



The Telemark County Council international team focuses its activities for internationalization in the following areas: International project development with municipalities and other organizations in Telemark, business development with an international perspective, infrastructure – trends and participation in international projects, schools – participation in EU programs, participation in (international) arenas and the Telemark and Hubei province (China) friendship agreement.

Telemark County Council's strategies for international cooperation from 2008-2011 are located on our website www.telemark.no/international.

Nordregio Report Gives Praise to Telemark's International Engagement

In their leading role in the North Sea Commission, Telemark shows a will to use resources to try to influence the larger areas in European regional politics. This was brought forth in a new research report from Nordregio. Nordregio is an independent research institute located in Stockholm (SE). The report is titled 'Challenges for regional cooperation in a globalized world' and was written by Harald Baldersheim, Are Vegard Haug and Morten Øgård and with basis on a Masters thesis study completed by Jørgen Sande Lysa from the Institute of Political Science at the University of Oslo. 'Small fish in a large pond. What are Norwegian County Councils doing in Europe?' To read the study (in Norwegian only), go to:



Telemark County, Norway;
Pop. 167,000; Area: 15 315 km²;
18 municipalities.



NSC President Gunn Marit Helgesen in discussion with the President of the EU Commission José Manuel Barroso.

<http://www.duo.uio.no/publ/statsvitenskap/2009/92133/Oppgavexpr.10.06.pdf>

Bjørn Reisz, the leader of the international team states that, "it is nice to know that our way of working has been positively evaluated. This gives us security in continuing with this working structure. We place emphasis on being efficient and effective with little bureaucracy and with focus on concrete initiatives in cooperation with our partners." The report points out a good development in Telemark's international work and a broad and deep international engagement. Special mention was given to County Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen's role as President of the North Sea Commission and Vice President of CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions).

The report also concluded that the international projects engaged in have a wide thematic span and the county council emphasizes good anchoring both in their own administration and in the municipalities and/or with the other stakeholders who will benefit from the projects. They find a clear development in the engagement from the earlier attempts at project cooperation with few partners to focus on networking and forums for discussion of common challenges, solutions and exchange of experience. The report also mentions the cooperation between Telemark and Hubei Provinces as a good example of how Telemark County Council has taken advantage of already established contacts to find themes to cooperate together on. To read this report (in Norwegian only), go to: www.telemark.no/international (click on satsingsområder).



Photo: Jan Steen



Photo: Leif Hamnevi

Municipal and Other Authorities Cooperation / International Project Development

International Project Development

Telemark County Council has been working actively with Telemark municipalities to gain interest to participate in EU programs especially in the Interreg program. We have a number of international related projects which are under development in Telemark. To view an overview of these go to our website and click on the menu 'prosjektutvikling/prosjekter'.

Tfk's seminar series on internationalization

Our 2nd seminar for 2009 was held in cooperation with the Hubei-Norway Week 2009 event which was held from Sept 7-10, 2009 in Telemark. 100 Chinese guests from Hubei Province as well as approx. 40 European guests from friendship regions to Hubei province participated



Chinese guests enjoy the outdoor Grenland Theatre Cultural Event in Porsgrunn. (photo: Dawn Syvertsen)



The Ecotourism delegation from Hubei Province experiences some environment friendly recreational activities in Morgedal. (photo: Dawn Syvertsen)

representing the sectors of Environmental technology and CO2 solutions, Cluster building and Information security, Health and Ecotourism. Go to www.norway-hubei.net and/or to the article about Telemark and Hubei Province Friendship Agreement further in this bulletin. Our next seminar on internationalization will be held from June 4-5, 2010 in Langesund in connection with the Langesund Shanty Festival. www.lmsf.no.

Interreg IVA KASK-Kattegat/Skagerrak Programme. CO² Handling in the Skagerrak/Kattegat Region

by Dag Bjørnsen, Project Manager, Teltek
Work with this project began on June 1, 2009 and is now in full swing. A kick-off meeting was arranged at Tel-Tek in Porsgrunn on November 12th. Participants included those from both industry and the public sector who contribute to the project either professionally or financially. A website is currently being developed and should be online in the next few weeks. The web address is: www.ccsskagerrak.eu.

IKON – International Culture Discovery Network Season extension in Kragerø via a European project

by Per Krogsrud, Business Development Manager, Kragerø Municipality
Kragerø Municipality participates in this European/Scandinavian cooperation project with the objective to extend the tourism season. The project is supported by the EU and includes many interesting events and activities where 'coastal culture' is an on-going theme.

One of the activities is the project called 'Maritime Toner' and will include a number of smaller concerts and



An array of Scandinavian musicians will perform in the project initiative 'Maritime Toner'.



WfG Partner meeting in Emmen, The Netherlands. (Photo: Helmut Berends)

musical events in Kragerø and on the island of Skåtøy in the years to come. Kragerø municipality's culture and business development teams cooperate closely with the song writers/poets at Skåtøy and hopefully this can lead to some annual events after the project period is completed in 3 years.

***Telemark Waterways (Water related development projects): Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme**

***Interreg IVB Waterways for Growth_Telemark**

(New website!

www.waterwaysforgrowth.eu)

An overview of our WfG project in Telemark is as follows:

Subproject 1: Museum Cooperation/ Emigration – partners: Skien municipality (Telemark Heritage – Incoming Tourists – *read more below about this project.*); Telemark Museum/Maritime Museum.

Subproject 2: Waterway Boat Network – Partners: Passenger Boats in Telemark (for ex. Kragerø fjordbåtselskap, MS Telemarken) East Canal project; Regional Park project.



Subproject 3: Shanty Festival/Maritime Week - Shanty Festival June 2010; Partners: Langesund Mandsangforening, Bamble + partners... Maritime Week June 2011 (B2B event).

Work Package 2: Business Development & Entrepreneurship. International partners: Telemark (NO) is the WP2 leader, Värmland/ Karlstad (SE), Bremerhaven (DE), Emmen (NL), Langedijk (NL), Scheldeland (BE).

As part of the work package 2 activity, Jochem Schöttler, Tourism Manager from Bremerhaven Tourist Board in Germany was invited to Telemark from October 19-21 to participate as a speaker at our Open Days Local Event at Klosterøya (more info in this bulletin about this event) with the presentation 'Cluster Development in Bremerhaven. The Seaside City of Bremerhaven. It's



Jochem Schöttler, Tourism Manager from Bremerhaven (DE) Tourist Board on a previous visit to Rjukan with Mt. Gausta in the background. (photo: Thrond Kjellebold)



tourism history, development, goals and focuses.’ Mr. Schöttler was also invited to meet with local experts and businesses in the tourism industry to discuss tourism development opportunities between Bremerhaven and Telemark. A good working relationship between the two regions is being developed with several visits already completed to both regions by representatives from public and private sectors. Bremerhaven is invited to the Langesund Shanty Festival in June 2010 in Telemark and Telemark will attend Sail Bremerhaven from August 25-29, 2010. www.bremerhaven-touristik.de/bremerhaven-touristik/deutsch/service_infos/nuetzliche_links/c_sail_2010.html?DisplayBack=true

Telemark Heritage – Incoming Tourists

(www.heritage telemark.com)

by Hermod Monsen, Project Manager for Skien Municipality

Skien municipality and Telemark County Council look for opportunities together in the Mid-West, USA. The first step in this process was to attend the Norsk Høstfest (www.hostfest.com) in Minot, ND, USA in September, and to arrange meetings with politicians, universities and high schools, tourist organizations, and trade and industry in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Minnesota and North Dakota, with a population of nearly 6 million out of which more than 1 million have their roots in Norway, are among the few states in the U.S. with growing prosperity.

We had many visitors who came to see the ‘Telemark’ stand we set up at Norsk Høstfest in Minot, and to ask



A kindergarten class visits the Telemark stand at the Norsk Høstfest in Minot, ND.

questions about Norway, Telemark, skiing, etc.

Tarjei Gjelstad from Morgedal made ski-models at the stand, with tools that were used in Telemark 150 years ago. The ski making presentation attracted many people, also youth and school children.

In Minot, we met the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, Wegger Chr. Strømmen. We also had a meeting with the Norwegian Honorary Consul to North Dakota, Ronald H. McLean, and with the newly appointed CEO for the Sons of Norway Organization in Minneapolis, Eivind Heiberg. These are useful contacts for further cooperation between Telemark and the Mid West.

On the Telemark Heritage website heritage telemark.com/eng/images/minot_2009 there is a picture gallery from the visit to Minnesota and North Dakota.



The Telemark delegation meets with Mayor Curt Zimbelmann and his team in Minot, North Dakota, USA

*Interreg IVB StratMoS www.stratmos.com

Excerpt from BarentsObserver.com

The Arkhangelsk Maritime Partenariat was successfully held from October 27-29. 80 Russian, Norwegian, Swedish and British business persons, politicians and researchers gathered in Arkhangelsk to discuss further cooperation within transport and logistics in the northern areas. Russian and Norwegian maritime politics were presented by high ranking officials from both countries. Amongst the Russian companies that presented their activities and possibilities were the giant shipyard



Arkhangelsk Maritime Partenariat participants.
(Photo: Thrond Kjellevold)

Sevmash, Russia's largest shipping company Sovcomflot and Rosmorport, the agency responsible for harbor construction and infrastructure in Russia.

The participants in the partenariats were taken on excursions to Sevmash, Arkhangelsk Commercial Port and Rosneft's oil base.

The Arkhangelsk Maritime Partenariat was organized by the StratMOS/NMC (Strategic Motorways of the Sea/Northern Maritime Corridor) Project. StratMos has about 30 partners from nearly all North Sea countries and associated partners in Northwest Russia.

Northern Maritime Corridor (NMC) is one of StratMOS' demo projects, aiming at developing more frequent and regular sea services between the Continent/UK and Norway/North West Russia. The demo project is carried out together with Russian partners.

It is important that both decision-makers and private companies are made aware of the large potential for business within shipping and petroleum projects in the Arkhangelsk area. To download the presentations and final report from the event, go to:

www.barents.no/index.php?id=4650474

*Interreg IVB Coast Alive

by Elisabeth Jøntvedt, Culture advisor, Telemark County Council

The municipality of Kragerø participates in an Interreg IVB project called "Coast Alive". The project is about how nature and cultural heritage can be used to promote public health and business development in the North Sea region.

There are 12 partners: Denmark, Sweden, UK, Holland and Norway, and the project started in 2009 with a duration of four years. The County of Hordaland, Norway is the lead partner.

The municipalities of Bamble and Kragerø together with the county of Telemark have been in a common project on coastal culture. One aim of this project has been to take part in a wider international project.

Coast Alive comprises several work packages and Kragerø participates in a package named 'Active Coast'.

The project focuses on adapting recreational areas and activities to stimulate the local residents and visitors to become more physically active. This is to achieve better health, a healthier lifestyle and also to become familiar with the local cultural life.

Local mobilisation and involvement is paramount. The municipality has established a local forum for the participation of voluntary organisations.

Description of some of the activities that have taken place in Bamble and Kragerø:



Opening of the trail 'From Ice Age to Ice Age'.

From Ice age to Ice age

A trail was established this year (2009) to promote outside activities and experiences and to get to know the history of ice production and export. Various activities have been arranged at different times during the project period so far, and these activities will be developed further.

Important partners have been and will continue to be local tourist, heritage and historical organisations. Local



museums have been involved and have facilitated common activities and arrangements. The project will be further developed, and will be reported on during the next period.

We have produced and distributed a brochure with information on cultural activities, environment and care of the environment, to all the households and tourist centre in the municipality of Kragerø and Bamble.

'Kragerø',

the old car ferry returned to Kragerø in July 2009 and was designated a national cultural heritage. The ferry is now being used for local cultural activities and Kragerø Kystlag (a local voluntary organisation) is active in all the arrangements.



'Kragerø' ferry.

Coast Activity Centre

located in the national culture landscape on the island of Jomfruland (Virgin Island). Jomfruland is one of 20 national culture landscapes, and the only one in the county of Telemark.

The Centre is located in an unused lighthouse. Here, we have arranged both art and geological exhibitions. Artists are invited locally, nationally and internationally. The Centre had approximately 10,000 visitors this summer. We plan to develop further activities connected to the centre.

Cafe Mermaid

is located at Skjærgårdshallen (a sports centre in Bamble). The cafe is run by women with various cultural backgrounds. The cafe aims at bringing people together and integrating them in the local community and the community life.

Coast Alive is a new project and the municipalities are anxious and positive to the project results and the further exchange of experience with countries in the North Sea region.

**Interreg North South East West Programme
*Interreg IVC Waterways Forward**

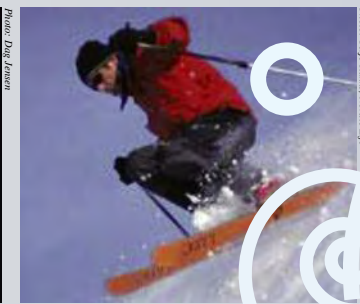
Excerpt from project application

The Monitoring Committee for this programme approved the application of the Waterways Forward project. A kick-off meeting will take place in January 2010 and a formal WWF launch event will take place in February 2010 in The Hague.

There are 25 partners including Telemark representing inland waterways throughout Europe and the lead partner is SRN – Dutch Recreational Waterways.

The main objective of the project is to develop to exchange and transfer of know how on regional policies on how to promote an integrated, sustainable and participatory approach to manage the smaller inland waterways in Europe and to develop recommendations for integrated regional policies to manage these waterways. By doing this the project contributes to boosting the socio/economic development of inland waterways and adjacent areas.

The sub-objectives of the project are: improvement of regional economic structures, creating a balance between strengthening the use of smaller inland waterways and potential negative effects on nature and environment, identify the future effects of climate change on the navigability of smaller inland waterways and the measures that can be taken at regional level, Identify effective measures to support and promote a more multifunctional use with a particular focus on safety aspects, to improve governance creating better structures to streamline national and regional regulations, to organise a more integrated approach between the various policy sectors and to have a balanced structure of responsibilities for the management of smaller inland waterways.



Notodden Municipality's International Engagement www.notodden.kommune.no

By Bjørn Frode Moen, International Advisor/Project Manager, Notodden Municipality

Seventh Framework Programme

Notodden is involved in a new EU financed project, first of all thanks to one technologist and inventor from Notodden; Kjell Ivar Kasin and his company X-Waste and Svein Sem, the driving force and farmer from Heddal.

The project called **MicroFuel** is co-financed by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme's topic 'Research for SME Associations'. The project aims to give response to the needs to decrease costs, to create jobs, and to increase biomass energy use and to increase the value of tree felling by developing a mobile, very rapid (< 1 s) pyrolysis plant that can process forest floor residue and wood waste on location to bio-oil and charcoal.

Baltic Sea Region Programme – Trans In Form project



Trans In Form project participants at Suwalki, Poland meeting.

The Trans in Form project has a total budget of NOK 15 million. International expert assistance and new ideas will be given to small towns, cities and regions in 9 European countries. In cooperation with local stakeholders and politicians, we expect to achieve increased attractiveness and awareness to town/city development, architecture and design. Various places and regions in Europe will learn from each other and develop joint pilot projects. Notodden municipality is the initiative taker and lead partner.

In addition to Notodden municipality and Telemark

County Council, project partners are Havelland-Fläming in Germany, Tranemo municipality in Sweden, Vidzeme Planregion in Latvia as well as Jelgava municipality in Latvia, Alytus county governors and Notodden's friendship city Suwalki in Poland.

Co-partners in the project are Grodno city in Belorussia, Pskov's regional development fund, the Russian Tourism Academy in Pskov, Krasnoznamensk city in Kaliningrad and Innovation Circle Network.

More info about this project on the **Notodden Municipality** web page.

Innovation Circle Network

Notodden municipality is an active participant in the **Innovation Circle Network** which is an important part of the theme: ideas to encourage the development of entrepreneurship. Notodden municipality sees the importance of the international dimension when planning for the future.

Funding from Telemark County Council to international projects/initiatives

NOK 50 000 to Porcelain Biennial for the pre-study 'International initiatives for the Porcelain biennial and the National Tile Centre AS' and to investigate possible participation in a European project.

Business Development

Green Business Norway – Participant in the Nordic Clean Tech Alliance (www.greenbusiness.no)

by Thor Sverre Minnesjord, General Manager, Green Business Norway

As a direct result of the pre-study and pre-project co-operation between Telemark County Council and Green Business Norway, the Nordic cooperation project Nordic Clean Tech Alliance is established with co-financing through the Nordic Council.

The project shall develop export possibilities in China, the Baltic/Poland and the USA together with Nordic businesses within environmental technology and renewable energy. In the Nordic Clean Tech Alliance context, Green Business Norway has been given particular responsibility for development of export possibilities in the Polish market.



The objective with the Nordic Clean Tech Alliance is:

- Development of export possibilities for the Nordic environmental technology businesses in the Baltic/Poland, USA and China.
- Link Nordic businesses together across country borders to make them more robust and competitive in the above mentioned export markets (for ex. technology cooperation to be able to offer a more complete solution(s) to the market).
- Identify a minimum of 3 concrete supply possibilities for Nordic environment technology businesses. This will preferably be supply possibilities where 2 or more businesses cooperate to offer a joint solution (supplier cooperation).
- Develop a Nordic brand/ labelled article within environment technology, as well as development and operation of a new website www.cleantech.org (in operation from January 2010) which will promote Nordic environment technology.

Green Business Norway is leading the work with development of export possibilities in Poland, as well as development of a Nordic brand/labelled article within environment technology.

The formalized project start date was September 1, 2009. The project will be completed on December 31, 2011.

The project has an economical framework of NOK 6 million. The Nordic Innovation Centre (founded under the Nordic Council) finances 50% of the project. The remaining 50% is financed directly or indirectly by the partners who participate in the consortium.

The Norwegian Department for Industry and Trade and Innovation Norway announce a prize in 2010 to female entrepreneurs

Excerpt from Innovation Norway

The prize for female entrepreneurs is being announced in cooperation with Innovation Norway and is a link to the Norwegian government's work to follow up the objective that 40% of all new entrepreneurs should be women by the year 2013.

The prize will be awarded to a 'female owned' business with good results and with potential and ambitions for further growth, preferably internationally. On February 15, 2010, an expert jury will choose 6 finalists who will

present their projects/businesses to a main jury in Oslo on February 24th.

More info at: www.innovasjon Norge.no

Maritime Partenariate Scandinavia 2010

Excerpt from the project plan

The Maritime Partenariate Scandinavia 2010 is being arranged from March 22-24 in Skagen in Denmark. As in previous Partenariates, the objective is to create B2B – Business to business relations between the maritime industry in Scandinavia within trade, service, knowledge transfer, competence, exchange of experience, and network-building. The previous year's development and experiences from earlier partenariates, both in Scandinavia and in Russia, have resulted in cost effective and result oriented meeting arenas. More info at:

www.maritimepartenariate.com

Arenas

The text for this section was contributed (unless otherwise noted) by Peri-Ilka Tinçman, Ph.D., Intern, Telemark County Council International Team

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) – www.crpm.org

1st Vice President of CPMR – Gunn Marit Helgesen (Mayor of Telemark County)

The annual general assembly was held in Gothenburg (SE) one of the most important cities in the region Västra Götaland. The approval of the new general secretary was the first item on the agenda and Elni Marianou was unanimously elected.

In her opening speech, she underlined the importance of the role of the regions to develop the future Europe. She stressed that the great objectives of so-called multi-level governance must now become a reality and that the regions must be given real power in Europe. She says that the upcoming budget process will be an enormous challenge and will determine whether we get a joint policy that focuses on poor regions or a policy that takes into account all the regions. Also in the difficult process of overcoming the global crisis, it is necessary that the regions will play a more central role. CPMR is committed to a binding pact between the EU, the member states and regions to advance the development of Europe.

Furthermore, CPMR has three new members: Bremen



(Germany), Trabzon (Turkey) and Zuid-Holland (The Netherlands). The 2010 General Assembly will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland.

North Sea Commission (NSC) –

www.northsea.org

NSC President Gunn Marit Helgesen

(Mayor of Telemark County)

NSC secretariat – Telemark County Council



North Sea Strategy. Macro-regional strategy development

Excerpt taken from a report by Michelle Armstrong, East of England Regional Assembly, UK

The North Sea Strategy is an initiative which has been proposed by the North Sea Commission and the Committee of the Regions North Sea Intergroup in the context of the development of a number of macro-regional strategies at a European level. Macro-regional strategies can be considered as a new type of EU cooperation. The first strategy being the Baltic Sea Strategy adopted by the Commission in June 2008, followed closely by calls for the development of a Danube Basin and Mediterranean Sea strategies.

An integrative approach is key to this macro-regional strategy concept; the key question is how can existing resources, legislation and structures be better used for the benefit of all within the North Sea Region? The fundamental purpose of these strategies is to add value by coordinating policies and funding in order to address challenges which can not be addressed at the level of the region or member state alone in the most effective way.

A macro-region does not have fixed boundaries but rather remains flexible allowing common action on specific identified common features or challenges. The common features or challenges is the important aspect which provides the consistency, this could be geographical, cultural, economic or other.

Within a European context a macro-region must be credible and will cover several regions in several countries. It is important to indicate different parts of Europe can be located within more than one macro-region.

Assembly of European Regions (AER)

www.a-e-r.org

The annual meeting of the AER took place in Belfort,

France on November 26-27. Energy and climate will be in focus ‘Sing Energy Europe’. The host region is Franche-Comté and the conference conducted in cooperation with GE Energy Europe. There were approx. 500 participants of which 30 came from Norway.

In addition to the annual general theme, workshops were held where the participants could exchange views, experiences and best practices, debate various topics and receive knowledge and use this for their work at home (Open Space). Great emphasis is placed on connecting the energy and climate to growth and employment with focus on the economic crisis as a contributor to a greener Europe.

Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC) – www.bsssc.com

BSSSC held its annual conference from October 13-15 in Ringsted, Denmark. The host region was Sjælland and approx. 300 persons participated of which 20 were from Norway. In the frame of the general meeting, an independent youth conference ‘YESS (Youth Event Sustainable Societies)’ took place with 40 participants of which 5 were from Norway.

The conference’s main theme was related to the EU Baltic Sea Strategy with particular focus on management systems and concrete follow-up and the climate threat: what is the status right now before the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen. The focus was on what regional authorities could and are doing to face the challenges of climate change. Five parallel workshops were offered. The regions require national authorities and the EU to act!

The Board of BSSSC passed a resolution related to the climate summit in Copenhagen. The resolution is submitted to the Danish authorities (who are preparing the conference), the national authorities in countries around the Baltic Sea and the European Commission. And on the Norwegian side to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Local and Regional Development and to the Parliament's Energy and Environment Committee.

BSSSC emphasizes that: A binding agreement must be settled now.; Emissions from the maritime sector must be written in this agreement.; Regional and local authorities must be in the agreement.; They have the power and the responsibility to concrete actions to get the emissions down, as well as to plan and arrange to cope with the consequences of climate change. Rich countries must help



Photo: Olav Kvan



Photo: Sindre Press

with technology and expertise to the developing countries.; BSSC urges all regions to develop their own climate plans. Youth must be involved in the processes.

Euromontana – www.euromontana.org

Arantzazu October 2009 Conference: disseminating to a wider public and moving towards concrete implementation in European mountain areas

“In effect the Arantzazu conference is organized at the end of a mountain path that had its foundation in an initiative of the European Commissioner for Agriculture all those years ago in 1968, was stimulated by a technical OECD publication in 2000 but which has been sustained – and will continue successfully – by the hard work and total commitment of the Euromontana staff, members and partners.” (Euromontana: Memorandum on concepts, record of Euromontana's work and policy recommendations)

The General Assembly of Euromontana was held in Arantzazu /Spain from October 14-16, 2009. The items of the agenda were amongst others, the presentation of the activity report 2008. Here it was mentioned that Euromontana has 6 new members in 2009, while 9 members were lost in 2008/2009. The organization is entirely dependent on having active participants. Furthermore, it was briefed about the projects Mountain ABC and PADIMA (policy against depopulation in mountain areas). PADIMA is an Interreg IVC program project and Euromontana is a partner. Networking and lobbying as well as extending the Secretariat are important to strengthening Euromontana.

Oslo Region European Office (ORE) –

www.osloregion.org

Open Days 2009 Local Event at Klosterøya in Skien

Excerpt from the project plan

This event had the aim to show how Open Innovation can be enabled and how regional clusters in different sectors can collaborate to enable increased regional attractiveness, entrepreneurship, transnational cooperation and development of new knowledge intensive sustainable industries.

The event took place on October 20th in inspiring surroundings on Klosterøya in the City of Skien, an island with a fascinating history with a number of global industrial eras, now in the process of being transformed



Open Days Local Event 2009 Klosterøya seminar participants. (Photo: Thrond Kjellevold)

from paper industry to a place for innovative knowledge industry, culture and recreation. In one of the former industrial buildings, the afternoon seminar gave the participants an overview of how companies and clusters can collaborate to increase the ability to develop high quality R&I projects under EU and national incentive programs and how they could work both to attract and support entrepreneurs. There were approx. 80 participants at this event. Go to: www.madeingrenland.no/index.php/nor/Foredrag to see the presentations which was a cooperation between Made in Grenland, IKT Grenland, Telemark fylkeskommune, Klosterøya, Papirbredden Innovasjon, Osloregion European Office, Innovasjon Norge, Vekst i Grenland, Buskerud fylkeskommune and Enterprise Europe Network.

Telemark and Hubei Province Friendship Agreement

www.norway-hubei.net

by Inger Hedvig Matveyev, Project Manager, Telemark University College



Hubei-Norway Week 2009 in Telemark

It was with great honour that the Mayor of Telemark Province, Gunn Marit Helgesen welcomed Vice Governor, Mrs. Zhang Dali of Hubei Province, Mr. Gao, Chinese Charge d'affairs and over 100 Chinese to participate in Hubei-Norway Week 2009 in September. The week started with a seminar day within the fields of Environment, Health, ICT and Ecotourism. The program was balanced with Chinese and Norwegian speakers.

In the final part of the seminar, there was an official signing ceremony where new agreements within culture and education exchange were signed, and also the agreement for a cooperation day at Expo 2010 Shanghai was concluded.



Telemark Province Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen with Hubei Province VIP delegation. (Photo: Steinar Finsrud)



Telemark Province Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen welcomes Vice Governor of Hubei, Mrs. Zhang Dali (Photo: Steinar Finsrud)

Hubei Province had invited their European partners to join a round table meeting for sustainable cooperation between Hubei Province and European regions. The meeting was held at Porsgrunn City Hall on September 7, 2009. China and several European countries (Norway, France, Holland, Spain, Sweden and Germany) attended this significant conference.

The main topic of the meeting was high-diversity cooperation and communication in the areas of education, economy, environmental technology and industry. Government representatives from different countries and regions presented achievements, expressed their wishes of expanding contacts, and proposed some valuable ideas for the further co-operation.

During the next 3 days, there were field trips to Norwegian companies under the motto 'Meet Norwegians at their work places' within each of the core fields. The tourist delegation travelled through Telemark province, and the Chinese delegates were impressed by the natural beauty and differences in the wild landscape.

The excellent cultural events took place during the week. Many hundreds of Norwegians watched spectacular Kung Fu performers, enjoyed the 'Chinese Paper Cuttings' exhibition that took place at the Porsgrunn Library and a special cultural exhibition at Porsgrunn High School.



Chinese paper cutting exhibition at Porsgrunn library. (Photo: Steinar Finsrud)



Chinese student volunteers at Telemark University College. (photo: Dawn Syvertsen)

The meeting between people has resulted in new knowledge, deepening friendship and new co-operation. Telemark Province Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen would like to thank all the contributors, participants, and especially all the Chinese students that volunteered during the preparation and throughout the entire week for the excellent work they did.

To our Chinese guests, we hope to see you soon in Telemark again, or to meet you at the Expo 2010 in Shanghai

Education / Schools

Comenius Regio Contact Seminar

by Ingar Bråthen, Schools Advisor, Telemark County Council

From October 6-9, Ingar Bråthen, Schools Advisor, Telemark County Council participated at a contact seminar for the Comenius Regio project in the town of Plovdiv in Bulgaria. This is an ancient town with interesting history and points of interest to visit.

Comenius Regio is part of the life-long learning



Contact:

Telemark fylkeskommune's International Team,
Telemark County Council, Fylkeshuset, 3706 Skien, Norway.
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00 – Fax: +47 35 52 99 55
www.telemark.no/international
Editor: Dawn Syvertsen, dawn.syvertsen@t-fk.no



Seminar participants learning more about the ancient town of Plovdiv in Bulgaria.

program. Regio Partnerships will promote joint cooperation activities between local and regional education authorities. The partnerships will give educational authorities, in cooperation with schools and other actors in education, the opportunity to work together on topics of mutual interest. They will

help participating regions to develop and exchange best practice, to develop sustainable cooperation across borders, to strengthen the European dimension in school education and to offer European learning experiences to teachers and pupils and administrators.

During the visit, Telemark County Council worked with Ourém Municipality in Portugal and created a draft for a project which will work with ICT as a tool for school management to improve education in a digital world and to support the teachers who will be responsible to implement new practices. An application will be sent in January/February 2010.



*Peri-Ilka Tinçman, Ph.D.
International Politics
(Photo: Dawn Syvertsen)*

New member of the International Team

Peri-Ilka Tinçman, Ph.D. International Politics is originally from Germany and has been working with the International Team for 6 months on an internship. As part of her work with the internship, Peri has completed an 'Analysis of

the status of internationalization at the High Schools in Telemark'.

Analysis of the status of internationalization at the High Schools in Telemark

by Peri-Ilka Tinçman, Ph.D. International Politics, Intern, Telemark County Council International Team

The aim of the study was to determine which form of Internationalization is desired by the students themselves. Another intention was also to find out which international

level the schools already have. In addition to this, the following issues were subjects of the analysis: Where is improvement needed? To which extent are the students ready for an exchange with foreign countries? And are they willing to take part in an apprentice exchange to improve their job chances on a global market after graduation?

Seven schools in Telemark took part in the study and 319 students (135 boys/184 girls) responded to the questionnaire. The average age was 17, 4 years. The investigation was concentrated on the students' wishes and desires. Therefore, it is possible that the views of teachers and directors could vary from the results. The realised study was subject to the quantitative method of Social Sciences. The aim was to classify features, count them and construct statistical models in an attempt to explain what was observed. The measuring instrument was a questionnaire with closed questions. See the whole analysis with the questionnaire at www.telemark.no/international (click on satsingsområder/utdanning_skoler).

Over 88 % of the students have never been abroad with school. Most of the students who took part in the survey are willing to participate in an apprentice exchange. 77,78% of all voted yes to this question. 84,91% thought that a student exchange is a good way to prepare for future work abroad.

More than 70% of the participants have never heard about one of the international (European) exchange programs such as Leonardo, Erasmus or Comenius. To improve this situation, it is necessary that the municipalities, county council and the schools cooperate together. There is a need to build up a control group with one or two representatives from each school, as well as with representatives from the public sector. The main task should be to deal with issues about the political, cultural and social development in their own region with the aim to link up with other European regions. After brainstorming, the representatives of the schools should be supported in applying for different EU programs depending on the needs of their own school.