

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OECD COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 2001
Broadcasting Section

Country: Norway

Date completed: 14 June 2000

BROADCASTING

Broadcasting services available

1. Please provide details of the broadcasting and cable television services available in your country.

Infrastructure provision for following service	Number of licensed operators (2000)	Number of privately owned companies ¹	Number of public service organisations ²
Terrestrial TV (National coverage ³)	3	1	2
Terrestrial TV (Local coverage ⁴ only)	42	42	0
Terrestrial radio (National coverage)	5	2	2
Terrestrial radio (Local coverage only)	282	282	0
Cable television service ⁵	7000 *	Not available	Not available
Analogue direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	20	18	2
Digital DBS service	No record		

* No licence required, following the Telecommunications Act. There are more than 7000 registered Norwegian cable-tv networks. The majority comprises non-profit co-operative groups.

¹ Defined as private sector companies holding one or more licences for service provision.

² Including state-owned corporations or institutions holding one or more licences for service provision.

³ A service with national coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations distributing a majority of the same programming, that are licensed on a national or regional basis but collectively provide nation-wide coverage. Affiliating companies of the nation-wide broadcast network are included in this category. If new operators have been licensed to provide national coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

⁴ A service with local coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations that are licensed on a national or regional basis but distribute the programming in the local area only. If new operators have been licensed to provide local coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

⁵ Please indicate if more than one organisation is permitted to own and operate cable television infrastructure in the same area.

2. Please provide details on the major terrestrial TV broadcasting companies which have national coverage in your country⁶.

Name of national terrestrial broadcaster	Ownership status (private or public)	Analogue or digital service or both	If digital		Relationship with transmission network owner ⁷
			Free to Air (FTA) ⁸ or subscription	Number of channels	
The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK)	Public, 100%	Analogue			c)
TV2	Private, 100%	Analogue			c)

⁶ A service with national coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations distributing a majority of the same programming, that are licensed on a national or regional basis but collectively provide nationwide coverage. Affiliating companies of the nation-wide broadcast network are included in this category. If new operators have been licensed to provide national coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

⁷ Options include:

- (a) broadcaster owns network
- (b) broadcaster has a commercial relationship with a privately owned network
- (c) broadcaster has a commercial relationship with state owned network
- (d) broadcaster has non-commercial relationship with state owned network
- (e) other; please describe.

⁸ A free to air (FTA) service is one which is available to viewers without paying a direct fee.

3. Please provide details on the major cable and satellite broadcasters and transmission networks in your country.

	Name of broadcaster	Number of channels in premium service		Does the broadcaster own the transmission network? If not, who does?	Is the transmission network used to deliver more than one broadcasting service?
		Analogue service	Digital service		
CABLE	UPC Norge AS (Cable operator)	29	0	-	Yes
	Telenor Avidi AS (Cable operator)	24-30	0	-	Yes
	Alfanett AS (Cable operator)	40	19	-	Yes
SATELLITE	TVNorge AS (Broadcaster)			No. Telenor Satellite Services	Yes

4. What was the price of a subscription service in the largest city of your country on 1st January 2000? Basic service corresponds to the least expensive option to a customer and premium service the most expensive option. (Local currency, current prices)

	Name of operator	Connection fee	Basic service		Premium service	
			Monthly subscription fees	Number of cable channels included in the basic option (excluding free services)	Monthly subscription fees	Number of cable channels included in the premium option (excluding free services)
Cable Television services	UPC Norge	2000 NOK	66 NOK	14	226 NOK	29
Satellite television service	Canal Digital	395 NOK	18 NOK	4	328 NOK	33
Digital terrestrial television service	Not yet established	-	-	-	-	-

Communication services available on broadcasting networks

5. Please provide details on the communication services available from broadcasting transmission networks in your country.

	Terrestrial	Cable	Satellite
Services provided over the network, e.g. FTA broadcasting, Subscription broadcasting, Telephony, New digital services, Internet access	FTA	Telephony, Internet access, Subscription broadcasting	FTA, Internet access, Subscription broadcasting
How many cable and satellite operators are providing telephony and internet access services?	Not applicable	No records	None
Regulatory restrictions Does the owner/manager of the transmission network face regulatory requirements in the following areas. If so, please give details. -Access to infrastructure or transmission services -Providing access to conditional access systems -Ownership restrictions -Restrictions on services which can be provided	No No No Yes: Networks are reserved for broadcasting services	No No No specific restrictions, but general regulations in penal code etc, will apply	No No No specific restrictions, but general regulations in penal code etc, will apply

Digital television

6. (a) Please indicate on which transmission networks digital television is (or will be) available and whether it is provided as a subscription service or FTA. Also indicate the year in which the service first became available (or will become available).

	Terrestrial	Cable	Satellite
FTA	2000		1999
Subscription	-	2000	1999

(b) Please provide data indicating the take-up rate of digital television by consumers, such as percentage of households with a digital television receiver.	<p>Digital satellite receivers: 55.000</p> <p>Digital cable receivers: apprx. 1000</p> <p>Households in Norway: 1,700,000</p>
(c) Do regulations restrict the type of services which digital broadcasters can provide? If so, please provide details.	No
(d) Are digital terrestrial broadcasters required to provide a simulcast service in analogue and digital? If so, please describe the requirement.	The subject has been passed in the Parliament. No specific switch-off date for analogue broadcasting has been set. The period of simulcast will depend on the penetration of digital receivers among the households. Digital distribution must be high before simulcasting ends.

Broadcasting regulatory framework

7. Which organisation(s) administer the following services (carriage and content) in your country and what are their main responsibilities? Please mention agencies dealing with spectrum allocation and management, and providing licences.

Terrestrial broadcasting service	The Mass Media Authority grants licences for local television and radio broadcasting, and for networks. Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority deals with spectrum allocation and management.
Cable Television service	The Mass Media Authority deals with following issues: Must-carry, subscribers choice of programming, programme content concerning illegal portrayal of violence/pornography.
Direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	The Mass Media Authority grants licences for satellite broadcasting.

8. How would a carriage network which delivered television, telephony and internet services be regulated in your country?

Please provide details: Public network and public telephony must register. Providers with strong market position needs a licence and are also regulated stronger in regulation of 05.12.1997 and in the Telecommunication Act itself. Internet services are not regulated. Cable TV-networks must register and are regulated in separate regulations.

9. Please provide a description of significant recent policy changes affecting the provision of broadcasting services, as well as any draft laws, or regulatory proposals to be implemented in 2000-2001.

Please provide details:
Development of a terrestrial nationwide DAB network has reached a coverage of 50 % of the population. For the time being, plans are made for a regional DAB network.

The Parliament recently decided that a terrestrial digital TV network may be developed.
Establishment of a DTT network presupposes financing by the enterprising companies involved.

10. Please indicate whether public service obligations in broadcasting regulations have changed since 1998 and provide details of any changes.

Please provide details:
No significant changes since 1998.

11. Please indicate whether regulations concerning content have changed since 1998. Please provide details of any changes in relation to:

Local content requirements	In local radio there has been required that at least 75% of the programming is locally produced. This has been reduced to 50 %.
Must-carry requirements	No changes.
Community standards	In Norway, there are no regulation on community standards.

12. Please indicate whether regulations concerning ownership and market entry (for terrestrial, cable and satellite) have changed since 1998. Please provide details of any changes in the following areas:

Limitations on number of stations	
Foreign ownership	
Cross media and cross sector provisions	On 13 June 1997, the Parliament passed “Act relating to supervision of the acquisition of newspaper and broadcasting enterprises (Media Ownership Act)”. The purpose of the Media Ownership Act is to prevent a concentration of Ownership that might jeopardize a comprehensive range of media. According to the Act, The Media Ownership Authority was established, which is a special, independent administrative body. The Authority may intervene against the acquisition of an ownership interest in a newspaper or broadcasting enterprise if the person acquiring the interest alone or in cooperation with others has or gains a significant ownership position in the national, regional or local media market, and this is contrary to the purpose set out in section 1 of the Act.
Other restrictions on ownership	

Convergence

13. Under the communication regulation existing in your country how would services provided over the Internet, which some have likened to broadcasting services (e.g. audio and video services transmitted over the Internet) be defined and treated?

Please provide details:
Same regulation applies to broadcasting services provided over the Internet as other broadcasting services. The provider must register.

14. Would a video-on-demand service be treated differently in terms of regulations, according to the transmission methods (for example, PSTN, cable or satellite)?

Please provide details:
No decisions are made concerning the status of VOD.

15. Under the communication regulation existing in your country how would conditional access services, such as in digital DBS services, be treated?

Please provide details:

TV Standards Directive 95/47/EC is adopted in Norwegian legislation.