

Common Commission meeting
Schleswig-Holstein/Eastern Norway County Network (ENCN)
First hotel Viktoria
Hamar, Eastern Norway 7 May 2015

Draft minutes (final draft 22.06.15)

Welcome and opening of the meeting

Mr. Haabeth welcomed everyone to the CC meeting and thanked Hedmark County Council for preparing an interesting programme. A special appreciation for the support from national governments in Germany and Norway to the work of our partnership was expressed. Mr. Haabeth underlined the importance of the close cooperation with Schleswig-Holstein and that the CC meetings are a good arena for dialog and exchange of ideas for future cooperation.

Mr. Per Gunnar Sveen, Chairman of the County Executive Board in Hedmark welcomed everybody to Hedmark and Hamar and gave an introduction to the county and the city. Mr. Sveen's presentation can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/20519.934.Schleswig-Holstein.html>

Mr. Augustin thanked for the invitation and sent the best regards to everyone from Minister Spoorendonk. She regretted not to be able to take part in the meeting as planned, but tasks in Kiel made it impossible to travel to Norway. Mr. Augustin mentioned the many important topics on our agenda for the CC meeting and pointed out that the new Interreg programmes could offer possibilities for joint initiatives.

Then a short presentation round was made (the participation list is enclosed).

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without any remarks as well as the minutes from last meeting in Kiel, on 15 January, 2014.

Topic 1 Cultural Cooperation

Culture has been and is an important part of the cooperation and in this meeting time was allocated to update about ongoing activities in this field, to hear about areas that can be further explored as well as presentation of new ideas for cooperation activities. The first intervention was about Östlandsutstillingen and their cooperation with Landesschau – including the status for the second joint exhibition. The presentation can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/file=30732>

The Chairman of Östlandsutstillingen, Mr. Hans Thorsen, and the coordinator, Ms. Martina Kaufmann, gave an overview of the history of the cooperation with Schleswig-Holstein since 2003, pointed out some results from the first joint exhibition “Stereo-not-Mono” and informed about the status for the second joint exhibition “Wer ist wo wer? Was ist wo was?”. The second joint exhibition has doubled the number of applications from Norway and Germany and 45 artists with 57 works have been chosen. The exhibition will open on 6 June 2015 in Oslo and on 17 January 2016 in Kiel. Mr. Thorsen and Ms. Kaufmann underlined the importance of this cultural cooperation and pointed out that it was now stable and good partnership.

The second intervention was about the film cooperation between Oppland and Schleswig-Holstein – also giving some ideas for new angles and new projects. The presentation from Mr. Terje Kongsrud in the cultural department of Oppland can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/20519.934.Schleswig-Holstein.html>

Mr. Kongsrud gave a status report on the film cooperation and last year’s events. He also mentioned ideas for bigger projects on film clusters – using EU-funding. Partners from Denmark are included in the dialog. Ms. Irena Scheicher from cultural department in Schleswig-Holstein underlined the importance of the Nordic Film festival in Lübeck and informed that this is supported financially from the Ministry with quite an amount. The focus on young film artists “Nordic Film Link” can turn out to be a good platform for cooperation.

The last intervention under the topic 1 was given by Ms. Deborah Di Meglio and her colleague Ms. Katie Stüdemann. They presented a new idea for cooperation “Establishing identity”. The work the two artists do is process oriented and the result of the process is a performance that the involved persons (children, young people, elderly or immigrants) present to an audience. They have an idea and a framework – but the output depends on the participants and there is a lot of improvising involved. Ms. Di Meglio and Ms. Stüdemann informed about their visit to Vestfold and dialog about possible cooperation. Two artists from Vestfold will come to Kiel for a re-visit before the summer break and the dialog will continue to find common ground for cooperation projects. Presentation can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/file=30941>

Two framework ideas were lounged: 1) A project connected to Willy Brandt and 2) a project based on Munch. The use of video as a medium was mentioned as well as to involve young people in a joint film production. Financial means could be applied for at the Willy Brandt foundation.

The members of the CC did find the idea interesting and supported the further dialog to make it more concrete. Also the work done by the two artists regarding multi-cultural dialog and integration was seen as something that could be basis for cooperation and exchange of best practises.

The CC thanked for the presentations and ideas and stated that they would come back to the concrete proposals under topic 5

Topic 2 Energy and climate

Energy and climate related topics have been on the CC agenda at each meeting over the past years. Different aspects of these topics have been discussed. The transport sector is important when it comes to climate change and the need to reduce our carbon footprint. Mr. Tom Granquist presented the work on greening the public transport in Oslo and Akershus. His presentation can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/file=30782>

Mr. Granquist's message was that several things have to be done simultaneously to make our regions more sustainable. Oslo and Akerhus have a policy for fossil free transport by 2030 and Mr. Granquist mentioned focus areas and underlined the need to connect the development to land use planning and regional strategies and to cooperate cross sectors and administrative levels of governance. At the end of his intervention Mr. Granquist also elaborated on the main corridor from Eastern Norway to Germany – via Sweden and Denmark (TEN-T core corridor).

Railway - as the most environmental mode of travel - was highlighted including the negative changes in the transport development – from rail to road and not the other way around. A question was raised to Schleswig-Holstein regarding infrastructure development to upgrade the railway on landside in Germany when the Fehmern Belt Link opens. Negotiations are ongoing regarding high-speed train and the definition of what is high-speed. In Germany this is at the moment 160 km per hour – in Denmark and Sweden this is 300 km per hour. For Schleswig-Holstein it is important that the train connection will be competitive and user friendly. The “GREAT” project was mentioned - a project within the STRING-cooperation focusing on development of a green corridor from Oslo to Hamburg using the EU programme “Connecting Europe Facility”. City of Oslo is partner from Norway – contributing with own financial resources.

Mr. Augustin updated the CC about the Nord Link project –connecting the energy grid in Norway and Germany. Most of the pieces are now in place and the last agreements will be signed in 2015. The construction starts now! Schleswig-Holstein has great interest in the project and the project has high support from both national and regional level. The Nord Link

shall be ready by 2018/19 and will connect the wind power in Schleswig-Holstein to the hydro power in Norway. The project has high European interest as well –related to the EU initiative Energy Union and as a factor for the climate negotiations in Paris end of 2015. Mr. Augustin used the opportunity to inform about recent developments in Brussels and mentioned in particular the Energy Union Package as one of the top priorities of the Juncker Commission. Schleswig-Holstein is a pioneer region regarding wind power and at the moment 100% of the energy consumption in the region are from renewable energy sources. They expect to further develop production of green energy to a level of 300% and to sell the surplus to the rest of Europe. The cooperation with Norway is important in this picture –making more and better use of the wind energy.

The building of wind mills and the challenges to involve the inhabitants and to avoid big conflicts were discussed. Land-use planning is an important tool – and the need to have an overall plan was underlined. In Schleswig-Holstein they have associations of private persons (“Bürgerschaft”) that co-owns the mills and therefore get ownership to the wind mills. Mr. Augustin also mentioned that the investment in off-shore windfarms so far has proven to be quite expensive.

The CC thanked for the information and stated that energy and climate are important topics that should continue to be on our agenda.

Topic 3 Youth and education

A relatively new part of our cooperation programme is related to youth and education and over the past three years we have carried out some youth projects together. Involving young people is an important aspect of the European policy work. Ms. Eva Lundin, Hedmark presented a cooperation project with other European border regions – among others Schleswig/South-Denmark –focusing on combatting youth unemployment. The presentation can be found here <http://www.ostsam.no/file=30831>

The idea behind the project is to exchange best practise and to pilot some of these in the regions involved. Unfortunately the project stopped at the end of 2014 due to problems in Saint Petersburg. The Lead partner is the Nordic Information Office here – and the new rules of the Russian Government define the Nordic office as a foreign agent. The Nordic office is therefore closed for the moment. Schleswig-Holstein mentioned their cooperation with Kaliningrad region and underlined the importance to continue cooperation with Russia at local and regional level - despite the severe political situation on national and EU level.

The CC thanked for the presentation and took note of the work done.

Topic 4 Arenas for cooperation (BSSSC, NSC, STRING, Interreg BSR) how to use them in our cooperation to add value?

Mr. Ryberg informed about the Baltic Sea Cooperation and the BSSSC – where the two partner regions are working together. The focus areas of BSSSC are in many ways similar to those of the partnership and synergies could be found. Mr. Ryberg mentioned especially the Northern Dimension and cooperation with Russia. There are many challenges where cooperation with Russia is needed and we have to continue the dialog.

Mr. Augustin informed about the North Sea cooperation and underlined Schleswig-Holstein's support to the North Sea Commission and the Norwegian president. He also underlined Schleswig-Holstein's wish for a macro-regional strategy for the North Sea Region, but that the national authorities around the sea were not in favour of such a strategy to be developed. Without such a strategic framework the networks in the North Sea will have a challenge to maintain their strength. All regions have to work hard together to develop the cooperation. Interreg programmes are useful tools for practical cooperation.

Ms. von Elsner informed about the STRING cooperation and underlined that Schleswig-Holstein is happy to have ENCN involved. It is highly appreciated by STRING members that political representatives take part in meetings and that ENCN show interest to join practical projects.

The CC agreed to keep these networks and programme in mind and to try to make better use of them in the bilateral work.

Topic 5 Discussion and adoption of future cooperation perspectives

Before going through the proposal for cooperation perspectives 2015/2016 Mr. Per Eivind Johansen gave a short update on the work with the Viking Heritage Unesco application. Final decision on which applications will be approved in 2015 will take place on 5 July.

Unfortunately the Viking-application seems not to be up for approval – as the evaluation committee thinks that there is a need to develop the application further to bind the partners better together. They want the project to put more focus on trade and settlements. The partners agree to continue the work and to apply in the next round. There is a tight cooperation between Heitabu in Schleswig-Holstein and Vestfold.

Ms. Wiik informed about the application to Unesco regarding the industrial history and Norsk Hydro in Telemark - and she mentioned that it has a positive evaluation and can be approved 5 July.

The CC took note of the information and will continue to support the joint work on the Viking heritage.

Maritime policy

An Interreg Baltic Sea region project on blue growth with Schleswig-Holstein as Lead Partner was mentioned. Efforts will be taken to find a Norwegian partner from our region to join. Final application will be submitted 14 July 2015.

Culture and tourism

Ms. Scheicher mentioned the 500 years jubilee for the Reformation in Germany in 2017 and that this could open up for joint activities and for involvement of ENCN in project in Schleswig-Holstein. Östlandsutstillingen and BBK work well together and they could make use of this jubilee to prepare a third joint project.

Ms. Lundby informed about the upcoming study tour from Eastern Norway to Schleswig-Holstein with focus on tourism. The tour will be 1 to 3 June and focus on exchange of best practise and new knowledge. 16 persons from Oppland, Hedmark and Buskerud take part. There is a proposal to invite representatives from Schleswig-Holstein back next year – and that this exchange could be developed to an annual activity – every second year Norway/ Germany.

Interesting areas for future cooperation projects could be developed through connecting culture and tourism and also in the cross-line between business and culture. Pilgrim routs could be explored as a new area of cooperation – connected to the 500 years jubilee (see above).

The idea presented by the artists from Schleswig-Holstein under topic 1 should be included in the cooperation perspectives. Further elaboration will be done in cooperation with Vestfold. There was also a wish to include a point about the inter-cultural aspect of the idea and to find ways to exchange best practises.

Education and youth

The work to elaborate a joint Erasmus+ application focusing on foreign language education to support business development – especially within tourism industry - was mentioned. Exchange of apprentices could be elaborated. The existing partnership between the university college in Buskerud-Vestfold and the Hochschule West-Küste in Schleswig-Holstein could be better used in our cooperation.

The CC adopted the proposed Cooperation Perspectives for 2015/2016 with the amendments mentioned in the meeting. The coordinators were given the task to update the Cooperation Perspectives according to the discussion in the meeting. The final Cooperation Perspectives follows the minutes as enclosure.

Closure of the meeting

Mr Haabeth thanked all the participants for the input to the sessions and invited all participants for lunch.

Mr Augustin thanked for the hospitality and for the very interesting programme and a good meeting. He welcomed all to the next Common Commission meeting in Schleswig-Holstein in 2016. Date and place will be announced later.

Enclosures

- Participant list
- Cooperation Perspectives 2015/2016 - final

All presentations are available on the web-pages of Eastern Norway County Network <http://www.ostsam.no/20519.934.Schleswig-Holstein.html>