



Utdannings-
direktoratet

Curricula, examinations and assessment for RML in Norway – Challenges and solutions

Introduction

- Norwegian is used by 95% of the population as a first language and has two separate written standards, Nynorsk and Bokmål.
- Norway is geographically a large country, and speakers of regional and minority languages are used by students in the whole of the country.
- Norway ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 1992.



An overview of RML in Norway

- Three Sami languages:
 - North Sami (15,000?)
 - Lule Sami (500?)
 - South Sami (300?)
- Kven (2,000+?)
- Romani
- Romanes



Teaching and curricula

- What does the Education Act state about pupils' rights to receive instruction in languages other than Norwegian?
 - A few schools use one of the Sami languages to teach all subjects
 - Pupils can choose to study Sami as their first tongue, and Norwegian as their second language
 - Pupils can choose to study Sami, Kven or Finnish as their second language, with Norwegian as their first language
- Sami and Finnish can also be studied as foreign languages
- Geographical challenges - pupils are spread over the whole of the country
- What about Romani and Romanes?



Exams and assessment

- Which RML can students take national written and local oral examination in?
- Who is responsible for the exams, and who constructs them?
- Challenges:
 - Few qualified teachers
 - Some disagreements regarding what is the correct written form of some languages
 - Differences regarding assessment criteria – what is important (cultural understanding, language correctness etc.)



Challenges and solutions

- Professional networks of teachers and languages professionals collaborate on writing examinations
- Distance learning
- Funding provided to develop teaching materials
- Support for teachers taking further education in some of the languages

