



Welcome to the Innovation & Education Group meeting

3rd – 4th November 2010

It is a pleasure to invite you all to our next group meeting in November. This time we'll pay a visit to the county of Buskerud, which is situated in the eastern part of Norway. We'll stay in Drammen town. Around 63.000 people live in Drammen: www.drammen.no/drammen_in_english

The population of Buskerud county counts more than 255.000 souls. More info about Buskerud county:
<http://www.bfk.no/Modules/theme.aspx?ObjectType=Article&ElementID=2331&Category.ID=4146>

The main themes on the agenda will be *Innovation* and *drop-outs*, i.e. how to prevent drop-outs from upper secondary schools.

**Invitation, registration and more information about this event
will soon be available.**

The North Sea Commission President Gunn Marit Helgesen candidate for the CPMR Presidency

The new CPMR President will be elected at the Political Bureau meeting 30 September 2010, during the General Assembly in Aberdeen, Scotland.

President Helgesen states; *"The central role CPMR plays towards major stakeholders in the European arena is a result of the excellent work which CPMR's Political Bureau lead by President Martini, has accomplished together with the secretariat in Rennes. As President of the CPMR, I will do my very best to continue to strengthen the CPMR's position as an organization in the European arena."*

North Sea Region 2020

The chairs of the Culture & tourism Group, Sustainable Development Group and the Innovation & Education Group has written a letter to the NSC regarding the North Sea Region 2020. This letter will be for discussion at the NSC ExCom 29th September 2010 in Aberdeen:

"Dear Members of the Executive Committee

The Sustainable Development, Innovation & Education and Culture & Tourism thematic groups Chairs and Vice Chairs met on the 22nd of July 2010 in Badhoevedorp to discuss how best the thematic groups could contribute effectively to the North Sea Region 2020 document (NSR2020).

Background

During the Executive Meeting in April 2010 the NSR2020 was discussed. It was concluded that it should incorporate both sea and land issues. It was also decided that especially for land issues further input should come from stakeholder conferences organised by the thematic groups. A North Sea Stakeholder Conference, organised by the Marine Resources Group, took place in Newcastle 17-18 March 2010. On the 20th of May a workshop called "Working together to Manage the Resources of the North Sea and Channel" also took place. Both events were focussed mainly on the sea of the North Sea Region. They were very successful and produced a lot of input for NSR2020. To get as much input for the land issues it was decided during the April ExCom meeting that each group should organise a stakeholder's conference.

The groups and NSR2020

Chairs and vice-chairs of the Sustainable Development, Innovation & Education and Culture & Tourism thematic groups discussed the role and input of the groups and concluded that we should:

- identify challenges & opportunities
- provide a political framework for INTERREG V
- coordinate different sector policies
- should cover both land and sea based activities and be open to all regions bordering the North Sea
- there should be no specific channel dimension, but co-operation and involvement as appropriate
- and create a flexible and issue-based approach

The groups will follow the work of the CPMR and CoR, regarding the recognition as a macro region by Europe, but will not take steps to bring this further.

Since the NSR is a region of opportunities and challenges we will not only contribute to Europe2020, we can also bring it further. When we look at the issue of liveable communities, the targets of Europe2020 are more concrete and stronger than the 5 main points of the NSR document.

Especially on this subject we need more efforts.

When we compare our development to Asia's we must conclude that ours is getting less strong. We therefore need to have high ideas concerning our economy and innovation. There are big changes in demographic development: in Europe the population decreases, while in other places population is growing. Finally global warming affects Europe and the rest of the world in different ways.

We identified sustainability, innovation/education and creativity as horizontal lines throughout all subjects.

Europe2020 and the Key Challenges of the NSR both are internally focused. We ought to look at the world as a whole. The competition is not only taking place within Europe: it is worldwide. We need to attract people to our region by branding it as an attractive place for learning, working, living and leisure/recreation.

Stakeholder conference

We agreed that it would take too much time and work if each group was to organise its own stakeholder's conference. We decided to have it is best to hold a two day joint conference and it will be hosted by the Province of Zeeland in the 3rd or 4th week of March. The first day will be dedicated to common brand introductions from speakers such as a representative of DG regions, CoR, the Interreg Secretariat, the CPMR and a MEP on Europe2020. The second day workshops will take place.

We propose as main subjects:

1. Cultural heritage
2. Creative industries (since they can accelerate the economy especially in remote/sparsely populated areas)
3. New Energies
4. Coastal and inland Aquaculture
5. Integrated coastal zone policy - linking land and sea
6. Tourism: nature, heritage
7. Education: new skills and jobs

These subjects will be discussed in the next meetings of the groups concerned. We propose each group to provide 2 external speakers to speak on a subject related to their own group (meetings might take place on sites related to the subjects).

We will invite the Transport thematic group to participate in the conference. We also welcome the Marine Resources group, however as this group has already held their stakeholder conference in Newcastle focused on sea issues, they will not be asked to participate in the organisation or to contribute to topics of this conference.

NSR2020 ad hoc group and action plan

The groups support the North Sea 2020 ad-hoc group and we advise that each group provides a political representative. We would like to see a draft action plan to discuss during an ExCom meeting. It must be noted that the document has to be ready at the end of the year to be able to influence the Interreg Program. We would like to use the ExCom meeting on the 29th of September to discuss this proposal of a joint stakeholder conference further.

Kind regards,

Ole B. Sørensen - Chair thematic group Innovation and Education
John Lamb - Chair thematic group Sustainable Development
Harry van Waveren - Chair thematic group Culture and Tourism"

Events calendar

28 th September 2010	Meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland, between chairs and vice-chairs of the Innovation & Education, Culture & Tourism, Transport and Sustainable Development groups
29 th September	NSC ExCom meeting in Aberdeen
29 th September – 1 st October	CPMR General Assembly in Aberdeen
3 rd – 4 th November	IEG meeting in Buskerud County, Norway
3 rd or 4 th week of March 2011 <i>date tbc</i>	Joint thematic group / stakeholder conference in Zeeland Theme: "North Sea Region 2020"
June 2011	NSC general assembly / annual conference to be held in Bruges, West Flanders, Belgium

The North Sea Commission - NSC

was founded in 1989 to facilitate and enhance partnerships between regions which manage the challenges and opportunities presented by the North Sea. The NSC also promotes the North Sea Basin as a major economic entity within Europe, by encouraging joint development initiatives and political lobbying at European Union level.

The NSC is one of the geographic commissions of CPMR – Conference of Maritime Peripheral Regions of Europe. Read more here: www.cpmr.org

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