

European Youth Forum

Date: 24 January 2023

Letter of support – Tromsø's candidacy for European Youth Capital

Lovlab (Legislation Lab) support the city of Tromsø's candidature for European Youth Capital 2025 and their ambitions to increase youth participation and young citizenship in the city and the region.

There are several initiatives to strengthen the involvement of youth in legislative decision-making processes at the national level in Norway. At the Lovlab (Legislation Lab), Faculty of Law, The University of Oslo, we are developing methods for such involvement. The head of the Lab – Jon Christian Fløysvik Nordrum – has sought to implement such methods as chair of two Cabinet-appointed Law Commissions: The Law Commission (2017–2019) presenting a new education law and the Law Commission mandated in 2021 by the Cabinet and the Parliament to propose a new act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in waterways. The latter is currently cooperating with the Municipality of Tromsø and Tvibit on designing and executing an innovative youth participation process in developing and revising the Act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in waterways.

Although there is an increasing understanding of both the obligation to include youth in national legislative and other decision-making processes, and the benefits of doing so, the framework for this work is fragmented and underdeveloped. There are currently no regulations or guidelines that ensure that participation of children and young people is part of the mandates for Law Commissions in matters concerning young people. Further, the lack of competence and methodological guidelines raises the threshold for getting started with participation processes.

At the Legislation Lab, we seek to further the national initiatives to contribute to a national framework for involving youth in legislative decision-making processes. The cooperation between Lovlab, the Law Commission and the Municipality of Tromsø and Tvibit is a vital part of this effort. We consider the candidacy of the Municipality of Tromsø as the perfect venue to raise broad national awareness of youth-cooperation in legislative decision-making-processes. These projects will clearly contribute to establish a general methodology for inclusion of youth in national legislative decision-making processes, which is necessary to fulfill the obligations enshrined in the Norwegian Constitution Article 104 on the rights of children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Postal address:
Postbox 6706
St. Olavs plass 5
0130 OSLO Norway

Visiting address:
Domus Bibliotheca
Karl Johans gate 47
0162 OSLO Norway

Phone: +47 228 59421
Fax: +47 228 59420
E-mail: ior-www@jus.uio.no
www.jus.uio.no/ior

Sincerely yours



Jon Christian Fløysvik Nordrum

Associate professor of legislative studies, Faculty of Law, University of Oslo

Head of the Lovlab (Legislation Lab), Faculty of Law, University of Oslo

(Chair of the cabinet appointed Law Commission mandated to propose a new act relating to motor traffic on uncultivated land and in waterways 2021–2023.)

(Chair of the cabinet appointed Law Commission mandated to propose a new education act 2017–2019.)