

ACES Christmas Newsletter 2023

2023 has been an exciting year for the ACES project, and lots have happened! This year's main focus has been on conducting arena meetings, where we have produced shared visions and pathways in the different transition arenas.

Since the summer we've completed three arena meetings in the **National transition arena** – with great enthusiasm, as you can see in the photo!

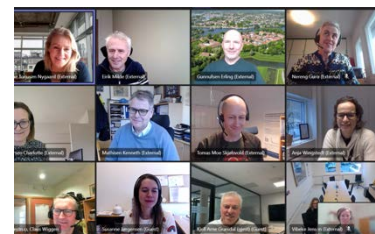
In May we met at Frogneseteren, Oslo, to discuss transition challenges, where a lack of coordination crystallized as a barrier. The second arena meeting took place in a more urban location, in the city center, where we worked towards a shared vision for the future, stating that *"the Norwegian port sector is a driver for sustainable transport and societal development"*. The arena work was concluded at Oslo Plaza, 33 floors above ground, where we discussed choices, measures, and accountability to realize this vision.

The need for wholistic thinking and a shared "muscle" to promote the crucial role of ports was particularly emphasized. In the new year, we embark on compiling the work that has been done and developing the national transition agenda.



In the Port of Kristiansand and surrounding area arena – with participants from both public and private sectors – the transition agenda is completed after four arena meetings. Through discussing visions and pathways, one of the major action points currently being further developed by among others **Port of Kristiansand**, is to explore the potential for an energy terminal in the harbor, for alternative fuels. We will follow up with the port and Kristiansand municipality on this and the other action points in the new year.

At the Port of Borg, we have conducted four arena meetings. Together, participants arrived at the vision *"Port of Borg and the Øra area – an engine for the green shift"*. Several important pathways and measures were discussed, but the establishment of a "business coordinator" to aid as a shared coordinating resource for the area was viewed as the most crucial measure.



In Bodø, ACES has, in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders, defined the vision: *"Port of Bodø – a cornerstone for sustainable development"*, with a focus on efficient and forward-looking logistics and energy solutions.



When ACES started in Bodø, the port was already involved in the terminal project *"Nye Bodø Terminalen"* where ACES had a more withdrawn role in the initial phase. However, participation in the terminal project provided insights into issues and the landscape of actors, forming a solid foundation for two arena meetings held in Bodø. The stakeholders have agreed on measures to realize the pathways that support the vision, and the transition agenda for Port of Bodø is nearing completion.

The core team at Port of Bodø, including the Harbor Director and Marketing Manager, expresses that *"participating in ACES has contributed to defining issues facing Port of Bodø, expanded the system boundaries, and included new and unidentified actors. This has been a project and process that is not only about technology but also about organization, land use, and collaboration."*

On October 27, all project partners gathered in Oslo to assess the **progress halfway through the project**. The day began with presentations from Skift, Norske Havner, The Norwegian Coastal Administration, Coast Center Base, and NHO Logistikk og Transport, followed by insights into how Bodø, Borg, and Kristiansand ports have been working on energy and sustainability recently. We concluded the day with a panel discussion on how "*local challenges can become national opportunities*." These and several other topics will be further explored in the planning of the ACES conference for 2024.



Beyond meetings and vision work in the transition arenas, ACES enters a new phase with increased focus on **dissemination**. WP1 has concentrated on summarizing the results from the comparative case study of six sustainability frontrunner ports in a scientific article, and the manuscript will be finalized during the winter. Furthermore, WP1 has mapped policies surrounding hydrogen hubs in Norway, and finished a manuscript that was submitted as a chapter to a peer-reviewed scientific book this autumn. We also just learned that we've had a manuscript based on findings from Bodø accepted in Transport Research Arena - to be held in Dublin.

In the new year, we will follow up with the ports and the work being done there with the action points, and additionally, we will schedule new meetings with our Advisory Board.

With this, we leave behind an incredibly exciting year in ACES and look forward to what comes next. We thank all our partners for this year and wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

