



The Oslo Cultural Rucksack



A National Programme

Through The Cultural Rucksack (TCR) all pupils in Norwegian schools will enjoy a wide range of cultural and artistic productions. At every stage through elementary and secondary education they will, free of cost, attend cultural events within school hours.

The Cultural Rucksack is a co-operation between the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Culture, run by a national steering committee for TCR respecting the principles of regional and local ownership and management. Centres of competence from a wide range of cultural expressions (film, literature, music, performing arts and visual arts) support the development of productions in different ways; some economically, some by offering advice, some by networking, and so forth. The cultural event calendars are made regionally by counties and municipalities, and presented to the schools.

TCR is mainly funded by the surplus from the state owned gaming company (Norsk Tipping). The Ministry of Culture allocates the funds to the regional counties, according to a formula that considers geography, demography and infrastructure. One third of the county's funding is transferred directly to the local municipalities, one third stays with the county, and one third is left to be distributed freely between them.

Some large municipalities have chosen to take full responsibility for administering the programme, and will receive the entire sum, without any allocation from the regional county. Alta, Bergen and Stavanger are city municipalities that have made this choice, and they are referred to as direct municipalities or 100% municipalities.

A Cultural Rucksack – why?

A teacher's reply when asked about the importance of TCR.

To me The Cultural Rucksack opens doors to various cultural expressions to students who differ greatly in what they have experienced on their own. Sometimes the productions are easily integrated with our teaching, at other occasions they will function as points of references we may use throughout the year. Still, most important to me is the general cultural education TCR offers. At what other time in their lives would my students experience absurd theatre or modern dance, or be given the opportunity to play records under the skillful guidance of a professional DJ?



Foto: Torleif Kvinnesland



Foto: Rythm roots and revolution

TCR is particularly relevant to the Core Curriculum in the National Curriculum for Knowledge Promotion
http://www.udir.no/globalassets/upload/larerplaner/generell_del/5/core_curriculum_english.pdf
TCR will connect with themes and methods found in subjects and teaching goals.



Objectives and Principles

The Objectives of The Cultural Rucksack

- To contribute to letting pupils enjoy artistic and cultural productions performed by professionals
- To facilitate the pupils' access to a wide range of cultural experiences, so that they can become acquainted with and will develop an understanding of culture in all its forms.
- To assist schools in integrating different forms of cultural expressions in their own efforts to attain learning goals.



Objectives and Principles

Programme Principles

The Cultural Rucksack shall be developed and assessed based on a set of principles:

- **A permanent programme:** TCR should be a permanent programme for school pupils.
- **For all pupils:** TCR is intended for all pupils in primary and secondary education, regardless of economical, social, ethnical og religious background or the individual school they attend.
- **Achievement of the goals in the national curriculum:** The content of TCR should be in line with the goals of the national curriculum (Core Curriculum and subject curriculums)
- **High quality:** The artistic and cultural programme offered to the pupils should be of high artistic quality and professional standard.
- **Diversity:** TCR should include artistic and cultural expressions from a diversity of cultures and historical periods.
- **A wide range:** Music, theatre, the visual and performing arts, film, literature and cultural heritage should all be represented in TCR, and should be presented in a variety of forms.
- **Regular access:** The pupils should have regular access to art and cultural activities in every school grade.
- **Cultural-school cooperation:** The school and cultural sectors at every level should cooperate closely on TCR. The schools should be involved in the programme and given time to plan for various activities.
- **Division of roles:** The school sector is responsible for preparations and follow-up activities, while the cultural sector is responsible for artistic and cultural content, and information.
- **Local responsibility and ownership:** The individual school, the municipality and the county should all be involved in TCR, in order to ensure involvement among all parties and allow for local variation.



Extent and Economy*

On a national scale:

- About 200 million NOK allocated yearly from the surplus from the state-owned gaming company Norsk Tipping.
- In addition the School Concert Programme is financed over Norway's National Budget. The programme is run by Concerts Norway, Norway's largest communicator of live music, owned by the Ministry of Culture. All pupils in compulsory education will attend two concerts yearly.
- The programme covers all pupils in first and secondary education, public and private schools alike (3300 schools, 814 600 pupils).

In Oslo

- Oslo receives about 15 million NOK of the annual funding
- In addition, pupils in the Municipality of Oslo will also attend two concerts yearly from Concerts Norway, partly financed by the National Budget and partly by subscription (at a cost of 1.6 million NOK)
- In Oslo, the programme offers about 120 different productions to a total of 200 schools and 82 000 pupils, with a daily average of 17 different events.



The Oslo model – 4 categories

1. A compulsory schedule for all pupils stages 1 – 10, ensuring that all pupils will experience two or three professional performances of art and culture every year, regardless of how the individual school emphasizes the use of arts and culture in their teaching.
2. An optional programme, on request for teachers year 1-13. This also includes some larger productions that emphasize pupil involvement and deeper commitment. The optional programme encourages school ownership and gives them the opportunity to choose targeted productions.
3. Projects designed to enhance school development years 1– 13 based on applications from schools. Art and culture will be used to approach challenges at school. Representatives from the schools will meet and receive tuition from Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences.
4. Bonus productions years 1– 13. Schools may apply for financial support to let pupils take part in events or workshops of their own choice. The school, teacher or the pupil will seek out and choose, plan, organize and carry through. Quality will be assessed according to TCR principles and standards.



Developing the Annual Event Calendar

- Artists and cultural institutions will hand in their production prospects for TCR by Nov. 1.
- Board members representing a variety of cultural expressions will assess the prospects, according to three sets of criteria
 - Artistic idea, originality and commitment
 - Artistic expertise and skills, ability to communicate
 - Relevance for target audience
- A board with members from both the school and the cultural sectors will make the final selection based on quality and relevance.
- The staff of TCR will plan the scope of and make a budget for the productions that will be included in the programme, and settle agreements about scope, conditions and dates with the individual performer.
- Information material is developed and distributed to the schools.
- The dates for the permanent, compulsory productions are set when the autumn term begins, and the first events will take place in August or September.
- The optional part of the programme is presented when the autumn term begins, so that the schools can apply immediately and receive information about their assigned productions by the end of September. The optional productions will begin in October.



Carrying the Programme through

- The TCR website will give both schools and artists the complete oversight of events and productions. It will also be possible to view the event calendar for the individual school, making it easy for pupils, parents, teachers and school management to see what they will attend, and when.
- Most schools have appointed a TCR contact teacher, who will administer the TCR activities and be the nexus between the teachers and the TCR staff.
- Ahead of a cultural event, the school receives a reminder from the TCR staff, and often also receive learning material or suggestions on how to prepare. The artists will also contact the schools ahead of their visit. After the events, schools are encouraged to give a quick feedback.
- The TCR staff will be in contact with artists throughout, and the performers will deliver a report on their experiences when they have completed their part of the programme.
- Schools that have applied for TCR funding (category 3 and 4 in the Oslo model) will deliver reports on their projects, and be assisted by TCR staff throughout.



Line management in Oslo

Oslo is unique in Norway by being both a municipality and a county. As a result, Oslo has full control of the allocated funding, whereas the other counties will have to distribute at least one third onwards to the municipalities. The other counties are responsible for running the higher secondary schools, but the lower secondary and the primary schools are run by the municipality. In Oslo, there is no such division.

The Oslo school authorities administer TCR. In other counties, TCR will usually be administered by the county culture section.

Oslo TCR has a steering committee with representatives from Department of Education (Upbringing and Knowledge), Department of Culture (Culture Affairs, Sports and Voluntary), Oslo Music and Culture School and the Oslo Education Agency. Vice Mayor for the Department of Education approve the TCR programme and priorities.



Storytelling production at schools
Abraham in the Bible and in the Quran

Foto: Roger Hennem



Architect workshop
Bodies and Forces

Foto: Niklas Lello



Dance performance at The House of Dance
On the outside

Foto: Julia Maria Nagelstad

Click photos to see some TCR productions Oslo
2015/16

Detailed information (in Norwegian):

www.dks.osloskolen.no

*All art contains an answer to the question "What is
man?"*
Georg Brandes