

Norway's Instructions for Official Studies: Strategic planning

Title of the governance practice: Norway's Instructions for Official Studies

Summary of the governance practice

On 19 February 2016, Norway adopted the Instructions for the Preparation of Central Government Measures ("Instructions for Official Studies") by Royal Decree. The Instructions govern a broad range of central government measures and regulate, among other things, the timing of the policy development process, stakeholder coordination, impact analyses, public hearings and proposals for alternatives. The Instructions and associated guidelines aim to promote sound decision-making when developing central government measures.

Short description of the governance practice

The instructions for the preparation of Central Government Measures or Instructions for Official Studies, are a 7 seven page appendix of the Guidance Notes on the Instructions for Official Studies. The instructions were adopted on 19 February 2016 and regulate many issues discussed in the Policy Framework for Sound Public Governance, such as: early involvement in the policy development process, coordination of stakeholders, impact analysis, proposal of alternatives, public hearings.

The purpose of the instructions is to establish a sound basis for decision-making on central government measures. This implies that a sound basis for decision-making shall be established prior to deciding which measure should be implemented. Paragraph 2-1 in the instructions covers the minimum requirements applicable to studies:

- What is the problem, and what do we want to achieve
- Which measures are relevant?
- Which fundamental questions are raised by the measures?
- What are the positive and negative effects of the measures, how permanent are these, and why?
- What are the prerequisites for successful implementation?

Achievement/outcome of the governance practice

The requirements under the Instructions for Official Studies apply to all central government measures with effects beyond internal operations. The Ministry of Finance has delegated responsibility for administration of the instructions and the guidance notes to DFØ. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security is responsible for providing guidance on laws and regulations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for providing guidance on the provisions relating to EEA and Schengen matters.

Source: Example of country practice provided by the Government of Norway as part of the Policy Framework's consultation process