

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

**Cooperation perspectives 2015/2016** (adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Hamar)

*Regional cooperation is one important element to develop and strengthen the relations between Norway and Germany. The partners will continue to contribute to the implementation of the Norwegian Government's Strategy for Germany through concrete projects as well as exchange of best practices and information.*

## **1. POLITICAL COOPERATION**

- **Baltic Sea and North Sea Cooperation**

Use each other's network and representations in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and in the North Sea Region and co-operate within the frame of BSSSC and NSC. Follow up on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the North Sea 2020 Strategy, and use the participation in the Interreg programmes for Baltic Sea and North Sea to encourage cooperation activities. The partners appreciate the chance to strengthen BSR cultural cooperation and will seek to contribute jointly to the implementation of the Priority Area (PA) Culture of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

- **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. The EU Climate and Energy Policy Framework 2030 is an important basic also for Norway, and in 2015 especially climate will be a focus area – leading up to the UN Summit in Paris end of November. The opportunities to translate the EU's climate and energy objectives into a multitude of actions at the regional level contributing to quality of life of citizens and boosting green economy are noticed. The topic should therefore continue to be on the agenda of CC meetings – to discuss relevant topics, exchange information and inform each other about large arrangements and activities of interest.

- **Transport and communication**

Transport Corridors are an important topic for Schleswig-Holstein as well as ENCEN – and binds our regions together. 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. The partners will 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 ENCEN should play an active role, among others through participation in different Interreg-projects contributing to enhance such a development. Other relevant areas will be to take part in the discussion and activities around the impacts of the Fehmarn Belt Fixed Link in the frame of the STRING cooperation - in which the ENCEN gained an observer status since 2013 - as well as to exchange information and inform each

other about the development of intermodal hubs through supplementary transport corridors between northern Germany and Scandinavia.

Responsible units for coordination of the overall political cooperation:

*From ENCN: Eastern Norway County Network Secretariat*

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

**2. MARITIME COOPERATION** (Main responsibility within ENCN: Vestfold, Telemark and Oslo)

Maritime policy has been an important topic for cooperation between Schleswig-Holstein and Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN). This topic requires cross-border cooperation and joint efforts. The Baltic Sea and the North Sea are important maritime regions, and issues such as maritime safety, the environment and ecosystems, climate, maritime industries, maritime education and maritime spatial planning are relevant cooperation areas.

**Proposal for actions in 2015/2016:**

- 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. Evaluate tentative options for multi- or bilateral cooperation in business-related fields of maritime sector, e.g. maritime clusters or maritime technologies.
- Identify areas of cooperation in the Baltic Sea and North Sea and use the Interreg programmes for financing concrete project ideas.

**3. CULTURAL AND TOURISM COOPERATION** (Main responsibility within ENCN: Akershus, Buskerud, Oppland)

**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.

Contemporary art - cooperation between Østlandsutstillingen and BBK (Bundesverband Bildender Künstler Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein)

As part of the celebration of the Treaty of Kiel (Kieler Frieden) and the Norwegian Constitutional jubilee 2014 artists (10 persons) from the partner regions took part at the exhibition "Kieler Frieden 1814 - 2014 Peace" in the "Flandern Bunker" in Kiel with a preview 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and opening on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Arts and craft / Kunsthandwerk

**In the context of the "Kieler Frieden" Norwegian artists of arts and craft took part at the exhibition Threaded"/"Eingefädelt" in the Landeshaus (Parliament) in Kiel, from 25.02 until 23.03 2014.**

**Østlandsutstillingen invited one artist from Schleswig-Holstein to a seminar in Hamar (Kunstbanken) in June 2014.**

**A spin-off project from “Connecting” called “Vessel” is initiated by Schleswig-Holstein. Three artists from Eastern Norway are invited to take part in an exhibition and a seminar together with artists from Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Poland. The exhibition will be presented in Ostholstein-Museum in Eutin (Schleswig-Holstein) from 30.08 – 15.11 2015. The seminar will take place as part of the opening on 29.08.15.**

#### Contemporary art – cooperation between Östlandsutstillingen and BBK

The second joint exhibition of Landesschau by the National Association of Fine Artists - State Association of Schleswig-Holstein (Bundesverband Bildende Künstler, Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein) and Østlandsutstillingen, will be carried out in 2015/2016. The topic chosen is **identity** - human beings and places - *WER IST WO WER? – WAS IST WO WAS?* The joint exhibition will open in Oslo on 6 June 2015 and shown in Kiel in spring 2016 (17.1. - 18.3. 2016).

#### Cultural programme for young people

A project is launched by 2 artists from Schleswig-Holstein (Deborah Di Meglio, Kati Luzie Stüdemann from kielcreativ) will be connected to relevant artists in Eastern Norway for further dialog and development. The idea focuses on tolerance and cultural dialog and is described as follows “Establishing Identity” - a multidisciplinary art project using the visual arts, dance and theatre to develop a personal and cultural identity - especially for persons with migration or immigration backgrounds – with educational and learning objectives.

Proposal for actions in 2015/2016:

- **Support the preparation and execution of a second joint exhibition project between Östlandsutstillingen and BBK “WER IST WO WER? – WAS IST WO WAS?” to be opened 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in Oslo. The exhibition will be shown in Eastern Norway in cooperation with the art galleries in central Oslo (Kvadraturen) and in Landesbibliothek Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel in spring 2016 (17.1. - 18.3.).**
- **Support the exhibition “Vessel” involving 45 artists from Schleswig-Holstein and Eastern Norway as well as Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Poland. The project is a follow up from previous joint project “Connecting” and activities will take place in Eutin, Schleswig-Holstein from 28.08 till 15.11 2015.**
- **Support the cooperation development between artists from Schleswig-Holstein and Vestfold to establish a joint multidisciplinary art project using visual art, dance and theatre involving schoolchildren (“Establishing Identity”). Involve other counties in ENCN if needed.**
- **Look into the experience of “kielcreativ” regarding intercultural dialog and elaborate on possible exchange of best practise with counties in ENCN.**
- **Elaborate on possible cooperation projects in relation to the 500 years jubilee of the Reformation in 2017. Consider the connection to the tourism cooperation.**

#### ***Film***

After some years of dialog and preparation the “Landesverband Jugend & Film” (LJF) and “Oppland Film Centre for Youth” (FiO) started a common project in the field of youth and film. Project name was: Norwegian-German Film Workshop (Norwegische-Deutsche Filmwerkstatt/Norsk-Tysk Filmverksted). The cooperation continued in 2014 followed up by a talent exchange project called “Filmverkstedet meets Filmwerkstatt”

Five young talents from Schleswig-Holstein attended the Amandus film festival in Lillehammer in April 2014. And a group of five young talents from Oppland took part at a film camp in Schleswig-Holstein (Scheersberg) in November 2014.

East-Norway film Centre (Östnorsk Filmsenter) cooperates with Filmwerkstatt Kiel as part of the regional film funding body Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein and counter parts in Aarhus and Odense (Denmark). During his stay in Lillehammer in April 2014, head of Filmworkshop Kiel visited the Filmsenter, the Norwegian Filmschool, Amandus Youth Film Festival and the Filmworkshop. He presented the Filmworkshop Kiel at a meeting of regional funders from all of Norway. At that time the idea was born to cooperate on a programme called „Young Nordic Film Link“, during which 6 young filmmakers from Eastern Norway County Network, Schleswig-Holstein and two partner filmworkshops in Denmark are invited to experience the biggest festival in our region, the Nordic Film Days in Lübeck. Six participants met during the Nordic Film Days in Lübeck in autumn 2014 and the partners intend to continue the dialog in 2015.

#### **Proposal for actions in 2015/2016:**

- The two organizations will continue the exchange in 2015 and young film talents from Schleswig-Holstein will attend the film-camp in Oppland in summer 2015 and a youth group from Oppland will again attend the Jugend-Filmfest in Schleswig-Holstein in November 2015.
- There is an intention for 2016 to widen out this kind of project (young people meet and work together) in a more structural cooperation. First contacts are done to film institutions in Denmark (Tønder, Aarhus und Copenhagen).
- Norwegian young filmmakers will take part at the “Young Nordic Film Link” at the «Nordic Filmdays» in Lübeck in November 2015.
- Further dialog on possible joint projects financed through EU-programmes like Erasmus+, Interreg or Creative Europe.

#### ***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). To explore possible areas of cooperation a study tour for representatives from Oppland and Buskerud are planned for June 2015.

#### **Proposal for actions in 2015/2016:**

- Prepare and carry out a study visit to Schleswig-Holstein in June 2015 for key-players in the tourism sector in Oppland, Hedmark and Buskerud with focus on
  - Discussion and exchange of best practices on the topic of seasonal challenges in the tourism sector.
  - Exchange of knowledge and best practices concerning “tourism development incl. restructuring of hotels and accommodation facilities”.
- Invite representatives from Schleswig-Holstein for a re-visit to Eastern Norway in 2016

- Follow up with further dialog on concrete cooperation areas/projects – among others related to the cultural cooperation.

#### **4. YOUTH AND EDUCATION** *(Main responsibility within ENCN: Hedmark and Østfold)*

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.

From 13-15 January 2014 an international youth seminar was carried out in Kiel 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. The event was a part of the celebration of the Treaty of Kiel.

A school class from Skien Upper Secondary School visited Kiel and Ernest Barlach Gymnasium. Together they conducted a performance at the Kiel Castle on 14 January as part of the fest prepared to celebrate the Kiel peace I 1914. The revisit of the Ernst-Barlach-Gymnasium to Skien was carried out in November 2014.

In March 2014 a group of 6 experts from Schleswig-Holstein visited ENCN to exchange competence in youth work and involvement of young people. The visit was a re-visit after 7 experts from ENCN visited S-H in April 2013.

A joint Youth in Action project was successfully carried out in Buskerud in June 2014.

#### **Proposal for actions in 2015/2016:**

- Follow up on existing cooperation and support the schools to develop cooperation projects.
- Look into new possibilities for joint youth projects in 2015/2016 by using Erasmus+
- Develop a joint project within Erasmus+ with focus on regional economic development and the need for skills in foreign languages (German language for Norway and English language for Germany)