



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN NORWAY

Name of national urban policy	No partial or explicit national urban policy
Date of national urban policy	Not applicable
Explicit or partial	Not applicable
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Not applicable
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Grorud Valley Initiative (Groruddalssatsingen)</i> (2007-2016) and local level planning; White Paper “Tolerant Secure and Creative Oslo Region” (2006-2007)
Stage of development	Implementation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Not applicable
Implementing body	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	Not applicable

Current national urban policy

Norway does not have a national urban policy. The governmental system in Norway is highly decentralised, and therefore most of the responsibility for urban development falls at the local level. There are examples of programmes, however, where different levels of government have co-ordinated successfully together. The 2007-2016 *Grorud Valley Initiative (Groruddalssatsingen)* is directed at improving living conditions in the Grorud Valley (in the Oslo area), which is characterised by high levels of deprivation. The programme focuses on improving the quality of life of residents and is a joint implementation between the national government and the city of Oslo (UN-Habitat, 2015).

In addition, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is in the process of creating larger municipalities and counties. Related white papers are expected to be presented in 2016 (OECD, 2015).

Previous national urban policy and developments

In 2007, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development published a white paper on the Oslo region, *A Tolerant, Secure and Creative Oslo Region – Report on the Capital Region of Norway*. In this document, the Ministry called for a differentiated regional policy and reinforcement of Oslo as an attractive city internationally. The document also had an integrated approach, encompassing economy and business, living conditions, environment, welfare, research and education facilities, diversity and tolerance, childcare and schools, safety, culture, and innovation (Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, 2007).

Bibliography

Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (2007), “A Tolerant, Secure and Creative Oslo Region”, Report No. 31 (2006–2007) to the Storting, Introduction and Summary in English, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Oslo, www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/f184961ca7a948febe6ec79f686b43e3/en-gb/pdfs/stm200620070031000en_pdfs.pdf (accessed 14 June 2016).

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