

# Norway in the internal market



The EEA EFTA States Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein are part of the EU's Internal Market through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement). The objective of the EEA Agreement is to promote continuous and balanced trade and economic relations.

The Internal Market thus comprises 30 countries, and not only the 27 EU Member States. The rules governing the free flow of labour, capital, goods and services in the Internal Market also apply to Norway. Therefore, Norwegian enterprises have the same rights and obligations as companies in the EU.

## Goods and services

The EEA is essentially a free trade area where goods, services, capital and persons can move freely, in an open and competitive environment.

In order to guarantee equal conditions for economic operators across the entire Internal Market, the EEA Agreement further covers competition, state aid and public procurement rules. The Agreement is continuously amended to reflect changes in the EU. So far, around 6 000 legal acts (directives, regulations and decisions) have been incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

The EEA Agreement covers all industrial products, processed agricultural products and most fishery products. Due to the agreement, Norway is subject to EU provisions regarding the Internal Market. The EU's competition rules, framework for public-sector purchases, product labelling requirements and environmental standards all apply to Norwegian companies.

The EEA Agreement ensures duty free trade between Norway and the EU Member States, provided that the products are covered by the agreement and originating in the EEA in accordance with the rules of origin. Through the EEA Agreement, the Internal Market is extended to Norway, but the agreement does not imply that Norway is included in the EU customs union. Thus, goods must be cleared through customs when passing between Norway and the EU.

Besides containing provisions relating to the four freedoms, the EEA Agreement focuses on cooperation in flanking areas such as research, education, social policy, tourism, public health and environment matters. Norway also participates in most EU-programmes in these areas on equal footing with the EU Member States.

## Enterprise Europe Network

Norway participates in the Enterprise Europe Network as a consequence of its involvement in the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.

There is a single network programme covering the whole of Norway and a commitment to the implementation of a 'no wrong door' policy. The lead partner for the programme is Innovation Norway which promotes nationwide industrial economic development. Both the business economy and Norway's wider national economy benefit from this integrated approach, which also helps to release the potential of different districts and regions by contributing towards innovation, internationalisation and promotion. Innovation Norway has offices in all of the Norwegian counties and in 30 countries worldwide. Our partners in the Enterprise Europe Network consist of five research institutes; SINTEF, the largest Scandinavian independent research organisation specialising in ICT, petroleum, environment, wood technology and health, MATFORSK dealing with all kinds of food research, IRIS, specialising in petroleum and marine environment and gas, CMR, specialising in advanced instrumentation, sub-sea and fire exploration technology; NORUT; specialising in fish, biotechnology and material technology.

The Enterprise Europe Network in Norway offers a range of partners who will contribute to the activities and development of the European Network in a positive and constructive way. We are committed to excellence and the provision of first class business support for Norwegian SMEs, and thereby contributing to overall European market competitiveness.



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