

Oslo Region

The Oslo region includes the counties of Oslo and Akershus. The authorities have together with business and research representatives stated the following and ambitious goal:

"The Oslo region shall become one of the most innovative regions in Europe within 2010."

Primary focus is the following areas:

- Information and communication technology
- Biotechnology
- Energy and environment technology
- Maritime sector
- Financial sector

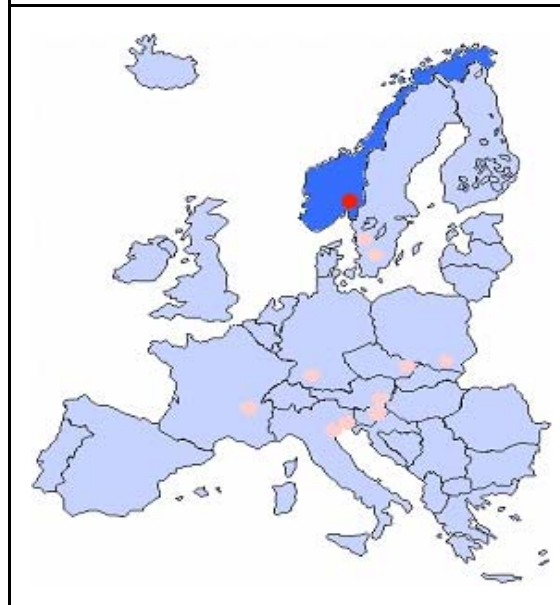
Oslo is the main city in the region and the capital of Norway. Being the capital of Norway, Oslo holds a dominating position relating to political issues and decision making, business development, R&D, education and cultural life in Norway.

Lillestrøm is characterized by its technological research institutions located at Kjeller Technology Park. The Lillestrøm authorities have together with the research communities and the business sector established the development agency "Kunnskapsbyen Lillestrøm (knowledge city Lillestrøm). However, large parts of the population in Akershus are located in the densely populated areas south and east of Oslo in the municipalities of Bærum, Asker, Ski and Ås. A considerable part of the workforce in Oslo is commuting from these areas. In and around Ås we find the Agricultural University of Norway and related research institutions.

The Oslo region is in many cases the headquarter location of Norwegian multinationals. Many subsidiaries of foreign multinationals have their main location in the region.

- **Norsk Hydro** – is Norway's second largest company and an industrial company based on the use of natural resources, with the aim of meeting needs for food, energy and materials.
- **Aker Kværner** – is a world-class international oil and gas engineering and construction group.
- **Elkem** – one of the world's leading suppliers of metals and materials)
- **Alpharma** – is among the world's largest producers of important specialty antibiotics, and is internationally recognized as a leading provider of vaccines for farmed fish.
- **Telenor** – an international telephony and communications group with its head office at Fornebu outside Oslo. Telenor is the leading telecommunications company in Norway and one of the largest listed companies in Norway.
- **Petroleum Geo Services** – world leading seismic services company.
- **Den Norske Bank** – Norway's largest financial services group.
- **Opera Software** – an industry leader in the development of Web browsers for both the desktop and the Internet device markets and ranks number three among the most widely used Internet browsers in the world.
- **Frontline** – is among the worlds largest tanker and shipping companies.
- **Orkla ASA** – one of the largest listed companies in Norway. The core businesses are Branded Consumer Goods, Chemicals and Financial Investments.
- **NordPool** – the Nordic Power Exchange, is the world's first multinational commodity exchange for electric power.
- **GE Energy Norway** – a world leader in the design and manufacture of steam and gas turbine-generators, power delivery equipment and systems, air quality control systems, nuclear energy fuels and services.

	Oslo Region	Norway
area	5,370 km ²	323,757 km ²
population	991,029 (+55,000 students)	4,503,436
Unemployment rate	~ 2.1 %	~ 3.8 %



Existing clusters:

- Energy related industries and services
- Maritime and shipping related industry and services

As the capital region in Norway the Oslo region holds approximately 50% of the total resources tied to research and development in Norway (manpower and financial resources).

Major research institutions:

- University of Oslo (the largest university in northern Europe with 35 000 students and an extensive number of departments conducting research)
- The university hospitals; Ullevål Sykehus, Radiumhospitalet, Rikshospitalet, Aker Sykehus (hospital)
- Institute for Energy Technology (IFE – located at Kjeller – Lillestrøm)
- Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI – located at Kjeller – Lillestrøm)
- The Agricultural University of Norway and related research institutions such as MATFORSK (Norwegian food research institute), Planteforsk, (Norwegian Crop Research Institute) and Skogforsk (The Norwegian Forest Research Institute)
- SINTEF – The largest independent research organisation in Scandinavia (technology, energy, oil/gas and environment research). SINTEF is partly located in Oslo with headquarters in Trondheim.

Major higher education institutions:

University of Oslo, Norwegian School of Management (BI), The Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, The Agricultural University of Norway, College of Oslo, College of Akershus, Oslo School of Architecture, Norwegian State Academy of Music, Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education

Oslo region cluster profile

The focus of Oslo Teknopol's work is to promote the development of several clusters, rather than one specific cluster. The following areas are existing clusters and areas that have special presuppositions to become successful clusters.

- **Maritime and shipping** – one of the most complete clusters in the region. R&D institutions, financial services, international competitive stronghold, long traditions and culture, competitive home-market with several large corporations and many SME's in all parts of the industry.
- **Energy** – a special stronghold for both Norway as a country and the Oslo Region (oil, hydropower, energy systems, energy trade, new renewable energy sources). Cluster consists of R&D institutions, financial services, international competitive stronghold, long traditions and culture, competitive home-market with several large corporations and many SME's in most parts of the industry (especially within oil/gas and hydropower).
- **ICT** – within niches such as mobile Internet, digital content, microsystems, wireless networks and satellite communication. Long traditions in these areas, especially within R&D, but lacks tradition for industrial development. Mature and competitive market.
- **Biotechnology** – within niches in cancer research, aquaculture and immunology research.
- **Financial sector** – private services such as financial services are already a dominating sector in the region. Due to enormous revenues from the oil and gas industry a financial cluster has been developed in the capital.

There is considerable unrealised potential in the Region. Promoting cluster development through cooperation, partnerships, innovation and knowledge diffusion between businesses and knowledge institutions will result in a more dynamic business development. The Oslo Region has one of the highest educated and youngest workforces in Western Europe.

The IT/telecom sector has grown very fast the last decade in Norway, with the Oslo region as the major centre for research, development and production. Together with the other Scandinavian capital regions, the Oslo region is considered to have a very mature technology market with one of the highest internet, broadband and mobile telephone penetration on various indicators.