



Norwegian Ministry
of Education and Research

Summary

Meld. St. 25 (2016–2017) Report to the Storting (white paper)

The Humanities in Norway



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Translation from Norwegian. For information only.

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Why a white paper?

The importance of the humanities is obvious. In today's world of climate change, large-scale migration and rapid shifts in technology it is necessary to understand the importance of identity, values, religion, culture, ethics and language. Democracies require an enlightened public debate, which in turn requires a literate population with a basic understanding of history and international relations. Working life is characterised by globalisation, changing modes of production, increasing complexity and the introduction of new technologies. In our times, it is even more important than before that school pupils learn to navigate in the constant flow of increasingly complex and ambiguous information. The experience of art opens the mind to perspectives and insights not directly accessible by other means. The humanities are central to all these areas of human experience. We therefore need research and education in the humanities, in schools and in institutions of higher education, of the highest possible quality.

This white paper highlights several issues related to the involvement and contribution of the humanities in meeting societal challenges. Humanities scholars possess knowledge, skills and tools that should be used more often. Their knowledge and skills are not sufficiently included in the meeting of disciplines that is necessary in order to tackle complex challenges in working life and society in general. Too many humanities graduates experience difficulties in the labour market.

A second concern is the contribution of universities to the teaching of humanities subjects in schools. Here all parties have work to