



Østlandssamarbeidet

Eastern Norway 2030

Eastern Norway County Network Strategy

Eastern Norway County Network is a political network of county councils consisting of Innlandet, Vestfold og Telemark, Viken, and the City of Oslo (hereinafter referred to as the counties).

The counties aim is to jointly develop a well-integrated, united, and smart region that meets the sustainable development goals.

To achieve this they will cooperate, among other things, on three visions for Eastern Norway:

- **A green region** will be developed with emphasis on environmentally friendly solutions for the future. The region will have a circular economy and utilise its resources in a sustainable manner. The communities of Eastern Norway will be connected by green infrastructure.
- **An inclusive region** will be characterised by social sustainability and equal opportunities for everyone across the region. The diversity of Eastern Norway will be valued and utilised in community development. Everyone will have the opportunity to acquire the relevant skills required to participate in the labour market.
- **A competitive region** will develop and utilise its regional advantages. Eastern Norway will be at the forefront of value creation through the green transition. Digitalisation and seamless transport solutions will strengthen the region's position in Europe.

The policy areas transport and business development and skills are the main priorities for the county network.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement will form the basis for the counties' activities in the coming decade, while the European Green Deal will serve as the framework for the work on the green transition in Europe (incl. Norway)¹. The SDGs will therefore also be a pillar for the cooperation between the counties in Eastern Norway towards 2030. The county network has a particularly important role to play in relation to Goal 17: *Partnership for the goals*.

The roles of Eastern Norway County Network

Eastern Norway County Network is a joint tool for the county councils of Eastern Norway. The network is based on consensus. The activities implemented through the network create added value for the counties and are based on their common needs and wishes.

¹ The Norwegian Government has given its full support to the green initiative and will be an active and relevant partner for the EU in this context.

- **Common voice to influence policy making:** The counties cooperate on special interest politics to ensure that decisions are in line with their common interests in priority policy areas. Joining forces in this work gives the county councils more leverage.

Cooperation with regional networks and alliances at European level strengthen the work on special interest politics at a supranational level.

- **Arena for learning and sharing experience:** Eastern Norway County Network is a political and administrative collaboration arena where the counties discuss issues of common interest. The network's function as an arena enables the counties to share information, experience, and best practises to resolve their own tasks more expediently.

Its role as a learning arena also means facilitating contact and dialogue with actors outside the counties. Collaboration through European networks and partnerships is included in this work.

- **Resource-saving collaboration and coordination:** The councils implement common projects through Eastern Norway County Network, where effective, and where better resource utilisation can be achieved. Common activities, division of tasks, and coordinated participation on different collaboration platforms, are both time and resource efficient for the counties.

The counties also collaborate on mobilising other actors in the counties to participate in relevant projects and programmes both at the national and European level.

The counties' role as community developers entails an open and extrovert approach to other actors in Eastern Norway. This is reflected, where relevant, in Eastern Norway County Network's activities. The collaboration places particular emphasis on facilitating youth participation and to include youth in the network's activities.

Organisation

A cooperation agreement approved by the county councils and Oslo City Council in December 2019 sets out the formal framework for Eastern Norway County Network.

The Board of Representatives is the network's highest political body, and it adopts annual action plans and budgets to operationalise the visions of the network's strategy. The strategy is reviewed and revised as necessary after each election.

The board can establish other political bodies to manage Eastern Norway County Network, as necessary. The following political bodies have been established for the election period 2020- 2023:

- Political Committee for Business development and Skills
- Political Committee for Transport and Infrastructure
- European Political Forum

Youth participation in Eastern Norway County Network is coordinated via Eastern Norway County Network's youth network "ØstsamUng".