

# Inter-municipal cooperation in Norway

## Examples from South Østerdal

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# I will talk about:

- The Regional Council of Sør-Østerdal
- Main political focus and challenges
- Task and organization
- Activities and Projects





# What characterizes us:

- Long distances / small population (11 000 km<sup>2</sup>, 40 000 inhabitants)
- Declining and aging population
- Some small Municipalities (< 3.000 inh)

## Main areas of employment

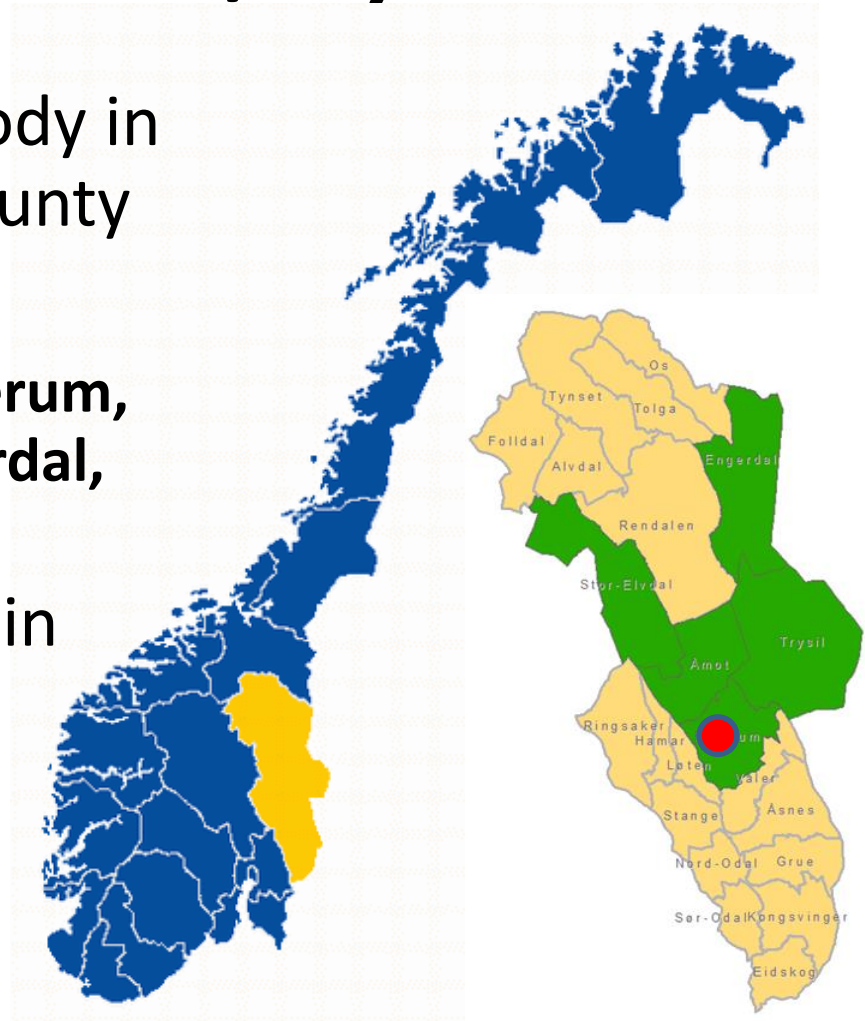
- Forestry, Agriculture, Tourism, some Industry
- Education (College University)
- Training facilities and education for Norw. Defense

Tradition and willingness for cooperation



# Regional Council of Sør-Østerdal

- A coordinating public body in Hedmark (Innlandet) county
- Region of Sør-Østerdal
  - The 6 municipalities **Elverum, Åmot, Stor-Elvdal, Engerdal, Trysil and Våler**
- Past: 1 out of 4 Regions in Hedmark
- Total:  
40.000 Inhabitants  
11.000 km<sup>2</sup>



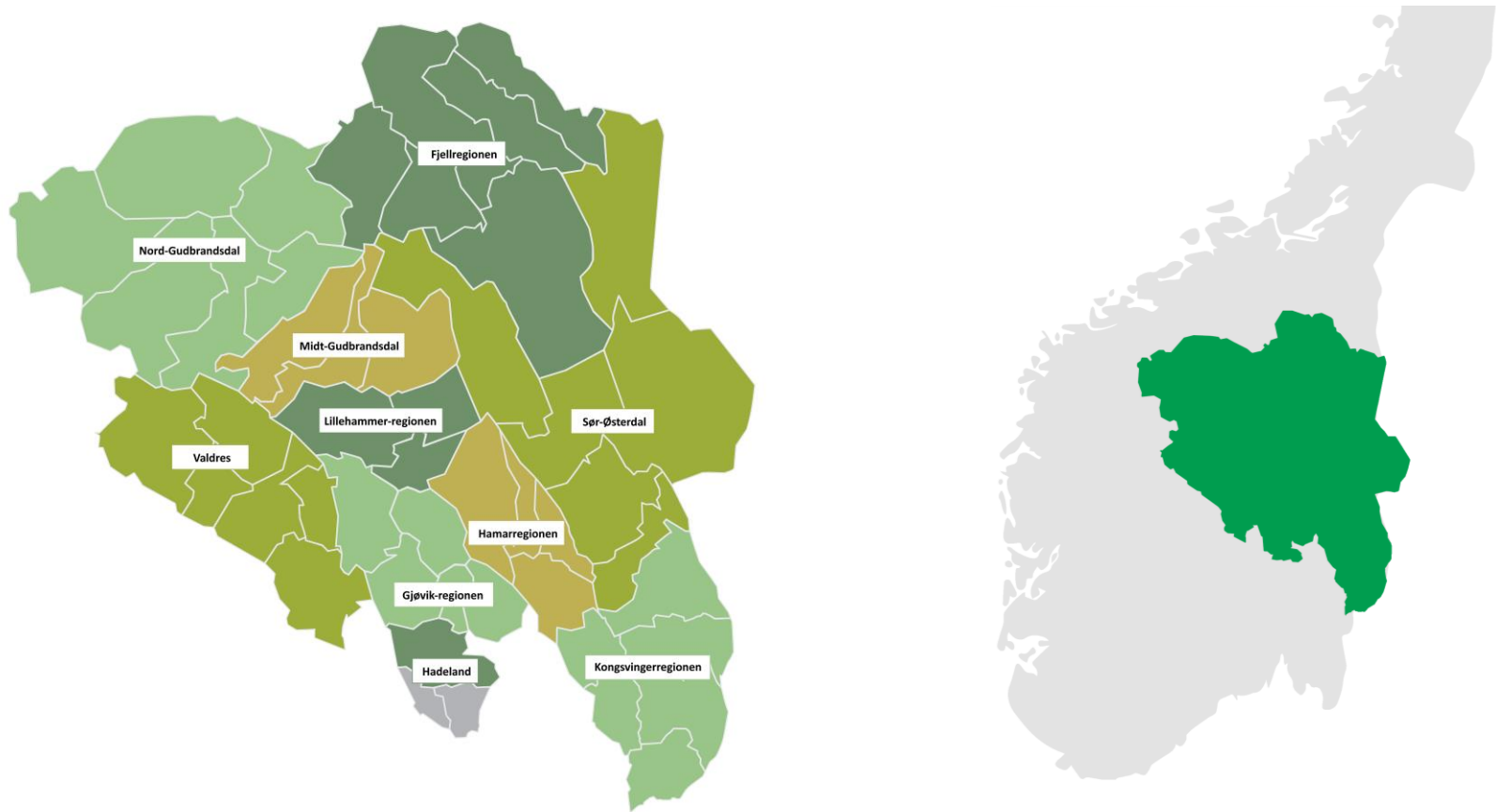
Regionrådet for Sør-Østerdal



2021:

# Innlandet has 46 Municipalities and 10 Regions

387 000 Inhabitants / 52 590 km<sup>2</sup> (Latvia: 64 590 km<sup>2</sup>)



Regionrådet for Sør-Østerdal



# Tasks

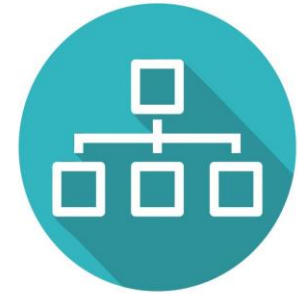
(Based on the new Municipal Act § 18-1, and the § 3 in an internal agreement of 22.04.2021)



- a) Discuss common topics “cross border”**
- b) Make common advisory strategies**
- c) Plan and carry out projects**
- d) Work on interest policy, including issuing consultation statements where there are common regional interests**
- e) Contribute to collaborative projects and partnerships where there are common regional interests**
- f) Carry out activities with a view to transferring experience, learning, and strengthening a common identity within the collaboration**



# Organization:



- **Each Municipality appoint 3 members to the Supervisory board**
  - Mayor, Vice Mayor, Opposition politicians
  - Representative from the County is NOT a member, but participates in the meetings.
- **The board elect their leader**
  - Mayor
  - Elected for 2 years
  - Often belonging to the governmental party.
- **Management**
  - Manager employed by the County
  - Project personnel employed by the Host Municipality
  - Economic services: Host Municipality



# Ongoing Activities / Projects (Examples)



- **New Central Hospital in Innlandet**  
Structure, Location
- **Infrastructure**  
Railway, National Road 25 and 3, Fiber.
- **Hosting the Defense**  
Cooperation
- **“Energy and Climate in Sør-Østerdal”**  
Sustainable City planning, Sustainable building materials and methods, Sustainable mobility.
- **“New technology in Elderly Care”**  
“You may live at home longer than you believe”





# International cooperation

**Our politicians encourage us to be active in international projects.**



## EEA / Norway Grant

- Latvia: Aloja (Sala Library) (2014 – 2016)
- Latvia: Vidzeme – Business development (2021 – 24)
- Latvia: Ropazi – Integration of asylum seekers (2021 - 24)
- Hungary: Energy, Public Health, Elderly Care (5 projects)

## EU / Interreg

- ENSAMB (Energy Saving I public buildings)
- EcoINSIDE (Ongoing)
- Effect4buildings
- Smart Circular Procurement – CircPro (Ongoing)



# Latvia: Aloja Sala Library.



**Total investment < 1 MEur (92 % from EEA / Norway Grants)**



**Energy consumption: 14,7 kwh / m2 / year**



# Cooperation is the best problem solver!

(- clearly proven in the fight against Covid 19)

## Thank You for Your attention!

Alf Kristian Enger



**Elverum  
Municipality**  
21 000 inh.  
1 229 km<sup>2</sup>

