

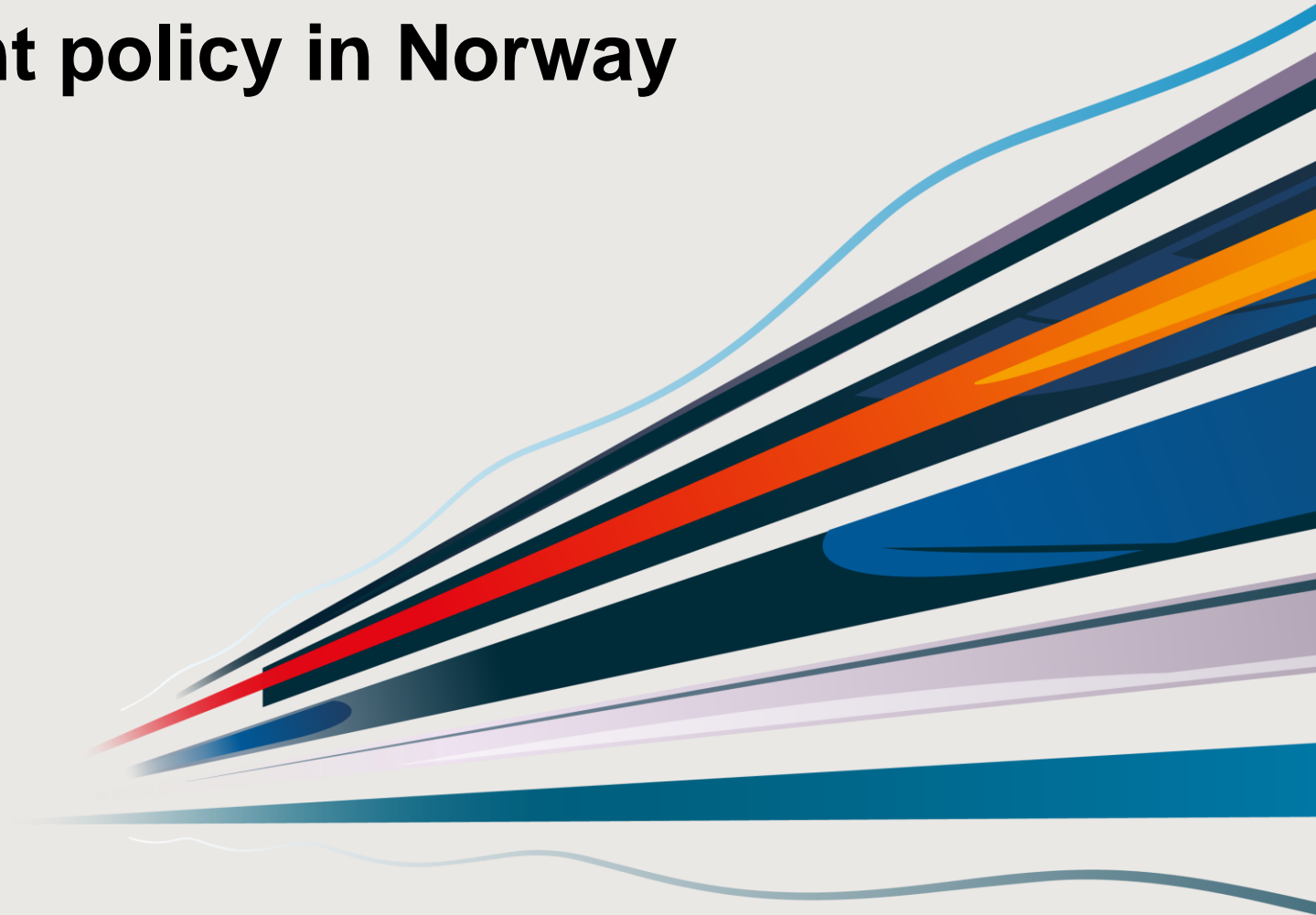


Norwegian Ministry  
of Local Government and Modernisation

# Regional development policy in Norway

Jan Edøy, Special Advisor  
The Department of Regional Development

Helsinki, 27. November 2019



# The regional policy goal

The aim of the Government's regional and rural policy is regional balance, through growth capacity, equal living conditions and sustainable regions across the country. A sustainable region has a well-balanced population and brings in to play both human and natural resources for growth and development today and in the future.

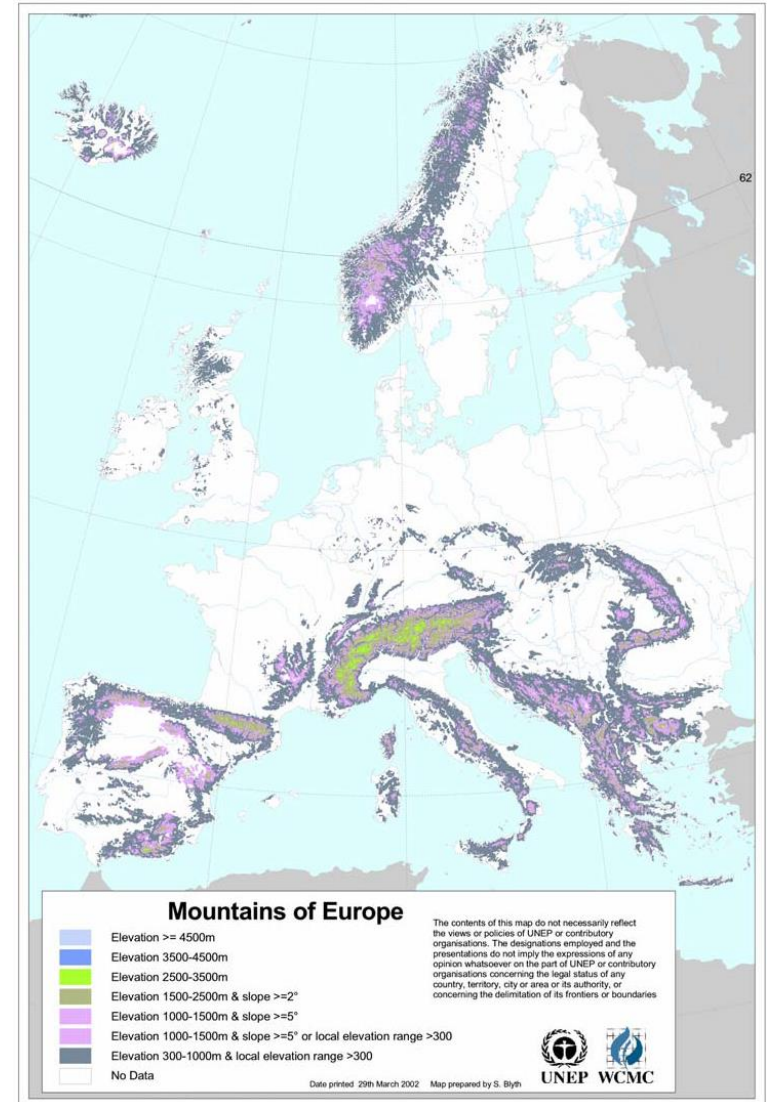
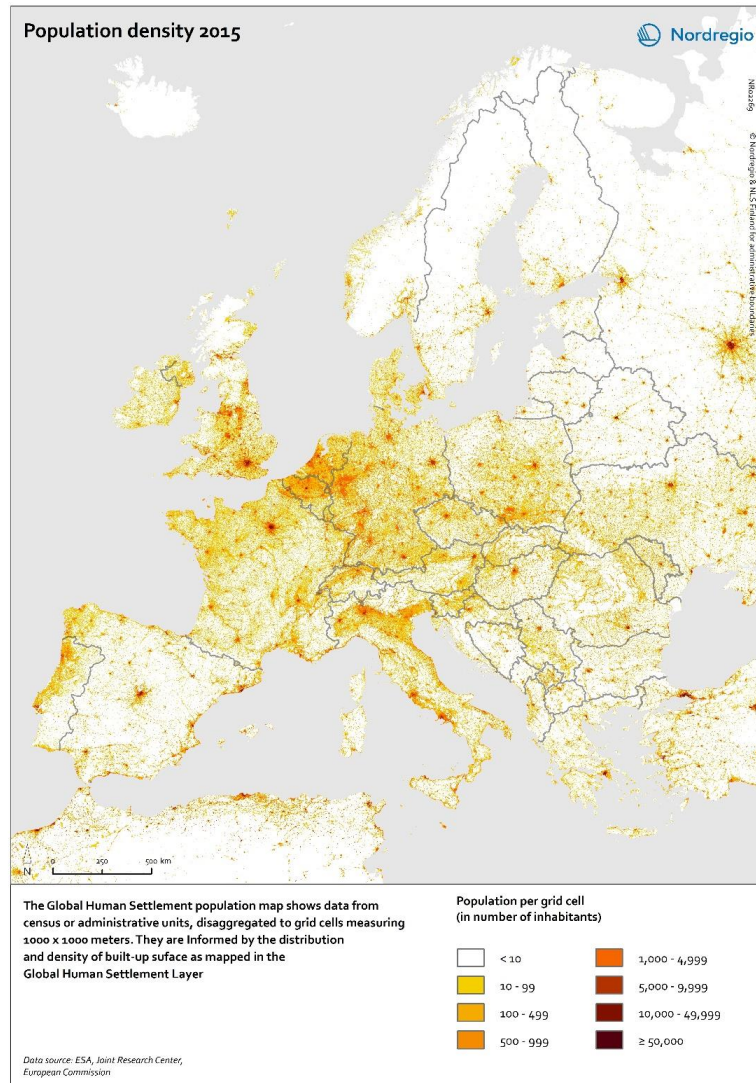


# Norway have geographic specificities and territorial features:

- Mountainous
- Long costas and many islands
- Sparsely populated
- Peripherality
- Remoteness
- Accessibility
- Vulnerability
- Attractiveness
- Lack of critical mass



# Norway have specific territorial features as sparsely populated, with long coastal zones, islands and mountain regions



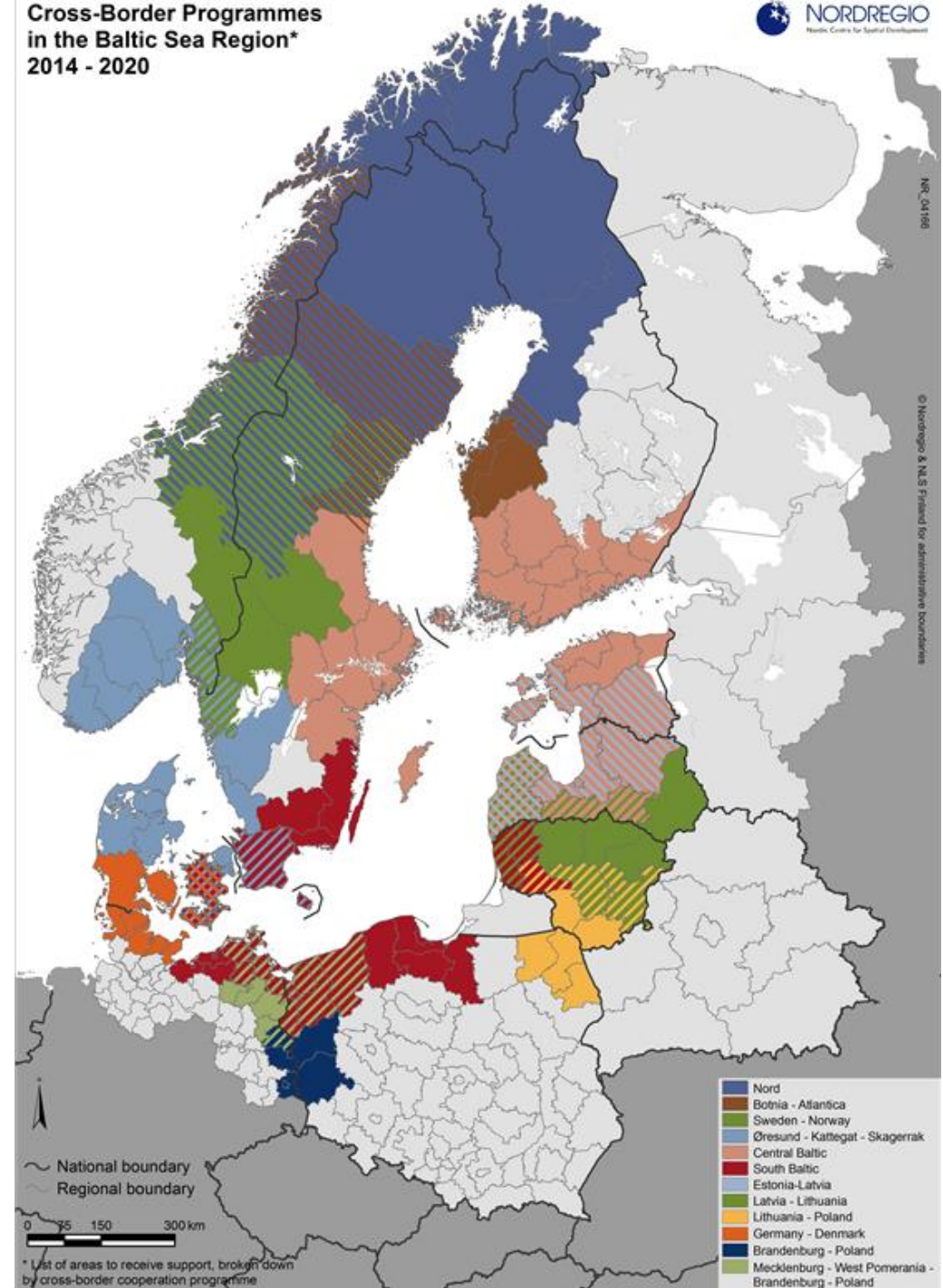
# **European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020**

## **11 programmes with Norwegian participation**

- **4 cross-border programmes**
- **3 transnational programmes**
- **1 ENPI programme, Kolarctic (Barents)**
- **1 interregional program**
- **URBACT**
- **ESPON og Interact**



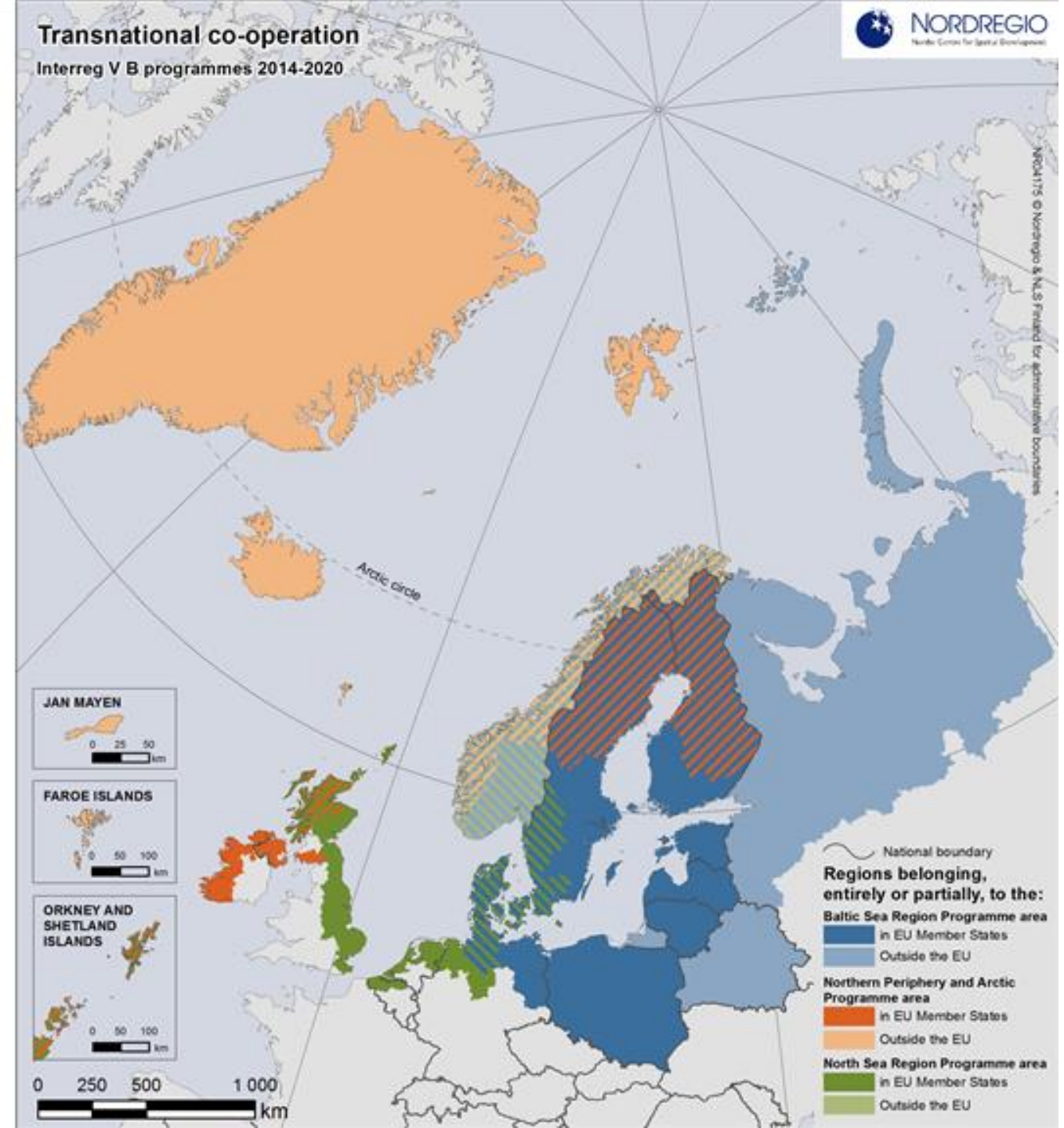
**Cross-Border Programmes  
in the Baltic Sea Region\*  
2014 - 2020**



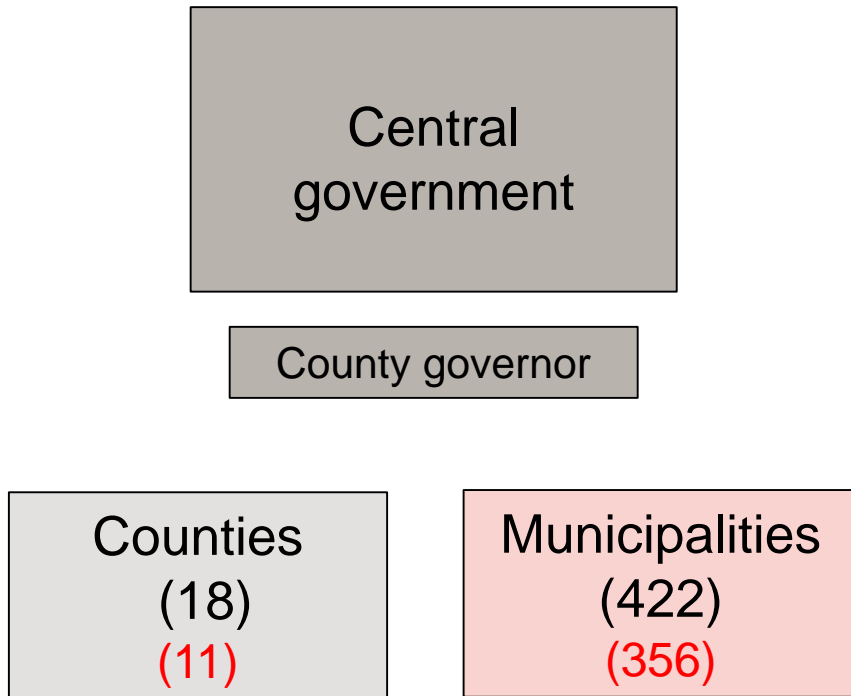
\* List of areas to receive support, broken down by cross-border cooperation programme

# Transnational co-operation

Interreg V B programmes 2014-2020



# Multilevel governance in Norway

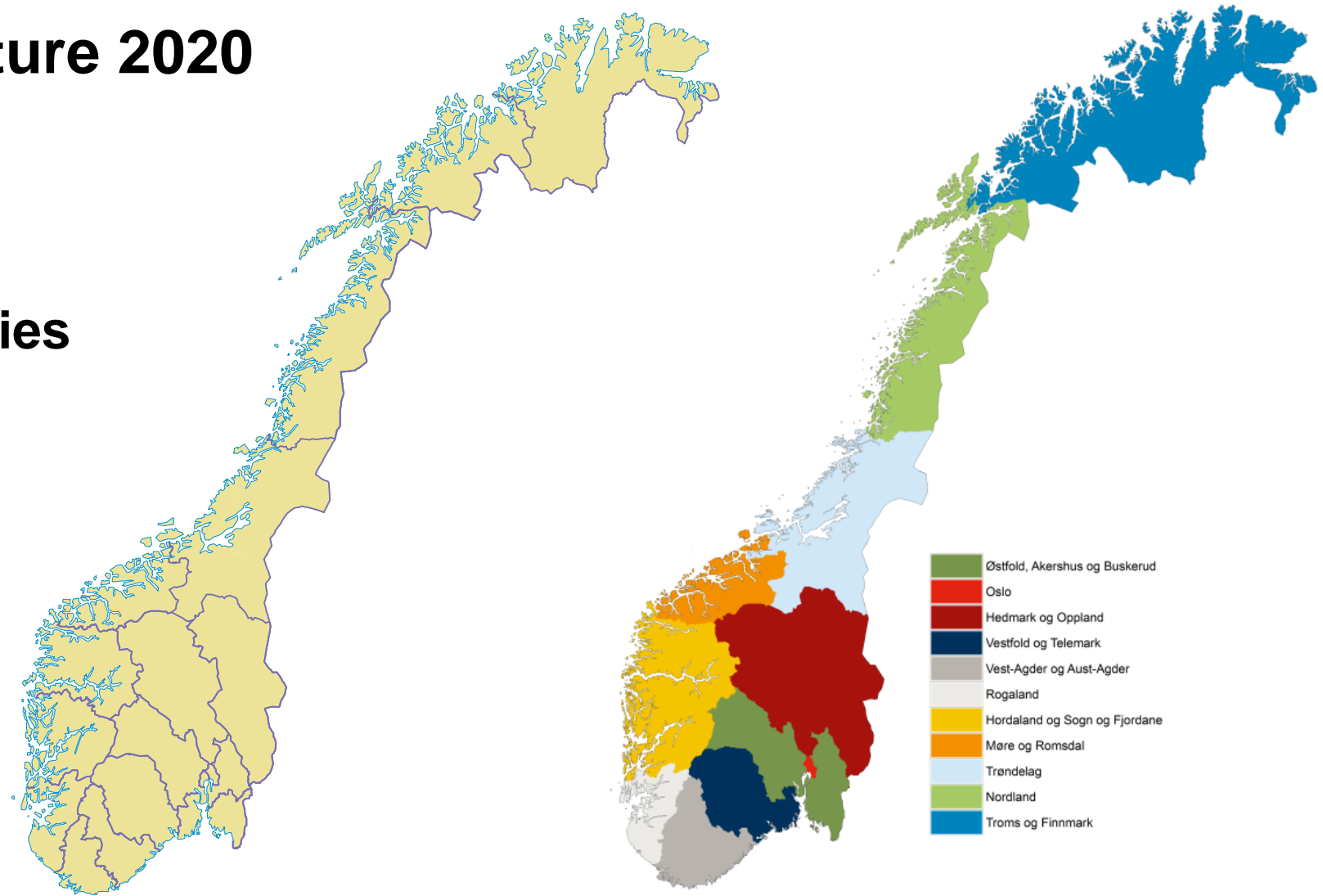


- Central government has the overriding authority
- County governor: representative of the central government, supervising local authorities
- Counties and municipalities are responsible for important welfare services

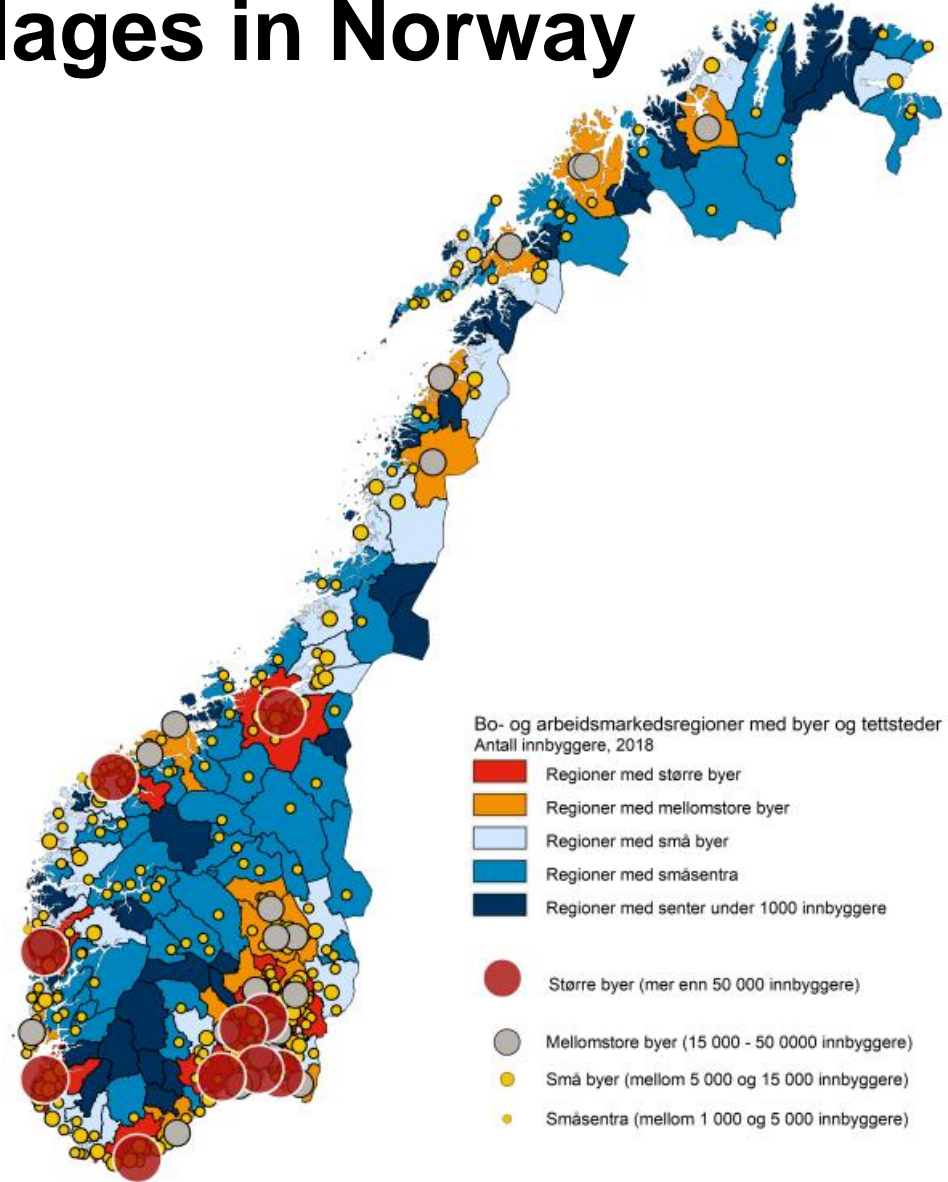
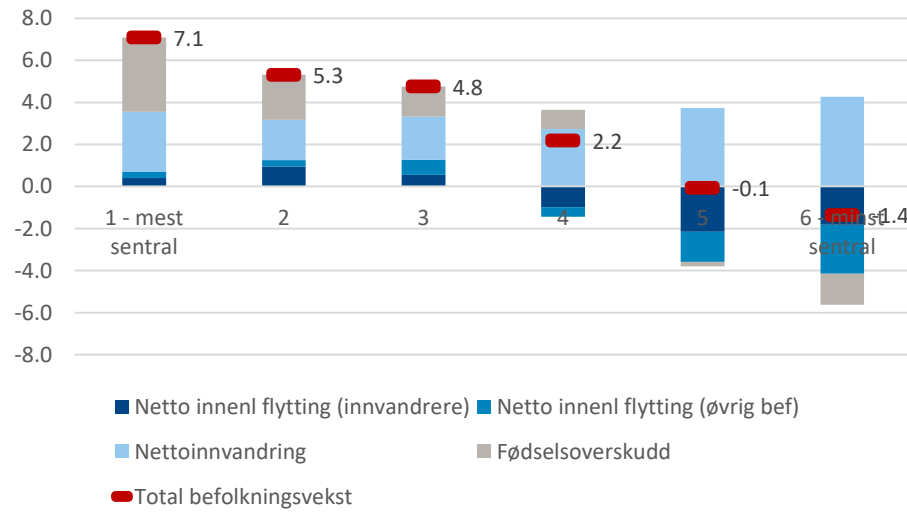
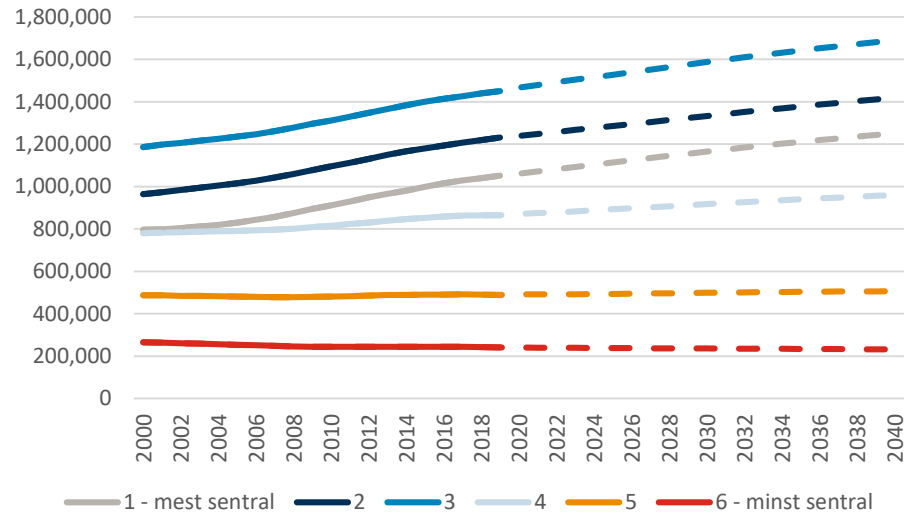


# Regional structure 2020

- **11 counties**
  - 2019: 18
- **356 municipalities**
  - 2019: 422



# Close to 1000 cities and villages in Norway



# **White Paper no. 5 (2019-2020) – Vibrant communities for the future – The Regional Policy Report**

- **Growth and development**
- **Access to expertise and labour in the regions**
- **Infrastructures that strengthen accessibility throughout the country**
- **Localisation of government jobs and access to public services**
- **Vibrant communities and equal local services**
- **Regional development is best shaped regionally**



# Three main take aways from the White Paper:

It is growth in all regions:

- Especially based on natural resources
- Long distances to future jobs less important

High risk for increased unbalance between regions:

- More elderly people
- Equal acces to public services
- Lack of competence
- To low employment rate

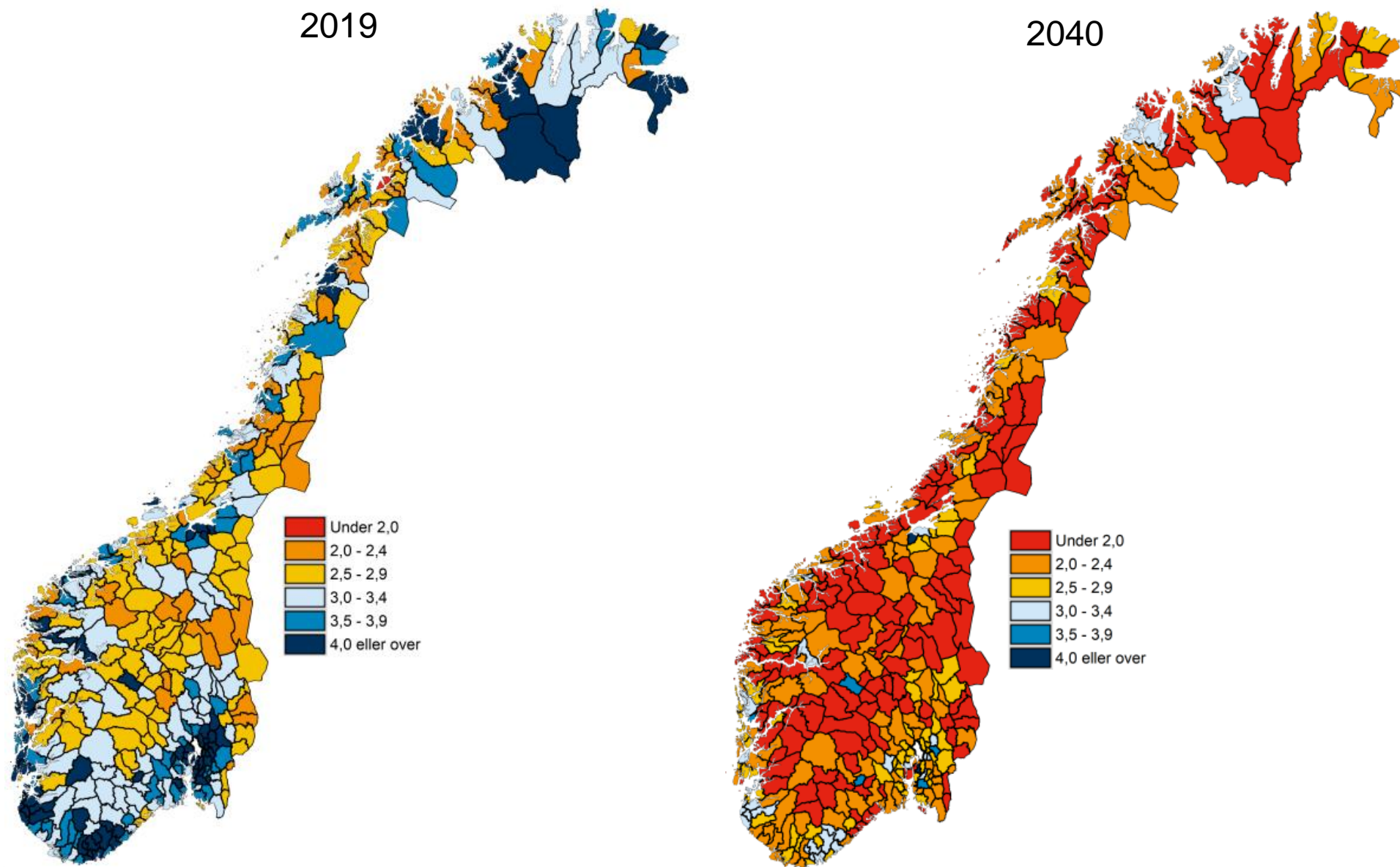
Local innovation and adaptation varies:

- Still many small municipalities
- Innovation important



# Ageing population

Persons aged 20-66  
per person 67+



# Policy for growth and development – with impact

Access to the EU internal market through the EEA-Agreement

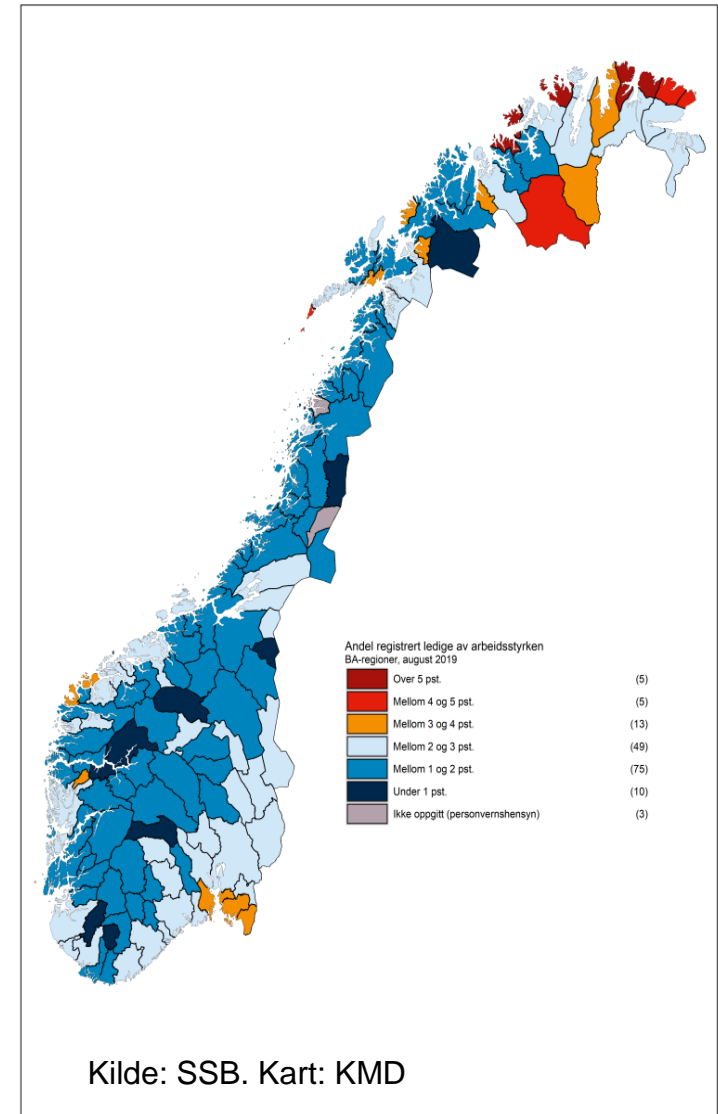
More high speed broadband – fra 63 prosent i 2013 til 86 prosent i 2019

Lower taxes – continuation of differentiated social security taxes

Better and faster transport connections – both for people and goods

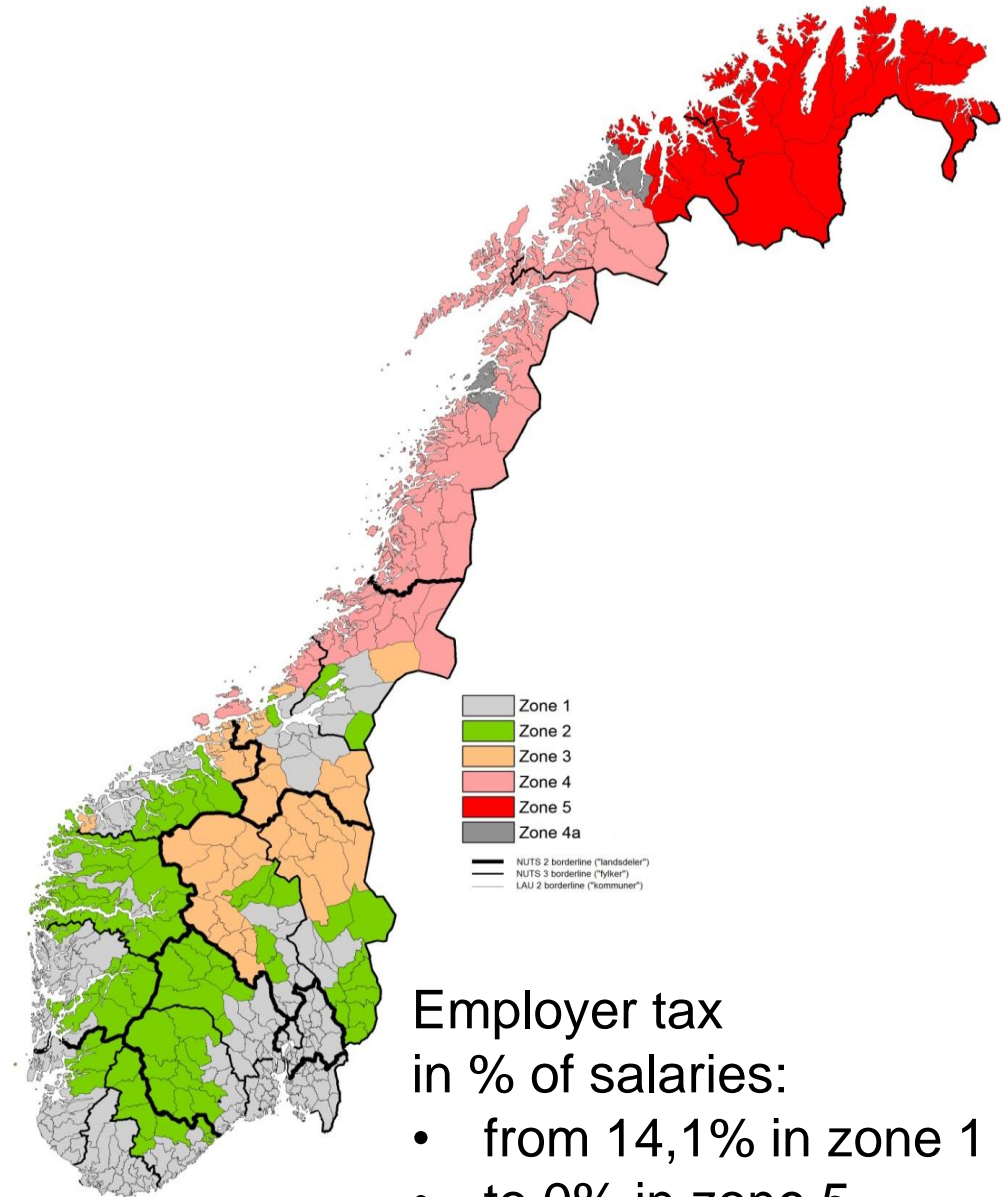
More research – better competence

- Tax related measures
- Investeringsstøtte
- Distriktsrettede risikolån og garantier



# Regional policy measures

- Regionally differentiated social security contributions 2014-2020
- Measures for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Loans and grants to promote business investments
- Measures for local community development



# The regional policy's 5 main components

Differentiated  
social security tax

Northern Action  
Zone

- Study loan depreciation
- Exemption from electricity commissions
- Reduction of personal taxes

Infrastructure

- Regional road infrastructure (increasing)
- Innovation and science parks
- Broadband infrastructure

Business  
development

- Regional business development
- Including business development through Innovation Norway
- Interreg

Main sector policy

- Research and education
- Infrastructure and communication
- Fishery and energy
- Localisation of public institutions



# Location policy

The objective – of the state location policy is to contribute to:

- A distribution of state jobs that contributes to develop robust labour markets in all parts of the country.
- A location of central government service production which best secures the population in all parts of the country good access to services provided by the central government.
- That new and relocated state agencies are mainly to be located outside of Oslo.
- That cost-efficiency and effective operations is included when location alternatives are considered.

The policies:

- Guidelines on the location of government employment and government services (2014)
- Plan for location (2017)





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# Thank you for your attention!



Illustrasjonsfoto:

[www.colourbox.com](http://www.colourbox.com)