The Norwegian life science industry

A DESCRIPTION OF MARKETS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

Foreword

With one of the world's most innovative R&D environments and large access to high-quality health data, Norway has great potential as a hub for activity in the life science sector. As an industry where extensive collaboration is a fundamental for success, this creates opportunities for German companies seeking partnerships and investment opportunities.

In this report, we describe important trends, key players and potential in the Norwegian life science industry. We especially focus on the use of health data and segments targeting the health industry.

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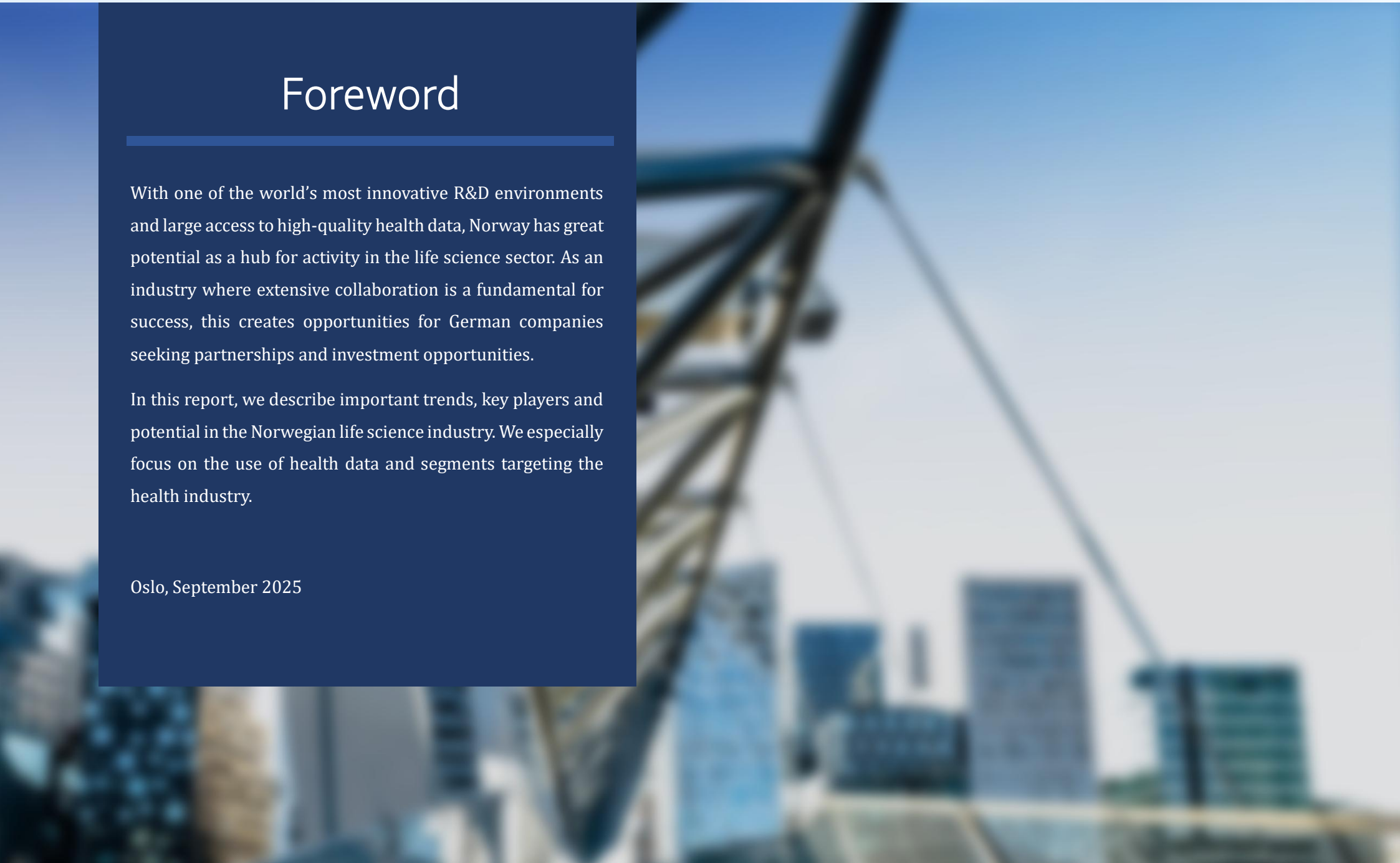

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Market characteristics and size

Small, but strong in markets related to the health industry

The Norwegian life science ecosystem is currently relatively small, with 657 companies in 2022.[1] Important characteristics include a large degree of public-private partnerships, strong research landscape, and emerging number of startups. The sector has a strong presence in the health industry, some of which may be attributed to strong research niches and high-quality health data, which has been curated for decades.

A large degree of public-private partnerships and important multiplicators

The sector has a large degree of public-private partnerships, facilitated by important multiplicators. The **main industry clusters** are Oslo Cancer Cluster, Norway Health Tech (which incorporated Norwegian Smart Care Cluster in January 2025 and now operates solely under the Norway Health Tech name) and the Life Science Cluster.[2] Other important players are **incubators** like Aleap and Startup Lab.[3] Additionally, coordination takes place through Oslo Science City, Norway's first so-called "innovation district", where researchers, startups, businesses and public entities collaborate. One of their core topics are the life sciences, where the city aims to develop a life science ecosystem around Oslo.[4] In recent years, a growing number of **startups** have emerged, largely centered around the main clusters.[5]

Strong niches in research and clinical trials

The sector boasts a robust **research landscape**, with two-thirds of all activity concentrated in Oslo.[6] University hospitals are pivotal in driving research and development (R&D) efforts and facilitating clinical trials. Furthermore, **research institutes** play a vital role in product and process development, as well as ensuring access to cutting-edge research infrastructure. Key players in the institute sector include SINTEF and IFE.[7] The Norwegian Research Council serves as the primary public entity for research and innovation policies, allocating NOK 11.3 billion annually to projects on behalf of various ministries.[8] **Clinical trials** are a particular strength, supported by specialized trial units, advanced diagnostic infrastructure, and high participant engagement. Key niche areas include oncology, immunology, neuroscience, and ultrasound.[9]

[1] Biotechgate, *Norway Life Science Trend Analysis 2023*, 5.
[2] Gotteberg et al., *Building Norway's Life Science Industry*.
[3] Oslo Science City, 'Health and Life Science'.
[4] 'About Oslo Science City'.
[5] Gotteberg et al., *Building Norway's Life Science Industry*.
[6] Oslo Science City, 'Health and Life Science'.
[7] SINTEF Industri, *Eksportmuligheter Knyttet Til Eksisterende Og Ny Bioteknologibasert Norsk Industri: Innspill Til Nasjonalt Eksportråd*, 9.
[8] Norwegian Research Council, 'Tasks and Organisation'.
[9] Business Norway, *Norway: A Premier Destination for Clinical Trials*.