PARADIPLO-ID

OSLO

Oslo

General Information

Country **Norway**
Scale **Municipality** (Capital) **& County**
Size **480 km²**
Population **698.660** (2021)

National
County 11
Municipality 356
Local

Governance

Mayor: Head of City Council
City council: parliamentary body, 59 seats elected for 4 years
Governing Mayor: Head of City Government
City Government: executive body of 9 members

Administration

Number of agents: 55.000 within 51 agencies in 8 departments
Annual budget: NOK 85 billion (~9.3B$) in 2022

Main Competencies

Primary education, social services (outpatient health, senior citizen, unemployment and other), zoning, economic development, municipal roads

Subdivision

Delegates some missions to 15 City Districts, run by elected District Councils

Additional Data

HDI: 0,968 (2018)
GDP: 57B$ppp (2016)
GDP/cap: 87k$ppp (2015)
eqCO_2: 1,08Mt (2020)
eqCO_2/cap(nat): 7,6t (2020)

Paradiplomatic Framing

Locally and nationally termed *"International Cooperation"* – *paradiplomacy* or *city diplomacy* not in use

Institutionalization

International Cooperation Office (D1+)
- → Attached to the Governing Mayor's office
- → 8 employees
- → Integrated administrative budget
- → Transversal mission: liaison with global partners, EU programs management, foreign secretariat and mission planning.

Permanent office in Brussels (D2+)
- → Participation to global events (ex: COP) (D4)
- → Occasionnal international missions (D3-)
- → Seldom participation in central government delegations abroad (D6-)

Strategic orientation

Set by the municipal masterplan (4 years duration)
Framed in **strategic goals:** (adopted in 2009, revised in 2010)
1. Learn through experience sharing
2. Influence through targeted international participation in alignment with the SDGs
3. Grow sustainably through innovation and competition
4. Attract through international profiling
5. Ensure diversity, openness and inclusion
6. Become the world peace capital

Complemented by:
- the **city government's Platform** (political, 4 years)

Main causes

- → External: Globalization trends (climate crisis, digitalization, European cooperation…) (A1+A9+), Foreign policy domestication (A4)
- → Internal: Political will (A10+)

Main motives

- → Improve municipal services
  - Political (C1+)
  - Economical (C2)
  - Cultural (C3)

Legal ground: None

No legal framework, no needed permission (B1), no required consultation (B2)
International Cooperation as constitutional prerogative of the national government

Central Government attitude: mostly positive, distantly overlooking

Actions tolerated, voluntarily communicated and mostly seen positively (E2-). Close contact with some signs of cooperation and complementarity, but actions mostly autonomous. *Cooperative-joint* (E4-) / *Parallel-harmony* (E5+)

Local & national networking

(Organizations aslo engaged globally)

Osloregionen — Alliance of 65 municipalities to internationally strenghten Oslo region

KS — Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

Østlandssamarbeidet — Eastern Norway County Network, cooperation body made of 4 counties

Paradiplomatic Activities

Bilateral engagements

City Cooperation

Termed "Cooperation agreements" centered on experience sharing

- **Hackney (London-UK)**
- **Shanghai (China)**
- **St Petersburg (Russia)**
- **Toulouse (France)**
- **Vilnius (Lithuania)**
- **Warsaw (Poland)**

+ Relations with Nordic cities
Informal but continuously ongoing

Multilateral engagements (D5)

Signatory/Endorser

Circular Cities Declaration
Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Europe
Aalborg Charter

Active membership

Eurocities
C40 Cities
Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement
Mayors for Peace
ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Europe
CNCA
Cities4Forests

International branding activities

- Christmas tree as gift to London (UK)
- Host of Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony

Funding of local-led initiatives

Possible support on demand to associations and NGOs

Cooperation with the European Union

- → Participation in EU programs
  - Horizon Europe & INTERREG
- → Contribution and follow-up on specific EU legislation (environment, urbanization…)

Consequences for national foreign policy

Indirect rationalization (strengthened norwegian global presence through additional local-specific competences), passive democratization (complementary endogenous actions) (F1F2)

Notable sustainability actions & results

Elected European Green Capital in 2019
Engaged to reduce CO_2 emissions by 95% in 2030 (from 2009)
Led the elaboration of a Climate Budget manual

Oslo European Green Capital

SOURCES

The colored codes correspond to typologies proposed in the paradiplomacy explanatory framework developed by Alexander S. Kuznetsov (2014)

Paradiplomacy Framework: *Kuznetsov, A. S. (2014). Theory and Practice of Paradiplomacy: Subnational governments in international affairs. Routledge New Diplomacy Studies. Oxon & New York: Routledge.*
Data sources: *Wikipedia (socio-economic data), City of Oslo (interviews and web documents, 2022)*

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