



WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion
Att: Leif Svanström

February 24. 2010

Norwegian Safety Forum - Skadeforebyggende forum - hereby applies to become a Designated Affiliated Safe Community Support Centre

Norwegian Safety Forum has been in practice acting as an “Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre” for many years without official approval or status in order to meet the needs of the Norwegian national network but has been actively involved in supporting International communities through study visits- but also Conferences and Seminars

Norwegian Safety Forum has recently received a substantial grant from GjensidigeStiftelsen which enables us to put more resources into Safe Community work for a years ahead.. This means we will be able to arrange more conferences and meetings for the Norwegian network as well as the International Community; publish information on community safety and best practice-experiences, and work actively to strengthen the network in other ways. Being appointed an Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre is part of this scheme.

In the following seven pages we will give a presentation of Norwegian Safety Forum and the Trygge lokalsamfunn / Safe Community work in Norway, and we try to describe our work according to the 10 indicators.

Further information can be found on these links:

- Our website, www.skafor.org
- A brief presentation of The Norwegian Safety forum in Norwegian: <http://www.skafor.org/PageFiles/14822/Brosjyre.pdf>
- The Regulations of the Norwegian Safety Forum <http://www.skafor.org/no/Hoved/English/Se-ogsa/Regulations/>
- List of members <http://www.skafor.org/no/Hoved/English/Se-ogsa/Members/>
- Program from the Annual Conference in 2009 <http://www.skafor.org/no/hoved/aktiviteter/kurs-og-konferanser/>

Please get back to me if you need more informaion from Norway.

Best regards

Eva Jakobson Vaagland
director



Skadeforebyggende forum

NORWEGIAN SAFETY FORUM

Introduction

The Norwegian Safety forum was established, as a membership organization, in 1985. The Forum is designed to provide information on all aspects of injuries and safety, and to promote co-operation between business, public sector and non-governmental organizations.

Today it is a well established meeting place, bringing together stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries to, discuss and exchange information and experiences, and form policies. The Forum was established in 1985 and has developed unique knowledge, experience, competence and networks within its field of work.

The work is based on a firm belief that injury prevention and safety promotion issues should be addressed with cross sectoral means. The Forum supports the idea of cross sector Safety Promotion-programs on all level of society; on local, regional and national level. .

The Forum focuses on the need of knowledge and the importance of sound data and updated statistics, as well as research on methodology to ensure that future plans of action can be based on knowledge of the present situation and know –how about methods and incitements that will give the best results.

The Forum plays an important role lobbying for these values and trying to influence on political decisions concerning safety promotion and injury prevention.

The Forum arranges 8-10 open meetings annually on subjects concerning different aspects of safety promotion and injury prevention.

Core values for Norwegian Safety Forum

The Forum should be open, interdisciplinary, interactive and co-operative. Projects, studies and measures should be academically founded and useful on a community level.

Norwegian Safety Forum today

It is a membership based organisation with financial support from the Ministry of Health and the Norwegian Financial Services, FNO (where all the major insurance companies are stakeholders).

The administration is based in Oslo. The board consists of six members and three substitutes, representing different sectors of the injury prevention and safety promotion work.

The Norwegian Safety Forum has approximately 80 members in all- public institutions, non-governmental organizations, research- and educational institutions, insurance companies and businesses.

Five goals are set for the 2009 – 2012-period:

- Strengthen the forum`s role as a meeting place for old and new partners
- Further increase the forum` role as a source of knowledge and information and develop new channels of communication
- Motivate partners, collaborating groups and institutions to further develop safety promotion programs, injury prevention efforts and research
- Promote and visualize the Forum and its work to selected target groups
- Focus on Safe Communities, spread knowledge of the movement and its methods and work for expanding the national network of Safe Communities

Four Council Groups – four lines of Actions

The Forum has established four council groups that focus on different themes and target groups: prevention of drowning, children`s safety, senior safety and Safe Communities. All groups have their own plan of actions and International networks and contacts.

Among the ongoing activities we can mention a new brochure on *“Children, Water and Safety”*, a fall preventing program for elderly in co-operation with nongovernmental organizations in 16 local communities, and an objective to make the Safe community-movement, and the good work carried out by the 17 designated Safe Communities, better known in Norway.

The Forum administrates a Safety Prize which is given to institutions, organizations or persons that have done extraordinary work and effort to promote safety and prevent injuries in different ways. The prize is a small statue and NOK 10.000.



Safe Community (Trygge lokalsamfunn) work in Norway

Norwegian Safety Forum has been appointed by the Norwegian Directorate of Health (Helsedirektoratet) to coordinate the Safe Community work in Norway. We have been in close contact with the Norwegian government and WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion in Stockholm since 1992. Members and representatives from the Forum have attended many of the international Safe Community Conferences and have been in contact with the International network of Safe Communities for more than 10 years. Harstad was the first Norwegian community to be approved as a designated Safe Community, in 1994.

There are 17 approved Safe Communities (Trygge lokalsamfunn) in Norway today. But the national network also endorses communities interested in becoming members and we have listed more than 10 communities and counties as possible “future Safe Community members”

The Norwegian network meets 3 – 4 times a year and the members are all invited to Norwegian Safety Forums annual conference. A national Trygge lokalsamfunn (Safe Communities)-report is printed every year, based on the local reports.

A New National Plan of Strategy for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Norway

The Norwegian government put forward a new strategy for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in October 2009. The Forum was invited to join the working committee as the only non-governmental actor. This gave us an opportunity to promote cross sectoral approach and cooperation between private and public sector and nongovernmental organizations on all different levels of society. The Forum also focused on the need of knowledge and the importance of sound data bases and up- dated statistics, as well as research on methodology. The Forum is now invited to sit in the national group that has been appointed to follow up the report and carry through the plans. This gives us a unique possibility to promote the Safe Community-idea as a base for safety promotion work on a local level.

Norwegian Safety Forum activities Described under the ten indicators for an international Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre

Indicator 1. The provision of Centre programs and services utilizing multidisciplinary and cross sectoral approaches

The Norwegian Safety forum was established, as a membership organization, in 1985. The regulations states that “The Norwegian Safety Forum (NSF) is a national centre designed to provide information on safety and enhance co-operation between public bodies, non-governmental organisations and trade and industry, in order to promote safety efforts in Norway.”

The cross sectoral approach has been a base for the activities from the very beginning. We have members from public- and private sector; health- and research institutions, public authorities, non-governmental organizations, communities, businesses etc.

The organization is active on national, regional and local level. We have members on all these levels and organize meetings and cross sectoral activities assembling members and collaborating organizations to a multidisciplinary fellowship.

Indicator 2. The Centre provides a framework for promoting collective action which includes involvement with community networks

The organization has members from many different types of organizations / institutions and sectors of activities within the injury prevention and safety promotion work in Norway. Many of our membership organizations and our collaborating contacts have their own local network that will function as a support to our initiatives.

We have been able to develop a unique banc of knowledge, experience and competence that we can use to promote collective actions. We are often invited to community networks and regional meetings to give presentations – always with a cross sectoral and multidisciplinary approach. We involve and cooperate with our membership organizations when we plan and execute projects and programs.

Indicator 3. The Centre provides consultative support to communities in the establishment of Safe Community initiatives

In Norway injury prevention and safety promotion is part of the national health program. The Norwegian Safety forum has worked closely with the national health institutions and the Ministry of Health for more than 20 years. The organization has been appointed by the national health authorities to coordinate the Safe Community-work in Norway. This means, among other activities, that we lead the National Council for Approved Safe Communities, we promote the Safe Community work and we provide consultative support to communities interested in Safe Community activities.

Indicator 4. The Centre facilitates and supports community-based strategic planning processes

As the official coordinator of Safe Community work in Norway we facilitate 3 – 4 annual meetings for the Safe Community network. These meetings are open for approved Safe Communities, and communities that are interested in finding out more about the Safe Community-work. In these meetings and on other arenas we support strategic planning processes. In this work we involve representatives from different sectors, different levels of society and different parts of the country.

Indicator 5. The Centre demonstrates leadership and stewardship in addressing priority injury issues, high risk, and vulnerable groups

Based on research, statistics, reports from insurance companies and official records The Norwegian Safety Forum decides which issues and sectors that should be given priority. Lately fall injuries and fire accidents among elderly have been given priority. In 2010 we will also focus on minority groups and home safety, promoting information in different minority languages. We follow the development closely to make sure resources are used as advantageous as possible.

Indicator 6. The Centre provides expert services and knowledge in the area of injury data and injury surveillance issues

Norwegian Safety Forum is considered to be a leading centre for knowledge in the area of injury data and surveillance issues. The Forum is often asked to provide background information and to participate in meetings, national expert groups etc to provide information on injury data. The former leader of NSF, doctor Johan Lund is a world-renowned expert in the field on injury data and surveillance. He is a consultant for the NSF and responsible for the injury database that will be presented as part of our web site. How to acquire and how to use community based baseline data is a theme that has been addressed many times in the network for the Norwegian Safe Communities and also on the annual Norwegian Safety Forum conference that is being held every fall, and usually gathers 70 – 120 participants. Local surveillance programs have been developed in different places and the Directorate of Health, in cooperation with Norwegian Safety Forum is now producing a guideline for local registration of injuries – and how to use the data. Dr Johan Lund and the Norwegian Safety Forum is a pioneer in development of international standards on injury classifications and surveillance- first through the work of a Nordic classification system- Nomesco- and later in developing a world-wide system now adopted by the World Health Organization. This has since long benefited the international Safe Community movement and will be also in the future.

Indicator 7. The Centre demonstrates a long term commitment to supporting Safe Communities and the Safe Community Network within their organization`s strategic plan

Norwegian Safety Forum has been coordinating the Safe Community-network in Norway for more than 10 years and have been working closely with the local communities long before that. The leaders of the organization and the leaders of the network have actively participated in many international conferences during the past 15 years. It was also involved in the International Safe Communities Conferences first in Harstad and much later in Bergen municipalities. In the strategic plan for 2009 – 2012 promoting the Safe Community work is one of five explicit goals for the organisation`s work. Financial support from Gjensidige Stiftelsen will make it possible to engage more capacity in to the work in years to come.

Indicator 8. The Centre supports those responsible at the community level to utilize appropriate indicators to evaluate community processes, effects of change an injury rates

This issue has been discussed and addressed in different forums and on national conferences and events for many years. Norwegian Safety Forum is regarded as a national centre of knowledge on the use of local facts and statistics as means to reduce injury rates. We are now in contact with the Directorate of Health to develop a guide for local registration of injuries which will be a useful tool for our Safe Communities and work on community level in general. Through work done by officers serving the Norwegian Forum standards for evaluation and research has been developed through the years.

Indicator 9. The Centre disseminates their experiences both at national and international levels

It is an important part of our activities to spread knowledge and information to members and collaborating organizations on safety promotion in general and the Safe Community model. Best-practice-presentations is a natural part of every conference and seminar we arrange – all to promote and develop a body of knowledge and methodology within the field of community safety.

Reports and results are made publicly known. As an example we can mention a guideline about “Children, Water and Safety” that wil be distributed to nurseries, day care centers, refugee centers etc. A fall preventing program for elderly in co-operation with nongovernmental organizations in 16 local communities has been running for three years. The report from this project “Safe Elderly” will be distributed to local communities, senior citizen groups and other contacts this spring. An abstract is sent to Iceland where we hope to give a brief presentation of the program and the results.

Throughout the years research has been done and published in international journals both by Dr Johan Lund and other researchers connected to the Forum but also by local Safe Community managers like professor Børge Ytterstad in Harstad safe Community.

Indicator 10. The Centre reports on their safe community activities and research efforts

The Norwegian Safety Council submits an annual report on activities and research efforts. The Forum also submits a special report on the Safe Community work including reports from designated Norwegian members of the network. Our work and economy is revised by an authorised auditor, as required by Norwegian law when you receive national grants.

Through participation in many international conferences by a huge number of managers from designated Safe Communities in the Norwegian network and also from research institutions Norway is well established as a leading nation for the international Safe Communities network- always with programs based on sound data and scientific evaluations.