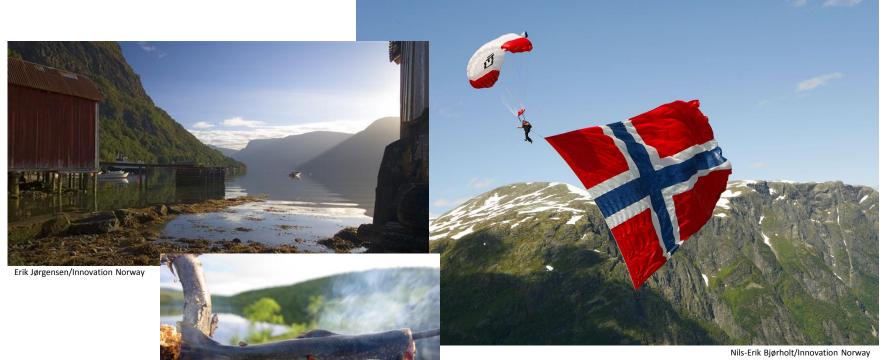




Living and Working in Norway



Johan Wildhagen/Innovation Norway

NAV EURES Norway Inger Christensen



Norway - "way to the North"







Geography

/ nav//

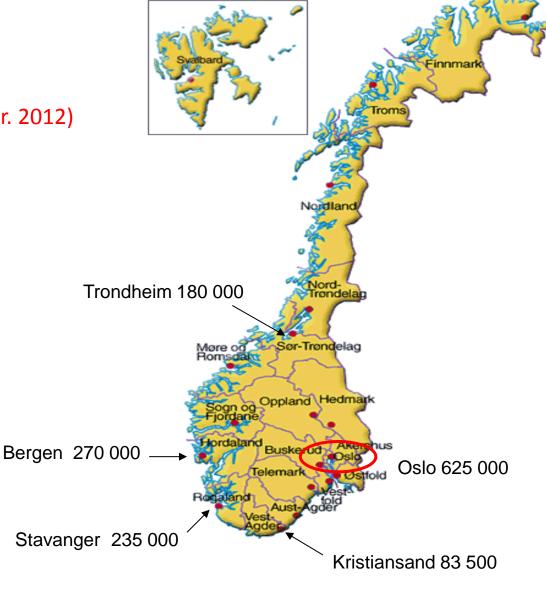
Population 5.000.000 (Mar. 2012)

• Immigrants: 600,000

Capital Oslo

19 counties

Biggest cities:





Norway



- Currency Norwegian kroner, NOK
- Constitutional monarchy, King Harald V
- Prime Minister; since October 2013,
 Erna Solberg
- Conservative Party/Coalition government







Characteristics



- A northern climate, milder along the south and west coast.
- Bright summers/dark winters
- Natural variety
- Outdoor culture
- High standard of living
- Extensive welfare system
- Safe working conditions







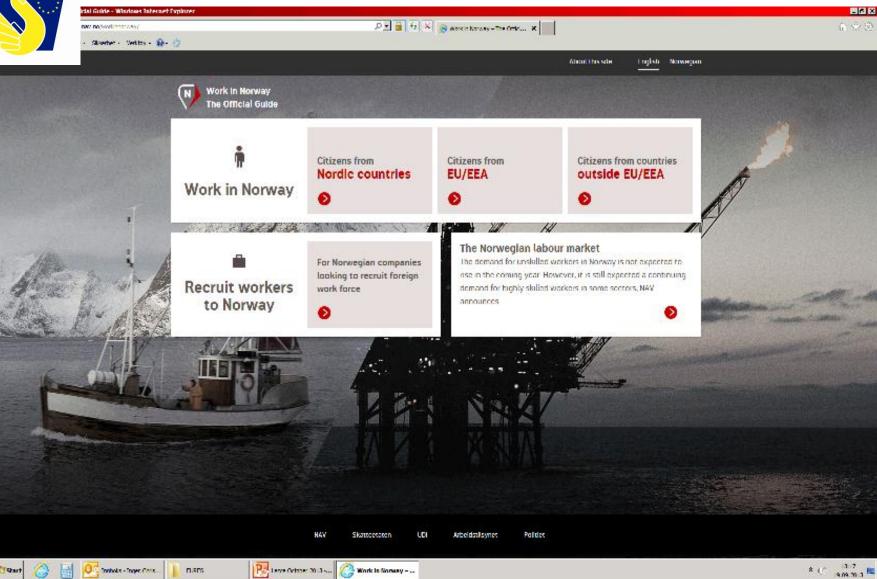
Language



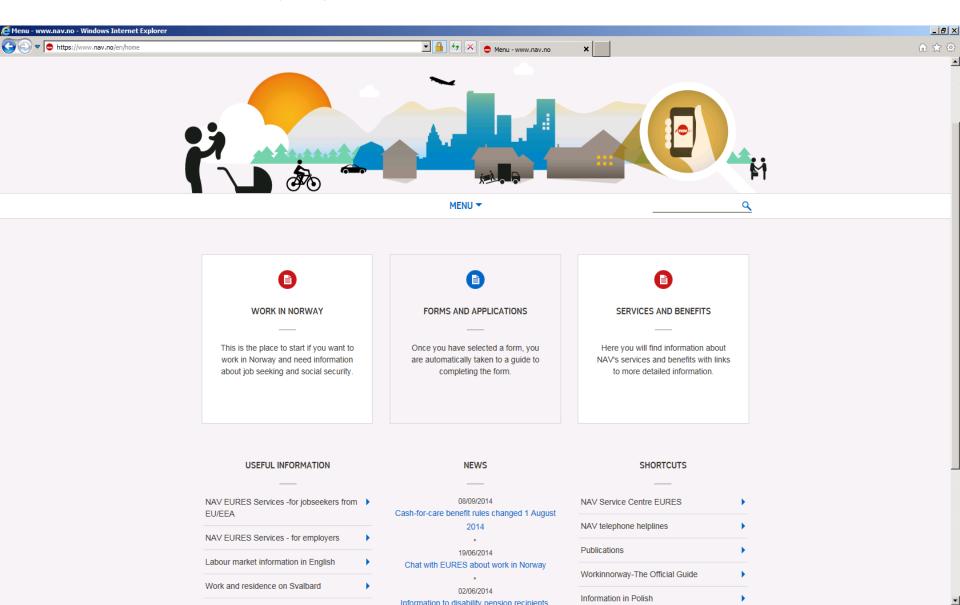
- Most Norwegians speak English.....
 - But most of the employers require that you speak Norwegian, or a Scandinavian language
- Norwegian courses held in most towns (for payment).
- Two official forms of Norwegian:
 - Standard Norwegian (bokmål)
 - New Norwegian (nynorsk)
- Close to Swedish and Danish (we understand each other)
- Many regional dialects
- Norwegian is the workplace language. Some exceptions: Oil and petroleum sector, some construction worksites, some cooks, restaurant, and cleaning positions, some seasonal (agriculture, fish industry)
- Free online class: http://www.ntnu.edu/norwegiancourse/norwegian-on-the-web
- Online Class (not free of charge): <u>www.campusonline.no</u>

E U R E S

www.workinnorvay.no



www.nav.no/en/Home

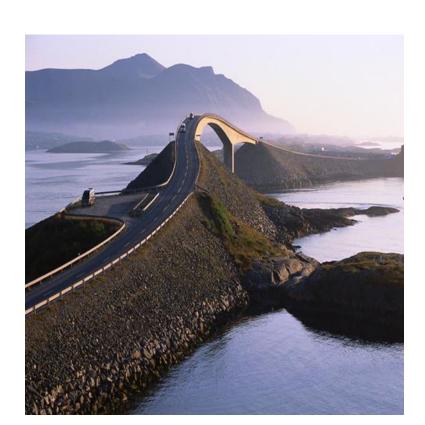




Shortages



- Companies and institutions are in need of:
 - Pre-school teachers
 - Teachers (especially in science subjects and maths)
 - Medical doctors, nurses
 - Specialized nurses
 - Truck Mechanics and car Mechanics,
 - Electro- mechanics
 - Electricians language requirements
 - Industrial plumbers
 - Cooks, pastry chefs and waiters
 - Hair dressers language requirements
 - Engineers





Job seeking I



- Make a Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English or a Scandinavian language
- Europass CV
- 2-3 reference persons is common (who speak English!)
- First CV and cover letter, other documents if requested
- Be prepared for this, have scanned copies of certificates, diplomas, letters of reference etc ready to go!





Job seeking II



- Curriculum Vitae (CV) in English for Norwegian employers:
 - Personal (name, address, phone, e-mail etc.)
 - Education (describe shortly)
 - Work Experience (describe shortly)
 - Courses and certificates
 - Language skills
 - Interests
 - References (former employer + phone numbers)
 - Photo?
 - 1-2 pages maximum



Job seeking III



- Find jobs at:
 - www.nav.no/en/Home
 - <u>www.finn.no</u>
 - Advisement: <u>www.nav.no/englisheures</u>
- Advisement about job seeking: www.nav.no/englisheures, eures@nav.no
- Call for jobs at: NAV Service Centre Phone
 - Phone: +47 800 33 166
 - Monday Friday 08:00 18:00
- Contact the EURES Adviser in your area



Working Conditions



- Written contract
- 3-6 months probationary period
- Salary paid once a month
- Employer draws tax from your monthly pay
- 37,5 working hours per week
- Shift workers have 35,5 hours working week.
- Maximum 40 hours per week.





Working Conditions



- Holiday: 25 working days per year
- Holiday pay normally paid out in the month of June
- Holiday pay 12% of gross pay for trade union members
- 10,2% for non trade union members.
- The working environment act. <u>www.arbeidstilsynet.no</u> (available in English)



Is Norway expensive?



- Most Norwegian families are two-income economies
- Clothing and food prices average for Europe
- Income tax is also average for Europe
- Housing is expensive (approximately 40 % of your income)
- Luxury items are expensive (hotels, alcohol, cigarettes etc)
- VAT (sales tax) on some items higher than in many countries....
- Cars are very expensive.
- Petrol is also expensive, about 1,8 euro per liter (August 2014).
- It is expensive to visit Norway as a tourist.



Taxes



- If you work in Norway for a Norwegian employer, you pay income tax to Norway
- Average income tax is 28% (24.5%)
- The National Insurance contribution is 7.8% of gross salary.
- Deductions!
 - EU citizens are entitled to a deduction called "standardfradrag" in the two first years (10% or max NOK 40,000 per year)
 - Interest paid on mortgages and loans can be deducted from taxable income
 - Tax return form submitted every year in April





Useful web sites



Recognition of qualifications

<u>www.nokut.no</u> (vocational and higher education)

<u>www.sak.no</u> (authorization of health personnel)

<u>www.dsb.no</u> (National electrical safety authority – authorization for electricians)



Work/Residence/Registration



- Norway is an EEA (not EU) member
- EU/EEA citizens have the right to work in Norway
- Job holders must register with UDI (Directorate of Immigration):
- https://selfservice.udi.no (Self-service online registration)
- Or nearest police station (bring passport and other necessary documents)
- <u>Job seekers</u> register only when staying longer than 3 months

www.sua.no Service Centre for Foreign Workers







