



THE MID NORDIC COMMITTEE

promidnord

A MID NORDIC PROJECT



Project part-financed by the European Union
(European Regional Development Fund) within the
BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme

TOURCALENDER AUTUMN 2006

1)
Start in Central Finland -
Jyväskylä 12-22 October 2006
Place: Artmuseum
Theme: Energy, especially
bioenergy and energyeconomy.
Energyseminar 11 October kl 12-
16.
Opening: 11 October 2006.

2)
South Savo - St Michel
15-23 November 2006
To be precised later.

3)
South Östrobothnia - Seinäjoki
1-31 December 2006
Place: Södra Österbottens
Landskapsmuseum.
Theme/seminars/workshops:
Sustainable development in
eventturism. "How does the
environment hold out when
30 000 people during one
weekend invades the
neighbourhood?"

SPRING 2007

4)
Östrobothnia - Vasa
13-28 January 2007
Place: Vasa Konsthall.
Theme: Energy and modern art.

5)
Sör-Trøndelag - Trondheim
10-18 February 2007
To be precised later.

6)
Jämtland - Östersund
13 - 18 March 2007
Place: Exercishuset på Campus.
Theme: Industry of experiences &
Culture. Seminars about
democracy and network 15-
16/3/2007.

...NEXT PAGE..

Mid Nordic Days 2006-2007 - The Mid Nordic Informationtour

Soon will start the so called travelling
exhibition about the Mid Nordic
Region: Mid Nordic Days 2006-2007!

The exhibition will be arranged in all
the central cities within the region:
Jyväskylä, Mikkeli, Seinäjoki, Vasa,
Sundsvall, Östersund, Steinkjer and
Trondheim) during autumn 2006 -
spring 2007.

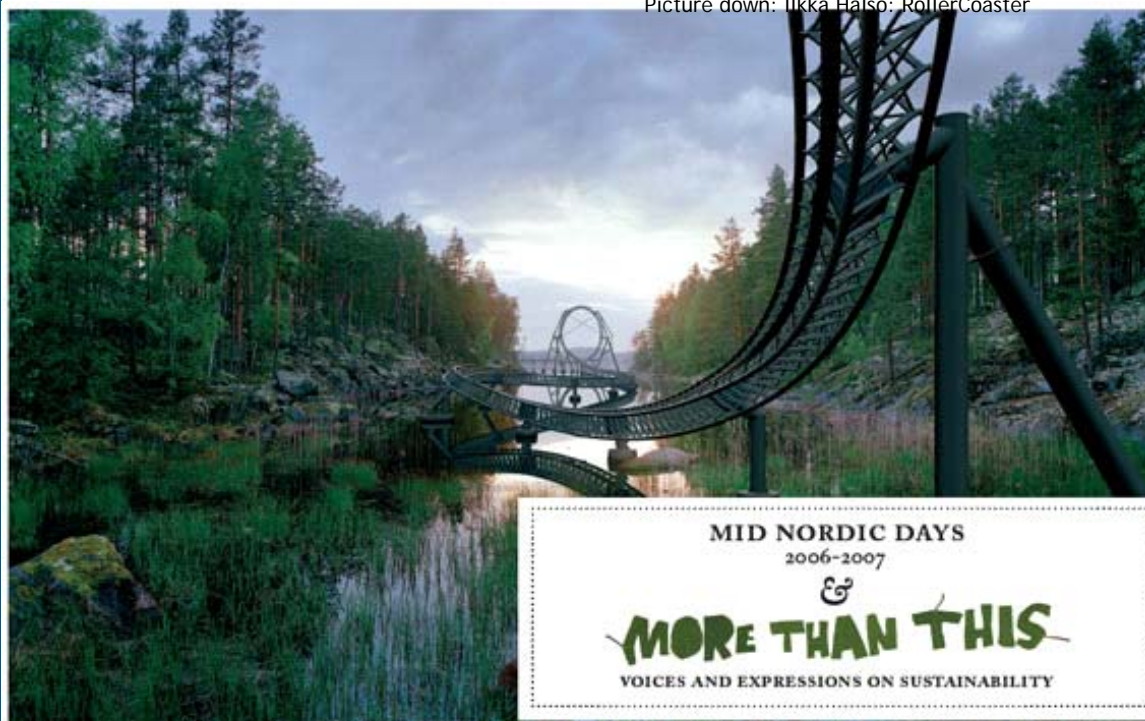
The exhibition will include short and
clear facts about the work in the
ProMidNord -project and about the
Mid Nordic Region in general. The
subjects are the comprehensive
strategy, energy, environment, youth-
democracy and culture. The
artexhibition "MORE THAN THIS -
voices and expressions on
sustainability" will provide artistic
perspective about sustainable
development.

The intention is to create a
constructive tension between the art
and the goals of the ProMidNord -
project. The purpose is to offer the
visitor a more interesting and

reflecting meeting with the Midnordic
cooperation and with the thoughts of the
artist about sustainable development.
During the exhibitiontime also other
events will be arranged related to the
theme. Seminars and debates will be
arranged eg. round the questions of
energy, environment, groceryproduction
and the future in general.

Projectmanager Lena Krånglin who has
earlier worked eg. within
organizationdevelopment and
musicproduction and as chief executive
tells about the work planning the tour:
- This task, to produce a travelling
exhibition with ingredients like energy,
environment, democracy, culture and
political strategies, has felt both as a
challenge but also as a benefit. The
challenge comes from the many and large
topics to be presented and this happens in
three countries, in eight regions and
during a period of only eight months. >>>

Picture down: Ilkka Halso: RollerCoaster



...THE TOURCALENDER CONTINUES...

7)
Nord-Trøndelag - Steinkjer
14-22 April 2007
Place: Dampsaga Kulturhus.
Theme: Youth and democracy.
Seminar about alternative
energysources.
Will be held during Steinkjers
150th-anniversary.

8)
Västernorrland - Sundsvall
3 May - 3 June 2007
Place: Kulturmagasinet.
Will be arranged in cooperation
with the finalseminar of the SÖT-
project. To be precised later.

MORE THAN THIS
VOICES AND EXPRESSIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY

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- The benefit is the opportunity to be a part of this important work. To be able to spread the information and knowledge about the extensive work that is going on in the Mid Nordic region, and having the goal of streamlining and coordinating the activities and research, it's a huge benefit for me.

She continues:

- I have also learned a lot about new subjects. I'm impressed about the discovery that there are so many far-sighted companies and operators that are dedicated to work for the sustainable development in our region. Too often we get to read in the newspapers about environmental pollution and waste of natureresources which cause that we get negative beliefs about the future. I personally feel new hope and confidence about the future after I got an insight about the highqualitative work that is being made in order to ensure the best use of resources and to develop new environmentally friendly technics.

MORE THAN THIS

In the artexhibition many exciting artists from the Nordic countries show new works of art, eg. Tellervo Kalleinen & Oliver Kochta- Kalleinen, Sami Rintala, Anna Ruth and Jussi Heikkilä among others.

Curator Rickard Borgström tells:

- The exhibition doesn't provide any answers to how we should organize sustainable development nor give a definitive answer about the term. It rather questions the concept. Nine of the eleven artists present new pieces of work which all have a personal vision to the theme. Borgström continues:
- Together with the artists we have had interesting discussions about sustainable development and the region, and this shows in the work of arts, indirectly though. Also the ProMidNord -project is introduced by personal intervjues of the WP-

projectleaders. We hope that in this way we create an interesting tension between the project and the reflections of the artists. I think that we have this way the opportunity to meet the audience in a more personal way, round the questions that are quite decisive for our future existence on this planet.

Five of the artists took part in a workshop in the beginning of June 2006. This was arranged at Galleri Kraftverk Box in Kramfors, Sweden. The artists were Nina Svensson, Anna Ruth, Tomas Eriksson, Jussi Heikkilä and Hans Kvam. Together with Rickard Borgström, Rikke Luther, Gunnar Brundin they all worked with issues related to the topic.

Three more placeorientated works of art are produced by Oskar Lindström & Martijn Van Berkum, Project Svartlamon and Sami Rintala. Three works of art are borrowed for the exhibition: Ilkka Halso, Tellervo Kalleinen & Oskar Kochta-Kalleinen, Petra Lindholm. All the artist involved has some kind of connection to the MidNordic Region, all but Ilkka Halso.

(Grafic Profile by Ørjan Igvaldsen NO -
Informationtexts by Mats Wigardt SE -
Exhibitionarchitecture/Design by Michael Lee Dudley SE.)

The „MidNordic Days 2006-2007“ - tour begins from Jyväskylä the 11th of November 2006. The exhibition is in town during 12-22/10 at the artmuseum. Week 41 is also a national Bioenergyweek and related to this there will be an Energysesinar on 11th of October eg. about pellets.

Welcome to our exhibition!

Further information:

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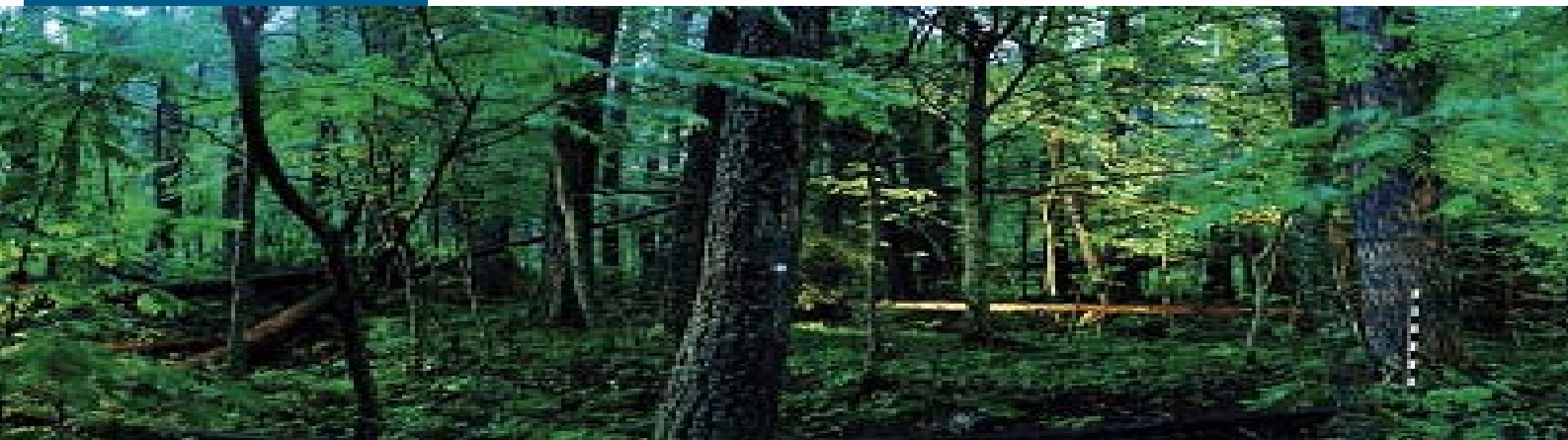
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and

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Environmentally friendly youth- and culture projects connect young people in the MidNordic Region

A successful midnordic Theatre festival in the end of May in Verdal

On 26-28th of May 2006 there was a midnordic theatre festival in Verdal for young theatre groups. About 100 young people from the midnordic countries met to participate in workshops and to perform to each other. Theatre youth from central parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland were challenged to edit and produce a theatre play which dealt with environmental issues.

School classes/theatre groups from the age of 13-16 -years performed their plays for instance in their own schools first. All the groups had the same play as a starting point: a Norwegian dramatiker Rasmus Rohde wrote for this project a manuscript called „The Indian Forest“ („Indianskogen“). The play tells about young people who in their village start actions to protect a forest nearby from the motorway.

The arrangers give huge credits and thanks to all the youngsters and leaders/teachers involved in this midnordic theatre project.

- It´s fantastic to organize a theatre festival when you see how much effort and engagement the youngsters have put in to the project, both back at home as well as during the festival, says Clas Rønning who works at the culture department in North-Trøndelags County Council.

He has had the responsibility in arranging this midnordic theatre festival in Verdal. Rønning is obviously satisfied with the implementing of the days:

- I´m sure that several important contacts between the countries and people have been made during the event,

and I want to thank everyone who have made a contribution to all of this, says Rønning.

Unginfo NT which is a regional youth-information service was present during the entire event and has published news and intervjues on their webbbpage, see the results: www.unginfo.nt.no

5 groups from the Mid Nordic Region took part in this project: 1 from South-Trøndelag (NO), 1 from Västernorrland (SWE), 1 from Östrobothnia (FIN) and 2 from South Ostrobothnia (FIN).

The results of the project were satisfying both by substance, from an artistic point of view and financially. The message about environmental thinking and sustainable development were clear in the play. Also the program and workshops were successful and the presentation of the common cultural heritage.

More information:

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ECH20 - Environmental seminar for midnordic youngsters 7-10th August 2006 in Rantasalmi

In the youth package of ProMidNord-project was it the Finns turn to arrange a seminar about the theme Environment.

The days were arranged 7th-10th of August 2006 in Rantasalmi, South Savo. About 60 youngsters from the Mid Nordic Region participated in this event filled with sunshine and program.

The event was arranged in cooperation with the Rantasalmi Institute of

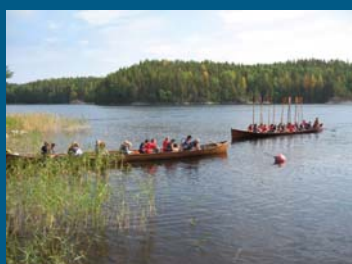
Environmental Education (RIEE). The program included less actual lectures and more workshops. By this the organizers wanted to emphasize the „learning-by-doing“ -method.

During the camp other principles were also the cultural environment and the youngsters ability to teach each other: the Finnish youngsters volunteered to work during the camp as guides and teachers.





Cooperation in the giantswing...



Working together is important also in churchboats...



Treehug...



Olov Oskarsson from Östersund was interviewed by the local media.



Pekka Hynninen from Environmental Institute told about how life changes through times...



For example Juhana Luomala och Liisa-Maija Valtonen helped at two workshops: at a geological workshop everyone could make a jewel out of stone and at the natureart -workshop participants listened to the nature and photographed the nature.

The guests got also an exciting and pleasant day at Linnasaari Naturepark where everybody also stayed over night and learned various things about cultural environment.

During the last day of the camp it was time to visit Savonlinna -city and it's Olavicastle. The castle was built already at the 15th century and it is named after the Norwegian king Olof. During the turisttour the visitors got to learn that there has been close contacts in the Mid Nordic Region for



several centuries. During the banquet later the last evening the youngsters held touching speeches about how important it is to get to know eachothers in the MidNordic Region.

The feedback of the event was positive: the program was versatile and everybody enjoyed the days and the company. One of the goals in the ProMidNord -project is to strenghten the common midnordic identity and the arrangers believe that thsi goal was accomplished. The event attracted also attention of the local media.

The next and the last youthseminar will be arranged in Norway, Stjørdal during spring 2007 under the theme of Entrepreneurship.

Æ Ø Å Midnordic Artistmeeting in Klæbu, South- Trøndelag

Æ= Å exhibition Ø = Ö workshop
Å exchange of results

4 artists Jorun Kraft Mo, Stein Erik Hansen, Elisabeth Engen and Grethe B. Fredriksen belong to an artistinterior in Klæbu municipality near Trondheim, and they planned and implemented an exciting artistmeeting for representants from alla the MidNordic regions. 9 artists (2 from South-Trøndelag, 1 from everu other 7 regions) were invited on 25/8-3/9 to work together in a „project outside and an exhibition inside“ .

There is an empty park in Klæbu which was earlier a zoo with eg. small paths and roads, two bridges over a small river, a pond and a waterfall. During the years of 2003-2005 the artists have made several studies and contacted actors from different sectors about the use of this site. The site represents an exciting cultural landscape near the towncentre and is surrounded by workshops and galleries.

All the invited artists sent one work of art

To work together
is the most
positive form of
cooperation

to a common exhibition at Galleri N°1 and the artists got to know eachother and each other's work. The exhibition was at the same time a presentation of the participants in the workshops for the audience.

During "evening-open" the area was lighted with lamps. One evening was reserved for seminar: presentations about the topic "park" from different kind of point of views; presentations of the exhibitions and the artists, discussions with colleagues and other interested.

The organizers had com up with an compact solution: exhibition inside, workshop outside and board and lodgning at the area itself.

The exhibition and photodokumentation of the workshops, workingprocess and results were shown at Fylkesgalleriet in Namsos 14.9-07.10.2006. These will also be sent a Norwegian periodical newspaper: „Billedkunst og Kunsthåndverk“. >>>

A good example of a successful schoolclassexchange

In the end of May 2006 Palokka High School in Central Finland and Wargentin High School in Östersund, Jämtland took part in the schoolclass-exchange, the Finnish school visited the Swedes.

The students had had contacts already before the visit and knew each other some. The Swedish students specialised in economy-and businessstudies and this is one reason why the Finnish guests got so much information about the business activities in the Jämtland region. Finnish guests eg. interviewed several companies during the visit.

The guests visited eg. the school itself and lectures, but also the universitet, the city hall and local museum. One day was spent in Andersön at the "Moosegarden" where they learned about the the moosebusiness. Also Åre was one of the visiting destinations and the guests heard about arranging the alpina World Championship in year 2007 in Åre. The youth business activities in the school was also presented and at the schoolrestaurant the guests learned about the local education within provicions.

The Swedish students arranged also eveningprogram: the students got to know each others and played different kind of old games. During the last evening there was a friendly footballgame between the two nationalities.

In all respects it was a very rewarding week, with intensiv and varied program. The students at Palokka High School are now much more motivated in learning Swedish and they want to continue the contacts with their new Swedish friends. Finns also look forward to autumn 2006 when the Swedes travel to Central Finland for a visit.



Reported by teacher Heli Vesamäki from Palokka.

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The project will also be presented on the webb, at first through a link from Trøndelag Center for Contemporary Art: www.samtidskunst.no.

The objectives of the project were eg. artistic engegament, idea and practical cooperation between the artists; it was interesting to see how different people saw and approached the area and worked with it and the topic. Further there will be a documentation about the process and results which can be used in similar situations.

More information:

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Johan Mauritzon built an installation together with Jaana Jeminen and they hoped that people would dance around it during midsummerfestivals next summer.



Märit Aronson:
I WANT TO HAVE HUGE HANDS AND CARESS WHOLE MEADOWS

Kvarken Archipelago – a World Heritage

Kvarken Archipelago becomes Finland's first site on UNESCO's world natural heritage list.

At its meeting in Lithuania on 12 July 2006, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee accepted the nomination to include the Kvarken Archipelago on the World Heritage List. The decision was confirmed on 16 July 2006. The Kvarken Archipelago is Finland's first Natural Heritage Site and is in addition to the six Cultural World Heritage Sites in Finland.

The Kvarken Archipelago is an extension of Sweden's "High Coast", another world natural heritage site. Together, these two areas form a complementary geological complex featuring land uplift unlike anything found elsewhere in the world. (Source: www.ymparisto.fi)

On the World Heritage List there are 4 objects from the MidNordic Region: „High

Coasts“ in Västernorrland, Sweden and Kvarken Archipelago; Petäjävesi old church in Central Finland and Røros minevillage in North-Trøndelag.



The strategywork in the MidNordic Region continues..

The eight regions in the Mid Nordic Region have a lot in common, both historically and concerning the future. Situated up in north, approx. 20 to 40 miles from the growing capitalregions in each country, causes that everyone must create strength of growth and competitiveness out of own conditions. This is why cooperation makes us stronger and gives us new information. If we can cooperate in the regions of Europe we can become a strong player both in the European competition of creative and enterprising people and in the national competition of governmental investments.

Natural recourses in form of forests and hydroelectric power are important common features that have given our regions an internationally leading forestindustry in which fibertechnological research and papermachine-knowhow are the best in the whole world. To develop the research within these and other areas, to stimulate innovations and entrepreneurship and to draw creative young people to realize their ideas in the mid nordic region is relevant for our future development.

Our small "bigcities" which can combine the qualities of a larger city eg. in form of multiple and tolerant atmosphere with the qualities of a smalltown eg. safety and nearness. Our cities also represent life near the nature in clean and beautiful landscapes and this is the strong playing card of MidNordic Regions in the hard global competition. This belt of regions with outstanding characteristics, such as fjords at the Atlantic, mountains, river valleys, high and low coasts, fertile cultivationsareas and lakelands in Finland, represent the Scandinavia in a cross section.

The cities in the MidNordic region offer all every quality of life. Trondheim, the great historical center of Norway, has a big university and strong growth going on. Östersund in Jämtland has also strong history within the region and nowadays a mountaincity characterized by wintersports and tourism. Sundsvall at the coast is the capital for business and industry in the northern Sweden. Vasa is the historical center of the swedish coastline in Finland and an important industrycity. The expansive Seinäjoki ist he center of agriculture and transportation in South Ostrobothnia. Jyväskylä in Central Finland is one of the most important university-cities in Finland and the center of paper- and

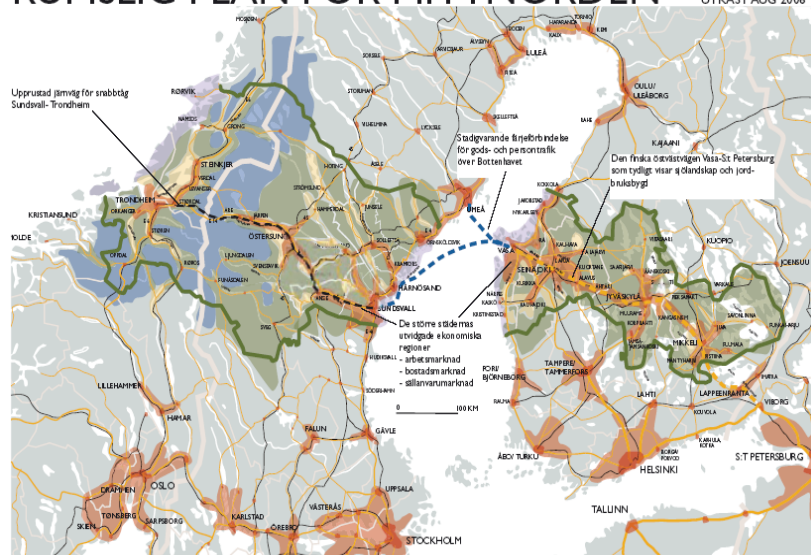
forestindustry in Finland. Mikkeli, the capital of South Savo has spezial know-how in forestindustry and compositematerials.

Cooperation in developmental issues between the midnordic cities is under construction. Sundsvall, Östersund and Trondheim have already established cooperation about how the cities can develop their role as regioncapitals and they implement projects within environmentally friendly trafics, studentcityqualities and university-cooperation. Vasa, Seinäjoki, Jyväskylä and Mikkeli in Finland are starting and palnning cooperation.

Trade and cultural exchange in east-west -direction, from the Atlantic to Russia, has been existing for centuries and will be an important road for development also in the future, in turism for example. An east-west transportcorridor is important also for goods, in order to avoid overload of the european network of transportations.

The midnordic development strategy, MNRSTRAT, will be discussed and anchored during autumn 2006 and the beginning of spring 2007. The first draft which describes similarities and differences in the eight regions but also sketches important common development themes has been made. The draft will be presented for the MidNordic Committee 18-19th of October.

The draft will be completed with a concret implementation program and a suggestion how to organize the future cooperation. The common strategy that the cities of Sundsvall, Östersund and Trondheim are working with will be an important part of the MNRSTRAT.



That many of the MidNordic regions are important groceryproducers is a fact less well-known. Trøndelag in Norway and Ostrobothnia and South Ostrobothnia in Finland belong to the most important agricultural regions. When it becomes more important to the customers to know that the food has been grown nearby and ecologically, can regional groceries of high-quality become a very significant industry.

A Midnordic Development strategy is under construction. A vision how the region will look like in 2020 and an implementing plan about how the vision will be fulfilled shall be discussed during the winter. The midnordic cooperation must be deepened and organized as a permanent interregional cooperation in one of the developmental zones in North Europe.

More information:

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URBNET, a broad town-network in the midnordic region is cooperation to which the Finnish cities, Vaasa, Seinäjoki, Jyväskylä and Mikkeli have shown some interest for. A studie about the cooperationconditions is being made in order to open the building of the network during year 2007.

ProMidNords final conference will be held in cooperation with the SÖT-final conference. The preliminary dates are 30th of May -1st of June 2007 in Sundsvall. We look forward meeting all the representants from our eight regions in our summer beautiful town.

Studytrip to Västernorrland: important exchange of information and experience within energywork



Photo from Sundsvall hospital



Photo from Timrå Riding school



Solar panels from Härnösand museum.



In the beginning of June 2006 MNEG (MidNordic EnergyGroup) made a trip to Västernorrland, Sweden, the purpose was to visit several good examples of energysolutions made in the region. The group visited following places:

In Sundsvall hospital the aim is to make the use of energy more efficient and to halve it, and this has been made by eg. in the lightning and in cooling down the roomair. The group got useful information about so called snowstores covered with wooden chips.

At Timrå riding school there are about 50 horses and 6000m² of area to be warmed up. At the school they produce the heating with a mixture of horse manure and straw.

In Härnösand the group visited the BioNorr pellet factory. The material used is 100 % pure sawdust from pine and spruce, and comes from own forests in Norrland which are environmentally certified by FSC´s criterions. The group also visited Hampnäs elementary school which is warmed up with pellets.

Härnösand county museum aims at an ecological point of view both in programactivities and in use of the building. The building is warmed up by district heating and warmwaterproduction with a 30 m² solar panel during summertimes. A small part of electricity is provided by a solar panel which is installed on the museum facade. Nowadays in Sweden you get 70% government contribution for solar solutions in public buildings.

The vitiors also heard about the ethanolproduction in Sweden and eg. BioFuel Region. BFR is en arena for regional cooperation focusing on biofuel made from cellulose. The region comprises in the first place Västernorrland och county of Västerbotten.



The vision for BFR is eg. that they will be a world-leading region in the area of cellulose-based biofuel that will be in the forefront of the acquisition of knowledge about biofuel, as well as being a leader in the development of technology, production and utilization of biofuel.

A pilotconstruction for ethanolproduction from cellulose was inaugurated in Örnsköldsvik in 2004.

Brazil has the longest experience in biofuel-production in the world. Todays it produces approx. 15 millions cubic metres of ethanol per year, by the cost of two SEK/liter and the raw material is sugar cane.

Nowadays several countries are committed to increase the production of biofuel which is today an outstanding alternative to gasoline and diesel.

In Sweden there are now approx. 40 000 cars driven by biofuel and approx. 2000 new ones are bought every month.

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Sources: journeyreport and webbsites, eg.

www.biofuelregion.se

Klimat & förnybar energi

Välkommen till ett seminarium om klimat, energiomställning, regional tillväxt och utveckling i länet utan fossila bränslen!

22 september, kl 08.30-16.00

Gamla teatern, Östersund

Välkommen till en inspirerande & avkopplande eldsjälsträff med cykeltema vid Birka folkhögskola 4-5 oktober

- Workshop om hur vi skapar attraktiva cykelstäder och får folk att cykla

Målgruppen är eldsjälarna som jobbar med mobilitetsfrågor/cykling inom ProMidNord. Till föredragen den 4 oktober kl 14.15-18.00 är även andra som har intresse av cykel-frågor som politiker, tjänstemän och allmänhet inbjudna.



Preliminary information:

Final seminar of the SÖT - project 31/5-1/6/2007

31st of May - 1st of June 2007 the SÖT-project and cities plan to have their final conference in Sundsvall.

The meeting with a get-together-evening will be held on 30th of May. The conference have following purpose and aims:

- * To spread the information about the MidNordic Region and the SÖT -cooperation which aims to create a strong macroregion

- * To increase the knowledge about regional developmental work by good examples

- * To increase the information and knowledge about the financial possibilities within EU in regional developmental work

- * To be a meeting place - forum for discussions

At the same time there is an exhibition in town about the MidNordic Cooperation. Book the conference dates in your calender already now.



The group at Tautra nature reserve and monastery ruins.

ACTIVITIES IN SÖT-COOPERATION

On 15th-16th of November 2006 the projectmanagement and steering group of SÖT-project met in Östersund in order to discuss how the adventure industry could be developed in the regions. To develop the adventure and tourist industries is one of the goals in the SÖT-strategy which has been discussed and approved by the SÖT -management and will be anchored in the regions later on.

The workgroup in the studentcity -subproject will during the autumn present the marketing material that they have produced. The activities that the Studentcity -workgroup has suggested are included in the strategy.

In the „Green traffic“ -subproject (WP3) there is a study in progress which aims to provide the SÖT -strategy supplementary material about the subject areas of infrastructure and communication and how these could be developed in a sustainable direction. Even this material will be used when the SÖT -management is working further with the strategy during its ´meeting in November.

An informationmaterial about the cities as „green traffic“ -cities is in progress also.

Environmental education in kindergardens – an excursion for Finnish Daycaretakers

In the middle of September 2006 a group of Finnish Daycaretakers made an excursion to Trondheim, Norway - the intention was to learn about the principals of environmental education in a couple of chosen day-care centers in Trondheim and Steinkjer. Also ProMidNords environmental workgroup took part in the excursion.

During the trip the group visited eg. Geilvolds kindergarden in Steinkjer and Lian in Trondheim. Vangstunet and Namdalseid -kindergardens are also so called Green Flag -nurseries and were presented also.

The guests heard about how the day-care centers in practic implement environmental education and of course, information and experiences were exchanged. The guests in turn arranged a fairytale-telling for the children and donated the gardens a Finnish invention „bug blotter“.

The guests also got interesting information about the „Children´s Green City - Trondheim“ -programme which „aims to inspire, motivate and support schools and kindergardens in

In addition the cities of Sundsvall, Östersund and Trondheim will arrange the European Mobility Week during 16-22/9. It´s an international campaign for promoting sustainable forms of transport which is organized in hundreds of cities in Europe. The focal theme this year is Climate Change.

A number of seminars related to the „green traffic“ -theme will be arranged and they are open for all interested in the MidNordic Region:

22 September: Climate and renewable energy, Östersund
contactperson: anne.sorensson@ostersund.se

4-5 October: Workshop about cycling, Östersund
contactperson: anne.sorensson@ostersund.se

19 October: Seminar about purchase, Sundsvall
contactperson: Marie-Louise.Henriksson@sundsvall.se



their work for sustainable development, using creative ways of meeting the environmental challenges. Trondheim Coty Council has approved the programme until year 2012.“ (www.trondheim.kommune.no/gronnbarneby)

The work for a sustainable environment in kindergardens and with small children includes eg. recycling, waste management, to save in paperconsumption, to increase children´s environmental consciousness through games and playing in the nature etc.

The participants travelled back home with new experiences but also with a strenghtened belief in the importance of environmental education and in the state of how the work is handled in the MidNordic Region. The group also hoped for further new forms of cooperation in the field.



The Ruralia Institute is an independent institute of Helsinki University and its unit in Mikkeli is responsible of the EcoStudies -subproject in WP2 in ProMidNord. The aim is to arrange highqualified post graduate education in Agro ecology as a base of organic farming and food systems. The first PhD-course "Assessing Animal Welfare" has been arranged in cooperation with the research school about welfare of animals (5 credits). During autumn 2006 starts the two next studyperiods: PhD-course "Sustainable Nutrient Economy in Agro-Food Systems" and PhD-course about Organic crop production.



EcoStart published

In spring 2006 started the work to develop a less formal EMS (Environmental Management System) for small and medium size enterprises. Employment and Economic Development Centre in South Savo has led the work. In the middle of September 2006 the EcoStart -system was published in Mikkeli.

EcoStart has been conducted for each individual firm to find out the possibilities to improve the material and energy efficiency of the industrial area and individual enterprises. It also helps the companies to prepare their environmental policy and program.

The basic programme consists of 3-4 half-day workshops in the enterprise: Manufacturing/Service process; Supply, purchase and use of energy, Environmental impacts of products (only in EcoStart_Manufacturing) and the Preparation of environmental program. Totally the basic program includes 6-10 consultancy days. The subsidize that is

About eco-industrial parks in Finland

The first eco-industrial park in Finland was founded in Rantasalmi, South Savo. The charter of foundation of Rantasalmi eco-industrial park was signed by seven companies in March 14th 2006. A common environmental program for years 2006-2008 has been set up. Program proposes actions for environmental matters aroused from the environmental reports of each firm. The program will be updated each year in the future. One aim in the environmental program is to improve materials efficiency. The development in the Rantasalmi eco-industrial park will be observed in the future with at least following indicators:

- wood wastes to combustion, tons/year
- landfill waste, tons/year
- total consumption of heat energy
- material and service flows between companies, €/year

One goal is also to increase the security and comfort in the industrial area.

Second eco-industrial park in Finland to Mikkeli

The first eco-industrial park in Rantasalmi is now followed by the second one, by Eko-Pursiala- industrial area in Mikkeli. Ten enterprises led by the Trades division of Mikkeli region are starting the work to implement the second eco-industrial park in Finland and the MidNordic Region.

paid for the enterprise by the Employment and Economic Development Centre depends on the size of the enterprise and can be up to 80 %.

EcoStart consists of two service products: EcoStart_Manufacturing is designed for manufacturing SMEs like sub-sectors as food and drink, textiles, timber, woodworking, chemicals, machines and equipments, metals, printing, construction, bakeries etc. EcoStart_Services is designed for service enterprises like shops, restaurants, transport sector, banks and insurance sector, education and health care sector, offices etc.

EcoStart -product is accessible in T&E Centres in South Savo, South Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, Häme and Pirkanmaa. In practise 14 environmental experts implement the program in enterprises and they have strong experience eg. about EMS. The goal is to get national status for the EcoStart EMS in the beginning of 2008.

Significant savingpotential in the use of energy in spas and skiing resort

The preliminary results from spas AaltoAlvari in Jyväskylä, Rantakeidas in Mikkeli and Äre Holiday Club and Äre skiing resort show that with relatively small measures the consequences can be significant financial savings.

According to the energysurveys made in AaltoAlvari -spa could approx. 14.000 euros be saved per year if the measures proposed should be implemented. At Äre spa the savingpotential would be even higher: by making the ventilationsystem and other technical solutions more effective there could be as high savings as 100.000 euros per year. At Äre skiing resort the saving could be approx. 25.000 euros which are saved from the costs of artificial snow. The saving occurs when the snow is taken from the ponds uphill instead of the lake downhill.

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Municipal commissioner Jens Nilsson, Executive Director of South Savo Regional Council Hannu Vesa and project leader Kalle Lockner gave information on ProMidNord and NECL - projects for interested during the Baltic Sea - conference.



The award money will be well spent when we during autumn will expand our activities all over the county of Jämtland", says Kjell Castberg and Jimmy Eriksson from PoesiRum. (Länstidningen 8/9/2006)

Visit also our webpages:

www.mittnorden.net

and www.promidnord.net

Next Newsletter in January 2007

Baltic Sea -conference in Visby 16 – 18th of August 2006 "Prosperity and Sustainability - Local cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region"

The Swedish Government and Prime minister Göran Persson called in the countries round the Baltic Sea to this conference in the middle of August 2006 to discuss our common responsibility - the Baltic Sea and it's future. The conference was attended by Finnish Prime minister Matti Vanhanen and EU Commissioner Danuta Hübner.

The conference themes were:

- Strengthening cooperation between local, national and European actors
- Providing a secure and sustainable livelihood in the Baltic Sea Region
- Environment and Energy
- Providing a secure and sustainable livelihood in the Baltic Sea Region
- Combatting Trafficking
- Promoting trade and investment in the Baltic Sea Region

At the same time there was an exhibition which presented several cooperative

projects round the Baltic Sea. For example PROMIDNORD was presented in form of roll-up and information-outlets in Swedish, Finnish and English.

Also the communication project NECL was introduced by eg. municipal commissioner Jens Nilsson from Östersund and other involved persons.

Executive Director of South Savo Regional Council Hannu Vesa contributed with information on both of the projects. The Russian brochures of NECL intrigued a lot of people and we made friendly contacts eg. with Elena I Kalinina from St Petersburgs Social and Economic Institute. In the future we hope to use these contacts in order to expand and deepen the midnordic cooperation towards Russia.

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Midnordic Culturedays 2006 in Jämtland "Literature and reading in the signs of multiculturalism"

Midnordic Culturedays is a traditional event which is arranged every year. In 2006 the days' theme was focused on libraries and on their role as cultural meeting places. The undertitle was "Literature and reading in the signs of multiculturalism". During the days also the traditional midnordic CultureAwards were distributed.

The event on 7th-9th of September were in order the 22. midnordic Culturedays and the third time the days were arranged in Östersund. When the county library of Jämtland i Östersund got the event task from the Mid Nordic Committee there was no hesitations:

- It's a very exciting and a unique opportunity to make the library to the meeting place that it's meant to be, explains library director Bodil Köpsén. Naturally the stress lies on literature, but also music, dance, art and theatre are presented during this years days.
- We have tried to compound a program which suites for people in alla ages, says Bodil Köpsén.

In Sweden years 2006 theme is multiculturality and it also put its stamp in the program. For instance the Lappish culture was for granted when the multiculture in Jämtland was presented. Other pressing issues were eg. the decreasing reading of children and increasing use of computers, cooperation

over cultural boundaries and good examples of all the above mentioned.

During the days also the midnordic Cultureawards were given: the mainaward 50 000 SEK was given to author Carl-Göran Ekerwald, from Jämtland, with following argumentations: "Through a lifelong engagement as author, people describer and administrator Carl-Göran Ekerwald has made the culture heritage in Jämtland and Europe more availability".

The midnordic cultureaward for children and youth (25 000 SEK) was given to association PoesiRum, Östersund, argumentations: "The association has worked in an inventive way and enriched the cultural life of young people, for instance by bringing up poetry in new arenas. Through cooperation with other culture genres the association has created engagement and interest for new creating poetry".

Target groups for the days were the public audience, library personnel, culture practisians, politics etc. A special invitation was sent out to the other midnordic regions.

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