



STORTINGET

A Safe, Green and Young Nordic Region

The Norwegian Presidency's programme for the Nordic Council in 2023



Nordisk råd

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A safe, green and young Nordic Region

A turbulent world calls for strong Nordic cooperation. We are facing a climate and environmental crisis which requires a swift transition and green solutions. Democratic values are under pressure. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a watershed for European security.

Trust and unity in the Nordic countries, with our language, value and cultural community, provides a solid foundation for Nordic collaboration. And now the whole of the Nordic Region will stand side by side as NATO allies. The vision for Nordic cooperation is to be the world's most sustainable and integrated region by 2030, by investing in a green, competitive and socially sustainable Nordic Region. This means that we must not cease in our efforts to promote freedom of movement between our nations.

The Norwegian Presidency in 2023 will place special emphasis on security and preparedness collaboration, green solutions for energy and transport, and young people in the Nordic Region. The Presidency will work hard to promote new and existing recommendations in these fields.

A safe Nordic Region

Nordic citizens are in favour of more Nordic collaboration in defence and security matters, crisis management, and climate solutions. A safe Nordic Region is a prerequisite for attaining this vision. The Corona pandemic revealed the potential for better Nordic collaboration in emergency preparedness. Lessons from how the pandemic was handled must be learnt and used in our efforts to meet the enormous challenges that the climate crisis and security situation pose.

Ensuring the secure supply of energy, food, medicines and medical equipment are key areas for enhanced Nordic cooperation. The Norwegian Presidency will follow up the ongoing work to improve emergency preparedness cooperation so that we are all better equipped to meet new critical situations.

The Norwegian Presidency will also contribute to raising the debate about Nordic defence cooperation and the significance of all Nordic countries becoming NATO members.



A green Nordic Region

Renewable energy is a prerequisite for a low emission society, and for attaining the climate and sustainable development goals. The current security situation has brought energy questions into even greater relief. We need clean energy to build a fossil-free transport sector. To achieve the green transition we must also make climate adaptations and protect biodiversity. The adjustment to clean energy also creates new jobs and business opportunities. We must make sure that the green transition is fair and inclusive. Research and innovation collaboration in, among other areas, new technology is a key to the green transition.

The Nordic Region should be a world leader in renewable energy – on land, at sea and in the air. The infrastructure that links our countries must be enhanced. Our wish is to set up a ministerial council on infrastructure, with the aim of facilitating a green transport sector and increased mobility.



Young people in the Nordic Region

Our planet is facing a climate crisis, which will have a huge impact on future generations. The lives of children and young people have been deeply affected by the Corona pandemic. Their mental health is a key concern. It is crucial that children and young people play an active part in our societies and our democracies. To a great extent, they use the digital arena, with the challenges and opportunities this provides.

Today's youngsters are tomorrow's employees and employers. Education must meet the needs of working life in the years to come. Employment is a cornerstone of the Nordic welfare model, and it is crucial that we provide people with decent working lives. A worrying proportion of young people are dropping out of education and the world of work, with negative consequences for the individual and for society as a whole. We must build up education and employment opportunities for young people across the Nordic Region. Cross-border mobility is also an investment in friendship, community and trust. Our understanding of each other's languages and our cultural fellowship is reliant on the meetings people have when they travel, study and work.

The Nordic Region prides itself on its inclusion and involvement of children and young people. The Norwegian Presidency intends to strengthen investment in children and young people and their participation in society.



