OHCHR’s Study on best practices, experiences and challenges and ways to overcome them with regard to the promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in puclic affairs in the context of the existing human rights law (Res. 27/24 of the HRC).

Response from Norway:

**Participation in the conduct of public affairs**

***Question 5 – Are there any outreach efforts in place to effectively involve women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, members of minorities and other groups requiring special attention in participatory processes?***

Women: Participation in Political and public life

Universal Suffrage in 1913

What we have achieved when it comes to gender equality is due to a system of policies where there are close links between welfare- and family policy and gender equality policy. When it comes to political participation, gender equality and female representation are due to a struggle starting in the late 19th century with the fight for universal suffrage which Norwegian women achieved in 1913.

Elections: Municipalities, Parliament and Samediggi

When it comes to women’s involvement in participatory processes, Norway has for some decades shown good results in political participation on national level. Participation in elections is mainly governed by the Election Act.

Despite the Universal Suffrage Act passed by Parliament in 1913 few women participated and were represented in political bodies most of the 20th century. It was not until former PM Gro Harlem Brundtland in 1986 presented her so called ’female government’ with over 40 per cent female ministers, the 40 per cent limit has been the rule. The present Governments observe gender equality with as many female as male ministers. However, only one of four of the state secretaries are women, and 37 per cent of political advisors are female. In the Parliament, 40 per cent of the seats are held by women. Several parties in Parliament are led by women, to out of eight group leaders are women and three out of six members in the Parliament’s Presidency are women. Out of twelve committees in Parliament, five are led by women.

The picture is not as bright when it comes to local representation. After the local elections in 2011 96 out of a total of 429 majors are women (22 per cent). Four out of eighteen county majors are women. This has been the reason for Government to implement the project called Local Election Day during the local nomination processes in front of the upcoming Local Election in Norway in September 2015. The project is targeted municipal councils that have less than 30 percent women. These are 72 municipalities (out of 428).

The municipalities have to arrange a council meeting where all local parties and lists which will be running for office in the next local election are invited. The theme for the meeting should be: How to recruit more women to local politics and to increase the proportion of women candidates on top of the party lists. The Ministry of Local Government then offer the municipality a full scrutiny of the proportions of women in their councils, in all local positions and municipality boards, and also an analysis from a researcher of the reasons for the low proportion of women in local politics in each of the municipalities.

In 2001 Sámediggi (the Sámi Parliament) had only seven female members, which constituted 18% female representation. Prior to the election in 2005 Sámediggi started a campaign with the objective to gain an increase in female representation. In 2005 Sámediggi achieved the coveted 50 percent balance as twenty-two women were elected, which is a 300 percent increase. Media campaigns and publicity may be one key to this result. In some constituencies women were nominated as first or second candidates on the ballots, partly as result of the campaign. Through later elections Sámediggi has kept the 50-50 balance. Sámediggi has at the moment a female president.

Organizations for family and gender equality issues

There are some mechanisms for participation for women (and men) and their representative institutions and organizations in gender equality issues. On national level political meetings take place between the Government and representatives of the organizations in the gender equality field. There are also additional meetings on political and administrative level between different Ministries and umbrella organizations or individual organizations from time to time and on specific issues. Norwegian family and gender equality organizations together with institutions working in the field received NOK 12,4 million in 2014.

Immigrants: Participation in Political and Public life

Elections

Norwegian citizenship is a precondition for voting in national elections. To be eligible to vote in municipal and county council/local elections you have to have lived in Norway for at least three years. Citizens from the Nordic countries need only to have been registered as a resident in Norway since June 30th the year of the election, which always takes place in September. The right for foreigners with three years of residence to vote in local elections was introduced in 1983. It is a policy aim that the rate of participation in elections among voters with an immigrant background should be the same as for the rest of the population.

Voluntary activities

Voluntary organizations and volunteer work are important in Norway. Immigrants in Norway participate in voluntary activities to a relatively high degree, but often in other areas of civil society than the majority population.

Several immigrant organizations have established themselves as an integral part of the voluntary sector in Norway. The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion provides grants to immigrant organizations and other NGOs, both local and nation-wide organizations, to contribute to participation, dialogue and interaction. The aim of such grants is to strengthen the participation locally of immigrants and their children and to facilitate access to social networks. Grants are awarded to national resource centres focusing on integration issues. Furthermore, grants are available for NGOs that provide information and guidance to new immigrants, especially to labour migrants and other immigrants that are not covered by the Introduction Act.

Dialogue and contact between the Government and the civil society are important elements of the policy-making and policy-implementation processes. For many years, The Contact Committee for Immigrants and the Authorities (KIM) was an advisory body for the Government and played an important role as a forum for formulating and expressing the views of persons with an immigrant background on relevant issues. When the mandate period ran out in 2013, KIM was discontinued. Instead, the government has renew the dialogue with immigrants. Among the new measures is an annual dialogue conference. The first conference was held in October 2014.

Persons with disabilities: Participation in Political and Public life

Elections

Participation in elections is mainly governed by two laws: the Election Act and The Discrimination and Accessibility Act. Norwegian municipalities have responsibility for ensuring good facilitation of elections. Accessibility to elections involves both the premises used for voting and how the requirement for accessibility are met.

The Election Act sets certain requirements for premises to be used for voting. The premises must be both suitable for voice reception and they should be accessible for all voters. Voters should be able to get into the polling stations without help. Other premises shall be used only if there are "special reasons". Election regulations contain requirements accessibility inside the polling stations. Accessibility requirements include the signs, accessibility, logistics, lighting, urn and ballots.

The Discrimination and Accessibility Act imposes election authorities to ensure accessibility for all regardless of disabilities. The duty of the Act requires that municipalities have an awareness about polling stations satisfy the requirements for universal design. Voting materials shall be designed so that they can be used by people of all ages and with different skills, capacity and functionality. Factors relating to mobility, vision, hearing, understanding or sensitivity to environment are central. The Association for the Blind and other users have participated in the testing of the equipment.

The Government has prepared a guide for election boards and election workers "Availability to election”. Guidelines to the municipalities." This booklet contains information and checklists on facilitating elections for people with different types disabilities.

At the general election in 2009, there was no significant difference in voter participation among people with disabilities aged 20 to 66 years and the general population of the same age. There is also no significant difference in the proportion who are members of an organization (Living Survey EU-SILC 2011).

Municipal councils for persons with disabilities

The Act on advice or other representation scheme in municipalities and counties for people with disabilities, etc. imposes municipalities and counties to ensure that people with disabilities are secured open, wide and accessible participation in work on matters that are particularly important for persons with disabilities.

The Act requires municipalities to establish councils or other representation scheme for people with disabilities. The municipal councils are advisory to municipalities / counties and helps persons with disabilities to be heard, despite the fact that this group of the population may have difficulty reaching up in the political parties' nomination processes.

User participation, organizations for persons with disabilities

There are a number of other mechanisms for participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in disability issues. On national level there are regular meetings on political level between the Government and representatives of the organizations of persons with disabilities several times a year. There are also additional Meetings on political and administrative level between individual Ministries and umbrella organizations or individual organizations from time to time and on specific issues. Norwegian disability organizations receive an annual Government subsidy. In 2014 they received NOK 163,4 million. Persons with disabilities are also involved in decision-making processes at the administrative level in the different sectors. Here can be mentioned the Social Security Administration and the Health Administration.

LGBT: Participation in Political and Public life

Over the last decades there has been an increasing number of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans persons in different public positions in Norway, including in the Government, in media and in sports. These persons have become important role models especially for young lgbt-persons, and they have been important promoters of lgbt-rights towards, and also from the inside of, the political establishment. In 2015 virtually all political parties support lgbt-rights and the fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Governments from different political parties have, for many years, supported the work of the lgbt-organisations. This includes financial support from the government, funding both core activities and a number of projects and measures. Both the national and a number of regional lgbt-pride events receive public funding, and the annual pride marches are usually being fronted by respected lgbt-persons together with prominent politicians. Promoters of lgbt-rights in other countries are supported by Norwegian embassies all over the world, as an integral part of Norwegian foreign policy.

In 2015 all the national lgbt-organisations participate in the two major lgbt-related initiatives that has been taken by the Government recently, namely the development of a new national, cross sectorial lgbt-policy document and the development of a new law and administrative procedure regarding change of gender marker in public documents. Regional branches of the lgbt-organisations are usually being invited by local politicians/administrations to participate in or give input to relevant local initiatives.

Indigenous peoples

The Sami people are considered as indigenous people under international and domestic law.

In order to meet the duty of the ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal peoples article 6, the Government and Sámediggi (the Sami Parliament) reached agreement on the “Procedures for Consultations between the State Authorities and Sámediggi of 11 May 2005”, in the following referred to as PCSSP. The PCSSP was approved by Sámediggi on 1 June 2005 and laid down by Royal Decree on 1 July 2005.

The PCSSP also contains general provisions concerning the consultation procedures. The consultations shall be undertaken in good faith, with the objective of achieving agreement to the proposed measures. Furthermore, the state authorities shall as early as possible inform Sámediggi about the commencement of relevant matters that may directly affect the Sami, and identify those Sami interests and conditions that may be affected.

The scope of the agreement is extensive. The consultation procedures laid down in the PCSSP apply to the Government and its ministries, directorates and other subordinate state agencies or activities. Furthermore, they apply in matters that may affect Sami interests directly. The substantive scope of the consultations may include various issues, such as legislation, regulations, specific or individual administrative decisions, guidelines, measures and decisions. The obligation to consult Sámediggi may include all material and immaterial forms of Sami culture, media, language, religion, cultural heritage, immaterial property rights and traditional knowledge, place names, health and social welfare, , education, land ownership rights and rights to use lands, matters concerning land administration and competing land utilization, reindeer husbandry, fisheries, , mineral exploration and extraction activities, wind power, hydroelectric power, sustainable development, preservation of cultural heritage, biodiversity and nature conservation. It is important to underline that the agreement applies in matters concerning the material basis for the Sami culture, including land administration, competing land utilization and land rights. The obligation to consult Sámediggi is applicable to traditional Sami areas. Matters which are of a general nature, and are assumed to affect the society as a whole, shall in principle not be subject to consultations.

The PCSSP has several objectives. First of all, the procedures are intended to contribute to the practical implementation of the State’s obligations to consult indigenous peoples under international law. Secondly, agreement shall be sought between the State authorities and Sámediggi whenever consideration is being given to legislative and administrative measures that may directly affect Sami interests. The third objective is to facilitate the development of a partnership perspective between State authorities and Sámediggi that contributes to the strengthening of Sami culture and society. Finally, the intention is to develop a common understanding of the situation and of the developmental needs of Sami society.

National minorities

Five national minorities are represented in Norway; Kven/ Norwegian Finns, Jews, Forest Finns, Roma and Romani people/Tater.

The Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation (KMD) is responsible for coordinating government policy relating to national minorities. This means that KMD coordinates the specialised ministries’ policies and measures in respect of national minorities. The Ministry also coordinates dialogue with the national minorities’ organisations wherever necessary. The goal of the public authorities is to develop a coherent policy for national minorities in dialogue with the national minority organisations.

The organisations’ participation in the Contact Forum between the National Minorities and the Central Authorities promotes greater awareness of the status of national minorities in society and the activities of national minorities in civil society. The forum meets annually for thematic discussions.

KMD and other ministries initiate meetings in order to engage in dialogue with national minorities whenever relevant. The ministries also have meetings with individuals and organisations from national minorities at the latter’s request.

A grant for national minorities is provided each year from the central government budget. The aim of the grant scheme is to support activities that promote active participation in society, ensure equal opportunities for all and combat discrimination.

**Right to vote and to be elected**

***Question 6 - Is there universal and equal suffrage in your country? Are the rights of article 25 b of ICCPR guaranteed by law? If yes, please make reference to such legislation.***

Entitled to vote at parliamentary elections is any Norwegian citizen who will have attained the age of 18 by the end of the year in which the election is held, who has not been disenfranchised pursuant to Article 53 of the Constitution and

is, or has at some time been, registered at the Population Registry as resident in Norway, cf. Representation of the People Act (the Election Act) § 2-1.

In order to exercise their right to vote electors must be included in the electoral register in a municipal authority area on Election Day.

Electors who are entitled to vote and have been resident outside Norway for more than 10 years have to apply to the Electoral Committee to be included in the register of electors in the municipal authority area in which they were last registered at the Population Registry as being resident. This can be done while casting the vote.

In municipal and county council elections, the following persons are entitled to vote, cf. the Election Act § 2-1:

Any person who is entitled to vote at the parliamentary election plus those who are not Norwegian citizens but who otherwise satisfy the provisions in § 2-1 (1), provided that they

- have been registered at the Population Registry as resident in Norway for the last three years prior to Election Day

- are national of another Nordic country and were registered at the Population Registry no later than 30 June in the year of the election

The Election Act § 3-1describes who is eligible to the Storting (the Parilament) and bound to accept election. Eligible to the Storting is any person who is entitled to vote at the election, satisfying the conditions in § 2-1, and who is not disqualified or exempt.

***Question 7 - Which obstacles have been identified as preventing individuals from exercising the right to vote and which measures have been adopted to overcome them?***

The purpose is that any voter who wants to exercise their right to vote shall have the opportunity to do so. The Election Act gives the voter the right to cast their vote in advance for an extended period of more than two months, ensuring that as many voters as possible have the possibility to use their right to vote.

The voter should be able to enter the polling station unassisted. Accessibility of election concerns both the choice of premises used as polling stations and how these premises are made accessible.

The Election Act describes certain requirements for the polling stations. The premises used as polling stations should be both suitable and accessible to the voters. Other premises must only be used in the event of “special circumstances”. A strict assessment must form the basis for the decision to use other premises. The Election Committee makes this decision. The Election Regulations includes requirement for good accessibility inside the actual polling stations. The aspects included are signage/markings, accessibility, logistics, lighting and election equipment such as polling booths, ballot boxes and ballot papers.

The Anti-discrimination and Accessibility Act lays down requirements for the electoral authorities to ensure equal accessibility for all persons regardless of functional ability. The activity obligation in the Act requires the municipalities to have a conscious view on whether the polling stations satisfy the requirements for universal design. Surroundings and materials shall be designed so that they can be used by people in all age groups and with different skills, capacities and functional abilities. Conditions relating to movement, sight, hearing, understanding or sensitivity to the environment are crucial. The ministry has developed universally designed election equipment. The election equipment includes polling booths, ballot boxes and signage. The polling booths and ballot boxes are designed to be used by voters of all functional levels. The ministry has also established regulations regarding the design of the ballot paper. The purpose is to satisfy the principle of secret ballot and universal design.

***Question 8 - Is information on voter registration and on the electoral process (e.g voting sheets) available in formats and languages, including minority languages, that render them accessible to all? Please provide examples.***

The Norwegian election legislation does not require pre-registration of voters. The Electoral Committee is responsible for the keeping of a register of all persons entitled to vote in the municipal authority area, based on the Population Registry. There is a detailed set of rules that describes who shall be included in the electoral register, and the Population Registry Authority shall make this information available and updated for the electoral authorities. All municipalities use the election administration system EVA, in which one joint electoral register is administrated. There have not been any appeals regarding the electoral register during the last elections.

The Ministry, the counties and the municipalities all have responsibility for providing public information in the conduct of elections. The Ministry has the overall responsibility for information, aiming to increase the knowledge among voters and supply adequate and accessible information. The counties and municipalities are legally obliged to make certain announcements. Additionally, the municipalities are responsible for informing the voters in their own municipalities.

The Ministry is responsible for several announcements that are important for the conduct of the election. The Ministry has proposed to overtake the responsibility of the distribution of polling cards from the municipalities. An election information brochure will be included as part of each voter’s polling card. The brochures are produced in bokmål (standard Norwegian), nynorsk (New Norwegian), Sami Language and 10 foreign languages. The Ministry has created an online election information portal, as well as a customized mobile website where the voters can find their nearest polling station, opening hours and a map that shows where the polling stations are located. The Ministry has made public information films in several languages. Furthermore, there are campaigns specifically designed to reach young voters, and the Ministry is active on Facebook and Twitter.

The Ministry manages a grant scheme whose aim is to increase the voter’s electoral knowledge and/or increase the electoral turnout.

**9. If voter registration is required, how is it facilitated? Are education and registration campaigns organized prior to major elections?**

Please see the answer to question 8.

***Question 10 – With respect to the right to vote and to be elected, how are the rights and needs of members of specific groups (women, persons with disabilities, minorities, indigenous peoples, first-time voters etc.) taken into account?***

There are no regulations in the Election Act regarding gender representation on list proposals. The Local Government Act secures gender balance in public bodies, including the electoral bodies.

The Ministry has been working actively to increase the accessibility of the election. Fulfilling the requirements of universal design, the municipalities can order election material from the ministry. The Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted and other groups of disabled people participated in the testing of the equipment. The Ministry has received positive feedback from the voters and the municipalities. The material includes polling booths, ballot boxes and signage/markings. All equipment is designed to be used by voters from all functional levels. Most importantly, the polling booth and ballot box are now accessible to all voters, including wheelchair users.

Any electors who have such a need may themselves ask a returning officer to provide assistance in the process of voting. Electors with a serious mental or physical disability may themselves choose an extra helper among the persons who are present. It is important that the polling committee endeavors to ensure that the voter is not being subjected to any form of pressure or influence. The returning officer shall draw the helper’s attention to the fact that he or she is under a duty of secrecy. Voters who are unable to enter the polling station may cast their votes immediately outside the polling station to two returning officers.

The Election Act determines that electors who are unable to cast their vote in the determined places, may apply to cast an advance vote in the place where they are. Advance voting can also take place at health and social welfare institutions. The Ministry has encouraged the municipalities to collaborate with representatives from different non-governmental organizations for people with disabilitys to seek advice in the preparations for the election. The Delta Centre, authorized by the Norwegian Directorate of Health, has developed a guide for the municipalities regarding the accessibility to elections. The booklet provides information and checklists regarding accessibility to elections for people with different reduced functional abilities.

The creation of municipal councils for people with disabilities shall contribute to participation in local democratic processes. The Act on council or other representation in municipalities or counties for people with disabilities require the municipalities and counties to provide that disabled people are ensured open, broad and accessible participation regarding issues particularly important to disabled people. The Act requires the municipalities to create councils or other representation arrangements for people with disabilities.

In the 2015 local government elections, the government will conduct a trial in which the voting age is reduced to 16. The most important reason is to find out whether or not reduced voting age affects political participation and commitment among young people. The trial was also conducted in the 2011 elections.

The Ministry administers a grant scheme whose objective is to increase voter awareness and/or increase voter turnout. When considering the grant proposals, the Ministry emphasizes those measures that best highlight the purpose of the grant scheme, and favors measures directed towards young people, immigrants and voters with particular needs for accessible information. 27 organizations will receive the support of a total of five million kroner for voter awareness initiatives towards young people in the period leading up to the 2015 local government elections.

Please also note the answers to question 6.

Indigenous peoples

Sámediggi (The Sami Parliament) was established in 1989 in order to be a representative body for the Sami people in Norway.

Voters are, according to provision 2-6 of the Sami Act, those demanding to be included in a register of Sami electors and “make a declaration to the effect that they consider themselves to be Sami, and who either

a. have Sami as their domestic language, or

b. have or have had a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent with Sami as his or her domestic language, or

c. are the child of a person who is or has been registered in the Sami electoral register”.

Sámediggi is the highest electoral authority at elections to Sámediggi, and exerts influence through consultations when amendments are considered to the regulations.

***Question 11 - What are the legal restrictions to the right to stand for election in your country, if any? Which practical obstacles have been identified in the relation to right to be elected? Which measures have been put into place to overcome these obstacles?***

Both registered political parties and other groups can stand for election in Norway. The Election Act § 6-1 includes requirements concerning list proposals. The party or the group submits a list proposal to the election authority, which is responsible for approving the list proposal. For other proposers than parties included in the Register of Political Parties, and with sufficient votes polled in the last election, the rules in the Election Act §6-3 (2) apply.

At parliamentary elections and elections to the county council a list proposal shall have been signed by no fewer than 500 persons entitled to vote in the county at the election concerned. At elections to the municipal council a list proposal shall have been signed by such number of persons entitled to vote in the municipal authority area as corresponds to 2 per cent of the number of inhabitants entitled to vote at the previous municipal council election.

The Ministry considers that the opportunity to seek political office in Norway is nonrestrictive. Individuals must not be connected to a political party or an organization in order to stand for election. The conditions are that the list proposal must have sufficiently documented support in forms of signatures, alternatively a certain number of votes polled at the last election, and has to contain as many names as there are mandates in the constituency.

***Question 12 - What positive measures have been taken to ensure that women, members of minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and members of other disadvantaged groups are able to stand for elective office****?*

Indigenous peoples

Norwegian authorities have, in cooperation with the Sami, established several institutions to promote and secure the rights of the Sami.

*Sámediggi* is the representative political body for the Sami in Norway. Sámediggi is as an important dialogue partner for the central government and has assumed administrative responsibilities and implements policy instruments in certain areas. Other important institutions are *the Sámi University College, Gáldu – The Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.*

National minorities

Reference is made to the information on national minorities answering question 5.

***13. What measures (including legislative measures) are in place to ensure that candidates for elective office are not faced with discrimination, harassment, and violation of their rights to freedom of opinion, expression, assembly and association?***

There are no legislative measures in the Election Act or Election regulations, but the subject falls under other legislation.

***Question 14. Please explain how possible interferences with elector’s will and with voter or candidate registration are avoided. Is undue interference prohibited by law? How does the State ensure effective access to judicial and other remedies in case of violation?***

The principle of secret ballot follows the Election Act § 1-1. The purpose of the Act is to establish such conditions that citizens shall be able to elect their

representatives to the Storting, county councils and municipal councils by means of a secret ballot in free and direct elections. Secret ballot is the main principle for free and democratic elections. This is demonstrated by regulations of the voting procedure in the Election Act, specifying that voting shall take place in a secluded room and be unobserved.

The National Electoral Committee is the appeal body in the case of parliamentary elections, with the exemption of appeals concerning the right to vote or the right to cast a vote. The National Election Committee shall forward its decisions on the appeal cases to the Storting. In the case of parliamentary elections, the Storting decides whether the election of members to the Storting is valid, and shall order a new election if it has been declared invalid. The Ministry functions as secretariat to the National Election Committee in appeal cases. In the case of local government elections the Ministry is the appeal body. The Ministry’s decisions in appeal cases are final and may not be brought before the courts. After the parliamentary elections in 2009, the Ministry contacted the Venice Commission and requested an evaluation on those aspects of the Norwegian electoral system relating to complaints and appeals, approval of elections and how these would relate to international obligations. In a joint opinion from the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR, it is recommended that Norway should consider providing the legal right to appeal with regard to all election related matters and election results to a competent court as the final authority on all election matters. OSCE/ODIHR also recommend setting specific expedited time limits for the adjudication of election related complaints and appeals. Additionally, it is recommended that the courts or another independent body should play a role in the final validation of elections.

Based on this report, the Ministry will undergo a closer examination of these issues.

It is not permitted to conduct an election campaign in the forms of stands or similar at the polling station, or in the rooms that the elector must pass through to reach the polling station. This ban encompasses both verbal and written opinions.

**Equal access to public service**

**Other**

***Question 19 - Please provide information on measures take to ensure that information and education material on human rights, in particular on rights and opportunities relating to participation in public and political affairs, are available and accessible to all.***

Kindergarten, primary secondary and adult education

It is a general aim in pre-school, primary and secondary education in Norway that institutional development work, the Core Curriculum, subject curricula, evaluation and regulations secure the access and inclusion of all groups in society.

The right to adapted/adjusted education for individual pupils, the right (within certain limitations) to choose one’s mother tongue as a foreign language in school, a strong focus on basic competences, as well as preventing and combatting harassment, bullying and racism in kindergarten and school are heavily emphasised. In general, value based education is integrated in the ongoing efforts to develop and improve the school environment.

Several resources has been developed aiming to increase the possibility for everyone to participate in public life. Dissemination of knowledge about different groups in society may contribute to this aim. Examples are the following resources issued by the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training for the education sector (some also for a wider public) in 2014:

- Resource booklet for teachers and other staff in kindergartens and schools informing about the five national minorities in Norway – in Norwegian only: http://www.udir.no/PageFiles/89423/Nasjonale\_minoriteter\_Udir.pdf?epslanguage=no

- A study of Descriptions of ethnic and religious minorities in Norwegian textbooks (Norwegian only - http://www.udir.no/Tilstand/Forskning/Rapporter/Ovrige-forfattere/Beskrivelser-av-etniske-og-religiose-minoriteter-i-laremidler/

- Norwegian translation of the Council of Europe’s brochure “A Charter for All” - http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/edc/resources/charter4all\_EN.asp

The National centre for multicultural education (Nasjonalt senter for flerkulturalitet i opplæringen - http://nafo.hioa.no/) works to spread knowledge about multicultural education and minorities.

Adult education in principle follows the same curricula as the programmes developed for primary and secondary education. The responsibility for immigrant education lies within the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion. Under this ministry the Norwegian Agency for Lifelong Learning is responsible for developing and improving immigrant education in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

Higher education

The National Curriculum Regulations for Differentiated Primary and Lower Secondary Teacher Education Programmes for Years 1 to 7 and Years 5 to 10 was established by the Ministry of Education and Research on 1 March 2010, pursuant to section 3-2 sub-section 2 of the Act relating to universities and university colleges no. 15 of 1 April 2005 includes a statement about teacher candidates’ knowledge of the Norwegian indigenous population:

(...) “The primary and lower secondary teacher education programmes are to qualify the candidates to be able to provide instruction about Sami conditions and issues and ensure that they have acquired knowledge about Sami children’s right to education in accordance with the Education Act and the prevailing curriculum for primary and secondary education and training.”

Concerning expected learning outcomes for candidates in both teacher education programmes, the Curriculum requires that the candidate has knowledge about

- “children’s and young people’s childhood environment, equality and identity work

- children in difficult circumstances and about children’s rights in a national and international perspective

- national and international research and development work that is relevant for the teaching profession”

Under “General competence”, the candidates are required to be

- “able to stimulate an understanding of democracy, democratic participation and the ability for critical reflection adapted to the age of the pupils he/she is to teach

- able to contribute to the enhancement of international and multicultural dimensions of the work done in school and contribute to an understanding of the Sami people’s status as an indigenous people”

A substantial amount of teaching and learning resources are also developed by civil society organisations. Education personnel may e.g. find internet based education resources at the following site: http://www.globalskole.no/ressurser/undervisningsmateriell

Finally, we take the liberty to refer to the Norwegian reports submitted through the Universal Periodic Review system in 2009, 2012 and 2014, and to the Common Core Document for Norway, updated in 2013 to serve a basic information document.

Human Rights and Citizenship Education is described in the Common Core Document on page 53 to 55.