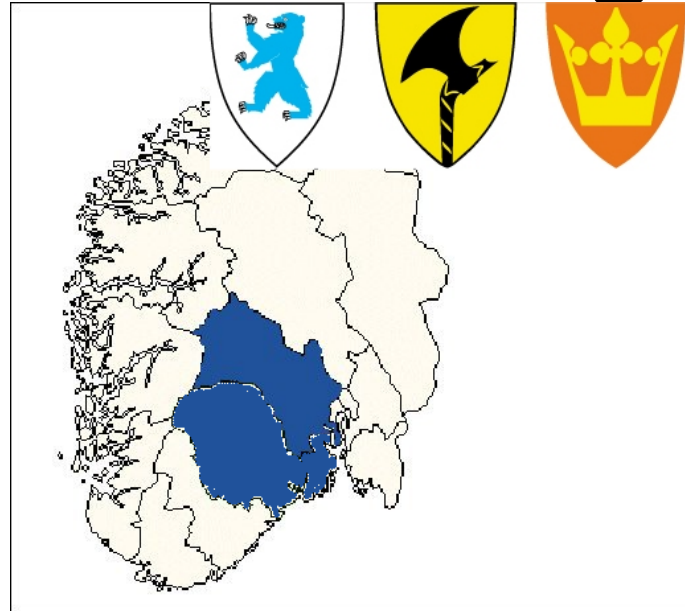
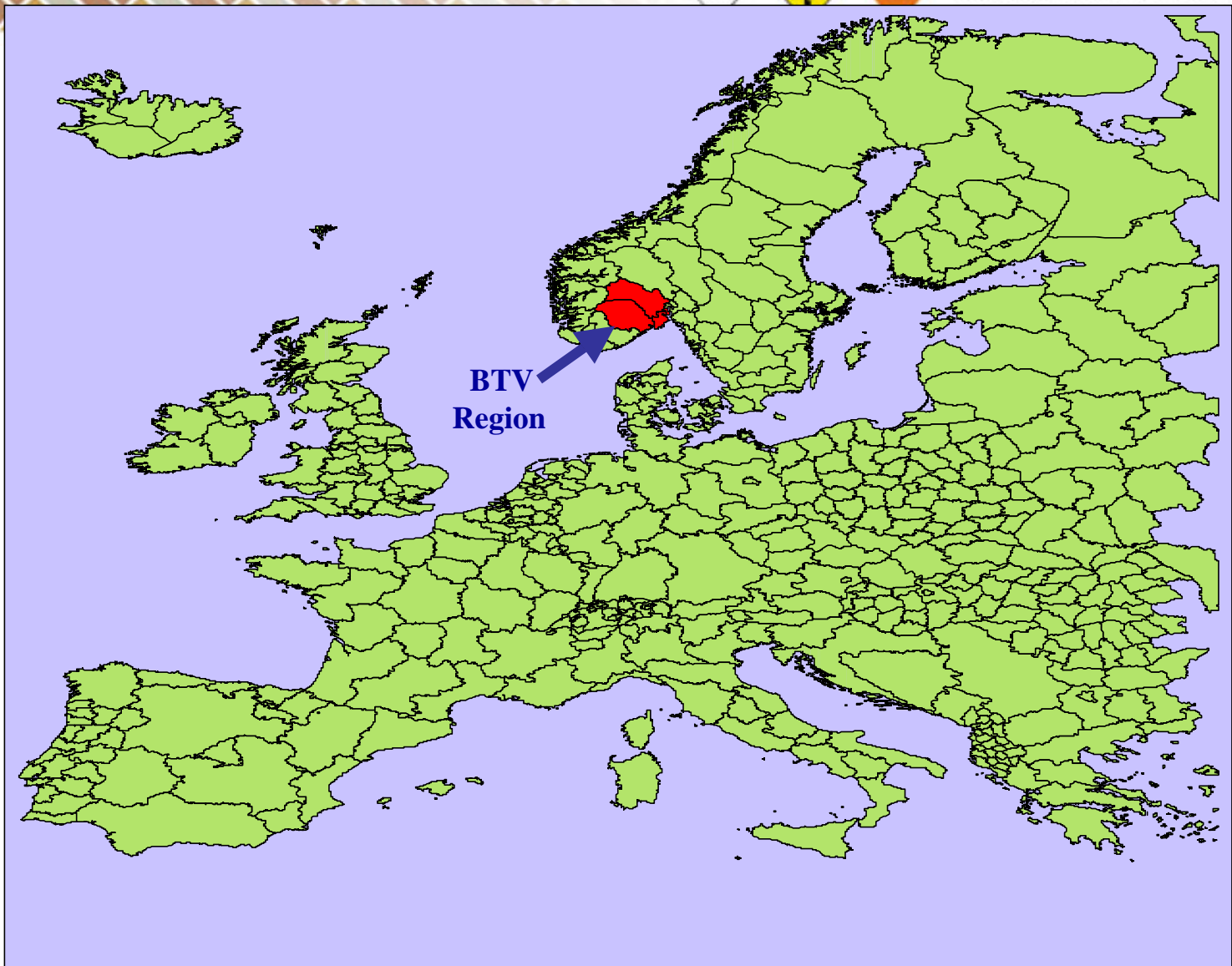




The BTV Region



A regional cooperation between the
County Councils of Buskerud,
Telemark and Vestfold.





Vision

Buskerud, Telemark and Vestfold (BTV) will work in cooperation to become an independent, attractive and competitive region in Norway as well as in Europe, with an improved and dynamic regional democracy based on partnership and with a strong user focus.



BTV Region – pop. 630,000, Area: 32,216 sq. km.,
Largest pop. cities: Drammen, Skien, Tønsberg





Background info.

- The regional cooperation is a trial project with a time frame from Jan. 1st 2004 to Dec. 31st 2007.
- The cooperation was approved by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (KRD) in December 2003.
- Since 1992, the three counties have cooperated successfully – on both political and administrative levels.



Together, we are stronger.

Regional cooperation provides opportunities for:

- **improved growth for business and industry – contributing towards the establishment of new businesses and increased employment opportunities.**
- **further improving the efficiency of the Counties' Administration offices.**
- **major savings in procurement and investments.**
- **common aims and overlying strategies for priority areas.**
- **a much higher effect from available assets.**





Political Representation

- 11 representatives from each county, a total of 33 representatives form a Regional Council.
- The Regional Council is headed by the chair person of the County Councils in turn, each for a period of 16 months.
- The Regional Council will take over several assignments from the State and from the counties.





BTV Region

The National Government has transferred the following tasks and responsibility to the BTV region:

- Infrastructure/ Transportation
 - Investment and maintenance of secondary (county) roads and investment in the National road system, Traffic safety, Public transportation incl. school buses, Licences for cross-county scheduled transportation
- Development of Business and Industry
 - High-speed communication, National schemes for innovation and loss provision funds, County funds for regional development



BTV Region

The National Government has transferred the following tasks and responsibility to the BTV region:

- Regional Planning and Development
 - Common regional strategy for transportation and development of business and industry, Regional strategies will replace present county planning
- International Cooperation
 - Overall responsibility for international engagement in the region, Joint international strategies for the region



What do we aim to achieve?

- The aims of the regional cooperation include:
 - Providing businesses and industry with good opportunities for growth
 - Encouraging the establishment of new businesses
 - Increasing employment
 - Major savings in procurement and investments



Welcome to our region.

Enjoy the conference and your stay.

You are welcome to visit us again.