

# NORDPLUS GRANT REPORT

by Patricia Kühfuss, DMJX Aarhus

for the project „Nordmenn by nature“ in Dec 2016 in Norway

I was accepted for the Express Mobility Nordplus grant in December 2016 after I decided to continue an ongoing project about the region of Hallingdal, Norway, for my Final Project for my exchange semester at the Danish School for Media and Journalism in Aarhus.

The project I continued was started while I was in an Internship at the local newspaper in Hallingdal, the Hallingdølen, in winter 2015 as a more personal take on the life of the people living in the area. What shapes their culture, and what seems to be essential when looking at it as an outsider? How does the geography, the weather, the politics influence everyday life? I worked on this project besides my everyday work for the newspaper, finding pictures on the way.

I wanted to return to this project as I felt it was by no means finished, and was looking forward to working on it with support from Søren Pagter, my professor in Aarhus, as I wanted to find new ways to approach the topic and the visual style.

I was able to stay in Hallingdal for about 2 weeks. My plan was to work together with the newspaper again, as I have a good relationship with them and they know best what is going on in the area. Unfortunately at this time of the year events were very few, but I managed to find out that the reindeer in the mountains were about to be slaughtered, something which was important. Also, I was partly able to have access to a car, which is fundamental in this area. On the other hand,

working this way took a lot of time and I also had to work a little bit for the newspaper, which made it hard to focus on the personal work. Next time, I have to be more strict with this. Still, also the personal talks with the people at the newspaper helped me to find things to go to. I agreed with Søren Pagter after our Midway talk that it was important to find things to go to and do small reportages each time, making it possible to find the more interesting pictures on the go, as it is very hard to find the interesting things by pure chance. I really had to recalibrate my eyes to what I was looking for and how I could approach situations, as I had far too high expectations for myself, which got me frustrated at times.

I think it was very important that I continued the project in this different frame without the newspaper as a guideline. It taught me what makes it difficult to continue but also forced me to find solutions for these problems. I think this will help me also with other projects that are similar in approach in the future.

I also am really happy that by working on this project again I finally found the right form to present this work to the reader. As this is more about how the pictures work together, I made a book that is designed as a leporello, a zigzag-fold, which allows to look at the pictures page by page or in one line.

All in all I am really happy i got the chance to continue the project and hope to be back in Norway in the future.