NORWAY
2023 Digital Public Administration factsheets
Annex 1. Selection of Topics: 2023

INTEROPERABILITY & INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SERVICES

Digital-ready policymaking

The Norwegian Digitisation Agency has published a guide for the preparation of legislation on digitalisation and automation in October 2021. The guide is not mandatory, but it provides legislators with recommendations on how best to draft appropriate legislation in the future.

Digitalisation ready legislation also make up one of the overarching architectural principles for digitalisation of the public sector, which are mandatory for state-level public entities and recommended for local and regional level public entities. The guidance for digitalisation and automatisation ready legislation will be included in the guidelines from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security

Reuse of solutions

The Norwegian architecture principles has recommendations for reuse and sharing of solutions in addition to sharing source code. The principles are mandatory for State-level public entities and recommended for local and regional level public entities. National and sub-national platforms, applications and core registers have played a significant role in the digitalisation of the public sector. Existing solutions are used instead of creating new ones. The private sector can communicate using one or a few solutions rather than various solutions developed by different public entities. On a local level, municipalities use shared platforms and solutions build by KS (The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities).

INNOVATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGIES BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence of Norway was adopted in 2020. It states that Norway should take the lead in developing and using AI while respecting individual rights and freedoms.

In addition, Norway has recently launched an overview of AI projects in the public sector. At the date of the launch the overview documented more than 150 projects. The overview aims to foster cooperation across the public sector, promote more effective applications of AI, and to increase openness on the use of AI in the public sector. The overview also reveals some insights on AI application in the Norwegian public sector. AI is today regulated indirectly in several laws in Norway. Other legislative developments are mainly related to the draft EU law on artificial intelligence.

GovTech

Norway's GovTech programme, called StartOff, was lanched in 2021, as part of the State Budget for 2021. The program has developed its own "startup-friendly" procurement model which is based on pre-commercial procurement methodology and have developed a new standard contract which has been tailor-made for the procurement model. The aim of the model is to minimise the amount of time invested in the procurement process for both the public entity (client) and the participating tenderers/suppliers, lowering the buy-in for exploring innovative solutions. More information on the StartOff programme can be found here.

Data exchanges with and within public administrations

Created in 2020, the Norwegian Resource Centre promotes data sharing, use and reuse by disseminating knowledge on relevant regulations. This leverages the full potential of data sharing to create user-friendly services. The centre is part of the Norwegian Digitisation Agency and will facilitate innovation, development of new services and value creation by sharing data between public activities and between the public and private sectors and researchers.

One key component of the Centre is the national toolbox for data sharing, launched in January 2021. The toolbox is an overview of agreements, solutions, standards, architectures, regulatory support and guidelines for roles and responsibilities that are relevant when sharing data.

In addition, the Norwegian government agreed to allocate a budget to the Norwegian Digitalisation Agency to establish a Data Factory (*Datafabrikken*) in cooperation with DigitalNorway, starting in 2021. The project aims to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to take part in the computer-driven economy. It will provide expertise on data sharing and data connection, and support a number of government strategies, including the government's Digitalisation Strategy and National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence.