

- Terminology in Practice
- – development, dissemination, accessibility and the impact on national culture

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## • The Language Council of Norway

- The Norwegian state's consultative body on language issues.
- The Language Council is a state agency that follows up Norway's language policy on assignment for the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Equality.



# • Norwegian language

- 5.5 million daily speakers
- Two written standards and no official spoken standard.
- Norway's primary national language – cf. the Norwegian Language Act
- From around 2000: Risk of domain loss a political concern
- From mid 2000s: A new national language policy aimed at preventing domain loss and ensuring Norwegian terminology.

## Act relating to Language

Date	LOV-2021-05-21-42
Ministry	Ministry of Culture and Equality
Entry into force	01.01.2022
Last consolidated	<a href="#">LOV-2022-12-20-115</a>
Abbreviated title	The Language Act
Original title	Lov om språk (språkløva)

Amendment Acts incorporated in this text: Act 20 December 2022 No. 115.

This is an unofficial translation of the Norwegian version of the Act and is provided for information purposes only. Legal authenticity remains with the Norwegian version as published in Norsk Lovtidend. In the event of any inconsistency, the Norwegian version shall prevail.

The translation is provided by Ministry of Culture and Equality.

### Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the Norwegian language in order to safeguard it as a complete language, serving and uniting our society, that can be used in all areas of society and in all parts of civil society in Norway. The Act shall promote equality between Bokmål and Nynorsk and ensure the protection and status of the languages for which the state is responsible.

Other purposes of the Act are to ensure that

- public bodies take responsibility for using, developing and strengthening Bokmål and Nynorsk
- public bodies take responsibility for using, developing and strengthening Sami languages, cf. the rules in Chapter 3 of the Sami Act
- public bodies take responsibility for protecting and promoting Kven, Romani, Romanes and Norwegian sign language.

The responsibility pursuant to the second paragraph (a) includes a special responsibility for promoting Nynorsk, as the least used written Norwegian language.

## • Norway's national language policy – how does it work?

- Responsibility for defining policy goals and overseeing implementation of policies lays with Ministry of Culture and Equality.
- *Operational* responsibility for following up implementation of policies lays with Language Council.
- Language policy is cross-sectoral – viz., all public bodies must work towards national language policy goals.



## • Strategically important sectors

- Sector of higher education and research
- Health sector
- Digital domain of public sector
- Standardization sector



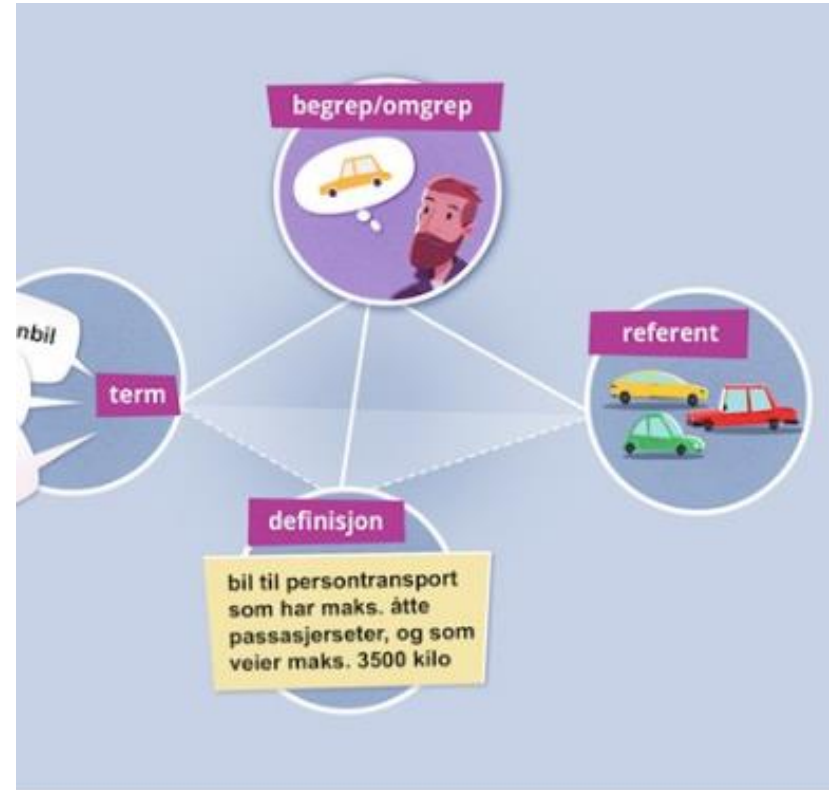
## • Higher education and research – crucial for Norwegian terminology

- Research is the most important source of new concepts and terms.
- The language used in higher education and research spreads to other areas of society.
- The higher education and research sector is increasingly dominated by English.



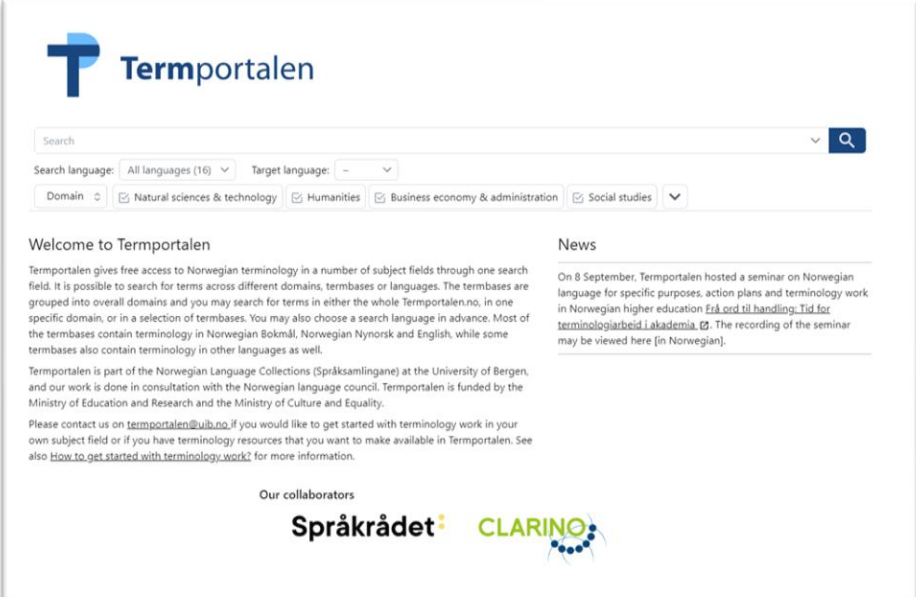
## • Educational tools

- E-learning course *Begrip begrepene!* (“Understand the concepts!”) freely available on the Norwegian state’s digital learning platform.
- Guidance from the Language Council to expert groups who want to work with developing terminology.



# • The Norwegian Terminology Portal

- Termportalen – a national web portal for termbases – established in 2021
- Governmental action plan for strengthening Norwegian for special purposes in higher education issued
- 2024: Call from the Norwegian Research council for a centre for Norwegian language for professional purposes.



The screenshot shows the homepage of Termportalen. At the top left is the logo, a blue stylized 'T' followed by the text 'Termportalen'. Below the logo is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Under the search bar are two dropdown menus: 'Search language:' set to 'All languages (16)' and 'Target language:' set to '-'. Below these are several domain filters with checkboxes: 'Natural sciences & technology', 'Humanities', 'Business economy & administration', and 'Social studies'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'Welcome to Termportalen' and contains a paragraph about the portal's purpose and a contact email 'termportalen@uib.no'. The right column is titled 'News' and contains a paragraph about a seminar held on September 8th, with a link to the recording. At the bottom, it says 'Our collaborators' and lists 'Språkrådet' and 'CLARINO' with their respective logos.



## • Terminology-related policies in various sectors



Increased awareness of importance of terminology due to digitisation of public sector.



Establishment of Norwegian terms high on the agenda of standardisation organisations over many years.



Norwegian version of SNOMED CT clinical terminology being introduced in the health sector.

## • What lies ahead for Norway's terminology work?



More awareness of the importance of terminology in all branches of society.



Efforts to create Norwegian-based GPT language models will accentuate the need for domain specific corpora and consistent terminology.



The convergence of various language policy related processes (terminology management, digitisation of services, AI-development, corpus-building etc.) may bolster support for a comprehensive and coherent national language policy.

Thank you for your attention!