



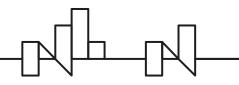
## ESG compliance in Norway

Magnar Ødelien, Programme Director EEA/Norway Grants

Innovation Norway



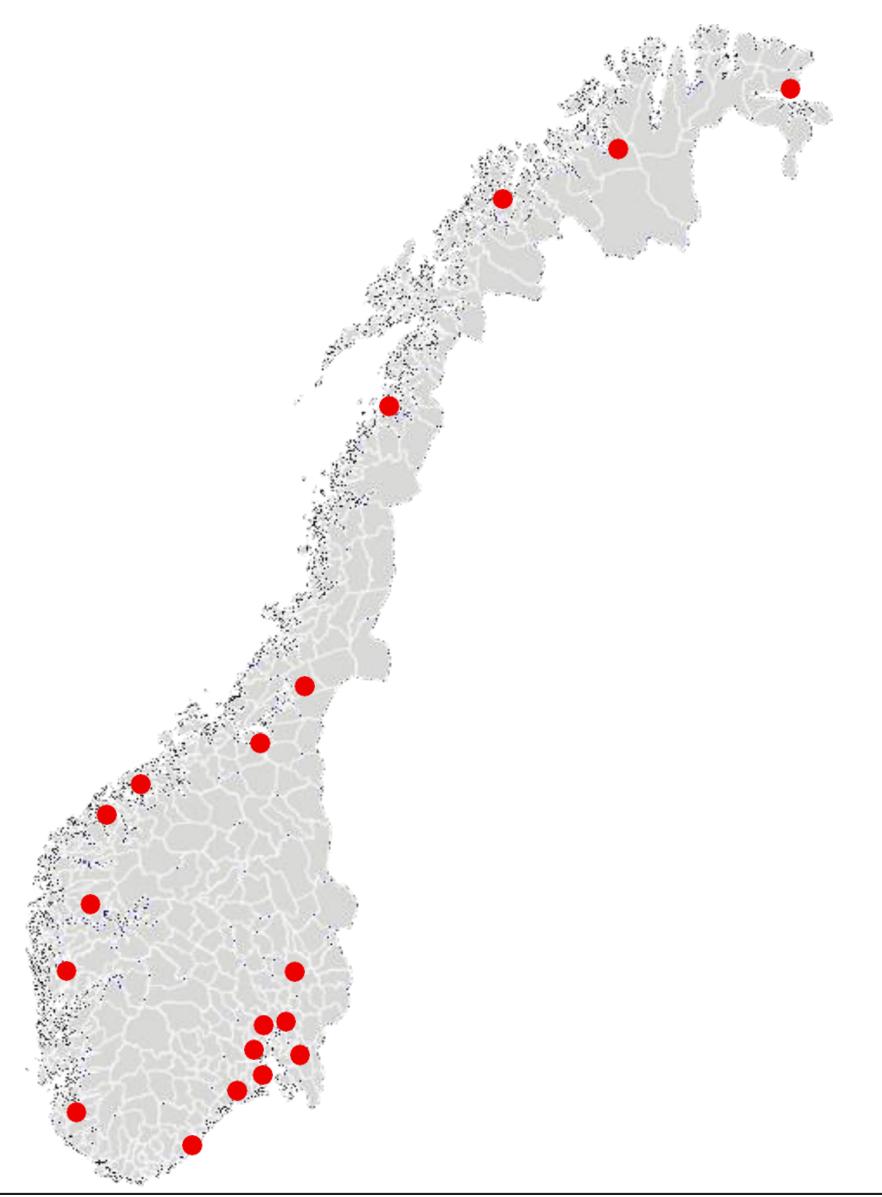
Innovation Norway's mission is to be the National and the Regional Governments' policy instrument for value-creating business development across Norway

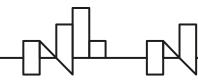


### We have offices throughout the country



- Agder Grimstad
- Innlandet Brumunddal
- Møre og Romsdal Molde
- Møre og Romsdal Ålesund
- Nordland Bodø
- Oslo Viken Drammen
- Oslo Viken Oslo
- Oslo Viken Sarpsborg
- Rogaland Stavanger
- Troms og Finnmark Alta
- Troms og Finnmark Tromsø
- Troms og Finnmark Vadsø
- Trøndelag Steinkjer Trøndelag Trondheim
- Vekst- og gründersenteret Førde
- Vestfold og Telemark Porsgrunn
- Vestland Bergen
- Vestland Sogndal



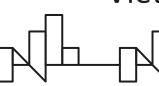


## We have offices throughout the country



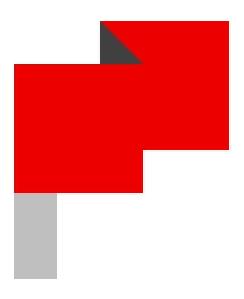
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- United Arab Emirates
- France
- Greece
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- China Beijing
- China Shanghai
- Croatia
- Romania
- Singapore
- Spain
- Great Britain
- Sweden
- South Korea
- Germany Hamburg
- Germany Munich
- USA Houston
- USA New York
- USA San Francisco
- USA Washington, DC
- Vietnam





## Our sub-goals

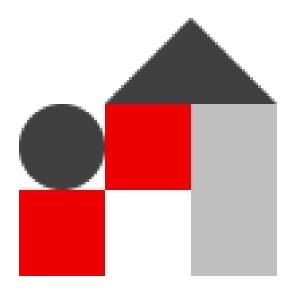




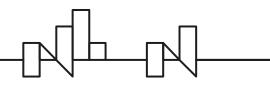
More successful entrepreneurs



More enterprises with a capacity for growth



More innovative business clusters



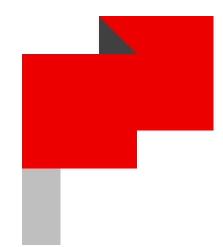
#### What we do



From an idea to something

From something to much more

From something to something else



#### Start-up

For entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs with innovative ideas



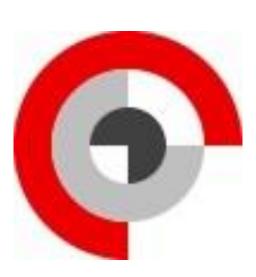
#### Scale-up

For innovative growth companies and established companies with ambitions for growth



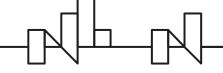
#### Internationalise

For companies with ambitions for international growth



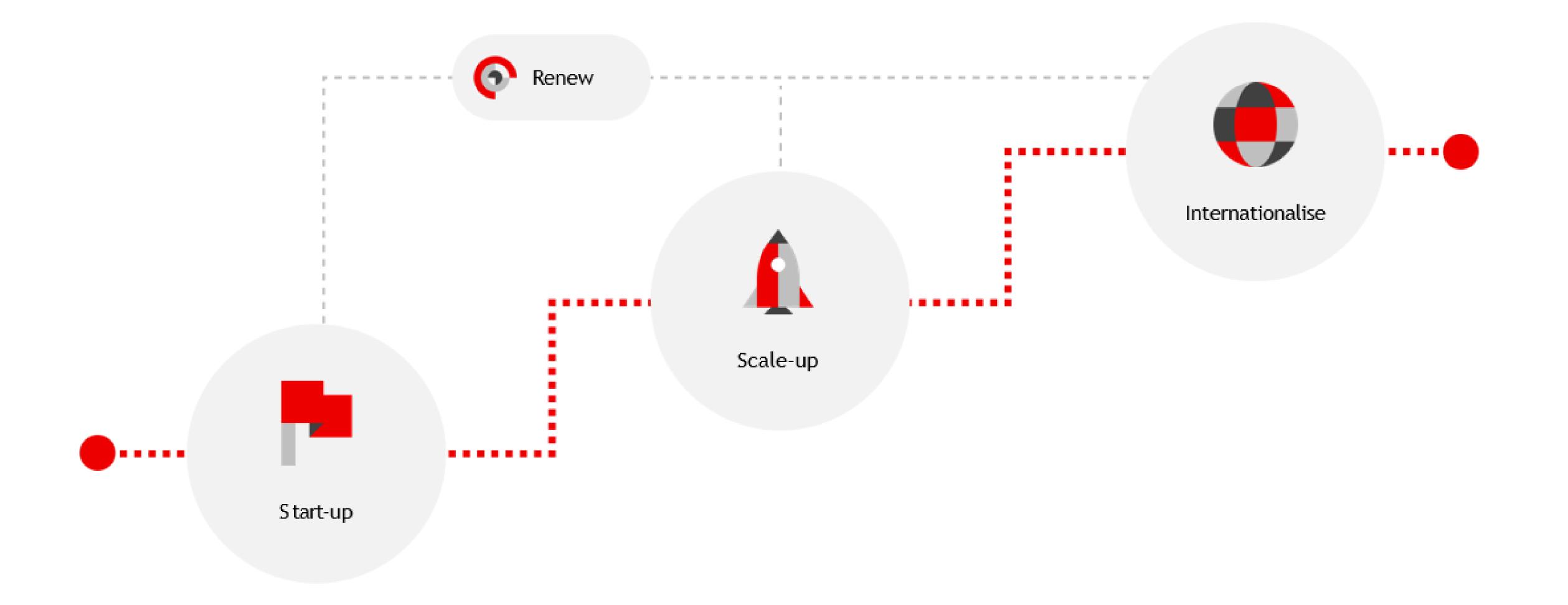
#### Renew

For established companies with a need for change

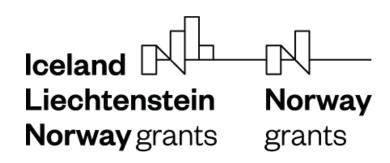


## We follow the customers step by step











## ESG framework

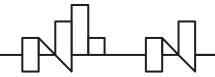
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## The policy framework for the application of ESG (environmental, social, governance)-reporting



- 1. The European Green Deal
- -addressing climate change, environmental sustainability and social responsibility
- 2. EU's Sustainable Finance Action Plan
- Aims at redirecting investments towards sustainable activities
- 3. Fit for 55
- -Emissions reduction
- -Renewable energy
- -Social implications



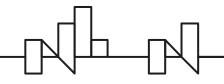


## **EU** legislation



- The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
- European Sustainability Reporting Standards
  - -Gnereal requirements
  - -Environmental (5 standards)
  - -Social (4 standards)
  - -Governance (I standard)
- Climate Benchmark Regulation
- Taxonomy Regulation

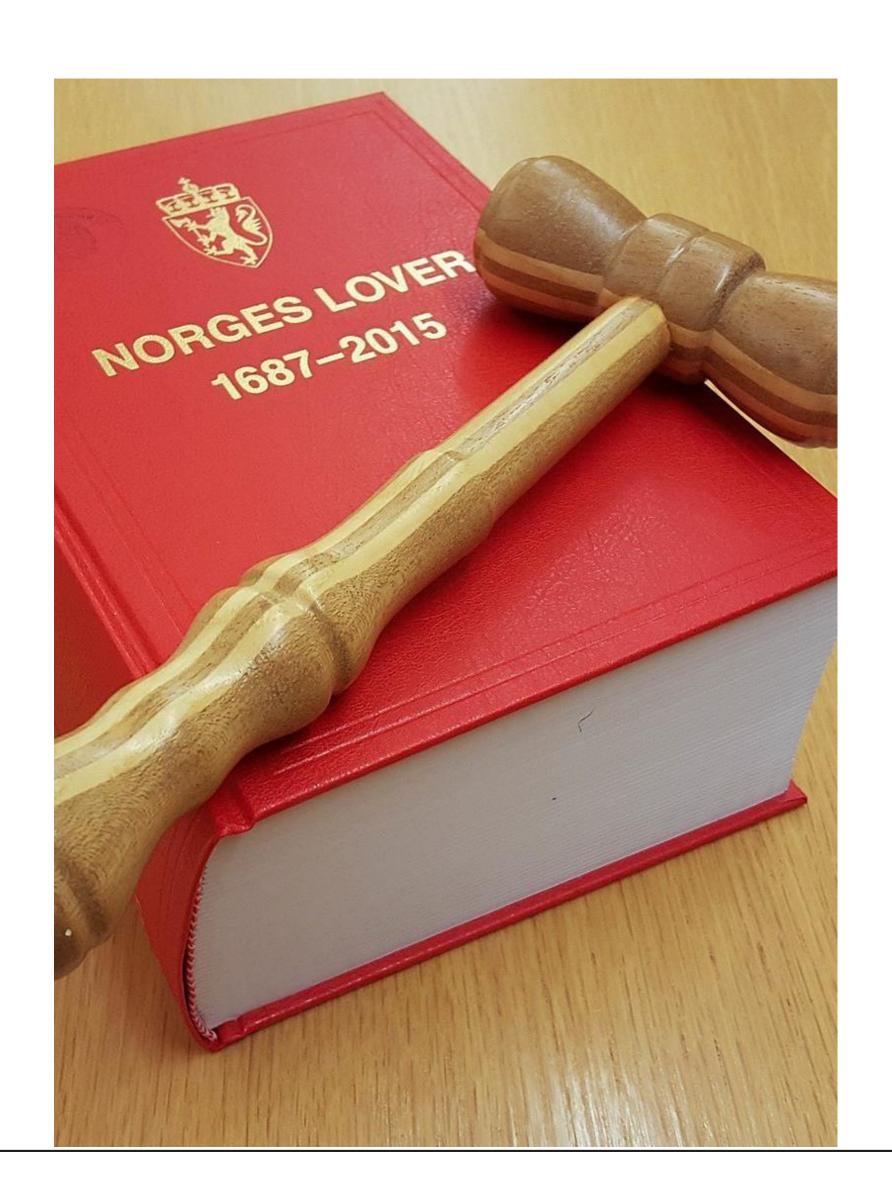


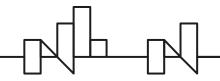


### Norway – The Transparency Act



- In force from 1 July 2022
- Purpose: promote respect for human rights and decent work conditions in companies
- Applicable to larger companies
  - -Revenues > NOK 70 million
  - -balance sheet > NOK 35 million
  - -Number of employees > 50
- Annual report
  - -operations and guidelines
  - -information about impacts and risks
  - -implemented measures and plans
- Right to information





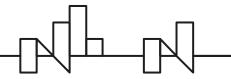
## What is the purpose of ESG?



• Environmental: To show the company's care

• **Social:** To show the company's attitude to its employees, suppliers, customers and the communities

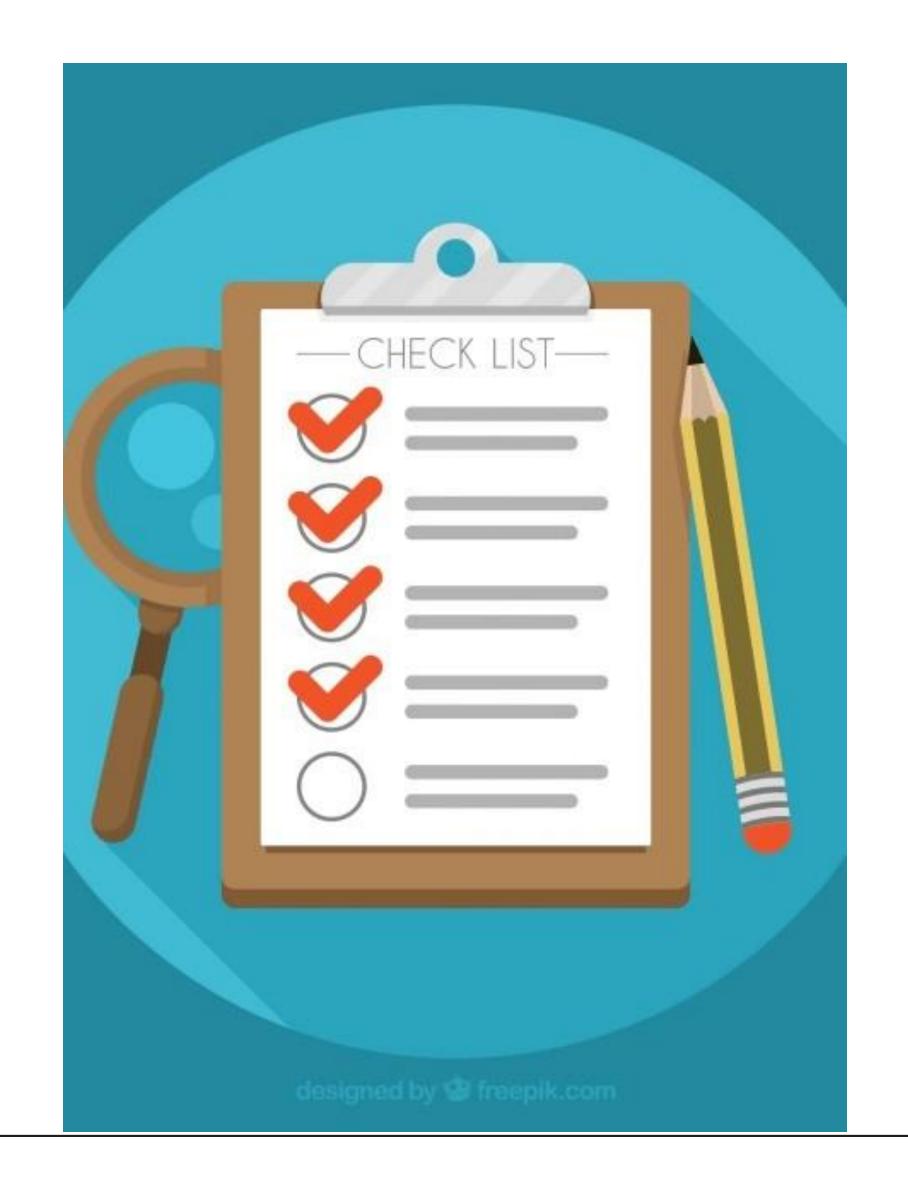
• **Governance**: To show the company's management, audits, internal controls and shareholders rights

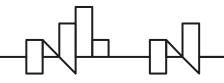


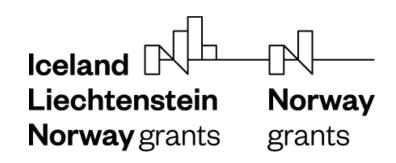
## Possible benefits of ESG reporting?



- Improves transparency
- Boosts reputation
- Give competitive advantage
- Attracts investors and lenders
- Increases customer loyalty
- Sustainable operations
- Rik mitigation







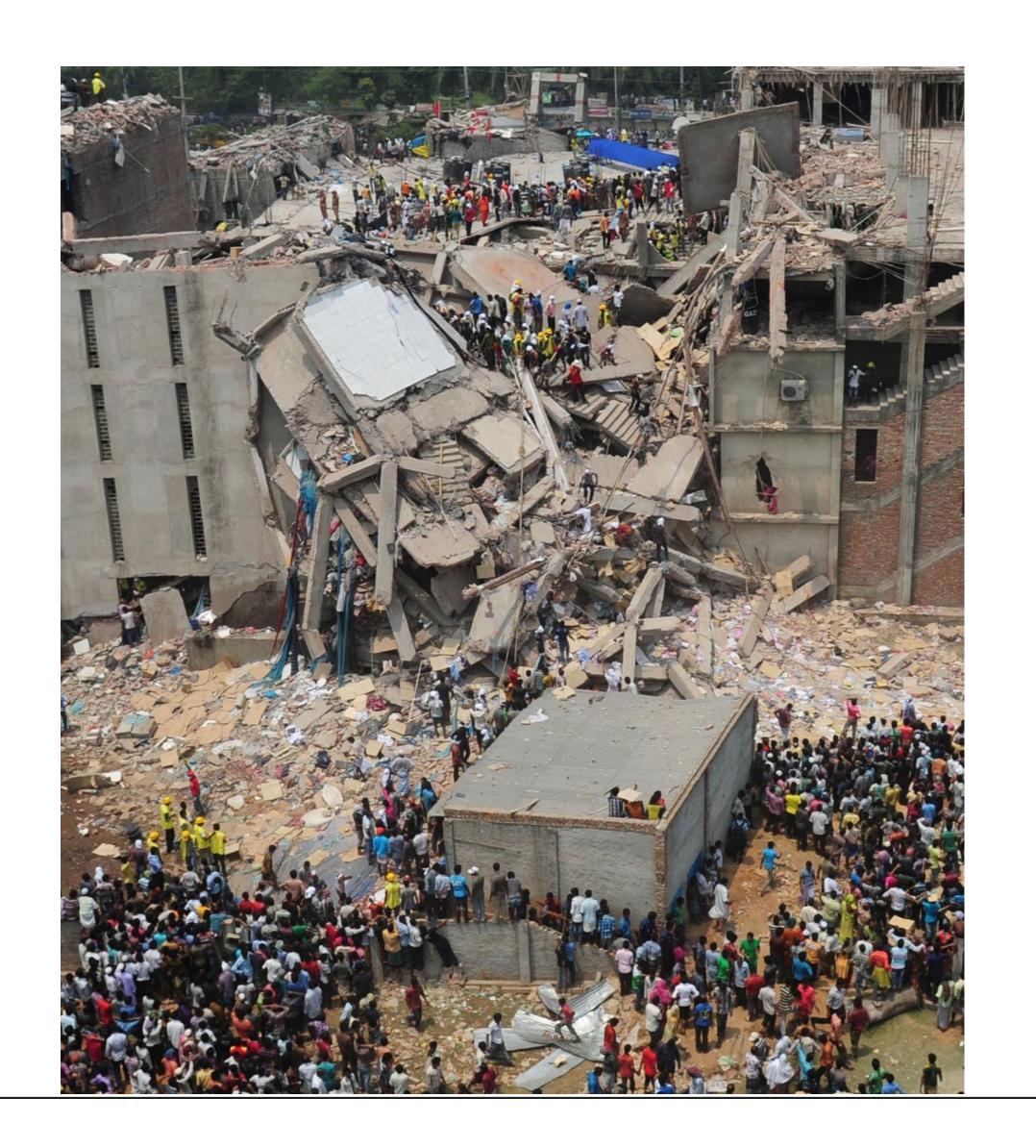


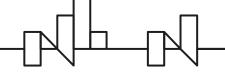
# Practical application in Innovation Norway

#### **Evaluating Potential Investments**



- Why are we concerned with sustainability and corporate responsibility?
- Do you consider the sustainability impact of potential investments?
- Are there industries or sectors that are automatically excluded from consideration? What are the deal- breakers?





### **Sustainability - Strategic Goals for 2025**



#### Sustainability throughout

Innovation Norway is recognized for addressing sustainability throughout all of its activities

#### Differentiated services

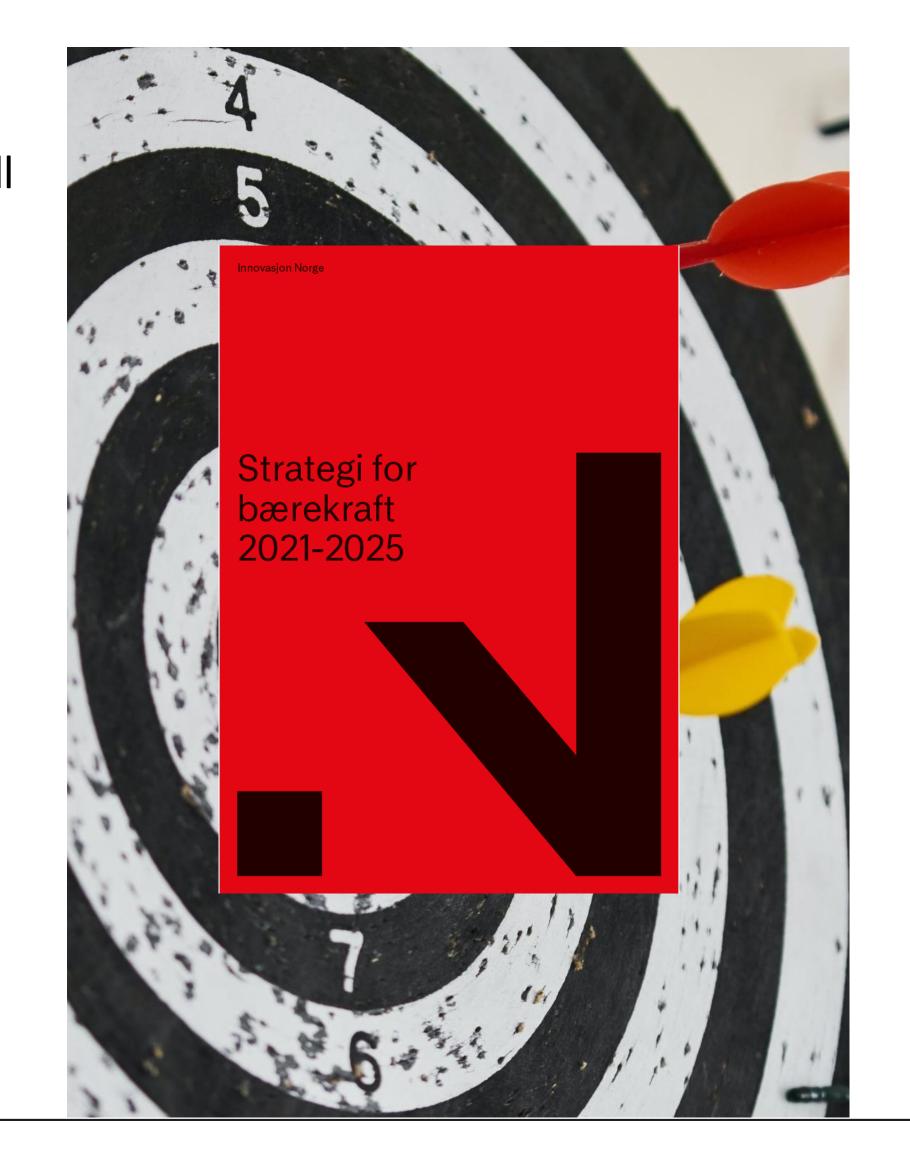
Innovation Norway offers differentiated services and conditions for sustainable projects

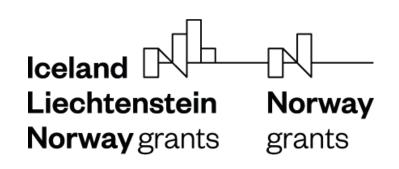
#### Reduced sustainability Risk

Innovation Norway has systems for assessing sustainability risk in financing and advisory activities

#### Documented effects

Innovation Norway is able to document how its efforts contribute to a lowemission society







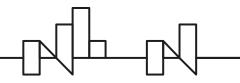
# Minimum requirements to our customers and partners



## Sulnnovation Norway's requirements to customers, suppliers and partners



- 1. Work in accordance with international recognized standards for corporate responsibility
- 2. Perform due diligence assessments of their business and handle potential risk through appropriate internal control systems and guidelines.



### Principles of corporate responsibility



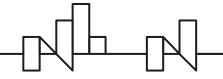
1. Avoid harm/damage

Businesses must avoid contributing to:

- Corruption
- Violation of human rights
- Poor working conditions
- Harmful impact on consumers, local communities and the environment

....both within their own operations and through business relationships.





#### Principles of corporate responsibility



#### 2. Responsible approach

Businesses shall have a responsible approach to the principles of good business practice through:

- Conducting due diligence assessments
- Stakeholder engagement
- Best practice in relevant sector



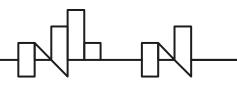


#### Continuous improvement



To be eligible for services from Innovation Norway, it is expected that businesses use relevant global standards and best practice as a basis, as well as implementing measures for continuous improvement.

This does not mean that everything has to be perfect, but that the customer demonstrates the will and ability to make improvements in line with relevant principles and guidelines.



#### **Exclusion criteria**



Innovation Norway shall not support projects with an unacceptable high sustainability risk, including the risk of negative impact on people, society or the environment.

#### Not support companies where there is an unacceptable risk of:

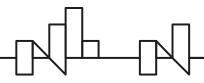
- Serious or systematic violations of human rights, such as murder, torture, detention, forced labor, and the worst forms of child labor.
- Serious violations of individual rights in situations of war or conflict.
- Severe environmental damage.
- Actions or omissions that, on an aggregated company level, lead to an
- unacceptable level of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Gross corruption.
- Other, particularly gross, violations of fundamental ethical norms.

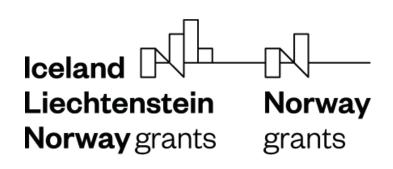
#### **Exclude entirely:**

- Tobacco.
- Controversial weapons.
- Extraction of coal and oil sands.
- Coal-based power production.
- Gambling.
- Palm oil.

Revenue of over 5% from the mentioned activities provides grounds for rejection.

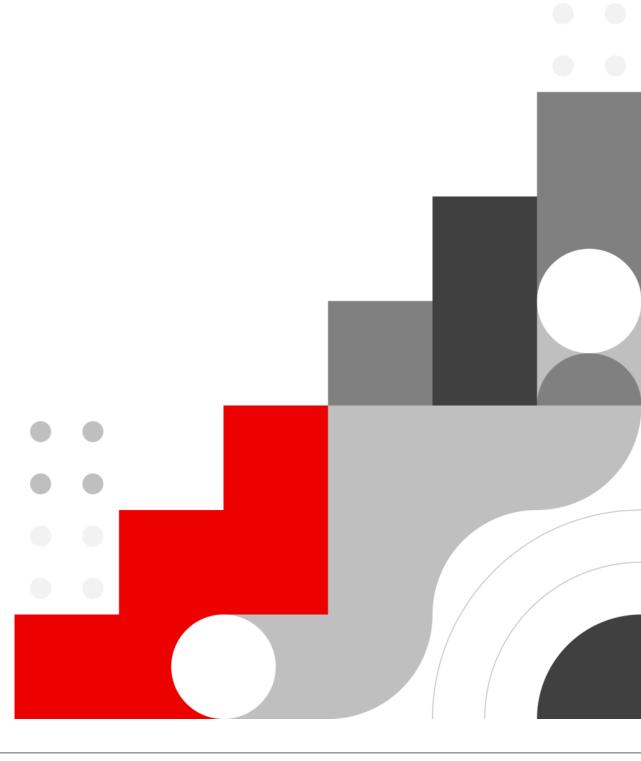








## Sustainability/ESG Assessments



## Sustainability risk (ESG): What is it?

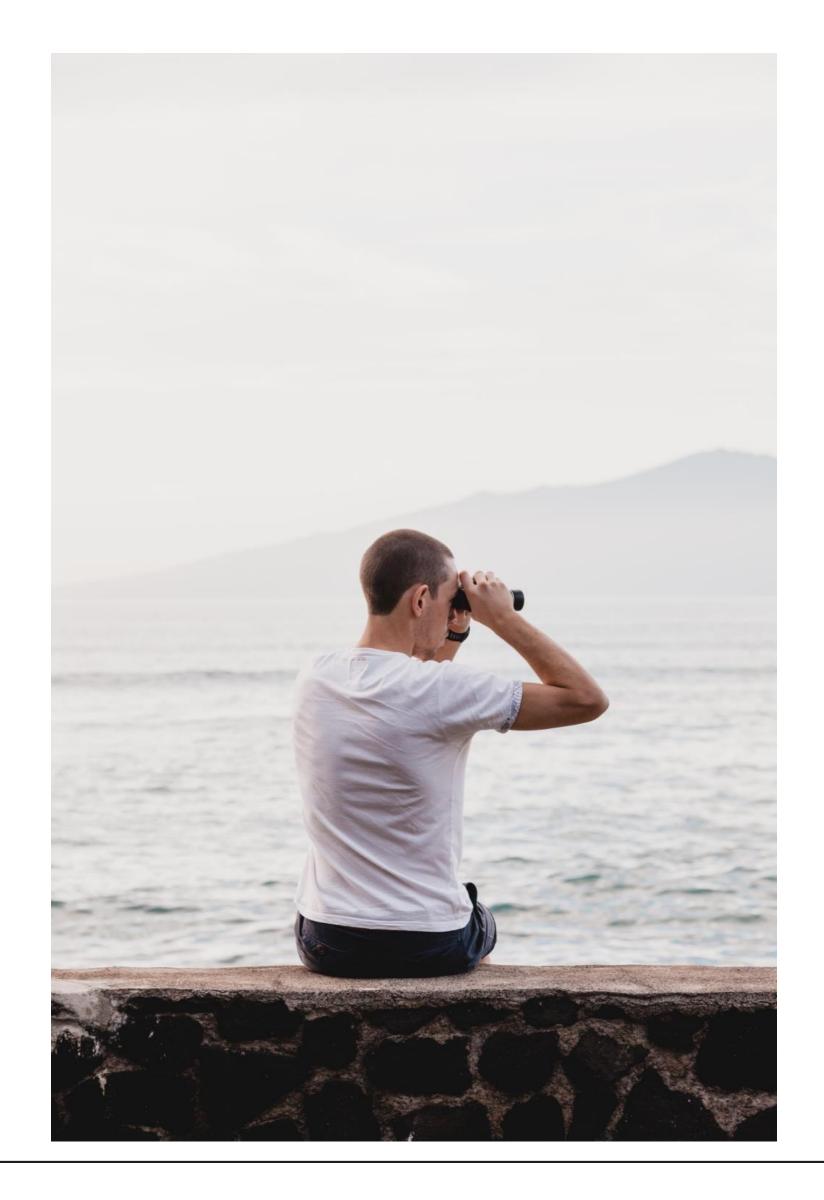
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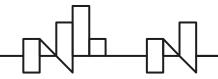
Environmental, Social or Governance-related events or circumstances that may have an actual or possible significant negative impact on the company should they occur.

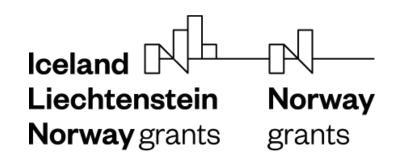
Sustainability risk is a collective term for:

- ESG Environment, Social, Governance
- Corporate Responsibility (CR)
- Good Business Practice
- Climate risk
- Nature risk
- «Do No Significant Harm»
- Minimum Social Safeguards













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