

EUROPEAN ENCYCLOPEDIA CONFERENCE 2024

Oslo, Norway
15th and 16th of May, 2024



STORE
NORSKE
LEKSIKON

Welcome to Oslo!

Welcome to the 2024 European Encyclopedia Conference, hosted in Oslo at the offices of the Great Norwegian Encyclopedia. This event unites us to delve into the rich history of encyclopedias, the meticulous editorial work behind them, and the diverse ways we can learn from each other.

Encyclopedias have been crucial in how we compile and disseminate knowledge, from ancient collections to today's advanced digital platforms. This year, we'll explore how these resources have developed over time, spotlighting both challenges and milestones, including the growing role of artificial intelligence in shaping how content is created and accessed.

At the heart of our discussion is the editorial work—fundamental to every encyclopedia. Hosting the conference in our offices provides a unique opportunity to meet our team of 16 editors who manages 200 000 articles and 1200 external experts who together have made the Great Norwegian Encyclopedia one of the country's most visited websites.

Our sessions are designed to spark discussion and foster collaboration. Given that many of us might be the primary resource of our kind in our countries, this gathering is a precious chance to connect, share insights, and inspire each other for future endeavors. Working at an encyclopedia can sometimes feel a bit lonely – this is a chance to meet others who work in the same field.

We're looking forward to spending National day with most of you. Norway's National Day is celebrated on May 17th to commemorate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in 1814. This festive occasion is marked by parades, traditional costumes, and public displays of national pride across the country.

Thank you coming to Oslo. We look forward to an engaging and fruitful conference.

Erik, Kjersti, Ola, Mina

Anja, Anne, Elen, Guro, Håvard, Halvard, Ida, Marit,

Kjell-Olav, Kristine, Line, Mari, Selma, Tomaris and Åsmund

The editors of the Great Norwegian Encyclopedia



Indeed, the purpose of an encyclopedia is to collect knowledge disseminated around the globe; to set forth its general system to the men with whom we live, and transmit it to those who will come after us, so that the work of preceding centuries will not become useless to the centuries to come; and so that our offspring, becoming better instructed, will at the same time become more virtuous and happy, and that we should not die without having rendered a service to the human race in the future years to come.

The European encyclopedias have a long and rich history. This is how Denis Diderot – the principal editor of the *Encyclopédie* – described an encyclopedia's mission in 1755. It is still valid – 269 years later.

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Need help at any stage? Call us!

Kjersti: +47 404 94 211

Mina: +47 934 37 348

Ola: +47 993 54 075

Erik: +47 911 31 09

Venues

SNL'S OFFICE

Address: Grensen 3

SNL's office is a 7 minute walk from the central station (Oslo S).

There's a tram stop at Stortorget; turn left when you leave the SNL building and walk 50 meters.

There's a metro stop at Stortinget; turn right when you leave the SNL building and walk 100 meters.

EKEBERGRESTAURANTEN (Wednesday at 19)

Address: Kongsveien 15

Take tram 13 from Øvre Slottsgate, or tram 19 from Stortorget. Get off at Ekebergparken.

Buy tram tickets in the Ruter app.

What to wear: Not too informal.

VIPPA (Thursday at 18)

Address: Akershusstranda 25

Vippa is at the quay, you can walk there from all of downtown.

What to wear: Choose for yourself, it's a very informal atmosphere.

NATIONAL DAY DOWNTOWN

For the ones that understand Norwegian we recommend going to Vår Frelzers gravlund (honorary graveyard) and listen to the morning speeches (from 8 to 10).

For everyone else: You should walk around downtown from 10 and onwards.

Find your favourite among the SNL staff to pair up with (do this the day before).

The children's parade starts at 10 from the Akershus castle, goes down Karl Johans gate (main street), past the royal castle and finishes in front of the town hall.

30 000 children walk in the parade, around 500 000 people will be downtown.

We recommend hanging around Karl Johan and to go and wave to the royal family.

What to wear: Dress up, but in comfortable clothes and shoes.

NATIONAL DAY LUNCH AT ERIK'S FLAT (from noon)

Address: Schleppegrells gate 14a (Grünerløkka neighbourhood), doorbell "Marius og Erik"

Take tram 12, 17 or 18 from Storgata to Birkelunden. It's a nice 2 km walk if the weather is good, head up Torggata, cross the river, walk up Markveien and Thorvald Meyers gate until you reach the Birkelunden park. Erik's flat is at the top of the park, 20 meters from the tram stop. The party will be 30-40 people, a mix of encyclopedists and Erik's friends.

NATIONAL DAY DINNER AT SKANSEN

Address: Rådhusgata 32

It's easy to walk to Skansen from anywhere downtown.



Programme

TUESDAY MAY 14

18:00 Meetup at the SNL office

WEDNESDAY MAY 15

10:00 Welcome. Short presentation of all attendants

10:45 Key note: Encyclopedias as vehicles for knowledge diplomacy in an era of information disorder. *Naja Bentzen, policy analyst at the European Parliament*

11:30 Ukraine: Creating an encyclopedia in the midst of a war.

12:00 Italy: The Treccani encyclopedia.

12:15 Lunch at SNL

13:00 Short round of status for each encyclopedia

14:00 Progress of the complaint case to the EU competition authority. *Ole Mølgaard, Lex.dk*

14:15 Break

14:30 Search engines and encyclopedias. *Christian Doelemann-Lassen, IIH Nordic*

16:00 Encyclopedia history. *Michael Coates, University of Idaho*

19:00–22:00 Conference dinner at Ekebergrestauranten

THURSDAY MAY 16

10:00 The effect of AI and language models on encyclopedias. *Bente Kalsnes, professor at Kristiania University College and Erik Bolstad, SNL. Discussions.*

11:30 Language models and copyright. *Arne Vestbø, Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association*

12:15 Encyclopedias as channels for scientific publishing, the European system for academic publishing points. *Gunnar Sivertsen, Nordic Institute for Studies of innovation, research and education and Nataša Jerman, Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography*

13:00 Lunch at SNL

13:45 Cooperating with Wikimedia, using Wikidata. *Mathias Schindler, volunteer at Wikimedia Deutschland*

14:30 Encyclopedias for children. The new Norwegian and Swedish Children's encyclopedia and other encyclopedias' experiences. *Guro Djupvik, SNL and Låtta Skogh, NE*

15:30 Annual meeting of the European Encyclopedia Network. Location of next year's conference.

16:00 Discussion: Potential projects for cooperation

18:00–20:00 Informal dinner at Vippra, Akershusstranda 25

FRIDAY MAY 17

08:00–12:00 Walk around and watch the celebrations

12:00–14:00 Lunch at Erik's flat

14:00–15:00 Concert in the Birkelunden park

18:14–21:00 Dinner at Skansen (pay for yourself)



Karl Johan street and the royal castle. Photo: Ørn E. Borgen / NTB

National Day of Norway

The National Day of Norway, also known as Constitution Day, is celebrated annually on May 17th. This day commemorates the signing of the Norwegian Constitution at Eidsvoll on May 17, 1814. This pivotal event marks the birth of modern Norwegian governance and national identity. Over the years, May 17th has evolved into a vibrant, broadly celebrated holiday, characterized by national pride and cultural festivities.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Constitution of Norway was inspired by the United States Declaration of Independence and the French Revolution's principles. In 1814, Norway had been in a union with Denmark for 434 years. Denmark was on the losing side in the Napoleonic Wars. The constitution was crafted to stave off attempts by Sweden to annex Norway and to lay down the foundations of democratic governance in the wake of the union with Denmark. Although the full independence proclaimed in 1814 was short-lived, leading to a union with Sweden later that year, the constitution remained largely intact and has since been celebrated as a symbol of national self-determination and liberty.

CELEBRATIONS

Norwegian Constitution Day is a public holiday celebrated with much enthusiasm across the nation. The day is marked by children's parades, led by marching bands, through communities. The largest parade occurs in Oslo, where more than 500,000 people participate in festivities around the city center. The royal family plays a significant role in the celebrations, greeting the parades from the balcony of the Royal Palace as throngs of children march by, waving flags and singing national songs.

In Oslo, the day begins with the laying of wreaths at the statues of notable historical figures, followed by the children's parade that passes through the city's main thoroughfares and the royal palace. Traditional dress, such as the bunad (national costumes), is prominently displayed, adding to the festive and colorful atmosphere.

Schools, municipal bands, and various organizations participate in the parade, each with their unique banners and traditionally dressed in costumes. Following the parades, there are community games, entertainment, and speeches from prominent figures about the significance of the day. Traditional Norwegian food such as hot dogs, ice cream, and cakes are abundantly consumed.

The celebration of May 17th is a display of national unity and pride. Unlike many countries where military might is on parade, Norway's National Day emphasizes children, future generations, and civic pride. The focus on children symbolizes hope for the future and the importance of raising the next generation with a strong sense of national identity and democratic values. Nationwide, the participation rate is extremely high, with nearly every community hosting its own parade and local festivities. The day is very inclusive, immigrants and foreigners join in on the celebrations.

State of the Encyclopedias

In December 2018 the European Parliamentary Research Service's published the report *Europe's online encyclopaedias – Equal access to knowledge of general interest in a post-truth era?* The report was the first comprehensive overview of Europe's encyclopedias made in decades, and it paved the way for closer contact and cooperation.

The first encyclopedia conference was held in 2019 in Brussels, organised by the SNL. The EPRS report had some shortcomings, due to the lack of available sources on the encyclopedias. As part of preparation for the conference, the SNL compiled the booklet *State of the Encyclopedias*, with an overview of the participating encyclopedic organisations, their ownership structure, usage and content. The source for the booklet were the encyclopedic organisations themselves.

For this conference in 2024 we have tried to update the 5 year old report. Some organisations have responded, others have not. We have aimed at creating a comprehensive list of the online encyclopedias of Europe, as a reference for all of us.

Online encyclopedias that we're aware of, but haven't included in the following pages:

EUROPE

- Estonian Encyclopedia entsyklopeedia.ee
- Finland Encyclopedia (in Swedish) uppslagsverket.fi
- Greece: Papyros papyrosonline.gr (dead)
- Russian encyclopedia bigenc.ru
- Slovenian biographical encyclopedia slovenska-biografija.si
- WIEM Polish Encyclopedia zapytaj.onet.pl/encyklopedia/
- Netherlands: Winkler Prins winklerprins.com

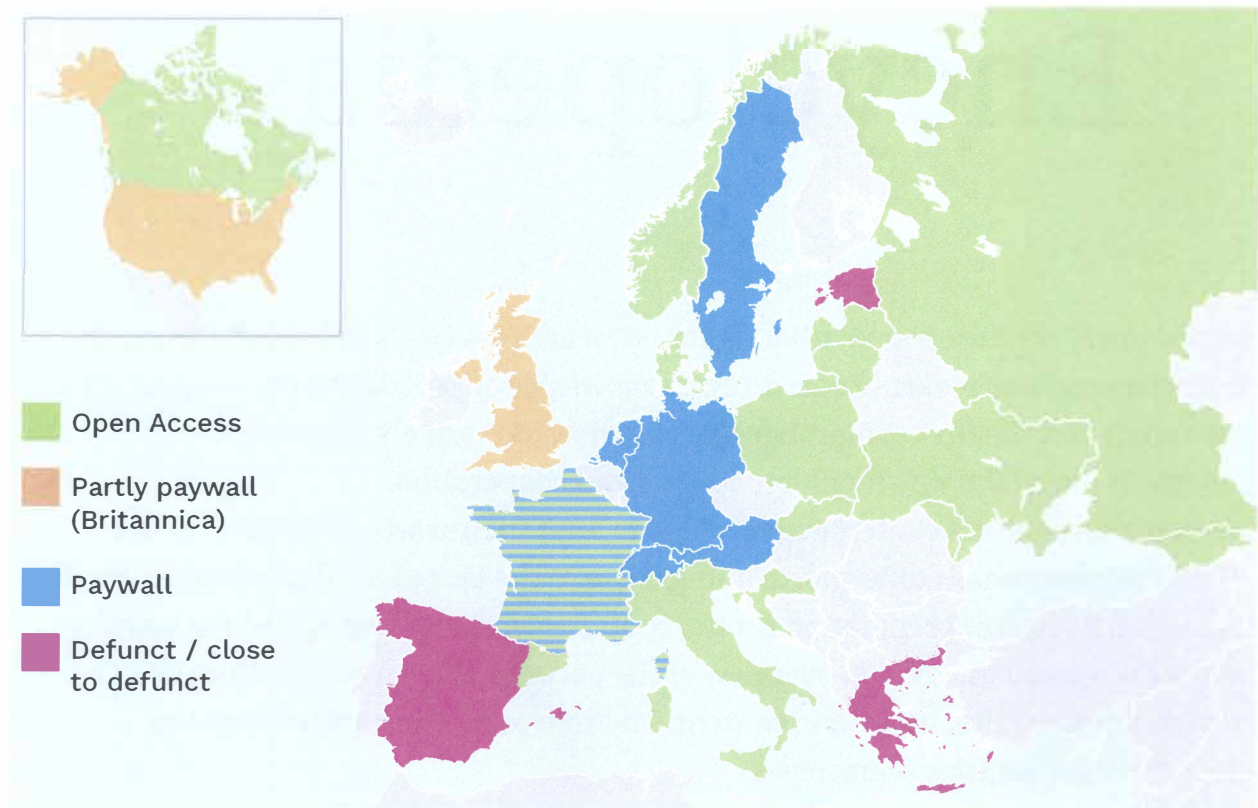
REST OF THE WORLD

- Arabic Encyclopedia mawsoah.net
- Azerbaijan National Encyclopedia ensiklopediya.gov.az
- China: Baike.com baike.com
- China: Baidu Baike baike.baidu.com
- New Zealand: Te Ara teara.govt.nz
- Puerto Rico: en.enciclopediaipr.org

The list is not complete – there are probably several encyclopedic projects that we're not aware of.

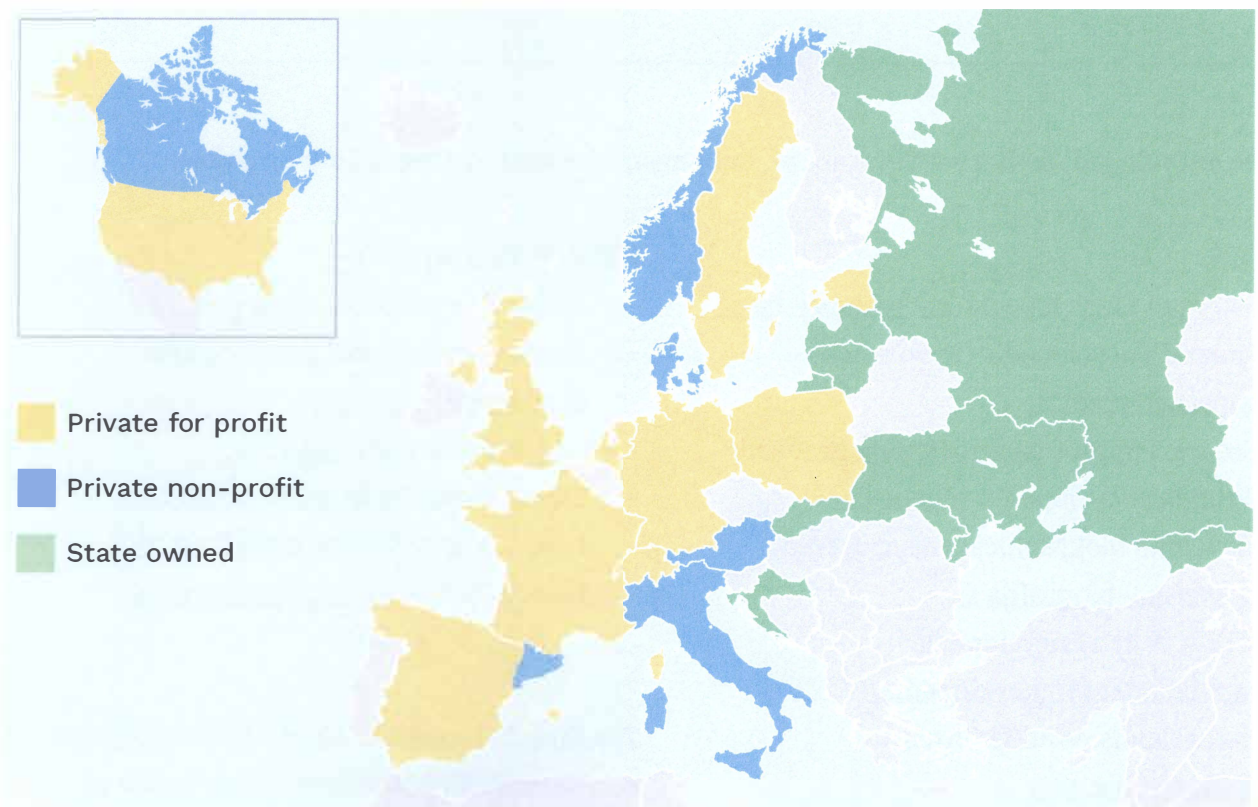
Access and ownership model of Europe's online general encyclopedias

Access



France has two encyclopedias: *Universalis* (paywall) and *Larousse* (open).

Ownership



Norway:

Great Norwegian Encyclopedia

(Store norske leksikon)

Established 1906, online from 2000. Written in Norwegian Bokmål and Norwegian Nynorsk. snl.no

Content

Articles written by

External topic experts (academics etc.)

How articles are written, updated, edited, reviewed

We have 1200 external topic experts who update articles, publish new articles and respond to user questions and comments. The editors guide the topic experts, verify all changes and function like project managers.

Brief description of online content/articles:

Most of the articles originated from the last paper encyclopedia, published 2005-2007. All articles have been expanded and updated in the past five years. We have also integrated text and images from around 20 other encyclopedic works. We currently update around 45,000 articles per year, and if we had published a new paper encyclopedia (we won't), it would have been around 71 big volumes.

Number of articles online

197,588

Updated articles

Past year: 44,939

Past 10 years: all

Users

Access

Open Access.

Main user groups

Students and general public.
95% of Norwegians aged 15-18 know the encyclopedia, among 60+ only 37% know that we're available online.

Unique visitors and pageviews per month

3.5 million visitors.

11 million pageviews.

Organisation and technology

Organisation form

Non-profit private organisation

Owned by

Norwegian universities and several private non-profit organisations and foundations

Approximate annual budget

€3 million

Main funding sources

50 % from the universities (members),
26 % private foundations,
18 % state support.

Staff

Editorial staff: 16

Other staff: 1

Publishing system

Specifically developed system
(from 2019 developed together with the Danish encyclopedia)

Ukraine:

Great Ukrainian Encyclopedia

(Велика українська енциклопедія, Velyka ukrains'ka entsyklopediia)

Established in 1957 (reorganized in 2013), online from 2018. Published in Ukrainian.
vue.gov.ua

Content

Articles written by

External topic experts (scholars from universities and research institutions, especially from the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine); and editorial staff.

How articles are written, updated, edited, reviewed

Most of the articles are written by external experts and research fellows of our institution and edited by our editors. Short articles are written by editors (reviewed by experts if needed).

Brief description of online content/articles

All the articles are new, written especially for *Great Ukrainian Encyclopedia*. They are created in two versions: the complete version for the online encyclopedia and the shortened one for the printed edition.

Number of articles online

About 10 000 articles

Updated articles

Past year: About 7 %.

Past 10 years: All the articles are new (our online encyclopedia was launched in 2018, less than 10 years ago).

Users

Access

Open Access.

Main user groups

Users from: Ukraine (93.1%), Germany (2.7%), Poland (2.2%), and others; the largest age group: 18–24 (36%); gender ratio: female 75.5%, male 24.5%.

Unique visitors and pageviews per month

161,000 visitors.

612,000 pageviews.

Organisation and technology

Organisation form

State, state owned, or state controlled.

Owned by

State: The State Research Institution “Encyclopedia Press” ev.vue.gov.ua

Approximate annual budget

€122,000 (for institution’s activity).

Main funding sources

State support.

Staff

Editorial staff: director, 18 research fellows, 6 editors.

Other staff: 5 persons.

Publishing system

We use MediaWiki software adapted to the features of our project.