Interview of Elbjørg Huseby.

Written by: Silje and Arnar

She moved to Oslo when she was 15 years old. Before that she lived with her family in Trondheim. She was born and bred in Trondheim with her family. Her family was very religious and pressured her to go to a Christian school because they wanted her to become a teacher while she had other ambitions. She was a very stubborn person and refused to go. Then she moved away because she wanted to get away from her family and decided to move to the city for better educational services. Before she moved to the city she had high expectations and was very excited. When she came there she felt that the city lived up to her expectations. When she arrived in Oslo she first lived with some of her relatives, but it didn’t work out, so she decided to rent a studio apartment.

There was no problem finding a place to rent, but she had poor economy and had to get a job to be able to pay the rent. She worked at a part time job as a conductor that she combined with school. She found it a bit weird at school because she was the only one with such a dialect, but she did not change it. At school she was studying music and she said that the days were long and hard. It got a bit easier because she got some great friends there when she was studying. She was also much exited to meet new people. One thing she was lucky with was transports and the hospital was not far away. When she finished her studies, she moved back to Trondheim.

When she got home she eventually gave in to all the pressure from her family and decided to become a teacher. After she became a teacher she was very interested in education and other cultures. As a teacher she lectured a lot in foreign languages. She and a friend of hers visited Uvdal, an inland valley, and then she met her husband, a farmer, and later decided to settle down in Uvdal and they got 3 children. When she retired she travelled to Kenya. During her visit there she taught at a local girl’s school and saw how the school system was different from the Norwegian system. She is now 78 years old and still lives in Uvdal on the farm one of her sons has taken over. Today she is just enjoying life, but helps out on the farm when she can.

 Migration summary

We interviewed two people from different age-groups about the circumstances of their migration. One person is a married woman – housewife - in her thirties, the other person is a student at the age of twenty. Let’s see the differences and the similarities of their answers.

The reasons of their migration were different. One moved from Barcs to Kaposvár because of higher education, as Barcs has no such facilities. Furthermore she settled because she found her mate. The other person’s reason was her family. First she moved from Csurgó to Drávatamási – a small village – because her husband lived there, then after their son was born, the whole family moved to Barcs, thus the child doesn’t have to commute to kindergarten. Though their workplace is still in Drávatamási.

To give some details about the towns, we have to mention that neither of them moved that far away from their hometown. So we can’t talk about cultural, climate, social structure or language differences. Csurgó is almost the same as Barcs. Our county – Somogy - is centralized in Kaposvár, the county seat, that’s why it has a developed infrastructure, for example it has a hospital, a university, shopping centres etc. It is a bigger town, there are more facilities to study, to do sports, to find a workplace or to entertain.

The preparations were about the same. They both bought a flat as a place to stay is needed to start a new life in a new place. The older interviewee had to give up on living with her parents and her job, but is satisfied with the current one. Then other was too young to have something to give up.

The hardest thing for both of them was to integrate in society as they had no relatives, friends or acquaintances. Of course they still keep in touch with their family. Both families were satisfied with the moving of their daughters, because in their case moving meant the starting of a brand new life, which they have craved for so long.

Their lifestyles have changed a lot, one of them is taking care of her baby parallelly with her job, so she doesn’t have any free time. The other is still not married and has no children, that’s why she has enough spare time to do more sports and to entertain. It is evident, as she is just 20 years old.

We can say that they are contented with the change as they met their expectation.

All in all if we are considered it was good to see how the different generations are able to start a new life and it has advantages for us, as it will help us to decide about our own migration in the future.

Interview with Terje Haualand

Written by: Ismael Alokozay and Leni Langås Flåta

Terje is a 26 year old man who used to live in Norefjord, but moved from the country side to the city as a 16 year old. At this point he moved to Notodden to go to a school there. Here he stayed for a couple of years before he moved again. At this point he moved a little closer to his former home village, to the closest city to be exact. This is a small town named Kongsberg and is about 8 miles away from Norefjord. The reason why he did not move back to his hometown when he had finished school was because he got a job in Kongsberg, and then he suddenly became in charge of two children. Terje works as a driver and in the country side there is not the same marked for his profession. But still, he did not feel that he was forced to move to the city to get a job, he could still have been a lot of other things in Norefjord, but not exactly the same as he could be in Kongsberg.

Today he is renting a house in Kongsberg. There was no problem making new friends at this new place when he got there and he is still in touch with his old friends.

When it comes to his everyday life he does not feel like so much has changed, although there is a little more to do when he is in the city. And when it comes to change in behavior he does not think that he has changed his behavior at all, and his hobbies are still the same.

His dialect has gone from being a dialect to not being a dialect at all. He can speak a mix of different dialects, but when he moved to the city it turned mostly into standard eastern Norwegian. The religion was the same in the city as in the country side, and his religion has not changed in any way either. The culture was also more similar than he had expected. The main difference he can think of must be the number of people. But any other big differences he cannot think of.

When he told his family and friends that he was moving they were all positive. Today he misses the countryside a lot. It is possible that he will move back one day. This is because he still has a lot of good friends and family here and simply just misses living in Norefjord.

Before he moved the thing he was thinking about the most was that he would never say hallo to his neighbor again. This is common to do in the countryside but he did not think this was common in the big cities at all. Anyway, it turned out that he was mistaken, in the city you also talks to everyone around you. That was actually the only thing he was expecting when he moved to the city.

Intervju med Gro Huseby

We interviewed Gro Huseby, a 44 year old lady from Nore and Uvdal. Nore and Uvdal is a small village in the countryside with little education opportunities, therefore she moved to Oslo to study. The counselor of her high school helped her to find the right school and direction after she graduated. She studied therefore a couple of years before she travelled around here in Norway and also abroad. After years with experience, she came back to Oslo and has now lived there the last ten years. The main reason why she chose Oslo was because her sister already lived there, in a house with several apartments, so she helped Gro to find a place in the same house. Another reason why she chose Oslo was because she had some relatives and friends who already lived there. She moved because she wanted to take further education after high school. She did not change address the first years she lived there, considering that she travelled home in the weekends.
When the time went by, she made new friends, not just locals, but also other students from all over the country, therefore she did not feel alone and like an outsider.
The first years, she got a scholarship, loans and a lot of help from her family to make her economy good. All the same she did not have the money for expensive restaurant dinners and new clothes all the time.
When she travelled home for the weekend and holidays, she used bus and train. She did not buy her own car before many years after she was done studying.
Her everyday life now is quite well. She has her own apartment, many friends, a boyfriend, a car and a good job in the health care sector.
She was very determined on keeping her own dialect from the countryside, although it has been hard considering that the people around her speak differently, she has kept the dialect. She says people remember who she is because of her dialect and that is fun. She does not feel that she has changed a lot after she moved, expect from growing up.
She got the feeling that the urban culture was different from the rural culture, even though there were many similarities. She still feels attached to the rural culture, considering that she often travels back to Nore and Uvdal to visit friends and family. The social environment depends on the people you socialize with. There are several people that has done the same as Gro; moved to Oslo to study, and then settled there. Therefore she has a lot of friends from other places and works with people from different cultures.
She thinks about maybe moving back to Nore and Uvdal when she has finished her professional working life and has retired.

Gunhild and Maren

Summary, interview

Moving to a new place involves a lot of preparation such as finding an apartment to live in that meets your needs, search to a new school, find out where it lays and other things. We believe that most people move because of education and work. And in the city there are a lot more opportunities related to work and a place to live, settle down and many people like to have the food stores nearby, a shopping mall nearby, and all the other stuff, so that they don’t need to drive a long way to get there, unlike if you live in the country side.

Like everything else, living in a city has its cons too. If you are living at the countryside, you probably know everyone in your neighbourhood, but when you are living in a big city you might not know who your nearest neighbour is.

We interviewed Andrea’s sister, Isa, who is 23 years old and lives in Bø in Telemark. We met her in Kongsberg to hear what she had to say about the difference, concerning education, friends and family.

She thinks there are more opportunities in the city, more stuff to do like go to the cinema, do sports and stuff like that. Her reason to move was education.

When it comes to family and friends, she says that all of her friends were positive to her moving and that many other friends moved too. It is not unusual that teens move to get higher education.
She says that the people at her school are very open and she found it easy to get new friends.

We asked her what she looked for when she was searching for a place to live. She meant that it was important that it was central and close to the school.

Another reason to move was that she wanted to look at a new community and see other stuff and meet other people, and Isa has achieved that.

The biggest difference, according to Isa, is not to know everyone, like we do back home.

Andrea og Bendik

Travelogues Interview by Line Heggelien & Fredrikke Kirkevollen

We interviewed a 45 year old woman from Øygardsgrend, she moved to the capital of Norway; Oslo, when she was 22. Later she moved to Drammen and then Bergen. Now she lives in Kongsberg were she has two children at the age of 16 and 19, and a husband. She works as an accountant at the tax-office in Kongsberg.

She moved to the city because of the work-opportunities. She applied for a job in Oslo, and her boss was very helpful finding her a bedsit. She was 22 at the time, young enough not having to report change of address. When moving, she was anxious, but knew some people in the city already so it went fine. At the new job she got a lot of new friends, and she only used public transport, so she didn’t need a car, or parking- space.

A few years later she found the man of her life; they got married, and have two children together. She did not find it natural moving back to the countryside after this, because all of her friends had moved from the countryside too.

When moving to the city, it was difficult speaking her own dialect, because the people didn’t understand her. Therefore she only speaks dialect with her family.

In the countryside she was a lot outside, discovering the nature. When she moved to the city, it was harder to get out, since she doesn’t have the nature outside her door anymore.

She found the people in Drammen a bit locked and not as welcoming as the people in Bergen. She thinks the difference between how welcoming the people are, is not because it’s either at the countryside or the city, but because of which place in Norway you live.

She found it hard finding any jobs in the countryside; therefore she had to move to Oslo, where it was a lot of job-opportunities. The job did not affect her career choice, since she was done with studies while she lived in the countryside.

Her family and friends were positive to the moving. And the most the new friends she got, were her colleagues.

The advantages moving to the city were many. Everything was a lot closer.

A disadvantage about moving from the countryside was that it was more expensive, for example the rent and it’s a lot more “things” to spend your money on. Also she misses living close to her family.

She thinks she probably won’t move back to the countryside, because of her job and family, who has integrated in Kongsberg.