



THE SWEDISH NATIONAL
BOARD FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS
www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se

about

**THE SWEDISH NATIONAL
BOARD FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS**

2009

What is our mission?

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is a government authority. We work to ensure that young people have access to influence and welfare. We do this by producing and communicating knowledge on young people's living conditions. We also distribute funding to the civil society in the form of support for organisations, projects and international cooperation. All the support we distribute is given on behalf of the Swedish government.

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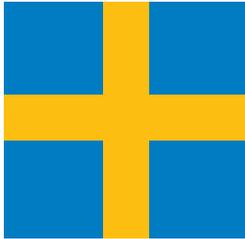
The National Board for Youth Affairs celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2009

The National Board for Youth Affairs has been in existence since 1994, but the board has existed in other forms, under the name of the State Youth Council, since 1959. The council became a board in 1976. We are based in Stockholm and have about 70 employees. Our director general is Per Nilsson.

Our target groups are

- Decision-makers
- Civil servants
- Organisations (working with young people, women, homosexual, bisexual and transgender people, national minorities, ethnic minorities etc.)

Youth policy



Youth policy in Sweden

The youth policy bill *The Power to Decide – The Right to Welfare* was adopted by the Swedish parliament in 2004. The overall goals of Swedish youth policy are to ensure that all young people between the ages of 13 and 25 have real access to influence and real access to welfare.



Youth policy in the European Union

In 2001 the member states agreed on four priorities within the youth area: youth participation, information for young people, voluntary activities for young people and a greater understanding and knowledge of young people's situations. A coherent youth policy is in the process of being drawn up in the EU. At the end of 2009 the EU Council of Ministers will decide on a new framework for youth policy cooperation.

Our role in youth policy

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs works to ensure that young people have more influence and better welfare. At a national level, we work to make the most of young people's knowledge and desire to participate in and influence the development of society.

At regional and local levels, we work to promote dialogue between young people and adults in regions and municipalities.

We make studies

There are over 1.5 million children, young people and young adults aged between 13 and 25 in Sweden. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs make studies on their living conditions, their health and what they do.

We do so by compiling statistics from several government authorities – known as indicators – on how life is for young people in Sweden. In our attitude and values studies we compare young people's perspectives with those of older generations, on things like work, housing, health, education, democracy, influence and leisure.

We analyse the situation for young people in neighbourhoods that are marked by social exclusion, and the health situation for young homosexual, bisexual and transgender people and which factors that enhance their health. We also analyse how municipalities organise and finance activities for young people who are neither working nor studying.



The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs also works to identify, in the European Social Fund project *Youth*, which practices that help young people from unemployment to employment or increased skills.

We support the municipalities

One of the tasks of the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is to support the municipalities in their youth policy work. They can use our youth questionnaire, LUPP, for local follow-up of youth policy and to find out more about young people's views on influence, school, leisure activities, work, health and plans for the future. The responses to the questionnaire can form a basis for future decisions within the municipalities.

We encourage cooperation between municipalities, municipal associations, regional associations and other regional actors, and we promote the creation of new networks in youth policy.

The government has tasked the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs to arrange training in preventive work and initiatives that can prevent men's violence against women, also about sexual exposure and exploitation of children and young people on the

Internet and how to identify and meet young victims of abuse. The training is targeted directed towards key municipal representatives in areas such as school, social services and leisure activities.

We are also managing the web platform *Dialog värdegrund* which is intended mainly for organisations working with democracy and human rights.

Youth Municipality of the Year

The Youth Municipality of the Year award is presented at our national conference, to a municipality that has invested significantly in producing information on young people and facilitating young people's influence within the municipality.

Please visit our english pages on:

www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/english

National support

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs has been tasked by the government with awarding the following support.

Organisational support

Youth organisations

Support is given to young people who are committed to voluntary work. This is an important element of youth policy.

Organisation of women (ORGANISATIONS)

Support is given to independent women's organisations that work to promote women's participation in the democratic process and in the life of society, and to stimulate women's opportunities to defend their rights and make their voices heard.

National minorities

Organisations that represent the national minorities can apply for support to facilitate their work. Sweden's national minorities are Jews, Roma, Sami, Swedish Finns and Tornedalen Finns.

National organisations for ethnic minorities

National organisations for ethnic minorities that carry out work based on language, culture, identity and participation in society can apply for support.

LGBT organisations

Support is given to national organisations for homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals, or people with transgender identity or expression.

Project support

Development of municipal youth policy

Municipalities, independently or together with local associations and other joint municipal committees such as youth councils, can apply for support for projects in which young people participate.

Leisure and organisations

Support is given for the development of young people's cultural and leisure activities, and to strengthen young people's organisations at inter-municipal and national levels. In 2010, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is prioritising projects that aim to combat social exclusion of young people; initiatives to prevent alienation; and initiatives that strengthen the development of knowledge about young people's situations and about youth work.

Equality

Support is available to promote equality between women and men, and is given to projects that can be linked to the government's equality policy objectives. Support is also available for gender equality work among national minorities.

Racism and intolerance

Non-profit organisations and foundations that work to combat and prevent racism and similar forms of intolerance can apply for support.

Anti-discrimination

Organisations and foundations that work to combat and prevent discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation or transgender identity or expression, can apply for support. Their work may include counselling and support for individuals.

Organisation of women (PROJECTS)

Projects of national interest or international exchanges for women run by national, regional and local women's organisations can apply for support.

International cooperation

Youth in Action

The EU programme Youth in Action is a tool for implementation of youth policy at local, regional, national and European levels. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs is the national agency for Youth in Action. Young people, youth leaders, organisations, municipalities and other bodies can apply for support through the various actions of the programme.

Youth Exchanges

Gives groups of young people from different countries the opportunity to meet and learn about each other.

Youth Initiatives

Gives funding for implementation of local or international projects with a European perspective that build on young people's own ideas and conditions.

Youth Democracy Projects

Gives young people the opportunity to exchange ideas and methods, and to find models to promote active citizenship.

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

Gives young people the opportunity to gain international experience by doing voluntary work in another country.

Training and networking

Gives organisations the opportunity to organise seminars and study trips, and help to develop European networks.

Meetings between young people and politicians

Gives municipalities, regions and organisations the opportunity to organise meetings between young people and those responsible for local youth policy.

Training for youth leaders

Gives youth leaders the opportunity to participate in trainings and seminars in international youth cooperation.

Other

Youth policy cooperation

between Turkey and Sweden

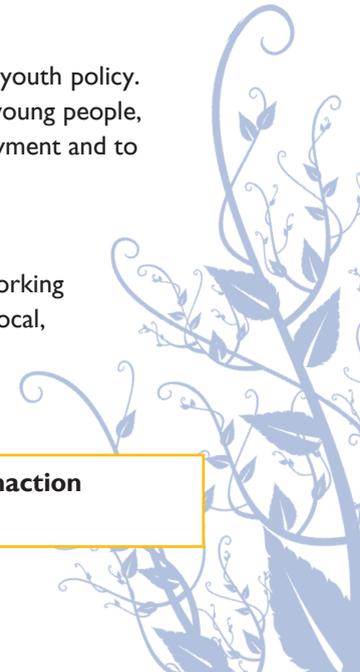
A cooperation on local and national youth policy. Aims to enhance knowledge about young people, share best practices on youth employment and to promote active youth participation.

Eurodesk

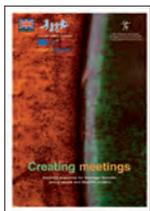
Supports municipalities and NGOs working with youth, mobility and EU on the local, regional and national level.

For more information:

www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/youthinaction
www.eurodesk.eu



Publications in English for free downloading on: www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/publications



Creating meetings

Inspiring resources for meetings between young people and decision makers.



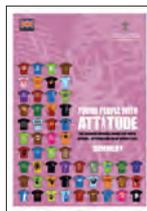
FOKUS 08

– The living conditions of young people in socially deprived neighbourhoods in Sweden
The situation young people find themselves in and circumstances around their childhood and adolescence vary in Sweden.



Luxury or necessity

Luxury or necessity – an evaluation of international cooperation in the youth field.



Young people with attitude

Summary of the attitude and value survey no. 2007:11. The summary has focused on 6 000 persons in the age-range of 16–29 years and 1 500 in the age-range of 35–74 years.



Behind the screen

Summary of report no. 2007:12.
A description of those who play computer and TV games.



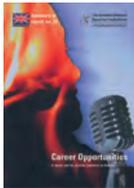
Shortcuts to gender equality

Shortcuts to gender equality highlights the work being done to develop gender equality and improve living conditions for girls.



Swedish YOUTH 2002

Summary of report no. 2002:5. For the second year in succession, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs has conducted a follow-up of the Swedish youth policy.



Career Opportunities

– In Music and the creative industries in Sweden
Summary of report no. 25. There is evidence that music and other forms of entertainment are becoming a major growth industry in the global marketplace.



So far and yet so near

– Young people building networks across the seas
So far and yet so near shows that the ongoing project activities are contributing to the emergence of a greater sense of togetherness and community in the Barents and Baltic region.



How can party politics attract young people?

Summary of report no. 18. How to involve young people in politics. How to increase the membership in the politic parties among young people. This is an anthology with studies, research articles and interviews with young peoples.



Together

Summary of report no. 2002:2. Experiences show that cross-sector cooperation might be difficult in the local administrations. This report is intended for anyone working with young people, and for those making the decisions on the lines of actions of these activities.



Go international

– the Benefits of International Cooperation in the Youth Field. This brochure is about different experiences of international cooperation in the youth field. Collaborations that can inspire new, exciting projects –both at home and far away.

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