

City of Oslo  
Department of Education and Cultural Affairs

**Intercultural Cities Program Oslo**  
**City organisations and projects active in intercultural development**



**City Hall** is the seat of Oslo's parliamentary model of government. The City Council, with 59 representatives, is chaired by the mayor. The City Council selects a "government" of seven commissioners and a Chief Commissioner to administer city departments as well as to advise the City Council on policy matters and implement its resolutions. 12 of the 59 have minority background (20%).

Oslo is divided into 15 districts. Each has a district council, an administrative body and a director who is appointed by the City Government Commissioners.



**X-Ray** is a centre for youth culture in the inner city district of Grünerløkka; bringing youth of different backgrounds together in creative pursuits. It offers courses in music and dance, film and theatre, dj, radio and internet, mostly run by the youth themselves. With its café, studios and scenes, the centre has fostered many of artists and technicians of Oslo's entertainment world. It also functions as home for kids dropped out of school, helping them to get jobs. The ethos of the centre is intercultural, its leader this year being awarded the role-model price by the Department of children and equality.

Over the years, the centre has housed and worked with several youth organizations, working with cultural and educational issues, social issues and discrimination.



**OMOD** – Organization against Discrimination – works to ensure minority rights and equal opportunities, establishing relationships of consultancy with municipal and state authorities such as schools and the police.



**Afrikan Youth** is an organisation for youth with African descent living in Oslo. Using music, dance and poetry they transform cultural creativity into powerful expressions of empowerment and knowledge. **Afrikan History Week** is a cultural foundation presenting African history and culture in ways relevant in to living in the contemporary and cosmopolitan world of the big city.

**NORDIC BLACK THEATRE**

**Nordic Black Theatre** is a theatre and actor college, aimed at youth with origins in third world countries. It is housed in the theatre boat **Innvik** moored next to the opera.



**Oslo VO Smedstua** is a regional center for adult learning in the Grorud valley. At the center newly arrived immigrants learn Norwegian, and get assistance in developing and using their qualifications as quickly as possible after settling in Oslo. Many follow courses combining language classes and in-work training, being introduced to the local labour market. Some courses offer training in entrepreneurial skills. The center functions as a meeting place, introducing immigrants to the local community. Minority guidance workers give advice, helping the newly arrived to build networks in the community and bridge relationships with district officials.

almedie\*



**Almedie** is a youth media centre of the district of Alna in the Grorud valley. It helps youth to document and exhibit their own activities within art, sport and education through film, profiling and internet publishing.

The centre is a part of Trosterud Youth Club, and is a beacon project within the Grorud valley urban development program.



**TRVS** – The Tamil Resource and Guidance Centre – works for the successful integration of youth of Norwegian-Tamil descent in Oslo. The centre assists pupils with their school homework, organizes sport activities, and runs courses in Tamil language and culture. The activities are staged on a voluntary basis, often by university students, attracting youth of Somali, Pakistani and Norwegian background as well as Tamil.



The **Office of Diversity and Integration** (EMI) implements the OXLO programme, funds immigrant and minority organizations, and bridges their relationship with schools and municipal public services. EMI runs a monthly OXLO newsletter and the Contact forum, spreading knowledge about best practices.



RiO

The **Board of Immigrant Organizations** (RiO) is a consultative body, where the leader is elected by the city government and the members by immigrant organizations.

The **Agency of Health and Welfare** (HEV) funds several programs in partnership with voluntary organizations, assisting newly arrived immigrants to get jobs and settle in their communities. Some of these programs are organized by the Oslo Red Cross – such as the Refugee Guide program and the Oslo Mentor Network.



Røde Kors Oslo

Besides offering services for refugees, the **Oslo Red Cross** organize four youth resource centres, aiding youth with school homework.



**Gamlebyen primary school** is a celebrated example of intercultural education in Oslo, known for using art and symbols, film and literature originating from the four corners of the world, to foster a common identity among pupils across their diverse backgrounds.

The **Diversity Mirror** is a benchmarking tool used by schools and public services.

Minority language resource network (**MIR**) organizes parents, enhancing the capacity of schools to solve diversity and integrations issues, and mobilize parents to participate in parent meetings, school boards and social events.



The **MiFA** access program at the University of Oslo works towards increasing the number of students with minority backgrounds at the university, accommodating an intercultural study environment and increasing the rate of recruitment of minority graduates into the labour market.





**Oslo Ladegård** is the venue of the media session, where representatives of NRK and newspapers local to Oslo are invited, including the **Leadership Foundation**, the organizers of the Top 10 event celebrating successful immigrants in Norway.

The building from 1725 is built on the 13. century foundation of the court of the bishop, then at the central square of the medieval city of Oslo.



The **Office of the Grov valley urban development programme** coordinates the joint initiatives of state, municipal and local community stakeholders in the regeneration projects. The fourth strand of the programme centres on inclusion, youth and living conditions. The programme puts an emphasis on consultancy, participation and voluntary commitment.



The **Service Office for Business** aids small businesses in starting up in Oslo, of which one in three have minority backgrounds. The session on business includes contributions from The **NHO** - Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise, **Habberstad** Management Consultants and **Alfathi**, a halal meat subsidiary of Gilde.



JA-YE (**Ungt Entreprenørskap**) creates links between education and business, through programmes where students start up small enterprises throughout the school year.



Diversity at Work (**MiA**) aims to contribute to work environments where diversity is a value added for businesses. MiA has worked to adapt the Norwegian business' cultural and employees competence with different ethnic and national backgrounds to develop a more cohesive work environment

#### Internett resources – some with pages in English

[www.byrådsavdeling-for-kultur-og-utdanning.oslo.kommune.no](http://www.byrådsavdeling-for-kultur-og-utdanning.oslo.kommune.no)  
[www.bydel-grunerlokka.oslo.kommune.no/enhet\\_for\\_mangfold\\_og\\_integrering/oxlo](http://www.bydel-grunerlokka.oslo.kommune.no/enhet_for_mangfold_og_integrering/oxlo)  
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[www.omod.no](http://www.omod.no)  
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[www.nordicblacktheatre.no](http://www.nordicblacktheatre.no)  
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**Joint action of the Council of Europe and the European Commission**