

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY NORWAY

ELECTRONIC PUBLIC RECORDS – EINNSYN - EASY ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

einnsyn.no

I. Description

- **1. Brief description:** A web-based search page that is developed in order to give easy access to public records for the citizens of Norway. Electronic Public Records is a joint publishing system which allows government bodies and the municipality of Oslo to publicize public records online. The aim of Electronic public records is to make the public sector more open and accessible to the citizens by utilizing today's technology.
- **2. Type:** Governmental
- **3. Scope:** National
- **4. Working language(s):** Norwegian - English
- **5. Target users:** Citizens of Norway
- **6. Starting year:** 2010
- **7. Budget and funding source:** Around 1 mill EUR/year, governmental funded
- **8. Contact:**
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II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context:** Norway has a long tradition and strong legislation regarding openness and transparency in the public sector.
- **10. Partner organizations involved:** Municipality of Oslo
- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** All governmental bodies which serves the whole country and the municipality of Oslo. Benefits is to is to make the public sector more open and accessible to the citizens
- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment:** The users need access to public records. EPR has regularly contact with relevant user groups such as journalists.
- **13. Technology choice:** Data transmitted on XML format. Stardog triple store database with Elastic Search engine in a semantic setup.

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:** Governmental bodies publicize all their public journal on EPR.
- **15. Efficiency gains:** Citizens and journalists have easy access to public records.
- **16. Risks:** Privacy needs to be thoroughly and systematically taken care of.
- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):**

- **18. Lessons learned:** Communication between all included parties is essential and things take time.
- **19. Conditions for successful replication:** Necessary legislation and digitized proceedings and archives.
- **20. Overall assessment of the tool:** EPR is fulfilling its goal as the operationalization of the Norwegian legislation regarding openness and transparency for the public sector. Both citizens and journalists are very satisfied.