

How we work with universal design and accessibility in Norway

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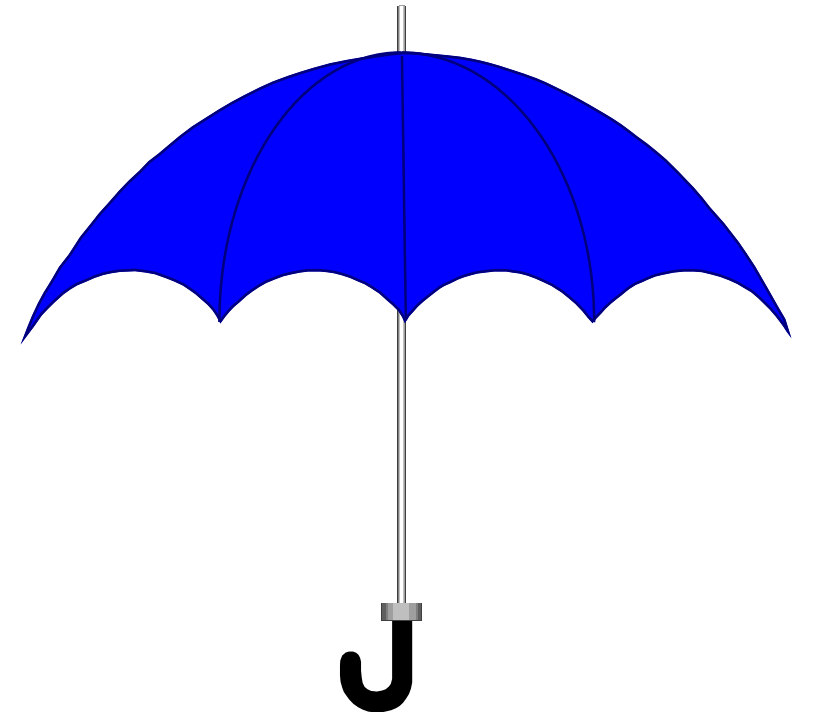
Nordic-Baltic II Meeting on Disability Policy and Practice

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FFO – Who are we?

- The Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People (FFO) is an umbrella organization with 87 member organizations (2022) of people with disabilities and chronic diseases who represent more than 350 000 members.



FFOs vision

- Our main goal is to work for better living conditions and the fulfillment of human rights for people with disabilities and chronic diseases.
- Most of our work is politically based. We have regular meetings with the Government, Parliament and directorates about issues that are of relevance for people with disabilities and chronic diseases. These issues cover the whole life specter – from birth to death.
- FFO is organized centrally with local offices on both county and municipality levels



Our values

- FFO works for a society where people living with a disability or chronic illness have equal rights to participate on all areas of society.
- An important factor to succeed with this is that Norway will be universally designed as much as possible as soon as possible.
- Our conclusion: This work is proceeding slowly and there is a lot more to do!



The importance of user participation

- User participation is when a user representative enters into a dialogue with politicians and / or service providers, and on an equal footing offers competence and specialist knowledge - based on one's own and/or others' experiences of solving various societal tasks.
 - Absent user participation results in poorer solutions.



How we work with universal design and accessibility

- Follow up of government policy and budget
- Consultations
- Involvement in user participation forums
- Involvement in several projects



Good examples

- Trondheim – ST. Olavs hospital – Award winner universal design.
- Tram in Oslo.
- T2 Gardermoen.
 - The user organizations were involved from the start and had a say in all phases of these projects.



Current projects

- Transport projects funded by Bufdir
- New government buildings.
- Akershus castle.
 - Making the governments representation facilities accessible.
- Håkonshall in Bergen.
 - Suggesting to make a hole an 1,5m medieval wall.
- Villa Stenersen
 - Establishing an elevator in a listed house, one of the main building of Norwegian functionalism.

Foto: Elin Vang Kristiansen, Yngve Jarslett og Hans A. Rosbach

