



# INNOVATION CIRCLE NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT



## ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

### Introduction

The Innovation Circle Network was founded 8 years ago, 21st September 2007 in Warsaw. It is a non-governmental and non-profit organization registered in Norway. The IC Network shall stimulate contacts between smaller and medium sized places and rural regions in different European countries in order to share learning, ideas and innovations to the benefit of communities. Contact with leading global networks, institutions and enterprises located in capitals and major cities should be encouraged and promoted. The IC network is supposed to be a promoter of peripheral areas of Europe in difference from a whole range of organizations which are promoting the metropolitan areas.

The IC network has its roots within the Baltic Sea Region and emerged from cooperation actions during the post-Soviet decades. The network will focus on a pan Baltic development perspective. However, there is also an ambition of growing the network to become a significant European network, especially within the Northern Europe.

A range of projects have already been implemented during several years and the network has many success stories to report from communities and regions. The network has also actively been engaged at external arenas and disseminated experiences and brought across certain messages to national and international authorities. In addition the network has facilitated a website with newsletters, twits and Facebook postings. The blog written by professor Cliff Hague is also a popular source for readers to find many analytic articles and good ideas.

In 2014 the annual event was organized in Riga which was the Cultural Capital of Europe and at the doorstep to take on the chairmanship in EU.



*The Norwegian ambassador Steinar Hagen and Karine Petersone, Director of the Latvian Institute, gave presentations at the ICN annual conference in Riga in 2014.*



*Pictures from the ICN conference in Riga, 2014.*

## ICN strategy

The ICN network has been focusing on the following:

The ICN will work for promotion of rural regions, small communities and medium sized cities.

The main themes are:

- Innovation within different sectors
- New governance, Public & Private Partnership
- Youth(including education)
- Culture and Identity
- Territorial planning
- Entrepreneurship(including social entrepreneurship)
- Environment

Activities will be in 2 categories:

- Projects
- Events

### Finances

The network has 3 sources of finances

- Annual membership fee
- Profit from events and activities
- Sponsors

### Expenditures

There are 3 types of expenditures:

- Information, including running the website and PR
- Meeting costs, including travel and accommodation for board members
- Compensation for secretariat, board and external services

## ACTIVITIES

The working plan for 2015 decided at the annual event 2014 in Riga pointed out following:

### 1. Information.

#### Aim 1:

The maintenance of the IC website and a continuation of strong focus on new media using the website as a platform to promote the network but also usage of newsletters and social networks like Twitter and Facebook are highly relevant.

#### Result:

The webpage is working with frequent updates and ICN is presented at the social media to some extent. Facebook updates are quite frequent. The webpage managed to present news from ICN partners and from the Young Eyes project where there also is a separate YE project group. There is also a newsletter distributed.

#### Aim 2:

All members are encouraged to write articles about the ICN in local media and for the IC webpage, or promote the network in different ways.

#### Result:

There have been some media coverage about ICN. Especially connected to the Erasmus+ project young Eyes. Input to the website from members could have been better but still some contributions are coming in. ICN has been promoted at some external conferences.

### 2. Youth

#### Aim:

Implementation of the Young Eyes project includes several workshops for young people. In addition to the YE partners there shall be a possibility for other partners to involve into the events if they can finance own travel and accommodation.



Result:

The YE project is implemented according to plan and with 2 mirror workshops during the summer 2015. One in Suwalki and one in Rauna. The result has been very successful and created lots of energy and enthusiasm among youths and leaders.

**3. New applications**

Aim:

New projects applications to relevant programs shall be elaborated by ICN partners.

Result:

ICN is partner in the TENTacle application for the BSR program. Decision about grant is not made yet.

ICN also elaborated concept note for the COIN project together with Vidzeme Planning Region and other partners. The project note has not achieved support from the BSR program. The ICN board is currently working with a number of project ideas.

**4. Annual meeting 2015**

Aim:

The annual meeting will be organized at the end of the next year - a decision for the venue has to be taken. Suggested dates are 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2015.

Result:

Conference is taking place 28-30 October in Berlin

**5. Board meetings**

Aim:

There should be two board meetings in 2015, dates are to be decided later.

Result:

- 2 board meeting were arranged, one in January in Warsaw and one in September in Edinburgh.

**6. Sponsors**

Aim:

Looking for new sponsors at general basis or for single events should also continue for the strengthening of the network capacity to implement actions.

Result:

After the Swedish Institute money ended, there has been no new agreement about sponsors/grants.

**7. New members**

Aim:

IC Network will continue to recruit new members both within public and private sectors.

Result:

Priekuli municipality in Latvia entered as new member in 2015 and Valga municipality in Estonia is considering membership from 2016.



*The agreement between the ICN and Priekuli municipality was signed in August 2015.*

### Other activities

In December 2014 the ICN was invited to Arkhangelsk in order to give a presentation about innovation in rural territories at a conference for regional development hosted by Arkhangelsk region and Arkhangelsk University.

During the spring and summer ICN has been involved in the preparations of the TENTacle project application. In addition ICN was involved in 3 applications to the EEA grant, One of these was granted and in September 2015 a delegation from the Latvian Agricultural University in Jelgava visited Norway. ICN organized a study trip about town planning and urban design in places like Arendal, Notodden, Kongsberg, Drammen and Oslo.

### Board

#### The board consisted of:

- Rita Merca, (leader), LV (elected for 2 years from 2014)
- Siv Henriette Jacobsen (deputy leader), NO (elected for 1 year from 2014)
- Ewelina Suchocka, PL (elected for 1 year from 2014)
- Ella Fridvalde-Andersone, LV (elected for 2 years from 2014)
- Triin Pärna, EE (elected for 2 years from 2014)

#### Substitutes:

1. Mr. Svein Åge Lauritzen, NO
2. Mr. Johan Eriksson, SE

### Nomination Committee

Tore Johansen, leader (NO) Gvido Sabulis (LV) and Anita Skutane(LV).

### Auditor

Yngve Braend , Norway

### New IC members

Since last annual meeting In 2014 the network got a new member. This is Priekuli municipality in Vidzeme region. The population is about 9300 inhabitants. The closest city is Cesis.

Read more about Priekuli at <http://www.priekuli.lv/>



### **Financial report**

**(01.11.2014-30.09.2015)**

The ICN basic income consists basically of membership fee. This gives a minimum coverage for the daily operative actions including board meetings, website and the preparation of annual conferences.

In addition in order to carry out more significant actions the network has to obtain project funding. The ICN international youth activities for 2015 were in reality the Young Eyes project funded by Erasmus+ which also gave the possibility for transnational meetings, promotion and visits to partners.

All projects will be reported separately to the granting institutions. Only the bank transactions between ICN and the single projects are registered in the ICN result account.

The ICN financial result report is for the period 01.11.2014 until 30.09.2015 and shows real income and expenditures to/from the bank account. Expected income based on sent invoices and not paid expenditures are not taken into consideration.

The income for the period was 241.733,32 NOK. The expenditures were 295.341,37 NOK. The main costs are related to web, info, secretariat, projects and meetings.

The balance report shows the old debt to the general secretary, reduced from 70.000 NOK to 45.000 NOK as 25.000 NOK was paid. There is no other liabilities registered.

## INNOVATION CIRCLE FINANCIAL REPORT 2014/2015

Period: 01.11.2014-30.09.2015

NOK

### Operation result report

Balance bank

#### Balance last annual report

31.10.2014 83 858,88

#### Incoming Balance 01.11.2014

83 858,88

Income and expenditures 01.11.14-30.09.15

	Income	Expenditures	Result	
November 14:	750,00	82 348,25	-81 598,25	2 260,63
December 14:	146 839,12	21 090,97	125 748,15	128 008,78
January 15:	-	42 448,97	-42 448,97	85 559,81
February 15:	5 179,00	47 282,50	-42 103,50	43 456,31
March 15:	88 965,20	76 118,10	12 847,10	56 303,41
April 15:	-	121,50	-121,50	56 181,91
May 15:	-	90,00	-90,00	56 091,91
June 15:	-	17 842,08	-17 842,08	38 249,83
July 15:	-	7 810,00	-7 810,00	30 439,83
August 15:	-	99,00	-99,00	30 340,83
Sept 15:		90,00	-90,00	30 250,83
<b>Operation results whole period</b>	<b>241 733,32</b>	<b>295 341,37</b>	<b>-53 608,05</b>	<b>30 250,83</b>

#### Category expenditures

NOK

Web and info	47 654,31
Management and experts Young Eyes project	84 548,00
Annual conference 2014	58 489,98
Compensation to Chairman	8 637,00
Compensation to Secretariat	69 297,18
Old debt to Secretariat	25 000,00
Other costs	1 714,90
	295 341,37

#### Balance sheet

NOK

Assets:	
Bank operational account 31.10.2014	30 250,83
Other assets (Accumulated bills paid by secretariat)	45 000,00
<b>SUM Assets</b>	<b>75 250,83</b>
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>	
Old dept to General Secretary	45 000,00
<b>Equity</b>	<b>30 250,83</b>
<b>SUM Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>75 250,83</b>

Spydeberg 25.10.2015

Alf S. Johansen  
General Secretary

Yngve Brænd  
Auditor