

Næringslivets Europakontor Nordland

Nordland Europe office for enterprise



Why care about the EU and EEA in North Norway???

- EU is the main trading partner and Nordland county is the 2. most exporting county in Norway.
- Knowledge of the applied rules and regulations can be of great value to the businesses.
- Participating in EU-financed RDA projects may result in more secure jobs now and in the future.
- Relatively good chances for securing EU-funding for the RDA projects planned in the companies provided good projects of course.



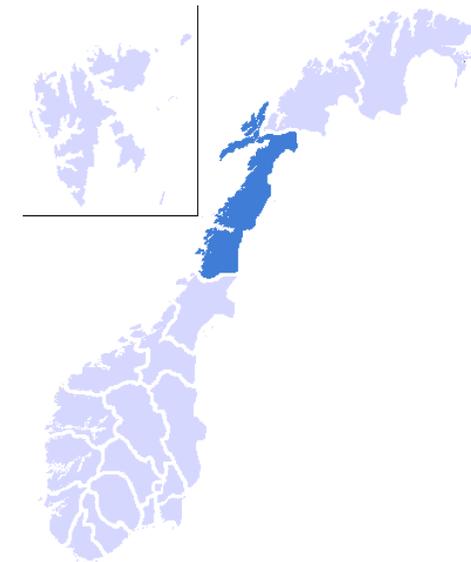
A historical background:

- The fall of 2009 – The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise in Troms started up a EU-project for the benefit of companies in Troms county. Andreas Holm Bakke was hired to lead the Troms project.
- Main source of finance – money devolved to the county due to a higher social security tax in Tromsø than in the rest of the county.
- If it works in Troms it must work for Nordland too!
- Over a few months the framework for a similar project as in Troms was created in Nordland and the project could start up February 1. this year.



Why such a project?

- The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise in Troms as well as in Nordland has for quite some time sensed that businesses in the North of Norway seemingly are lacking in competence and knowledge about the EEA agreement.
- This has been seen especially through the limited participation of North Norwegian businesses in EU-financed RDA projects.
- Thus the main goal the project is measured against, at least in Nordland, is its ability to instigate an increased participation of regional businesses in EU-projects.



So what is so special with this???

- The projects are quite unique in their form and existence.
- A similar project has been set up in Troms county as the only other place in Norway.
- Both projects, albeit somewhat different in their set up, are mainly financed by a system that has been established for the return of the higher level of social security tax businesses in Tromsø and Bodø must pay compared with what is the case for the rest of the region.
- The duration of the projects has been set to three years.

The project: Nordland Europe office for enterprise

- Main aim:
- To assist small and medium sized companies in Nordland county in taking full advantage of the rights and possibilities given through the EEA-agreement.
- This will be achieved through both giving information to the companies as a whole as well as through close cooperation with individual companies with the aim of establishing them as partners in EU-financed RDA-projects.



Many players – one point of contact!!



What shall I do over the three years?

- Inform businesses about their rights as well as the possibilities that exist for EU funding.
- Be a one stop shop for the businesses that need help getting started in EU-projects.
- Be a creative player working with the regional businesses.
- Help in the process of establishing a EU-project or cooperation with one after the businesses have identified a problem or a task they need solved.
- Assist in finding the right persons with whom to speak, finding funding and the right persons to write the applications etc.

The road ahead:

- Most depends on the signals and needs from the businesses.
Contact me and use me!
- Producing every Friday a newsletter with topics and issues from the EU or related to it from the last week.
- Spending time visiting businesses.
- Cooperate with individual businesses that ask for this.
- I am to represent the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise in Nordland in the Interreg projects that they take part in.

The road ahead continued...

- Participate in working-groups aiming at securing a continuation of the cohesion system that at present is allowed for in Norway. Namely the regionally differentiated social security tax.
- A legitimate fear that it could be banned after 2013.



Thank you!!

- Contact me!!
- Phone: +47 413 27 121
- E-mail: jens.kyed@nho.no
- Internet: www.nho.no/nordland - EU prosjekt
- Mail address: Sandgata 5A, Postboks 343, 8001 Bodø

