

## Norway

### 1. *Industrial Strategy*

Norway's industrial policy emphasizes promoting innovation, advancing green energy, and improving competitiveness across key sectors such as energy, maritime, and technology. In 2025, the **White Paper of the Norwegian Government** identifies six industrial policy priorities:

1. Ensuring access to clean and affordable power,
2. Ensuring access to competent workforce and well-organized work life,
3. Guaranteeing innovative development and utilization of new technology,
4. Supporting the low emission society,
5. Encouraging good market access,
6. Supporting the Government's security and emergency preparedness policy.<sup>1</sup>

The country's **Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3)** is central to its industrial development. This strategy targets sectors like energy, agriculture, and digital technologies, aiming to foster innovation and growth based on Norway's industrial strengths.<sup>2</sup>

The **Norway's Climate Action Plan for 2021-2030** aims to reduce emissions by encouraging investments in renewable energy, green technologies, and energy efficiency. This initiative is designed to ensure that the industrial sector contributes to the country's broader sustainability goals.<sup>3</sup>

Furthermore, the Norwegian government actively supports the development of industry clusters in sectors such as maritime, digital technologies, and green energy. The **Norwegian Maritime Cluster** unites companies and research bodies to enhance innovation,<sup>4</sup> while the **Norwegian Green industry Innovation** initiative focuses on sustainable technologies such as

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Norway, 'The Government Will Strengthen the Competitiveness of Industry' <<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/regjeringen-vil-styrke-industriens-konkurransekraft/id3094080/>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>2</sup> European Commission, Regional Profile: Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) 2025 <[https://ec.europa.eu/assets/rtd/ris/2025/ec\\_rtd\\_ris-regional-profile-no.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/assets/rtd/ris/2025/ec_rtd_ris-regional-profile-no.pdf)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Cluster Collaboration, 'Norwegian Maritime Cluster on an Export Course. Hue Activates Nuclear Drive' <<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/content/norwegian-maritime-cluster-export-course-he-activates-nuclear-drive>> accessed 4 September 2025.

renewable energy and electric vehicles.<sup>5</sup> These clusters drive collaboration, research, and commercialization, boosting competitiveness and attracting investment.

## 2. *Digital (Development) Strategy*

Norway's digital transformation is guided by the **National Digitalisation Strategy 2024-2030**, which aims to enhance public services through expanded e-services and improved digital infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> The **Norwegian AI Strategy** promotes innovation in artificial intelligence across industries like healthcare and energy.<sup>7</sup>

Additionally, the Government supports **Smart Cities** projects, integrating digital technologies into urban development for better sustainability and efficiency.<sup>8</sup> Projects like **Oslo Smart city** leverage smart grids, digital mobility solutions, and data-driven decision-making to reduce carbon emissions and improve resource management.<sup>9</sup> The strategy encourages collaboration between municipal authorities, technology providers, and research institutions, aiming to establish scalable providers that can be replicated across other cities in Norway and Europe.<sup>10</sup>

## 3. *Main Constitutional Provisions*

The Norwegian Constitution provides a legal foundation for state intervention in economic matters. Article 105 enables state planning for economic development, including strategic sectors vital to national interests.<sup>11</sup> Article 106 grants the government the authority to regulate economic activities.<sup>12</sup> Article 112 addresses environmental protection, emphasizing the state's

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<sup>5</sup> Government of Norway, 'Green Industry Innovation – Fact Sheet Update' (2015) <[https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/29b97a7e67b44efb96001532de3a6e2e/gammelt/sector-2015\\_green-industry-innovation-fact-sheet-update\\_v01.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/29b97a7e67b44efb96001532de3a6e2e/gammelt/sector-2015_green-industry-innovation-fact-sheet-update_v01.pdf)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Government of Norway, 'Digitalization Strategy' (2020) <[https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/c499c3b6c93740bd989c43d886f65924/en-gb/pdfs/digitaliseringsstrategi\\_eng.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/c499c3b6c93740bd989c43d886f65924/en-gb/pdfs/digitaliseringsstrategi_eng.pdf)> accessed 4 September 2025, 7-10, 12-15.

<sup>7</sup> Government of Norway, 'Artificial Intelligence Strategy' (2020) <[https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/1febbbb2c4fd4b7d92c67ddd353b6ae8/en-gb/pdfs/ki-strategi\\_en.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/1febbbb2c4fd4b7d92c67ddd353b6ae8/en-gb/pdfs/ki-strategi_en.pdf)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Government of Norway, 'Support Statement from the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, Erling Sande, on Urban Climate Contracts' (2021) <<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/4382cfccc32749e6bc17004ada7f3d79/stotteerklaring-fra-kommunal-og-distriktsminister-erling-sande-til-byenes-klimakontrakter.pdf>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>9</sup> URBACT, Oslo Integrated Action Plan (IAP) (2023) <[https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/oslo\\_iap\\_final.pdf](https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/2023-04/oslo_iap_final.pdf)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Government of Norway, *The Constitution of Norway* (revised 2008), Art. 105.

<sup>12</sup> Idem, Art. 106.

responsibility to ensure sustainable development.<sup>13</sup> These provisions empower the government to promote industrial growth, technological innovation, and environmental sustainability.

#### ***4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments***

Norway's industrial and digital policies are supported by key regulatory provisions aimed at fostering innovation and sustainability and economic growth.

- **The Energy Act (2020)** regulates the management and distribution of energy resources, including electricity, oil, and gas sectors.<sup>14</sup>
- **The Design Protection Act (2003)** governs intellectual property rights, ensuring protection for innovations, patents, trademarks, and designs.<sup>15</sup>
- **The Research Ethics Act (2017)** promotes collaboration between industries and research institutions to commercialize innovative technologies.<sup>16</sup>
- **The Act on the Management of Alternative Investment Funds (2023)** streamlines investment procedures and regulations, encouraging both domestic and foreign investments in Norwegian industries.<sup>17</sup>
- **The Environmental Protection Act (2001)** establishes regulations for environmental protection, including standards for waste management, pollution control, and conservation.<sup>18</sup>

#### ***5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to which Norway is a Signatory***

Norway participates in several key regional economic treaties, that facilitate trade, investment, and cooperation across various sectors:

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<sup>13</sup> Idem, Art. 112.

<sup>14</sup> The Energy Act No. 50 of 1990 <[https://climate-laws.org/document/the-energy-act-no-50-of-1990\\_f8a0](https://climate-laws.org/document/the-energy-act-no-50-of-1990_f8a0)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>15</sup> World Intellectual Property Organisation, 'Legislation Details' <<https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/legislation/details/22519>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>16</sup> Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees, 'The Act on Ethics and Integrity in Research' <<https://www.forskningsetikk.no/en/resources/the-research-ethics-library/legal-statutes-and-guidelines/the-act-on-ethics-and-integrity-in-research/>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>17</sup> Act No. 28 of 2014 <<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NLE/lov/2014-06-20-28>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>18</sup> Svalbard Environmental Protection Act <<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/svalbard-environmental-protection-act/id173945/>> accessed 4 September 2025.

- The **European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement** allows Norway to participate in the European Single Market, benefiting from the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.<sup>19</sup>
- The **EFTA (European Free Trade Association) Agreement (1960)** allows Norway to access to free trade agreements with several countries outside the EU including Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Iceland.<sup>20</sup>
- The **Canada- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (2009)** removing barriers, promotes investment, and economic cooperation between Norway and Canada in sectors such as investment, intellectual proper, and services.<sup>21</sup>
- The **EFTA-Korea Free Trade Agreement (2006)** allows Norwegian companies to benefit from reduced tariffs and greater access to South Korean markets.<sup>22</sup>

## 6. *Plurilaterals*

Norway participates in several plurilateral agreements. As a WTO member, it is part of the government Procurement Agreement (GPA), which allows Norwegian companies to access government procurement markets in over 40 countries, including the EU, the US, and Japan,<sup>23</sup> as well as the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), a WTO agreement aimed at reducing tariffs in information technology products.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, Norway, is a signatory to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which simplifies and standardizes customs procedures worldwide,<sup>25</sup> and the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), which focuses on reducing tariffs on environmental goods, particularly products that contribute to sustainable

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<sup>19</sup> European Commission, 'European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement' <<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/access-to-markets/en/content/european-economic-area-eea-agreement>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>20</sup> European Free Trade Association, 'About EFTA: European Free Trade Association' <<https://www.efta.int/about-efta/european-free-trade-association>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>21</sup> Government of Canada, 'Canada-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement' <<https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/european-association-europeenne/fta-ale/background-contexte.aspx?lang=eng>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>22</sup> European Free Trade Association, 'EFTA-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement' <<https://www.efta.int/trade-relations/free-trade-network/republi-c-korea>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>23</sup> <sup>46</sup> World Trade Organisation, 'Agreement on Government Procurement' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/gproc\\_e/gp\\_gpa\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gp_gpa_e.htm)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>24</sup> <sup>47</sup> World Trade Organisation, 'Information Technology Agreement' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/inftec\\_e/inftec\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/inftec_e/inftec_e.htm)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>25</sup> World Trade Organisation, 'Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)' <[https://www.wto.org/english/docs\\_e/legal\\_e/tfa\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/tfa_e.htm)> accessed 4 September 2025.

development, including renewable energy technologies, water treatment, and pollution control equipment.<sup>26</sup>

As a member of the OECD, Norway follows the OECD's analytical framework on industrial subsidies, assessing and managing state support to avoid distortions in competition.<sup>27</sup>

It also participates in the EU's Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs), which are large-scale, transnational projects, aimed at advancing innovation in key areas such as microelectronics, green hydrogen, and batteries.<sup>28</sup>

Furthermore, Norway actively takes part in the Nordic-Baltic cooperation (NB8) strengthening ties with Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden.<sup>29</sup> They cooperate to advance shared political, economic, and security goals as well as to promote sustainable development and regional stability.<sup>30</sup>

#### ***7. Proceedings Initiated Against Norway, or by It, Before International Fora for Adoption/Implementation of Industrial Policy Measures (e.g. Before WTO Panels, the WTO's AB)***

Norway has rarely been involved in formal WTO disputes regarding its industrial policies, as it aligns its measures with EU and EFTA regulations as well as WTO standards. As a member of EFTA, it follows the same rules as EU countries in state aid and industrial subsidies.<sup>31</sup> However, Norway's electric vehicle incentives, such as tax exemptions and financial subsidies, are regularly reviewed under EU state aid rules to ensure that they comply with competition laws and do not distort the market.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> World Trade Organisation, 'Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA0' <[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/ega\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/ega_e.htm)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>27</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 'Members and partners' <<https://www.oecd.org/en/about/members-partners.html>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>28</sup> European Commission. 'Microelectronics Value Chain' (IPCEI) <[https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei/approved-ipceis/microelectronics-value-chain\\_en](https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/ipcei/approved-ipceis/microelectronics-value-chain_en)> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>29</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, 'Nordic-Baltic Cooperation (NB8)' <<https://www.urm.lt/en/lithuania-in-the-region-and-the-world/regional-cooperation/nordic-baltic-cooperation-nb8/1004>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Government of Norway, 'Norway is Electric' <<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/transport-and-communications/veg/faktaartikler-vei-og-ts/norway-is-electric/id2677481/>> accessed 4 September 2025; Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association, 'Norwegian EV Policy' <<https://elbil.no/english/norwegian-ev-policy/>> accessed 4 September 2025.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

