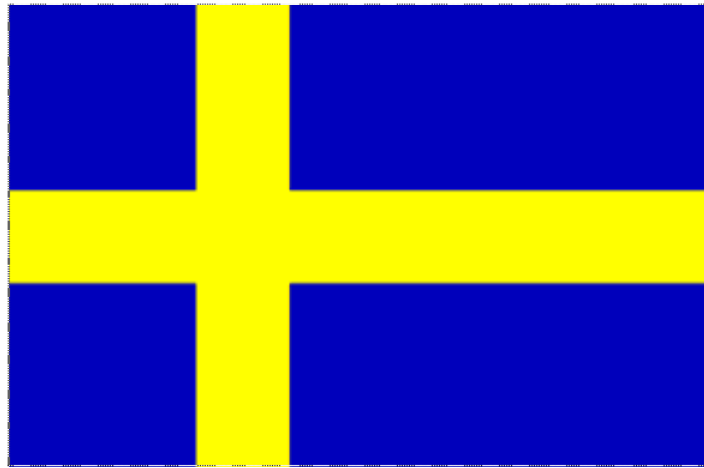




YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SWEDEN



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1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age <small>(cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)</small>	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	15,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		45,10
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		6,90
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		16,80
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		17,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		<u>60,00</u>
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		43,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		2,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children <small>(cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)</small>	Eurostat	2006		32,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children <small>(cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)</small>	Eurostat	2006		12,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children <small>(cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)</small>	Eurostat	2006		12,00

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	Annex 5
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3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	Annex 6
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ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTENCE / PROTECTION IN SWEDEN

In Sweden, social insurance, which provides financial protection, is big part of the social security system. It covers everyone that lives or works in Sweden. *Swedish social insurance agencies* role is to administer social insurance and to ensure that you get the benefits and allowances to which you are entitled. To be covered by or to be eligible for a social insurance benefits, you must either be resident in Sweden or be working there. (<http://www.rfv.se/sprak/eng/engelska.pdf> .)

Unemployment rate is usually higher 16–24 year olds. In the case of unemployment, in Sweden as in other Nordic countries people are usually entitled to cash benefits. *The unemployment insurance* consists of basic insurance and voluntary unemployment insurance. If you are non-insured, but otherwise meet the requirements (and who are 20+ years old), you are entitled to a basic amount. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf>)

Labour market programme, that may include practical job training, employment training, qualifying activities, occupationally adapted rehabilitation, business start-up etc, is organized, for that unemployed person could get a proper job. During this programme they are able to get activity support. Young unemployed people under 20 years may receive in-service training in a municipal enterprise. Young people between 20–24 years old, may be offered an activation programme so-called *youth guarantee*. Activity support is a taxable benefit and normally equal to the daily allowance that they would otherwise have been paid from unemployment insurance fund. The County Employment Board/Employment Office helps to find these labour market programmes. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf>; <http://www.rfv.se/sprak/eng/engelska.pdf>.)

Young aged between 19 and 29 are competent to *compensation, if their capacity for work is reduced* permanently or some limited time due to illness or some other reason that limits physical or mental performance. Compensations amount depends how much young's capacity for work and opportunities of supporting themselves through work is reduced. (<http://www.rfv.se/sprak/eng/engelska.pdf> .)

In the case of *disability*, that obliges young to attend compulsory school or upper secondary school for a longer period, they can receive activity compensation while they are at school, without their capacity for work being assessed. During that activity compensation, young have an opportunity to take part in activities that aimed to improve their capacity for work. A condition is that the activities are presumed to have a beneficial effect on the circumstances, which causes the reduction in their capacity for work. (<http://www.rfv.se/sprak/eng/engelska.pdf> .)

Usually every Swedish employed are principle ensured daily cash benefits or wages in *case of illness*. Also benefits are payable in the event of industrial or occupational disease. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

In Sweden, compensation is granted to cover any loss of income in connection with child birth during the last few weeks prior to and at least the first months following childbirth. The amount of *cash benefits (f. ex. maternity benefit, child benefit) to families and children* depends on any previous income. Fathers are also entitled to daily cash benefits for a number of days immediately following childbirth, at the same time as mothers receive maternity benefits. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf>)

In Sweden, *housing benefits* are granted to both families with children and single person. These benefits are means-tested. In addition to housing benefits, a subsidy may be granted, which will partly or fully cover any deposit, in order to enable people with a poor economy to find appropriate and reasonable accommodation. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

A young person, who takes part to compulsory *military service* are entitled to cash benefits. It compensates for example living and eating costs (http://www.forsakringskassan.se/privatpers/ung/om_varnplikt/ .)

In Sweden, as in other Nordic Countries are taken *preventive measures to ensure youth's safe environments*. They have focused families, where youths have for example criminal- or some psychosocial problems. Different kind of structures activities, for example work and studies, also leisure time activities has been organized. Also youth, who have problems, may have own adult contact person or contact family, that they see regularly. If there are serious problems in environment they live, for example lack of minding or if the young person threatens his own health with drugs or alcohol, there are placements, where those youths can be taken to guarantee their welfare. (<http://nososco-eng.nos.dk/filer/publikationer/Trygtext%202005%20GB.pdf> .)

Sources

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ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SWEDEN

Welfare system

Swedish national youth policy is directed at all young people and works to give young people equal opportunities and fair conditions. It means that factors such as gender, ethnicity, cultural or socio-economic background, age, place of residence, sexual orientation or disability must not be an obstacle to the opportunities of young people. There are two overall objectives for national youth policy: young people shall have real access to influence and they shall have real access to welfare. (http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/english_kat/0.2685.1413.00.html)

Sweden can be called welfare state. When we are looking at researches, which estimate people's equality, there can not be found flagrant inequalities. World Economic Forum has published many years *The Global Competitiveness Report*, where they assess globally countries competitiveness. Nordic countries have succeeded well in this report and Sweden's ranking has been many years in top ten. For example in 2005 Sweden was in first place. In the newest report 2007–2008 Sweden has the 4th place. To succeed in this report, it means that there must have been also investments and measures to peoples welfare. Report showed that Sweden has made effective investments to health promotion and health care. It has also succeeded to create good basic education systems. And also significant focus has been concentrated on higher education and that way in well-educated workers. These all measures for their part ensure country's economical competitiveness. (<http://www.gcr.weforum.org/>; http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF)

Gender

Even if these reports results showed, that Sweden has done measures to *peoples equality*, when we are observing more closely men's and women's equality, there can be found inequalities. For example in all age groups <30, 30–39 and 40–49 women's average earnings are lower than men's. In 2005 women between 16 and 64 years old and working 15 hours or more in a week, averaged earnings was over 15% below men's earnings. (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-80-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF)

There has been also research, how a family responsibility affects people's lives. It shows that family responsibilities (includes for example marriage, pregnancy, childcare) affect more women's than men's life. Women, in their working age, are more likely outside of the labour force than same aged men. Result showed that in Sweden, women aged between 25-54 years, are more likely inactive because of family responsibilities. Family responsibilities didn't affect same aged men's inactivity rate. (<http://www.eaea.org/news.php?aid=14607&k=2088&%20d=2007-12;> <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/07/169&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&quillanguage=en>; http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-07-122/EN/KS-SF-07-122-EN.PDF)

One thing exceptionally come up, when observed women and men equality at their working life. Usually, when all European countries were compared, there were considerably fewer women members in national parliaments than men. But Sweden was in 2006 only state, where women made up close to half of the members of parliament. (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-07-135/EN/KS-80-07-135-EN.PDF)

Disability

One research worked out, how people with disabilities integrated into society. They asked people, how easy or uneasy they feel presence of people with disabilities. The scale was 4 to 1 (4 completely at easy, 3 somewhat at easy, 2 somewhat uneasy, 1 very uneasy). In average result in 15 EU countries were 3.28. Sweden's result was 3.6.

So they felt most at ease in the presence of persons with disability. (http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/ebs_149_en.pdf)

Same research also asked public opinion, that how easy access disabled persons has to services and events. The questionnaire consisted of 28 different questions. Sweden was at the very bottom in the results. Sweden was the only country, whose every result in 28 questions was below the EU-15 average results. The result shows that Sweden's are very critical about conditions of access for people with disabilities. As this research's conclusions say, Sweden is often held up an excellent example in terms of tailoring its infrastructures to people with disabilities. So the result shows that these things have in Sweden remarkable attention. (http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/ebs_149_en.pdf)

Ethnic minority

The presence of minorities is mostly due to recruitment of so-called "guest-workers" in the second half of last century (f. ex. Sweden). This country has significant populations of non-nationals but also of descendants who have acquired citizenship in their new country of residence. Significant differences exist in the EU Member States regarding the existence of legislative measures to combat ethnic discrimination, racism, and inequalities. Some countries have specific anti-discrimination or equal treatment legislation pertaining to the field of education, such as Sweden (in higher education). Depending on each country's specific situation, there are also indigenous groups or different national, autochthonous or linguistic minorities that have lived in the respective countries or specific territories for centuries. Indigenous groups (e.g. the SE1mi in Finland and Sweden. (http://www.aulaintercultural.org/article.php3?id_article=1735 .)

The unemployment rate among the ethnic minority communities is much higher than among Swedish people in Sweden. *IFS (Insamlingsstiftelsen IFS rådgivningscentrum)* started in 1996 and is an independent not-for-profit association working with and for ethnic minority businesses in Sweden. One of the most important goals for IFS is to encourage entrepreneurship among ethnic minorities and represents its member companies in dealing with public authorities, organisations, banks, customers, the media etc. IFS is an independent association that builds bridges between cultures and companies to make it easier to live and work together. (http://www.ifs.a.se/eng_start.php .)

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