

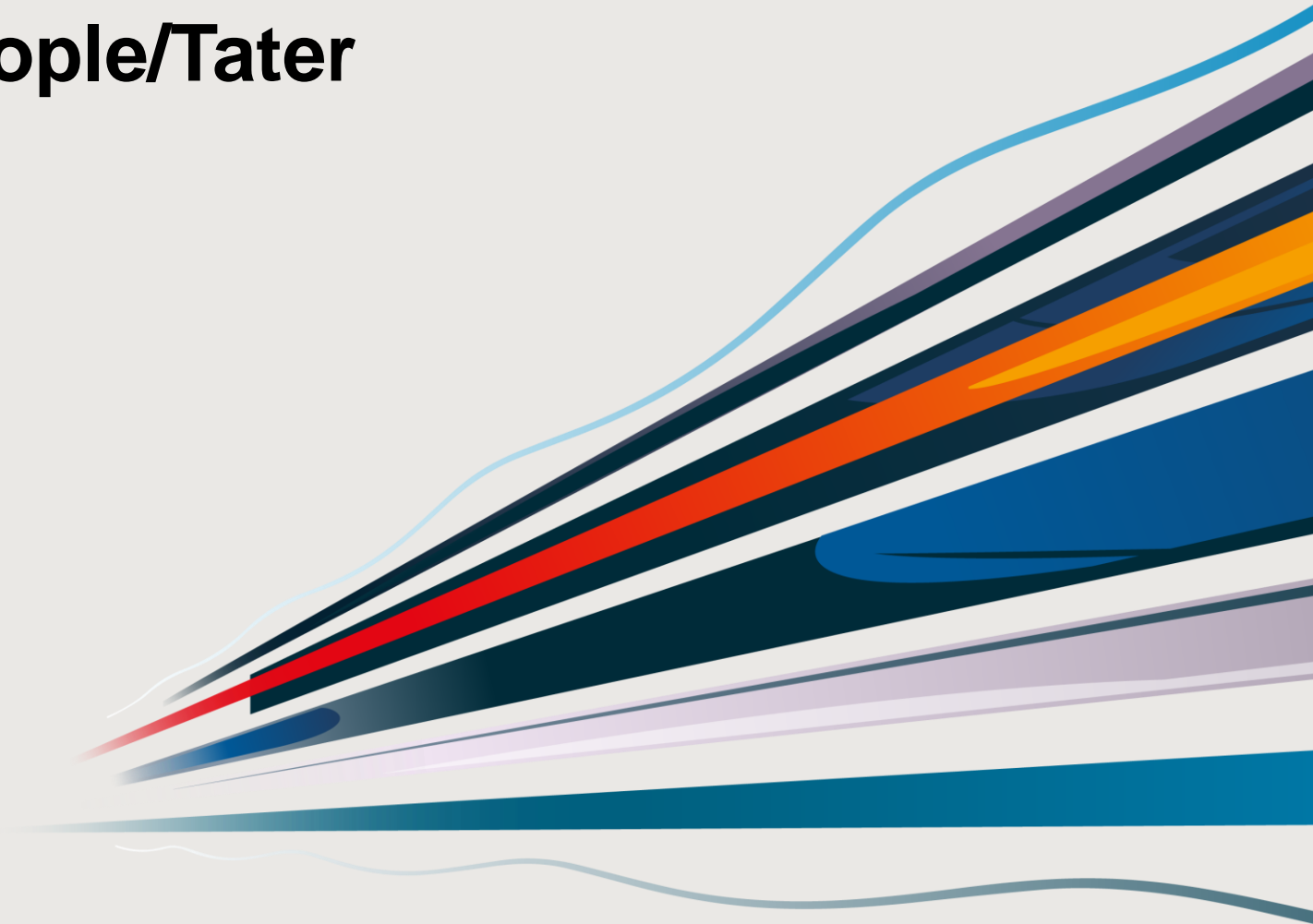


Norwegian Ministry  
of Local Government and Modernisation

# Norwegian policies towards Roma and Romani people/Tater

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Department of Sami and Minority Affairs

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# National minorities in Norway

- Kvens/Norwegian Finns, Jews, Forest Finns, Roma and Romani people/Tater
- No register based on ethnicity
- Public grants for self-organization, minority institutions and projects
- Contact Forum between national minority organizations and central authorities
- The Department of Sami and Minority Affairs coordinates policies
- 2,1 mill € to measures targeting Roma and Romani/Tater

# Roma in Norway

- 500–700 persons, residing mainly in Oslo
- Romanés as first language
- Reason to believe that school drop outs, access to housing and employment, discrimination and illiteracy are amongst the main challenges

# Historical policies towards Roma

- In the pre-war decades, Norwegian Roma were stigmatized, monitored, registered and spurned.
- In 1921, the Ministry of Social Affairs made clear its objective to have Roma expelled from the country. 68 Roma were expelled and refused entry in 1934.
- 66 Norwegian Roma were deported from occupied Belgium to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1942. Only four survived the war.
- The so-called "Gypsy-clause" remained part of Norwegian legislation until 1956.
- On 8 April 2015, Prime Minister Erna Solberg apologised to Norwegian Roma for past injustices. Promised a collective redress scheme.



# Policies towards Roma today

- Mentoring project for Roma pupils
- Romano Kher – Roma Culture and Resource Center
  - Cultural activities
  - Mediator service
  - After-school club for children and youth
  - TV-station: Nevimos Norvego





# Romani people/Tater (travellers) in Norway

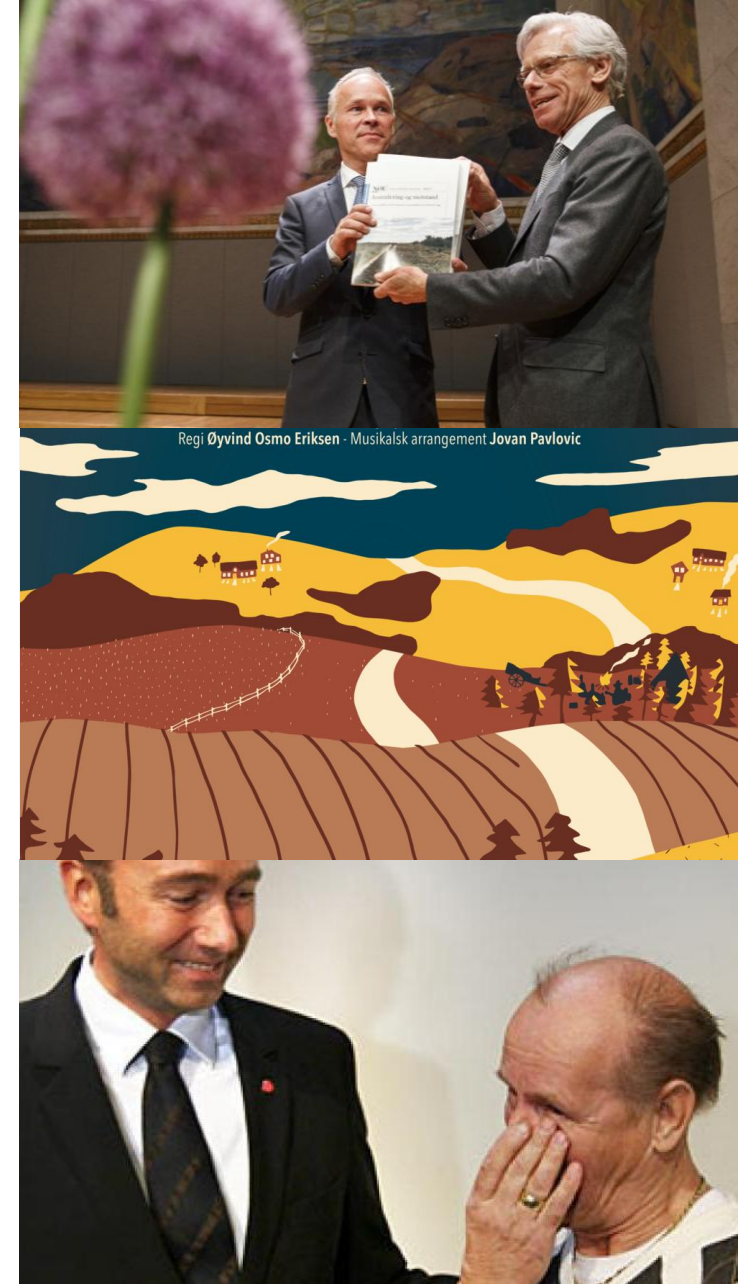
- Between a few thousand and ten thousand.
- Varying levels of education, different life situations, living conditions and ways of living.
- Reside all over the country.
- Norwegian as their first language.
- Romani language has adapted to local conditions and incorporated many Norwegian words.
- Variations in whether or not targeted measures are wanted by minority representatives.

# Historical policies towards Romani people/ Tater

- The culture and way of life of Romani should cease, with measures such as forced sterilisation, transfer of child custody and forced settlement.
- From 1900, in the course of two generations, 1/3 children were taken away by Child Welfare Services.
- Heavy-handed assimilation policies expressed through laws and legislative decrees. Discriminatory purposes and a clear discriminatory effect.
- Created negative prejudices, which has led to fear and distrust
- Study of two generations subject to these policies show alarmingly high mortality rates and significantly lower levels of education.
- Distrust of public authorities and low access to public services

# Policies towards Romani people/Tater today

- The Norwegian state apologized to the Romani people/Tater in 1998. Several ministers have repeated this apology.
- Ex gratia payment scheme in 2004. Allowed for compensation to those who had experienced forced sterilisation, forced settlement or bullying due to origins.
- Collective redress scheme to fund "measures and activities that promote the culture, language and history of the Romani people/Tater".
- Committee of independent experts tasked with documenting and assessing the previous policies and measures. The Tater/Romani Committee delivered its report 1 June 2015.







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# Thank you

Photo credit: HL-senteret, Kirkens Bymisjon, Vårt Land, Skøyerstaten teater,  
Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet, Aftenposten

