



Contents

1. OUR PARTNER REGIONS.....	3
2. COOPERATION THROUGH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.....	8
3. PROJECTS.....	9
4. YOUTH AND INTERNATIONALISATION.....	13
5. COOPERATION WITH THE WEST NORWAY OFFICE IN BRUSSELS	23
6. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	26

Hordaland County Council is responsible for county policies within the following fields: Upper secondary education, cultural affairs, public transport, dental health, economic development and regional planning, including the development of the road system.

Hordaland County Council is involved in many international projects and activities. Our region has signed cooperation agreements with several partner regions abroad. The «Hordaland class» programme gives an opportunity for upper secondary school students in Hordaland, to study in several of these partner regions for one school year. We also cooperate with other countries through membership in European organisations. Hordaland has been an active member of the North Sea Commission. We are also a member of the West Norway Office, one of six Norwegian regional offices in Brussels. EU-programmes such as Interreg and Erasmus+ are among the most important tools for internationalisation in Hordaland.

Hordaland County Council publishes an International Newsletter twice a year, giving a short introduction to the county's international activities over the previous six months. The overview is not extensive, but nevertheless we hope it gives an idea of the breadth of international activities that take place within our region.

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

For more information: www.hordaland.no/internasjonalt

Editor: Barbara Harterink

Barbara.Harterink@hfk.no

Frontpage image: Internationalisation at home. This Spring, Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School organised the food festival "Taste my country" at the school in Bergen, together with exchange students from different European countries. Full of enthusiasm, the Italian students sang their national anthem during the festival. Photographer: Anbjørn Holme, Hordaland County Council.

1. OUR PARTNER REGIONS

NORMANDY, FRANCE

World Peace Forum

The region of Normandy organised the first Normandy World Peace Forum at the Abbaye-aux-Dames in Caen on 7th- 8th June. Normandy plans to hold this international event each year to commemorate the "D-day" landings and the Battle of Normandy, which took place on 6th June 1944. The forum is an opportunity to discuss and reflect on tensions around the world as a peacebuilding exercise. It is run by experts in geopolitics, alongside representatives of states, the academic world and civil society.

Head of the Committee for Culture, Sport and Regional development in Hordaland, Mrs Beate Husa, represented Hordaland County Council at the Normandy World Peace Forum. She tells about her experiences:

"During these two days several interesting debates took place, all with different perspectives on contemporary conflicts. One of the speakers was Michel Chikwanine from Congo, who was abducted and forced to become a child soldier when he was only five years old. Soon after his arrival he was forced to kill his best friend. Michel managed to escape from his kidnappers. He is now studying at a Canadian university and aims to work on peace issues. He had clear reflections about the problem of child soldiers and he was very critical regarding the weapons industry's search for profit.

The President of Normandy, Mr Hervé Morin, invited international guests to an official dinner, and I talked with him about the cooperation with Hordaland linked to education, art and culture.

Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, was also one of the guests at the conference. In his speech he made clear that he supports Normandy in its ambition to be an important meeting place for discussions around worldwide conflicts and peace.

We also visited the Normandy beaches where so many people died during the Second World War. According to our guide, the weather conditions of the day of our visit were quite similar to D-day in 1944: very misty and windy. The youngest soldier was only 15 years old, the eldest 72. We visited a part of the battlefield, still with traces of wartime, bunkers and bomb craters preserved.

The Normandy American Cemetery, overlooking the launching point of the U.S. invasion of Normandy, Omaha Beach, contains the graves of 9385 American soldiers. A memorial plaque honors 1500 soldiers with status "missing in action", most of them had probably drowned. USA is the only country offering relatives to bury the dead at home in American soil. 60% of the families chose to do this, so only 40% of the dead soldiers are buried in Normandy. Our guide recommended the series

"Band of Brothers" for those who would like to get a realistic impression of the Normandy-landings.

Normandy has applied to have the whole area listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

Contact: Barbara.Harterink@hfk.no



The President of Normandy, Mr Hervé Morin, and Head of the Committee for Culture, Sport and Regional development in Hordaland, Mrs Beate Husa, at the Normandy World Peace Forum.



Normandy



In 1993, Hordaland County Council and the southern Normandy region (Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie) signed a cooperation agreement, based on the historical links between the two regions. Celebrating twenty years of collaboration, a new agreement was signed in 2013. In 2016 the northern and southern region of Normandy merged, and functions as one region now: <https://www.normandie.fr/>

Hordaland and Normandy collaborate in the following fields:

- Education and vocational training, e.g. the Hordaland Class coordinated by Voss Gymnasium.
- Culture and cultural heritage, e.g. the Artist in residency programme
- Economic and sustainable development, research and innovation

Winter adventure

In February this year we welcomed eight young students from Normandy in France. This is the fourth year running that young Normands come to Hordaland for approximately two months to attend upper secondary schools in the county. The exchange is part of the cooperation between Normandy and Hordaland. This year they all attended the two upper secondary schools at Voss – four of the students in general studies with specialities such as music and art, design and architecture and the other four attended vocational studies such as restaurant and food processing and outdoor life activities. They also spent one week in Bergen where they attended Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School. The French students were placed in ordinary classes but they also had extra lessons in Norwegian.

This year Hordaland experienced a very snowy winter and the eight young Normands were placed right in the middle of it! They faced a challenge they successfully met with enthusiasm and great courage. They went skiing – both alpine and cross-country skiing. Some of them went with their host families to their winter cottages and they mastered skiing completely. Even more impressive was the stay two of the students experienced at Finse, which is situated at the highest point along Bergensbanen (Bergen-railroad), at an altitude of 1222m. There they spent several days in the mountains where they participated as markers in winter rescue work led by the Norwegian Red Cross. The pupils from Voss Upper Secondary School worked together with the police, with pilots from the Rescue Service and with avalanche dogs.

Contact: Berit.Roksvag@hfk.no



In addition to their academic studies the French students experienced many outdoor activities during their stay in Hordaland this year due to the fantastic winter weather.

Tertnes top cyclists participated in Tour de l'Eure in Normandie

In the early spring, Normandie Region invited Hordaland County Council and Tertnes Upper Secondary School to participate in Tour de L'Eure. Last year, Tertnes hosted trainer David Louvet and his cycling team from Normandie during World Cycling Championships 2017 in Bergen. With support from Hordaland County Council, the young Tertnes team started preparations for the two day competition.



Five Tertnes students were invited to try forces against French elite cyclists in Tour de l'Eure, here from the left: Erlend Litlere, Audun Gautestad, Herman Hofstad and Einar Liseth Pedersen (Håvard Mauland is the fifth student, not in this picture).

Cycling trainer at Tertnes Upper Secondary School, Are Hunsager Andresen, reports:

-David Louvet was our interpreter and helped us during the competition. David is a French cycle trainer, who has assisted no less than 12 cyclists to the highest level in the world: World Tour. He took the initiative to get us to France and he was curious how the young Norwegians would perform at this level.

-We didn't disappoint David. Already during the first stage, Erlend performed very well and finished second from a breakaway. Day 2 – the team pursuit – was more difficult for us as we lacked the right equipment. Most of the teams used aerodynamic time trial bikes with special wheels, and



At the finish line. Audun Gautestad in black on red bicycle.

we only had our roadbikes. Still, the team had a good overall result after two days. On the last day, the Tertnes team did a good job again, as both Einar Liseth Pedersen and Audun Gautestad managed to be part of the breakaway of the day. Einar cycled offensively the whole day and close to the finish he helped Audun to push into fourth place.

-Overall, we were very satisfied with this experience, and we want to thank all people who made this possible for us, both in Normandie and Hordaland.

Contact: AreHunsager.Andresen@handball.no

ORKNEY ISLANDS, SCOTLAND

Celebrating 35 years of twinning between Orkney and Hordaland

A political delegation from Orkney, headed by Council Convener Harvey Johnston, visited Hordaland from May 30 to June 1, 2018. During the three day trip, Orkney and Hordaland discussed many different issues of common interest, such as renewables, cruise tourism, education, common history and traditions, hydrogen and electric transport. One day was dedicated to visit Nordhordland, to Equinor Mongstad and Hillesvåg Ullvarefabrikk (wool spinning mill). The delegation also visited Bergen harbour including a round trip by boat, Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School, Hyssingen Production School and the University of Bergen. Politicians and professionals from both sides expressed the wish to renew and extend the cooperation to include these subjects in future projects.

Two weeks before the visit took place and one day after the Norwegian Constitution Day, Orkney Islands Council published this on their website:

Council to make return trip to Norway following Constitution Day celebrations

18 May 2018

Council Convener Harvey Johnston has described yesterday's Norwegian Constitution Day celebrations as 'magnificent'.

This week's celebrations come in advance of a return Orkney Islands Council visit to Norway - the first in ten years.

Councillor Johnston said: "Yesterday's celebrations were a magnificent, physical manifestation of the strength of our enduring relationship with Norway. The Tog really brightened up Kirkwall's streets and it was an honour to welcome our Norwegian visitors from Hordaland council and those who had travelled across the North Sea for the special occasion.



-Over the past 35 years, we have developed friendship and respect between our people, says Deputy County Mayor Pål Kårbø. – We can learn a lot from each other, says Harvey Johnston, Council Convener of the Orkney Islands.

"2018 marks 35 years since a twinning agreement was signed with Hordaland, with our Norwegian friends visiting us as part of that agreement twice a year, in May and at Christmas.

"It's a rare occasion for us to make a return visit and with ten years having passed since the last one, we're taking the opportunity to honour our twinning agreement with a reciprocal visit.

"We have many commonalities with our Norwegian counterparts and we have much to learn from them. The three day trip for our small delegation is full to the brim with meetings and educational visits, during which we'll learn a great deal on Norway's take on issues such as renewables, volume tourism, education, and hydrogen and electric transport.

"The visit will also allow us to discuss re-establishing the student exchange programme with Hordaland, providing a fantastic cultural opportunity for our young people."

The five person delegation will be in Norway from May 29 to June 1. Those attending are Council Convener Harvey Johnston, Chair of Development and Infrastructure Graham Sinclair, Vice-Chair of Education, Leisure and Housing John Ross Scott, Director of Development and Infrastructure Gavin Barr and Head of Executive Support, Karen Greaves.

The visit is being funded through the Council's Twinning budget which is allocated each year for Twinning events and activities and has been historically underspent.

Orkney and Norway's longstanding relationship dates back many centuries to when the islands were populated by Norwegians in the late 700s.

In 1983 an official Twinning Agreement, which included a commitment to visiting Norway every two years, was signed with Hordaland County Council. Every Christmas a tree is delivered to Orkney as a gift from the region - with a delegation from Hordaland visiting as part of this every December.



Council Convener Harvey Johnston and Deputy County Mayor Pål Kårbø going on a boat trip in the Port of Bergen. New sustainable fuels are among the topics of the discussions between Orkney Islands and Hordaland.



Meeting between Orkney Islands and Hordaland County Council: From the left, Council Convener Harvey Johnston, Karen Greaves, John Ross Scott, Deputy County Mayor Pål Kårbø, Inge Døskeland, Gavin Barr and Graham Sinclair.



This plaque is a gift from Orkney Islands Council to the Port of Bergen, "To Mark the Occasion of the visit of Orkney Islands Council to the Port of Bergen, 30 May - 1 June 2018".

The last visit by Orkney Islands Council to Norway was in 2008, to mark the 25th anniversary of twinning arrangement.

Source: <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/OIC-News/Council-to-make-return-trip-to-Norway-following-Constitution-Day-celebrations.htm>

Contact: Marit.Einen@hfk.no

Orkney

In 1983, Orkney Islands Council and Hordaland County Council signed an official twinning agreement, based on a longstanding relationship back many centuries to when Orkney Islands were populated by Norwegians in the late 700s. Every Christmas a tree is delivered to Orkney as a gift from Hordaland – with a delegation from Hordaland County Council visiting as part of this every December.



HORDALAND CLASSES



The Hordaland Class

Hordaland Class is an exchange programme open to all students from Hordaland who have completed the first year of upper secondary school (Vg1) in General Studies or Electronics. After the school year abroad, the students return to Hordaland and either continue with a third and final school year (Vg3) or go into work practice (Electronics). The exchange programme guarantees the same rights as other educational programmes, for example, the right to a student living allowance and a travel grant from The Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Statens Lånekasse for Utdanning).



Simen Stang, Dina Johannessen, Trine Bratland og Oda Lund were students in Cardiff 2017-18

How Many?

75 «Hordaland class» students attended different partner schools during the school year 2017-2018.

Five secondary schools in Hordaland coordinate the "Hordaland class" programme and are responsible for following up of the students while abroad. Our second-year students attend schools in:

- Cardiff, Wales UK (21 students)
- Erfurt, Germany (12 students – 6 students in General Studies and 6 students in Electronics)
- Normandy, France (12 students)
- Missouri, USA (25 students)
- Dalkeith, Scotland, UK (5 students) - New exchange programme from 2017-18

Why?

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

Contact: Berit.Roksvag@hfk.no

2. COOPERATION THROUGH EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

NORTH SEA COMMISSION (NSC)



Hordaland County Council has continued to follow the work of North Sea Commission (NSC) closely. The work of the NSC Brexit Task Force is important to us giving updated information on the process and the implications for European Economic Area. NSC will be an important organ for continued collaboration across the North Sea as a formal and already existing tool.



This year the North Sea Conference was held in Fredrikstad in Norway on 13th and 14th June.



The work of the NSC Brexit Task Force is important to us giving updated information on the process and the implications for European Economic Area.

This year the North Sea Conference was held in Fredrikstad in Norway on 13th and 14th June. The North Sea Commission Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was followed by the conference with networking and workshops for project development under North Sea Region Programme. A decision was taken to start work on a new North Sea Strategy at this year's ABM. This will tie in with the new relations we need to develop with UK. The form and the scope of the strategy are yet to be decided but Hordaland will be sure to follow this process closely.

Hordaland also attends the working group meetings with a political representative and an officer whenever possible. Marine Resources Group has developed a resolution on plastic waste in our oceans, which the group will follow up. This and the work of the Energy and Climate Group on hydrogen for transport fits well with other strategies and collaboration we work on with other regions in Western Norway. The transport group works with clean mobility and shipping while Smart Regions group has discussed digitalisation and coastal tourism. Our representatives share knowledge and experience and build new networks through group activities.

Contact: Kate.Clarke@hfk.no

CONFERENCE OF
PERIPHERAL AND MARITIME
REGIONS (CPMR)



Hordaland is a member of Conference for Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR). We participate in their policy work through the Norwegian representative of the Political Bureau, Marianne Chesak. CPMR have followed the development of the new MFF and the proposed changes under cohesion policy. This is relevant for Norwegian regions since it includes proposals for new Interreg programmes.

Officer Kate Clarke presented the current Norwegian model for participation in Interreg at the CPMR Channel Task Force meeting Portsmouth in June. Different models for cooperation with non EU members were presented in order to be able to secure continued cooperation across the channel post Brexit.

Contact: Kate.Clarke@hfk.no

3. PROJECTS

INTERREG NORTH SEA REGION PROGRAMME

Report from National Contact Point



The steering committee for the programme approved 9 new projects at their steering committee meeting in June in Ghent. Projects covered themes such as sustainable economic growth and innovation, circular economy, energy efficiency, climate change resilience, and green mobility. A total of € 17,5 million was allocated. Norwegian partners were allocated nearly € 1,3 million. The funding for Norwegian partners is fast running out as the programme period advances. Hordaland's application "Right Skills for the Right Future" was among the projects approved this round. There are still new opportunities in the autumn with call 7 open for applications approved at phase one and call 8 for new "Expressions of Interest". An interwork event for all project developers will be held in Bergen at the beginning of September to help them through the application process.

Contact: Kate.Clarke@hfk.no

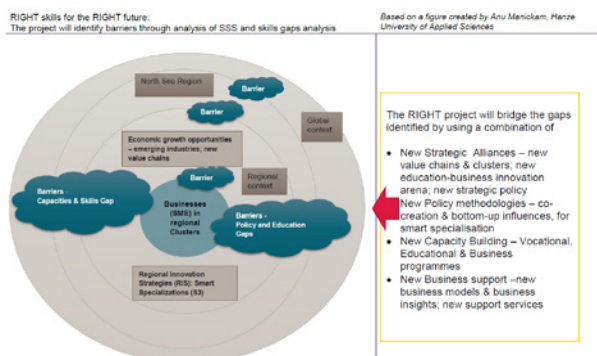
Interreg project approved



"Right Skills for the Right Future" was approved at the steering committee meeting just before the summer break and will kick-off in November this year. With a budget of just over 3.3 million euros, the 14 project partners including Universities, clusters, municipalities and large regional partners from Skåne, Antwerp and Fife, with Hordaland as lead partner, will deliver concrete pilots under skills policy.

The aim is to connect and test new skills methodology in relation to a region's smart specialisation. The partners will find the skills gaps in their region and test new ways to drive a flexible skills base that fits the needs of the region.

Contact: Kate.Clarke@hfk.no



VET – STAFF MOBILITY

Vocational Education & Training (VET) Staff Mobility – cross sectorial projects



International cooperation is an integral part of implementing and fulfilling the objectives of Hordaland County Council's (HCC) strategic plan for internationalisation as well as for sustainable regional development. HCC is using Erasmus+ VET Staff Mobility to establish cross-sectorial local partnerships to strengthen VET education in line with local needs for skilled labour. Groups of partners from the educational sector, municipalities, HCC, companies and NGO's participate together on short placements (3-5 days) in order to get new competences and exchange experiences with European partner organisations.

The projects cover a range of subjects and there is a growing interest in these "easy" projects as a first step to international cooperation and larger projects. Here are two examples from this spring. "Warm threads" - using wool as a tool for regional development, coordinated by Nordhordland Industrilag IKS, and Hordaland Higher Vocational School will ensure new knowledge about the dual educational system in Germany and industry 4.0. See more below.

In the 2018 call for proposals, Hordaland County Council was awarded 39 mobility placements to use for staff mobility projects. The number of applications shows an increased interest in, and recognition of, the benefits of closer cooperation between local/regional administration, the labour market and the VET sector in order to develop and strengthen local education in line with local needs.

Contact: Marit.Einen@hfk.no

Nordhordland wool delegation visited Shetland





The Nordhordland delegation visited big and small enterprises linked to the use of wool and they observed and experienced the importance of it for local businesses, community development, identity and pride in Shetland.



The project «Warm threads» is a cooperation between wool enterprises and Nordhordland Region. A pilot-project to boost the use of Norwegian wool in the region of Nordhordland received funding through the Erasmus+ programme. A delegation visited Shetland to learn more about activities like Shetland Wool Week in the spring.

The textile industry has disappeared in large parts of Europe. As a consequence the knowledge about using local resources such as wool is also disappearing. However, there is huge interest in the old textile handicrafts, for example knitting. Maybe it is a reaction to the consumer society we live in today? In the region of Nordhordland, the northern part of Hordaland, the old textile traditions are still very much kept alive and there are several textile enterprises. A network of «wool-enterprises» has taken the initiative to cooperate on boosting the use of Norwegian and local wool. «Wool Week» (in Norwegian: Ullveka) is an event, organised by local enthusiasts for the past five years and has become very popular. Those involved want to ride that wave and create more ripple effects and community development.

Spring 2018, the project gathered a group of 15 representatives from the wool chain (sheep farmers, spinning industry, designers, secondary schools, etc.). They organised a visit to Shetland in order to learn more about their commitment to local wool and the event Shetland Wool Week (SWW). Since its conception nine years ago, Shetland Wool Week has grown into an internationally acclaimed event with huge impact to all those who work with sheep, wool, textile, handicraft and last but not least tourism in Shetland.

The project leader of the Wool project Kjersti Isdal reports:

“We visited big and small enterprises linked to the use of wool and we observed and experienced the importance of it for local businesses, community development, identity and pride in Shetland. The study visit was very successful, as we gathered a lot of inspiration and knowledge. Last but not least, the trip to Shetland strengthened the bonds within our own group. We will use it as a local resource group in future. Nordhordland Region is now developing an application to become the first Norwegian site in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves. WNBR works to the harmonious integration of people and nature for sustainable development.”

The Norwegian west coast is known for its hilly landscape with many small farms. Sheep grazing is an important part of agriculture in this area, as they keep the land open, shape the cultural landscape and biodiversity of the region. There is an increasing interest in traditional sheep breeds, because they are more hardy and independent than other breeds. It makes it easier to combine sheep farming with other kinds of farm work.

Kjersti Isdal says:

“The success of the Wool-project depends on local involvement. We would like the whole wool chain to participate in this project, from sheep farm to product development. Maybe this project can also contribute to better recruitment to Design and Handicraft at secondary schools?”

Contact: kjersti@nordhordland.net

The dual educational system in Germany and industry 4.0



In April 2018, a delegation of three employees, two from Hordaland Higher Vocational School and one from Hordaland County Council, were awarded Erasmus+ funding for a visit to Augsburg in order to learn about the German dual VET system and industry 4.0.



Head of the Electronic Department at Hordaland Higher Vocational School, Reidar Boen, tries on AR glasses at Mittelstand 4.0 Kompetenzzentrum.

The German-Norwegian Chamber of Commerce organised the study trip, and there were Norwegian attendees from both industries and public sectors. For four days, the group visited and had meetings with several companies, training centres and Research and Development institutions (R&D-institutions).

The main purpose of the trip was to learn about the collaboration between vocational education institutions and the industry in Germany, and to learn about both the use of digital technology and learning processes in relation to digitalisation in the industry. These are important subjects for Hordaland Higher Vocational School for the work with further developments and new studies at the school. After the trip, the school gained information about new and relevant technologies and learned more about potential future exchange contacts in Germany concerning industry 4.0.

Mittelstand 4.0 Kompetenzzentrum, one R&D-institution the delegation visited, are training students who want to learn more about new technology within digitalisation in the

industry. One example is technology with AR glasses that can help simulate how to repair a piece of broken machinery (see picture). The AR glasses allow you to see the reality in addition to a simulation of a motor, and the glasses will give you instructions for how to repair it.

The delegation also visited a factory, Kuka Robotics, that produces robots with the help of robots. This factory had robotised and digitalised the work processes. The machines did the heavy lifting, and the workers did the handling of small parts and the fine-tuning. The work processes were fully digitalised so that the workers could track a part of the production line at any time, and get all relevant information in relation to the work process they were engaged in at that time.

Digitalisation in the work-processes is becoming more and more important, and Hordaland Higher Vocational School needs to prepare for the needs of Norwegian companies that will implement industry 4.0 in the near future.

Contact: Adeline.Landro@hfk.no

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Development of sustainable urban centres with active involvement of vocational education and training



Hordaland County Council is aiming to develop sustainable urban centres in an area of fjords and mountains, where communications are challenging, and local centres need to be attractive. With this background, Hordaland is leading an Erasmus+ strategic partnership, seeking for a higher involvement of VET-schools and businesses in urban planning. By sharing knowledge and experiences in a complex international partnership, the aim of this initiative is to increase local competence, motivation and cooperation for the sustainable development of urban centres in all partner regions, and to share the results with others. An active partnership involving ten members representing five nations has been established. The project period is from the 1st of December 2017 until the 29th of February 2020

Two intellectual outputs will be produced during the project period:

1. A model for local cooperation involving three sectors: public authorities, businesses and VET schools.
2. A model that increases the relevance of local needs in teaching and training programs.

Hordaland County Council produced a presentation of the project idea and sent it to EARLALL, in Brussels. EARLALL forwarded the proposal to its network, and the response was overwhelming: forty institutions from all over Europe were



At the kick-off meeting: a present is handed over to the project leader from the coordinating organisation Hordaland County Council, Per Nordmark, designed and produced by project partner Istituto Professionale per l'Industria e l'Artigianato E. Orfini (Italy)



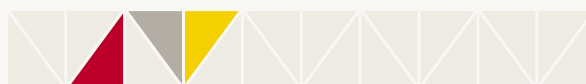
Project partner representatives in Trzic, during the second transnational meeting in Slovenia.

interested in taking part in the partnership. In the end, ten of them were selected, representing a diversity of competences and approaches to the project topic. The project will include five transnational meetings, one in each partner country, and two in Hordaland, Norway. Each meeting will consist of trips to relevant institutions, site visits and project meetings. During the latter, information will be shared and discussed, project activities planned, and work done in order to produce the intellectual outputs. In between meetings, partners will also identify and describe relevant best practices to this aim. The last stop will be a dissemination conference held in Brussels.

The partnership will have its own website, managed by EARLALL.

What will be the outcome? This partnership will allow all partners involved to discover new relevant subjects, new approaches, methods, and ways of cooperation. The two intellectual outputs will provide all partners with a useful model to create partnerships for cooperation in the development of urban centres. Furthermore, this model will show the way forward for developing more relevant teaching and training programs according to local needs. Participants will take part in an international network, which will be useful for future needs and challenges.

Contact: per.nordmark@hfk.no



ERASMUS+ and Hordaland County Council

What?

Erasmus+ is the EU programme for education, training, youth, and sport. The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising education, training, and youth work.

Erasmus+ web-site: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm

Why?

Erasmus+ provides opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain work experience and volunteer abroad. It reflects the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

How?

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

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

4. YOUTH AND INTERNATIONALISATION

VET – LEARNER AND TEACHER MOBILITY



Erasmus+ Vocational Education and Training (VET) – Learner and Teacher Mobility

Every year, Hordaland County Council applies on behalf of VET Schools and Training Agencies for funding through the EU programme Erasmus+ VET Mobility. Thanks to this funding, we are able to offer VET pupils and apprentices in Hordaland the opportunity to take part in a European work placement as an integrated part of their education and training. This kind of work experience offer VET learners unique intercultural experience by exploring new work practices, tools, cultures, and languages. This spring Hordaland County has had the pleasure of sending 95 pupils and 3 apprentices on various work placements all over Europe.



Apprentice Aleksander worked as a hotel receptionist in Ireland.

The VET pupils have had work placements lasting from two to four weeks, in countries such as Germany, Denmark, UK, Italy, the Czech Republic, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain. The pupils represent all eight VET education programmes, which include healthcare, electronics, restaurant and food processing, tourism, technical and industrial production, blacksmith, agriculture, and building and construction. All the participants have learned more about their trade, and have become familiar with new or different working methods and equipment. They have also had to adjust to completely different working environments, as well as a new culture and language. Some of the most important experiences from the work placements, reported by the participants, include having to adapt to the culture and the work place, and having to communicate with people and co-workers despite language difficulties. Another thing often mentioned in the feedback, is that the participants have learned to be more independent and selfconfident.

The apprentices who have participated have had various work placements in three different European countries, Sweden, Ireland and Italy, lasting approximately 3 months. They represent the disciplines of chef, receptionist and ICT service. Although at times challenging, they have all had exciting and rewarding work placements.



ICT Apprentice Samy in Italy

Samy had his ICT placement in Florence, Italy, where he worked at NOÉ Multimedia. His tasks involved web design, making slides in Adobe Illustrator and 3D modelling. As Samy had no prior knowledge of Italian he spent the first four weeks at a language school learning the basics. When it comes to communication, he said that the people were warm and energetic, but spoke little English. To make himself understood he had to use his very limited Italian vocabulary of simple words and a bit of body language. He was very happy that his co-workers were patient and that they were more than happy to teach him words in Italian. He also says that the mobility has contributed to him being a lot more confident now.



The Ponte Vecchio bridge over the Arno river in Florence, Italy. Photographer: Samy A. Andersen

Aleksander, who was working as a receptionist at Radisson Blue St. Helen's in Ireland learnt that even though the hospitality industry is very international, there are quite a few cultural differences. There were many new things to learn and standards to follow, but he has learned new techniques to deal with this, which contributed to making his experience fun and rewarding rather than stressful. Aleksander said that even though it could be challenging at times, it has been an incredible learning experience and he does not regret participating.

Kenneth was excited about the opportunity to work 3 months as an apprentice chef at Mathias Dahlgren restaurant in Sweden. During his stay, he has experienced being part of a different kind of teamwork, and he gained valuable knowledge about gourmet vegetarian dishes. Kenneth claims that this work placement has inspired and motivated him to do well and excel in his chosen occupation.

Erasmus+ has also provided us with the opportunity to give VET teachers international experience and competence. This spring we have sent 7 teachers on various mobility projects. Some of the themes covered have included practice oriented learning, traditional crafts, gastronomy, and new curricula. They have all had valuable experiences, claiming they have been motivated and inspired to take new skills and knowledge back into their own classrooms.

Hordaland County Council administration was awarded 128 mobility placements for VET pupils, apprentices and teachers under the 2018 call for proposals. We look forward to participate and to see the results of these over coming years.

Contact: Lene.Fjeldsbo@hfk.no

New opportunities – Scaffolding apprentices going to Germany

In March 2018, representatives from Hordaland County – Department of Education and Training, the Training Office for Scaffolding and scaffolding company Pilar Stillas travelled to Dortmund, Germany, to meet with the headmaster of the Training Centre "Hansemann". The objective was to discuss the possibility of allowing Norwegian scaffolding apprentices to do part of their training at "Hansemann" in Dortmund.

The meeting with the headmaster, and other representatives from the training centre, was very successful, and in September, we will send our first two scaffolding apprentices ever to Germany for a three-week work placement. The placement will be part of Hordaland County's participation in the Erasmus+ VET Mobility programme.



From the left: Peter Kahl, Jørn Østensen, Eirik Kvittingen, Hanna Monreal, Christoph Rodermond and Lene Fjeldsbo.

This training centre is a very interesting and attractive partner to cooperate with. The centre, which is part of the Dortmund Chamber of Crafts, is the largest training centre for scaffolders in Europe. The centre follows the dual system, providing in-company training supported by additional practical training at the training centre. They are responsible for more than 400 apprentices who receive training in different scaffolding systems. Professionals within the trade, such as engineers, scaffold masters and specialists, provide the training at the centre. In addition, it is of great value that the training centre has a boarding school on the premises. Here the apprentices are fully catered for, and have the opportunity for recreational activities in the evenings.

The two apprentices chosen to participate are both very eager and excited, and we hope that this can become a regular activity for scaffolding apprentices in the future. We are also hoping to receive the first German apprentices to Norway next year.

Contact: Lene.Fjeldsbo@hfk.no

"Erasmus+" Panel Discussion – Cologne, Germany

As a result of the new agreement between the Training Office for scaffolders in Hordaland (Opplæringskontoret for ISO-fagene) and the Training Centre "Hansemann" in Dortmund, Hordaland County – Department of Education and Training was invited to participate in a panel discussion in Cologne, Germany, in June 2018. The panel discussion was part of a seminar hosted by the Union of European Scaffolding Contractors (UEG) and Small Business Standards (SBS) for its international members.

The objectives of the panel discussion were to further promote Erasmus+ and the exchange of apprentices and trainees, and discuss how the programme can also be used within the scaffolding sector. In addition, it was discussed how participation might contribute to adopt a common European training level.

As Hordaland has participated in the Erasmus+ programme for several years, we were asked to share our experiences, and present the model we use for this kind of work. Also including how we proceeded to make all the necessary arrangements with the training centre in Dortmund.



Cologne Cathedral, in
Germany: Kölner Dom



Other participants in the panel were Dr. Christian Sperle (the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts - ZDH), Peter Kahl, (Headmaster of the training centre "Hansemann"), David Mosely (Director of Training and CISRS manager, National Access & Scaffolding Confederation - NASC) and Rebecca Hof (Mobility Coach, Chamber of Crafts Düsseldorf).

It was an interesting and fruitful discussion, which created a chance to debate possible ways of utilising the opportunities in the Erasmus+ programme as well as any potential challenges and how to address these. The debate gave the audience valuable information about the programme itself, and the potential results of participation.

Contact: Lene.Fjeldsbo@hfk.no



Erasmus+ Panel Discussion in Cologne

SCHOOL PROJECTS

Sandsli student placement at Knightsbrook hotel in Ireland



In February 2018, Sandsli Upper Secondary School sent four Restaurant and Food students to Ireland to work at Knightsbrook hotel for three weeks. The students made a blog about their experience: <http://utplasseringirland2018.blogspot.com/>



From the left; Katrine Løland, Jan Ogradnik, Mathea Lindseth Eriksen, Isalina Stensaker Henriksen, Fredrik Rasmussen Winsents and Johannes S. Berge.

Mathea wrote about their first working day at the hotel, on the 15th of February 2018:

-We were welcomed warmly by the kitchen staff. I worked with "pastry" the whole day and I will work here for the next two weeks. Fredrik and Isalina worked in the kitchen. I think this is going to be a good and interesting experience. When I arrived at the kitchen, I had to make French macaroons. I also tried several smaller tasks like dipping choux pastry and strawberries in chocolate. We ate dinner in the canteen at 5.30 pm and afterwards we continued preparing food. When serving started at 7 pm, they showed me how to plate desserts and after that I got the main responsibility for serving. It has been a very nice day for all of us. Our first impression of the workplace was positive and we look forward to an exciting time ahead.

Since 2010, Sandsli Upper Secondary School has sent restaurant & food students to work at Knightsbrook hotel, a four star spa and golf hotel in Trim, close to the city of Dublin. A placement at Knightsbrook as a cook, confectioner or waiter/waitress is a unique experience for the students and it helps them in their further career. The students are part of the ordinary work plan and carry out different tasks at the restaurant and kitchen of the hotel. The young Norwegians prepare food, and/or serve at the à-la-carte restaurant, weddings and gatherings. Working in the restaurant and food business is an international profession, and after the students have graduated they can seek jobs in the whole world.

The goal of these student placements, is not only to give the participants professional experiences, but also personal development as such an experience strengthens their independence and responsibility. They learn about new work methods, customer services and how to communicate with guests and colleagues in a foreign language. The cultural learning experience is also of a huge importance and helps to increase tolerance towards people with different cultural backgrounds. In addition to a sightseeing in the capital city Dublin, the students visited Jameson Distillery, Teeling Distillery, Books of Kells and Michelin restaurant, Chapter One. They also visited the UNESCO World Heritage Site Newgrange.

Sandsli upper secondary received positive feed-back from both students and Knightsbrook hotel. We are planning to send four new students to Ireland in winter 2019.



Student placement in Ireland

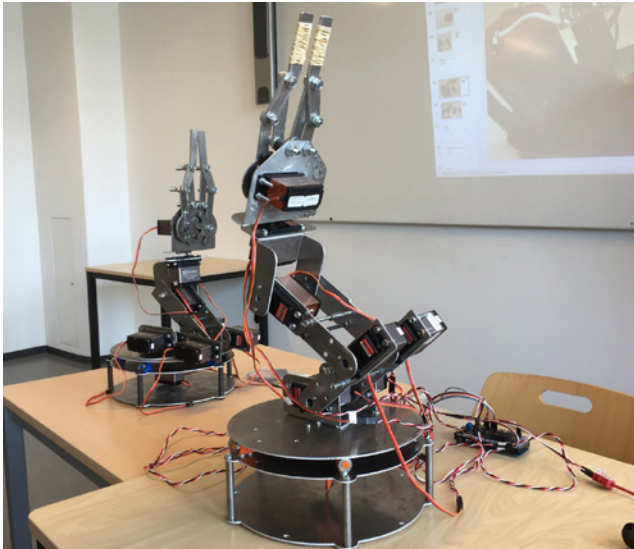
Contact: Katrine.Loland@hfk.no

Erasmus+ financed Robot Arm project



The upper secondary schools Årstad in Bergen and ROC A12 in the Netherlands collaborated on a Robot Arm project. Together they designed, produced and programmed a robot that can carry out small operations. The aim of this Erasmus+ project is to strengthen 21st Century skills and competences of the students, with the four C's at the centre: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical thinking.

The project started when industry technology students built a robot at Årstad, with parts designed and produced at the school. The teachers transported the robot to the Netherlands and ROC A12 students wrote the programme code in order for the motors to work more smoothly. During the development



The upper secondary schools Årstad in Bergen and ROC A12 in the Netherlands collaborated on a Robot Arm project.

process, both data-electronics students and teachers kept in contact through a Facebook group, discussing developments and challenges with each other.

In March, four data-electronics students visited the school ROC A12 in the Netherlands for two weeks. They learned more about the work done by the Dutch students, and developed the products further as a team. They lived with host families and experienced Dutch culture. In the next month, it was the Dutch students' turn to visit Årstad in Norway. They worked on the robot project, visited several companies and attended some of the classes together. Two Dutch teachers joined the students during their visit and taught the subject "Data Security and Hacking" at Årstad Upper Secondary School.

The project was a good experience for all involved. It is interesting and fun for the students to collaborate with students abroad. They did not only learn about industry/data technology while practicing English, but cultural learning and personal development were also a part of this project. The project involved also the teachers and strengthened the quality of education at both schools. It was a good experience for the students to live with a host family. Using host families also kept the costs low, which enabled the schools to send more students Årstad plans a new European project for the next school semester, this time in the field of skin care.

Contact: Sigurd.Trageton@hfk.no

Bergen Maritime in collaboration with Mercy Ships

For a long time, Bergen Maritime Upper Secondary School has wanted to support an ideal organisation and start long-term international cooperation. Autumn 2017, the Bergen Maritime Student Council decided to support Mercy Ships – the biggest hospital ship in the world.



Mercy Ship

Mercy Ships uses hospital ships to transform lives and serve nations. Because more than 50% of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the coast, Mercy Ships is able to sail a modern hospital ship with a crew of four hundred volunteers directly to people who lack access to first-rate medical care. Over a ten month stay at a harbour, they manage to carry out approximately 8500 surgical operations on board of the hospital ship. They also contribute with medical education, clean water, reliable electricity and the establishment of care centers.

The Bergen Maritime Student Council established a committee to raise funds, in close cooperation with Mercy Ships Norway. In addition, a group of students started to organise a visit to Cameroon, where Mercy Ships was docked at the time. The students applied for and received funding from Hordaland County Council. In April, a delegation from Bergen Maritime including the principal, one additional teacher and three students, visited Mercy Ships. During the four days, they met some of the volunteers and patients, observed how the work is organised at the hospital ship and visited some of the clinics on land. Representing a maritime school, they also



Oda, Mari and Mari together with the Captain of the Mercy Ship

looked into the technical aspects of the hospital ship. They were given a guided tour of the bridge and the machine room. Bergen Maritime Upper Secondary School was offered the opportunity to send maritime students to Mercy Ships, doing their apprenticeship on board. This would give the school a good opportunity to come even closer to their work.



Principal Jan Kåre Greve, Maritim teacher Eva Cecilie Holm and the students Oda Berntsen, Mari Gravermoen and Marie Roksvåg in the machine room of the hospital ship.



The experiences in Cameroon made a strong impression on the students, especially the meetings with people who had been given a new life again. We also saw that the collected money really can make a change in the lives of thousands of people. This autumn we will continue our work and collect more money for Mercy Ships.

Contact: Marie.Hoyvik@hfk.no

Stend study trip to Bosnia

During one week in May, Stend Upper Secondary School sent a canine studies delegation of 11 students and 2 teachers, to the Centre for Mine Detection Dogs in Sarajevo. The study trip to Bosnia was not only a good learning experience from the perspective of canine studies, but also a journey in history, culture, conflicts and unity.



One of our students carries out a car-search at the Training Centre.

Norwegian People's Aid (Norsk Folkehjelp) has established a Global Training Centre for Mine Detection Dogs (GTC) in Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is recognised as one of the best in the world. The Belgian shepherd, Malinois, start their training as puppies, and most of them become Mine Detection Dogs and others Explosive Detection Dogs. At 18 months, they finish their training programme and are ready for their important tasks.



Training the dogs at the Centre, searching for minefields.



The Stend delegation at the Global Training Centre for Mine Detection Dogs in Sarajevo, established by Norwegian People's Aid.

Teacher in canine studies, Randi Helene Tillung, explains:

-We have collaborated with the centre since 2013 and arranged annual fieldtrips with students. This year there were four litters at the center. We helped socialising and training the puppies, and we performed nail maintenance. We calculated together with the students how many toenails there are on 25 puppies.

Tillung continues:

-We experienced the searching for minefields, and learned about mine warfare and different types of mines at the centre. We also paid a visit to the Dogs Trust in Sarajevo, which provides dog training to the public for free. They inform locals about dogs, promoting a more ethical treatment of stray dogs.

The delegation visited an orphanage in Mostar, where they played football with the children. They brought with them lots of equipment from Bergen. The students had collected as much as 10.000 Norwegian kroner from private donors as the orphanage receives very little public funding and is dependent on donations.

In addition, they visited the war museums Tunnel of Hope and Galerija 11.07.95 in Sarajevo, the Dervish house in Blagaj, and the famous rebuilt Stari Most bridge in Mostar, which fell during the Yugoslavian war.

Randi Helene Tillung says:

-With this study trip we built a network, strengthened international cooperation, and developed further our collaboration with Norwegian People's Aid. The students increased their knowledge and skills regarding canine studies, in addition to foreign language skills and intercultural competences. This study trip was a success, and our school will organise our sixth study trip next year again!

Contact: Randi.Helene.Tillung@hfk.no

A taste of Europe

-It is exciting to taste new food from other countries. I prefer Italian food, but I think Norwegian food is good too, says Giovanni (17) from Como in Italy. This Spring he participated in the food festival "Taste my country" at Amalie Skram Upper Secondary School together with exchange students from different European countries.



Full of enthusiasm, the Italian students sang their national anthem during the "Taste my country" food festival.

The school hosted two hundred exchange students from France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Japan in March. For one week, the students lived with Norwegian host families and experienced daily life in and outside Norwegian schools. The students brought different types of food from their own country with them, which they presented at the food festival: bread, cheese, sausages, cakes and other typical food items.

Karolina and Clara from Normandy presented French food. Both 16 years old girls were very pleased with their stay in Norway.

Since we arrived last Sunday, we have visited Bergen Science Centre "VilVite" and we have travelled to the village of Rosendal. We have also experienced how it is to go to a Norwegian school. It is easy to get to know Norwegian people.

Belén from Spain thinks it is exciting to experience daily life in a Norwegian family.

- I enjoyed living with my host family very much. We communicated a little bit in Spanish, but mostly in English.

Amalie Skram organises these student exchanges every year. In January, the Norwegian students had travelled to their host families abroad. Helene lived in Como near Milano.

- It is both intensive and nice to be an exchange student. My Italian host family welcomed me warmly. Now it is our turn to show our school and city to the Italian students.

In addition to the food festival, the students had an interesting programme with several excursions and museum visits. After the food festival, it was time for the Amalie Skram Olympics. The different countries competed in volleyball, badminton and football. The students also met on top of Mount Fløien for a barbecue party.

Responsible for internationalisation at the school, Maria Jose Sanchez Olsen, says that this was the first time for the school to host many countries at the same time.

-This enables us to organise a multi-cultural event like "Taste my country". The exchange students experience that, despite different cultures and languages, many things are the same, says Maria. She likes that the students live with each other's family.

- Living with their host family, the students experience the culture and learn about the country at the same time. It breaks down stereotypes and strengthens tolerance across national borders.

Principal Bjørn Lyngedal also emphasizes the importance of cultural learning.

-It is good training for the students to use foreign languages, but the most important result of the student exchanges is the fact that the students get to know each other and different cultures. We notice that the students are bonding with the foreign students. Many of the friendships will last for the rest of their lives.



Students from different European countries have become good friends: Clara (France), Belén (Spain), Helene (Norway), Ole (Norway), Giovanni (Italy) and Karolina (France).

Contact: Maria.Olsen@hfk.no

Production School Hyssingen

The production school, Hyssingen, has been involved in many international projects and activities during the first half of 2018. Staff and students have travelled abroad, and the school has hosted many delegations from abroad.



Production School "Multicenter Syd" in Nykøbing Falster, Denmark, where the IPSO General Assembly took place in May.

Hyssingen participated in the annual General Assembly of the International Production School Organisation (IPSO) in Denmark. It is an important platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange for all production schools in Europe. More information about IPSO and production schools is on next page.

During the last months, Hyssingen has collaborated with similar schools in Greenland and Portugal. Principal Baste Bruarøy says:

-We have been invited to come to Greenland, to discuss cooperation and contribute to the new-established production school over there. Regarding the Portuguese schools, we plan to apply Erasmus+ funding this autumn and start school exchanges.

Hyssingen is already part of an Erasmus+ funded project. Bruarøy explains:

-We have come half way in the Erasmus+ project STALWARTS, which is about music therapy and how to make this accessible for more people. We collaborate with the Grieg Academy and universities in five European countries. The last partner meeting was in Tallinn and this autumn our school will host a seminar where the research results will be presented.

One of the students has worked as a volunteer at a work camp in France. European Voluntary Service (EVS) is funded through Erasmus+: Youth in Action. Baste Bruarøy recommends EVS to other youngsters:

-The programme offers useful and fun learning opportunities for young people.

Hyssingen has also hosted several delegations from different European countries, for example from the Faroe Islands, Slovenia, Italy and Sweden. Baste Bruarøy is glad that there is huge interest in the production school: "It is always nice to receive guests, guide them around at our school and show them our working methods and results."

Contact: Baste.Bruaroy@hfk.no



International Production School Organization

The European production schools are powerful tools in the struggle against young people dropping out of youth education, failing to find their path in the education system and against youth unemployment. Large groups of young people need to learn in a different way – through practical work and problem solving in a work community involving real production and sale of goods and services. It is in this perspective that the production schools in Germany, France, Austria, Sweden and Denmark together with the workshops in Finland have established the International Production School Organization in order to develop and expand this type of school in Europe. <http://ipso.li/>

ERASMUS+ YOUTH IN ACTION



Strategic partnership CLUE 2 INCLUSION

For the first time, Hordaland County Council has been awarded an Erasmus+: Youth in Action strategic partnership grant. The project "Clue 2 Inclusion" aims to develop new models to prevent early school leaving at VET-schools, using non-formal learning methods.



Dag Ofstad, Barbara Harterink and Sigurd Trageton, representing the 3 Norwegian partner organisations in the Strategic Partnership: Nordland Research Institute, Hordaland County Council and Årstad Upper Secondary School.

Non-formal learning is a bottom-up approach, based on the interests, motivation and active participation of the young learner. In this innovative project we want to reveal the potential of using non-formal learning methods at VET schools (formal learning). Our target group is upper secondary students at risk of early school leaving. Eight partners from four countries – Finland, the Netherlands, Spain and Norway – will collaborate on the development of different models during 14 months. Hordaland County Council is lead partner.

Contact: Barbara.Harterink@hfk.no

Volunteering in Croatia

Thomas and Ines spent almost two months as volunteers for Udruga IKS in Croatia. Two articles about their project were published on the internet in Croatian and English:



The 2 Norwegian volunteers organised "Day of Norway" in Croatia.

"New co-operation between the Elementary school in Glina and the Association IKS has been achieved thanks to the engagement of our EVS volunteers Ines and Thomas. Volunteers from Norway, Ines and Thomas stayed for two months in Association IKS in Petrinja, and when we received a request to participate in English class in elementary school, they were happy to respond.

On June 11 during the entire school day, Ines and Thomas visited several classes in the Elementary School in Glina, talked to the students, presented their culture and language, devised different games for the pupils. The most important part of the day was practicing pronunciation of the English language through conversation with volunteers. Thomas and Ines used this opportunity to promote youth mobility and introduced pupils to opportunities through the Erasmus + program. All the students were very interested in getting to know the volunteers, asking them questions about their life and volunteering experience in Croatia, and school classes were even extended.

English language teacher Anita Javornik Baltić used this activity to make learning of foreign languages fun and gave them an opportunity to practice pronunciation, get to know new culture and discover useful information about youth mobility."

<http://udrugaiks.hr/sat-engleskog-s-evs-volonterima/>



"During May and June in Association IKS, we had the company of volunteers from Norway, Ines and Thomas. In cooperation with our partners from the Norwegian Hordaland County Council, we conducted a project "EVS 4 inclusion" through which volunteers participated in volunteer activities at the Home for the elderly and infirm and Home for mentally ill, designed workshops for children and youth and promoted the mobility of young people.

Summer is always a busy time in Association IKS, we are trying to design and ensure the best offer of free time activities for children and young people. After the school year, children have a need to fill their time and our volunteers organize interesting and educational workshops and games.

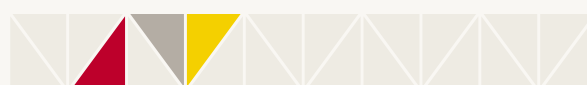


The 2 Norwegian volunteers organised "Day of Norway" in Croatia.

After two months in Petrinja, Ines and Thomas learned a lot, about themselves and community they stayed in. Volunteering in a foreign country develops many skills and specific knowledge that Erasmus + program documents through the Youthpass certificate. Youthpass contains all knowledge and experience gained through volunteering, described through eight key competencies.

So both Thomas and Ines received their Youthpass certificates and said goodbye to their mentors, colleagues and other volunteers and went home, with new invaluable memories and friends."

<http://udrugaiks.hr/povratak-u-norvesku/>



Erasmus+: Youth in Action

What?

Volunteers participate in EVS through a coordinating organisation in the country where they live and a host organisation that receives them and hosts them during their period of service. The volunteer receives free accommodation, food, insurance and pocket money, and most of the travel costs.

Who?

Young people 17-30 years

How long?

1-12 months

Why?

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



Erasmus+ & prevention of early school leaving

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

From: Erasmus+ programme guide - part A

5. COOPERATION WITH THE WEST NORWAY OFFICE IN BRUSSELS



West Norway Office (WNO) works continuously to strengthen the ties between its members in West Norway and European stakeholders in Brussels. WNO does this by offering services such as providing relevant information to our members, promoting and facilitating regional cooperation between European stakeholders, and increasing the knowledge of Norway-EU relations in both West Norway and in Brussels.



A delegation from Austevoll visited the West Norway Office in Brussels this Spring. From the left: Stine Emilie Konradsen, Public Health Coordinator in Austevoll Municipality; John Tveit, Head of Business Development/Project Manager Blue Center of Expertise - Austevoll, Anne-Marthe Dalseide, CFO/owner, Dalseide Shipping Group, and WNO director Merete Mikkelsen.

The first half of 2018 has been busy for WNO. We have worked with a wide range of activities and visits - welcoming students, politicians, researchers and leaders to our offices in Brussels - as well as visiting all of our member counties and several municipalities in West Norway. Topics such as plastic pollution and marine litter, clean shipping and new skills for the future have been high on the agenda in Norway this spring and have also been much debated in Brussels. WNO has monitored EU's policy on plastic waste management and reduction, and worked with both Hordaland County Council and other actors in West Norway on this highly relevant issue.

WNO has also continued to offer competence building as well as facilitating meetings in Brussels for delegations from Hordaland, among others. This April we had the pleasure of welcoming no less than 45 school leaders from upper secondary schools from across Hordaland. Over the course of three days, they explored what competences are needed for the future in vocational training (VET), complemented by visits to local VET schools. They were also given an introduction to the work of WNO and the EU system, and learned about changes in the current political landscape in Europe.

This spring WNO has participated in and contributed to the recently established International Network for municipalities in Hordaland. We are pleased to see the role Hordaland County Council has taken in promoting and facilitating more

project participation among the municipalities in Hordaland, and we continue to be impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm showed by the participating municipalities. WNO will continue to make our resources and networks accessible for the municipalities and hope to be able to assist the projects in the future.

WNO also hosted the international network of County Councils biannual seminar, which was held in Brussels. Several representatives from the Department of Regional Development in Hordaland participated in the seminar, which discussed opportunities for international cooperation in the post-2020 period.

As in previous years, WNO will co-organise a seminar under the European Week of Regions and Cities. This is the largest happening for regional actors in Brussels, held every October. As a member of the consortium "Smart Partnerships for Blue Growth", WNO will host the workshop entitled "How can regional cooperation help maximise blue growth opportunities?", focusing on the importance of continued cooperation in the North Sea Region after 2020. West Norway's contribution will showcase how international cooperation in the North Sea Region has benefitted different hydrogen initiatives in west Norway. We welcome representatives from Hordaland to attend this and several other workshops during this week.

Contact: Merete.Mikkelsen@west-norway.no

Hordaland headmasters on their way to a new school future – inspirational trip to Brussels.

In April 2018, Svein Heggheim, Director of Education and Training and the other Regional Directors invited all the upper secondary school headmasters in Hordaland and the Head of Sections in the Department of Education and Training to a three day study trip to Brussels, Belgium.



The Hordaland delegation at the European Parliament

The development of Norwegian schools' policy is closely linked to European education policy, and one of the aims of the study trip was to learn more about Europe and European educational trends (OECD 2030). The study trip also aimed to inspire and allow for discussion and reflection on what skills, knowledge, attitudes and values are needed for developing future-ready education that will equip our students with the skills they need to become active, responsible and engaged citizens.

The programme, made by the West Norway Office in Brussels (WNO), in close cooperation with the Dept. of Education and Training, Hordaland County, was interesting and ambitious.

Merete Mikkelsen from West Norway Office welcomed the delegation to Norway House and gave a short introduction of the EU system and the work of WNO. The Norwegian Ambassador to Belgium, Ingrid Schulerud, gave valuable insight into the EU and the challenges Europe face. She reminded us why the UN and the EU were created, and that international cooperation is vital in facing current world challenges. She stressed the importance of both the protection of and the meaning of democracy.

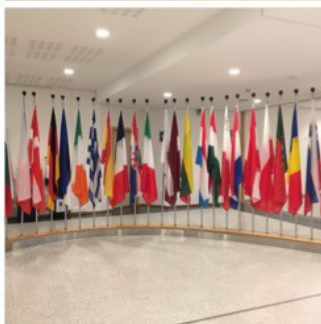
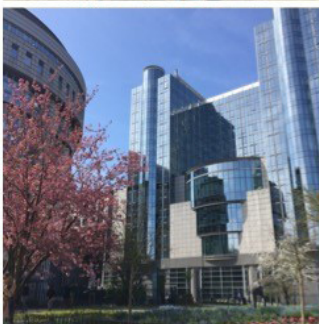
The Councillor for Education (Mission of Norway to the EU), Ragnhild Skålid and Jens Bjørnåvold from CEDEFOP, presented the development of educational policies. Skålid talked about Norway's role and influence in the EU regarding education, while Bjørnåvold focused on the changing nature and role of vocational education and training (VET). It is important that VET continues to expand to higher levels of education as an integrated part of lifelong learning. Bjørnåvold suggested we look to central Europe, the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland, for best practice examples.

Haldis Holst from Education International, gave a passionate speech about the role of schools in educating students to become responsible and active citizens. She shared valuable perspectives on our role as educators and role models.



The European Parliament in Brussels

Arts, culture and aesthetics play an important part in exploration, creativity and innovation and provide great value for learning, "danning" and the learning environment. Anne Bamford, Director of International Research Agency and the Education Commission UK, talked about the importance of soft skills. Soft skills help students develop into cooperative members of society who actively participate in culture and democracy. Society has a great need for innovation, research and competence to deal with complex duties and challenges. Students need to learn creativity, innovation, critical thinking and problem solving. It is an important value for society



that there is competence in creating artistic and cultural expressions.

Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education – Norwegian Contact Office for Research, Innovation and Education contributed greatly in organising three parallel school visits for the delegation. The three schools were KTA Zavelenberg, CVO COOVI and Atheneum GO! for Business. Themes for the visits included dual learning systems, inclusion, integration, cooperation with local communities and the labour market, entrepreneurship, innovation, democracy and citizenship education.

The programme also included interesting presentations from the Flemish Education Council and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (Brussels Office), engaging group work and discussions, as well as a guided tour of the European Parliament.

The themes were discussed again in May at one of the Regional Directors regular meetings with the headmasters. They discussed their experiences from the trip and the relevance to their work. Finding ways of incorporating the 6 C's of learning – character, citizenship, collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking – into their daily work will be an ongoing process.

Contact: Lene.Fjeldsbo@hfk.no

For Norwegian readers, see also another article about this study trip, written by Runo Isaksen (SIU):
<https://www.siu.no/For-media/nyheter-fra-siu/i-skyggen-av-muslimsk-terror-molenbeek-skole-bygger-tillit>

6. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Age should not be a limit

How can libraries support teaching digital skills for elderly people? This is the main topic in the project «Age should not be a limit», supported by the Nordplus Adult programme. The project was initiated by Tartu Library and has partners from four Nordic countries.



Eddie Pedersen from Skills Norway teaching librarians how to become instructors at a course in Bergen

The project partners are public libraries from Estonia, Finland, Lithuania and Norway. Each partner will host the other three libraries for one week in 2018-2019. The first partner meeting will be in Tartu in Estonia in September. In March 2019, Hordaland County Library will invite the partners to come to Bergen.

All participating public libraries have experience in teaching digital skills to adult learners. Libraries are moving on from basic skills training to large groups, toward more specialized schooling to satisfy the individual needs of users. This is valuable knowledge and experience which can be shared with colleagues gaining new ideas from approved practice. The aim of the project is to improve the potential of participating institutions in creating and offering better schooling and courses to their prospective learners. The participating institutions will share their good practices, but also share previous mistakes, so colleagues can learn and/or avoid.

The Nordplus project was a natural next step for Hordaland County Library, after organising several courses for the local libraries in Hordaland on teaching digital skills to adults. The aim of these courses was to increase competences in this field and to develop courses for several adult groups, such as elderly people and immigrants. The local courses took place in 2017 and were financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.

Contact: Ruth.Ornholt@hfk.no

Regional development in Turku

Regional Economic Development Group (RNF – Regionalt Næringsforum Hordaland) visited Turku (Åbo) Business Region in the South of Finland, in April this year. Every second year, RNF travels to an interesting region or city in Europe in order to get some valuable input to develop our region.

During the study visit, Turku Region presented start up ecosystems and support instruments with accelerator programs, BusinessUP and other support instruments. The Hordaland delegation learned also about the technology and industry parks in the region with Smart Chemistry Park, Blue Industry Park and Turku Science Park. Finally the group discussed regional innovation and entrepreneurship policies and actions with presentations of Business Turku and Turku Business Region, Regional Council of Southwest Finland and City of Turku.



Councillor Mona Røsvik Strømme and Director of Regional Development Bård Sandal in front of the City Hall in Turku (Åbo) in Finland.

RNF is a regional partnership for business development in Hordaland County. Hordaland County Council has responsibility for regional development in the county. This concerns in particular economic development – not only in a wide and general perspective, but also with focus on individual enterprises. In order to successfully carry out this work, the County Council has appointed a Board (RNF) where the most important partners in the region are represented. The institutions involved represent both public and private organizations and take interest in all parts of regional development in Hordaland. Two central Councillors are members of the RNF: Roald Kvamme from the Labour party and Mona Røsvik Strømme from the Conservative party.

Regional Economic Development Group has a wide range of tasks: setting up economic development programs, providing input to issues such as strategic planning and, financial support programs etc.

Contact: Bard.Sandal@hfk.no

Migrasong

In May, the Norwegian production «Migrasong» toured several venues in the USA. For centuries, immigrants and refugees have packed their chests and left their homelands, seeking a new life in America. Migrasong offers a look at Norwegian immigrants who journeyed to the United States in the last half of the 1800s and early 1900s. County folk musician, traditional folksinger Reidun Horvei and pianist Inger-Kristine Riber are the musicians involved.

«Migrasong-the tunes they carried across the sea» is based on historical material. Reidun Horvei, who is not only the soprano, but who also wrote the play, explains:

"We follow the 16-year-old Olina and 17-year-old Ananias' travel to America in the late 1800's. One beautiful day of spring they left Bergen and Norway, by boat taking them to Hull in England, then by train to Liverpool and then across the Atlantic to the promising land of America. The baggage should not weigh more than 75 kg. But the songs they brought along as a part of their culture, became for many the dearest connection to everything they left behind."

MIGRASONG
the tunes they carried across the sea

A MUSIC DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE BY REIDUN HORVEI
DIRECTOR: TORE NYSÆTHER

REIDUN HORVEI
song / story teller

INGER-KRISTINE RIBER
piano

HORDALAND FYLKESKOMMUNE
MUSEUMSSENTERET i Hordaland
hfuk.no

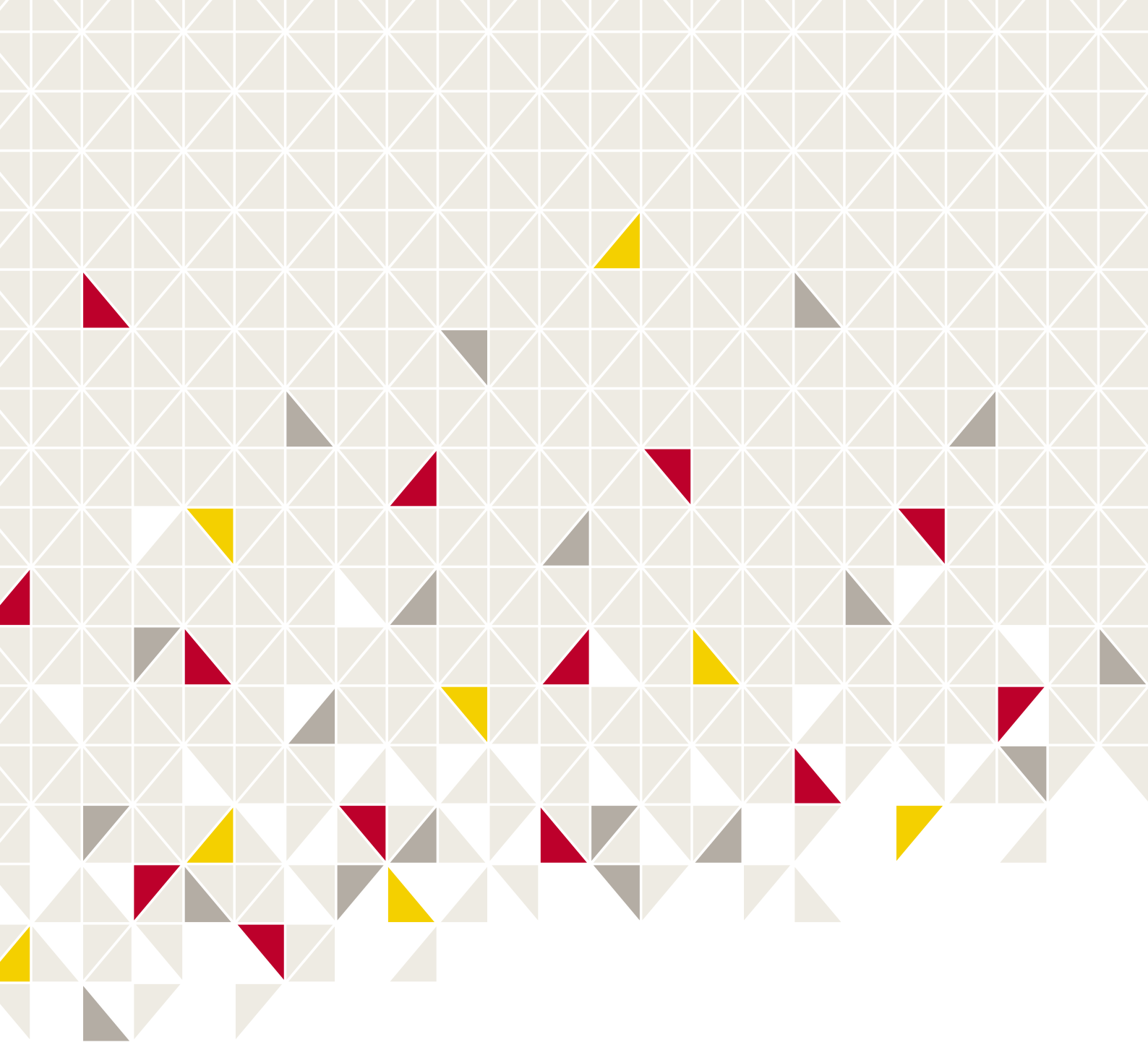
Museum Centre in Hordaland (MuHo) commissioned Migrasong in 2016. MuHo and Hordaland County Council collaborated on sending the production to the United States, visiting cooperation partners of the Museum Centre, for instance Nordic Museum Seattle and Pioneer Care Center, in Fuergus Falls. The music in the performance is built on folk tunes and songs that emigrants brought from their homeland and the new songs that appeared where they settled. In the background, there are historical images that are collected for this production in Norwegian and US archives.

Asking about future plans for the performance, Reidun Horvei says:

"Migrasong is considered to be part of the programme of the big Sons of Norway conference in 2020 in the USA. Sons of Norway began as a group of 18 Norwegian emigrants in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1895."



Contact: Reidun.Horvei.Laerum@hfk.no



**HORDALAND
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Agnes Mowinckels gt 5
Postboks 7900
N-5020 BERGEN
NORWAY
Tel: +47 55 23 90 00
www.hordaland.no

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