



 West Norway Office

Networking in Brussels



# Today's topic

- What is a Regional Representation Office?
- How do we network?
- How can we be helpful in project work?

# What is a regional office?

- Not a way to be «almost» member of the EU
- A European way of work
- The first regional offices in Brussels were created in the beginning of the 80s
- The Germans and the British were the first to establish their own regional representation offices in Brussels
- Today there are around 250 European offices in Brussels, representing local and regional interests
- West Norway Office was established in 2003 and is one of six Norwegian regional offices in Brussels

# Members



Austevoll



Austrheim



Balestrand



Bergen



Eidfjord



Hordaland



Møre og Romsdal



Sogn og Fjordane



Fedje



Fjaler



Førde



Gaular



Gloppen



Haram



Høyanger



Jølster



Kvam



Naustdal



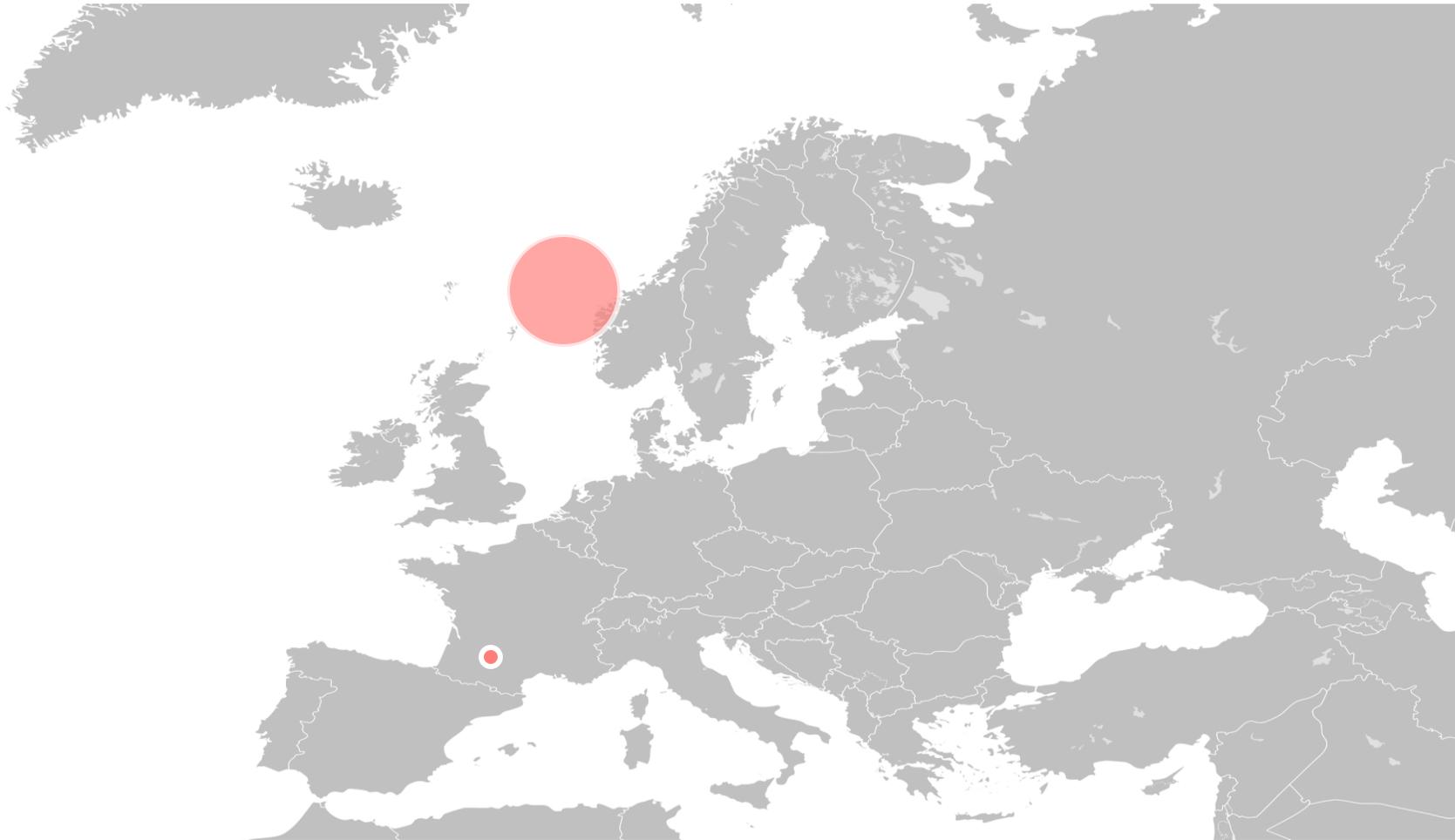
Samnager



Voss



Øygarden



**A liaison between Western Norway and Europe**



**Merete Mikkelsen**  
Director



**Jorunn Kristina Skodje**  
European Affairs Advisor



**Per Bakke Ingebrigtsen**  
Intern

# The European dimension

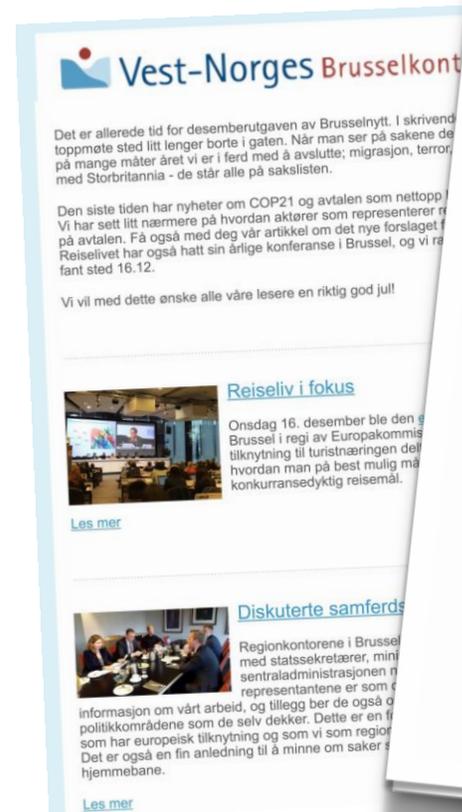
«West Norway Office will work to ensure that the European dimension contributes to development and added value for the region.»

But what defines the European dimension?

- Sufficient knowledge about the EU and Europe so that we are able to make good decisions
- Access to information about project funding from the EU, and that we consider using this type of funding for local and regional work
- Participation in European networks and cooperation in relevant areas

# Our services:

- Information
- EU competence
- Project guidance
- Networks



# The European Regions

- Are our competitors
- Are our partners
- Want to innovate
- Want to create jobs and growth
- Many formal and informal networks for cooperation
- Exchanging best practice and learning from each other

# Networks in Brussels

Political: CPMR

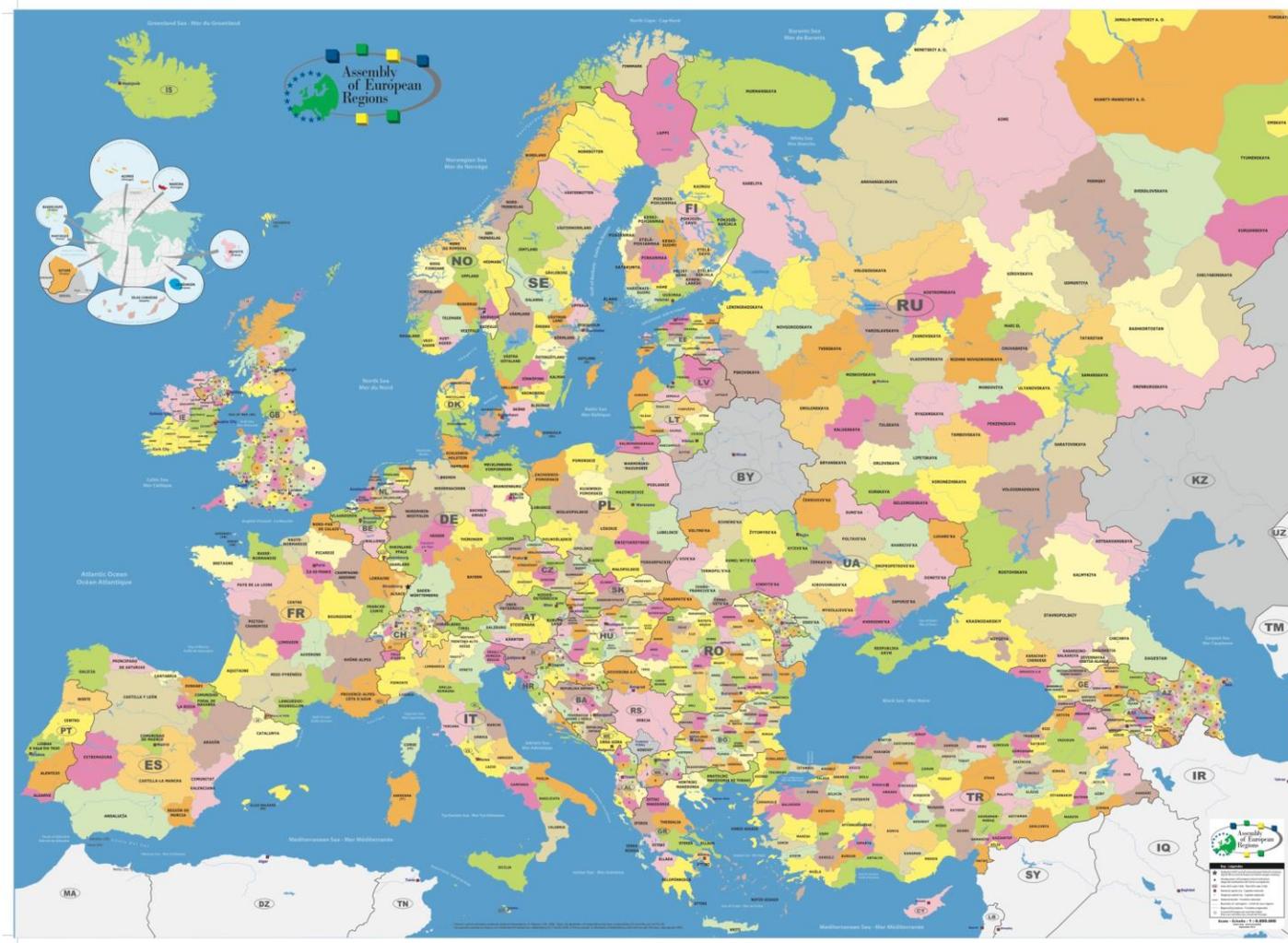
Topical: EARLALL

Project related: ERRIN

General: Other regional representation offices

A combination of networks – gives a good outcome

# Networks – regional Europe



Kart: Assembly of European Regions

# European projects

- Make our region aware of the possibilities within the EU programmes
- Search for partners
- Support and guidance in the project process
- Answer technical questions
- Program period 2014–2020
- EEA and Norway Grants

## Project match-making event

### Example:

- Cooperation with another regional representation office
- Around 100 participants
- Mainly focus on ERASMUS projects
- Close cooperation with our member organisations in the region – who participated with projects who were ready for finding partners to a project in preparation
- Two projects returned to Norway with a full set of partners and ready for next phase in the project



## Beast Intelligent Energy Europe (Horizon 2020) Focus on local environmental planning



WNO – assisting with the following:

- Information on project possibilities/EU-programmes
- Partner search
- Project presentation in Brussels
- Project meetings

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**Vest-Norges Brusselkontor** | [Hjem](#) | [Om kontoret](#) | [Aktuelt](#) | [Europeisk samarbeid](#) | [Kontakt oss](#) | [English](#) | [f](#) | [t](#) | [in](#)





Kultur og reiseliv  
**Reiseliv i fokus**  
17. desember 2015

Onsdag 16. desember ble den europeiske turismedagen arrangert i Brussel i regi av



Informasjon fra Vest-Norges Brusselkontor, Samferdsel  
**Diskuterte samferdsel i Brussel**  
17. desember 2015

Regionkontorene i Brussel blir regelmessig invitert til uformelle møter med statssekretærer, ministre

**Kommende aktiviteter**

Se alle aktiviteter

**Tweets** [Follow](#)

**West Norway Office**  
@WestNorway1 12 Jan  
Spennende visjoner for utviklingen av Bergen og regionen på #bergenskonferansen med inspirerende internasjonale eks fra @citiesforpeople  
Expand

**Merete Mikkelsen**  
@MerMikkel 4 Jan  
Samarbeid og politiske møter på topp av

west-norway.no



facebook.com/vestnorgesbrusselkontor



@WestNorway1

# Information

- Newsletters
- Reports
- Webpage (with event calendar)
- Inquiries



# EU competence

A high level of knowledge about EU issues is important for the development of our region

What we offer:

- Customised study trips for groups from members in our region
- Presentations and events in Brussels and in Western Norway
- Secondments
- Internships