

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MODERNISATION

Specific measures for local development in remote areas

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Ministry of Local government and modernization

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THE MERKUR-PROGRAM

Shops in sparsely populated areas:
approximately 1000

60% in MERKUR

Of these:
58% RUN BY WOMEN

Competence
Network
Economic funding



Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet

A good rural multifunctional shop

- Additional tasks and activities – some examples....
 - Betting/lottery and postal services
 - Coffee-bar, Christmas markets
 - Tourism initiatives
 - boats for hire
 - floating docks,
 - hiking, maps for sale
 - Sale of fish licenses
 - Local food
 - Information from the municipality
 - Library
- The sky is the limit....



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Local consultants

10 MERKUR- consultants

1. Finnmark – Elisabeth Gamst Mathisen
2. Troms/Nordland – Ole Svedenborg
3. Nordland – Line Tellemann
4. Trøndelag Stig Olson
5. Vestlandet nord – Ronny Mowatt
6. Hordland – Per Spillum
7. Rogaland – Lars Helgeland
8. Agder- Roy Michaelsen
9. Buskerud – Hallvard Christensson
10. Innlandet – Vigdis Myhre Næsseth



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Investment support:



- App 40 mill NOK for investments per year
- Investments in important infrastructure in a modern grocery shop – freezers, fridges and computerized cash registers
- Support of activities in the shop– such as market days, mobilizing the surrounding community
- Aid to establish or upgrade the shops petrol pump

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Simplifying management of uncultivated areas

- Many ministries involved
- The goals are different
- Long term work
- simplifying
- Increased local autonomy
- Increased value making



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National development programs, based on nature resources

- Stimulate to value making, new jobs,
- Stimulate sustainable development
- Contribute to make rural communities more attractive as a long term place to live
- Stimulate cooperation between different sector with responsibility within management of nature resources

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Topics - local development

- Strengthen municipal work on local development
- Integration of immigrants
- Special focus on youths
- Image building projects
- Value making based on nature resources, cultural heritage
- Focus on meeting spots
- High quality services, both private and public



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