

Year of Cultural Diversity 2008

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Register programmes and strategies at www.kultureltmangfold.no

The website of the Year of Cultural Diversity provides the only overview of the activities taking place all over Norway during the Year of Cultural Diversity. Those taking part may register their own programmes with images and videos on www.kultureltmangfold.no.

All participants are encouraged to use the logo for Cultural Diversity 2008, which may be downloaded from the website.

The Secretariat of the Year of Cultural Diversity

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has established a Secretariat that will act as an advocate, adviser and coordinator for the Year of Cultural Diversity. The Secretariat has three employees and cooperates with an interministerial team, a network of county contacts, and a group of expert consultants. The Secretariat works with strategic initiatives to enhance the long-term, positive effects of the Year of Cultural Diversity.

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Norwegian Year of Cultural Diversity

From 2008 cultural life in Norway should
reflect the nation's cultural diversity



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF CULTURE AND CHURCH AFFAIRS



This is how your institution may contribute:

- Start initiatives to enhance diversity in your workforce and in the board room
- Make programme profiles reflecting the composition of the population
- Make efforts to reach new communities
- Cooperate with practitioners, who have experience and expertise in the field of cultural diversity

Cultural Diversity makes Norway greater

2008, Norwegian Year of Cultural Diversity

In the Government White Paper no 17 (2005-2006), the Government proposed celebrating Norway's cultural diversity in 2008, and was supported by the Norwegian Parliament. The Government would like to coordinate central, regional and local efforts to promote cultural diversity as an essential dimension of cultural policy.

The Year of Cultural Diversity is intended to highlight and energise Norway's existing cultural diversity. The Year of Cultural Diversity also aims at creating a greater understanding of and respect for cultural diversity in institutions, the media, politics, and society in general.

From 2008 Norwegian cultural life should reflect the nation's cultural diversity

This may be achieved through:

- National coordination and local entrenchment of the Year of Cultural Diversity
- Long-term initiatives for multicultural recruitment, skills learning and leadership
- More state grants to cultural diversity practitioners
- Greater allocations to the Arts Council Norway
- Encouraging cultural institutions that receive government subsidies to focus on cultural diversity

Norway's international commitments

UNESCO states that cultural diversity is a defining characteristic of the common heritage of humanity, and is indispensable in achieving peace and sustainable development.

The UN states that people may have multiple and complementary identities. Furthermore, countries do not have to choose between national unity and cultural diversity. Surveys show that the two can, and often do, coexist.

Norway has ratified UNESCO's Conventions on Cultural Diversity, Intangible Cultural Heritage and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The 2008 Year of Cultural Diversity follows up Norway's international commitments, and coincides with the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

A Year of Cultural Diversity for All

During the Year of Cultural Diversity, emphasis will be placed on the interaction between different communities in the general population, on indigenous peoples, national minorities, and immigrant communities. The Norwegian identity is changing and will continue to change in the future.

2008 is the year for cultural practitioners. All over the country, large-scale and smaller activities are being planned. Conferences, seminars, exhibitions, performances, concerts, courses and festivals that emphasise cultural diversity will be arranged. Visit www.kultureltmangfold.no to see what is happening near you.