

Cooperation between Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN) and Schleswig-Holstein

Cooperation perspectives 2014/2015 (adopted 15.01.14)

1. BALTIC SEA AND NORTH SEA COOPERATION

The partners have used each other's network and representations in the Baltic Sea Region and in the North Sea Region and have co-operated within the frame of BSSSC and NSC over the past years.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- Take part in follow-up of the North Sea Region 2020 strategy and in the programme work towards an Interreg B North Sea Programme 2014 - 2020. Exchange views and ideas – prepare for new projects of common interest. Investigate possible cooperation areas within the thematic WG of the North Sea Commission.
- Take part in the follow up of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and connect the work to the cooperation within BSSSC. Exchange views and ideas in the programme work towards the new Interreg B Baltic Sea Region programme 2014 – 2020 and prepare for new projects of common interest.

2. MARITIME POLICY

Maritime policy is an important topic for cooperation between Schleswig-Holstein and Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN). The partner regions contribute to the work of the BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy aiming at contributing to the development of the Baltic Sea Region into a European maritime best practise region by 2015. Both regions were present at the final conference of the Clean Baltic Shipping project in Trelleborg, SE in September 2013.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- Follow and support the work of the Submariner project towards a blue-green economy in the Baltic Sea Region. Disseminate results and follow up on the Clean Ship projects (Baltic Sea and North Sea).
- Inform each other about large arrangements and activities of interest for the other partner region – open up for and stimulate participation from each other's organisations and business environments. Maintain and develop the existing networks.

3. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable Energy and Climate Change are high on everyone's agenda and should continue to be an area of common concern. During the CC meeting 2010 and 2011 there was a special focus on sustainable energy. This discussion was continued in

the 2012 meeting by a presentation on the status of the electricity interconnection project Nord.Link, given by StatNett.

In the further course a number of items of major interest to the counties in Eastern Norway in the renewable energy sector was collected and checked for matching interests at the Schleswig-Holstein side. It turned out that most of these items being operated in Schleswig-Holstein by districts/municipalities (or private companies, based on public concessions). Due to a 6-month leave of the contact person in charge at ENCN, no further attempts could be done since then. Provided the target of interest being further specified, Schleswig-Holstein offered to act as facilitator towards tentatively interested districts/municipalities on items to be selected.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015

- To investigate possible cooperation within the area transport and climate – among other infrastructure for renewable fuel and technology for zero-emission transport.
- To exchange information and inform each other about large arrangements and activities of interest for the other partner region.
- The issue of smart energy should be further elaborated and put on the agenda for 2015.

4. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Transport Corridors are an important topic for Schleswig-Holstein as well as ENCN – and binds our regions together. The Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link will open new perspectives for the whole Western Baltic Sea Region and will serve as a catalyst to create mental bridges and intensified cooperation in various sectors between the regions. The Scandinavian 8 Million City (ColnCo North) project is of importance for the corridor from Eastern Norway to Copenhagen – and further on to Germany.

In April 2013 a delegation from Oppland County Council was informed about the Public Transport System - its challenges and perspectives - of the City of Kiel.

The Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link will when implemented in 2021 play an important role for a substantial improved transport connection between northern Germany and Scandinavia for both passenger and freight transport. It is, however; important that the transport rail links on each side of Fehmarn Belt in both Denmark and Germany has sufficient track capacity when opened in 2021. The Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link will constitute an important transport link in the EU initiative of developing a “Green Freight Corridor” between northern Europe namely Germany; Denmark, Sweden and terminating in Stockholm and Oslo.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- To follow the work concerning the north-south axis of the TEN-T multi-modal Core Network - linking Norway to Europe via Sweden, Denmark and Northern Germany (Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg). Both Schleswig-Holstein and ENCN should play an active role, among others through participation in different Interreg-projects contributing to enhance such a development.
- Take part in the discussion and activities around the impacts of the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link in the frame of the STRING cooperation in which the ENCN gained an observer status since 2013.

- To exchange information and inform each other about the development of intermodal hubs through supplementary transport corridors between northern Germany and Scandinavia

5. CULTURAL COOPERATION

Art

The cooperation in the area of contemporary art continues, and our aim is to have regular exchange in the field of modern art (exhibitions, seminars, residencies etc) in our two regions.

Arts and craft / Kunsthandwerk

The common exhibition on crafts “Connecting 2011” has been successfully carried out during 2011 and 2012. The exhibition consisted of works by 40 artists from 5 regions and countries and was defined as an Ars Baltica project. A catalogue was produced and an internet page established. The project got a broad presentation in the magazine Kunsthandwerk & Design, which is a magazine for German speaking Europe and all together 53 previews and reviews in the daily press, art magazines and digital newspapers. The exhibition opened in Flensburg 13 February 2011 and was shown in Eastern Norway from June 2011. Later Connecting has been to Finland, Denmark and ended up in Sweden in August 2012. See also <http://www.connecting-artsandcrafts.com/>

The jewellery exhibition “LightSpot” was carried out as a spin-off project of Connecting. It was shown in Oslo from mid-January to early February 2013 and in Kiel in March 2013. The project was a part of the bigger Nordic project “From the Coolest Corner” and gave Schleswig-Holstein artists a possibility to join the Nordic project using the cooperation agreement with ENCN. 5 - 6 artists from both regions took part in the exchange project, like during the Connecting period, manifesting both in exhibition and visiting programmes for the. The exhibition focused on a wide range of techniques, materials and form.

As a follow up of these projects 3 Norwegian artists, from Oslo and Östfold, are invited to Schleswig-Holstein for an exhibition in Parliament 2014, together with 3 German artists.

Contemporary art – cooperation between Östlandsutstillingen and BBK

The first joint exhibition of Landesschau by the National Association of Fine Artists - State Association of Schleswig-Holstein (Bundesverband Bildende Künstler, Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) and Östlandsutstillingen, “*Stereo. Not Mono*”, was carried out in 2012/2013. It was opened at Galleri F15 in Moss, Eastern Norway 15.09.12 and was presented in Brunsbüttel, Schleswig-Holstein between 26.01 and 10.03 2013. Part of the exhibition was also shown in the Schleswig-Holstein representation in Berlin in April 2013.

With the exhibition “*Stereo. Not Mono*” the idea of cooperation has been taken one step further - from merely exchange of exhibitions to development and implementation of a joint project. For the first time we developed together a bi-national exhibition based on theoretical texts, a joint jury and a catalogue - and the applications/information were communicated by the world wide web. Both German

and Norwegian artists applied for “*Stereo. Not Mono*”. 30 artists were presented, with 40 works at the exhibition and in the Norwegian-German catalogue. Color Line supported the exhibition with free transport.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- **As part of the celebration of the Treaty of Kiel and the Norwegian Constitutional jubilee 2014 artists from the partner regions will take part in the following exhibitions:**
 - **“Threaded” / “Eingefädelt” in the Landeshaus (Parliament) in Kiel, from 25.02 until 23.03 2014.**
 - **Exhibition in the “Flandern Bunker” with preview 14th January 2014 and opening on 4th May 2014.**
- **Östlandsutstillingen will invite artists from Schleswig-Holstein to a seminar in Hamar (Kunstbanken) in June 2014**
- **Preparation and execution of a second joint exhibition project between Östlandsutstillingen and BBK to be opened in 2015. The exhibition will be shown in Eastern Norway in cooperation with the art galleries in central Oslo (Kvadraturen) and at a location in Schleswig-Holstein.**

Film

After some years of dialog and preparation the “Landesverband Jugend & Film” (LJF) and “Oppland Film Centre for Youth” (FiO) have started a common project in the field of youth and film.

Project name: Norwegian-German Film Workshop (Norwegische-Deutsche Filmwerkstatt/Norsk-Tysk Filmverksted)

FiO first invited to a film camp in Oppland (Birstrand) in August 2013, while The LJF invited to a second film camp in Schleswig-Holstein (Scheersberg) in November 2013. At both film camps, 3 bilingual or subtitled films were produced, by 6 young film enthusiasts from Oppland and 6 from Schleswig-Holstein. In total, 6 films have been produced by the Norwegian-German film enthusiasts in 2013.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- The two organizations want to continue the exchange in 2014/2015, and will work to find the needed financing, for example as an Erasmus-project.

EUSBSR (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) Priority Area Culture

Schleswig-Holstein together with Poland took over responsibility for the implementation of the Priority Area Culture (PA Culture) of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as Priority Area Coordinators in 2013. The partners appreciate the related chances for strengthening BSR cultural cooperation and agree on contributing to it with joint activities.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- Follow the activities of PA Culture and seek to participate with partners from both regions in suitable flagship projects.

- Support the work of PA Culture within BSSSC (Schleswig-Holstein rapporteur for policy area culture).

6. YOUTH COOPERATION

Youth involvement is high on the priority list in the international work of ENCN and a focused area in the Norwegian Government's Strategy for Germany. Both ENCN and Schleswig-Holstein are active within the BSSSC WG Youth Policy.

The Youth in Action project "Discovering our opportunities in Europe: Active inclusion of disadvantaged youth" was successfully carried out end of October 2012 in Schleswig-Holstein with partners from Buskerud and Oppland (8 young people + two from the regional administration). Other partners were UK, Finland and Poland.

In April 2013 a group of 7 experts from ENCN visited Schleswig-Holstein to exchange competence in youth work and involvement of young people.

A joint Youth in Action project was successfully carried out on "Youth and Sport" from 4 - 11 October 2013 in cooperation with regions in Poland, Finland and Turkey. The Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein (Landesjugendring) acted as lead partner. Norwegian partner was Oppland Sport Association and 5 young people from Oppland and Hedmark took part together with two adults.

Both Schleswig-Holstein and Eastern Norway took part in the Youth in Action project "Youth for work" carried out under the BSSSC Chairmanship of Helsinki-Uusimaa Region as a part of the BSSSC AC in Helsinki 15 – 16 October 2013.

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- Continue to support the BSSSC youth work through the WG youth policy and the youth network under the Helsinki-Uusimaa Region Chairmanship (2013-2014).
- Prepare and carry out an international youth seminar in Kiel from 13-15 January 2014 on the topics of democracy and youth participation with young people from Eastern Norway, Schleswig-Holstein as well as youth representatives from Sweden and Denmark.
- Plan and carry out the re-visit from Schleswig-Holstein experts on Youth work to Norway 24 – 29 March 2014.
- Prepare and carry out a revisit of the Ernst-Barlach-Gymnasium to the school in Skien in autumn 2014.
- Look into new possibilities for joint youth projects in 2014/2015

7. TOURISM COOPERATION

Tourism is a major economic sector for Schleswig-Holstein as well as for the counties in Eastern Norway. German tourists are the largest group of foreign visitor to Norway. Our two cooperating areas are well connected by direct ferry between Oslo and Kiel and via Hirtshals, Denmark to Larvik (Color Line).

Proposal for actions in 2014/2015:

- Prepare and carry out seminars for key-players in the tourism sector within topics such as

- Transfer of knowledge regarding the ongoing project *Tourism Monitor*, which is a pilot project in Norway.
- Discussion and exchange of best practices on the topic of seasonal challenges in the tourism sector.
- Exchange of knowledge and best practices concerning “restructuring of hotels and accommodation facilities”.

Responsible units for coordination of the cooperation:

From Schleswig-Holstein: Division for European Affairs in the Ministry of Justice, Culture and European Affairs

From ENCN: Eastern Norway County Network Secretariat