Lady"

Leonardo project on cultural education

Last week of August, Hordaland County Council hosted four persons from Basse-Normandie on a study visit to Bergen within the Leonardo programme. Although they represent both the Cultural Department of the region and the regional structures of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education respectively, they form a single team working together on a regular basis developing the field of cultural education. Their programme was created to give them an overview of the different actors, models and strategies within cultural education in Hordaland. Other than meetings with the Department of Culture and Sports at the County Council (incl. the Cultural Rucksack and the school concerts) they met with a number of institutions such as schools, cultural institutions and the university. The participants now work together with the Department of Culture and Sports to link organisations to develop further cooperation

The Wood Exhibition project is advancing

As part of the Wood Exhibition project in place between Hordaland and Basse-Normandie, Atle Ove Martinussen, director of the Museum Centre in Hordaland, visited Basse-Normandie from the 12th to the 17th of October. The theme of this exhibition is the traditional and contemporary use of wood in the two regions, and it will

look at traditional building techniques, boat building, wooden objects etc. The exhibition will be shown in both regions, but will not be in Hordaland until spring 2012. During the visit, meetings with central institutions and organisations in Basse-Normandie had been set up. Part of the objective of the project is also to put in place exchanges between Norwegian and French craftsmen as well as to establish networks that can lead to increased collaboration on the longer term. In Hordaland the project includes institutions such as Hardanger Voss Museum, Oselvar boat builder, the Bryggen Foundation, Sunnhordland Museum and the Museum centre in Hordaland. The latter is the coordinator in Hordaland.



The maritime museum at Tatihou is part of the project

Continued cooperation between the schools

Several schools in Hordaland have set up bilateral links with schools in Basse-Normandie. One of the latest, the **agricultural school at Voss**, established links with Lycée Agricole de Coutance last fall. This December they made a planning visit to Coutance to plan for student exchanges next year. At the same time the international coordinator at Voss met with other vocational schools in the Bayeux area to see if cooperation within other fields could be possible for the Voss schools as well. **Voss gymnas** did again visit Lycée Alain Chartier in Bayeux this fall. From October 3rd to 10th, 12 students from Voss got to practice their language skills in France. In Bayeux they stayed with the local students and attending school with them and as such experiencing a new culture "from the inside". **Sandsli videregående** did not send any students to Lycée Rabelais this fall, but has been in contact to prepare the plans for next year, while **Slåtthaug videregående** has sent 3 students to Lycée Paul Cornu in Lisieux.



Lycée Alain Chartier in Bayeux

Final details before launch of the “Hordaland class” in Normandie

After the County Executive Board approved the proposed “Hordaland class in Normandie” in March, there has been intensive work to plan the final details before the opportunity was officially launched to the potential applicants. The coordinating school, Voss gymnas, made a second planning trip to Normandie in September in order to agree on the last practicalities and the last week of November all pupils studying French at the first year of high school received a text message inviting them to the website www.vg2ifrankrike.no for more information.



Contribution to cultural conference in Le Havre

Through the Regional Council of Basse-Normandie Hordaland was invited to participate in the seminar “Europe: contexts and cultural cooperation” on October 26th in Le Havre. This seminar was arranged by the organization ODIA Normandie, which is an organization to support the circulation of performing arts, help local authorities with their cultural policies, and assist in informing and qualifying the entire professional sector in Normandie. The seminar’s aim was to give information about performing arts sectors abroad, and give the organisations and actors in Normandie tools, contacts and information that would let them improve and develop their potential projects with cultural actors in these countries. Tone Stedal Haugland, senior advisor at the Department of Culture and Sports in Hordaland introduced the structure of the performing arts sector in Norway, as well as the main policies and actors, with an emphasis on Hordaland. The other international participants were Cultural Contact Point Macedonia, Visiting Arts (UK) and ITI Germany.

Large participation at this year’s Boréales festival

This November, Basse-Normandie hosted, for the 19th time, the Nordic festival Les Boréales. This year it was the Baltic countries as well as Norway that were the guests of honour and during the “Norwegian week” from 20th to 27th of November a large number of artists from Hordaland was presented under the label “Made in Hordaland” - celebrating the close ties between the two regions. The County Council’s Committee for Culture and Resources, as well as several representatives from the Department of Culture and Sports were present in Basse-Normandie during the week, both to get an impression of the exposure of our local artists in France

as well as to discuss new cultural projects. Simultaneously another group from the County Council was exploring potential collaboration within the maritime sectors whether that should be education, business development or area planning. [More](#)



Part of the Hordaland delegation at the Abbaye aux Dames in Caen

Cardiff, Wales



Extension of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff

This fall the Norwegian Church Arts Centre in Cardiff closed down for a long awaited extension and will not re-open until May 2011. In addition to an extension of the church itself, there will also be built a new outside decking, giving the café guests the opportunity to sit outside and enjoy the view over Cardiff Harbour. Hordaland County Council has contributed both to the architectural plans, with materials for the decking and will send over carpenters when the construction of the decking will start next spring. When the materials for the decking will start next spring. When the materials for the decking, a special “maintenance-free” heartwood timber from Osterøy, was shipped over to Cardiff this summer it was done in the most eco-friendly way possible – by sailing ship! The “Tres Hombres” is a 120 ft topsail schooner that has no engine and is purely sail driven. Although they sailed into several storms on their way across the North Sea, they made it safely to Cardiff harbour with both the timber and the contributions to the Cardiff Food and Drink Festival. [More](#)



Deputy Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen and Cllr Nigel Howells with part of Hordaland’s contribution.

Participation in the Food and Drink festival in July

This July, Hordaland County was again present with a stand at the International Food Festival in Cardiff. Teachers from Fitjar videregående were responsible for the Hordaland stand alongside representatives from Italy and Germany, handing out samples giving the visitors a “taste of Hordaland”. They had brought with them traditional products such as salmon, stockfish and cheese which had arrived on the eco-friendly tall ship from Bergen. The great summer weather contributed to this year’s festival reaching a record number of visitors - nearly 65’000. The Hordaland stand was very popular among locals and visitors alike – and both the food samples and the brochures were all handed out! Thank you to the wonderful team from Fitjar



Cardiff exchange from 10 schools in Hordaland

This year’s pupils to Wales come from 10 different schools in Hordaland and during the school year they attend 6 different high schools in Cardiff and Barry. It is still the girls who are the most courageous when it comes to choosing a year abroad, though. Of the 16 pupils that were selected to spend their second year of high school in Wales there are only 3 boys. But things are moving in the right direction: last year they were only 2 and the year before that only 1 boy!



The group at St. David’s during the annual fall trip in October

**Orkney
Scotland**



Successful winter festival in December

Saturday the 4th of December, County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg lit the lights on the Christmas tree in Kirkwall on the Orkney Islands. For the 28th year running

the tree from Hordaland is in place outside the St. Magnus Cathedral. This year’s musical gift was a quartet consisting of Kim André Rysstad (vocal), Thomas Nøkling (saxophone) Trym Bjønnes (guitar and vocals) and Sigurd Ulveseth (bass) and the concert “A starry night”, produced by the County Concerts in Hordaland.



The Hordaland musicians during the concert in the Cathedral

The Winter Festival in Kirkwall happens every year, the first week-end in December and includes the St. Lucia program in the St. Magnus Cathedral with the following lighting of the Christmas tree and later the lighting party organised by the Orkney Norway Friendship Association. This happens on the Saturday. The Sunday starts with a ceremony in the cathedral in the morning and a joint concert with the Mayfield singers in the evening. But before all this, the musicians from Hordaland visits many of the local schools on the islands, singing for and together with the children – although fierce winter weather made its best to stop the musicians from coming this year! County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg remarked in her speech Hordaland’s dedication to the links with the Orkneys and how impressed she is with the way the local communities in the Orkneys come out and support these Christmas events. [More](#)



County Mayor Torill S. Nyborg and Convenor Stephen Hagan after the St. Lucie concert in the Cathedral

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 there are two students from Hordaland (Tertnes videregående and Øystese gymnas) at Kirkwall Grammar School, while one student from Kirkwall is spending a full year at Voss Folkehøgskole.

Kaunas, Lithuania



The tradition of donating buses to Kaunas continues

Since 1992 the Department of Education in Hordaland has received buses from companies in the Bergen region for donation to different institutions in Kaunas. Nils Skavhellen, head of admissions within the department, has been coordinating this project since 2002 and retired head of department at Os videregående Jan Gaassand has been a regular driver. This summer, another bus was donated by the local bus company Tide and the receiver was the Department of Education in Kaunas. The buses are used to provide safe transport for children to and from schools and kindergartens. Even though these are vehicles that are “outdated” for Tide, they are of course in good conditions and have all the necessary certificates. During the official hand-over in Kaunas, the local authorities underlined their appreciation of the continued support from Hordaland, far from all the countries and regions that had offered their help to Lithuania after independence in 1991 have shown the same long-term commitment.



[More](#)

Thüringen, Germany



Educational and training activities

Three teachers from Odda Upper Secondary School spent one week in Thüringen, Germany with a Leonardo-grant, preparing the application for the Leonardo-programme in February 2011. They visited potential partners for future placements of students within electronics.



Andreas Gordon Schule in Erfurt

During the autumn of 2010 the County Council also had guests from Thüringen on a preparatory visit in connection with the next Leonardo-deadline. This is a follow-up of a project where the Pedagogical

Psychological Section went to Germany last year to learn how they are dealing with the problem of “Drop-Outs” in Upper Secondary Schools. The visit to Hordaland was also a preparatory visit related to a Comenius-Regio project on the topic: *“The transition between kindergarten and primary school and the transition between primary school and secondary school for pupils with special needs.”* The municipality of Fjell hosted the group and is now working on a joint application.

Financed by the Leonardo da Vinci-programme one apprentice within Industrial Mechanics spent 4 weeks in Jena, Thüringen, where he worked at the training centre of a large company, Schott, producing glass and lenses.

New call for projects with Thüringen

The cooperation with Thüringen, in relation to joint projects funded by ERDF / ESF and equally Norwegian Regional Development Funds Hordaland (RUP), looks promising also for 2011. Final decisions on the matter are about to be made in the Ministry in Thüringen. Three industrial partners from Hordaland were involved in the 26 proposals to Thüringen authorities for this year. So far 11 projects with two partners from Hordaland are submitted for the final assessment process. Thematically the two partners represent computer science and monitoring of water quality. In a meeting now in December, Landes Entwicklungs Gesellschaft Thüringen (LEG) and Hordaland County Council have evaluated the activities and outcome of this year’s call, and have started the preparations for a new call in spring 2011.



Hordaland County Council involved in INTERACT pilot action plan

The INTERACT Programme promotes and supports good governance of European Territorial Cooperation programmes (ERDF). INTERACT offers a unique forum for European Territorial Cooperation actors by supporting institutional and thematic networks on topics of common interest. A focal point is also to create and strengthen a cycle of exchange - learning from each other and together to strengthen territorial cooperation. Freistat Thüringen has, assisted by the INTERACT Point (IP) Valencia, and IP Vienna, taken initiatives to set up a pilot action plan on this basis. Being part of the economic development network in Thüringen, Hordaland County Council has been invited to take part in this project and joined the first workshop that was held in Erfurt in December. Three more workshops will be arranged, and output disseminated in 2011.

Preparations for a new application to INTERREG IVC

INTERREG IVC provides funding for interregional cooperation. It aims to promote exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practise across Europe. Hordaland County Council has, together with two different partnerships, handed in proposals to this programme twice over the last three years. Due to substantial competition, none of these were approved. Hordaland is now invited to join various partnerships, all related to the Thüringian network of European regions, to prepare a proposal for the last call in INTERREG IVC. The three actual project ideas were discussed in a meeting in Erfurt in December, where Hordaland was present. Preparations for these potential proposals will continue. Deadline for submission is primo April 2011.

Visit by the International section

In order to expand the existing network of contacts in Thüringen, the International section at Hordaland County Council visited the region 12th -15th of December. The aim was to gain more information about the region in general and to meet with some of the central partners and through this be better equipped as a team to develop new projects between the regions in the years to come. The region of Thüringen showed itself from its best side with light snow falling over the Christmas markets and the group received a warm welcome by all the partner institutions.

The group visited the institutions such as the European Service offices in Erfurt and Suhl, as well as LEG, Technische Universität Ilmenau, Andreas Gordon Schule and Kindermedienzentrum. As part of the ongoing focus on internationalisation in local communities, a meeting with the Mayor of the small town Zella-Mehlis was also set up. The many new initiatives will be followed up by the International section in the time to come. The long-standing contacts in the region, mainly set up by Thore Thomassen from the international section, are valuable assets for the county and there is a strong will on both sides to maintain and develop these links.



The city hall of Zella-Mehlis

Edinburgh, Scotland



25 years of Christmas trees to Edinburgh

This year, Hordaland County Council gave a Christmas tree to the city of Edinburgh for the 25th time. The tree which is placed on the Mound was lit by the Deputy Mayor of Hordaland Tom-Christer Nilsen and Lord Mayor of Edinburgh George Grubb on Thursday the 25th of November. This event is part of the larger festival "Edinburgh's Christmas". But the tree itself is only part of the gift – the main event is the Advent Concert in the St. Giles Cathedral in cooperation between the County Concerts of Hordaland and the Edinburgh University Choir. This contribution from Hordaland was part of the concert "A starry night", produced by the County Concerts in Hordaland with Kim André Rysstad (vocal), Thomas Nøkling (saxophone) Trym Bjønnes (guitar and vocals) and Sigurd Ulveseth (bass). This year too, this event provided a magical evening of wonderful music for the large audience that filled up the cathedral. [More](#)



The musicians from Hordaland County Concerts

Literary meeting between local crime authors

In celebrating 25 years of joint advent celebrations, the Norwegian Consulate in Edinburgh and Edinburgh University, with the support of Hordaland County Council, organised a literary discussion between the two crime writers Gunnar Staalesen and Ian Rankin. The two authors were invited to a literary evening at the Scottish Storytelling Centre Friday the 26th of November to discuss the many similarities of their authorship; the characters they have created in John Rebus and Varg Veum and their close association with the cities in which they live; Edinburgh and Bergen. There was also an open seminar at the Department of Nordic Studies at the university with Gunnar Staalesen in conversation with his English translator Don Bartlett. [More](#)

From the Scottish Storytelling Centre



Youth projects

In November, Barbara Harterink from the International Section met with the organisation "Cyrenians" in Edinburgh. The objective was to start a new cooperation within the framework of the EVS (European Voluntary Service) programme. The first activities will be to send young volunteers from Hordaland to work for their Good Food project from 2011 and onwards.

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.

General Assembly 2010

The 2010 General Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey, 11-12th November. The conference was titled: "Challenges for Europe 2020: demands for an effective R&D policy". Hordaland was represented by County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg, as well as Matti Torgersen and Marit Einen from the Department of Regional Development.

Parallel to the main programme of the assembly, there was a special Youth session: "An effective R&D policy – what is at stake for youth? Discussion with experts". About 20 youth representatives attended this, 2 of them from Hordaland (Karl-Erik Strøm and Livar Opedal, Hordaland County's Youth Council). In this way the county council wants to involve young people in the discussion on Europe's future, hear their voice and give them an international competence and network.



The Istanbul Declaration states that an effective R&D and innovation policy must be based on diversity and integrate a territorial dimension if it is to contribute to sustainable growth and job creation. Ambitious R&D policies are crucial in order to fulfil the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy. It also states that regions are key players in enabling and reinforcing cooperation and interaction between the most important R&D actors. [More](#)

Youth activities

On behalf of Hordaland Youth Council, Karl-Erik Strøm Skogseid and Lars Arne Nilssen attended the AER youth summer school 22-27 August in the Swiss cantons St.Gallen and Thurgau. This year's topic was "Rural, urban and interregional mobility" and through presentations, forums and workshops the participants exchanged best practice in the fields of i.e. spatial planning, transport and climate challenges. For our young representatives it was very interesting to meet young people from the other AER member regions. [More](#)

Barbara Harterink from International Section attended an AER conference in Svolvær, 20th -21st of September, on youth employment: innovative regional strategies, Citizen's Forum "Norway in the EU - will it ever happen?" and meetings of Committee 3 (Culture, Education, Youth, Media, International cooperation).

Committee on Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR)



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

General Assembly

This year's General Assembly of the CPMR was held in Aberdeen from September 29th to October 1st. Hordaland County Council was represented by Marit Einen and Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs from the International section. In total, there were 300 participants, representing some 100 regions and 10 of the 19 Norwegian counties were present. The biggest excitement at this year's assembly was related to the election of the new president of CPMR. Gunn Marit Helgesen, Mayor of Telemark County Council was one of two candidates, but lost to Jean-Yves Le Drian from Bretagne.

Central topics at this year's general assembly were the Europe 2020 strategy and the future regional policy (not to mention the European budget!) after 2013, integrated maritime policy and accessibility and transport issues. The final resolution summed up the organisation's stand on a number of topics, but worth mentioning is the fact that the North Sea Commission's political statement "The challenge of mainstreaming energy efficient buildings in the North Sea Region and the significance of the existing building stock" was adopted as a resolution by the CPMR. [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](#)

This fall, the activities of the North Sea Commission has still been very much focused on the process of creating a macroregional strategy - North Sea Region 2020. At the meeting of the Executive committee in Aberdeen in late September it was decided to establish a new ad-hoc group to lead the NSR2020 work and to secure the cooperation within the NSC, as well as cooperation with other actors, such as the Committee of the Regions and the Interreg program. The group, whose members are the President, the two Vice-Presidents and one representative from each thematic group (mostly the chairs), had its first meeting this December. As part of this strategy process, the North Sea Commission and the East of Scotland European Consortium invited regional representatives and selected speakers to a seminar exploring the proposed North Sea Strategy in connection to the ex.com meeting in Aberdeen. [More](#)

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 Møre og Romsdal has the leadership in 2010. 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. [More](#)

Large delegation to China in September

The Council for Western Norway organised a delegation to China, September 10 to 20th. The background was the strong position of the Chinese economy, not only for the global markets but also for the many businesses along the west coast who are highly export oriented. The aim was to explore the potential for a closer contact with the Chinese market and to assess the future relations with China and in this process Western Norway wanted to stand together as one region. The Expo 2010 in Shanghai provided an extra dimension to the visit, especially since the topic for the Norwegian pavilion was "Powered by

Nature" which reflects many of the west coast's strong fields; knowledge based industry and research related to oil and gas, power production and maritime businesses. During the stay the group visited Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, as well as the Nordic Industrial Park in Ningbo. From Hordaland, 3 elected members of the Executive Committee took part, together with politicians and other representatives from the 3 other counties. [More](#)



Interest for a West Norway China policy

During the Council for Western Norway's meeting in October, a resolution asking for a new policy for Western Norway's joint collaboration with China was passed. The background was the council's experiences during the visit to China the month before. The council asks for a policy to be presented in early 2011. In addition they want to involve themselves in the Norwegian Business Incubator and Nordic Industrial Park in Ningbo, as well as to lobby for an Innovation Norway office in Guangzhou. [More](#)

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



Due to fast diminishing funds in the North Sea Programme there has only been one call for proposals in 2010. However interest has remained high and a total of 26 applications were submitted under the spring call, including 9 project extensions. A total of 15 projects applications were approved for funding and 6 of these involved Norwegian partners. Clean North Sea Shipping was approved with Hordaland County Council as lead beneficiary.

Approximately 84% of programme funds have now been allocated with a total of 46 approved projects.

The spring 2011 call for proposals will include a call for standard project applications but also for so called

“cluster projects”. The cluster projects are part of the strategic element of the programme and will include a minimum of 3 partners from 3 different countries with a maximum budget of €750.000. The idea is to strengthen existing projects and raise awareness of project results by creating cross-sector approaches which are highly visible.

It is probable that there will be a 7th call for proposals in the autumn next year for both standard and cluster projects, but this will depend on the results of the spring call.

Activities:

The Norwegian contact point played an active role in the development of Clean North Sea Shipping proposal by giving guidance and advice. The contact point was also responsible for the project’s communication plan.

Prior to the General Assembly in June in Stavanger a networking meeting for Norwegian partners involved in a IVB or IVC Interreg project was arranged in collaboration with Rogaland County Council

The Secretariat for the programme ran a First Level Control seminar in October in Bergen especially for Norwegian partners and controllers. Partners were given advice on reporting of expenses and activities with special focus on Norwegian national rules.

The contact point arranged a small conference in October in order to show-case and share experiences from Interreg projects past and present with special relevance for the Western Norwegian counties. Projects were able to share results and discuss synergies that they found. A speaker from the Norwegian Mission to the EU gave participants an up-to-date view of the situation with regards to future regional policy and funding.



Organiser Kate Clarke with the key speakers

Interreg IVB – North Sea Region Program Coast Alive - the healthy project

Hordaland leads a project with 14 enthusiastic partners to turn a long-distance path into a series of all-year local routes used by local people. We know there is a link between exercise and good health.

There are many theories of what to do to draw people away from the comforts of their homes on a Sunday



morning. Some may be better than others, and this project aims to find the best ones. So far we have over 60 of them. In Hordaland we have helped develop a series of storytelling at certain historic locations to help enhance the visitor experience. Elsewhere they have started renting out rucksacks with hammocks and special outdoor activity kits for children or some have linked exercise to a cafe run by ethnic minority women. In Sweden our partner distributed leaflets to all the inhabitants of where the local paths were.

The project has some very interesting partners and supporters. The European Satellite Agency EURISY, based in Paris, is conducting two free case studies for the project on how best to use satellite information for outdoor activities. We have support of the British Climate Impact Programme and the Obesity Observatory.

We are using geocaching to create a link between the computer and the outdoors, hoping to attract families with young children interested in exciting treasure hunts where they coins all have special missions. [More](#)



The Clean North Sea Shipping project launched

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.



“Cold ironing” at the ro-ro- terminal in Gothenburg (photo: Gothenburg harbour)

A kick-off meeting was held 25-27th October in Bergen, and brought together a group of highly motivated project participants from around the North Sea that will work together in order to address the topic of air pollution due

to shipping activities which is common in all harbours internationally. What is a good approach for managing the escalating air pollution problems due to the increase of shipping activities? The overall goal is to provide guidance to politicians, policy makers, harbour authorities, ship builders and ship owners on how to move forward.

Three workgroups have been established in order to put focus on the following aspects:

- Impact modelling / scenarios
- Clean Shipping technology
- Policy and strategy development

More information on the CNSS web site: <http://cnss.no>.

StratMoS

Hordaland became one of the partner regions in the project "Motorways of the Sea Strategic Project – StratMoS" in December 2008. This summer an extension of the projects was granted and it will therefore run until September 2011. This gives the project an opportunity to gain more from cooperating with other projects that started later than StratMoS, like Dryport, NS FRITS and TransBaltic. The project is currently involving 29 partners, covering the North Sea Region from Flanders in the south to North Norway in the north. The Murmansk, Arkhangelsk and Nenets regions in Russia are associated partners. The project is organised in 4 Work packages and 5 Strategic Demonstration Projects, each with separate tasks and purposes. Hordaland is taking part in the Demo Project 3a: Invisible Intemodal Transport [More](#)

Interreg IVB – Baltic Sea Program

Regional and international seminars for "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.

During a regional conference in Kaunas, Lithuania in September, Stein Bjørlykke from HOG gave the presentation "Strategies for participation in decision making processes". The seminar which attracted more than 60 participants, focused on the potential for biogas usage in the Lithuanian transport market.

On the 25-26th of November, an international seminar on "Biogas as vehicle fuel" was held in St Petersburg. The Saint-Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation (SUAI) is an associated partner of the project co-organised two seminars in order to spread information in Russia about the possibilities to use biogas in public transport. [More](#)

Interreg IVB – Northern Periphery ENE-Economusee Northern Europe, A project that really does work.



After just over two years of operation, the project has created nearly 20 jobs and is on target to create another 15. In total this will be twice as many as first indicated. With partners in Quebec, Greenland, Iceland, The Faeroes, Northern Ireland and Ireland, as well as Hordaland, the project touches many different communities and customs.

In Hordaland, the third economusée in Norway was launched on 11th of October. Fjordtønna in Tysse, a maker of small oak barrels, was officially opened by County Governor Lars Sponheim. We will shortly launch a wood carver and a glass blower business in Hordaland, and together with Oselvar boat builder and Aurland shoe maker this will make it 5 in our region.

In the months to come economusées will be launched in all the participating regions; In Northern Ireland we will launch a jeweller just after Christmas. In Ireland, we will see a maker of jewellery and sculptures launch before March, together with a Connemara-based producer of smoked fish. In the Faeroes, we have re-introduced the skill of blacksmithing to the islands. We have also helped save the last Faeroese wool spinner, Filana. In Iceland we have launched a maker of quality hand bags from leather and specially treated fish skins. Greenland aims to bring in an interesting business making leather work based on the rich Inuit culture.

In Canada, the businesses include a ring of specialised knitters on a remote island, handmade chocolate, a maker of fur boots, a jeweller working with gem stones, and finally a cheese maker. [More](#)



From the opening of "Fjordtønna" in Tysse, Hordaland

4. Youth and internationalisation

Leonardo da Vinci Program



Hordaland County Council, through the International Section, is a regional contact point for the LdV-programme. Through the programme, 50 – 70 people travel to other European countries every year to make placements in companies and institutions to acquire new skills, both professional and personal. The target groups of the programme are apprentices, students in vocational

secondary schools, as well as teachers and people responsible for the training in companies/training offices.

Most of the activities within the Leonardo da Vinci-mobility programme take place in the spring, but during this autumn we have sent people to Germany, Spain, France, Great Britain and Italy in the following trades: cookery, design and handicraft, service and information, electronics and industrial mechanics. [More](#)

In September 2010 three students (two with a Leonardo-grant) and a teacher from Slåtthaug Upper Secondary School, Design and Handicraft, went on a 2-weeks' placement to Lisieux, Basse-Normandie. They were hosted by Lycée Cornu which they already had been cooperating with for some time. They were introduced to working life in France as well as life at an upper secondary school. They experienced the great respect the students had towards the teachers and that the students worked very hard at school.

Two employees from the Information and Service Section in Hordaland County Council spent 2 weeks in Cardiff in October 2010 by means of money from the Leonardo da Vinci-programme, where they visited different public institutions and learned more about how these offered service to the inhabitants of the city. They had some very interesting weeks there, and were highly motivated to continue their work on how to offer even better services to the inhabitants of Hordaland.

A cook from one of the best restaurants in Bergen spent one week in Genova, Italy, where he worked at a restaurant Hordaland County has been cooperating with for some time. This is a small restaurant with a small kitchen, but it is interesting to learn how they can work and prepare the best food possible for a large number of customers. As most of the restaurants in the Liguria region, they have specialized in making dishes of dried cod from Norway.



**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](#)

During the last 6 months Hordaland has sent volunteers to different projects in Italy, Spain (2), Belgium, Portugal and Germany. Three young persons from Wales, Spain

and Austria have been working as European volunteers at host projects in Hordaland. We have had a strong focus on EVS cooperation in the field of host projects for young drop outs and will continue this work in 2011.

Hordaland Youth Council organized the second EU-financed meeting this year for all youth councils in the region from 2nd to 3rd of October. Themes for the meeting were presentation and debating techniques, European Voluntary Service and networking for youth councillors.

A young representative from KIS (*kontaktutvalet for innvandrere og styringsmakter i Hordaland*) attended a seminar in the Netherlands about tolerance and cultural diversity, supported by the Youth in Action programme. The International Section will put a stronger focus on these themes in the coming year.

Two youngsters from Odda and Bergen attended a "fantasy-entrepreneurship" course in Oslo. Purpose of the course was to guide and motivate young creative people to carry out their project ideas. The course received financial support through the Youth in Action programme.

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

Bergen Katedralskole

This fall, Bergen Katedralskole was invited into a project called "*Oxbridge 2010: Global Education and Skills*". The initiative came from the student unions at the universities in Oxford and Cambridge with a goal "*to seek to promote success in areas such as education, acquiring skills, re-training and social well-being, and provide a valuable insight into the work of governments and notable organisations on an international basis*". The project is now coming towards its end and the final result will be a book that will be distributed to a selection of leaders and organisations around the world. In the included article about Bergen Katedralskole, the school has highlighted the cultural diversity among the pupils, the schools vision of "tradition and learning in a progressive environment" and the schools international education program, the International Baccalaureate (IB). IB is an offer to Norwegian and foreign applicants and leads to an internationally recognised diploma that can give access to prestigious universities around the world. [More](#)



High international activity at Voss

The vocational schools at Voss are collaborating on the international field. Not only do they have a joint international coordinator, they also have a joint Leonardo da Vinci mobility project. The current project is called “European practice within the vocational education at Voss”. During the 2009/10 academic year this project gave 25 placements in 5 countries. For the current academic year they hope to achieve 33 placements. This fall, the vocational schools at Voss have already had one project in Austria where 5 pupils had placements for 4 weeks in companies specialised on wilderness and water activities. There has been one project in Slovenia where 3 pupils had placements for 4 weeks studying agricultural practice, and one project in Italia where 4 pupils had placements in restaurants in Florence for 4 weeks. 2 pupils also had placements in Hungary studying agricultural practice. This is of course in addition to the regular horse training “class” in Babolna coordinated by Voss agricultural school. New placements are planned for the spring semester. [More](#)

5. West Norway Office in Brussels

Being a liaison between our members in West Norway and the EU, providing information services and increasing the knowledge about the Norway/EU-relations are amongst the West Norway Office’ (WNO) most important tasks. [More](#)

During 2010 more than 500 people took part in WNO seminars in Brussels and in Western Norway. The seminars focused on Norway/EU relations, how the EU works, how EU policy is shaped, the various opportunities for Norwegian actors through EU programmes and projects – as well as showcasing the West Norway region and best practice from a wide range of policy areas within the region.

WNO continuously brings relevant EU information back to West Norway. 22 general newsletters have been published in 2010, and in addition 21 specific newsletter focusing on European energy matters – as the WNO has stepped up the focus on energy and energy policies. Tourism and culture as drivers for local development have also been highlighted in 2010. These sectors are important for all our members, and during the “*European Tourism Days 2010 (ETD)*” in September WNO provided a networking arena on these topics for representatives from the regions who were taking part in the European Commission ETD-event and the tourism seminar organized by the North Sea Commission in Brussels.

The main event for the West Norway Office this autumn was the “*OPEN DAYS – European Week of Regions and Cities*”. Some 6000 participants attended the Brussels event, organized by European regions and cities in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. The WNO participated for the

sixth year running, and together with European partner regions we organized two seminars under the heading “*Stimulating the green economy*”: “*Employment and growth in rural areas*” and “*From knowledge to growth*”, highlighting green technology and a green economy as a driver for local- and regional development and growth. In addition to the two seminars WNO had a stand at the “*Open Days Meeting Place*” exposition and networking arena, promoting local initiatives for community power generation based on small-scale hydropower facilities, wind power and carbon capture- and storage (CCS).

The Brussels event was followed by a local Open Days seminar in Bergen, “*Internationalisation – for attractive municipalities*”, co-hosted by Hordaland County Council. All together, the Open Days events in Bergen and Brussels, gathered close to 70 participants from the West Norway Region. [More](#)



Actors from the West Norway Region presenting renewable energy and green technology at the exposition “Open Days Meeting Place”

6. Other activities

International Hardanger – conference

The Hardanger conference 2010 was entirely devoted to internationalisation: “International Hardanger - Hardanger in the world”. The conference was hosted by the Mayor of Ullensvang, Solfrid Borge, and among the many participants were the Mayor of Greve-in-Chiant Alberto Bencistà and County Mayor Torill S. Nyborg. Hardanger has started cooperation projects with Greve in Toscana within the fields of education and training, tourism and youth. [More](#)



County Mayor Torill Selsvold Nyborg and Mayor of Ullensvang, Solfrid Borge meets with Mayor of Greve-in-Chianti Alberto Bencistà (photo: Hardangerrådet)

Europe in my region

Europe in my Region is EU's effort to bring the Open Days events out into the different participating regions. West Norway's contribution was two days of conferences in Bergen. The topic for the first day was how international programs can help local communities in becoming more attractive and thus attract the right inhabitants. This day was in cooperation with the West Norway Office.

The second day was dedicated to the Interreg program. Hordaland as the national contact point for the IV B North Sea Region Program has a responsibility for disseminating the results and experiences of previous projects within the program.

These were two very interesting days and both attracted approximately 40 participants mainly from different municipalities and regions along the west coast. [More](#)



From the parallel session "Developing the local community" on the first day of conference

The County Concerts gives school concerts in China

In October, Hordaland County Concerts was again invited by Concerts Norway (Rikskonsertene) to participate in a tour of schools concerts in China. A folk music trio consisting of Annlaug Børsheim (hardanger fiddle and vocals), Stein Urheim (guitar) and Sigbjørn Apeland (harmonium) invited Chinese children to explore different musical expressions with them.



The trio performs at Europe Square at the Expo 2010 (Photo: Mona Sæverud Higræff, Concerts Norway)

Part of the background for this invitation is the fact that the Norwegian model of school concerts has become an export article to China. After the system of school concerts was introduced to the Chinese school system in 2007, the educational authorities have embraced it and

the number of schools offering this is increasing at high speed. The trio from Hordaland played school concerts in Shanghai and Beijing as well as at the Norwegian pavilion at Expo2010 in Shanghai. In addition to this, they gave workshops to students at conservatories and universities as well as public concerts. One of these was at Europe Square at the Expo2010 where a choir of Chinese children sang with the musicians – in Norwegian! [More](#)

Talks at urban planning conference in China

Director of Regional Development Jan Per Styve and head of the Planning section Marit Rødseth, together with Head of Planning in the city of Bergen, Mette Svanes presented Norwegian urban planning at an international planning conference in China, this September. China Binhai Tianjin International Eco-City Forum took place in Tianjin, a city region 120 km east of Beijing. All three representatives from Hordaland gave talks presenting Norwegian models and experiences with sustainable urban planning and development. Representatives of the national authorities in China were present at the conference. In the Binhai New Area of Tianjin the authorities will construct a new "city" - Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco City which will be built after sustainability principles, as outlined by UNESCO. The conference marked a mile stone in this project and included several seminar, exhibitions and site visits. [More](#)



F.left: Mette Svanes, Jan Per Styve and Marit Rødseth

Expanding the network in Slovenia

From November 22nd to 24th, three representatives from the International section at the county council made a planning visit to the Gorenjska region in Slovenia. The programme for the visit was made in cooperation with Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska (BSC) - Helena Cvenkel and Ambassador Guro Vikør and her staff at the Norwegian Embassy in Slovenia.

The main objectives of the trip was to establish contact with possible partners for EU-projects (in particular with local municipalities) and to visit national offices for the EEA-grants and the EU-programmes Comenius and Leonardo in Ljubljana to discuss programme issues and possible projects, as well as thematic priorities and future calls.

Visits were made to 3 different municipalities in Gorenjska; Skofja Loka, Bled and Naklo. The discussions showed that the challenges to the local administrations are very similar both in Gorenjska and

Hordaland, and EU-project cooperation may thus prove very fruitful to both regions. There were also meetings with 3 vocational schools in these municipalities: Vocational College for catering and Tourism in Bled, Upper Secondary School in Jesenice (health and social Care) and Naklo Secondary School Biotechnical Centre.



Meeting representatives from the city of Skofja Loka and the region of Gorenjska

Expanded links with Brazil

Together with the city of Bergen and HOG Energy (former Hordaland Oil and Gas) Hordaland County Council signed an agreement with the Brazilian region of Espirito Santo in 2005. On November 22nd 2010 a new part was added to this as the network organisation NCE Subsea signed an agreement with the region opening up for a wider cooperation between the business sectors. Concretely, the agreement's aim is "Fostering the oil & gas activities (Business, R&D, and Training) between the Bergen Region and Great Vitoria trough the intent of establishing a Norway-Brazil Business and Innovation Center of Espirito Santo (NORBBIC-ES), with emphasis on Subsea industry value chain". On the Brazilian side, the agreement was signed by the director of economic development, Marcio Felix Bezerra who visited Bergen in August. He then met with representatives from Business Region Bergen, NCE Subsea, Hordaland County Council as well as other relevant partners and the future collaboration on economic development between the two regions was discussed. [More](#)



The new agreement was signed in Espirito Santo in November (Photo: NCE Subsea)

The County Executive Committee to Le Mans

From September 30th to October 2nd, the county's Executive Committee made a study trip to Le Mans in France. The city, perhaps most famous for its race track and annual 24-hours race, is also a hub for the road and rail network in the region. From 2007 the city also has a light rail system, currently operated by the same company as the light rail in Bergen, Keolis. One of the objectives of the committee was to study the operation of the transport system (and particularly the light rail system) in Le Mans in more detail. The Director of Transport and Communication in Hordaland, the director of the Bergen Lightrail and the Director of the county's transport organisation Skyss were also among the participants on this study trip.

New international section officially in place

September 1st the new International section of Hordaland County Council was officially established. The section is formally a part of the Department of Regional Development and will continue many of the responsibilities that were previously handled by the international relations team and the European Office. On November 1st the new head of section took up his position; Paul J. Manger comes from the position as Head of the Section for Global cooperation at the national agency SIU. The International section will have the responsibility for coordinating and support Hordaland County Council in the efforts to strengthen the international commitment in its regional development work. The staff at the section will support both internally and externally with competence in international cooperation in general and especially with competence in European Commission Programmes.



The International section, Hordaland County Council

For more information,
www.hordaland.no/internasjonalt

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