

norway

The Norwegian
**Ministry of Government
Administration, Reform
and Church Affairs**



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION, REFORM AND CHURCH AFFAIRS

THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, REFORM AND CHURCH AFFAIRS.

Reform has a central role in the Government's efforts to improve the public administration in Norway.

The purpose of this booklet is to give you some information about my Ministry and our work.

The Norwegian Government sees the need for a strong public sector to provide the general public with efficient services, freedom of choice and participation in decision-making.

It is the Government's view that important social responsibilities should be looked after jointly by the public authorities.

The Government wishes to create a well functioning public sector through interaction and cooperation. Further development of the welfare state is an important part of this.

We will place particular emphasis on the following principles:

- **User orientation:** Organize public services to meet people's needs and to simplify contact with the public authorities for the private sector and for the population at large.
- **Transparency:** Make active efforts to improve the public's knowledge of and insight into public documents, activities, utilization of resources, quality and results.
- **Efficiency:** Resolve communal responsibilities more efficiently in order to free up resources for priority tasks.
- **Quality:** Ensure that public services are of high quality and that this can be measured and followed up systematically.

- **Participation:**

Broad and constructive participation by users, senior officials, government employees and their unions.

- Equality for all inhabitants based on diversity and respect for ethnic background and religious beliefs.

In our efforts to create a sound and sustainable public sector, Norway experiences, by and large, the same challenges as most other countries .

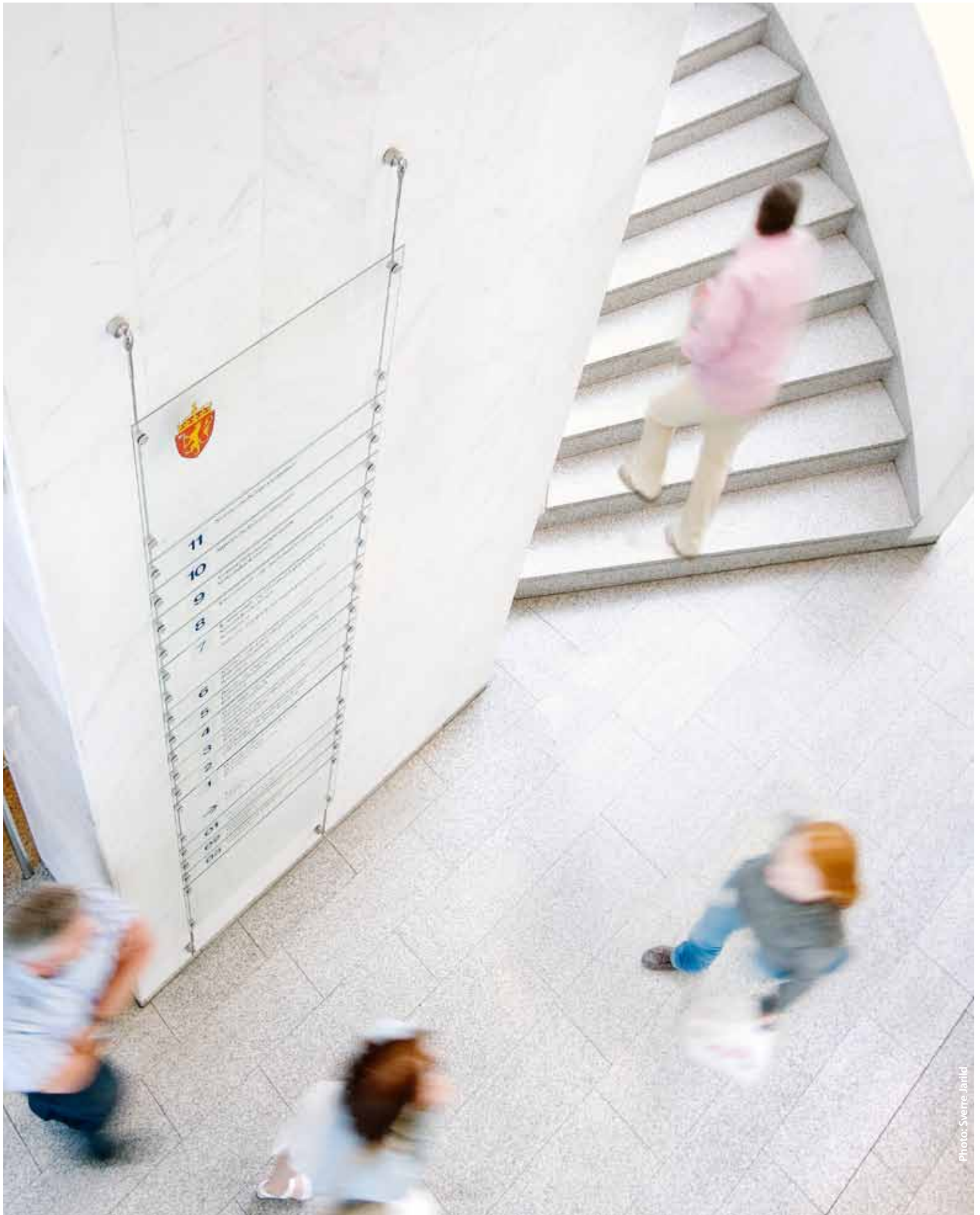
I hope that this short presentation of the goals and responsibilities of the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs will encourage contact and cooperation between Norwegian public authorities and those of other countries.

We have indeed a lot to learn from each other !

More information about the Ministry is available at www.regjeringen.no/fad

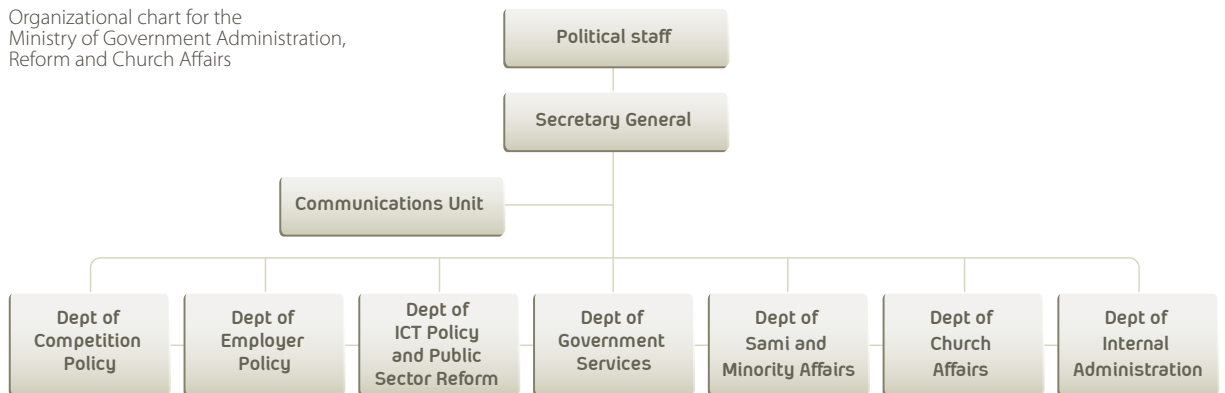
Rigmor Aasrud
Minister of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs





PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTRY

Organizational chart for the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs



The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs plays an important role in the Norwegian central government administration. We are one of 17 ministries and we provide a coordinative function for all of the ministries in several areas.

- The Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs has 205 employees (2010).
- The Ministry's internal budget is EUR 36 million (2007).
- With its subordinate agencies, the Ministry administers a budget of EUR 2,1 billion (2007).

Our main responsibilities are as follows:

REFORM:

Coordinating the Government's work on reform of the public sector in Norway.

ICT POLICY:

Responsibility for national ICT policy and for helping to establish efficient ICT solutions in the public sector that are user-friendly for the general public.

COMPETITION:

The Ministry has overall responsibility for competition policy, state aid and public procurement, and thereby contributes to efficient utilization of society's resources and increased welfare.

EMPLOYER POLICY:

The Ministry aims at an inclusive and stimulating personnel policy and secure terms and conditions of employment in the Civil Service.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Through its responsibility for several subordinate agencies and the County Governor Offices, the Ministry emphasises an effective government along with implementation of governmental politics and public services.

CHURCH AFFAIRS:

Responsibility for providing an organizational and financial framework for the Church of Norway, for administration of church legislation and regulations and for administration of the clergy etc.

SAMI AND MINORITY AFFAIRS:

The Ministry has the overall responsibility for developing and coordinating the states policy towards the Sami population and the national minorities.

INFORMATION POLICY:

Overall responsibility for the Government's information policy "public information" vis-à-vis the general public and the media.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ICT POLICY AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM is responsible for promoting and coordinating public sector development. A key area of responsibility is to promote government reforms, aiming at a more efficient public sector through the use of ICT. The department is also responsible for national policies and strategies regarding information society in general.

One central issue is how to achieve interoperability between the various public sector ICT-systems. When developing new ICT-systems within the public sector, key instruments are the use of open standards, the use of open source software and a common ICT architecture.

The department is also responsible for ICT policies reaching beyond the public sector and including

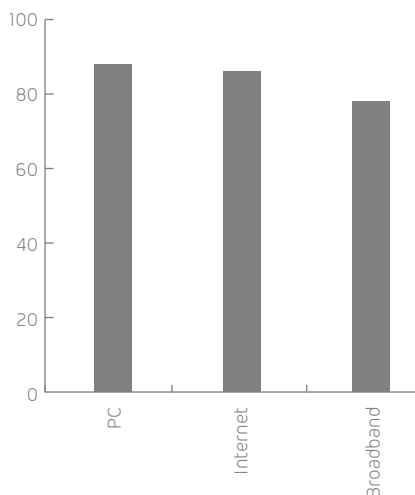
national broadband policy, policy for green ICTs, national R & D strategies for ICT, digital content and new services, re-use of public sector information, digital literacy, regulations for national eID, and security within the information society.

Moreover, the department is responsible for the government's administration policies, i.e. regulatory policy and the choice of organizational structure, along with the Public Communication Policy. Other responsibilities encompass conducting socio-economic and other fact-based analyses of the public administration and how public resources are being used.

The department supervises the Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi).

PROPORTION OF NORWEGIAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO VARIOUS TYPES OF ICT EQUIPMENT, SECOND QUARTER OF 2009.

SOURCE: SSB



THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES mediates contact with, and has the responsibility for management of, the County Governors' Offices. The Department of Government Services has overall responsibility for the regional government administration policy, with major emphasis on issues concerning organisational and territorial division.

In addition, the department has responsibility for managing most of the Ministry's subordinate agencies: the Directorate of Public Construction and Property, the Norwegian Data Inspectorate, the Government

Administration Services and the Privacy Appeals Board. The responsibility for development and follow-up of public construction and property policy and follow-up of major development projects lies with the department. The department also has a responsibility regarding regulations and policies for privacy protection.

The Ministry is the government liaison to The Royal House and carries the responsibility for the royal apaanage and budget as well as the government owned royal properties.



THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPETITION POLICY has overall responsibility for competition, state aid and public procurement policy.

The Department is responsible for developing, implementing, enforcing and providing guidance on national and EEA competition law and policy. The Department has administrative responsibility for the Norwegian Competition Authority, and provides the framework for the Competition Authority's activities. The Department is appellate body for the Competition Authority's decisions pursuant to the Norwegian Competition Act and Articles 53 and 54 of the EEA Agreement. The Department also plays an important proactive role in ensuring the inclusion of competition policy considerations in other Ministries' policy areas and is thus a valuable resource for the whole Government.

The Department is responsible for developing, implementing and providing guidance on national and EEA State aid legislation. The general prohibition on state aid applicable in Norway is laid down in Article 61 of the EEA Agreement, and is enforced by the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

The Department develops, implements and provides guidance on national and international legislation in the area of public procurement. This includes ensuring that Norwegian law is in conformity with the EEA rules, the WTO rules and other international agreements on public procurement. The Department also develops the legislation governing the activities of the Norwegian Complaints Board for Public Procurement.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYER POLICY is the central government body for employer affairs. This includes the responsibility for legislation, collective agreements and administrative decisions concerning Civil Servants and for framing the Civil Service employer and personnel policies.



Photo: Sverre Jarlid

The department conducts pay negotiations with the Civil Service central trade unions. The department also provides initiatives, advice and support on personnel matters and management development.

The Department of Employer Policy monitors the Civil Service, including the management of pay systems. Ethical guidelines concerning Civil Servants and former holders of political office are also among the department's responsibilities. The department aims at achieving greater transparency, social inclusion and user-orientation in public administration.

The work of **THE DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH AFFAIRS** is related to the Ministry's responsibility and authority arising from the fact that Norway has a state church system. The responsibility includes providing an organizational and financial framework in which the Church of Norway can exist and act as a confessional, serving, missionary and open folk church. The department is responsible for the administration of compre-



hensive church legislation and regulations, including the Church Act, the Funeral Act, the Act relating to the Church Property Fund and the Act relating to public holidays. The department also has administrative responsibility for the clergy, bishops, diocesan councils, the Church of Norway National Council, the Restoration of Nidaros Cathedral, the Seminary for Practical Theology and the Church Property Fund. In addition the department is responsible for foreign war graves in Norway and for Norwegian war graves abroad.

In 2008 the Government submitted a White Paper to the Parliament concerning the future relationship between the state and the Church of Norway. In accordance with the agreement of April 10th 2008 between all the political parties represented in Parliament at the time, the White Paper recommended comprehensive changes in the constitutional framework concerning the relationship between state and church.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SAMI AND MINORITY AFFAIRS

The Sami are the indigenous people in Norway. The basis for the Government's Sami policy is that the Norwegian state is established on the territories of two peoples, Norwegians and Sami, and that both these peoples have the same right to develop their cultures and languages. Recognition of Sami interests shall be included in the development of policies in relevant areas.

Sámediggi (the Sami Parliament) is the representative and elected body for the Sami people in Norway. The Ministry carries the administrative responsibility for Sámediggi as well as the formal, parliamentary responsibility for the appropriation process. The Ministry also facilitates dialogue and consultations between the Government and Sámediggi.

The Ministry shall contribute to the development of international policy on indigenous peoples and cooperate on Sami issues with the Nordic countries. The Department has responsibility for Gáldu (Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous peoples) and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

National minorities are defined as groups with a long-standing attachment to the country. In Norway these minorities are: The Kven (people of Finnish descent in Northern Norway), the Jews, the Forest Finns, the Roma and the Romani people/Tater. The Government emphasises the objectives enshrined in the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The authorities wish to maintain a close dialogue with organisations that represent the national minorities in order to ensure that their views are heard.



Photo: Denis Caviglia

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT :

The Communications Unit relays questions from the press to the political staff and specialist departments. The unit assists the press and the public in finding the right department to provide comments, background material and clarifications. The Communications Unit is also an important internal resource for the political staff and specialist departments, and assists in preparing information on matters for the general public and the media.

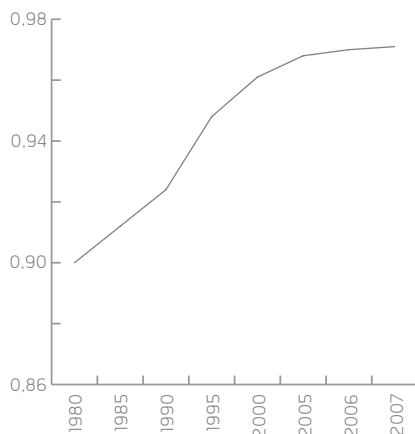
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION:

The department has overall responsibility for the Ministry's work on the budget, accounts and financial management. The department is also responsible for personnel policy, management development, organizational development, competence development, along with environment, health and safety as well as internal functions for the whole Ministry. The department is responsible for the planning, implementation and coordination of the Ministry's security and emergency preparedness. The Ministry's international work is managed and coordinated by the department.

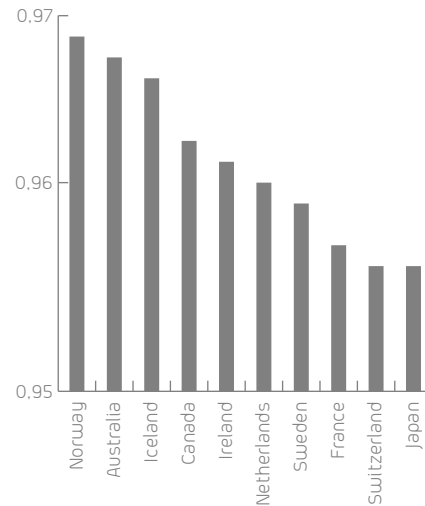
The department is also responsible for managing and coordinating the Ministry's R&D.

UNS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI). HDI FOR NORWAY AND PRESENT STATUS (2007):

HDI for Norway
SOURCE: UNDP



HDI rank, top 10 Countries
SOURCE: UNDP



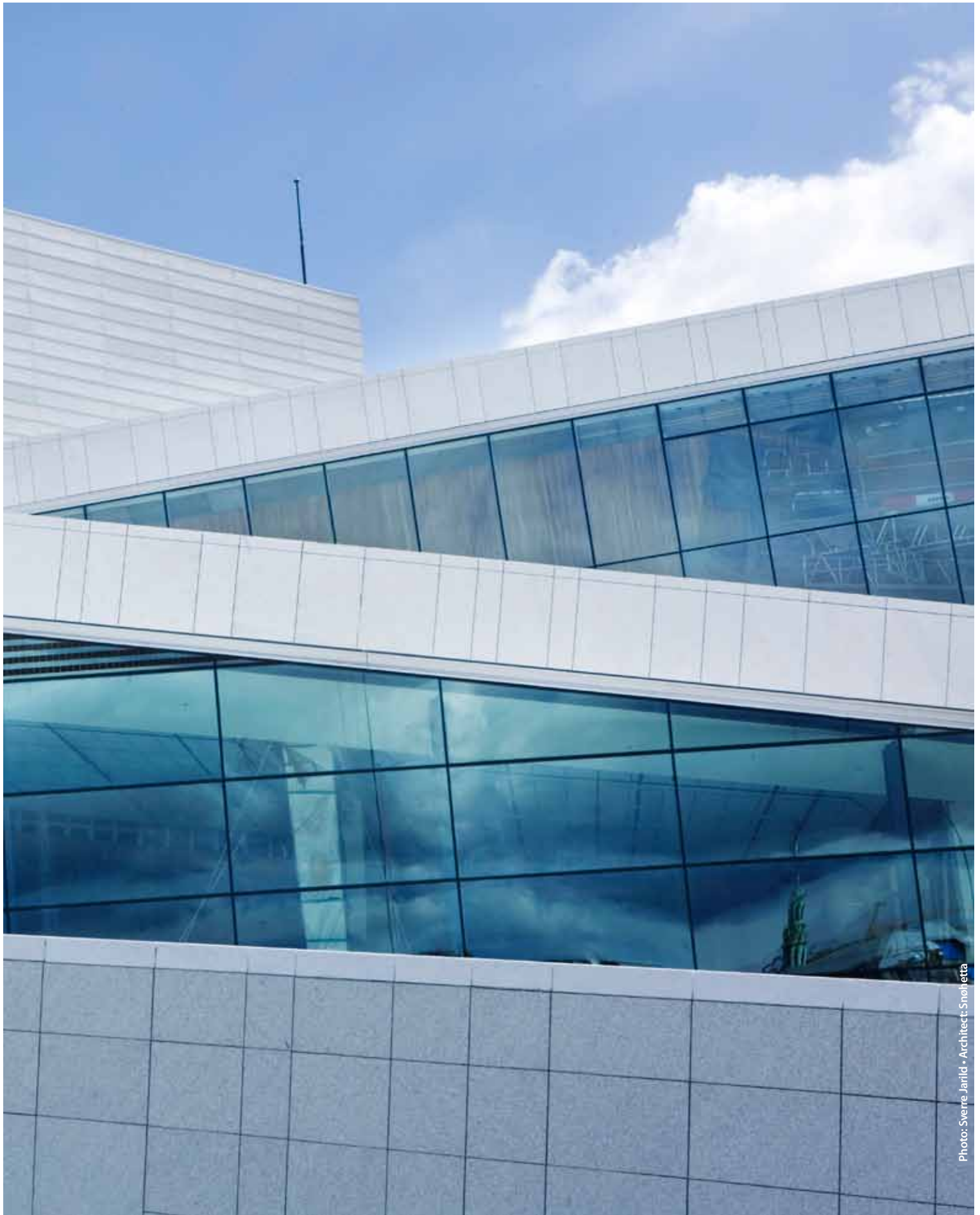


Photo: Sverre Jarlid - Architect: Snøhetta



THE COUNTY GOVERNOR is the Central Government's representative at county level. The County Governor has important managerial and guidance responsibilities vis-à-vis the municipalities, and supervises the municipal administration and economy pursuant to the Local Government Act. www.fylkesmannen.no



THE NORWEGIAN DATA INSPECTORATE is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Personal Data Act. The purpose of the Act is to protect private individuals from violation of personal protection through the use of personal information. www.datatilsynet.no



THE NORWEGIAN COMPETITION AUTHORITY has as its main task the enforcement of competition law, i.e. the Norwegian Competition Act and Articles 53 and 54 of the EEA Agreement. The Norwegian Competition Act and Articles 53 and 54 of the EEA Agreement prohibit anti-competitive cooperation between undertakings and the abuse of dominant position. The Competition Act furthermore instructs the Competition Authority to intervene against concentrations that restrict competition contrary to the purpose of the Act.

THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMPLAINTS BOARD (KOFKA) is a national complaints board which handles complaints of violation of the procurement rules. The Board's Secretariat is placed, administratively, under the Norwegian Competition Authority www.konkurransetilsynet.no



STATSBYGG THE DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY (Statsbygg) is the central government's property manager, property developer and principal adviser on construction and property matters. www.statsbygg.no



THE PRIVACY APPEALS BOARD is the appeal body for decisions made by the Norwegian Data Inspectorate. The Privacy Appeals Board considers appeals against decisions made by the Norwegian Data Inspectorate pursuant to the Personal Data Act and certain other Acts. www.personvernemnda.no



THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES aim to provide competent and efficient administrative resources for the Government and the ministries. www.dss.dep.no



AGENCY FOR PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND EGOVERNMENT (Difi) aims to strengthen the government's work in renewing the Norwegian public sector and improve the organisation and efficiency of government administration. Difi works to ensure that government administration in Norway is characterised by values of excellence, efficiency, user-orientation, transparency and democracy. Difi has a special responsibility for public sector reforms and development in the field of ICT, public procurement, public communication, organization, training and public management.

The Agency was established 1 January 2008 and has 180 employees located in Oslo and Leikanger. www.difi.no



THE CHURCH OF NORWAY NATIONAL COUNCIL prepares matters that are to be considered by the Church of Norway General Synod. The Council also implements the decisions of the General Synod and is otherwise in charge of work between the General Synod's annual meetings. www.kirken.no



THE NORWEGIAN STATE CHURCH ENDOWMENT (Ovf) is an independent legal endowment holding its own real estate and financial capital. The real estate portfolio consists of rectories, clergy houses (vicarages etc.), forestry, watercourses, leased properties and office premises for ecclesiastical functions. The purpose of Ovf is to benefit the Church of Norway. Ovf is similar to a foundation in that it works to maintain and develop certain values. The profit is distributed between predefined purposes.
www.ovf.no



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR REINDEER HUSBANDRY (ICR) is to be a knowledge base for providing and exchanging information and documentation between different reindeer peoples, national authorities, and research- and academic communities both nationally and internationally. The Centre will thus contribute to adding value, improving information and enhancing understanding for world reindeer husbandry and for the reindeer herding peoples, including their traditional knowledge and their future development.
www.reindeerportal.org



THE RESTORATION WORKSHOP OF NIDAROS CATHEDRAL / NIDAROS DOMKIRKES RESTAURERINGSARBEIDER (NDR) The NDR is in charge of preserving and safekeeping the Nidaros Cathedral, as well as managing guided tours service. The restoration Workshop is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Archbishop's Palace, the national monument adjacent to the Cathedral. The Archbishop's Palace includes the oldest secular building in the Nordic countries and two museums. NDR is a centre of expertise for the preservation of old stone buildings.

The NDR is formally organized directly under the authority of the Ministry of Government Administration, Reform and Church affairs.
www.nidarosdomen.no

AFFILIATED BODIES



SÁMEDIGGI SAMETINGET

SÁMEDIGGI (the Sami Parliament) – is an independent political organ and the highest representative body for the Sami people in Norway. It is elected through general elections by and among the Sami. All matters that have special significance to the Sami population are Sámediggi's responsibility. Based on its status and role, Sámediggi is the main contributor in the shaping of the Government's Sami policy, as well as being an advisory body in relation to Sami issues
www.samediggi.no



GÁLDU – Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – was established by the government in 2002, with the aim of increasing knowledge and understanding of indigenous peoples' rights as well as Sami rights. Gáldu's target group is anyone who is searching for information about indigenous peoples' rights, primarily target groups in Norway, but also internationally. The centre is a professionally independent institution, governed by its own board. The centre is funded by the Ministry and reports to the Ministry in administrative matters.
www.galdu.no

For more information about Norway:

THIS IS NORWAY – WHAT THE FIGURES SAY

http://www.ssb.no/norge_en/

MINIFACTS ABOUT NORWAY

http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/minifakta_en/en/MF2009-ENG-web.pdf





Photo: Sverre Jarlid

