

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

Cooperation perspectives 2018/2019 (final per 08.06 2018)

## 1. Political cooperation

The ENCN and Schleswig-Holstein cooperate on various fields of common interest. These may include short-term and long-term subjects and activities. Regional cooperation is an important element to develop and to strengthen the good relations between Norway and Germany, and to contribute to the implementation of the Norwegian Government's Strategy for Germany on regional level. The cooperation between the ENCN and Schleswig-Holstein is coordinated by the ENCN Secretariat on the Norwegian side and the Division for European Affairs of the Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality of Schleswig-Holstein on the German side.

The ENCN and Land Schleswig-Holstein are actively involved in the **Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC)** and work together closely. Roger Ryberg, Chairman of the ENCN, is chair of the BSSSC in 2017 – 2018 and the secretariat is connected to the ENCN Secretariat in Oslo.

Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN also meet in the frame of the **STRING cooperation**. From 1 January 2018 Akershus and Östfold County Councils are full members of the STRING Cooperation. ENCN will continue as an observer in the political forum.

Both partners participate in the **Interreg B programmes** for the **Baltic Sea Region (BSRP)** and for the **North Sea Region (NSRP)** as funding of bilateral activities through these programmes may always be an opportunity.

Schleswig-Holstein and some regions within the ENCN are also members of the **North Sea Commission (NSC)**, where regions around the North Sea are organized. The topics dealt with in the NSC are of a broader context and often go beyond the bilateral common subjects.

## 2. Specific fields of cooperation

### a. Transport

Accessibility is an important topic for Schleswig-Holstein and for the ENCN. There are transport corridors via the Fehmarn Belt and Jutland from Norway to Germany and Europe, which are part of the Trans European Network (TEN-T). Those corridors are important for Norway's connection to Scandinavia and Europe, especially railway routes in order to develop and to allow for a sustainable transport of freight and passengers to/from the region. Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN participate in projects which intend to make the transport corridors more environmental friendly through offering charging and fuelling stations for

renewable energies along the way (for example the “Great” project of the STRING cooperation).

Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN keep each other informed about relevant activities and developments in the transport corridors and support each other’s interests (for examples related to the Scandria2Act project in the Interreg Baltic Sea programme and Northern Connection in the Interreg North Sea programme).

### **b. Climate**

Climate change and its effects on the regions and cities causes severe problems in both Eastern Norway and Northern Germany. To cut emissions is a shared goal that also offers many opportunities for joint approaches in the fields of innovation, business and science. Climate adaptation will be an important issue in the years to come. Measures have to be developed and implemented at local and regional level in the fight against climate change, and regions have to share knowledge and experiences to better adapt to the effects of the climate changes. By working together, we could address the climate change issue in a regional perspective as well as cooperating actively to climate reach shared goals. Climate change is on the political agenda both in the North Sea cooperation and in the Baltic Sea. Schleswig-Holstein and ENCN will look into the topic and explore possible areas of cooperation.

### **c. Culture**

Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN have a rich and diverse repertoire of cultural activities. This has led to close contacts between both regions and much fruitful cooperation. Cultural cooperation will continue to play a key role in the cooperation and should be reinforced by developing a roadmap for cultural cooperation – especially considering young talents. ENCN WG Culture and the Cultural Ministry in Schleswig-Holstein will enter into dialog to discuss and develop a plan for reinforced cultural cooperation. The topic will be on the agenda at the next CC meeting in Schleswig-Holstein in 2019.

In the field of **contemporary art** there are regular exhibitions in Schleswig-Holstein and in Norway, organized by Østlandsutstillingen and the Bundesverband Bildender Künstler (BBK), Landesverband Schleswig-Holstein (Landesschau). Currently Østlandsutstillingen and the BBK have worked out a three-year-plan with different focal points from 2018 until 2020 - named “planning future”.

The first project concerns the art of video. The exhibition will take place in November 2018 in Kiel. Ten artists from Norway and ten from BBK will participate after decisions taken by a common jury. The second project concerns the art of “free graphic”. This exhibition will be realized in 2019 and presented in Oslo in the “Tegnerforbundet” which celebrate its 100-year jubilee. The project will also be connected to Østlandsutstillingen’s 40 years jubilee. Through the two exhibitions the partners will exchange experiences and promote areas of contemporary art that are strong in one of the regions (Video in Norway and Graphics in Schleswig-Holstein) to lift the interest and competence.

In 2020 Østlandsutstillingen and the BBK will organize a big common exhibition in Kiel or Oslo - probably concerning the question about the future of the art in the Baltic Sea.

In 2018 the arts and crafts association, Berufsverband Angewandte Kunst Schleswig-Holstein e.V. (BAK) has invited four artists from Norway coming to Eutin’s “Ostholsteinmuseum” for taking part in the exhibition **Only (s)he who can master the form**

**can play with it.** Working title: **Spun and interweaved.** The exhibition will be open 13 March until 1 May. The artists are members of the Norwegian Association for Arts and Crafts or the Norwegian Association for Textile Artists. The project is supported by Norske Kunsthandverkere (the Norwegian Crafts) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2017 was the year of the **500 years jubilee of the Reformation.** At the Common Commission meeting 2015 in Hamar, Schleswig-Holstein proposed a common cultural project to mark this jubilee. The idea was followed up in a common project about identity, with a word by Luther as a headline: "To see with his/her own eyes". 109 artists wanted to take part. 34 were chosen by a common jury. The exhibition opened in Kiel in March 2017 and was presented in three churches and one gallery there. In Eastern Norway, this art project was taken into four churches in three counties during summer 2017.

In the field of music the cooperation between "Madrigalchor Kiel" and Asker Kammerkor was supported financially by the Land of Schleswig-Holstein in October 2017. ENCN and the Cultural department of Akershus gave their support to the cooperation.

A video project named "The Block. My world! Your world! One world – we are the voice" started in 2017 and got a financial preference by the Land of Schleswig-Holstein to be continued in 2018. Two schools from Kiel and Horten/Vestfold became online partners per new media.

In the area of **film** a close cooperation has developed between the "Landesverband Jugend and Film" (LJF) in Schleswig-Holstein and "Oppland Film Centre for Youth" (FiO) in Norway. Participants attended summer schools in filmmaking in each region, and plans were made for a programme called „Young Nordic Film Link“. In this programme, young filmmakers from Eastern Norway County Network, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark are invited to experience the "Nordische Filmtage" in Lübeck in autumn.

A new flagship project within cultural cooperation - based on the Norwegian painter **Edvard Munch** - will be further elaborated and discussed during 2018.

#### **d. Education and youth**

Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN agree that **young people** are a very important target group for educational measures and other activities. They support and are active members of the working group Youth Policy within BSSSC. In September 2017 Timo Nikolaysen from Buskerud (Eastern Norway) and Martin Ruemmelein from Schleswig-Holstein were elected as BSSSC Board members on behalf of the youth network for 2 years.

During the last years, participants from both regions attended meetings and camps for young people in Schleswig-Holstein and the ENCN. From 24 September to 4 October 2017 youth representatives from Buskerud and Østfold attended a youth camp on Climate Change in Schleswig-Holstein. This was an Erasmus+ project coordinated by Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Schleswig-Holstein. A new project is planned for 2018 with focus on sport, and young people from the counties in ENCN are invited to take part.

The CC meeting in Kiel 2016 had a specific focus on establishing school partnerships and exchange. Two schools from Schleswig-Holstein presented their ideas and this was followed by a cooperation project between RBZ Wirtschaft in Kiel and Gjøvik Upper Secondary School in Oppland in 2016/2017.

Cooperation between young people and school partnerships/exchange should be reinforced and supported from the partnership in 2018/2019. The use of EU-funds such as Erasmus+ are encouraged.

#### **e. Bio-Economy**

Bio-Economy is of common interest for both partner regions with a particular view on energetic use of biomass and climate protection even though the raw material stems from different sources. Therefore, bio-economy was selected as a new and useful field of cooperation from 2017 on. The objective is to strengthen cooperation with academia and business and to exchange knowledge, experience and ideas within cluster policy and smart specialisation in the field of bio-economy. Areas for cooperation could be innovation, start-ups and cluster policy.

Akershus, Østfold, Hedmark and Oppland counties are involved in an Interreg project 2018 – 2020 with Sweden in this field, together with business partners and universities. The Swedish region Värmland is lead partner of the project “The Bio-Economy Region“. The Norwegian lead partner is Akershus County. The project “The Bio-Economy Region” was presented at the CC meeting in Fredrikstad in 2018 together with the project “Northern Connections” that focuses on creation of new jobs in the energy sector with particular focus on clusters and SMEs.

The target of the partnership is to identify possible areas of cooperation. Angles and subtopics of cooperation should be further discussed – involving professionals working within this field.

#### **Organisation and follow up**

The Common Commission will continue to be the political platform for the partnership. The commission will meet once a year to put focus on political issues of common interest and concerns and share information and views - as well as being the monitoring body of the partnership. Between the CC meetings, there will be a meeting on administrative level between the WG on international affairs of ENCN and the Department for European Affairs of Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality in Schleswig-Holstein.

The concrete work within specific thematic fields of interest will be carried out by each county (or counties working together) together with representatives from Schleswig-Holstein. Culture will continue to be a topic of joint interest and will be coordinated by the ENCN WG Culture and representatives in the Cultural department in the Ministry of Education, Science and Cultural Affairs in Kiel. The cooperation between BBK and Østlandsutstillingen will continue to be a core part of the cultural cooperation.