

The image features two large, weathered stone statues of human figures against a clear, bright blue sky. The statue on the left is shown from the side, with its right arm raised and hand resting on its head. The statue on the right is shown from a three-quarter view, looking upwards. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**Belfast Healthy Cities
Explorer Award
2014**

NI Public Health Act (1967)

- Need to move to an all-hazards approach
- Need to clarify responsibilities
- Need to ensure compatibility with Human Rights Act
- Need to ensure consistency with International Health Regulations



Links to Phase VI Healthy Cities

- Theme 3 – *Strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity*
- Health 2020 – improving health for all and reducing inequities
 - Improving leadership and participatory governance



Why Norway?

- Recently introduced new Public Health Act
- Similar limitations to 1967 Act
- Similar public health challenges
- Similar financial constraints
- Sought to embed high level principles...



Principles

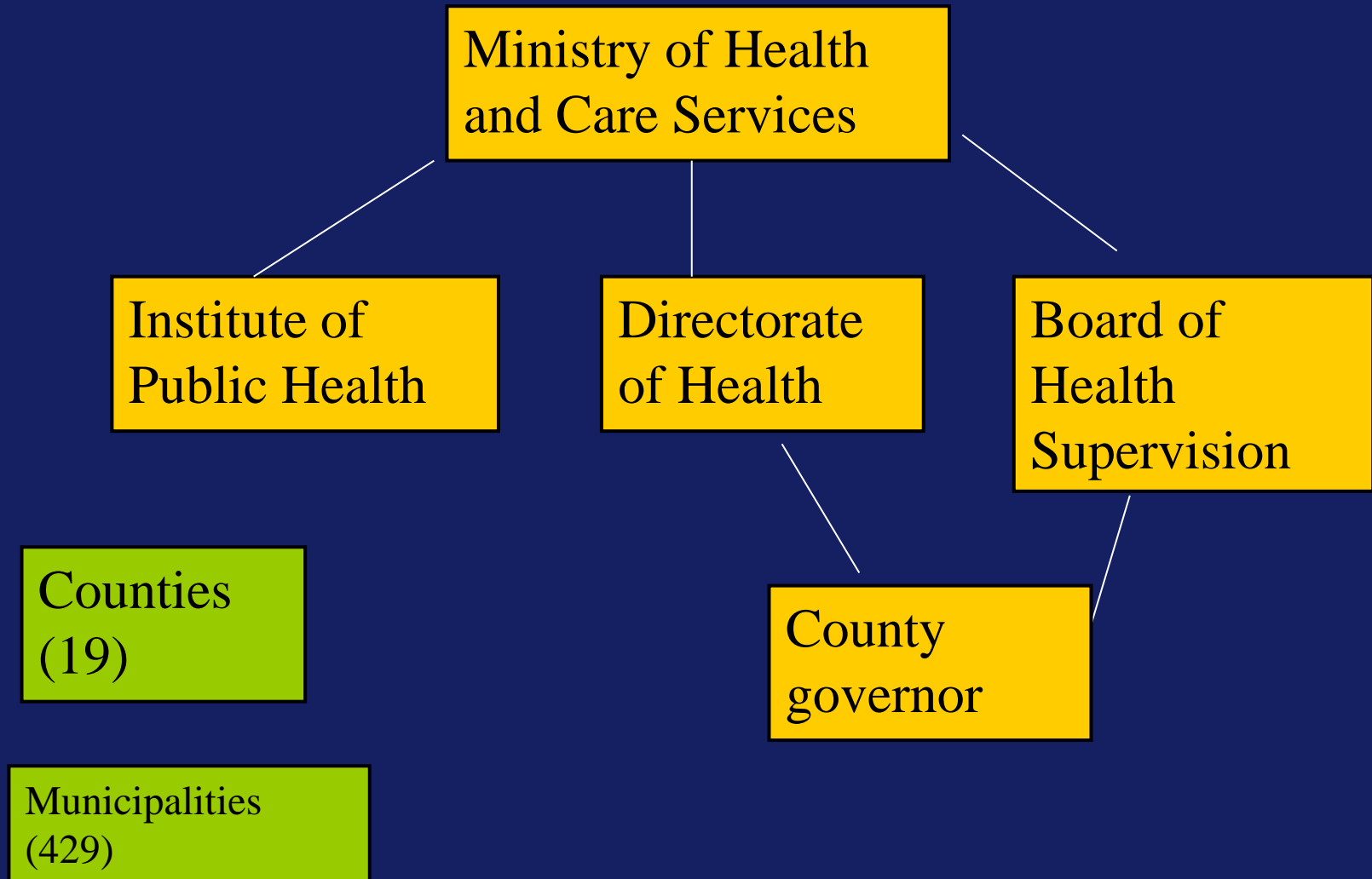
- Health equity
- Health in all policies
- Sustainable development
- Precautionary principle
- Participation



Objectives

- To examine how the Public Health Act has been implemented and what benefits/impacts are apparent to date
- To examine links between central, regional and local government in relation to implementation of the Act





Norwegian Public Health Act

- Objective – *contribute to societal development to promote public health and reduce health inequalities*
- Statement of principles
- Clear responsibilities
- “Umbrella” Act



Ministry of Health and Care Services

- Responsible for writing:
 - legislation
 - policy – physical activity, communicable diseases, tobacco, food safety, health inequalities etc



Directorate of Health

- Monitor factors affecting public health
- Implementation of national policy
- Promote knowledge-based public health
- Provide information, advice and guidance
- Finance local health promotion projects



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Public Health Institute

- Main aim is health analysis
- Link with guidance from Directorate
- Monitor development of public health
- Prepare overview of population's health and health determinants
- Engage in research



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Healthy Cities Norway

- Main goal is HiAP to reduce social inequalities
- Partnership working
- Public Health Act:
 - validates work already taking place
 - provides framework to operate within
 - gives power to smaller operators



Oppegård municipality

- Municipalities responsible for delivery of services
- Must have an overview of population's health
- Healthy Cities model
- Seen as “best practice” example
- Act has ensured health at centre of policy making



Impact of the Public Health Act

Too early to say but...

- Put health on the agenda
- Validated work already taking place
- Framework for prioritising public health needs
- Created awareness of importance of public health
- Embedded partnership working



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Impact of the Public Health Act (ctd)

- Clear roles and responsibilities
- Everyone responsible for health
- Strengthened evidence base
- Supplemented other laws
- Provided statement of principles
- WHO (2020), Trondheim Zsuzsanna Jakab: “Look to Norway”



The key to success

- Ildsjel (burning souls)
- Top down/bottom up approach
- Evidence and knowledge
- Political backing
- Systems ready to go
- Overcome threats
- Timing/opportunity



Next Steps

- Broaden our thinking
- Inform Law Commission scoping exercise
- Include in review consultation

