

International Newsletter



**HORDALAND
COUNTY COUNCIL**

No 2 | 2012



Photo: Bernt Hjørnevik, Øygarden kommune

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region project "Coast Alive!" was formally closed with a final conference in Bergen in October, after four years running. Before that, one of the project's Community Mobilisation Initiatives "Make waves move west" gathered young musicians from Sund, Fjell, Øygarden and Askøy in Hordaland on a sailing trip to Shetland on board the historical sailing vessel 'Loyal' in June/July. This was an excellent example of cultural exchange combined with an introduction to maritime heritage and the young artists' concerts in Scalloway were much appreciated. On board the 'Loyal'; mayors and directors of culture from all four municipalities, together with young musicians, as well as the family of the late mayor of Sund; Albrig Sangolt.

Welcome to the international newsletter from Hordaland County Council, giving you a short introduction to the county's international activities over 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 June 2013.

This Autumn has again been an active one; students from Hordaland have started their academic years in five different European regions, and one in the US, with the "Hordaland classes abroad". The class in Basse-Normandie has increased to 9 students in its second year running. Projects have seen new activities and the work in our partner regions have continued.

1 Our partner regions



Basse-Normandie, France

Continued cooperation between the schools

The bilateral projects that have been established between schools in Hordaland and Basse-Normandie over the last four years are seeing continuous joint activities being carried out. As an example, **Bjørgvn vgs** has maintained their links with Lycée Sivard-de-Beaulieu in Carentan and plans are made for the students from Bjørgvn to go to Carentan already in January 2013.

Voss agricultural school are in continuous dialogue with the agricultural school in Coutance. Not only will four students from Voss be going to Coutance for placements next spring, but four students from Coutance will be working at farms in the Voss/Hardanger area next summer.

Sandsli vgs has continued their collaboration with the lycée hôtelier Rabelais in Herouville. This September and October, four students from Lycée Rabelais did work placement at the local restaurants Lucullus Neptun and Jacob's Bar og kjøkken in Bergen.



Students from Lycée Rabelais visit an aquaculture installation at Sotra

A new year and a new "Hordaland class"

By [Jorid Skiple](#), coordinator, Voss gymnas

This has been a great second year for Voss gymnas and Hordaland County Council: the new exchange program where students spend a whole year in France, in the region of Basse-Normandie, continues and expands! This year 9 pupils from six different schools in Hordaland attend three schools in Basse-Normandie, and next year 12 pupils will have the opportunity to experience France as we include a fourth school from this beautiful region.

The students are hosted in dormitories during the week and in host families over the weekends, a combination

that allows them to experience both French school and family life. This exchange is a great opportunity to learn the French language and to get to know a new culture and getting the school year validated in their diploma.

In November an agreement was signed by Hordaland and Basse-Normandie in a formal ceremony in l'Abbaye aux Dames, with participation of everyone involved, including the pupils and their host families. They also attended several cultural events at the annual Boréales Festival during the Hordaland County visit, amongst others the Carte Blanche dance performance.

The French hospitality has made our pupils feel very welcome, and all 9 pupils are enjoying their exchange experience and they are great ambassadors for our county.

[More](#)



Students from the Hordaland class met with Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes and other representatives from Hordaland during the Boréales festival in November

Signing the agreement on the "Hordaland class"

By [Berit Roksvåg](#), Department of Education

Students from Hordaland have the opportunity to spend one year at a French upper secondary school (lycée) in Basse-Normandie. The first students from Hordaland spent the school year 2011/2012 at two different lycées; lycée Jean Rostand and the CLE – Collège et Lycée Expérimentale. This school year nine students from Hordaland attend "première" (second year) in Basse-Normandie. This year the students also study at lycée Mezeray in Argentan.

The 19th November 2012 an agreement was signed at the Abbaye-aux Dames between Hordaland County Council represented by the Direction of Education and Voss gymnas and the authorities in Basse-Normandie represented

by the Région, the Academy of Caen and the University of Caen. Both the Norwegian students and their host families attended the ceremony.



Signing of the agreement on the "Hordaland Class in Normandie"

BAYEUX VISITING VOSS, 26th-29th October

By [Gunnhild Utkvitne](#), Voss Municipality

The French delegation was accompanied with the very first snow this year, arriving at Voss, October 26th. Voss covered in snow at this time was surely making the first impression somewhat exotic for our guest.

The Mayor of Bayeux was head of a delegation counting 16 persons. 10 of these were pupils from the local music school in Bayeux. All of them brought their instruments in order to give concerts throughout the weekend, also at the annual folk music festival – Osafestivalen.

The overall purpose of the visit was to clarify in which areas a possible future cooperation between Bayeux and Voss could be based upon. A formal letter of intent was signed by the two mayors on Monday morning, stating the agreement to cooperate in future projects resulting in joint value added for both municipalities targeting the fields of cultural entrepreneurship, education and green tourism.

All in all, a successful weekend with new friendships being elaborated and common areas for future cooperation being discussed. The highlight though, was probably the time when our friends from Bayeux were introduced to the local dish – smoked sheep head – including eating the eye. Read more in [Avisa Hordaland](#) (in Norwegian)



Youth musicians from Bayeux on their way to the Flåm railway

Artists-in-Residence

By [Tone S. Haugland](#), Department of Culture

As a part of the cooperation between Basse-Normandie and Hordaland we have started an exchange of young artists, artists-in-residence, together with DRAC (La Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles) in Basse-Normandie. The first artist to take part in this was the former student of Ecole Supérieure d'Art et Média (ESAM) in Caen, Alexis Debeuf who had a three-month residency at the Art Centre "USF" in Bergen last autumn.



Alexis Debeuf's wooden umbrella during the exhibition opening

This November he opened an exhibition of works inspired by his Norwegian residency, at the ESAM, as a part of the Boréales festival. His exhibition was called "Utelek" (a Norwegian word which means "playing outside"). Debeuf works on different medias and techniques. Among the items exhibited was knitted works, videos, photos, as well as a wooden umbrella made in the traditional Norwegian technique of roof making.

More on Alexis' blog <http://alexisdebeuf.wordpress.com>

The regions of Basse-Normandie and Hordaland are hoping to see these exchanges on a more regular basis. We want the art schools in our regions to play an important role in these exchanges and there have been meetings between ESAM and Bergen Academy of Art and Design. We are now working on an agreement on the exchange of students who have graduated from these art schools and hopefully this will be a part of a broader cooperation between them.

Delegation from Hordaland to Normandie during the Boréales festival

The Nordic culture festival "[Les Boreales](#)" takes place in Basse-Normandie over two weeks every November. This year was the 21st edition of the festival and the main focus was on Swedish artists. For the last three years there has been a special contribution from Hordaland to the festival, under the label "Made in Hordaland". This year it was the Bergen-based national dance company "Carte Blanche", as well as the singer Thea Hjelmeland that had been invited by the festival from our region. A delegation from Hordaland County Council, headed by Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes, was present for the official opening on 16th of November.

New 3-year action plan signed

For the last three years, Basse-Normandie and Hordaland has had an action plan as an appendix to the existing Agreement of Cooperation from 1993, outlining the concrete actions to be undertaken. On Friday 16th of November, Vice President Annie Ann and Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes, signed a renewed action plan, outlining the cooperation between the regions for the period 2013-



Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes and Vice President Annie Ann sign the three-year action plan on November 16th

2015. The main fields of cooperation are education and training, culture and heritage, as well as and economic development, research and innovation. As the maritime activities has an important place in both regions, the marine/maritime aspect will serve as a cross-sector theme. A number of meetings were also held between different representatives from Normandie and Hordaland in order to define the concrete actions that could be included in a work plan for 2013.

Hordaland supports process to see the D-day beaches recognized as world heritage

The regional council of Basse-Normandie is currently engaged in a process to have the D-Day beaches from World War II recognized by the UNESCO as being part of world heritage. On Friday 16th of November, Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes signed a statement supporting this endeavour. As part of this focus on memory and World War II history, representatives from Museum Vest in Hordaland met with the Mémorial museum as well as

the Institute for Human Rights in Caen in order to discuss possible collaboration. A visit to the different heritage sites on the beaches had also been organised.



Delegation from Hordaland on the D-Day beaches outside the village of Arramanches



Cardiff,
Wales

Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival

During Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival 2012 from 6th to 8th of July Hordaland was again represented with its own stand in the festival area. Fitjar Upper Secondary School had prepared a rich variety of samples for the visitors to taste. Among the international stands, Hordaland's was easy to spot with a large selection of Norwegian products all brought directly from Fitjar. On offer was, among other things, brown goat cheese and other Norwegian cheeses, Norwegian herring, cod roe and cod liver, thin wafer crisp bread, waffles and last but not least; smoked salmon of supreme quality. In addition to the food, the stand was also richly decorated with beautiful posters, maps and brochures from Western Norway. Even if the rain was pouring down most of the time, Hordaland's stand was among the most visited ones.



County Mayor, Tom-Christer Nilsen and Deputy Leader of Cardiff Council, Ralph Cook at the Hordaland stand

The County Mayor of Hordaland, Tom-Christer Nilsen, represented Hordaland County Council at the festival, and had meetings with local politicians in Cardiff Council. He also guided the Welsh politicians into the world of Norwegian food represented at the stand from Hordaland. The delegation from Fitjar Upper Secondary School, led by principal Anna-Bodil Tislevoll, was responsible for the stand, and they were proud to tell it was the sixth time that the school took part in the festival. [More](#)

Lessons from planning in Cardiff

[Marit Rødseth](#), head of planning, Hordaland

Hordaland County Council has for many years had a variety of contacts and collaborations with Cardiff. In 2009, I was granted an EU funded Leonardo scholarship and spent two weeks in Cardiff to learn more about their planning system.

The self-rule idea in Wales was connected to an ambitious and visionary political leadership in Cardiff. The leadership could rely on a very suitable planning system rooted in traditions from Great Britain and a competent planning department. Head of planning in Cardiff, Phil Williams, was one of my best guides into the planning field. His introductions included a meeting in the political committee, the competence issue and contacts with the university, and of course the plans and planning itself.

Hospitality is an important part of the Welsh culture. Here in Hordaland we seldom get the chance to return this. The decision that the annual planning conference in Hordaland in 2012 should have a European focus gave us an excellent opportunity to invite Phil Williams to give a lecture on the planning system in Cardiff to planners from all over Norway. It was a great pleasure for us to listen to William's lecture and to see many of the participants asking questions and learning from his work afterwards. [More](#). Directly to [Phil Williams' presentation](#)



Phil Williams, head of planning in Cardiff, with Anne Beth Njærheim (left.), head of the Committee for Culture and Resources in Hordaland, and Marit Rødseth (right), head of planning in Hordaland

The Hordaland class in Cardiff

By [Hege Cruickshank](#), Knarvik videregående

17 enthusiastic young Norwegians arrived in Wales in late August to spend an academic year in Cardiff. The popular exchange programme is now in its 17th year, and it attracts students from all over Hordaland. 14 girls and 3 boys were selected for this year's exchange, which allows them to study in one of six schools in Cardiff and Barry. Moving abroad for a year is a big step for a 17-year old, but the students praise the Welsh hospitality and feel very much at home in the Welsh capital.

To allow them to see more of what Wales has to offer, the students were taken for a trip around the country during their holiday in October. They were particularly struck by the beauty of the beaches in Pembrokeshire - one of the girls even declared that if she gets married one day, it would have to be with a view to the beach in Tenby! Christmas is approaching, and they will all be going home for the first time since they arrived - but only after they have enjoyed a skating session on the open air ice rink outside the Castle! [More](#)



Students from the Hordaland class met with Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes and other representatives from Hordaland during the Winter festival in December

Christmas tree lighting in Cardiff

Vice County Mayor of Hordaland Mona Hellesnes and Deputy Mayor of Cardiff Keith Jones lit the Christmas tree outside the former Norwegian Seaman's Church in Cardiff Bay, on Sunday 2nd of December. The Christmas tree was planted outside the Norwegian Church last year, to remember those who lost their lives in Oslo and on Utøya on 22nd of July 2011.

Before the lighting ceremony, there was a beautiful concert in the church performed by soprano Reidun Horvei, Håkon Høgemo on the Harding fiddle and Geir Botnen on the piano. They performed folk music from Hordaland and Western Norway.

17 students from Hordaland attend upper secondary schools in Cardiff during the academic year 2012-13, and

many of these were at the concert. The day before, the «Hordaland class» was invited for dinner at the official residence of Cardiff County Council: «Mansion House», hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Cardiff.

Vice County Mayor Mona Hellesnes visited the new visitor attraction «World of Boats», close to the Norwegian Church. This is an exhibition of boats from all over the world, initiated by a local NGO. Children and youth are the target groups for the exhibition, and future cooperation projects between Cardiff and Hordaland were discussed.



From the concert in the Norwegian Church Arts Centre in Cardiff

The Norwegian delegation was also invited to attend a special performance of Handel's Messiah in the cathedral with singers and musicians from the Orkneys and other parts of UK. As a fantastic finish to the weekend the Norwegian Consul Bill Spence and his wife Sue invited the two Norwegian delegations (from Hordaland and Grimstad) to an informal reception and networking lunch. This gave a good opportunity to make contacts for continued friendship and cooperation.



Deputy County Mayor together with Convenor Steven Heddle after the Christmas tree lighting and St. Lucie procession.



Orkney Islands, Scotland

Winter festival in the Orkney Islands

In the first week of December the beautiful Orkney Islands welcomed a delegation from Hordaland County Council to celebrate the annual Christmas Tree-Lighting Weekend. Since the signing of a twinning agreement in 1983 this event stands as a symbol for the close historical links and long lasting friendship between the people of Hordaland and the Orkney Islands. Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes headed the official delegation which also included Director of Culture & Sports Anna Elisa Tryti. They were given a warm welcome by the new Convenor of Orkney Island Council, Steven Heddle. Saturday 8th December, in front of large crowd of excited families and children, the Deputy County Mayor lightened the Christmas tree outside St Magnus Cathedral.

According to the tradition a gift was presented to the people of the Orkney Islands. This year the school concert production "The Singer" with actress and puppeteer Jorunn Lullau, classical soprano Sunniva Lien Olsen and pianist Knut Christian Jansson who toured several islands and visited eight schools with their performance. Sunniva and Knut Christian also performed at the Sunday Church Service and the OIC (Orkney Islands Council) welcome reception and Dinner/Dance organised by ONFA (The Orkney Norway Friendship Association).

As part of the cooperation there is a student exchange programme between Hordaland and Orkney. One student from Slåtthaug videregående in Bergen is spending the 2012/2013 school year at Kirkwall Grammar School and one student from Kirkwall is spending the year at Voss folkehøgskule.



Kaunas, Lithuania

Launch of the EEA Grants

Lithuania launched most of the programmes under the EEA Grants (European Economic Area and Norway Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014) in Vilnius 25th – 26th of September 2012. Hordaland/International Section attended this event together with our contact persons from Kaunas. The Lithuanian Ministry of Finance, together with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Lithuania, hosted a networking Festive Launch at the Vilnius Small Theatre. We used this opportunity to have dialogue meetings with Kaunas City and Kaunas District Municipality about possible cooperation under the EEA-Grants.



On Lithuanian national level, some of the key areas for support under these grants are:

- Green industry innovation and entrepreneurship
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Children and youth at risk
- Cooperation between local authorities and public institutions in Lithuania and Norway.

After the programme launch in Vilnius, Rima Kubiliute from International Relations Office in Kaunas had made a very interesting and welcoming programme, including a visit to Kaunas District Municipality, together with Rimantas Dapkus from the Technical University in Kaunas. Among the issues that were emphasized from Kaunas' side were possible cooperation within education and health and social care, with a special focus on children and youth.



Thüringen, Germany

The Hordaland electro class in Erfurt

By [Liv Skipenes](#), Askøy videregående skole

For the fifth time Hordaland has an electro class in Erfurt of nine students from different parts of the region. Two girls and seven boys are divided into three groups and attend classes for their theory lessons and go to companies for practice. They went to Germany at the end of October and have now gotten used to life in "Internat 1" where their predecessors stayed too, and where they are taken well care of by a friendly staff, as well as other apprentices. According to their mentors, and their own reports, they seem to cope with the challenges of attending a school system where they hear only German and where they have to take responsibility for themselves on all levels.

For the first time their practice periods take place in "real" companies, not training centres, which seems to give them a more authentic work practice and also force



The electro-students in Erfurt

them to try to speak German more extensively. They have individual placements, and each of them has only German colleagues. They will stay in Erfurt until May (apart from the holidays) and they will have their electro exams there, before they return to Norway. They will spend the last weeks of the school year in Askøy vgs, finishing their general subjects. Later on they will hopefully return to Erfurt as guests, visiting the Christmas Market, their favourite discos, and even visit their "old" school, Andreas Gordon Schule. [More](#)

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Leonardo-Büro Thüringen

In November 2012, one of our most important cooperation partners in Thüringen, the Leonardo-Büro Thüringen, celebrated its 20th anniversary. A representative from the International section in Hordaland County Council was present at the celebration together with a large number of guests from all parts of Europe. Over the years the Leonardo-Büro Thüringen has made it possible for more than three thousand people to have placements abroad. Invited guests from the region and from abroad highlighted the achievements of the guest of honour in terms of the internationalisation of the region.

The cooperation between the Hordaland and Thüringen started in 1993 through the Comett- programme. This established a solid platform for further cooperation in the succeeding programme, the Leonardo-programme. As a result of this long standing cooperation an initiative for the exchange of students and young workers in the vocational sector was taken in 2006 and Hordaland has for the last 5 years sent 8 -10 students within electronics to Andreas-Gordon-Schule in Erfurt annually for a full academic year of studies. In return several young workers from Thüringen have received practical training by working in companies in Hordaland.

The collaboration between Thüringen and Hordaland over the years has been very successful. When the Leonardo-Büro Thüringen was established in 1992, they could not imagine the kind of effects this partnership would lead to, not only in terms of Leonardo-projects, but also other kinds of cooperation projects.



Franck March, head of the Leonardo-Büro Thüringen, during the official celebrations



Edinburgh, Scotland

Winter festival in Edinburgh

It was especially cold during our trip to Edinburgh this year which added to the wonderful pre- Christmas atmosphere. The city was buzzing with families and tourists when up to 15'000 people gathered on The Mound to watch a spectacular show of teddy bear and little girl swaying high up above our heads in a queen sized bed in order to light the Christmas tree! This was the 27th Christmas tree which is a gift from Hordaland to Edinburgh each year as thanks to the Scots for their help to Norwegian seamen during WWII. The event was rounded off with a wonderful firework display.

The delegation from Hordaland then moved on to St Giles Cathedral for the Royal Norwegian Advent Concert, another annual part of the festivities. This year three folk musicians represented Hordaland.. Reidun Horvei (song),

Geir Botnen (piano) and Håkon Høgemo (Harding fiddle) impressed with the high level of their performances adding a special Norwegian flavour to the concert. A local choir from Askøy, Roots, also performed and received warm applause. Eric von Ibler directed the renowned Edinburgh University Chamber Choir in this magnificent setting.

The management team from the Department of Culture and Sport spent 2 extra days in Edinburgh meeting relevant contacts in the Scottish government and their counterparts at Edinburgh City Council. They hope to develop a long lasting cooperation in the field of arts and sports with the city.

Thanks to our hosts, Edinburgh City Council and the Lord Provost for their hospitality and welcome. [More](#)



2 Cooperation through international organisations



Conference of 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.

[More](#)

General Assembly in Bialystok, Poland

This year's General Assembly of CPMR was held in Bialystok, Poland from 3rd to 5th of October. Hordaland County Council was represented by both Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes and Ruth Grung (representing the opposition parties), in addition to the head of the county's International section, Kathrin Jakobsen.

The present economic and financial crisis in Europe together with a severe crisis in public finances was underlined in both speeches and debates at the General Assembly. The CPMR expressed deep concern in regards to the proposed reductions in the EU long-term budget and will continue to work for an ambitious solidarity-based European Budget and a Cohesion Policy that addresses all European Regions.

Other subjects were maritime transport and reform of the common fisheries policy. CPMR wants to revitalize the maritime policy and the maritime dimension in the sectorial policies and to strengthen the accessibility of the peripheral regions. CPMR also proposes that maritime tourism should be considered as an industrial sector of its own and to be financed within the framework of the EU regional policy.

In order to maintain the level of activities and the quality of work, the General Assembly decided to raise the membership dues combined with an upper limit for the most populated regions. [More](#)



Hordaland representatives at this year's CPMR General Assembly; Kathrin Jakobsen, Mona Hellesnes and Ruth Grung



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.

General Assembly in Bremen

The Joint Annual Conference 2012 of the North Sea Region Programme and the North Sea Commission was held 18th – 20th June in Bremerhaven and Bremen, Germany. 300 participants attended the event. The theme of the annual conference which was held in Bremerhaven on the 18th and 19th June, was "Creating a Climate for Change" - focusing on future policy developments, innovation needs and a strategic outlook for the region. Projects under the North Sea Region Programme were given ample chance to present themselves, both as part of the exhibition and through a number of parallel workshops. [More](#)

The General Assembly of the North Sea Commission was held in Bremen on 20th of June. During this assembly, Gunn Marit Helgesen from Telemark county stepped down as president and was replaced by Ole B. Sørensen from Region Midtjylland in Denmark. Tom-Christer Nilsen, County Mayor of Hordaland, was elected as a new vice-president. [More](#)

Following the political decision in Hordaland in March 2012, to strengthen the involvement in the thematic working groups of the North Sea Commission, Hordaland County Council sent political and/or administrative representatives to four of these five groups during the annual event in June. For most of them this was the first meeting with the North Sea Commission and its working groups. Since then, Hordaland has, however, been represented in the three groups that have had meetings this autumn (and the two last groups will have their meetings in January).



County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen together with the other representatives from Hordaland



Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Co-operation

The Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) is a political network for regional authorities in the Baltic Sea region. The organisation was founded in Stavanger, Norway, in 1993. Its participants come from the 10 Baltic Sea littoral states: Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Russia. All Norwegian counties are members, but the eight counties that form the regional network for eastern Norway are the most active.

General Assembly in Lillestrøm

The Regional Network for Eastern Norway, Østlandssamarbeidet, hosted this year's main event for the BSSSC: the "BSSSC Annual Conference 2012 and the Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference 2012". More than 400 participants attended the event which took place in Lillestrøm from 17th to 20th of September.

The title for this year's conference was "FROM ECONOMIC CRISES TO OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIONS: Baltic Sea Regions promoting green innovation in energy and water" and the thematic sessions focused on topics such as "... innovative actions to promote clean water and green energy" and "wind and wave energy for the future". On the 17th of September, before the official opening of the annual conference on the 18th, there was a special youth conference titled "GREEN" where youth from the Baltic Sea area was given an arena to discuss possible "green solutions" for the region. [More](#)

Charlotte Lillefjære-Tertnæs from the International section represented Hordaland at the BSSSC Annual Conference. The conference was part of the [European Cooperation Day 2012](#) where European Cooperation was celebrated all over Europe and in neighbouring countries!



Former European commissioner Danuta Hubner and Norwegian minister for regional affairs Liv Signe Navarsete during the General Assembly

Regional cooperation in Norway: The Regional Council for Western Norway

The Regional Council for Western Norway is an organisation 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 alternates between the member counties, and Hordaland has been heading the organisation in 2012. The focus areas of the council are transport, business development, culture and international affairs. Administrative groups have been established for these topic areas. [More](#)

The international working group

This autumn, the international group has had three meetings (including one video conference) and has presented three cases to the council this autumn; coordination of Western Norway's participation in the North Sea Commission, a possible China strategy for the West Norway Region, as well as a briefing on the government's white paper on Norway's agreements with the EU.

Study trip to Brussels during "Open Days"

In October, members of the Council of Western Norway attended the "Open Days" event in Brussels. A three-day programme had been put together by the international working group together with the West Norway Office in Brussels, offering an introduction to current European politics. On Monday 8th of October an introductory seminar was organised jointly by the Brussels offices for Mid-Norway, West Norway and Stavanger Region. During this seminar representatives from Norwegian organisations and authorities in Brussels gave introductions to the status within their field of work. After this more general start, the council members attended different workshops within the "Open Days" programme.



3 Projects

Interreg IV projects

Interreg is the European programmes for interregional cooperation, partly financed by European Union. 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.



Interreg IVB – North Sea Region Programme

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

By [Kate Clarke](#), national contact point

It was a relief when the UK payment ban was finally lifted by the Commission this autumn. UK partners could finally receive payments for the project work they had done and projects could concentrate again on the matter at hand. Time is moving on and work on the new programme for 2014-2020 kicked off with the first planning meeting in September. There are many issues to be discussed and decided from thematic priorities to new possible types of project collaboration. A stakeholder event was held in Hamburg in October where simplification and harmonisation were important topics for the new programming period.

The programme held a workshop on the theme of cluster projects under this year's "Open Days" in Brussels. The cluster initiative, where several North Sea projects pool their experiences and best practice, has been enormously successful. With over 300 people registered for the event the initiative is firmly established as an innovative and fruitful method of cooperation.

The programme expects to see the return of unused funds at the end of the year from finished projects and it has been decided to launch a new call in the spring for small short term projects which can roll out or enhance existing project results. More details will be announced in the New Year.

Outdoor activities, knowledge and culture are the common denominators of the more than 150 actions that have been developed. The arenas for these initiatives have been the North Sea Trail and the North Sea Cycle Route with more than 12'000 km of paths around the North Sea – themselves the results of two Interreg IIIB projects.

The working method has been to initiate a number of smaller projects (Community Mobilisation Initiatives) built on local collaboration between the health-, transport-, environment- and health sectors in the different countries. By making financial means available, defining clear objectives and developing simple and effective tools for reporting the results, we have been able to measure the effects of these initiatives. The result is a database where you can explore what actually works, and what does not, and to compare the initiatives across borders.

Coast Alive has developed links with the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in order to establish a long distance walking route across borders and continents. Another action is a mobile phone application that will provide useful information on nature, culture, history etc. during the walk. It is currently under development in UK and Netherlands and should be available here next year. The European Space organisation EURISY has also engaged in the project, studying how space technology can be used in public planning. [More](#)



Coast Alive

By [Tor Titlestad](#), project manager

After four years, the Coast Alive project has now ended. The final conference was held in Bergen 2nd -5th October 2012. The project's main focus has been to reduce obesity through the development of more than 150 actions to get people to live a more active life. In Coast Alive we have cooperated with 14 regions around the North Sea, from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands and UK.



Clean North Sea Shipping

By [Even Husby](#), project manager

CNSS has 15 partners and focuses on the reduction of harmful emissions from ships.

The General Assembly 2012 was held in London and was chaired by County Mayor, Mr. Tom-Christer Nilsen. High level speakers from IMO, DNV and from the partner organisations delivered presentations focusing on the instruments and drivers for the shipping industry. A panel discussion suggested new infrastructure will be paramount to facilitate technological the solutions available.

Project partner, Germanischer Lloyd SE have studied the collision probabilities and carried out a hazard analysis for LNG bunkering. They have made a short visualisation of the bunkering process for LNG in an animated film which can be found on our website www.cnss.no

A short film has also been produced from the workshop at European Maritime Day in Gothenburg in May – “LNG for Shipping or the chicken and the egg story”. The film highlights some of the main discussions around LNG as fuel for ships and is also available on our website.

www.cnss.no

Focus has also been on the emission scenario work which is being carried out by Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht. The project published a report “Monitoring and simulation of pollutant generation and spread” with the main findings laying the foundation for further work under this topic. Collection of good data is paramount for this work and the project has also worked on a survey of 50 ships in 5 partner ports. Steaming measurements were also taken from one cruise ship on its journey from Hamburg to Bergen. Results and findings from these initiatives will be published as part of the project’s results.

Finally a report “Policies and Instruments, a baseline knowledge” was published. This report gives an overview of current emission policies, regulations and instruments as well as funding programmes.



One of the objectives of CNSS is to reduce pollution from large ships while in ports (Photo: IMO)



Interreg IVB – Northern Periphery



Craft International

By [Terje Inderhaug](#), project manager

Craft International is a continuation of the development work undertaken since 2008 by the Économusée Northern Europe project, joining partners from Norway, Sweden, Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Canada. Hordaland County Council is the lead partner and the project administration is maintained by the Department of Culture and Sports.

The Craft International project is well into its second year and the results are materialising themselves in all the 8 countries that participate. The aim of the project is to create 23 new ÉCONOMUSÉE in Northern Europe and establish a network organization for the future.

The artisans who are chosen to participate in this network must be innovators in their own fields and be able to bring traditional expertise into a modern and relevant context. These artisans must be prepared to receive visitors and be prepared to demonstrate their skill to any visitors. The businesses must be sustainable and able to maintain the high quality levels associated with an ÉCONOMUSÉE artisan.

In Hordaland we will see 4 new ÉCONOMUSÉE in place for the next tourist season, i.e. a cooper workshop, a fruit farm, a woollen mill and a stock fish craft and knowledge centre.

It is a demanding concept, which has caught the eye of the Norwegian Centre of Excellence for travel and tourism, who has included the project in their special status collection, as a cultural heritage competence project. Even UNESCO is looking at this way of capturing and conveying culture and history. It is so important to maintain the immaterial heritage and this project is an expert at just this. See more on www.economusee.eu



From the opening of the Tønnegården Économusée; Head of the steering committee Helge Andre Njåstad, Mayor of Fusa Hans J. Vindenes, Deputy County Mayor Mona Hellesnes and cooper Jostein Gangstø (Photo: Anette Friis Pedersen)



Interreg IVC – Interregional cooperation



Eco-Regions

By [Torill Monstad](#), project manager

"Eco Regions" is a project with eleven partners from nine countries. The Picardie region in France is the lead partner. In Hordaland the project is coordinated by the Department of Regional Development – Economic Development section. The main focus of the project is to study successful regional policies which aim to stimulate small and medium sized businesses to have a greener production of goods and services – and then to implement these in our own regional strategies.

The project chose to have its second steering committee meeting in Hordaland in July. 11 regions from nine countries thus met for an Eco Regions conference in Bergen in order to decide which green projects each partner wanted to learn more about.

As a result three regions will be visiting Hordaland in May

2013 to learn about the Climate Action Plan. The regions of Bamberg, Thüringen and Jämtland have all chosen to increase their knowledge regarding how to operationalize and implement complex climate goals.

Hordaland has chosen two projects in Thüringen; Portaferm and Energy Efficiency Network.

The Portaferm project deals with the use of manure in bio gas plants at farms with minimum 35 farm animals. The Energy Efficiency Network focuses on energy efficiency in companies. [More](#)



The steering committee during their meeting in Bergen in July 2012

4 Youth and internationalisation



Leonardo da Vinci Programme

By [Kirsten Ese](#), Leonardo da Vinci coordinator in Hordaland

Hordaland County Council is a regional contact point for the Leonardo da Vinci-program. As one of 5 counties in Norway, Hordaland was certified in 2009 as a result of a high volume and good quality of the projects during a large number of years. Hordaland County Council is among the most active users of the Leonardo da Vinci mobility program in Norway, and was allotted more than NOK 2 mill for 2012. The main target groups of the program are students and apprentices in vocational education, but teachers and people responsible for training in offices, and other administrative personnel also have had the chance to take part in the program. In total, 80-100 people from Hordaland make placements in companies and institutions in other European countries every year. Through this they gain new international competence and skills, in terms of professional-, personal-, cultural- and language skills.

Most of the placements take place in the spring, but this autumn 4 students (3 weeks), 1 apprentice (8 weeks) and 2 instructors (4 and 6 weeks) have made placements in France, Ireland, Denmark and Sweden. All the placements have been within the program for restaurant trades.

In the autumn of 2012 Hordaland County has received one apprentice from Germany, Thüringen, who has worked for



Flower decorators from Hjeltnes horticultural school on placement in Slovenia

4 weeks in the library in Voss, financed by the Leonardo-program. Likewise the director of the city and regional library of Erfurt, Thüringen, has made a placement of 1 week, visiting different local libraries in Hordaland. Another Leonardo-placement of 1 week was made by two people from Thüringen from the education department in the city of Erfurt. [More](#)



Comenius Regio

“Assessment for learning”

By [Linda Farestveit](#), Department of Education

The Comenius Regio partnership project “Assessment for learning” has just recently started. The project is coordinated by Hordaland County Council, Department of Education and the local educational authorities in the region of Murcia, Spain. The local partners in each region are the University of Bergen and the University of Murcia, in addition to the two upper secondary schools Bjørgvin in Bergen and IES Jimenez de la Espada in Cartagena.

The Norwegian educational system has by means of changes in the Education Act and nationally initiated projects tried to encourage a development in which Norwegian pupils have the right to receive more formative assessment during the school year. In this particular Comenius Regio project the Norwegian partners will present theory and research on assessment for learning, and together with the Spanish partners, explore new approaches to develop a more learning oriented assessment practice.



The project group gathered in Bergen in October

In October 2012 the Spanish partners came to Bergen. During their stay they spent a day with Professor Kari Smith from the University of Bergen. She gave the participants an overall theoretical introduction to the theme. Linda Farestveit from the Department of Education gave a lecture on how the Knowledge Promotion Reform has introduced new approaches to assessment in Norwegian class rooms. The Spanish teachers were also given ample opportunity to visit and observe how their Norwegian colleagues practise assessment in the classroom.

In January the Norwegian partners will go to Spain to get the opportunity to learn more about assessment practice in Spanish schools.

«Approaching Delinquent Behaviour at School».

By [Thor Eirik Haugstad](#), Fyllingsdalen videregående

Hordaland is currently engaged in a Comenius Regio project with the Dodecanese Islands in Greece for the period 2012-2014. Hordaland is represented by Hordaland County Council (Department of Education and Fyllingsdalen upper secondary school) and the School Leader Association. The Dodecanese is a group of 18 inhabited islands in the south east Aegean ocean. In addition to the General Upper Secondary School of Archangelos, there are four other participants on Rhodes: the regional school authorities, the Archangelos police, the parents' association and the centre for health promotion.

The title of our project is:
«Approaching Delinquent Behaviour at School».

In September 2012, nine people went from Bergen to Rhodes (3 from Hordaland County Council, 1 from the School Leader Association, and 5 teachers from Fyllingsdalen upper secondary school). During our stay we had meetings with the mayor, the head of the Dodecanese region, the chairman of the educational department on Rhodes, and the police. We spent most of our time at the General Upper Secondary School of Archangelos. We experienced that there are both differences and similarities between a Greek and a Norwegian school. Moreover, we got to meet teachers, pupils, and the school's management (which only consisted of one dedicated principal!). During our visits we also got the opportunity to participate in lessons and interview some of the pupils.

During our stay in Greece, all the participants got the opportunity to meet. We spent a lot of time on dividing the main topics into subtopics and establish teams that are going to work with each of these. We are currently in the process of this teamwork.

We look forward to our Greek partners visiting us in the spring of 2013.



The project group during the first meetings in Rhodes



Youth in Action Program

By [Barbara Harterink](#), Youth in Action coordinator in Hordaland

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: 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 through the European Voluntary Service (EVS). [More](#)



From the environmental course in Coutance.
Photo: Kristin Hildre Rørvik

New this autumn was that Hordaland County Council started two EVS projects in EU's neighbour countries Ukraine and Armenia. We continued sending volunteers to EU countries like the Netherlands, Spain, Lithuania, Germany, Northern Ireland and Wales in the UK.

Hordaland County Council sent two young participants to the Youth in Action training course: "Environmental education: Let's be concerned" in St Pierre de Coutances, Basse-Normandie, France, from 27th July to 4th August 2012. At the course the participants from six different countries discussed the best way to approach environmental pedagogy. The participants were accommodated at a camping site and lived as much as possible environmentally soundly. They ate ecological food, and there was an ecological bathroom complete with solar shower, dry toilet and reed beds. Both of the Hordaland participants went home with new knowledge and inspirations.

Through our Lithuanian cooperation partner Kaunas Council, Hordaland County Council was invited to send a youth delegation to a Youth in Action exchange in Germany. The project "Get active – Generations hand in hand" is about inter-generational cooperation. Young participants from six different European countries gathered in the city of Detmold, Germany, from 3rd to 12th of August 2012. They discussed the demographic changes in Europe, the similarities and the differences between the conditions of life for the young and elderly in the different countries. The young Hordaland delegation is now working on a newspaper article about their experiences, and they will be involved in a new EU financed project on elderly in 2013 (Grundtvig programme).

The project "EU and Norwegian Youth"

This autumn Hordaland County Council carried out the project "EU and Norwegian Youth" which received Youth in Action support. Three delegations from the Youth Councils of Hordaland, Sogn & Fjordane and Møre & Romsdal went on a four-day study visit to Brussels, and learned and discussed how EU influences daily life for young Norwegians. The West Norway office in Brussels had prepared a very interesting programme for the delegation of 15 young people. One of the highlights was a visit to "Parlamentarium" where the youth councillors, through role play, experienced what it is like to be a Member of the European Parliament for a day. Afterwards they even met a real "MEP", the only Norwegian-born, Eva Joly, who was elected as a French member of the European Parliament in 2009.

Back home the three Youth Councils organized a meeting in Bergen with their regional councillors, in order to discuss how the Youth Councils can be included more in European organisations like North Sea Commission and Euromontana. The young participants were very much satisfied with the project's outcome. They learned a lot about EU institutions, the EEA agreement and how EU influences Norwegian society. They had good constructive discussions with their councillors and decided on more cooperation in this field. The project also tied closer bonds between the three Youth Councils.

The project was mentioned at the official website of the Norwegian government "[Europaportalen](#)" which provides information about Norway's cooperation with Europe.



Participants from the Youth Councils of all the three counties of Western Norway



Grundtvig programme

The Grundtvig programme focuses on the adult education sector. It aims to provide adults with more ways to improve their knowledge and skills, facilitate their personal development and boost their employment prospects. It enables more people to undertake learning experiences, notably in other European countries, and it also helps to tackle problems associated with Europe's ageing population. 2012 is the European Year of Active Ageing.

Hordaland County Council has started a pilot project in partnerships with Galicia Council in Spain. The project "Still being active" aims at the exchange of twelve volunteers 50+ between Santiago de Compostela and Bergen. They will work at Elderly homes in May/June 2013.

Active High Schools

This time we give you three examples of three upper secondary schools in Hordaland that have received support for their international projects through three different European educational programmes; Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Nordplus:

Comenius project at U.Pihl upper secondary school

By [Sabine Rolka](#), Comenius-coordinator, U. Pihl vgs.



"MY -> OURS. Migration and Youth: Towards an Open-minded, Unprejudiced and Receptive School/Society" is a two-year multilateral Comenius project (2012 – 2014)

between upper secondary schools in Spain, Italy Finland, Germany and Norway. U. Pihl videregående skole in Bergen is the coordinating school.

The objective is to define and understand migration and integration and to study and understand the causes of migratory fluxes in the local communities and in the region, from the Second World War to the present day. The participants should also grow aware of the effects of prejudice and xenophobia on human interaction and take an active part in preventing and counteracting this.

The practical work at all participating schools will imply a variety of tasks to be carried out during the two project years, including two teacher-student workshops (in Bergen in April 2013 and Udine in April 2014), the collection, analysis and comparison of data and experiences from various sources including a questionnaire and newspaper articles, essay, photo and film competitions on migration and the creation of guidelines on integration for the young European citizen.

So far the students have made a logo, a poster, as well as a questionnaire for the other students to answer. Some have started to map the migration to our own region while

others have interviewed their grand-parents. On 8th of January there will be a Comenius Day at U. Pihl focusing on intercultural learning. The different students groups will work on cases developed by the project group. [More](#)



Leonardo project at Sotra upper secondary school

By [Reidun Vågenes Aase](#), Sotra vgs

Last year Sotra Videregående skole was granted scholarships from the Leonardo da Vinci programme for students within both "Restaurant and Food preparation" and "Health and Social Sciences". Contacts had already been established with a school in Bordeaux, France, that had much the same study programmes as we had.

This spring, two students and one teacher from Sotra had left for Bordeaux and a three-week placement in a school/kindergarten. This autumn it was time for four students (two girls and two boys) from the "Restaurant and Food preparation"- programme to spend three weeks in restaurants in Bordeaux. I travelled to France with the students and helped them get installed and in contact with the school, Lycée Professionel Saint- Michel, and the teachers that were to be their contacts for the rest of their stay, as well as to get in contact with the establishments where they were to work. Even with some struggles underway, it proved to be a very educational stay for the students.

This spring we had the first group from Bordeaux coming here to us. 10 French students, their principal and a teacher spent five weeks in Bergen (the teachers left after the first week), working at five different restaurants in the city centre of Bergen. These restaurants were so happy with this experience that they are ready to welcome a new group next spring!



Nordplus project at Årstad upper secondary school

By [Sigurd Trageton](#), Årstad vgs

Årstad videregående skole and Tallina Polütechnikum in Estonia aim for their second project period with QEEVE (Quality Enhancement of Electrician Vocational Education, through cross-national exchange of practices.) The project is financed through the Nordplus Junior programme.

Last year, Årstad and Tallinn did a two week student/teacher exchange where eight students and four teachers from both schools visited each other during the spring term. The students followed the education programmes at both schools and went on some excursions during their stay. Two teachers accompanied the students and

returned after one week stay. The other two teachers arrived the second week and followed the students back home. Besides job shadowing the teachers also gave guest lectures in subjects of special interest. The students stayed with each other's' families during the stay.

The school states that the main purpose of this project is to provide the students with attractive and challenging learning opportunities and by including teacher exchange also provide an opportunity for getting new impulses for development of the staff and department.

The experiences from the first round were quite positive. Two of the Norwegian students went back to visit Tallinn this summer. Being a host for foreign students and teachers was a very useful and interesting experience as it challenged our daily work and provided a mirror for reflection on our own practise. [More](#)

5 West Norway Office in Brussels

By [West Norway Office](#)

The West Norway Office (WNO) continues to be a liaison between its members in Western Norway and European actors in Brussels. One of its main tasks is to provide information services, and to increase the knowledge on Norway-EU relations.

During a busy year, WNO has welcomed more than 450 participants to events in Brussels. The events have mostly attracted politicians and administrative staff, but also students, teachers, researchers and other actors from the West Norway region, as well as other European regions. WNO has also carried out briefings on topics related to the Norway-EU relations for another 280 Norwegians, in Brussels as well as in Norway. Throughout the year, WNO has continued to convey information on relevant EU issues back to West Norway. This has been done through the publication of 21 general newsletters, as well as 21 newsletters with focus on energy and energy policy.

Among WNO's many visits this autumn was a group of young politicians including youth from Hordaland Youth County Council. During their visit they gained greater insight on "How EU-politics influence Norwegian youth, and how these may influence EU-politics". WNO also received four County Council Control Committees from West-Norway on a study visit. Six committee members and five administrative employees from Hordaland were among the participants. The visit, which lasted for three days, included lectures on the work of the European Economic and Social Committee, EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

The European Week of Regions and Cities – "Open Days", was also this year one of the major events of the autumn.

Open Days is an annual conference organised by European regions and cities in collaboration with the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission. During the Open Days 2012 WNO organised two seminars. The first, which was held in cooperation with the Brussels offices of Mid-Norway and the Stavanger region, attracted approximately 60 Norwegian participants, more than 20 of these from Hordaland. The main themes of the seminar were the EU's regional and energy policies. The second seminar, which attracted 120 participants from 20 countries, was organised in cooperation with a larger group of European regional partners, under the title "Smart partnerships for jobs and growth". Eva Britt Isager, from the Climate section of the Municipality of Bergen, talked about their adoption of modern, energy efficient technology. [More](#)



Participants from West Norway and Trøndelag during the introductory seminar at the West Norway Office on 8th October

6 Other activities

Delegation to Brazil in September

By [Arthur Arnesen](#), Department of Regional Development

In the period 13th to 21st of September, a joint delegation from the Bergen region/Hordaland and the Stavanger region visited Brazil. The delegation was jointly arranged by Business Region Bergen and Greater Stavanger and counted 35 people in total. The group visited Macae, Rio de Janeiro and Vitoria/Vilha Vela, the latter in the state of Espirito Santo. Mayor of Bergen, Trude Drevland, headed the first part of the delegation (until 17th September) and County Mayor of Hordaland, Tom-Christer Nilsen, the last part.



County Mayor Tom-Christer Nilsen together with Governor Renato Casagrande from Espirito Santo (Photo: Business Region Bergen)

The programme started with the visit to Macae where the group visited Aker Solution's plant. After that they met with the Bergen based company K. Lund which, over the last seven years, has built up its own branch in Macae. Further on there was a meeting and lunch with Business Development Unit Mayor's office where a number of local business owners participated. Finally the delegation visited the Norwegian owned base OSEP.

In Rio de Janeiro the delegation included a visit to the Rio Oil and Gas Conference. In addition to that, the group took part in the seminar "Brazil and Norway: Opportunities and cooperation financing the Oil & Gas and Shipping Sectors", a presentation of Norwegian companies based in Rio, a visit to Statoil, a seminar on cultural differences and customs and business regulations between Norway and Brazil, an orientation on an R&D park in Rio and introductions to the possibilities in the offshore markets in Brazil.

The third part of the programme was the visit to Vitoria/Vilha Vela where the delegation started with a visit to the regional authorities of Espirito Santo. Here, the County Mayor, together with HOG Energy and Business Region Bergen, had a meeting with the governor's office. The County Mayor invited Governor Renato Casagrande to visit Hordaland in 2013. As part of this visit NCE Subsea launched their new Subsea Index with company presen-

tations in both English and Portuguese. Further on there was a very interesting visit to the Brazilian company União Engenharia, as well as meetings/visits to the city administration for Vilha Vela, to Petrobras and to the universities Vila Velha University and Federal University. Vila Velha University cooperates with Bergen University College. [More](#)

Internationalisation in the municipalities

International section is aiming to assist both the different departments of the County Council, as well as the municipalities of Hordaland, in their internationalisation efforts. Through a joint application, coordinated by the International section, several grants for Leonardo da Vinci Mobility placements in 2012 have been obtained. Sections under the Department of Regional Development, for example, intend to use these placements together with representatives from municipalities in Hordaland to visit European partner regions, study best practice and lay the grounds for common activities and projects. Some of the beneficiaries are USHT (Centre for Development of Institutional and Home Care Services) in Hordaland that have sent personnel from the primary health sector in different municipalities to Sweden and Denmark, and representatives from the regional/local public health partnership that will visit the Gothenburg Region.

On 29th of November, Voss municipality and USHT from Hordaland together with the International section attended a project development workshop on Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig in Brussels. The West Norway Office was one of the organisers behind this event. Voss wanted partners for the project proposal "Crossways learning", a cooperation between Voss library and Adult Learning and Speech Pathology. The main focus is to create new arenas for language learning and social integration for immigrants. USHT searched cooperation with European partners on "Capacity building in the primary health sector". During the workshop, representatives for both projects discussed cooperation with possible European partners. Hopefully, there will be applications from both projects in February 2013.



From the workshop in Brussels

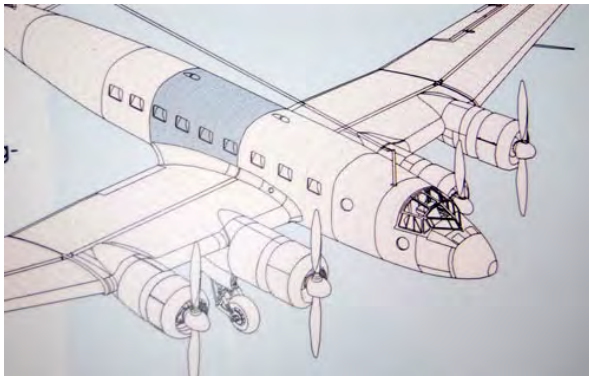
Photo: Liaison agency Flanders-Europe

The story of the German WWII bomber that crashed at Voss, shown on TV

Since 2005, Hordaland County Council has been involved in the discussions concerning the reconstruction of the German plane (Focke Wulf 200 Condor) that crashed at Voss during World War II. Contacts have also been established between Deutsches Technikmuseum in Berlin, Hordaland County Council and Museum Vest in order to create an exhibition. In addition, some of the parts of this plane have been brought down from the mountainside in order to help the teams at Airbus Bremen, Lufthansa Hamburg and the Rolls Royce plants in Germany in the restoration of the plane type that crashed at Voss. This was the last remaining plane of this type and the original drawings have disappeared.

Focke-Wulf was originally designed as a passenger aircraft and was the first passenger plane to fly non-stop over the Atlantic. The plane had a crew of six when it crashed at Kvitani. Two of the crew survived.

On Saturday 3rd of November, Norwegian TV2 aired a news coverage, showing the story about the aircraft and the efforts to restore it. You can watch the emission [here](#). [More](#)



«Europe in my region» event in Bergen on 9th of November

The meeting series "Europe in my region" is EU's effort to bring the discussion topics from the "Open Days" events out into the participating regions. For the fourth year running, West Norway's contribution to this European meeting series was held in Bergen. This year's event was a breakfast meeting which was organised in cooperation between Hordaland County council, Bergen Chamber of Commerce, Innovation Norway Hordaland and the West Norway Office in Brussels.

The title of the meeting was "This is how EU wants to change the Norwegian construction industry". The European commission has defined the construction industry as the sector where the greatest potential for CO2 reduction can be found, and through the EEA agreement, EU demands become Norwegian demands. The aim of this meeting was to highlight that although these demands may be challenges for some, they may be opportunities for others. But perhaps most important; is it possible to influence the European processes? The main speaker was Knut Kroepelien, Counsellor for Environment at the Norwegian Mission to the EU who gave an introduction to the key European environmental directives. Other perspectives were provided by Stein Olaf Onarheim, chairman of Norsk Eiendom (representing property owners and developers) and Rannveig Ravnanger Landet, Director for environment and energy in Byggenæringens Landsforening (representing the construction industry). [More](#)



For more information, www.hordaland.no/internasjonalt



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