



## **ENCORE-ALLIANCES**

### **1. *Best practises on climate change especially the defence against flooding and the cross-border cooperation on the rivers***

- Leading regions: **Bavaria** (Germany), **Utrecht** (The Netherlands)
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe and revised 2014 in Bavaria 2014 (cross-border cooperation on the rivers)
- Participating regions: Central Denmark (Denmark), Ermland-Mazury (Poland), South East Region (Ireland); Border Region (Ireland), Mid East Region (Ireland), Mid West Region (Ireland), South West Region (Ireland), West Region (Ireland), Drenthe (Netherlands), Groningen, Netherlands), Västra Götaland (Sweden); Switzerland will look for interesting cantons.
- Actions already realized:
  - Flood workshop, March 2013 in Würzburg, Bavaria
  - Considering climate change elements at the ENCORE conference, May 16, 2014, Bavaria
  - Visiting the renaturation measures at the river Isar, May 17, 2014 in Munich, Bavaria
- Actions planned:
  - Presenting the results of the 'Drenthe-Initiative' about breaking down the extensive topic of climate adaptation into smaller parts in this regard.
  - Study tour to Utrecht, September 4 & 5, 2014 in Utrecht.
  - LIFE project proposal on the cross-border cooperation on the rivers
  - Internet discussion about the coordination of river systems chaired by Bavaria (see also alliance No. 3)
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Do not hand over the problems resulting from climate change to us and our children. Act as soon as possible. Because it is your responsibility.
  - It's not enough to adapt to climate change. We have to stop it now.
  - Unused, old building sites and canalized rivers need to be renaturalized. Renaturation measures contribute to a raising awareness of the public.
  - Climate change will affect the rain fall in Europe so there must be guarantees that the rainwater will be well controlled in the future to avoid flooding and personal and property damage. Ground water should be well monitored and used in a sustainable way.

### **2. *Combating Climate Change - Decision making structures and political tools needed for conflict solution and local involvement***

- Leading region: **Västra Götaland** (Sweden).
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe



- Participating regions: Noord Brabant (Netherlands), Limburg (Netherlands), Central Denmark (Denmark); Värmland (Sweden), North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)
- Actions already realized:
  - An informal meeting took place.
  - A presentation of the proposal for an INTERREG project took place at ENCORE 2014
- Actions planned:
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Do not hand over the problems resulting from climate change to us and our children. Act as soon as possible. Because it is your responsibility.
  - It's not enough to adapt to climate change. We have to stop it now.
- Remarks:

The continuity of the alliance needs to be confirmed by the new political authority appointed in Västra Götaland.

### **3. Internet platform to exchange best (and worst) practices**

#### **3a. Co-ordination of river systems**

- chaired by Bavaria, Germany
- Idea behind: created at ENCORE 2014 in Bavaria due to the fact that rivers and their related problems (flood etc.) refer to different regions of different nations.

#### **3b. Public support for sustainable energy and sustainability**

- chaired by Drenthe (The Netherlands) and Trøndelag (Norway)
- Idea behind: founded as an alliance 2012 in Drenthe considering also the involvement of the youth
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Creating new rules concerning law and financial support around renewable energy. This includes
    - environment damage fee in order to compensate companies emissions
    - Solar panels on all public institutes
    - 0% interest rate for investments in renewable energy equipment, solar panels etc. (creating a law that's support this aim).
  - Increasing knowledge about sustainability and renewable energies including study visits in national parks, protected areas etc., further research on renewable energy resources (funded by a new EU-fund).
  - Raising awareness and motivation by referring to the role model function of the government, including
    - replacing combustion engines by electrical or hybrid engines (firstly stately owned vehicles, including public transport)



- use of green energy source in public institutions and stately owned buildings
- ministers and politicians are taking the responsibility in their personal environment.
- Supporting regional organic food at least by making the origin visible
- Media incl. environmentally advertisement in TV, organizing more conferences and open door events, creating a communication platform for consumers and companies.
- To make using renewable energy attractive, subsidies may partly compensate the extra costs

### **3c. Exploring the possibilities of the Genuine Process Indicator**

- chaired by **North-Ostrobothnia**, Finland
- Idea behind: created as an alliance at ENCORE 2012. Method has been applied in all Finnish regions. Perhaps other regions would like to share the knowledge of a GPI.
- Demands of the Youth: The GDP ignores social and environmental costs of growth. In order to take full account of the health of a nation, economy and its sustainability, we call on the EU to officially establish all-encompassing, alternative metrics as, for example, the GPI (Genuine Progress Indicator), or the HDI (Human Development Index). The establishment of an alternative index will motivate countries to give societal and ecological topics a higher priority.

### **3d. Sustainable Tourism especially in / around protected areas**

- chaired by **Jämtland** (Sweden)
- Idea behind: founded at ENCORE 2014 in Bavaria

## **4. Cradle to cradle and waste management**

- Leading region: **Carinthia** (Austria)
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe
- Participating regions: Warmia-Mazury, Mazovia, Wielskopolska (Poland), Utrecht (The Netherlands), Central Denmark (Denmark)
- Actions already realized: -
- Actions planned: Carinthia is willing to offer another study visit.
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Citizens should be encouraged to share certain things, like gardening tools or cars, between one another. This way we will need fewer products, leading to less waste generation. This could be accomplished through advertising (e.g. television spots). Regions could also implement other advantages, like free parking for people who share a car.



- The demand of being able to recycle the products – so that when they can no longer serve their purpose, they can easily be given a new one – is more relevant than ever before. This is a problem that can be solved with smart design. It is a question of making optimal use of the infrastructure that already exists (→ the infrastructure of the recycling stations). If the industry starts designing and engineering smarter, the recycling stations can be their perfect source of cheap raw materials, located right where the industry needs them – in the cities.

### 5. *Air Quality*

- Leading region: **Styria** (Austria), **Lombardy** (Italy).
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe
- Participating regions: Carinthia (Austria), Catalonia, Emilia Romagna and Saxony are interested.
- Actions already realized: -
- Actions planned: targets and objectives need to be defined.
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Emission from industry need to be restricted in a bigger scale, emissions from private cars need to be reduced by banning private car use from the city centers and to promote public transport
  - Research on air cleaning techniques must be increased (research in European partnership)

### 6. *Creating a network on the exchange of experiences regarding the chain from production to the use of biogas and its promotion*

- Leading region: **Västra Götaland** (Sweden).
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe and revised 2014 in Bavaria
- Participating regions: Jämtland, Värmland, Västra Götaland (Sweden), Drenthe, Friesland, Groningen, Overijssel (The Netherlands), Warmia-Mazury (Poland), South-East Ireland, Mid-West Ireland (Ireland), Central Denmark (Denmark)
- Actions already realized:
  - A study visit was organized in November 2013 in Västra Götaland (Sweden)
  - Following ENCORE 2014, Minister Kviberg sent a letter to all ENCORE members and invited them to become part of Alliance No. 6
- Actions planned:  
A study visit will take place in October or November 2014 in the Netherlands.
- Demands of the Youth: -

### 7. *Freshwater reserves*

- Leading region: **Drenthe** (The Netherlands).
- Founded: 2012 in Drenthe



- Participating regions: regions from Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Russia, Latvia, Germany
- Actions already realized:
  - Conference at November 25 & 26, 2013 took place in Riga (Lithuania).
  - A project proposal was presented at the ENCORE conference in 2014.
- Actions planned: In June or July 2014 proposals will be discussed in Brussels
- Demands of the Youth:  
Water should always be a non-profit resource, hence owned by the public. Water should be treated as a scarce resource, thus needing special attention and well-planned usage. Research should be conducted to find out about economizing measures with regard to water usage in industrial mechanisms as well as house construction.

#### **8. Ecosystem services, landuse and territorial planning**

- Leading region: **Utrecht** (The Netherlands).
- Founded: 2014 in Bavaria
- Participating regions: Basque Country (Spain), Languedoc Roussillon (France), Västra Götaland (Sweden)
- Actions already realized: -
- Actions planned: -
- Demands of the Youth:
  - Ecosystems must stay in their original shape without being divided by streets. Entire ecosystems and not just parts of them need to become protected areas.
  - The “Natura 2000” network needs to be extended so that it covers 30% of the territory of the EU – each member state of the EU must turn at least 25% of its territory into protected areas.
  - New infrastructure needs to stay close to already existing services, so that the nature does not get fragmented in a bigger extent. Ecosystem issues have to be intensified in construction planning processes (animal bridges or tunnels, innovative traffic management).

#### **9. Creating a European network on landstewardship (landstewardship.eu)**

- Leading region: Catalonia (Spain),
- Founded: 2014 in Bavaria
- Participating regions: Lombardia
- Actions already realized: -
- Actions planned: -
- Demands of the Youth: Referring to the remarks below, the conclusions of the youth on the involvement of NGOs may be placed here as well (see also alliance no. 9):

**ENCORE**



**Environmental Conference of the European Regions**

‘Funding of NGOs must be increased since they have a big knowledge and their action raise awareness and promote governmental actions. The government hast to invest in certain (research) projects of NGOs.’