



## **Nordic exchange of students and climate change.**

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Since the end of 2010 and until the summer of 2011 two upper secondary schools in Høyanger, Norway and Ronneby, Sweden had the possibility to take part in a project called Nordplus junior. The main aims of the program are:

- To promote Nordic languages and culture and mutual Nordic-Baltic linguistic and cultural understanding.
- To contribute to the development of quality and innovation in the educational systems for life-long learning in the participating countries by means of educational cooperation, development projects, exchanges and networking.
- To support, develop, draw benefit from and spread innovative products and processes in education through systematic exchange of experiences and best practice.
- To strengthen and develop Nordic educational cooperation and contribute to the establishment of a Nordic-Baltic educational area.

The students did research on climate change and the impact on local and regional areas. Many questions had to be answered, giving an explanation to what happens if the climate changes.

Questions related to Høyanger, Norway

What happens to life in Norwegian fiords?

Which attitudes do youngsters and adults have about climate change and what actions do they take?

What does a rise in sea level mean for Høyanger?

How are different tourist attractions affected in western Norway?

Questions related to Ronneby, Sweden

How is the regional fauna and flora affected?

What will happen to agriculture and forestry?

What do adults and youngsters know about consequences of a possible climate change?

What happens to the people of Ronneby if the sea level rises?

Are there any positive outcomes if the climate changes?

Conclusions

In Norwegian fiords there could be benefits because fish are growing faster in the winter because of an increased temperature. At the same time there could be an imbalance in the ecosystem because of a change in the living ranges of different species.

Most of the young boys and girls in Høyanger, Norway were consistent with their attitudes towards the environment. In the survey of adults (Høyanger) women between 50-60 years old were the ones that were friendliest towards the environment. The students of Sweden (Ronneby) believe both young Norwegian and Swedish people are well educated in climate changes issues.

A rise in the sea level will have serious impact on both Ronneby and Høyanger. In Høyanger people could lose their jobs and landslides could take place. In Ronneby, ground water could be polluted by salt and sewage water. In Ronneby parks would be flooded and restrictions on building new houses below 2.2 meters above sea level would be enforced. In Bergen, Norway, the Hanseatic buildings will be flooded, there will be huge economic problems, new roads have to be built etc.

The regional flora and fauna in Sweden will move northwards and new species will enter from Central Eu-

ropes. The vegetation season will be longer and the crops will benefit from a higher carbon dioxide concentration. The plants could be exposed to parasites.

The students of Ronneby also see possibilities due to climate change. There might be more tourists as the temperature increases. It could mean faster development for renewable energy sources. It could be possible to grow exotic fruits and vegetables in Ronneby if the temperature increases.

Written by

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