

## Norway

# RøverRadion

RøverRadion is Norwegian prison radio, and was established in 2013. RøverRadion is made for and by Norwegian inmates, and is produced in five prisons; Oslo, Bergen, Halden, Eidsberg and Bredtveit prison for women. The show is broadcast inside Norwegian prisons, and also nationally through Norway's public service broadcaster, NRK.

In RøverRadion we work so prisoners' voices are heard in society. This to ensure their democratic right to freedom of speech. And we work also to be a bridge between prison and society on the other side of the wall.



Røverradion has received multiple awards for shows that touch upon drug use, mental health, sexual health, rehabilitation, questions of justice and life in general behind bars.

RøverRadion is also an important source of information for people who are incarcerated. Information about what rights they have, what programs they can apply for, information from public authorities and campaigns to improve inmates' life in prison.



- In 2017 RøverRadio became the first prison radio in the world to broadcast on a national radio station, NRK
- Since it was founded, RøverRadion has worked with approximately 150 inmates as editorial staff, across six different prisons.
- RøverRadion also broadcasts inside prisons through various channels. The goal is to create a single system for all prisons in order to be able to directly reach every prison cell in Norway.
- RøverRadion carries out multiple projects and campaigns targeted towards the prison population.
- The organisation also works with the editorial staff on a diversity of projects, after they have done their time.
- The show has received multiple nominations and also won three Prix Radio Awards – Norway's 'radio Oscars'.
- RøverRadion is actively working towards influencing Norway's criminal justice system by meeting with government politicians, the justice minister, prime minister and other central decision makers.
- RøverRadion wishes to increase its representation in the Norwegian prison population, and is constantly working towards visiting every prison in Norway, to make radio or to establish autonomous departments in different prisons.

Simen Iskariot Larsen, former prisoner and participant in RøverRadion in 2015 and 2016:

*"After living many years on the edge of society, it was easy to think I didn't belong there to begin with. When your self-worth and self-esteem are low, taking drugs can seem like the only solution. That someone thought I had something to say that was worth hearing, turned my world around."*

*Joining RøverRadion made me look at the world and see that not all my bridges were burned down. Without RøverRadion, I would probably be sitting somewhere with a needle in my arm, be in prison, or worse.*

*Now I no longer burn the candle at both ends. I am studying criminology, meeting with community leaders, helping others with the same experiences as me, and having talks in front of hundreds of people. And I am mastering it!"*

