



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Broadband and the Ubiquitous Society – a Public Right

State Secretary Mr. Steinulf Tungesvik

“Digital allemannsrett” (Norw.)

Allemannsrett/“Public right of access”

“Every-man’s-right” to travel, camp etc on all land that is not directly used for farming or as gardens etc. The right to make use of the nature for recreation, pick berries etc is an important part of the Norwegian culture

“Every-man’s-right to digital communication”
– making the availability to electronic communication in the households a public right

The Government declaration and “Digital allemannsrett”

In Norway we have what is called something like “Every-mans-right” to travel and camp on all land that is not directly used for farming or gardens. This means that everybody, also people from other countries, has the right to make use of the nature for recreation, pick berries etc. and is an important part of Norwegian culture. My Government has launched the concept of “Every-mans-right to digital communication” – making the availability to electronic communication in the home a public right, and hence an obligation for the government to provide – by helping out market shortcomings.

Broadband and an ubiquitous society – Look to Korea



- Korea is at least one step ahead of Norway in many areas of the information society. Compared to Norway, Korea has 10-times more people on 1/3 of the land
- Our biggest city, Oslo, has 500.000 citizens.
- Deep fjords and high mountains make digital divide created by access to infrastructure challenging

Broadband – look to Korea

Korea is at least one step ahead of Norway when it comes to developing the information society and make use of new technology and electronic communication. Your experiences and any advises you can give us are important for Norway in order to make the best of the on-going electronic revolution.

The Norwegian and Korean geographical and technological landscapes are quite different. We are only 4,5 million people living all over the country on 323.000 square kilometres. Our biggest city, Oslo, have around 500.000 citizens. I think the numbers for Korea is around 100.000 square kilometres 45 million people and close to 10 million citizens in Seoul. You are 10 times more people living on one quarter of the land. We also have a lot of similarities, with a long coast lines, fisheries and a strong industry based on marine resources.

Norway also have around 300 mountains more the 2000 meters above sea level, many deep valleys and fjords – making infrastructure for electronic communication and bridging the digital divide created by access all the more difficult.

Status in Norway

- Around 52% of the households are connected, and around 93% have potential access to broadband infrastructure. Still fast roll out and strong competition on xDSL, Cable, WiFi and Fiber
- GSM, EDGE covers 99,8% of the population
- UMTS covers almost 80% of the population
- CDMA-450 is starting up



Norwegian Broadband Policy

The Norwegian policy for promoting broadband is based on

- Open and competitive markets
- Technological neutrality
- Regulatory safeguards where dominance exists.

The role of the Government

- Introducing ICT-based public services
- Supporting local administrations to introduce broadband solutions for their services
- Some form of governmental founding will be needed to cover the last 5% of the population



Scalable technologies, constantly improved bandwidth

Services for the information society – Tax Form Online

- In April almost 2 million tax payers (more than 75 %) delivered their income tax form by SMS, telephone or through the Internet.
- Convenient for the people and very effective for the Directorate of Taxes
- 400.000 delivered just before the deadline....

Norwegian experiences and initiatives for creating the Information society

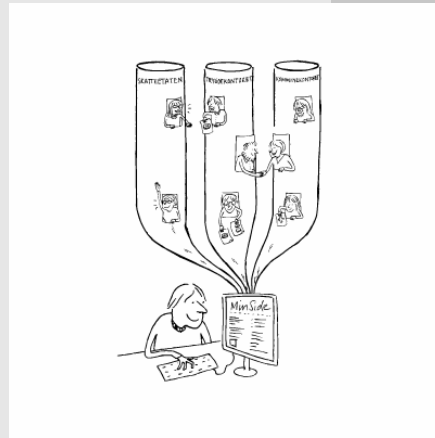
Services for the information society:

Tax-declaration online:

This year almost 2 million Norwegians did their tax-declaration on the internet, by SMS or telephone. More than 400.000 delivered during the last day before the deadline.

The Norwegian Tax-authorities project received the "Good practice" award at the "European e-Awards".

Services for the information society - Citizen Portal



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Services for the information society - Citizen Portal We are at present putting a lot of effort into making the public sector more efficient and convenient for business and citizens. The project "Citizen Portal" will be the most visible result of a large IT and organisational revolution in several sectors of Norwegian public administration. The Citizen Portal will be an on-line portal providing each citizen and businesses with detailed information of his/her contacts with all parts of public administrations – a on-stop-shop. Instead of having to deliver the same information to all sectors, the different parts of public administration will now exchange this information between themselves. Protection of privacy and the movement of data is of course a top priority in the Citizen Portal.

Services for the information society - Telemedicine

- Advanced communication between medicine personnel in rural areas and specialist knowledge in the large hospitals
- On-line diagnostics and treatment
- Reduce cost and inconvenience of travel and increase efficiency and knowledge in the small health centres
- The Norwegian National Telemedicine Centre is advisor to WHO

For the last ten years, Telemedicine has been of central interest for Norwegian RnD. Telemedicine started off as a way to make services more available, convenient and effective for people living far away from the larger hospitals. Instead of travelling for hours and even days to get a specialist opinion, patients can now get the same service on-line at their local medical centre. The Norwegian National Telemedicine Centre is now an advisor to the World Health Organisation and is one of the leading centres in this field. They have also signed an agreement with the Korean Telemedicine Control Centre of Gwon Province to build a system for telemedicine like the Norwegian. I hope the co-operation between Norway, Korea and others in the field of telemedicine will be successful and help to increase the quality of health services, reduce costs and lead us to a model that can be adopted in other parts of the world as well.

Thank you for your attention!