



12-kommunesamarbeidet i Vestfold (12k)

Inter municipal cooperation – Regional

12k is an inter-municipal cooperation (Regional Council) consisting of 12 municipalities: Andebu, Hof, Holmestrand, Horten, Nøtterøy, Re, Tjøme, Tønsberg, Stokke, Lardal, Larvik and Sandefjord. The cooperation was established in 1997 and now represent approx. 216,000 inhabitants and 14 000 municipal employees.

The purpose of the collaboration is to develop services, coordinate municipal planning, land use and industrial policy and be spokesmen for local interests in common.

12k has a board consisting of all the mayors and city managers in the 12 municipalities, the county mayor, county governor and a union representative as observers.

12k is conducting studies and projects, and makes decisions based for further treatment in the municipalities. When a measure is adopted after joint project report in 12k, is established a separate operational organization (host solution, Authority or similar).

Projects

12k has completed about 70 projects, mentioned here a few:

- **Broadband:**
 - o Built fiber to schools, town halls and public buildings. The first phase of the planning and development conducted in the 12k-directing. Operation and further development transferred to GigaFib AS.
 - o Radio frequency broadband to areas that lack or have poor coverage
- **Geodata Collaboration:**

Implemented a common map portal for 8 municipalities
- **Local websites:**

Developed a common structure for local government websites.
- **Executive work tools:**

Made in the community "toolboxes", templates and training programs in various disciplines.
- **Web Service:**

Built a new solution for data traffic (data, IP telephony, and video) based on fiber optic technology to add more conducive to inter-municipal cooperation. Gigafib AS is responsible for practical implementation.
- **Safety Net:**

A service designed to strengthen family members living at home with ample assistance needs through the use of ICT and social and digital networks.
- **Biogas in Vestfold:**

Explore whether there is potential for a larger biogas plant in Vestfold.
- **Health Cooperation:**

12k in collaboration with the Hospital of Vestfold and Psychiatry of Vestfold created a model for interaction of Vestfold to meet the need for more continuity and systematic interaction.

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- **"12k Trainee":**
To strengthen the recruitment of nurses and engineers (VA-technology) to the municipalities. 6 trainees start in the autumn of 2010.
- **Digital dialogue:**
12k has developed a solution that allows for transparency and participation in local government planning legal processes through local government websites.
- **Establishing program START:**
START to receive more enterprises and small businesses in transition to succeed. Good ideas should not be lost in that it provided advice and assistance as early as possible in the establishment phase. START developed and operated in close dialogue with government and commercial help.

Professional network

There are nine professional networks established in 12k. Operation of the professional network is an important strategy and success factor for learning and development cooperation. Professional network is focused on learning best practices, common solutions, joint professional development and results. The networks conduct joint training, proposes joint projects, case manager templates, rules and practices, exchange experiences, coordinate system across municipalities, etc.

Results

12k has been a success regarding results. The projects implemented providing new services, increased competence, increased quality and reduced resource use in municipalities. The benefits of collaboration are taken mainly in the different municipalities. How municipalities utilize the results of joint projects, studies and planning in the municipality, and how common solutions implemented by the host municipalities used affects the outcome of the collaboration.

Feedback from both the board of directors, projects and research groups emphasize learning aspect of cooperation. The established networks and projects provide the basis for both professional development and new solutions. The Board's evaluation underlines that 12k has a better climate of cooperation between municipalities, both professionally and politically, and give perspective to both the regional political discussion and political discussions in their own municipality.