

Ministry of Education and Research



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for sectors of society that are important for our growth and development – both as individuals and as a society. Kindergartens, educational and training institutions and research establishments play important roles as bearers and disseminators of culture.

The Ministry works to ensure an educational and research system of high quality and productive and creative research environments. Information technology provides new opportunities and ethical challenges in a world where knowledge is society's most important asset.

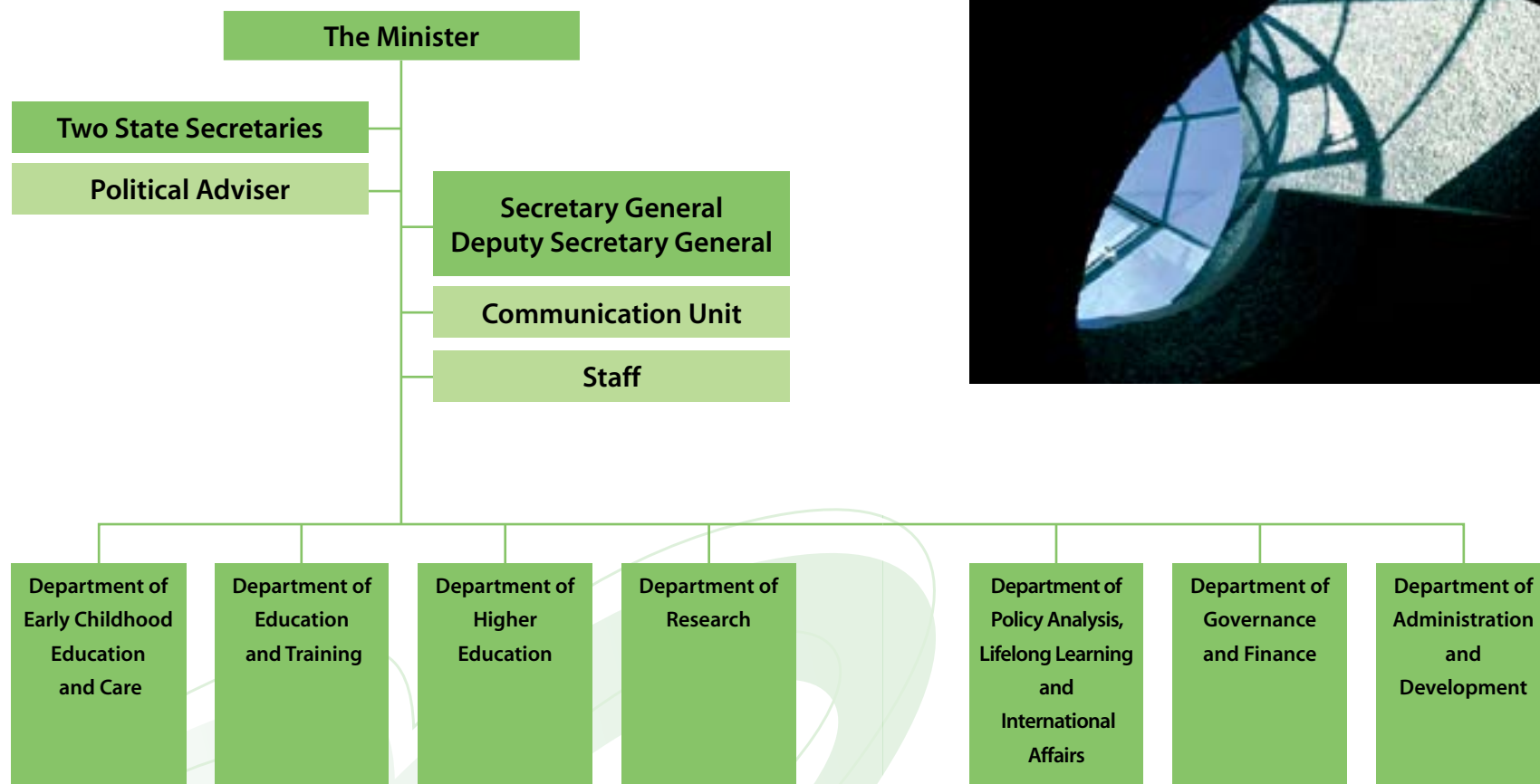
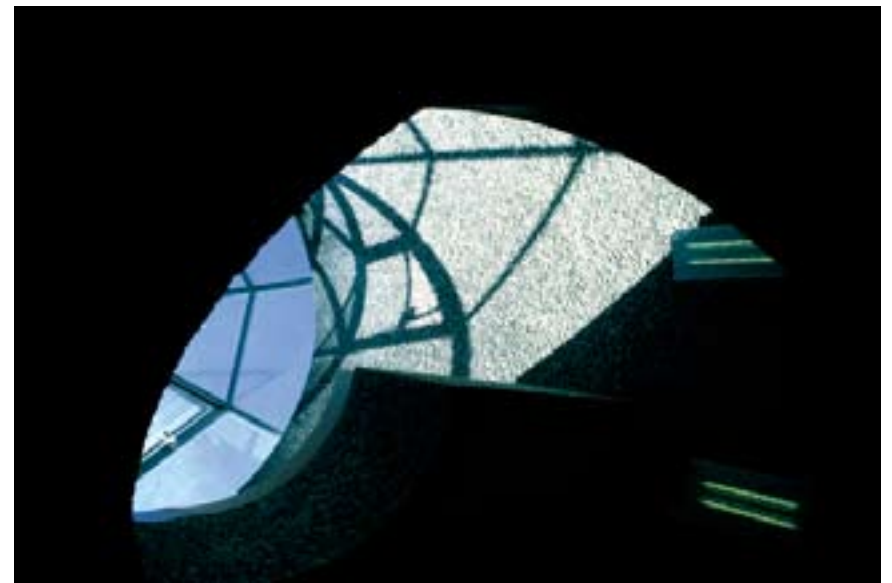
The Ministry aims to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to take part in the knowledge society. An essential condition for achieving this objective is that kindergartens, educational and training institutions and research establishments are able to develop, communicate and exploit new knowledge.

Organisational structure

The Ministry consists of seven departments and the Communication Unit and has approx. 300 employees.

A Distinctive Building

The Ministry is located in the so-called Y- building in the Government Administration district. The characteristic building has three "arms" in the shape of a Y. It was designed by the architect Erling Viksjø and was built in 1969. The Norwegian artist Carl Nesjar has made two large façade decorations for the building based on original drawings by Pablo Picasso – a unique piece of work using the Norwegian natural concrete technique combined with grit blasting.



Department of Early Childhood Education and Care

The Department of Early Childhood Education and Care has been incorporated into the Ministry of Education and Research to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive education for children and young people. The department's responsibilities comprise the administration of the Kindergarten Act, government grants, quality development in kindergartens and facilitating a fully developed kindergarten sector.

Department of Education and Training

The department has the overall responsibility for the 13-year education and training system provided by primary and secondary schools, as well as folk high schools and adults' rights to basic education. The department is responsible for formulating policy on primary and secondary education and training, while the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training is responsible for implementing this policy. The department is divided into a Quality Development Section and a Management Section. This section has management responsibilities for the Directorate for Education and Training and the National Parents' Committee for Primary and Lower Secondary Education (FUG), amongst others.

Department of Higher Education

The Department of Higher Education has the overall responsibility for higher education, post-secondary vocational education and training, researcher training, research programmes and other activities at universities and university colleges. This responsibility includes formulating and implementing policy, developing frameworks, systems and standards. The department consists of Section for Ownership and Governance, Section for Budget and Finance, Section for Research and Innovation and Section for Higher Education Structure and Quality Assurance. The department has administrative, supervisory and overall management responsibility for state universities (6), specialised university institutions (5), university colleges (25), national academies of the arts (2), as well as for the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), and the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT). The Department of Higher Education also supervises private specialised university institutions (1), accredited private university colleges (1) and private university colleges with approved study programmes (30), in addition to post-secondary vocational education and training approved by NOKUT.

Department of Research

The Department of Research has the overall responsibility for formulating and supervising Norwegian research policy and exercising the Minister's coordination tasks in research issues. This includes preparing Reports to the Storting (White Papers) on research, coordinating R&D funding in the National Budget and acting as secretariat for the Cabinet Research Committee. The department has the administrative responsibility for the Research Council of Norway. In addition the department is responsible for the Norwegian Research and Innovation Fund and for funding basic research through the agency of the Research Council. The department also has an overall responsibility for Norwegian participation in international research collaboration, including the coordination of participation in the EU's framework programmes for research. The department allocates basic funding and grants to a number of private research institutes and institutions, and is in charge of funds etc. for the Holberg Prize and the Abel Prize.

Department of Policy Analysis, Lifelong Learning and International Affairs

The Department of Policy Analysis, Lifelong Learning and International Affairs is a driving force and initiator in the Ministry's analysis and documentation tasks, and coordinates international cooperation on educational and research questions. This includes education-related research, statistics and indicators as well as organising international visits at a political level to and from Norway. In addition the department coordinates the Ministry's Nordic and international collaboration within the framework of the Nordic Council of Ministers, the EEA/EU, the OECD and UNESCO, amongst others, and acts as secretariat for the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO. The department is professionally responsible for the further development of the knowledge policy, including lifelong learning. In cooperation with NORAD (the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) the department also works with development aid, including assisting developing countries in improving their education systems.

Department of Governance and Finance

The Department of Governance and Finance coordinates the Ministry's work on the National Budget. In addition it is a driving force behind the Ministry's legal, financial and organisational tasks concerning management issues.



Department of Administration and Development

The Department of Administration and Development is responsible for the Ministry's human resources (HR) management, organisational development, document management (archives), ICT and finance. The department is also responsible for student funding as a policy area, the funding of educational associations and distance learning and equality issues within the Ministry and throughout the educational sector. The department has management responsibilities for the National Institute for Adult Learning (Vox), the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norwegian Social Research (NOVA) and the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (Met.no).

The Communication Unit

This unit coordinates the Ministry's information activities and support for the political leadership. This work includes dealing with the media and reviewing media coverage, strategic communication to the educational sector and giving advice within the Ministry. In addition the unit is in charge of Internet-based information through various gateways, information about the Ministry on www.kunnskapsdepartementet.no and the internal information channel called Arena.



Acts Administered by the Ministry

- Act No. 64 of 17 June 2005 relating to Kindergartens (Kindergarten Act)
- Act No. 61 of 17 July 1998 relating to Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary Education (Education Act)
- Act no. 84 of 4 July 2003 relating to Independent Schools
- Student Welfare Associations Act, 28 June 1996, No. 54
- Post-secondary Vocational Education Act, 20 June 2003, No. 56
- Act relating to Universities and University Colleges, 1 April 2005, No 15
- Act No. 35 of 28 May 1976 relating to Adult Education
- Act No. 21 of 26 April 1985 relating to Educational Support, cf. also Act No. 37 of 3 June 2005 relating to Educational Support
- Act No. 72 of 6 December 2002 relating to Folk High Schools
- Research Ethics Act, 30 June 2006, No. 56

Subordinate and Associated Institutions

The Ministry is responsible for the following subordinate and associated institutions:

- The National Parents' Committee for Primary and Lower Secondary Education (FUG)
- The Norwegian Meteorological Institute
- The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)
- The Research Council of Norway
- The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)
- Norway Opening Universities (NUV)
- Norwegian Social Research (NOVA)
- The Universities and Colleges Admission Service (SO)
- The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU)
- The Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund
- National universities and university colleges
- The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training (UDIR)
- The National Institute for Adult Learning (Vox)

The Ministry has a direct responsibility for the management of national ownership in the following companies:

- Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
- Norwegian Synchrotron Research
- Simula Research Laboratory AS
- UNINETT, The Norwegian Research Network
- The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)

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