



# Christian Hellevang

## The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

*«A creative and  
innovative public sector»*

# Christian Hellevang

- Senior adviser at [The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities \(KS\)](#).
- Works with volunteering, leisure time for children and young people, youth democracy, social housing work and universal design.
- Has a bachelor-degree in public administration from the Norwegian School of Management and Social Sciences (NKSH), 60 credits (ECTS) in public information from Lillehammer University College and a master's degree in public administration (MPA) from the Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
- He has previously worked in The tenants union of Oslo (LBF), The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (UDI), The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), The Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO), The union of students in Norway and the National Youth council of Norway.

# Norway implementing universal design by 2025?

- In May 2009, the Norwegian government put forward a plan that aimed for Norway to fully implement universal design by 2025.
- The last government proposed a new action plan for universal design in February 2016, but the goal of Norway fully implementing universal design by 2025 was not included here.
- But the goal of Norway implementing universal design by 2025 created great enthusiasm and interest in Norwegian municipalities and county authorities, and many people work hard to create municipalities and counties that include universal design in their buildings and outside spaces.
- ( BUT NORWAY WILL NOT BE UNIVERSAL DESIGNED BY 2025!!!)

# Municipal network as a method

- In many Norwegian municipalities and county authorities it is very popular to work in networks with other municipalities and county authorities.
- It is important to understand that participating in a municipal network is different to participating at a conference or seminar! In municipal networks, participants must prepare for the gatherings, work while they are there, and they also get homework!
- Municipal networks are for municipalities and county authorities.

# Municipal network for universal design

- The aim of the project is to focus on strategies to increase the accessibility of existing buildings and outside spaces.
- In this project, participants will share good examples and contribute to developing new and simple strategies/tools/methods for increasing the accessibility of existing buildings and outside spaces.
- The project will have a particular focus on simple, important and cheap measures that can increase accessibility.
- There is a need to present results and show what we can achieve

# Work in a network is demanding

- Challenging to create exciting arenas where participants can share their experiences.
- Network participants are highly competent and it is important to make use of this.
- External speakers contra internal processes.
- Use of learning networks/municipal networks is demanding – much easier to arrange a seminar.

# What do the municipalities/county authorities that participate get out of it?

- Network
- Competence
- Sharing of experiences across sectors
- Some financial support from KS
- The opportunity to apply for additional funds

# Regional networks for sharing and inspiration



Path to rock carvings in Sarpsborg

Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features



# The definition of Universal Design in Norway



Path to popular swimming spot in Halden

Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

## The harbour promenade in Stord



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

The Equality and Discrimination Act:

«...can be used by as many people as possible, regardless of disability.»





Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«I want to manage on  
my own.»

Mathilde (11)  
with Cerebral Palsy

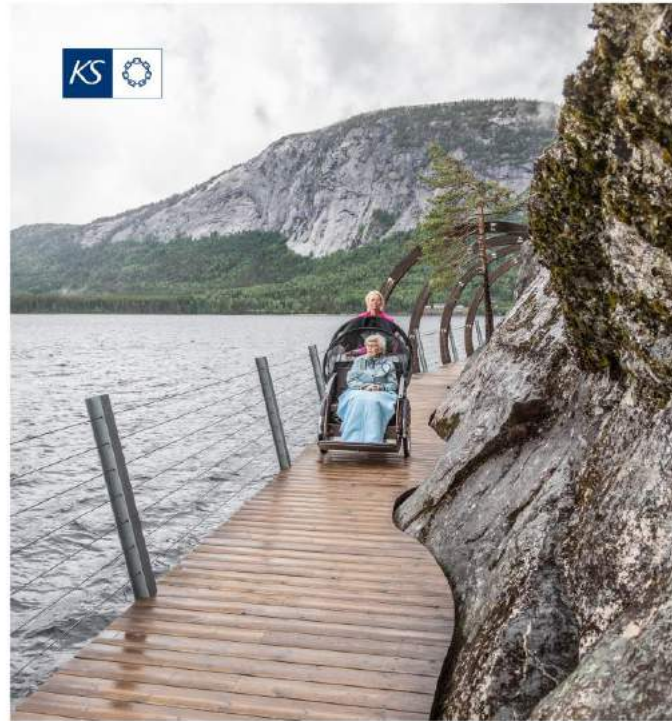
Mørkvedbukta School and Kindergarten in Bodø





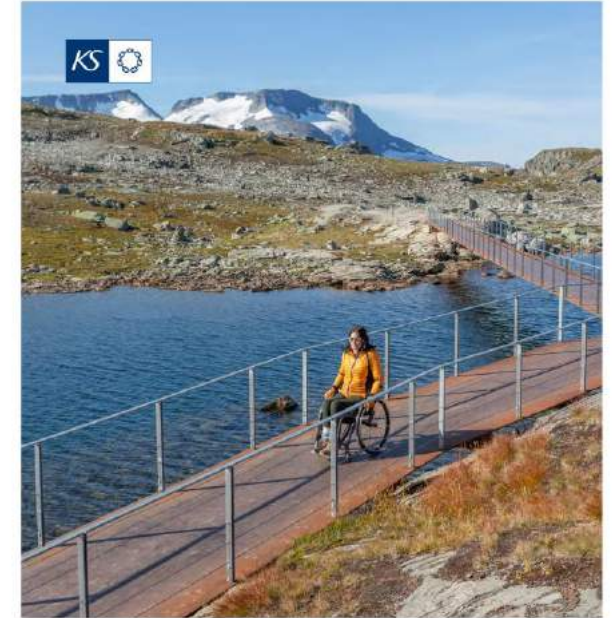
## Into the wild

Universal design and outdoor recreation



## Keeping active

Universal design of outdoor recreation close to urban areas and cultural heritage sites



## Norwegian Nature is for Everyone

Universal Design and Outdoor Recreation

## A wooden pathway along the Glomma River in Sarpsborg



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«Going for a walk  
where there are other  
people feels safe.»

Vegard Alfsen  
Senior citizen, 83 years old

## A path into the Sognefjellet mountains



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«It's about  
challenging myself  
and feeling  
empowered.»

Marianne Brattland  
wheelchair user



## A path suspended path over the lake in Fyresdal



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«We want as many people as possible to be able to get out into nature, not just the most active people.»

Aslak Momrak-Haugan  
Project Manager



## A bridge in harmony with nature in Time



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«The Midgard  
Serpent refreshes the  
meaning of Universal  
Design. It is not a  
matter of dull  
facilitation, but  
creating exciting  
design for everyone.»

Anne Reidun Garpestad  
Project Manager



# The Stovner Tower in Oslo



Photos: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features



«You must believe in  
the impossible.»

Truls Korsæth  
Project Manager





# A spectacular fjord experience in Hafrsfjord



Photos: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features



«This is an aesthetic  
experience!»

Lars Tveter  
Local resident

## Feeling the waterfall in Voss



Photos: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features

«I don't think people take notice of the fact that this is a universally designed space. It just is.»

Kari Bergo  
Landscape Architect



## A sleepover under the sea spray in Sveio Municipality



Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features



«It was magical to watch the wet and windy weather while ships sailed past in the night»

Gro Eileraas  
Wheelchair user



## Mt. Fløyen viewpoint, Bergen

Photo: Fredrik Naumann/Felix Features





# Glommfjord in North Norway



# Neslandsvatn Path ( Telemark)



# Walking Path in Telemark



# Walking Path in Telemark



# From Fyresdal in Telemark



# From Fyresdal in Telemark



# Park in Trondheim





# Trondheim



# Trondheim



# Trondheim



# Bergen



# Bergen



# Huk, Oslo



# Langøyene, Oslo



# Gjøvik





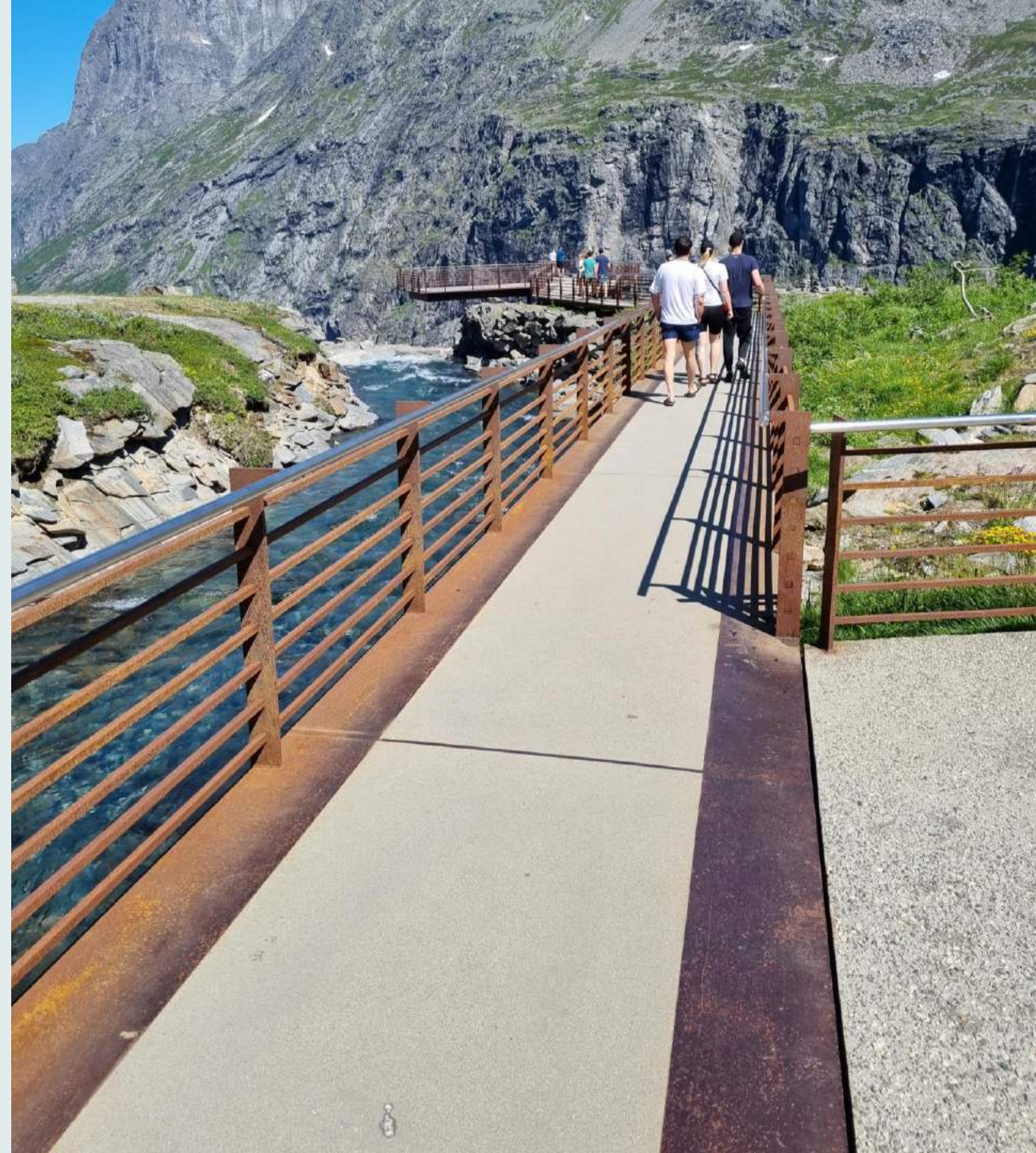


# Park in Gjøvik





# Trollstigen



# Trollstigen



# Not all Norway is possible to make Universal Designed – this is Preikestolen – close to Stavanger



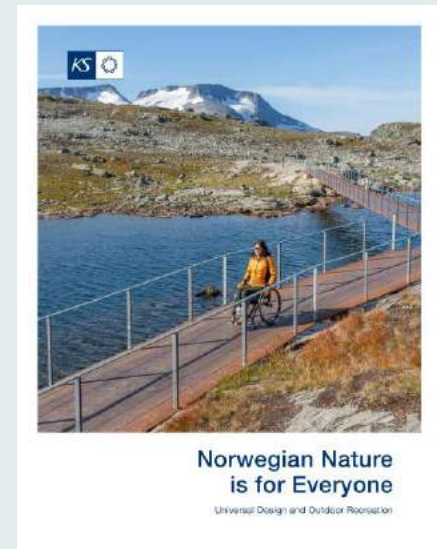
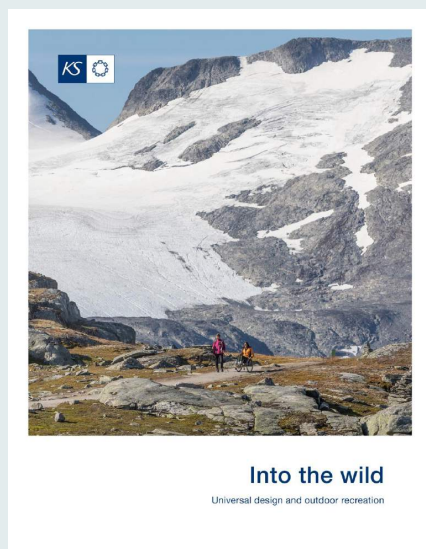
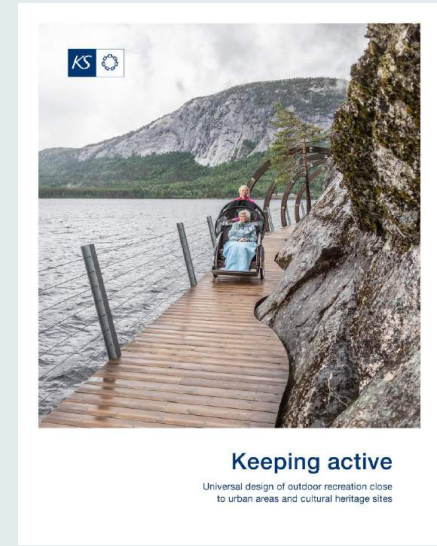
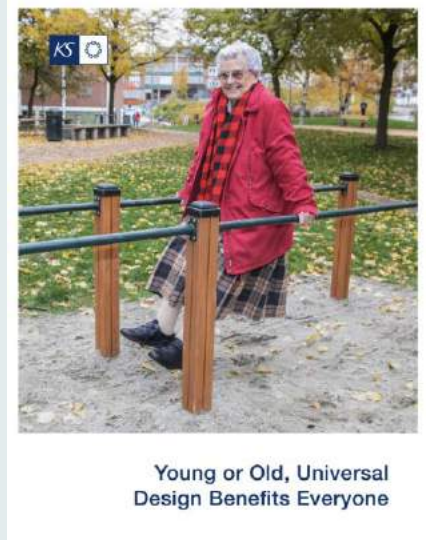
# Preikestolen



# Preikestolen









Thank you!

