

Report from Norway-Trip

Me and my partner arrived in Norway late Sunday evening by taking the train from Aarhus to Hirtshals and then the ferry to Larvik. With the money we got from the Nordplus Travel Grant we were able to have more flexibility on the length of our trip. Since we stayed in Norway for a week, we had two free days during the week, in case we would get a last-minute interview with a politician. We had not received an answer to our requests on the time of our departure. With this flexibility we also had the time to prepare better for our interviews and contact more sources.

On Tuesday we drove to Sandefjord in Vestfold to meet Katinka Thors, a single mother of choice with three IVF children. We spent around four hours with Katinka: the first two hours to interview and shoot sequences alone with her, before she took us to pick up her children from kindergarten. Back in her house we spent around two more hours filming Thors interacting with her children, to show her daily life as a single mother. The Nordplus Grant made it easier for us, because we didn't have to bother about travel distances and costs to our main characters.

On Wednesday we had an early interview appointment with Lars Kolbeinstveit from the think tank Civita in Oslo. The interview and filming with Kolbeinstveit took us less than two hours, we used the rest of the day to travel around Oslo and get different shots of the city. The shots are meant to visualize the transition of our location to Oslo. The interview with Kolbeinstveit was extra beneficial for us as he referred us to Øyvind Håbrekke from the christian think tank Skaperkraft.

Håbrekke has written a book about artificial fertilization for single women and has previously been in the parliament for the Christian Democratic Party (KrF), which is the main opposition stopping a change in the law for assisted fertilization for single women. We were lucky enough to get an interview appointment with him the next day (Thursday). Håbrekke explained the reasonings against artificial fertilization for single women and was able to give political insights. He had limited time for us, so we were only able to shoot one quick sequence, but that was all we needed from him.

On Friday we met with our main character Irmelin Lagem, whom we had previously met in Copenhagen, when she got IVF treatment. We visited her at home in Bærum, where she lives as a single mother with her two-year-old son from a previous relationship. We ended up staying there for three hours, where we got sequences of her

baking with her son, eating dinner and playing with him, as well as a long sit-down interview.

The Nordplus Travel Grant has been a great help in order for us to have enough freedom to make – in our opinion – a good documentary. With the travel grant we were able to wait with ordering return tickets until we knew, that we had the interview appointments, that we needed. Without the grant we wouldn't have been able to focus on our work as good as we did it in Norway.

Kind regards,

Sofie Sæthern