



# BUSKERUD FYLKESKOMMUNE

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## Report from Study Trip to Province of Turin 11th to 14th of April 2005.

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### Participants from Buskerud County, Norway:

1. Audun Aasheim, Chairman, Cooperation of municipalities in Hallingdal Region and Chairman of Nes Municipality
  2. Erik Kaupang Chairman of Hol Municipality
  3. Oddvar Groethe Chairman of Hemsedal Municipality
  4. Fred A. Kramer Chief administrative officer, Nes Municipality
  5. Vidar Seterstoen Chief technical officer, Flaa Municipality
  6. Knut Arne Gurigard Daily leader, Cooperation of municipalities in Hallingdal Region.
  7. Kay H. Bjerke Advisor Economic development, Buskerud County Council
  8. Bente Bjerkes Advisor Tourism, Buskerud County Council
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11th of April 2005

Arrival at Pracatinat Society

This was a very fine hotel structure with a magnificent location.

The Norwegian participators had the following comments:

- Beautiful view
- Fine and big rooms, but with a simple equipment
- Standard and service in the restaurant was in a much lower class than the buildings

The conclusion from the Norwegian participators was that this could be a high standard hotel during the Olympic Games with relative small means

12<sup>th</sup> of April 2005

Pragelato – visit to the Olympic arenas

We visited the arenas for ski-jumping and Nordic cross country skiing and had a meeting with representatives from TOROC and the local Lord Major.

The comments from the Norwegian participators were:

- The arenas are much too small. The arena for ski-jumping could only take 8000 spectators and the arena for cross country 35000. Probably near 20000 Norwegians will visit the Olympic Games and most of them wish to view these to events. Beside the Norwegians there will be visitors from among others Sweden, Finland, Germany and Austria who also wants to view these events. How will they manage this?
  - The roads leading to the arenas have rather low standard. We where told that the spectators would be transported by buses, but will the buses be able to do this job if the Committee are prepared on a much lower number of spectators? We registered that new roads were being built, but as far as we could see these roads would not go to these arenas.
  - The Lord Major of the city was very optimistic regarding the effect on tourism for the valley after the Olympic Games. This may be right, but as far as we could see the infrastructure, both public and private, did not have a standard that tourist, especially from northern Europe demands. Among others they have to do a great job around making the district more attractive. You have a beautiful nature, but tourists does not want to view buildings that are falling down if they are not of historical interest. It looked like it was rather few shops, cash dispensers, post offices, restaurants and hotels in the area. Shall the tourists only pass through the valley without using money?
  - We were not able to get a straight answer from the members of TOROC whether there were plans for how to use the arenas after the Games. How shall this little town be able to maintain good standard on the arenas if they do not have anyone using them, and how shall they promote the arenas if the infrastructure is on today's level.
  - We were told that broadband cable is being lead through the valley before the Olympic Games start, but that the inhibitors of the valley would not have possibility to connect to this cable. If Province of Turin wants to improve sustainability of services in this region, with the consequence that people want to live in the valley, this seems absurd.
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### Val Germanasca – Scopriminiera

This was a very fine tourist attraction based on talc-mines. We have the same attraction in Buskerud County, based on old silver-mines, but it is not so good equipped with technical examples on how the miners worked.

The restaurant was very picturesque with good traditional food.

### Meeting with the Director and President of Pracatinat Society

It was very interesting to hear how these buildings are being used for learning young people, from early school up to students and teachers, about sustainable society. A good example for other countries to copy.

## 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2005

### La Crumière and AGESS

La Crumière was an existing factory where parts had been transferred into a good hotel and restaurant, other parts were being used to build a museum, while the factory was still working. An enthusiastic daily leader has already turned this into an attractive hosting where all the Norwegians wanted to return.

It was very interesting to hear about how a mixed company with public and private stockholders were dealing with local development. It seemed that they have focus on the advantages of the district and how this can be used in economic development of the municipality.

### Visit to "Bottega del Possibile"

Some of the services this organisation were dealing with are public responsibility in Norway. Others are done by voluntary organisations. Something new in Norway in this sector is that some private firms are making business on disabled or elderly people by offering better services than those given by the public.

### Visit to Foyer de Angrogna

This temporary residence for elderly people showed us how easy a problem can be solved. The residents of the building seemed very satisfied with the solution. This was also confirmed by the social professional we were meeting.

Unfortunately this solution would not be accepted in Norway. The standard of the housing and the rooms for the residents was not according to Norwegian regulations.

### Val Pellice Mountain Community – Zone plan

This was nothing new for the Norwegians. Participation from the inhabitants in public plans have been legally established in Norway for at least 20 years.

### Conclusion diner

The conclusion diner was held on a fantastic fine restaurant with marvellous traditional food, based on ecological local produced raw materials.

## 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2005

Thanks to excellent service from the hotel and the organizers of the study trip all Norwegians returned on scheduled time to Norway.

On behalf of the Buskerud delegation I want to thank the organizers for a very interesting study-trip

Kay H. Bjerke