



# The Cultural Rucksack

Arts and Culture at School in Norway



DEN KULTURELLE  
SKOLESEKKEN

**The Cultural Rucksack (Den kulturelle skolesekken) is a national programme for art and culture provided by professionals in Norwegian schools. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Research.**

The programme enables school pupils to become acquainted with artistic and cultural expressions of a high quality and a professional standard. It covers a wide range of fields:

- the performing arts
- the visual arts
- film
- music
- literature
- the cultural heritage



The Cultural Rucksack has been part of the Government's cultural policy for primary and lower secondary schools since 2001, and is now been extended to upper secondary school. This means that all pupils from the ages of 6 to 19 will be able to benefit from the programme.

The Cultural Rucksack is a joint venture between the educational and cultural sectors at the national and local level, and involves all the counties and municipalities in Norway. The county cultural and education departments are responsible for coordinating the programme in their own regions, and individual programmes are also designed by the municipalities. This assignment of responsibility to local authorities promotes enthusiasm and a sense of ownership among all parties and provides room for local variation.

**The objectives of the programme are:**

- To enable children and young people in primary and secondary school to enjoy artistic and cultural productions provided by professionals.
- To facilitate the pupils' access to a wide range of cultural expressions, so that they can become acquainted with and develop an understanding of culture in all its forms.
- To assist schools in integrating different forms of cultural expression with their own efforts to attain learning goals.



The Cultural Rucksack will be developed and continually evaluated on the basis of the following principles:

- **A permanent programme:**

the Cultural Rucksack should be a permanent programme for school pupils.

- **For all pupils:** the Cultural Rucksack is intended for all pupils, regardless of social, economic, ethnic or religious background or the individual school they attend.

- **Achievement of the goals of the national curriculum:** the content of the Cultural Rucksack should be in line with the goals of the national curriculum, including the specific subject curriculums.

- **High quality:** the artistic and cultural programme offered to the pupils should be of high artistic quality and a professional standard.

- **Diversity:** the Cultural Rucksack should include forms of artistic and cultural expression from a diversity of cultures and historical periods.

- **A wide range:** music, theatre, the visual and performing arts, film, literature and the cultural heritage should all be represented in the Cultural Rucksack, 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 the Cultural Rucksack. The schools should be involved in the programme and given time to plan for the various activities.

- **Division of roles:** between the school and cultural sectors.

- **Local responsibility and ownership:** the individual school, the municipality and the county should all be involved in the Cultural Rucksack, in order to ensure a sense of involvement among all parties and allow for local variation.



## Funding

The Cultural Rucksack is mainly funded by the surplus from Norsk Tipping, the state-owned gaming company.

The programme receives NOK 160–180 million (EUR 20–23 million) annually, which is allocated to and distributed by the regional and local authorities.

The great majority of cultural institutions and a number of related institutions are involved in the programme content.

These institutions, the regional authorities and many local authorities contribute substantial sums from their own budgets.



## More information:

[www.denkulturelleskolesekken.no](http://www.denkulturelleskolesekken.no)

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