



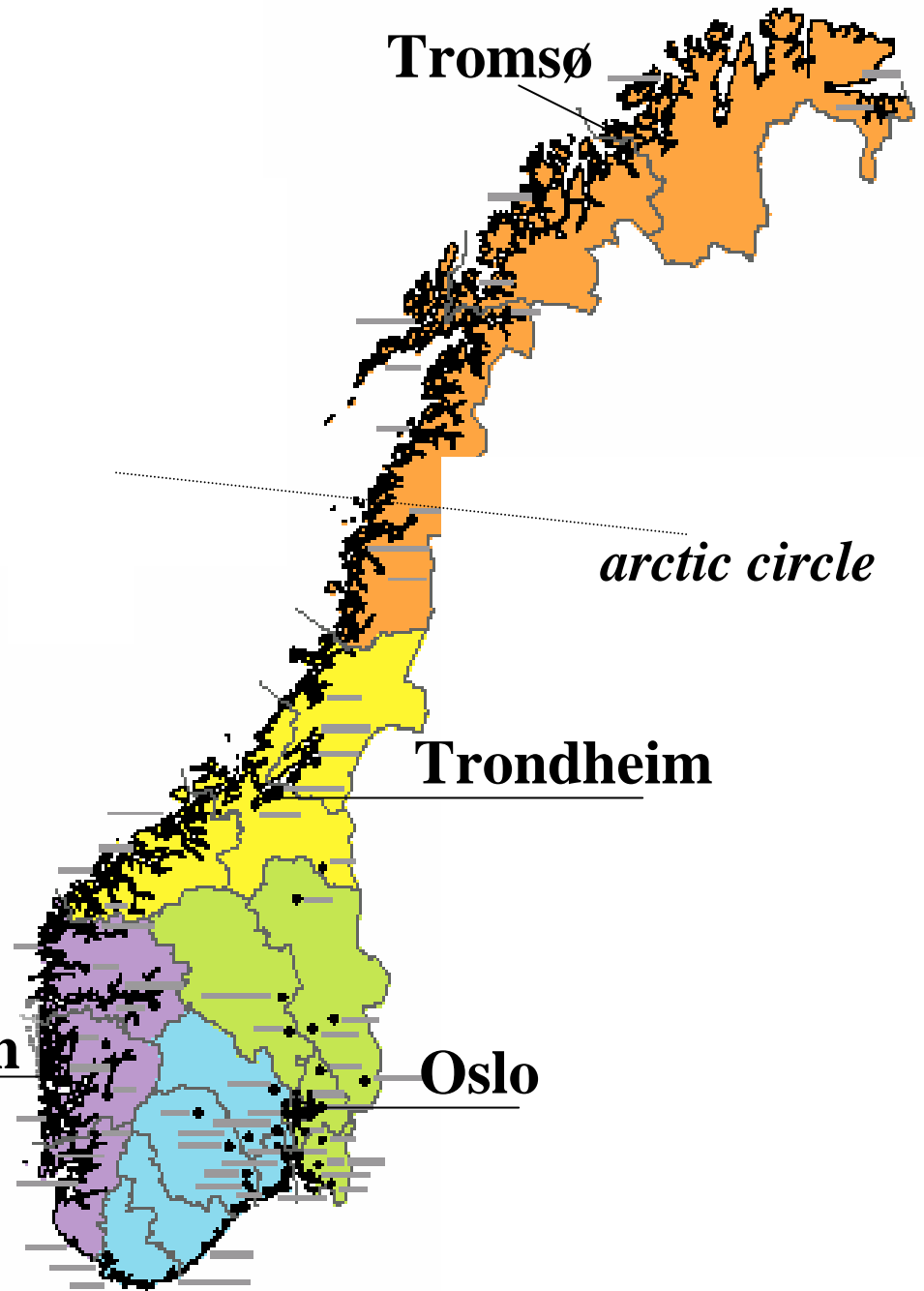
DET KONGELIGE
HELSE- OG OMSORGSDEPARTEMENT

The Royal Ministry of Health and Care Services

*Sustainable Development
Norwegian follow-up of the Brundtland Report*

Bjørn Erikstein, Director General

Norway -
The Very Far "Way North"
323,800 km² – 4.7 mill inhabit.



"Our Common Future" - 20 years

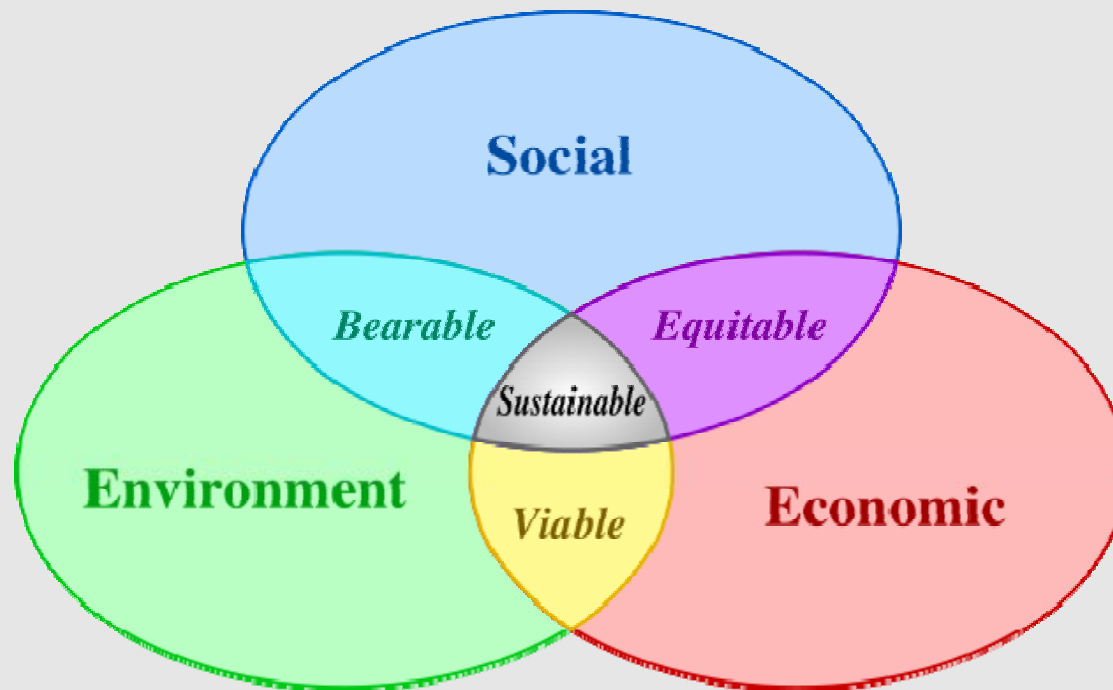
"What is needed now is a new era of economic growth – growth that is forceful and at the same time socially and environmentally sustainable".

From the foreword of the Brundtland report
"Our Common Future"

What *is* sustainable development?

- The precautionary principle
- Coordination of environmental, economic and social goals in planning and performance
- Public participation in decision-making
- Protection of biological diversity
- Justice between generations and peoples
- Use of best practice
- Good governance

Sustainability – a simplified model



Sustainable development in Norway

- How to ensure a holistic approach to national policies?
- Choose a "strong" actor to lead: In Norway, the Ministry of Finance
- "Green state sector"

2007: A revised National Agenda

1. International cooperation
2. Climate, the Ozone layer and long-transported air pollution
3. Biological diversity and cultural heritage
4. Natural resources

A revised National Agenda (contd.)

5. Chemicals causing risks for health and the environment
6. Sustainable economic and social development
7. Sàmi perspectives in the management of the environment and resources

Means to achieve the goals:

- International cooperation
- Economic means
- Administrative means
- Research and development
- Public procurement
- Assessment
- Enable consumers to make conscious choices

Sustainable development and health

1. Environment: Do we plan our hospitals and other health institutions in an environmental way?
2. Social development: The growing deficit of trained health personnel

Case 1: Akershus University hospital

- How can environmental planning be integrated in the planning of a new major hospital?
- By putting the issue high on the agenda when planning functions and structure
- By rooting the planning at leadership level in all major units of the hospital
- By creating ownership to the processes among staff and patients

Ahus environmental policy

- Ahus shall be an environmentally efficient hospital
- Ahus shall work to reduce pollution, waste and resource use
- Ahus shall choose materials, products and services in a way that minimises the effects on the external environment

Ahus: How to make the plan work

1. Assess the present situation
2. Make environmental goals and policies
3. Establish procurement procedures which protect the external environment
4. Assess the waste treatment routines with a special attention to waste separation
5. Environmental energy-supply
6. A continuous focus

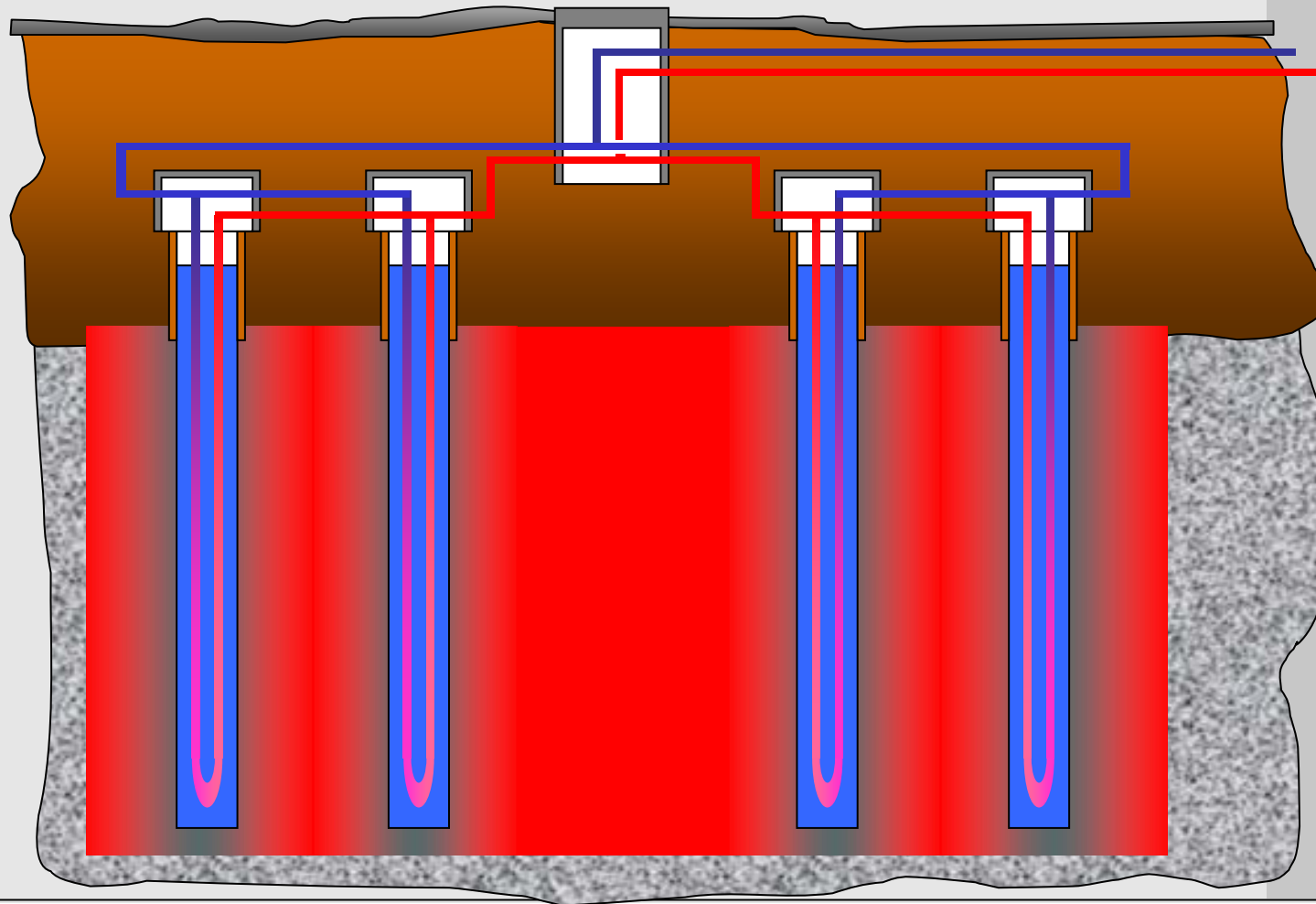
Main goals – waste treatment

- Quality-controlled waste treatment processes, special focus on dangerous waste and chemicals
- Increase the amount of sorted paper by 10 %
- Better waste treatment processes than in the present hospital

Energy saving

- Energy for heating:
 - Energy wells based on ground water to be used as primary heating source
 - Air heat exchange (recycling of the heat from used air)
 - Heat storage in energy wells below ground (neighbouring property – agricultural area)
- Will provide 80 % of all heating energy

Energy Wells







Social development: Health personnel and sustainability

- Many development countries suffer from lack of health workers
- Improved health a key factor to reduce poverty and improve social conditions
- A major theme of discussion in the World Health Organisation

The ageing of Europe – is it sustainable?

- Europe is ageing rapidly
- An older population needs more health services
- How can we recruit sufficient health personnel to an ageing population?

A moral question: Can we solve our problem without importing health workers?

- Developing countries lack health workers
- Industrialised countries will need a growing number of health workers
- How can we solve our problem without increasing health inequities in the developing countries?

What can we do?

- National recruitment strategies must be in line with global policies
- Domestic measures must dominate
- Long-term education strategies
- Ethical guidelines on recruitment

Three health challenges

- Do we integrate environmental thinking in our central and local health planning?
- Do our personnel policies contribute to sufficient quality recruitment?
- Do we include our community – staff and patients – in our processes?