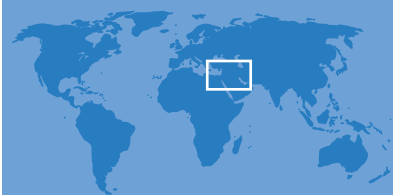


Serbia (including Kosovo)



Serbia and Kosovo are the largest recipients of Norwegian assistance in the Balkans. In 2007, Serbia was a politically split country dominated by issues related to the handling of Kosovo and the country's strategic alignment. The failure to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), delayed the country's process towards closer integration with the EU. In Kosovo too, 2007 was marked by inertia owing to the long drawn out process of clarifying the UN-controlled province's ultimate status.

Serbia

The aim of Norwegian assistance to Serbia has been to progress the construction of democratic institutions in the country and to support the country's reform process with an eye to its desire for future membership in the EU. Close cooperation with Serbian authorities has enabled identification of projects which are key to the country's ability to attain European standards. In many such projects, Norwegian and Serbian institutions have forged collaborative relations. Norway has, in part through the agency of the Norwegian Mapping Authority, contributed to the compilation of a national

register of property featuring a digitalised property map. The project is important in enabling Serbia more rapidly to meet the EU requirement of a transparent land register, which is essential to attract foreign investors. The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate has transferred expertise for the development of a modern and efficient hydrometeorological institute that will strengthen the development of the country's hydropower sector.

Norway has also focused on developing Serbia's security sector, in particular, ensuring democratic control of the armed forces. Through the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norway has also contributed to the development of the local government sector in Serbia. Further, Norway has prioritised support to development projects in the poor and ethnically mixed areas bordering Kosovo.

Kosovo

The aim of assistance to Kosovo has been to build up democratic institutions, contribute to economic development and secure the minorities' future.

Norway has allocated substantial support to the Kosovo Property Agency which has registered more than 39,000 claims on properties and made a decision on more than 5,000 such claims. This is a key process with regard to the return of internally displaced persons and to the development of a functioning real estate market in Kosovo.

Further, Norway wishes to contribute, through a number of initiatives, to enabling ethnic minorities, particularly Serbs and Roma people, to remain in Kosovo. Initiatives designed to promote inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation processes were continued, partly through support allocated to the Nansen Dialogue Network.

Kosovo is struggling with slow economic growth and high unemployment, particularly among young people. Norway, therefore gives priority to private sector development, including through measures to develop agriculture along with employment initiatives under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Facts

Estimated population: 7.4 million

Gross national income per capita (2006): USD 4,030

Average annual economic growth (GDP) (2000-2006): 5.1%

Economic structure: percentage of GDP by sector (2006): agriculture 13%, industry 26%, services 62%
Malnutrition among children under 5 years of age (2005): 1.6%

Human Development Index (HDI) Level (2005): Unavailable

Child mortality rate per 1000 (2006): 8

HIV infection rate, 15-49 age group (2006): Unavailable

Children in primary education (2007): 95.1%

Ratio of girls to 100 boys in primary/secondary/tertiary education (2007): 100/1003/Unavailable

Percentage of women in parliament (2008): 20.4%

Estimated pay for women as percentage of men's pay in the formal sector: Unavailable

Forested area (change (1990-2005), negative numbers indicate deforestation as a percentage): Unavailable

Area protected to conserve biological diversity (2006): 2.7%

Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water (2006): 99%
Corruption Perception Index (TI) (2006): 2007: 3.4 The index ranges from 10 to 0, where 10 is totally clean and 0 is totally corrupt.

Defence spending as a percentage of GDP: Unavailable

Bilateral assistance¹ for Serbia, by partner, 2007

Development cooperation partners	NOK 1000	Per cent
Government-to-government, etc. ²	129 141	54,0
International NGOs	3 200	1,3
Local NGOs	7 837	3,3
Norwegian NGOs	67 849	28,4
Regional NGOs	1 561	0,7
Nordic research institutions/foundations	3 218	1,3
Multilateral organisations ³	26 207	11,0
Totalt	239 013	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance

2) Including public institutions, ministries, consultants, the private sector, etc.

3) Earmarked assistance channelled through multilateral organisations (multi-bilateral)

Bilateral assistance¹ for Serbia, by sector, 2007

Sectors	NOK 1000	Per cent
Economic development and trade	34 837	14,6
Emergency relief and other unspecified assistance	16 876	7,1
Environment and energy	9 637	4,0
Good governance	137 347	57,5
Health, education and other social sector areas	40 317	16,9
Totalt	239 013	100,0

1) Includes multi-bilateral assistance