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

• 1.7 M inhabitants, 130 nationalities (Sweden 9.9 M)
• 24 000 km²
• 49 municipalities
• Major city: Gothenburg
Asylum seekers per month in Sweden
January 2011-September 2016

Total per year:
2014: 81,301
2015: 162,877
2016 (sept): 22,330

Source: The Swedish Migration Agency
Early interventions for asylum seekers 2017

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
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

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

Asylsökan

Study & Job training during waiting time

"Fast track"

Fast track & validation, Job training, studies

In Work or Practice mixed with studies & vocational training

Insertion

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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