

«European tradition,  
Nordic history,  
Norwegian Culture.  
And at the same time a very  
personal experience.»



**ST.OLAV WAYS**  
THE PILGRIM PATHS TO TRONDHEIM

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR76MsGrHds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SR76MsGrHds)

[www.stolavways.com](http://www.stolavways.com)



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Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe





**Churches, monasteries  
and chapels dedicated to St. Olav:**

Denmark	18	Iceland	70
England and Wales	32	Norway	52
Estonia	1	Poland	3
Faeroe Islands	1	Russia	1
Finland	22	Scotland	19
Greenland	2	Sweden	75-100
Ireland	5	Turkey	1

*Figures are approximate*



## From Viking King to Saint Olav

- Olav Haraldsson, born 995, son of a king, raised as a warrior
- At 12 year he went abroad as a Viking
- Got inspiration, influence and new ideas from politicians and church leaders around Europe
- His goal: To reconcile Norway as a nation, with a new political regime
- Introduced human values and Christianity
- Were killed in a battle at Stiklestad in 1030
- Canonised, and pilgrimage to Nidaros (Trondheim) and St. Olav's burial church from 1031 to 1537.



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## Reviving the St. Olav Ways

- Initiated in 1993/94 by Oppland County, the directorate of Cultural Heritage and The Department of Environment
- The pilgrim paths from Oslo to Trondheim and Stiklestad to Trondheim, relaunched and signposted in 1997.
- 5 regional centres in 2010.
- European Cultural Route in 2010.
- National Pilgrim Center in 2012.
- National strategy by the Government.
- 2000 km signposted in Norway, in total 5000 km signposted in the Nordic Countries.



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# National strategy

«Through a landscape rich in nature and cultural heritage, the pilgrim path offers hiking and cultural experiences.

As an important part of the European cultural heritage the pilgrim path will provide a unique encounter with Norwegian nature, culture, beliefs and people.

Development of the path will contribute to increased value and positive growth along the route»



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## St. Olav Ways – status 2017

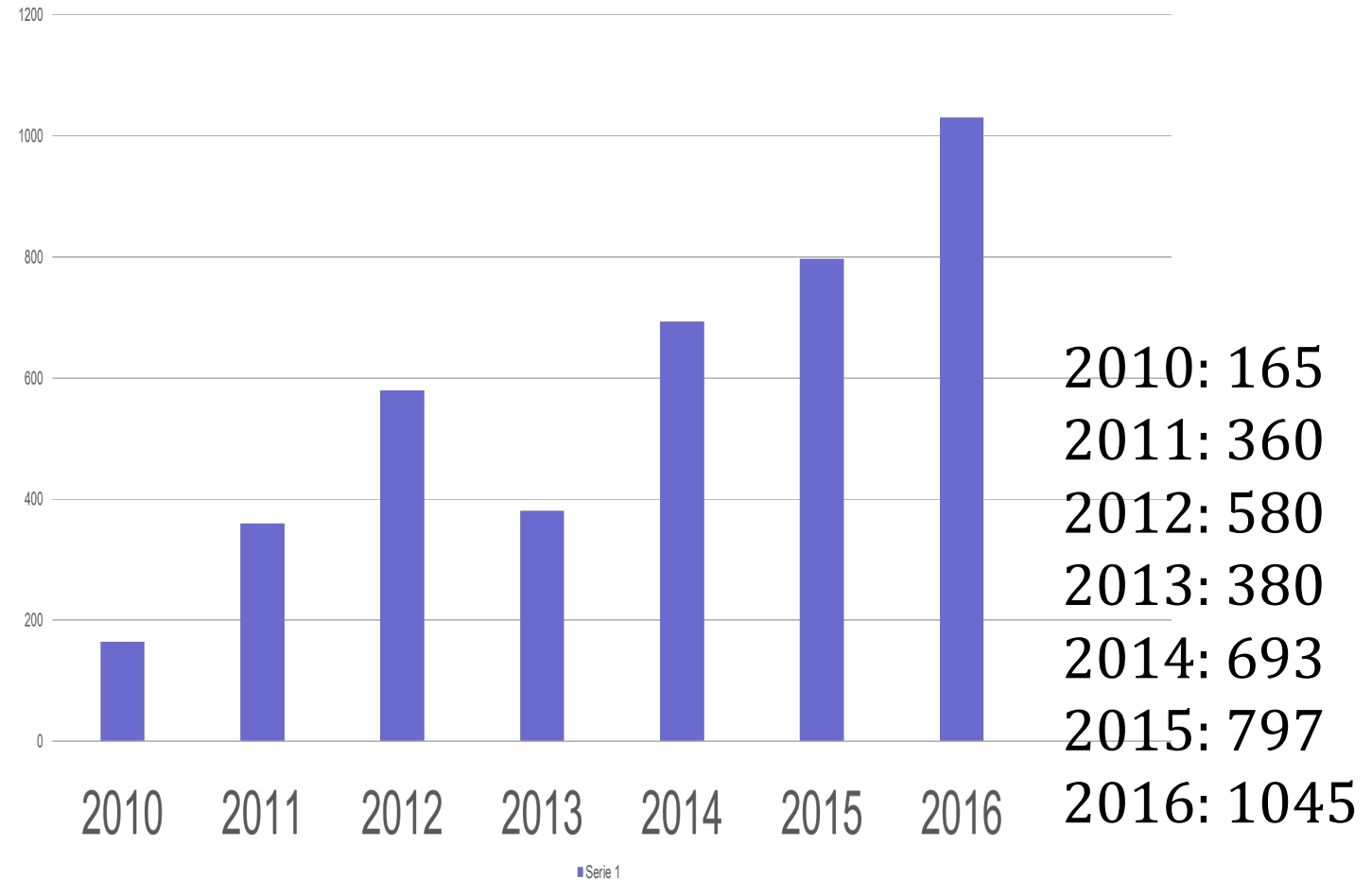


Figure 2, Statistics, registered Olav Letters from 2010 -2016



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# St. Olav Ways – Focus areas:

- Convey and renew the pilgrimage tradition
- Coordinate the national work – route management
- Infrastructure
- Sustainable pilgrimage, natural and cultural tourism
- Rural revitalisation
- Nordic cooperation - European Cultural Route









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**act now**  
for climate justice

  
**Klimapilegrim** 2015



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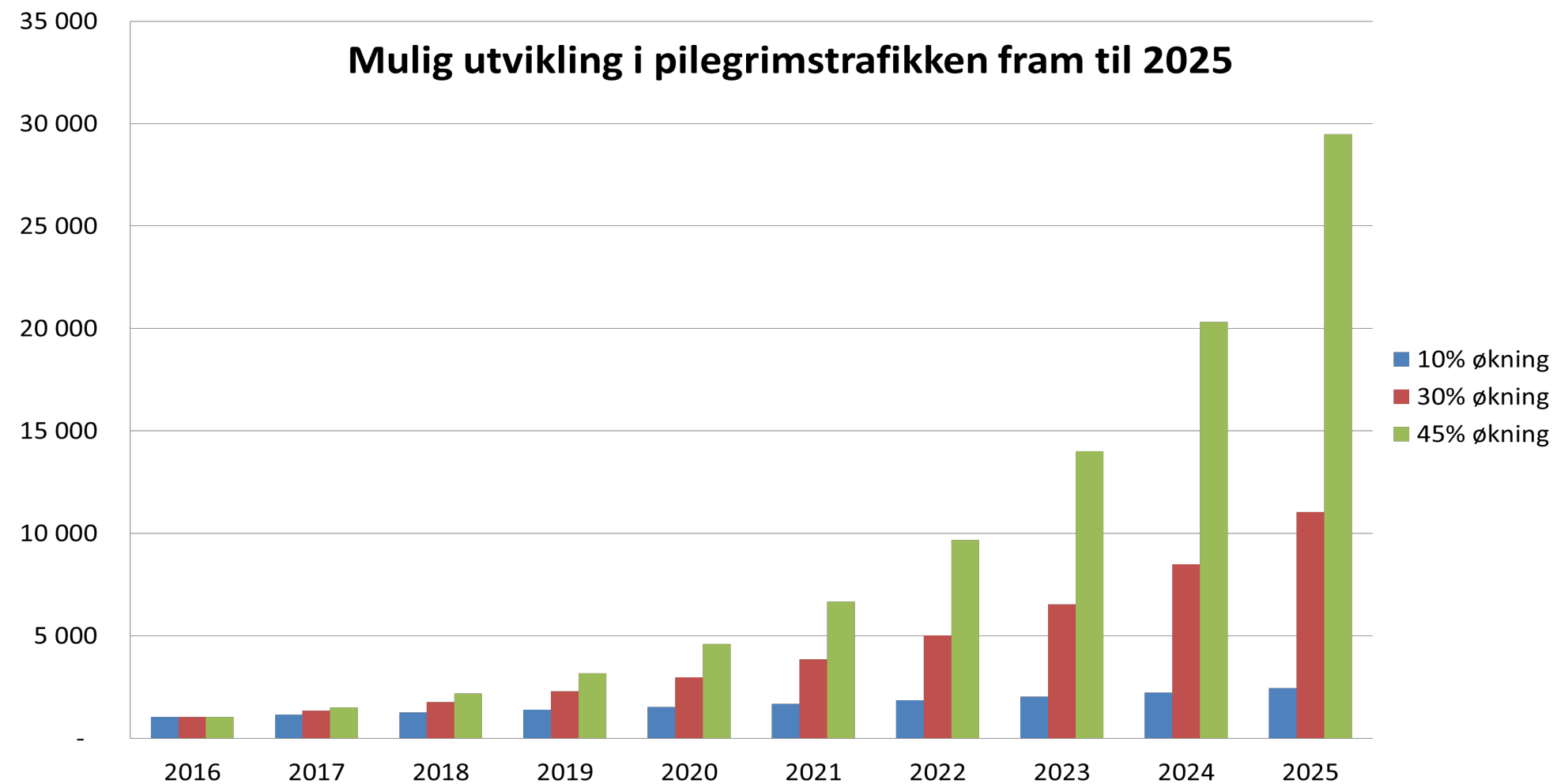


## Key Lessons, 1997 - 2017:

- Administration/ bureaucracy
- Marketing and Communication
- Infrastructure
- Stick to the concept of pilgrim
- Volunteers
- Networking



# St. Olav Ways in the next years



2025 forecasts, Statistics, registered Olav Letters



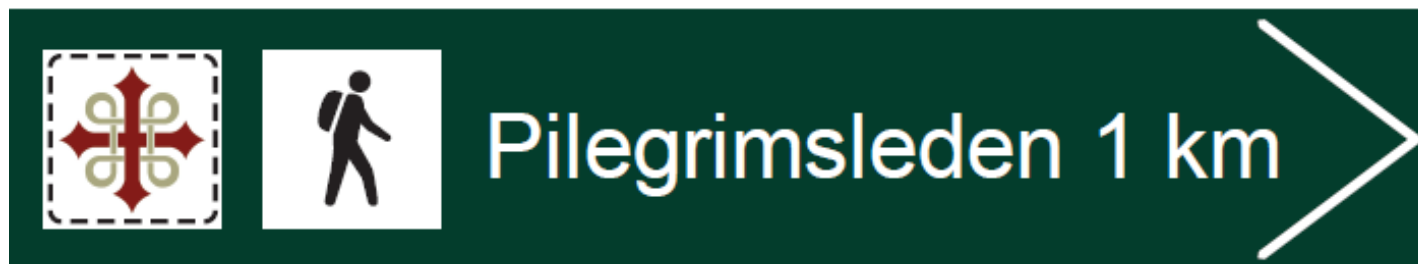
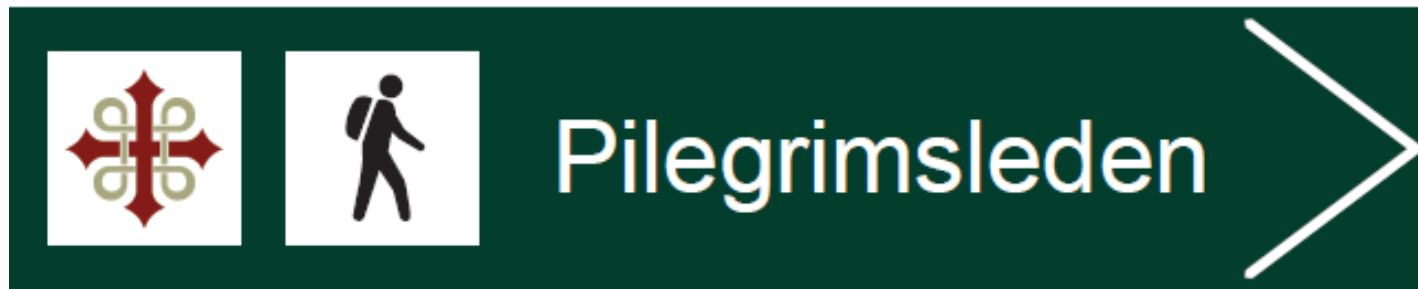


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## St. Olav Conference 2017

From Iceland to India – a Thousand Years  
of St. Olav Churches

20 – 21 April 2017

Stiklestad National Culture Centre, Norway

[www.stolavconference.com](http://www.stolavconference.com)

# The Route of St. Olav Ways

An arena for intercultural dialogue

- Academic network to exchange common European heritage
- Awareness of children and young people about their own roots and history
- Integration of refugees
- Treatment and therapy for criminals
- Pilgrimage as a spiritual exploration for modern people
- Common pilgrimage to learn about and to understand other cultures and religions
- St. Olav Festival
- Pilgrims Crossing Borders



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