



Norway's National Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032

Background

In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/74/135 proclaiming the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022–2032), based on a recommendation from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The purpose of IDIL 2022–2032 is to raise awareness about the critical situation of indigenous languages and mobilise governments and other stakeholders to preserve, revitalise and develop indigenous languages. The Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Sámediggi (the Sámi Parliament of Norway) have chosen to participate actively in the work on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

In 2021, in collaboration with UNESCO, indigenous peoples and nation-states prepared [the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#). The aim of the Global Action Plan is to ensure international cooperation and joint, coordinated action to support indigenous peoples and promote indigenous languages. The Global Action Plan calls for the development of national action plans that set national priorities and pave the way for national activities during the decade.

UNESCO is the secretariat for the IDIL 2022–2032, and its work on the decade is managed through the *Global Task Force for Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages* (GTF), which comprises representatives of states and indigenous peoples. The GTF will act as an international governance mechanism to ensure the equitable participation of all stakeholders in the International Decade, as well as provide guidance on the preparation, planning, implementation and follow-up of activities, in line with the objectives of the Global Action Plan. The Sámediggi and the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development are represented in the GTF.

Purpose

The Sámediggi and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development have jointly established a national collaboration forum for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032. The forum consists of various Sámi and other relevant institutions and organisations. The purpose of the national collaboration forum is to facilitate and coordinate Norway's actions taken as part of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The national collaboration forum shall help ensure that Sámi languages are a natural part of society in Norway, and that there are opportunities to *see, hear, learn* and *use* Sámi languages in everyday life. Different language communities have different linguistic needs and will therefore need different approaches and actions. The national collaboration forum will make arrangements that ensure that all the Sámi language communities can take part in the work on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The aim of the work is to support and promote the Sámi languages.

The national action plan will serve as a strategic framework for the work during the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, with the aim of preserving, promoting and developing the Sámi languages in Norway. The main objectives of the action plan for the decade have been determined, but the collaboration forum can adapt and modify the individual underlying goals as the decade



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progresses. The institutions and organisations represented in the national collaboration forum will implement and follow up the national action plan and help ensure that the objectives of the action plan are fulfilled.

Goals (SEE, HEAR, LEARN, USE)

SEE and HEAR

Main objective: *the Sámi languages are visible in society*

Background: The Sámi languages belong in Norway. We want the Sámi languages to be heard and seen throughout the entire country. This will benefit not only the people and communities who use the languages, but also the majority population. The Sámi languages are an important part of Norway's culture. The responsibility for preserving the Sámi languages lies with the whole of society.

Goals (we will work towards)

- Increase the number of events about and in the Sámi languages
- Display and use Sámi place and institution names
- Ensure that public bodies work to promote the objectives for the IDIL
- Increase Sámi media offerings
- Showcase Norway's commitment to the IDIL

LEARN

Main objective: *more training in Sámi – as a subject and medium*

Background: A major challenge today is that pupils who are taught Sámi and taught in Sámi do not become Sámi speakers. In order to preserve and develop the Sámi languages, the training provided in Sámi as a subject and as a medium must be of good quality.

Goals (we will work towards)

- Ensure that the educational offerings for children and young people are improved
- Increase access to learning resources in kindergartens and schools
- Improve adult education offerings
- Encourage more people to take higher education in Sámi languages
- Ensure that more people become and remain teachers
- Collaborate more with Finland and Sweden on the training in Sámi and taught in Sámi
- Work to increase the number of pupils in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education
- Ensure that everyone who lives in Norway can say a few simple words and phrases in a Sámi language

USE

Main objective: *it is possible to use the Sámi languages in all social arenas*



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Background: In order to preserve, revitalise and develop the Sámi languages, it is important that they are used in many different places and contexts.

Goals (we will work towards)

- Prepare action plans for the use of Sámi languages in the institutions and organisations we represent
- Encourage the use of Sámi languages and Sámi language technology tools throughout the whole of society
- Ensure that language technology is developed that enables the use of Sámi
- Ensure that the language technology developed is accessible to language users
- Ensure that there are digital solutions that make Sámi accessible