



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF LABOUR

The Norwegian strategy
– income security – inclusion in work force
and new employment and Welfare
Administration

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Norway in a nut-shell:

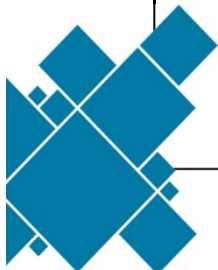
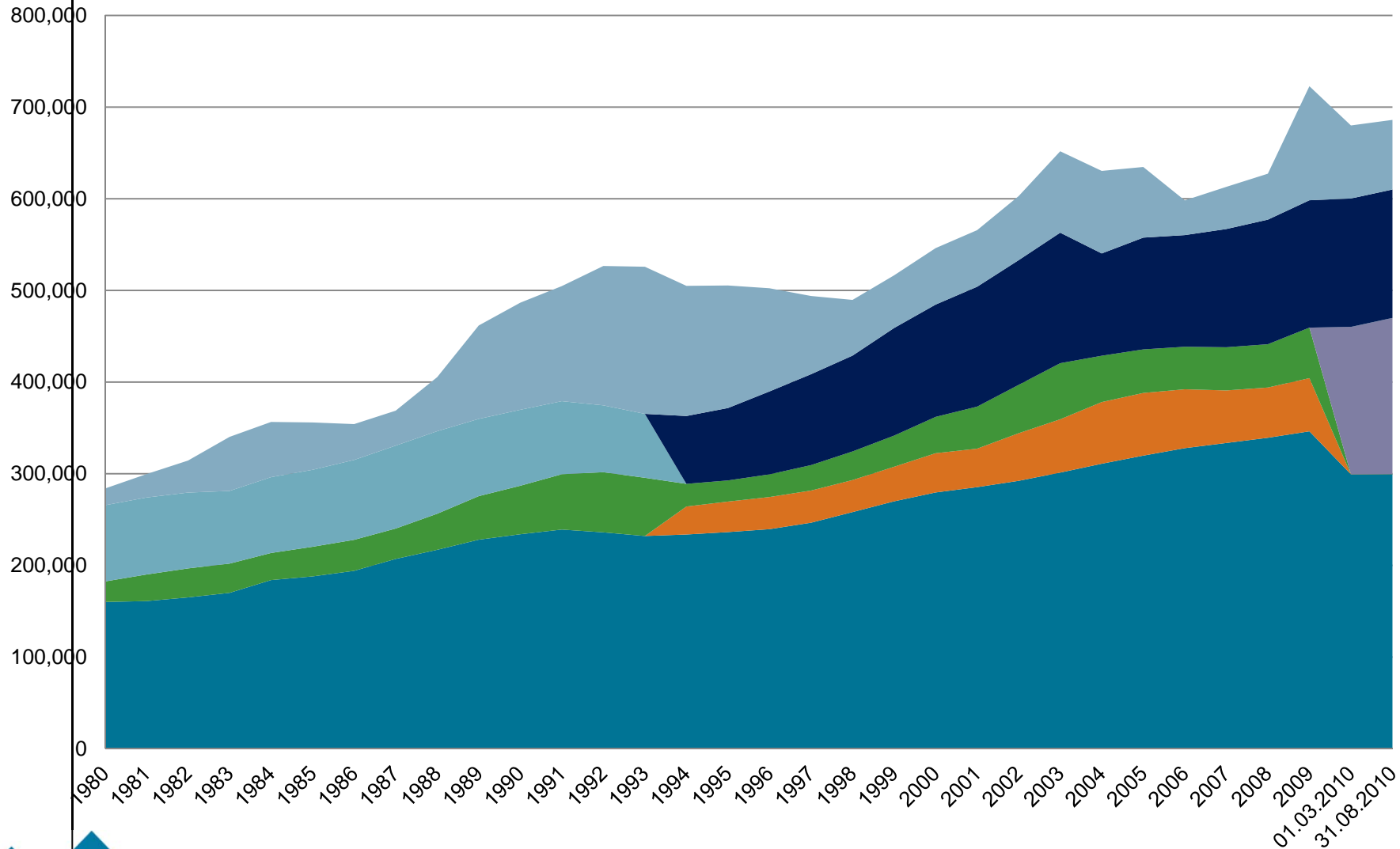


- 4.8 mill inhab
- A "rich" country
- A society built on a "Nordic welfare modell"
- UN: "one of the best countries to live in. Regarding standard of living, housing and overall health situation"
- But what about disability policies?

A paradise ?



Persons with work/health-related benefits under 67 years



- Disability benefits
- Medical Rehabilitation benefit ended 01.03.10
- Sickness benefit (1980-1993 estimated)
- Unemployment benefit
- Vocational Rehabilitation benefit ended 01.03.10
- Work assessment evaluation benefit from 01.03.10
- Sickness benefit (1994-2009 actual)



So what do we do ?

- **Social policy-regime** since early 1990s:
"work shall be your first option"

The "**work-line**" is the guideline !

- work is good for you and for your society
- work is good for your health
- work is a value for each individual
- we all need work or/activity
- focus on capacity - not incapacity
- A national tri-partite agreement on inclusion
- Creating a **new employment and welfare administration**
 - To do the **right thing** – we know what they are
 - **Keep it simple** – minimize resources and bureaucracy – help people in their local community





The main goals of the reform

- *“Work, Welfare and Inclusion ”*

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- More people in activity and work - reduce the number of persons depending on welfare benefits
- A more user-friendly, coordinated and holistic system
- A more effective employment and welfare administration





Establishing a new Employment and Welfare Administration

Merging

- The Public Employment Services,
- The National insurance Administration and
- The municipal social benefit administration

The aims are

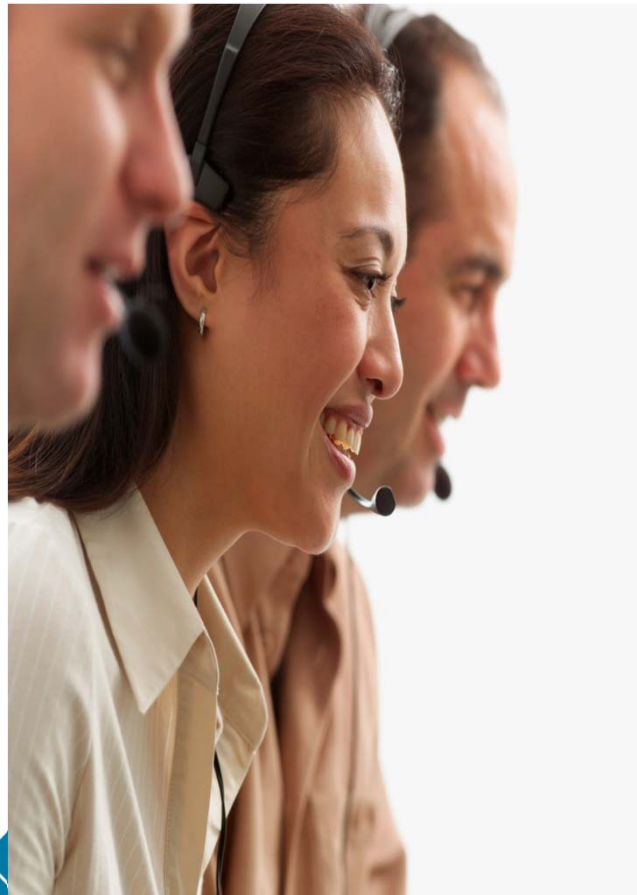
- Better coordination of benefits
- More effective and work-oriented casework
- More user-oriented services and individual participation

Gradual implementation

- Central agencies established in 2006
- Regional and local offices 2006-2010



Reform:
Labour market & rehabilitation measures
Flexibility & workability



Work assessment evaluation

Individual tailored Plan & Following up

All kinds of measures related to:
Employment
Qualification
Vocational
Medical
Personal
Training
etc





Summary

- We have a strong **belief in the value of work**
- We **cannot afford not** using our human capacity
- We need a **system that is efficient** and based on incentives for working rather than receiving benefits
- We knew that by integrating social security/social services and employment management with medical rehabilitation and health services, we would approach the whole person
- We knew this demanded a re-organization of the ministries + "local partnership" between state and local government

