

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 18 June 2010**

### **1. Introduction**

The aim of this report is to summarise the work of the North Sea Commission's thematic group "Innovation and Education Group" (IEG) from June 2009 to June 2010.

### **2. IEG Chair, Vice-Chairs and Adviser**

- Chair: Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen, Region North Denmark
- Vice-Chairs:
  - Cllr. Kate Dean, Aberdeen City, Scotland
  - Cllr. Ellen Marie Solheim, Rogaland County Council, Norway
- Adviser: Erik Lindboe, Rogaland County Council, Norway

**3. The I & E Strategic Group** (the chair, vice-chairs, adviser and supporting officers) met in Gothenburg, 1 October 2009 to plan the Innovation & Education Group meeting in Aalesund, Norway, 10 – 11 February 2010. The Strategic Group met again in Aberdeen City 14 December 2009 and 3 June 2010 to plan IEG activities.

### **4. Innovation & Education Group meetings in 2010**

a) The IEG meeting in Aalesund, Norway, 10 – 11 February 2010 was very well attended. Around 30 people from England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark participated in this seminar. The main theme was Young Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Minutes and papers from this meeting are published on the NSC homepage: <http://northsea.org/>

b) The next IEG meeting will be held 3 – 4 November 2010 in Buskerud county, which is situated in the eastern part of Norway. Meeting venue tbc.

### **5. The CPMR seminar on energy in Falmouth, Cornwall, England**

IEG chair and adviser attended the CPMR's Energy Working Group seminar 21 – 23 October 2009 on maritime energy in Falmouth. Minutes and papers from the seminar is to be found on the CPMR homepage:

<http://www.cpmr.org/index.php?act=13,24,2>

### **6. Build with CaRE (Interreg IV B project)**

The Annual meeting was held in Bremen 11 – 12 November 2009  
IEG chair Ole B. Sorensen attended the meeting.

### **7. The North Sea Schools Sustainability Network**

The school projects are funded by so-called Comenius fundings, Lifelong Learning Programme, which is a strand of European funding which promotes travel between countries in order to develop knowledge and understanding of the diversity of European cultures as well as sharing educational objectives.

a) The project "Talking about Food around the North Sea" which started in September 2008, held the final conference in Dundee, Scotland, 8 – 11 June 2010. Adviser Erik Lindboe attended this event. The pupils have made a cook book with recipes from their region. The project schools:

- Invergowrie Primary School (Scotland)
- Beaumont Primary School, England
- Tofthøjskolen (Denmark)
- Ecole Viala (France)
- Kvaleberg skole (Norway).

Project website: [www.talkingaboutfood.uk.org](http://www.talkingaboutfood.uk.org).

**b) The project “Healthy Living”** started in September 2009, and it will run till May/June 2011.

Participating schools:

- Kirkhill School, Aberdeen, lead partner
- Methwold High School, England
- IES Num. 1 Xabia, Spain
- SSG DE Rede, the Netherlands
- Seja School, Latvia
- Tume School, Latvia
- Sunde School and Gosen School, Norway

The international project teams will meet, demonstrate and compete at a Sports and Cultural Event In Aberdeen in May 2011, where the project outcomes will be disseminated. A virtual Exhibition will illustrate project activities and display the project results.

Project website: <http://healthylivingproject.derede.nl/>

**c) The project “Connect – Create - Sustain”** began in August 2009 and will run until July 2011. The partners involved are Romania, Sweden, France, The Netherlands and Scotland. The breakdown of the partners is as follows:

Dundee College - Scotland  
 Angus College - Scotland  
 Platengymnaist - Sweden  
 ROC Westerschelde -The Netherlands  
 Coleguil Tehnic - Romania  
 Lycée Charlotte Perriand - France  
 Lycée César Baggio - France

The purpose of the partnership is to explore sustainability in design, attitudes, ideas and practices. Partners are currently developing design work using recycled materials and environmentally sound approaches, and european mobility between the partners is developing a greater understanding of different national and cultural attitudes to sustainability.

## **8. Cooperation with the NSC Sustainable Development Group (SDG)**

IEG chair, councillor Ole B. Sorensen and adviser Erik Lindboe attended the SDG meeting in Aberdeen 8 – 9 March 2010. The purpose was to discuss broader input into the North Sea Strategy, and possible joint future events between the Sustainable Development Group and the Innovation & Education Group. Also, the Sustainable Development Group and the Education and Innovation Group agreed upon writing a paper on the North Sea Strategy process.

The IEG Strategic Group is considering the possibilities of holding a major conference in 2011 in cooperation with other NSC thematic groups, also including the Baltic Sea Commission.

## **9. North Sea Stakeholder conference 17 – 18 March 2010 in Newcastle**

In June 2009 the North Sea Commission Executive Committee decided that the NSC should work for the launch of an EU strategy for the North Sea Region. The first stakeholder conference was held in Newcastle, England, in co-operation with CoR and the EU Commission, sponsored by the UK Government and the NSC. IEG chair, councillor Ole B. Sorensen and adviser Erik Lindboe attended the conference.

## **10. The North Sea Strategy**

**a)** In 2010 IEG Strategic Group sent a statement to the NSC President, amongst other things pointing out that the IEG finds that the focus of the draft strategy paper is too narrow. The paper focuses to a large extent on the maritime sector and fisheries and if this focus is not broadened the NSC risks not being able to attract a broad stakeholder base which is necessary for the development of a North Sea Strategy that is representative of all users of the North Sea. The stakeholder conference should involve all stakeholders in the North Sea Region.

Furthermore, the strategic group believes that attention should be paid to Michelle Armstrong's paper 'Briefing paper – North Sea Strategy' which focuses on points that will add value to the North Sea Region:

- Climate change
- Development of a North Sea Grid
- Maritime research and data collection
- Develop the economic potential of the North Sea Region through new industries and jobs
- Support knowledge as the engine for sustainable growth by strengthening education and research and providing the framework for innovation and creativity.
- Support excellence in relation to renewable energy production, supply and technologies
- Safe use of our seas
- Demographic change
- Enhanced digital infrastructure coverage to increase competitiveness

The strategic group also believes that attention should be paid to the working document on the EU 2020 strategy that will replace the Lisbon Agenda.

b) The Sustainable Development Group and the Education and Innovation Group has produced a paper on the North Sea Strategy process. The comments are jointly supported by the two groups, and was forwarded to the NSC Secretariat and the respective chairs and vice chairs earlier this year.

## 10. Events calendar 2009 - 2010

2009	
23 – 26 June	North Sea Commission GA in Region Noord-Holland
24 – 25 September	New Comenius school project "Healthy Living", Kick-off meeting in Stavanger, Norway.
30 September – 2 October	CPMR GA in Gothenburg
1 October	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Gothenburg
21 – 23 October	CPMR's Energy Working Group seminar on energy in Falmouth, Cornwall, England
11 – 12 November 2009	Build with CaRE Interreg IV B project – Annual meeting in Bremen.
25 – 26 November	NSC secretariat / advisers meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland
30 November – 1 December	NSC Executive Committee meeting in Kiel, Germany
14 December	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Aberdeen
2010	
3 – 4 February	NSC Secretariat and advisers meeting, planning the NSC GA in June
10 – 11 February 2010	IEG meeting in Aalesund, Norway.
8 – 9 March	Sustainable Development Group meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland
17 – 18 March	North Sea Stakeholder Conference in Newcastle, England
11 May	NSC Secretariat, advisers and North Sea Programme meeting in Copenhagen, planning the NSC GA in June
3 June	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Aberdeen
8 – 11 June	The school project "Talking about Food around the North Sea": Final conference in Dundee, Scotland
16 – 18 June	NSC GA / joint NSP annual conference in Stavanger, Norway
29 September – 1 October	CPMR General Assembly in Aberdeen, Scotland
date tbc	IEG Strategic Group meeting
3 – 4 November	IEG meeting in Buskerud County, Norway
2011	
Date tbc	IEG meeting in spring
Early March, date tbc	Joint conference – North Sea Region 2020