

Norway

The Artist's place in society

A research study from 2006, *Kunstnernes aktivitet, arbeids- og inntektsforhold, 2006*, made by Telemarksforskning-Bø, shows that 29 % of the artists had income from non-artistic work. 37 % had income from what is called artistic-attached work, such as for example teaching.

INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International instruments (conventions, agreements and recommendations) in the field of culture ratified by Norway

The international instruments mentioned below are relevant for the status of artists:

- Berne Convention of 9 September 1886 for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Act, 1971); and
- International Convention of 26 October 1961 for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (Rome Convention).
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorised Duplication of their Phonograms (1971)
- TRIPS-agreement: (Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (1994))
- Norway has not formally entered into WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty of 20 December 1996 (WPPT) and WIPO Copyright Treaty of 20 December 1996 (WCT), but as a result of implementing the directive 2001/29/EC in Norwegian law is in accordance with these Treaties.
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)
- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)
- European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production (1992)
- Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage (2003)
- Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (2005)

Governmental bodies responsible for:

a) Cultural affairs

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs is responsible for cultural affairs inclusive the media (films, broadcasting, press and copyright). Several other ministries also deal with cultural matters. Some of the central administrative tasks have been delegated to bodies subordinate to the Ministry's Department of Cultural Affairs. The most important of these are the Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs, the National Library, the National Archives, the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABMU), the Mass Media Authority and the Norwegian Film Fund.

b) Cultural policy-making

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs is in charge of cultural policy-making. Several other ministries are also in charge of cultural policy-making within their sectors.

c) Working conditions of artists including disabled artists

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion is in charge of working conditions of all residents including artists and disabled artists. The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs is also in charge of working conditions for artists through the allocation of funds to working grants, guaranteed incomes and other grants for artists and their projects. Many institutions, support schemes and measures administered by the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs directly affect artist's working conditions.

d) Continuing training of artists and cultural workers

In the Norwegian research system, each ministry is responsible for research within its sector. The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for coordinating research policy.

e) Tax policy and taxation in the field of culture:

The Ministry of Finance is in charge of tax policies and taxation in the field of culture.

Cultural policy

Percentage (average) of the national budget allocated to culture

The government's objective is to increase the allocations for cultural purposes to 1 % of the total government budget by 2014. In 2008, the percentage was 0,847.

This percentage represents a rising trend.

Policies aimed at promoting the arts

The Ministry's most important instrument for promoting the arts is allocations from the state budget. Norway has many important cultural institutions and a large number of qualified artists and cultural workers. To fully benefit from the potential they represent, in a country with a small, widely scattered population, comprehensive financial support for the public authorities is essential.

The Norwegian Arts Council seeks to encourage both cultural innovation and the preservation of the cultural heritage, and focuses its funding on initiatives which otherwise tend to be missed out by regular local or central support schemes. The Council supports extensive experimental projects and individual projects both in its regular fields and in selected priority programmes. It also supports projects which extend beyond or cut across the various discipline boundaries.

Promotion of creativity and the status of the artist

- The Ministry of Culture and Church allocate grants to individual artists. In 2008: 388 working grants à 176 000 NOK, 507 guaranteed incomes à 198 000 NOK (maximum amount) and a large number of various other grants for artists. The ministry's budget for this purpose was in 2008 approximately 340 million NOK. The yearly reports from the recipients of working grants, guaranteed incomes and other grants contains accounts for the artists artistic activity the previous year.

The reports from the permanent art institutions show the extent of all their activities the previous year in detail; numbers of public attending the various exhibitions and performances; number of cooperation projects; touring activity; arrangements for children and youth; use of Norwegian and foreign plays from the last 15 years etc. Statistics are available in the yearly budget proposal to the Storting.

- Research studies are used to evaluate the outcomes of cultural policies designed to promote the status of artists. The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has newly ordered a research study to get information of the artist's activities, working conditions and income. The report, *Kunstnernes aktivitet, arbeids- og inntektsforhold, 2006*, was made by Telemarksforskning-Bø and was finished in June 2008. The report provides a variety of statistics.

Existing structures enabling artists to be involved in cultural policy-making at local and national levels

Proposals for new regulations and important changes of practice in the cultural field are always sent to appropriate bodies for their evaluation, including the artist organizations. The artist organizations are also nominating candidates to various committees who allocate grants to individual artists and projects.

Allocation of public funds for artwork

Cultural policies provide for (i) the allocation of public funds for art work, (ii) subventions to art institutions, (iii) the organization of art events and (iv) the establishment of funds for the arts.

Measures to improve cultural infrastructures (museums, concert or theatre halls, libraries, etc.)

It is a main objective for the government to make access to art for all people in Norway wherever they live, for children and youth, for disabled persons etc. Theatre, museums, libraries and concert halls are thus located in all larger regions. In a country with a small, widely scattered population, comprehensive financial support for the public authorities is essential. The main measure to make access for all people to the art institutions activities is to state terms for the allocations.

Measures intended to support integration of disabled artists

The Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion has the responsibility for the schemes relating to medical and occupational rehabilitation, for sickness benefit and disability benefit/pensions and coordination and follow-up of the Inclusive Workplace Agreement. These schemes are available to all, not only artists. It is an important goal of Norwegian welfare policy that as many occupationally disabled people as possible are able to provide for themselves through paid employment.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Laws and rules regulating activities of artists with regard to:

a) Employment and working conditions

The Working Environment Act of 2005, 17 June n° 62 (*Arbeidsmiljøloven*) applies to all employees, with the exception of seafaring and fisheries, which are regulated by separate regulations. The purpose of the Working Environment Act is to ensure safe working conditions and equal treatment among workers. The Act contains provisions about employers and employees' obligations with respect to ensuring acceptable working environment. Enterprises are required to have safety delegates and working environment committees, and some enterprises are required to have a corporate health service where necessary.

b) Social security (health insurance, labour injuries, health disability, unemployment and retirement pensions)

The National Insurance Act of 1997, 28 February, n° 19 provides all persons with legal residence status in Norway with the right to benefits. Aside from foreigners who reside in Norway illegally, everyone who lies in Norway is obligated to be a member of the National Insurance Scheme. Membership gives rights to a number of benefits, such as disability insurance and retirement pension; supporter supplements; benefits to persons residing in institutions such as hospitals; occupational injury; unemployment insurance; benefits to persons who are ill (medical assistance, medicines, physical therapy and the like); sickness and rehabilitation benefits; basic benefits and help benefits; and the like.

c) Training

Act relating to Primary and Secondary Education (Education Act) of 17 July 1998 concerns primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education.

Act relating to universities and university colleges of 15 January 2005. The purpose of this Act is to make provisions for universities and university colleges to provide higher education at a high international level, conduct research and academic and artistic development work at a high international level; disseminate knowledge of the institution's activities; and promote the understanding and application of scientific and artistic methods and results in public administration, cultural life, business and industry. Education support Act of 3 June 2005 provides the right to financial support for students.

All courses must be accredited by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT).

An up-to-date list of recognized courses can be found on NOKUT's website: <http://www.nokut.no/sw335.asp>

WORKING CONDITIONS

Work permit or “professional” status

There is no work permit or “professional” status for artists.

Health care system

Norway has a health care system who applies to all residents. Primary health care services in the municipalities are responsible for the provision of adequate and efficient medical treatment where people live. General practitioners constitute a vital component of these services. Others are emergency clinics, medical specialists, mother and child clinics and school health services.

Specialist health care services comprise hospitals, outpatient clinics, medical specialists, ambulance services and other services. The five regional health authorities owned by the Norwegian State through the Ministry of Health and Care Services are responsible for specialist health care services. The regional health authorities are responsible for providing specialist health care services.

Support to persons suffering from psychiatric disorders is provided partly through the primary services and partly via the specialist health care services. Help is also available through municipal and voluntary services not included in the regular health care services. Mental health has been a government priority since the end of the 1990s, and is being followed up by the government's escalation plan for mental health services.

Medicines must be easily accessible to the population. The Norwegian State provides financial support to patients with medical expenses above a certain limit through the blue prescription system.

Important laws and regulation related to the health care system was the Patient's Rights Act, the Patient Injury Act, the Specialist Health Care Services Act, the Health Authorities and Health Trusts Act, the Alternative Treatment Act, the Mental Health Care Act, the Biobank Act, the Biotechnology Act, the Abortion Act, the Transplantation Act, the Health Services Supervision Act and the Health Personnel Act etc.

Private healthcare systems

Private health care scheme does exist to some extent and artists have access to it in the same way as other citizens.

Administrative inspections

Employers must comply with the legal requirements in the Working Environment Act mentioned above. Employers are in that respect under the supervision of a governmental body named "*Arbeidstilsynet*". Fine and closure of the establishment can be imposed in the event of serious or continuing breach of the regulations.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Insurance schemes

Social coverage is compulsory.

Insurance schemes for illness, maternity, disability, and retirement are in place in accordance to the National Insurance Act. Membership of the National Insurance Scheme gives rights to a number of benefits, as mentioned above.

Complementary insurance schemes

Many artists are self-employed and need to resort to complementary insurance to ensure adequate coverage.

Governing body in charge of the administration of contributions

The State administers the payment of benefits.

REMUNERATION

The minimum level of payment

There is no minimum level of payment. The artists are paid directly.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment insurance scheme

There is no specific system of unemployment insurance for artists.

ILLEGAL WORK

Scale of illegal work

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs has no information of the scale of illegal work.

TAX STATUS AND TAX ADVANTAGES

Tax status

Artists do not enjoy a particular tax status.

As a rule, the Norwegian Tax Act does not give artists a particular tax status. However, they do enjoy some special privileges.

a) Non-resident artists

Pursuant to the Foreign Artists Taxation Act, non-resident performing artists are only levied state tax. The current tax rate is 15 %.

A tax exemption is offered if the event or performance is part of a cultural exchange with another State, receiving public funds (cf. Section 5 in the Foreign Artists Taxation Act).

Performing artists resident within the EEA can claim to be taxed according to the regular tax legislation instead of the Foreign Artists Taxation Act.

b) Resident artists

Artists resident in Norway are levied tax on income from their economic activities as artists (cf. Section 5-1 and 5-30 in the Norwegian Tax Act).

The Norwegian tax system is based on a dual tax base system. The two main groups of income, general income and personal income, are subject to the calculation of different taxes. Pursuant to Section 14-80 in the Norwegian Tax Act, originators of intellectual works, e.g. authors, may spread their personal income evenly over 3 years if the last year's personal income considerably exceeds the personal income the two foregoing years. This exemption gives certain artists an opportunity to level out their income.

Author's rights and other artist's rights are not subject to wealth tax as long as they are in the possession of the originator (cf. Section 4-2. 1) e in the Norwegian Tax act. This is not the case for tangible works of art, e.g. paintings, statues etc. However, there are special rules regarding the valuation of such assets.

According to Section 5-15 1) j nr. 1 and 2 of the Norwegian Tax Act, certain artists' stipends and scholarships are exempt from income tax.

Royalties and tax system

The taxation of royalties is not particularly mentioned in the Norwegian Tax Act. For artists who carry on an economic activity as artists, royalties are treated like other income from such activity, and thus subject to taxation as general income as well as personal income.

Royalties from copyrights and other originator's rights without connection to an economic activity as artist are taxed as capital income (general income), at a rate of 28%.

Exemptions regarding import duties on cultural products

- Goods for exhibition:

Any goods that are intended for display or demonstration at exhibitions, trade fairs etc. are temporary exempted from customs duty and value added tax. (See Introductory Provisions to the Norwegian Customs Tariff, section 14 No. 7, and Regulation No. 12 of 12 December 1975 to the Value Added Tax Act of 19 June 1969, section 4.)

- Importation of artists' work:

Artists may import their own work of art free of tax. This also applies to importation through a middleman in the name of the artist (see Value Added Tax Act, section 63).

There are special regulations which delimit the term "work of art" in the Value Added Tax Act (see Regulation No. 108 of 22 August 1997 to the Value Added Tax Act, section 3). As work of art is considered art of such a kind as specified in the Customs tariff No. 97.01-97.03, or pictorial weaving, as specified in the Customs Tariff No. 58.05.

Special tax regime for the marketing, import and export of cultural products

There is not a special VAT regime for marketing and export of cultural products. According to the Norwegian Tax Act, marketing expenses are tax-deductible if they are related to an economic activity that results in taxable income (cf. Section 6-1 in the Norwegian Tax Act).

Regional or interregional customs duties agreements for the circulation of cultural products

Norway has acceded the UN Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials of 22 November 1950. Annex B concerns works of art and collectors' pieces of an educational, scientific or cultural character. The contracting States undertake not to apply customs duties or other charges on cultural material listed in Annex B (see the Agreement's Article I).

Provisions on inheritance tax

The Norwegian Inheritance Tax Law does not contain special provisions in respect of works of art.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY OF ARTISTS

Measures to promote the mobility of artists :

- Recognition of foreign diplomas

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) resolves, after application from individuals, if a foreign diploma shall be recognized or not.

- Fellowships and financial aids for artists

The artist grants and guaranteed income programme comprises several different types of grants that may be applied for by artists primarily living and working in Norway. The state support to artists, artists organizations and art institutions however affects their ability to visit foreign countries and pursue cultural exchange.

Several cultural institutions and organizations who receive financial aid from the state are particularly concerned with cultural exchange. The most important are:

- The Office for Contemporary Art Norway is a private foundation and was founded by The Ministry of Culture and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001. The main aim of the Office for Contemporary Art Norway is to develop collaborations in contemporary art between Norway and the international art scene. OCA holds five studios at its premises in Oslo for invited international artists and curators participating in the International Studio Programme (<http://www.oca.no/norway/isp.shtml>). It also hosts an International Visitor Programme (<http://www.oca.no/norway/ivp.shtml>) by inviting curators to conduct several day research visits within Norway.
- Concerts Norway is a public institution which has been running cooperative and exchange programmes with countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America for 20 years. Today Concerts Norway has cooperative programmes with 12 countries: China, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Palestine, South Africa and the SADC countries (Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Swaziland, Namibia and Malawi), and collaborates with 20 different organizations abroad on long-term programmes in other countries. The goal of the activities is to generate mutual understanding, insight and respect across cultural and geographical borders. They want to create arenas and meeting-places that allow dialogue, exchanges and collaboration. The activities form part of Norwegian foreign policy and are financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- Fellowships and financial aids to promote the mobility of works

- NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad, Fiction & Non-fiction is a government-funded, non-commercial foundation which promotes Norwegian literature to other countries. Foreign publishers of Norwegian books may apply for a translation subsidy. More than 2000 books by Norwegian authors have been published with grants from NORLA since 1978.
- The Office for Contemporary Art Norway in Oslo provides support several major biennials, including the Venice Biennial, the Berlin Biennial, the Sydney Biennial, Manifesta among others.

- Networks catering for foreign artists

ARS BALTICA is a network which since 1991 has been connecting the Baltic Sea States in a cultural collaboration. Its power and uniqueness lie in combining cultural policy development and close co-operation with cultural operators. Created on the initiative of the Ministries of Culture of the Baltic Sea Region, the network maintains tight links with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (the CBSS).

- Visas and residence permits

The main rule is that everyone who is not a Norwegian or Nordic national must have a work permit to work in Norway. EEA/EFTA nationals can also freely enter the country and start working immediately even though they are required to subsequently obtain a work and residence permit. They can stay and work in Norway for up to three months without requiring a permit.

If they are job-seekers, they may stay in Norway for up to six months without a permit. A third-country national applying for a permit as a specialist or a permit for seasonal work can apply for the permit from Norway as long as they are legally in the country.

However, this does not apply to people who have asylum applications pending or who are awaiting expulsion because their application has been rejected. It is a requirement

for obtaining a work permit that both subsistence and housing is ensured. Subsistence is ensured if an applicant earns sufficient income from employment, has own funds, a pension, a student loan, a grant or other regular periodic payments. Housing is deemed to be ensured if the applicant has a house, apartment, bed-sit or similar at his or her disposal.

Provisions in national laws in regard to foreign artists

The Working Environment Act is applying to all employed artists working in Norway.

COLLECTIVE REPRESENTATION

Trade union freedom

Norway has ratified several Conventions protecting the right to organize and the right to strike. The most important ones are the ILO Conventions, especially No. 87 concerning freedom of association and No. 98 on implementing principles for the right to organise and the right to collective bargaining, and the European Social Charter.

The right to strike is a constitutional right in Norway, and there is no permanent legislation restricting this right (except for military forces and senior civil servants). The right to carry out a lockout is in Norway equal to the right to strike. The social partners are responsible for the wage settlements and the industrial peace. Consequently, society and third parties have to endure the inconveniences caused by a labour conflict. Interference in a labour conflict will only be considered if the conflict has consequences for life or health, or has other seriously damaging effects on society.

The subscription to trade unions is deductible.

Collective agreements

The unions are consulted by the State before it adopts reforms that affect the working practices of artists.

Structures exist for negotiating collective agreements for employed artists. Negotiations between the employers and the trade unions take place normally every year.

Mediation

The mediation is the most common method of dispute settlement.

The social partners are responsible for the wage settlements.

A public body named "*Riksmeglingsmannen*" is specifically concerned with mediation. The main goal of this office is to help the social parties to avoid conflict.

The National Wages Board Act (Act No. 7 of 19 December 1952 relating to wage committees in labour disputes) is in principle intended for voluntary arbitration. The parties may refer to the National Wages Board a dispute on wages and labour conditions which is not covered by a collective agreement. The Board's decision has the same effect as a collective agreement.

However, the National Wages Board has mostly been used for compulsory arbitration. To refer a dispute to compulsory arbitration, it is decided in each individual case by a separate act by the Storting, or by the Government by Provisional Ordinance if the Storting is not in session. In an act on compulsory arbitration in a labour conflict the dispute is referred for settlement by the National Wages Board.

"*Riksmeglingsmannen*" is a public body. The members of the National Wages Board are appointed by the Government and the social parties.

CONTINUING TRAINING AND FINANCIAL AID

Vocational training for artists

- Upper secondary education and training. All young people between the ages of 16 and 19 have a right to upper secondary education and training. The pupils can choose between vocational education programmes or programmes for general studies. All levels in upper secondary education and training are adopting new curricula with clearly stated competence objectives. The curricula place a general emphasis on basic skills in being able to express oneself orally and in writing, in reading, in numeracy and in the use of digital tools.

The county authorities fund upper secondary education and training and have a great deal of freedom when it comes to organising the education. The vocational education programmes include training in training establishments or education in school.

- Tertiary vocational education is also available for artists. It is an alternative to higher education and is based on upper secondary education and training or equivalent informal and nonformal competence. Higher Education Entrance Qualification is not required.

Apart from the traditional schools of technical management and maritime subjects which are publicly financed (by the country authorities), most of the schools offering this kind of education are private ones.

- Higher education is available for artists. A passed entrance examination is normally required for artist education.

Most institutions of higher education are state-run and are responsible for the quality of their own instruction, research and dissemination of knowledge. About 12.5 % of students in higher education attend private institutions. Higher education builds on the successful completion of three years of upper secondary school. Since 2001, access can also be granted for those older than 25 years old on the basis of a documented combination of formal, informal and non-formal competence (total qualifications).

Up-grading courses are offered at the Oslo National Academy of Arts and the Bergen National Academy of the Arts.

Schools and institutions providing continuing training in the different artistic disciplines:

Vocational courses and higher education accredited by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) are listed below. The list may not be complete.

(a) visual arts:

- Vocational courses: Einar Granum Art School, Ålesund Art School, The Fabric Asker Art School, The Bergen Art School, Norges Kreative Fagskole in Bergen, The Education House AS, Norges Kreative Fagskole in Stavanger.

- Higher education: Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Bergen National Academy of the Arts, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Telemark University College, Tromsø University College, Volda University College, Agder University College.

(b) performing arts:

- Vocational courses: TITAN Teaterskole

- Higher education: Oslo National Academy of the Arts, Nesna University College, Volda University College

- (c) film and audiovisual media;
 - Vocational courses: Noroff Institute Lt.
 - Higher education: Lillehammer University College, Stavanger University College
- (d) dance and choreography;
 - Vocational courses: Skolen for samtidsdans (contemporary dance).
 - Higher education: Oslo National Academy of the Arts, The Norwegian College of Dance
- (e) literature;
 - Higher education: Telemark University College
- (f) music:
 - Vocational courses : Norges Kreative Fagskole in Bergen (music design), Noroff Instituttet AS (sound- and musicproduction).
 - Higher education: Nesna University College, Telemark University College, Baratt Dues Music Institute, The University of Bergen, Volda University College, Agder University College.

Training for artists in administration

Higher artist educations are normally offering courses to prepare the art students to work as self-employed artists. The Oslo Academy of Fine Art and the Bergen Academy of Fine Art are examples.

Financial aid schemes for disabled artists

It is an objective for the government that people with disabilities shall have opportunities for personal development, participation and self-realization on a par with other citizens.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has the responsibility for the schemes relating to medical and occupational rehabilitation for all people with disabilities, for sickness benefit and disability benefit/pensions.

The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) plays a broad participatory role in the world of work and society, and contributes to the financial security of the individual. This depends on close interaction with the user, working life and local authorities, and a sharper focus on people with special needs in relation to the labour market and others in a challenging life situation.

Retraining for artists

When it is considered necessary that a person undergoes vocational measures before he/she can get or keep a suitable work, he/she can be entitled to benefits during vocational rehabilitation. It is a condition that the ability to obtain employment income or possibility to choose occupation is permanently reduced by at least 50 per cent due to illness, injury or defect. The right of benefit during vocational training is established in the National Insurance Act.

A special qualification programme available entered into force on 1 November 2007. The programme is aimed at people with significantly impaired work capacity and earning ability and with little or very limited rights to subsistence benefits from the National Insurance scheme. This applies in particular to persons who, in the current system, become dependent on social security benefits over a prolonged period. The program will be offered nationwide by the end of 2009. The programme will be introduced throughout the country as the new NAV offices are established.

Fellowships for training

The National Norwegian Artistic Research Fellowships Programme is parallel to other research educations organized as academic PhD programmes. The programme intends to secure high level artistic research and leads to expertise as Associate Professor. The Artistic Research Fellowships Programme is among the first in this field in Europe.

The programme offers a three-year position as Research Fellow to candidates who have completed the highest art education within their subject area. The Fellow must be associated with one of the Norwegian institutions offering one or more creative and/or performing art educations. At the same time Fellows will participate in an interdisciplinary professional community which may differ from their own artistic position and specialisation.

The Programme is coordinated by Bergen National Academy of the Arts.

Research aid schemes

The Research Council of Norway is funding cultural research projects.

Promotion of copyright and neighbouring rights

Right-holder organizations such as TONO (composers) have courses, lectures and publications for members with the aim of promoting knowledge and awareness of copyright among its members. The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs does not have regular, coordinated activities in this area.

ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Governmental organizations working in the cultural sector:

Some of the central administrative tasks have been delegated to bodies subordinate to the Ministry's Department of Cultural Affairs. The most important of these are the Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs, the National Library, the National Archives, the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABMU), the Mass Media Authority and the Norwegian Film Fund.

(b) Ministries, councils and other government bodies in charge of culture:

The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Council for Cultural Affairs, the Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABMU) etc.

(c) Government authorities responsible for the social integration of disabled artists within the cultural sector:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV).

REGISTER OF ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

Culturenet.no is the official gateway to culture in Norway. The portal is initiated and financed by the The Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs. Culturenet.no is run by ABM-utvikling (The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority).

It provides an artist index with an overview of more than 10 000 professional artists, bands and performing groups either Norwegian or living in Norway.

Contact information:

Kulturnett.no/ ABM-utvikling
Postbox 8145 Dep, 0033 Oslo, Norway
E-mail: redaksjon@kulturnett.no

The Brønnøysund Register Centre (<http://www.brreg.no/english/registers/business/>) which is a government body under the Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, consists of several different national computerised registers (<http://www.brreg.no/english/registers/>).

Some artists and cultural workers are registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities.

Source: Ministry of Culture and Church, 2008.
<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/kkd.html?id=545>