



Norway

Regional Partnerships

Framework and setting

- Geographic scale** All 19 counties (NUTS III level regions) are involved in several different types of partnership. There are important differences in local and regional development between the regions (particularly densely populated urban regions and sparsely populated rural regions). The population of Norway is approximately 4,600,000.
- Policy framework** Regional partnerships operate as co-ordination initiatives and were explicitly introduced as corner stones in economic policy in 2001. Partnerships are regarded as a new concept describing well-established relations between county administrations and other institutions at the regional level.

Partnerships at work

- Rationale** Economical development (particularly in sparsely populated rural areas) and cross-sectoral coordination of activities at county level are the reasons behind the creation of regional partnerships in Norway.
- Objectives** The main objectives of partnerships are to promote sustainable regional development, to facilitate co-operation between regional actors, to support local business development, entrepreneurship, innovation, infrastructure for industrial development and to strategically focus on regional (county) planning.
- Functions** Partnership functions include, for example, developing and implementing strategies, building and maintaining an effective co-operation between partners, developing, managing and implementing joint programmes and projects and coordinating funds.
- Policy areas** Labour market policy, Agriculture policy and regional economic development policy
- Policy tools/ Instruments** Main policy tools used are regional development programmes dealing with special problems or strategic opportunities (industrial, spatial), business loans and grants and research.
- Timeframe** Yearly basis
- Partners** The county council (Fylkeskommune) is the leading actor within the partnership. Other partners involved in the partnership include Innovation Norway (the state owned company operating from 1 January 2004 and replacing the Norwegian Tourist Board, the Norwegian Trade Council, The Norwegian Industrial and Regional Development Fund and the Government Consultative Office for Investors) and regional state agencies. Municipalities (Kommune) and education institutes occasionally participate in the partnerships.
- Contracts** None (contracts between partners are made only on the project level)
- Legal status** The partnerships have no legal status (the participation is voluntarily).
- Sources of Financing** The main sources of financing for the partnerships are the regional development funds and various sectoral funds.
- Results** The "Partnership Reform" started in 2003. No evaluations have yet been conducted.

Contact

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