



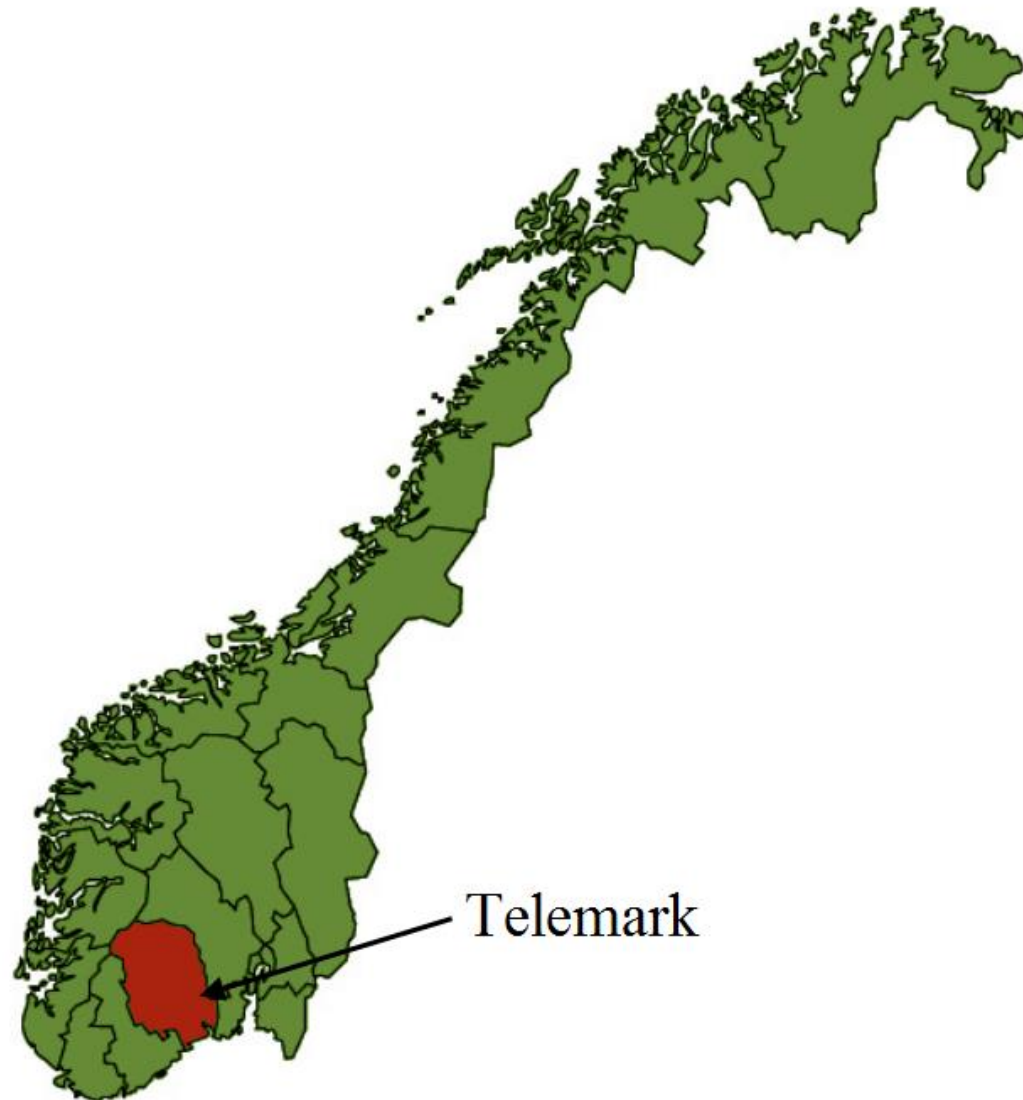
Institutional Evolutions

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(Norway)



County Governor of
Telemark

Telemark County | Norway





Municipalities in Telemark County





Organizational levels in Norway

- Government
- County (19) – Elected representatives
- State Territorial Representative STR (18)
- Municipality (428)

Remained unchanged over the last 50 years



Challenge

- 428 municipalities
- More than half with 5000 inhabitants or less
- Major and comprehensive tasks
 - Provision of services within most sectors
 - Planning for land use and development
- Limited administrative capacity to meet comprehensive tasks



Strategic objective

Transfer more power to the local municipality to increase local influence on decisionmaking regarding peoples everyday life.

- Reduce the number of municipalities and strengthen the municipal level of administration. - To accommodate for new tasks.
- Reorganize the regional level of administration.



Process

- Initiated by the Government and adopted by Parliament with a large majority in 2014.
- Local processes in the municipalities and regions in 2015 and 2016.
- County Governor (STR) will summarize the situation in an advice to Government late 2016.
- Government will submit a parliament proposal in 2017.
- New regional and municipal organisation will take effect from 1st of January 2020.



Process

- Regional levels
 - Elected county level will follow on
 - STR will trim down control tasks to meet requirements from the new organisation
 - Government are now in a process of considering to create fewer offices both for county councils and the STR (regionalize)
- Local level
 - Essentially a voluntary process between the municipalities, with financial stimulation
 - High emphasis on local influence
 - STR is an advisory body on behalf of the Government



Operational objectives

- High quality and assured equality in services.
- Holistic and coordinated development of local societies.
- Sustainable and economical robust municipalities.
- Strengthen local democracies.