

Eva Vinje Aurdals tale i FN, 8. april 2019

Who are we - The Region of Ålesund? You will find us on the north west coast of Norway. We consist of the City of Ålesund, and its six neighbouring municipalities. Our region is compact, and with a contrasting nature. It stretches from the peaks of high mountains, through deep fjords and ends by the large Atlantic ocean. The city of Aalesund lies on the coast, next to the islands and the large ocean. Off the coast of Ålesund we find rich fishing grounds and large oil and gas reserves.

Today Aalesund is a prosperous and expanding city. The people of the region believe in – and are known for, the spirit of achievement, the "can-do" attitude that makes the region known for its entrepreneurship, ability to innovate and thinking new solutions . We want to make our proud history into our smart future.

Slowly but surely, we experience the climate change going on, and we see the growing risk to the future of our planet. We are establishing a new and common understanding regarding the climate change.

New and dramatic knowledge takes time to comprehend. It is often said that new unpleasant scientific truths passes through three stages; First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is loudly opposed. Third, it is accepted as self-evident. We can look upon this as a journey that we now are right in the middle of. I believe that this journey requires political leadership and courage.

The climate issue concerns every politician in the world, from top government officials to local politicians in the smallest towns in every country.

It takes courage.

Solving the climate change not only takes political courage, it also requires new tools of how to work and cooperate as politicians. It requires new models of citizen involvement. It also requires new forms of cooperation between public institutions, business community and academic institutions. This will bring new ideas to the table, and it will increase the chance of

finding good solutions. The decisions made in this way, will also have a much better chance of being implemented as best solutions.

In the region of Ålesund, we want to make a difference. We want to use new tools and explore new technologies to simulate, visualize and communicate. Understanding the trends of community development is challenging.

We need knowledge, but we also need new ways of communicating this knowledge.

In the world we live, complex and useful data is growing rapidly. For us as a global community to understand and work with this “big data” we need better methods for humans to interact, read and communicate with these complex concepts and data models. Humans have spent thousands of years reading trends, risk and understanding complex interactions in nature through our visual input, Graphics. Machines are good at text and numbers, humans are highly sophisticated at reading and analyzing data visually. Therefore, the creation of graphical digital twin cities can be a game changer for future sustainable cities. We hope Ålesund and Norway can be pioneers of this and share these solutions globally.

It's about democracy, trust, transparency and saving our planet. Through a technology which basically was developed for the offshore industry, we are now testing how to communicate knowledge in the future. By visualizing and exploring large amounts of data, we seek to understand connections and reveal developmental trends at an earlier stage than before. We will test if the data material can simulate different scenarios, and from this be able to make choices about the future on a better and more democratic basis.

We need meeting points, locally and globally, to test locally and share globally. The world has become smaller. “My problems” or “your problems” do not exist to the same extent as it used to be. Now it is more “our” problems. So - we do need to sit around the table together more often than before.