

Questionnaire for the preparation of the project INTEGRATION

This questionnaire aims at describing the actual situation in your institution and in your country as to intercultural issues and practice in order to prepare our common project INTEGRATION. The collected information will be the basis for our further activities.

Version dated November 23rd 2004

Part A: Profile of your institution

1. Basic Data Regarding your Institution

1.1 Name and type of the institution:

Växjö kommun Arbete & Utveckling

(Växjö Municipality, department Labour & Development)

1.2 Address and email:

Box 1222 352 42 Växjö

elisabeth.wernerson@kommun.vaxjo.se

1.3 Contact person:

Elisabeth Wernerson Johnson

1.4 Number of staff members

About 120

1.5 Main activities

Adult education, integration, supplementary benefit, labour market

1.6 Experiences in the field of intercultural projects

The Labour Market office has been a partner in at least two Grundtvig 2 projects, MOSEL (Methods of overcoming social exclusion by learning) and BSSE (Basic Skills and social enterprises) during the last years. We also take part in a Grundtvig 1 project ASSET (Adding support skills to European teachers).

1.7 Do you and your colleagues have any experiences in the field of eLearning?

(If yes, please give a short description and your judgement on quality and usefulness)

We offer our students distance courses where they use platforms. Some teachers use web based material in their courses.

2. Education of staff members in your institution

2.1 Are intercultural competencies transmitted in the vocational training of pedagogical staff? *(Please consider different professional groups like educators, teachers, trainers in training institutes, pedagogues in kindergarten etc.)*

Yes, as in-service training

2.2 Does your institution offer intercultural training for staff members?

(If yes, please describe shortly the training offers, methods, amount of time, success)

Yes, as in-service training. Mostly like lectures, sometimes in workshops. We try to do this continuously.

2.3 Have any or even all of your staff members been in an intercultural training that was given by any other institution and how was its quality and usefulness?

I think someone of them have taken part in courses at the university. This is of course very useful in different ways.

2.4 Do you feel that there is a need for intercultural training for staff members in your institution? *(Please explain your answer and the requirements/competencies)*

Yes. We have a new organisation in our department and this will lead to more discussions and more knowledge for "new" groups.

2.5 Are there any instructional designs or course materials for intercultural competencies (texts, films, simulation games etc.), that you could recommend or offer to other INTEGRATION projects?

No, not just now!

3. Questions regarding specific situation of your target groups

3.1 Target groups of your institution

Adults in Växjö who needs education and courses or special efforts to reach the labour market.

3.2 Short description of composition of target groups (migrants, ethnic groups, homogeneity/heterogeneity, etc.)

We work with immigrants and refugees who need Swedish as a foreign language. We also offer theoretical courses and vocational training for all adults. There are about 8 – 9000 persons with another ethnic background in the community; over 100 different nations are represented. The dominating groups come from South America, Bosnia, Somalia, Thailand and Arabic speaking countries.

3.3 Does the composition of your target group reflect the actual situation in your town, region and country? *(Please give a short explanation)*

Yes nearly! The dominating nationalities can vary in different parts in the country.

3.4. What is the estimated size of the target group?

3.5 Do you have to cope with specific problems due to ethnic variety of your target group? *(If yes, please explain shortly how)*

Ethnic associations and clubs work with this and have our support.

3.6 Do you offer intercultural activities for your target groups to promote the integration of different ethnic groups?

Ethnic associations and clubs work with this and have our support. Landlords and housing companies in areas with a lot of immigrants take great responsibility to promote integration.

3.7 Please give a short description of actual situation in your country as to intercultural issues and practice (legal situation, ethnic groups, migration policy, problems, national integration programmes etc. etc.) (there are good national web sites which you should refer to, don't feel that you have to write everything yourself)

The Riksdag (Parliament) is responsible for migration policy decisions in Sweden pertaining to both immigration and return migration and to Swedish citizenship. The Riksdag passes the laws - such as the Aliens Act, the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Others Act, and the Citizenship Act - that the Migration Board is required to implement.

Looking at Sweden's history we find that groups of people have been coming to this country for centuries. Examples of this kind of "historical" immigration include:

- Hanseatic Germans in the Middle Ages
- Finns who settled in the Mälardalen valley region around Stockholm in the 16th century
- Gypsies or Roma who began arriving as early as the 16th century
- Walloons who were brought over to teach Swedes the iron trade in the late 17th century
- Savolax-Carelian Finns granted tax relief if they settled in primeval forest land in the 17th century – in the area now known as "Finn Territory".
- Jews who were allowed to settle in four Swedish towns in the 18th century
- French artists, philosophers and intellectuals in the 18th century
- Italian stuccoists when the stone towns of the 19th century were being built
- Scots who among other things started breweries.

Even if Sweden has always attracted a certain amount of immigration, it is the mass emigration of Swedes from the mid-19th century up until 1930 that has had the greatest effect on the country's development and left the deepest impression in people's minds. A considerable number of families in Sweden still have family connections in the US, Canada, South America or Australia. Over a period of some 100 years, about 1.3 million Swedes moved 'over there' to seek their fortunes, due to poverty, religious persecution, lack of faith in the future, political constraints, a craving for adventure etc.

The First World War along with immigration curbs in the US slowed the rate of emigration, which had become a major problem in Swedish society. In conjunction with the Second World War, Sweden moved from being an emigrant country to being an immigrant country. Every year since 1930, except for a couple of years in the 1970s, immigration has exceeded emigration.

War refugees and the influx of labour in the 1950s and 1960s

It was the refugees from Germany, from Sweden's Nordic neighbours and from the Baltic States that transformed Sweden from an emigrant country into an immigrant country during the course of the Second World War. Many of these refugees returned to their

native countries after the war, but a large number remained, among them most of the Balts.

In the post-war period, immigration was dominated instead by immigrant labour from other parts of Scandinavia as well as from Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Turkey and other countries. Sometimes, people were brought here in organized groups, by the labour market authorities, but mostly they found their way to Sweden themselves.

Regulated immigration in the 1970s

In the late 1960s, regulated immigration was introduced in Sweden, which meant that by parliamentary decree people wishing to come here as immigrants had to have been granted residence permits prior to entry. Those wishing to come to Sweden to work were required to have a written offer of employment, and their cases were subjected to a labour market check by what was then the Swedish Immigration Board, together with the employers' and employees' organisations. This meant that permits were only granted where the country was in need of that particular type of foreign labour. If there were unemployed persons in Sweden capable of performing the job in question, no permit was granted.

But the following groups were exempted from labour market checks:

Nordic citizens, who since 1951 had enjoyed the right to settle and work wherever they liked in the Nordic area without special permission of any kind, refugees, close relatives wishing to be united or reunited with their families in Sweden.

The new policy of regulated immigration had the following effects in the 1970s:

- The influx of non-Nordic immigrant labour slowed
- Nordic immigration – especially from Finland – increased dramatically for a few years, only to decline equally dramatically when the Finnish economy picked up
- There was an increase in non-Nordic immigration by reason of family ties, i.e. in the arrival of family members
- Refugees arrived at intervals, usually in connection with wars or crises, such as the military coup in Chile in 1973.

The 1980s – decade of the asylum-seeker

In the mid-1980s, asylum-seekers from Iran and Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Eritrea began to increase in number throughout Western Europe. Towards the end of the decade, people from Somalia, Kosovo and several of the former states of East Europe began to join the queue of asylum-seekers. With the collapse of communist oppression, it became easier for people to leave their country while at the same time living conditions there initially deteriorated rather than improved.

Waits for asylum cases in Sweden to be settled grew ever longer, the number of refugee centres increased steadily, and more and more people had their applications turned down as it was not always persecution that had caused them to flee their countries. Instead, the reasons were often poverty, lack of faith in the future and a dream of a better future in Western Europe than could reasonably be expected at home.

The 1990s – a time of ethnic cleansing

The 1990s brought both positive and negative developments. On the positive side we witnessed the end of the Cold War, the shift towards democracy and the beginnings of economic development in several of the former communist dictatorships. A number of lengthy wars came to an end, e.g. in Lebanon, Eritrea, Iran-Iraq, and the number of asylum-seekers began to fall.

On the negative side, we witnessed the collapse of the Yugoslav empire with the ensuing division of the country and the descent of the region into war, terror and ethnic cleansing. For the first time since the Second World War, huge numbers of people were in flight in the heart of Europe. In Sweden, over 100,000 ex-Yugoslavs, mostly Bosnians, were found a new home.

As the new millennium approached, Sweden was one of the many countries that evacuated fleeing Kosovo Albanians from Macedonia in a joint action under UNHCR auspices. The aim was to provide the 3,600 evacuated to Sweden with temporary protection pending the time when their native country would become a safe haven and reconstruction could begin.

A total of 46 857 persons were granted residence permits in Sweden in 2003, 6 460 of them as refugees or on other protective grounds and for humanitarian reasons. 942 persons were brought to Sweden within the the so-called refugee quota.

Residence permits were granted to 24 553 persons because of family ties, permits to visiting students to 5 509 persons and permits on grounds of adoption to 782 persons.

Residence permits under the EU/EEA agreement were issued to 9 234 persons.

Altogether 31 355 persons requested asylum in Sweden during 2003. The largest group consisted of citizens of Serbia and Montenegro (5 305 persons). The second and third largest groups came from Somalia (3 069 persons) and Iraq (2 700 persons).

For further information:

http://www.sweden.se/templates/cs/Article_2283.aspx

<http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp?english/everket/ehistoria.html>

Part C: Feedback on the questionnaire

1. What questions have been missed in the questionnaire?

2. Which questions have been difficult to answer?

3. What else would you like to tell us? (Suggestions/praise/criticism)

Part D: Expectations in the project INTEGRATION

1. What have been your motivations to join the partnership?

2. What are your expectations in the project

3. Are there any subjects you are specially interested in to be dealt with within the partnership?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HAVING COMPLETED THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!!!

Kind regards
Sabine Wiemann