



## **NRT NORWAY 2019**

### **Report**

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## *Context*

In October 2018, the government launched a new integration strategy. Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for primary and secondary school, upper secondary and tertiary vocational education, adult education and skills, and from January 2018 also integration, and in the new integration strategy, education is strongly emphasized. The strategy document is called "Integration through knowledge". In Chapter 1, Education and Qualification, it sets clear goals and it offers measures. It mentions both the content and organization of the education, skills assessment and special measures are mentioned for newly arrived students.

In Norway, the municipalities are responsible for primary schools and the counties are responsible for upper secondary education, and all pupils who have left primary school, 16 years old, are entitled to upper secondary education. But even though all students have the right to upper secondary education, many drop out. And the group that has the most problems, is youth who come to Norway with little schooling from their home country. The Integration strategy addresses this, and proposes measures so that young people over the age of 16 can receive more primary education. To achieve this, municipalities and counties must work together, and the legislation has been amended to facilitate such cooperation.

NAFO has school owner networks, one for municipalities and one for counties. All county municipalities, all major cities and many smaller municipalities has participated in the networks. At the NTR in 2019, the two networks met in Tromsø.

## *National Round Table*

The Norwegian NTR was organized by NAFO, with the support of HIOF, in Tromsø in Northern Norway on 25 and 26 April 2019. NAFO also collaborated with the municipality of Tromsø and Troms county council on the event. It was a mix of common lectures, panel discussion and group discussions, and the participants were visiting schools and meeting students in introduction classes and their teachers.

The 82 participants represented municipal and county municipal school owners, and there were representatives from the Ministry of Education, politicians and researchers present.

The aim of the NRT was to bring together municipalities and county municipalities to hear about the government's integration strategy, provide feedback to the Ministry of Education and Research on the strategy and discuss what measures must be taken to implement the strategy. The NRT also highlighted good examples of collaboration between municipalities and counties, how they organize introduction classes in Tromsø and measures taken to improve the students learning environment and to improve inclusion. New research were presented and discussed.



## *Inputs and debate points*

NRT in Norway focused largely on two topics. One was the government's new integration strategy. It was discussed how it can be implemented and what challenges it brings to municipalities and county municipalities. Representatives of municipal and county municipal school owners and local schools commented on the strategy, and the comments were summarized and later presented to policy makers in the Ministry of Education and Research.

There was little disagreement about the goals of the integration strategy, but both municipalities and county municipalities see challenges. Everyone agrees that it is right and important that municipalities and counties cooperate on the education of young people between 16 and 24 who have recently come to Norway, but in most places in the country there is little experience in cooperating on the education of this group of pupils.

In recent years, The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) have provided grants to municipalities and county municipalities who collaborate and create introductory classes for young recently arrived students together, but permanent solutions need to be developed. Educational models need to be developed, and sustainable financial solutions must be found. This was the second main area we focused on in the NTR. Here, emphasis was placed on exchange of experience, and the models that have been developed in the host city, Tromsø, were presented. It was also time for municipalities and county municipalities to discuss challenges and solutions separately.

In addition, there was a presentation on multilingualism in the school from a linguist's perspective, and the role of bilingual teachers in the school system was discussed.

## *Conclusions*

NAFO's school owner networks have been existing for a decade, and the work will continue. NAFO receives assignments from the Directorate of Education, Skills Norway and The Ministry of Education and Research, and several of these involve local school owners. The next joint meeting in the networks will be in April 2020.

The counties have formed a working committee to help raise the quality of the education of late arrivals. The working committee is chaired by NAFO, and it will host a national conference at OsloMet in November in cooperation with The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi). The target group of the conference is school owners, principals and teachers working in introduction classes.

## *Continuity with the NRT 2018*

NTR 2018 had to a certain extent the same target group, but it was a regional meeting where the majority of participants were school leaders or teachers. In 2019, the meeting was national and the participants represented the school owners, municipalities and counties.



## *Challenges*

Cooperation between different levels of government, between municipalities and county municipalities, is not easy to achieve. Both organizational and financial models need to be further developed, and this work has not been finalized. In addition, there is a need for educational models that ensure that all newly arrived students receive good training in all subjects.

Issues that were discussed in both NRT1 and NRT2 need to be further addressed, and the working committee of county municipalities will continue its work in 2020.



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### **Participants**

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Name	Organisation/ institution	Position in organisation/ institution
<b>POLICY MAKERS</b>		
Elin Jørgense	Tromsø municipality	Chair of the Education Committee
Synne Nordmark Børstad	Norwegian Ministry of Education	Senior Advisor
Mona Dia	Norwegian Ministry of Education	Senior Advisor
Tove Knudsen	Alta municipality	Deputy Chair of the Education Committee
Marit Stensen	Tromsø municipality.	Senior advisor
Eva Lill Høgås	Tromsø municipality	Head of department
Marit Strand Hågensen	Troms county	Head of Department
Nina Allum	Porsgrunn municipality	Deputy head teacher
Gro Dagsvik	Harstad municipality	School counselor
Anne Kallåk	Skien municipality	Deputy head teacher
Anne Elisabeth Swensson	Fjell municipality	School counselor
Merete Høgseth Kronstad	Porsgrunn municipality	Advisor
Siv Grete Stamnes	Halden municipality	Head teacher
Ingeborg Kulseng	Larvik municipality	Head teacher
Elin Våge Sjødin	Stavanger municipality	Advisor
Anne-Marie Waag	Bærum municipality	Head of department
Kristi Finnbakk	Sandnes municipality	Advisor
Marit Midtskog	Sandnes municipality	Head of department
Akylina Samara	Hordaland county	Special advisor
Marianne Grødum	Oslo municipality	Advisor
Judith Damm	Ålesund municipality	Coordinator
Kristin Leirfall	Stjørdal municipality	Head of department
Kurt Tollaksen	Stjørdal municipality	Head teacher
Anniken Løvdal	Oslo municipality	Head of department
Anne Myhrvold	Oslo municipality	Head teacher
Elin Håland	Sandnes municipality	Advisor
Ruta Andreassen	Bodø municipality	Deputy head teacher
Tone Solheim	Stavanger municipality	Deputy head teacher
Tone K. Dising	Bodø municipality	School counselor
Grethe H Bjerkreim Kommedal	Rogaland county	Advisor /Coordinator
Kristin Alfer	Trondheim municipality	Advisor
Anne Engedal	Haugesund municipality	Deputy head teacher
Yvonne Andersen Bangsund	Finnmark county	Project Manager
Benedicte Hauge Johnsen	Finnmark county	Advisor
Dagfinn Rike	Aust-Agder county	Deputy head teacher
Kristin Benestvedt	Karmøy municipality	Advisor
Snefrid Robertsen	Karmøy municipality	School counselor
Hasan Ajnadzic	Trondheim municipality	Advisor
Trine Halvorsen	Haugesund municipality	Deputy head teacher
Petter de Presno Borthen	Hordaland county	Special advisor
Per Johannes Sørfonden	Kristiansand municipality	Deputy head teacher
Torgeir Moen	Aust-Agder county	Deputy head teacher
Susanne Hammernes	Vestfold county	Advisor
Yrla Klein	Sogn og Fjordane county	Advisor
Gunvor Thomassen	Trøndelag county	Senior advisor
Kari Haugstad	Troms county	Advisor



Hanne Torgersen	Vestfold county	Advisor
Kjersti Hagen	Buskerud county	Advisor
Majken Heggelund	Oppegård municipality	School counselor
Kari Volden	Møre og Romsdal county	Advisor
Jorunn Bye	Troms county	Advisor
Marius Arnason Bøe	Bergen municipality	Head of department
Kari Trøen Aune	Møre og Romsdal county	Advisor
Sandra Vanessa Borhaug	Ålesund municipality	Advisor
Karianne Megard Grønli	Ski municipality	School counselor
Eline Rolness	Ski municipality	Head of department
Marianne Dietz	Oslo municipality	Advisor
Anne Nora Lillevold Jacobsen	Hamar municipality	Deputy head teacher
Per Magnar Kuraas	Ringsaker municipality	School counselor
Sissel Gravdal	Lier municipality	School counselor
Kristian Aamodt	Kristiansand municipality	Head teacher
Florentino Bulnes	Bergen municipality	Special advisor
Eirin F Feiring	Oppland county	Advisor
Eva-Lill Høggås	Tromsø municipality	School counselor
Trond Zweidorff	Asker municipality	Deputy head teacher / municipality coordinator
Astrid Bjørlo	Hedmark county	Deputy head teacher
Daniel Randolph	Finnmark county	Head teacher
Alexandra Hoel	Tromsø municipality	School counselor
Trine Mie Loftlund Nielsen	Vest-Agder county	Deputy head teacher
Lillian Flydal	Aust-Agder county	Advisor
Marit Lind Karlsen	Tromsø municipality	School counselor
Astrid Bjørlo	Hedmark county	Deputy head teacher
<b>TEACHERS, TEACHER-TRAINERS, SCHOOL-LEADERS OR OTHER SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
Isabel Nadine Jensen	Tromsø University	Researcher
Nadine Kolb	Tromsø University	Researcher
Marit Midtskog	Sandnes school	Head of department
Janne Arntsen	Ishavsbyen upper secondary school	Deputy head teacher
<b>OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS</b>		
Dag Fjæstad, NAFO	NAFO	Senior Advisor /deputy director
Kristin Lund	NAFO	Advisor
Vigdis Glømmen	NAFO	Senior advisor
Sissel Persen	NAFO	Advisor
Lene Østli	NAFO	Senior advisor
Sigrun Aamodt	NAFO	Director
Sigrídur Vilhjalmsdóttir	NAFO	Senior advisor