

Region Västra Götaland's regional development initiatives aimed at asylum seekers and new arrivals

*Conference France Bénévolant
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Research, development and education*



- 25% of Sweden's trade
- Major transport hub in Scandinavia
- Dynamic industry; life science, transport, food and green industries.
- European top position in R&D investments
- Cross-sectoral collaboration between industry, education and other stakeholders

Region Västra Götaland

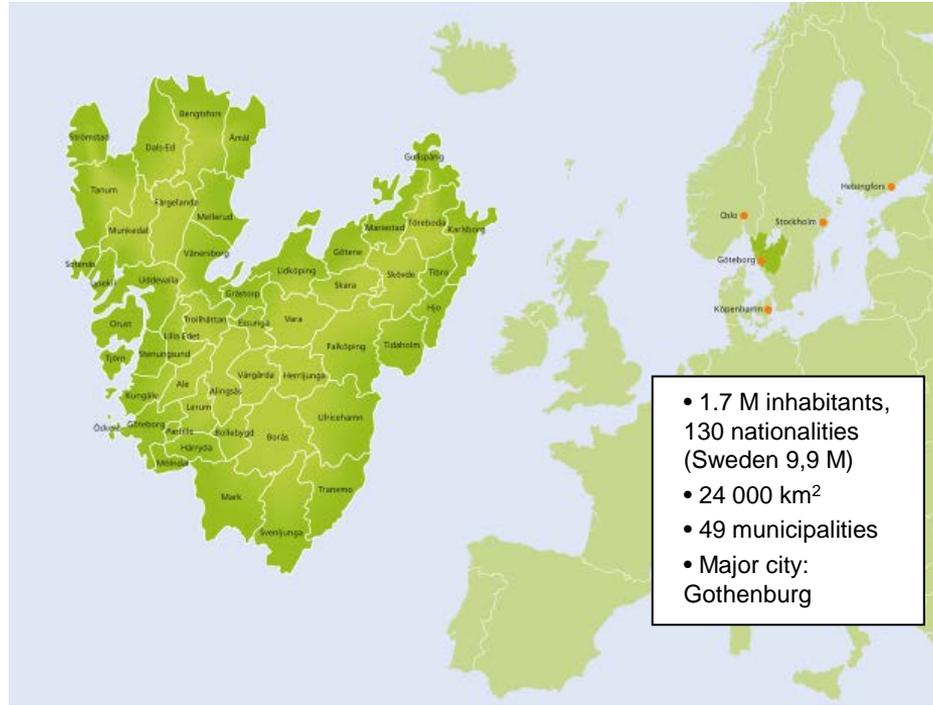
Main tasks:

- 18 hospitals (one university hospital), 200 primary care units, 175 dental clinics, 6 Folk High Schools, 6 agricultural colleges
- Regional growth and development, business development, public transportation, infrastructure planning, culture

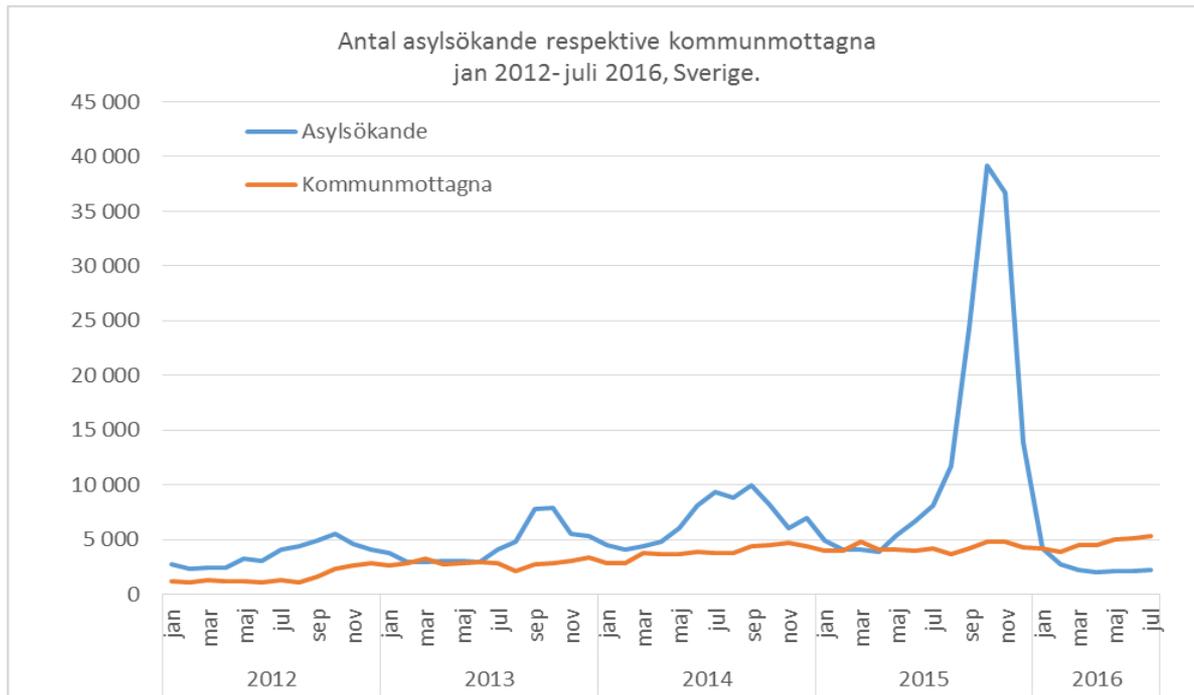
5 billion Euro annual budget

53,000 employees

Västra Götaland



Asylum seekers per month in Sweden January 2011-September 2016



Total per year:

2014: 81 301

2015: 162 877

2016 (sept): 22 330

Early interventions for asylum seekers 2017



Länsstyrelserna

Folk-
bildnings-
rådet

Arbetsförmedlingen

Migrationsverket

The National County Council

Co-ordinate early
intervention

Develop digital
language tools

Swedish National Council of Adult Education

Allocate funding to
study associations
and folk high
schools for early
language training
for asylum seekers

Public Employment Service

Early mapping of
asylum seekers
competence and
skills

Migration Agency

Information to asylum
seekers

Collaboration with
other actors

Implementing
intervention for
asylum seekers



Region Västra Götaland's regional development initiatives aimed at asylum seekers and new arrivals

- Opportunity for language training during the asylum phase
- Participation in cultural life, recreation and sport
- Access to civil society arenas and networks
- Public transport to remote asylum camps
- Spread best practices
- Initiate and fund pilot projects
- Possibility to practice, work and entrepreneurship
- Promoting entrepreneurship and Enterprise

Examples of activities

- Internships in small and medium-sized enterprises in cooperation with the City of Trollhättan and co-founding of the business initiatives “Double Cup”, industries, NGOs and others.
- Internship Program for social scientists
- Internship Program for wastewater engineers
- Recognitions of skills and matching of skills of asylum seekers and newcomers with a focus on catering

- Employment of young people at risk of exclusion
- Well functioning system for validation and recognition of professions in about 30 branches
- Establishment of the "Welcome Centre" in two pilot municipalities, Karlsborg and Götene
- International cooperation.
 - A. Facilitate the spread of Restad Support Group-model within the EU.
 - B. OECD-project Integrating migrants in cities
 - C. Collaboration within EARLALL and with Baden-Württemberg

Learning Centre Migration and Health

- Establishment of a regional learning centre with focus on migration and public health based on co-operation and interaction between research, development and training.
- The goal is to create better support functions for health workers on migrants health and promote health among migrants by systematically identifying priority areas.

Old Way for integration



1-2 year waiting time for decision



Asylansökan



2 years Swedish introduction
SFI A, B, C, D



2-3 years primary School



2-3 years Vocational training

**Job
Work
Segregation ?**

6-9 years to first employment or training

New perspective

In Work or Practice
mixed with studies &
vocational training

Fast track & validation,
Job training, studies

Insertion

"Fast track"



Asylansökan

Study & Job training during waiting time

From asylum seeker to tax payer



Example of regional structures supporting the entry to the labour market for immigrants

- Initiatives from volunteers to help newcomers to make contact with civil society and work during the waiting time to get the permanent residence
- Well functioning system for validation and recognition of professions in about 30 branches
- Good access to information on the Web for new arrivals in many languages
- Well developed counselling for starting business available in the most common minority languages



Regions and cities can support voluntary initiatives:

- Involve in policy process
- Integrate initiatives in ongoing activities (language training, employment service etc.)
- Justify the legitimacy
- Make visible
- Share good practice (example: Study visit BW/ EIN/ EPALE-conference)
- Funding (direct or indirect)

Voluntary initiatives can lead to:

- Speed up the integration process
- Changes in local Policymaking/ push legislation
- Improve procedures
- Democratic development
- Social sustainability
- Empowerment of the individuals involved

Merci !

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