

Særemne/Special Topic no. 25

THE NORWEGIANNES

Norwegian national identity as experienced and comprehended by Baltic nationals in Norway.

What kind of country is Norway? Who are the Norwegians? How do they express themselves? Vikings, folk culture, mountains and fjords, the Norwegian way of life in a welfare state; how is it linked together?

These are the main questions we would like you, people from the Eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, to answer.

National identity can be compared to a picture painted in several individual colours, one for every citizen. The general impression of the natives and the country, as formed by foreigners, is of a different quality. Let us try to synthesize that picture instead of forming images based on personal impressions.

This questionnaire deals with some notions about Norway and Norwegians conceived before coming to Norway for the first time. It also touches upon everyday's experience and contacts with Norwegians while being in Norway. Do not hesitate to answer the questions even if you have but seen glimpses of Norwegianness, or if you have stayed in Norway only for a short time.

We are sure that your replies will make the relations between Norway and the Baltic countries closer and help enhance academic and scholarly co-operation and tourism.

The Norwegian Ethnological Research Foundation will treat every reply according to laws about personal security and rules concerning good research ethics.

1. What associations were aroused in you by the word "Norway" before you came to the country for the first time?
2. Was it based on the information you had got:
 - a) at the secondary school?

- b) from literature?
- c) from theatre?
- d) from concerts?
- e) from art exhibitions?
- f) from mass-media?
- g) from private conversations?
- h)

3. What associations were aroused in you by the word "Norwegians" before you came to Norway for the first time?

4. Was it based on the information you had got:

- a) at the secondary school?
- b) from literature?
- c) from theatre?
- d) from concerts?
- e) from art exhibitions?
- f) from mass-media?
- g) from private conversations?
- h)

5. What kind of books have you read which have something to do with Norway and Norwegians?

6. What was the first situation, object or habit which you comprehended as typically Norwegian just after your first arrival to Norway?

7. Indicate five (or more) main features of Norwegian character. (Specify approximately the age and occupation of the people you were associating with when getting this image.)

8. Point out what you consider to be the most attractive features of the Norwegian character.

9. Point out what you consider to be the most attractive aspects of the Norwegian way of life.

10. Point out what you consider to be the most unacceptable and/or strange features of the Norwegian character.

11. Indicate what you consider to be the most unacceptable aspects of the Norwegian way of life.

12. Have you ever been in a situation of confusion or misunderstanding in Norway? Indicate the situation(s).

13. Do you think that Estonian/Latvian/Lithuanian and Norwegian cultures differ greatly?

- a) at what point are they most different?
- b) at what point are they most alike?

14. Where have you got your experience of the ways in which the Norwegians express their national identity? Indicate the place and situation by giving (3) examples?
15. What associations are aroused in you by the word "stavkirke"?
16. What are the main symbol(s) of the Norwegian cultural heritage to your mind?
17. What associations are aroused in you by the word "viking"?
18. What are the main symbols of the Norwegian history in your mind?
19. What does the expression "gå på tur" mean to you?
20. Why are the Norwegians so interested in tourism inside their country?
21. What is your opinion about the Norwegians, and
 - a) running?
 - b) biking?
 - c) hiking?
 - d) skiing?
22. What is your image of the Norwegian woman?
23. What are the main differences between Norwegian and Baltic (Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian) young men and women (boys and girls) in the street? Is it possible to identify who is who from the first glimpse?
24. What do you think about mixed Baltic (Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian) – Norwegian families?
25. What associations are aroused in you by the habit of using candle(s) on the table?
26. What are the main symbols of Norwegian home life to your mind?
27. What is your opinion about Norwegian meal habits?
28. What is your opinion about Norwegian drink habits?
29. Indicate 3 names of the most famous representatives of Norway?
 - a) Amundsen
 - b) Bjørnson
 - c) Grieg
 - d) Hamsun
 - e) Heyerdahl
 - f) Ibsen
 - g) Munch
 - h) Nansen
 - i) Undset
 - j) Vigeland
 - k) Wergeland
 - l)
 - m)

n)

30. What do you think about the Norwegian attitude to nature?
31. Could you compare Norwegian character and way of life with those of other Scandinavians?
32. If you know some stories, sayings, jokes or anecdotes about Norwegians and other Scandinavians, please write them down.

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