

Independent living Universal design as a policy for change

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**From a Disability Action Plan to
Norway Universally Designed by 2025**

An overview

- Commission report 2001:22 From User to Citizens
- White paper: Dismantling of Disabling barriers (2003-4)
- Action Plan for better Accessibility 2004
- Discrimination and Accessibility Act 2009
- New Plan and Building Act 2009
- Action Plan 2009-13 Norway Universally designed by 2025

Universal Design, definitions

From The Center for Universal Design,
North Carolina State University 1997

- Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialised design.
- The intent...is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications and built environment more usable.
- Targets all people of all ages, sizes and abilities
- Introduced in Norway by the State council for disability 1997

Political platform for the Government's work: Soria Moria(2009-13)

- The Government shall work to promote participation and gender equality for persons with reduced functional abilities. Lack of accessibility also to goods and services, is discrimination.
- The Government has a vision of Norway being a universal designed nation by 2025. By making universal design the basis for developments in society, this will create better and fairer environments. Furthermore this will lead to positive social qualities for all inhabitants

Action Plan



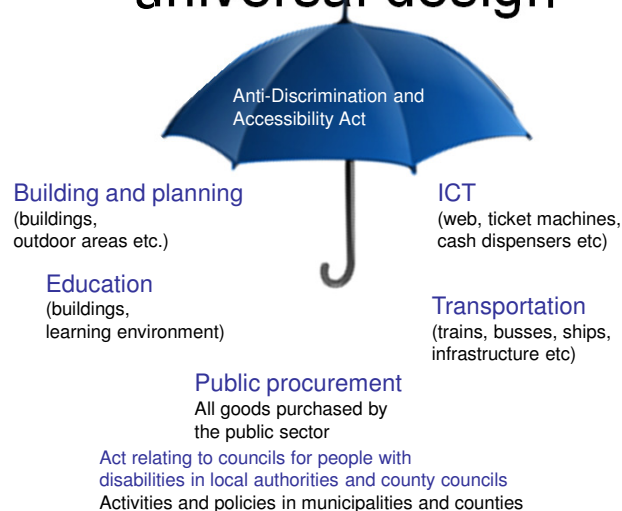
- **Prioritized areas:**
 - Outdoor areas/planning, buildings, transport and ICT.
 - Sector-overarching measures: activities in municipalities, national indicators and standards, communication policy, children and young people
- **Participating ministries: 16**
- **Period: 5 years (2009-2013)**
- **Political anchoring:**
 - The Government
 - Follow-up: Parliamentary Secretary Committee on the overall policy for people with disabilities.
- **Participation**
 1. Reference group (NGOs, research institutes etc.)
- **Coordination responsibility**
 - The Ministry of Children and Equality

Strategy



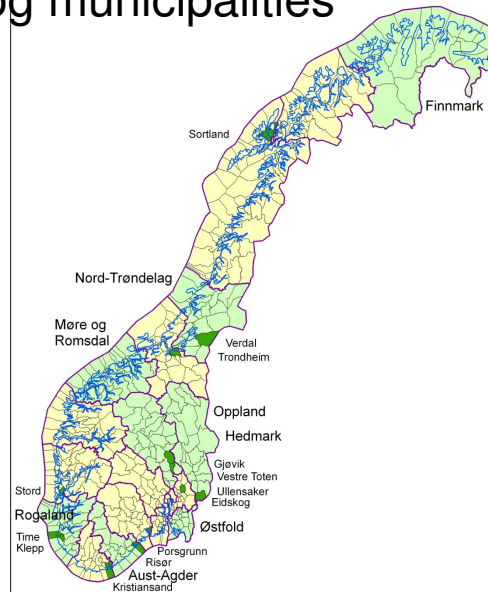
- **Strengthen the sector responsibility principle**
 - The individual ministry is to review its area of responsibility and assess the need for additional deadlines and specific measures
- **Use of legal instruments**
 - The Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility Act, The Planning and Building Act, The Public Procurement act, etc.
 - New laws and regulations
- **Use of non-legal instruments**
 - public market powers, administrative powers, management of the departments.
 - Standardization
 - Research
 - Economic instruments
- **Increased contribution and cooperation**
 - The Ministries, The Housing Bank, The Norwegian State Council on Disability, The National Council for Senior Citizens, The Delta Center, The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, NGOs

the implementation of universal design



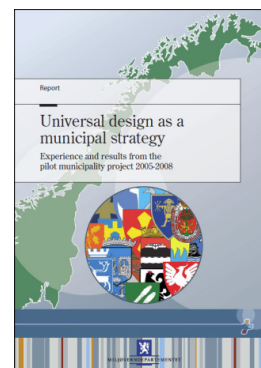
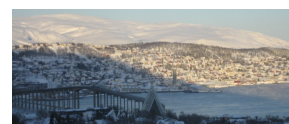
Pilot counties og municipalities

- 8 counties
- 13 municipalities
- 25 new municipalities in 2010
- 4 national seminars
- Regional / local seminars
- Network
- Building knowledge



Planning and outdoor areas

- **National development project in county councils and local authorities.**
- (Urban and regional planning)
(Ministry of the Environment)



<http://www.universell-utforming.miljo.no/>

**Vision: Equality, individual rights,
mainstreaming and participation for all**

- Make it possible for everybody to participate in education, work, social and political activities-

Individuals can complain about discrimination due to lack of accessibility in areas open to public to the ombudsman (LDO)

Organizations meet the government for complaints, dialogue and exchange ideas on how to promote better accessibility

Councils for persons with disabilities (by law)

**UN Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities- 2006**

- Article 2, definitions
- "universal design" means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialized design. "Universal design" shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed.

Council of Europe (P-RR-DU,2009)

- --Environments,products,communication and information technology and services accessible and understandable to, as well as, usable by everyone..
- Universal design is a concept that extends beyond the issues of mere accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities and should become an integrated part of policies and planning in all aspects of society.

How can we plan for an inclusive society?

- People come in all sizes, shapes and abilities
- People want to help themselves and live independently
- come together, act together, take part in public and political life- to be a citizen
- Universal design is to plan for a society for all

Tools for implementing UD

- Laws and Governmental regulations
- Standardization
- Information
- Education - programs for professionals
- Economical incentives-
- Participation and involvement of public
- Community policymaking
- Public procurements-

Today: UD is on the
local agenda



1350-1750 The Hansa Colony in Bergen (Photo:O.Bringa)



How to get started

- Knowledge about human diversity
- Knowledge about barriers
- User involvement -public awareness
- Professional knowledge
- Political involvement-laws and commitment
- Regulations, standard
- Research and evaluation





Housing

Housing and residential
areas that can be used
by everybody

Necessary for some
- good for all



Satisfactory housing for everybody

The task of the State Housing Bank:

- Prevent and combat homelessness
- Improve the Housing allowance system
- Encourage sustainable housing, - environments and buildings
- Improve consciousness and knowledge on universal design in housing and environment.
- Give advice for more attractive environments

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- a welfare department

- Encourage local authorities, housing developers, architects etc
- Contribute where the private market doesn't offer sufficient solutions
- Create results through others
- Be a centre of competence within housing policies



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- The Plan and Building Act
- Universal design and good building design
- Sustainability
- Energy efficiency
- Security
- Compatible to assistive technology

Support to Municipalities

- Investment support to building of nursery homes, institutions
- Housing allowances, loans or grants for people otherwise outside the market
- Support for readjustments in homes
- Basic housing loan for social homes
- www.husbanken.no/english

Independent living is more than a house...

- Assistive technology- a national service
- Home service according to individual needs by municipality
- Health service in your home,- an upcoming interest for more advanced service
- Security alarms and technology- upcoming
- Personal assistance
- Activity centres, work programs, rehabilitation..
- Sport/ culture/social activities

Residential area: Planning for participation what have we learnt about inclusion?

- Cross sectorial and interdisciplinary cooperation in planning and maintaining
- A meeting place for transport and communication. Easy to get to-
- a local meetingpoint for all ages
- Different activities attracts different people
- Promote activity- body and soul- voluntary
- Use new technology to stimulate for activity, independent living and security

Vision: Equality- Mainstreaming - Participation

- Make it possible for everybody to take part in education, work, social activities, political activities, culture

Mainstreaming -universal design and individual accommodation

People are different- you can make changes in the environment and plan for a more inclusive society

Education and Inclusion



Beeing a student

- Individual right to programs, equipment, assistive technology
 - transport
 - Student housing- dormitories
 - Student loans
 - Health service
 - Home service
 - Equal access to buildings
 - Accessible campus, ICT systems, literature, exams
- Social life- ? Equal participation

Tickets

- understand
- read
- reach
- touch

And you get a ticket!



Money

If you cant read,
can you hear ?

Will there be service
Available ?





A legal definition from Norway

- By universal design is meant designing or accomodating the main solution as regards to physical conditions so that it can be used by as many people as possible
- The Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility Act





How to get started

- Knowledge about human diversity
- Knowledge about barriers
- User involvement
- Professional knowledge
- Political involvement
- Regulations, standard
- Research and evaluation

Universal design

- Participation and empowerment
- Support diversity by mainstreaming
- Governmental responsibility
- Local responsibility
- Involvement of all citizens
- user involvement
- Innovation and professional knowledge
- Sustainable solutions

International Conference on Universal Design in Oslo, June 11.-13. 2012

- **Vision: Inspire, Challenge, and Empower. UD in Public Space**
 - **Aim:** To be an attractive meeting place between research and practice, inspire continuous work on UD and build global connections
 - **Main themes:** UD in Public Space. Topics to be addressed are issues related to universal design in planning, legislation, politics, education, buildings, outdoor areas, information and communications technologies (ICT) and public transport
- Target group:** Authorities, organisations, practitioners, users and representatives from enterprises, research and development (R&D) institutions
- **Website:** www.ud2012.no
 - **Contact:** info@bufdir.no



Mind the gap!

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www.deltanettet.no

www.universell-utforming.miljo.no