

# Erasmus - Challenges

During our exchange in Norway we noticed that Hammerfest faces quite opposite challenges compared to Germany. In fact, as the most northern city in Europe Hammerfest has to deal with extreme winters, polar nights and days and isolation. As an overview we present a few examples:

## Transportation – Germany and Norway

Germany and Norway face different transportation challenges due to their geographical, infrastructural, and economic differences. Germany, with its diverse landscapes and central European location, boasts a well-developed transportation network, including highways and railways crucial for domestic and international trade. However, the varied terrain presents infrastructural hurdles, particularly in mountainous regions. The country's commitment to sustainability drives investments in greener transportation solutions.

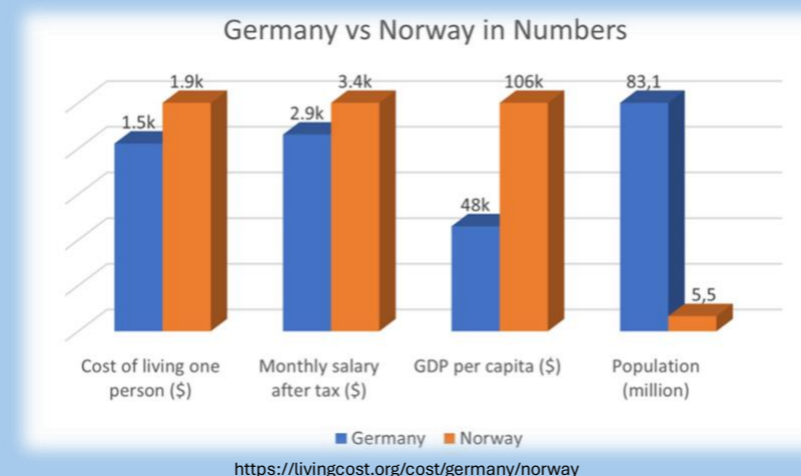
In contrast, Norway's rugged terrain and fjords pose unique challenges for transportation infrastructure. Despite this, Norway has invested heavily in roads, tunnels, and ferries to connect communities, especially in remote areas. Transportation is essential for industries like shipping and oil, but balancing environmental concerns with remote connectivity remains a challenge.

Both countries exemplify the importance of transportation for economic development and regional connectivity, yet their approaches to overcoming infrastructural and environmental challenges differ based on their respective landscapes and priorities. (Isabella Kopanska)

## The cost of living – Norway and Hammerfest

In Norway, living expenses are generally higher than in other countries. Especially in Hammerfest, a city in the north of Norway, the cost of living is even higher than the national average. This has been attributed to its setting that increases transportation costs for goods and services. Rental rates are generally high for centrally situated or furnished apartments in Hammerfest.

Groceries, as well as other essentials are more expensive here than in other parts of Norway. Nevertheless, despite this fact, the country still maintains high-quality public services as well as a good quality life in general. As a result of these factors, attempts have been undertaken to lower living costs in Hammerfest with the view of arresting depopulation of people who had gone for studies or whatever elsewhere. The intention behind such an exercise is basically geared towards making the city sustainable. (Luise Domes)



## Münster

Compared to Hammerfest, Münster as a growing major city faces very different challenges.

Firstly, the inhabitants are burdened by rising rent prices and housing shortage. Two main reasons for this development are on the one hand that neighbourhoods such as the Kreuzviertel and the Hafenviertel are experiencing gentrification. This is characterised by wealthy investors causing an increase in living costs (e.g. rents) leading to a displacement of low-income residents. On the other hand, Münster, offering high quality of life, is attracting a rising population.

Secondly, Münster is struggling with public transportation. A lack of personnel forced the municipality to reduce the timetable leading to overcrowded buses and unsatisfied citizens. As residents switched to private transport the traffic on the roads increased contributing to a lower quality of life.

Overall, it can therefore be noted that Münster's challenges are resulting from urbanisation, while Hammerfest faces unique challenges due to its environmental conditions. (Miriam Jenki)