

Appendix with external contributions to Sweden's national reform programme **2014**

Europe 2020 – the EU's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth



**Appendix with external
contributions to Sweden's national
reform programme
2014**

CONTENTS

1. Contributions from social partners	3
Introduction.....	3
A brief description of wage formation in Sweden	3
Examples of the partners' activities that contribute to fulfilment of Europe 2020 targets	3
Comments for the national reform programme.....	10
2. Contributions from SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) – as representative of regional and local levels in Sweden.....	13
Strategic work on the Europe 2020 strategy	13
The importance of multi-level governance and cohesion policy to the implementation of the strategy.....	13
Regional and local examples contributing to the fulfilment of Sweden's national targets	14
Examples within the framework of SALAR	14
Regional examples.....	15
Local examples	17
3. Contributions from the local and regional levels.....	19
Examples of how the Örebro region contributes to meeting Europe 2020 targets	19
4. Contributions from organisations in civil society	21
COOMPANION	21
Famna	24
SKOOPi	27
The Swedish Women's Lobby.....	29
Vetenskap & Allmänhet (Public and Science - VA).....	32

1. Contributions from social partners

Introduction

The central labour market organisations in Sweden – the Swedish Agency for Government Employers, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco) have provided the following examples of activities that they believe contribute to the fulfilment of the targets for Europe 2020. This is a selection of examples and not a comprehensive report. Some of them are based on common agreements with all the organisations; others are agreed between some of the organisations. Other examples are unilateral measures by one of the central labour market organisations and/or their affiliates.

A brief description of wage formation in Sweden

The social partners are responsible for wage formation on the Swedish labour market and safeguard their autonomy. The fundamental components of the model include trade unions with a high organisation rate, employer organisations with a broad membership, the strong status of collective agreements, workplace representatives with a mandate to negotiate, as well as the independence of the social partners from central government.

Among other things, independence is manifested in the fact that the majority of the labour market is regulated by a number of principal agreements met at central level between employers and trade unions that regulate aspects including negotiation procedures, dispute procedures and development issues. At present there are more than 650 central collective agreements on wages and general terms and conditions of employment in Sweden.

Examples of the partners' activities that contribute to fulfilment of Europe 2020 targets

1. Employment – 80 % of women and men aged 20-64 are to be in work

1.1 Integration of young people in the labour market

Work introduction agreements

In autumn 2011 the Government initiated tripartite talks with the social partners. The purpose was to find solutions to identified problems in the labour market such as high unemployment. The tripartite talks were conducted with the central social partner organisations and since January 2013 with contracting parties at sectoral level.

Work introduction jobs are based on collective agreements signed independently between the social partners. The target group for the agreements is young people with no relevant job experience. The construction of the agreements varies between sectors but common to all of them is that work is combined with education (the education component is restricted to a maximum of 25 per cent of working hours). The education can be either at the workplace or supplied by an external provider. The education period does not give any wage entitlement.

At present (February 2014) central agreements on work introduction have been signed in the following sectors: Retail sector (Swedish Trade Federation and the Swedish Commercial Employees Union), municipal sector (SALAR/Pacta and the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union), sawmill industry (Swedish Forest Industries Association and GS Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers), parts of the manufacturing industry (Engineering companies' employer organisation/IKEM/Svemek/GAF/Steel and Metal Employers Association and IF Metall) and the property industry (Almega Service Associations property employers and the Building Maintenance Workers' Union). More sectors are discussing development of agreements with the Government, with the exception of the Building Workers' Union and the Transport Workers' Union.

The municipal sector (SALAR/Pacta and the Municipal Workers' Union) has also signed an agreement (BAL13) aimed at unemployed young people aged 19-25 with no previous experience of the sector. This is a temporary job format and the employee is employed for a period of one year.

The Government supports the parties' signing of work introduction agreements through support structures for the agreements:

- Wage subsidy equivalent to an ordinary employer's contribution (31.42 per cent)
- Supervisor support equivalent to SEK 2 500 per month and employee
- National support structure for educational content
- Funds to the parties for promotion

Framework of measures for youth employment

In June 2013 the European social partners agreed on a European framework of actions on youth employment. The Swedish partners have made a joint translation of the framework, and in March 2014 started implementing it with a seminar on youth employment. The Minister for Employment as well as leading representatives of the Swedish social partners participated in the well-attended seminar.

Student employees

For the purpose of facilitating the transition between studies and work several of Saco's affiliates have encouraged employers to employ "student employees". The idea is to give students practical work experience closely linked to their studies. About twenty employers, mainly in the municipal sector, already have student employees. In the public sector a student employee agreement was signed in February 2014 with effect from 1 April 2014. The agreement allows full time students with at least the equivalent of one year's completed studies temporary student employee contracts for up to four academic terms, to work the equivalent of 25 per cent of full time, performing qualified work. The agreement gives government agencies and others in the public sector agreement area better opportunities to utilise the skills of students in higher education and the chance to show their operations to those soon to qualify. For students the agreement can facilitate the transition from studies to working life and contribute to more qualified extra jobs while studying.

Youth to Work

SALAR is continuing to prioritise its Youth to Work initiative in 2014 and, within the framework of this work, the association is developing its support for the municipalities in their efforts to facilitate young people's path to earning their own living. Work is also being carried out through the Sweden's Most Important Jobs communications initiative to encourage young people to choose paths that lead to jobs, with the aim of recruiting people to the welfare sector. In line with these efforts, in early 2013, SALAR issued a guide for the municipalities on their responsibility to provide information. The guide has a practical focus and it is SALAR's hope that it will inspire politicians and civil servants in local efforts. It is also hoped that the Swedish Public Employment Service will improve and that its role will become clearer. Today, nine out of ten municipalities offer measures aimed at this group of young people, but these can be made more efficient in cooperation with the Public Employment Service. SALAR also cooperates with the Insecure Transitions research project, which examines how local factors affect young people's opportunities to earn a living. Among other things, it has studied what strategies and initiatives exist within the municipalities to support young people's transition from working life.

Guidance for young people

Every year the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco) and its member organisations issue two publications aimed at students who are about to graduate from upper secondary school. "Choosing a profession and higher education" describes some 160 professions: work duties, required training, salary levels, etc., while "Future prospects" contains five-year forecasts for the labour market for a selection of 60 higher education professions. The same information can also be found on the internet (www.saco.se/valjyrke). Visitors can also do a personality test, receive planning support and ask vocationally related questions. The site had about 2 million page views in 2013. Saco Student Fairs are arranged every year in Stockholm and Malmö. Representatives from education providers,

future employers and several authorities and organisations, including Saco's member organisations, are represented at these fairs, so that the students can be in contact with them during their studies. In 2013 the fairs were visited by just over a quarter of all 19 year-olds in Sweden. Saco also runs skills development programmes for study advisers.

Facilitate cooperation between schools and business

Cooperation between schools and the business sector is part of the responsibility of schools. Cooperation strengthens the quality of education and makes it more relevant. For companies the work experience period is a unique opportunity to get to know future employees and better understand their needs and interests. In view of the importance of good cooperation between schools and business the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise has produced material called "*In Practice*" which aims to facilitate and encourage increased cooperation between schools and companies through work placement and practical work experience programmes. The *In Practice* material is in three parts: for pupils, schools and companies. Through tips and exercises that are both linked to the company's and the school's activities the work experience is put into context and made easier for everyone. The material provides specific support before, during and after work placement and practical work experience. Good practical work experience can make it simpler for the pupil to make informed educational and vocational choices, which can contribute to a smoother transition from education to work.

1.2 Integration of foreign-born people in the labour market

The Council for Integration in Working Life against xenophobia and racism

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, SALAR, the Swedish Agency for Government Employers, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco) together run the Council for Integration in Working Life. A conference in October 2013 gathered representatives of local parties to a discussion with the Council and the Swedish Minister for Integration on "The Swedish Model and Integration. Xenophobia and racism must be opposed". At the same time a joint article on the same theme was published. The main message is that xenophobia and racism not only violate the individual and are indefensible from the point of view of human compassion, they also create anxiety and strains in society and impair enjoyment, profitability and efficiency at the workplace. The Swedish model of divided responsibility between the partners and the state is a strength in this context. It has emerged because it allows forms for effective solution of problems and challenges in working life.

The Recruitment Bazaar

For a number of years, several of the parties have participated as co-hosts of the Recruitment Bazaar in Stockholm, which was visited by some 12 000 people in 2014. At the Bazaar, which is aimed at people born outside Sweden, it is possible

to meet employers recruiting employees, find information on how to start a company, information on tertiary-level studies and other education and information on how to get their foreign degrees and diplomas validated. Saco holds training interviews and provides information about the Swedish labour market.

The Omstart (Restart) web portal

Omstart (Re-Start), a web portal operated by the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco) and its member associations, is aimed at newly arrived academics who have not yet established themselves within their professional or educational field in Sweden. The portal, which has a Swedish and an English version, collects information that used to be distributed between a number of different websites. Thus it gives a better overview to people who are not familiar with the Swedish government agency structure. *Omstart gathers everything from general information on the Swedish labour market to specific information that is important for individual professional groups. Omstart also provides links to other relevant websites.*

Mentoring programmes and introduction guides

Several Saco associations have mentoring programmes for newly arrived academics. In the programmes a newly arrived academic will be paired with a colleague in the same profession. The objective is for the immigrant academic to expand his or her professional network and gain improved self-confidence in his or her career efforts. The Swedish Medical Association offers introduction guide services. The aim is to shorten and improve the road to obtaining a Swedish medical licence.

Guest membership in trade unions for citizens of third countries.

Unionen, a trade union within the Confederation of Professional Employees, TCO, offers guest membership to citizens of countries outside the EU/EES and Switzerland who have obtained a work permit to carry out work in Sweden. This provides the same benefits as for other members but differs in being limited to at most one year and in fees being lower than for ordinary membership. Being a guest member entitles the individual to advisory services and, after three months, the right to representation in negotiations.

1.3 Integration of individuals with a weak foothold in the ordinary labour market

Special conditional agreement in central government for employees in labour market policy measures

In October 2013 a special conditional agreement for some fixed term employment contracts was signed in the central government sector. The agreement regulates the conditions for fixed-term employment that can be motivated as part of a labour market policy measure. The agreement conditions have been formulated to allow the employer, on the basis of the employee's individual circumstances, to have greater opportunities to design the job to suit

the individual's needs as regards support, development and experience. Through the agreement the parties take joint responsibility for individuals with a weak foothold in the ordinary labour market. The employee gains work experience and greater employability and organisations in the central government agreement area gain greater opportunities to contribute to labour market policy. The agreement allows fixed-term employment for up to one year within the framework of a labour market policy measure.

1.4 Work environment

Method support for coping with constant change

In the general government sector, a council of the parties involved is dealing with the area "Change and development – a constant state". Seminars and development programmes for employer and employee representatives at central government workplaces address themes such as policy intelligence, resistance and willingness to change, employee-driven change work, change management and strategic skills provision. The purpose is to inspire local parties in creating a culture that is oriented to change and development in which the methods of achieving operational objectives are constantly being improved.

The work environment from the perspective of the parties

The council of the parties in the central government sector has been conducting work environment activities since 2013 from the perspective of the parties. The purpose of this area of work is to support local parties in their work of preventing, cooperating and dealing with third party violence at work. In collective agreements for 2014-2016 the area of work was extended to also cover implementing work environment training.

Mapping initiatives in small and medium-sized enterprises

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) started a project in 2013 for mapping and carrying out work environment initiatives for temporary/external employees in small and medium-sized enterprises.

1.5 Gender equality in the labour market

Gender equality council

Employers and trade unions in the municipal sector have convened a gender equality council. The purpose of the council is to monitor the development of salaries and terms of employment from a gender equality perspective and propose active measures aimed at achieving greater equality in working life. The objective is for terms for work and employment within municipalities, county councils and regions to result in attractive jobs that are on an equal footing in terms of gender and that form a part of efficient, high-quality operations.

Method support in analysing wage differentials between men and women

Local parties in the central government sector testify that method support for analysis of wage differentials between women and men, "the BESTA way"

(statistical job classification in the national government sector), meets a need in their own organisations to ensure that unfair wage differentials do not arise. The method support has been designed jointly by the parties in the central government sector and supports the principles applicable to wage formation in the agreement area.

Gender mainstreaming

SALAR is one of the initiators of www.jamstall.nu together with the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, VINNOVA and the Thematic Group on Equality. This is a tool for the day-to-day work of gender equality. SALAR has also developed a special tool to monitor and compare the work of gender mainstreaming, www.makeEquality.se.

1.6 Transition

Transition agreements

Most employees in the Swedish labour market are covered by transition agreements. Such agreements are intended to make it easier for employees whose jobs have been, or risk being, terminated, to obtain help in finding a new job through active transition processes and financial benefits on termination due to shortage of work. Parties on the Swedish labour market, where there are collective agreements, have transition agreements in the private sector, the central government sector and the municipal sector. Sweden is unique in that the social partners assume responsibility in this way for such a major part of the active employment policy measures.

2. Education – The proportion of pupils without an upper secondary leaving certificate is to be less than 10 %

Drop-outs and Plug In

In 2014, SALAR's work with *Drop-outs* will continue to be focused on the *Plug In* project run by SALAR together with five regional associations and 55 municipalities. This is a project that is conducted nationally, regionally and locally all at the same time. The project is partially financed by the European Social Fund (ESF), has a total budget of SEK 200 million and will run until 30 June 2014. Some of the results will be presented at a conference on 24–25 April in Stockholm. The project, which is to prevent drop-outs from upper secondary school and to get pupils who have dropped out to resume their upper secondary studies, also aims to develop and compile concrete proposals as to how efforts could generally be changed to achieve greater success in getting young people to complete upper secondary school. The project has attracted international attention.

PlugInnovation is a national platform to prevent pupils dropping out of upper secondary school. It offers for example information on research and studies on school absenteeism.

Comments for the national reform programme

Comments from the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO) and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco)

1. Sustainable public finances

We consider that the surplus target in public finances of 1 percentage point of GDP has served Sweden well. In the past 15 years public sector gross debt has been almost halved in terms of GDP while the previous net debt has turned into a net asset. Thus the main purpose of this very ambitious target has been achieved and there are good reasons to reduce the target for public finances. The exact level of the target for general government net lending should be investigated.

2. Private indebtedness (households and companies)

We share the view that high private indebtedness implies a considerable risk to the Swedish economy. Several different factors have contributed to this development. One such factor is the very low interest rate over several years, which was, however, necessary from the point of view of stabilisation policy. Another contributory factor has been the low level of housing construction, above all in the metropolitan regions. It is probable that the interest rate level will normalize in coming years. This may put property prices and highly indebted households under strong pressure.

We consider it directly inappropriate to use monetary policy to influence property prices and indebtedness. In this respect the repo rate is a very blunt instrument that has an insignificant effect and that in addition risks having negative macroeconomic effects, for example on unemployment and housing construction.

Here, the low rate of amortisation along with low inflation constitutes a problem that increases macroeconomic risk in the longer term. We welcome the measures taken so far, such as the loans ceiling of 85 per cent. However, we do not consider this to have been sufficient.

3. Establishment in the labour market (young people with insufficient education and people with a foreign background)

An important reason for difficulties in becoming established in the labour market is the lack of upper secondary education. Young adults without a completed upper secondary education are in a more vulnerable situation in the labour market. The same applies to people born outside Sweden. Measures to

improve the quality of schools, both in terms of teacher competence and early support, above all in compulsory school, should be given priority to reduce the number of upper secondary school dropouts. Consequently they are important measures to strengthen young adults' position in the labour market.

The Government should raise its level of ambition for the Swedish EU2020 target for the percentage of higher education graduates. This means that more places in higher education, with associated adequate resources, need to be created, and measures to reduce social bias in recruitment should be taken. Both for young adults and people with a foreign background, an active labour market policy with effective and early measures, is important to strengthen the transition between school and working life and to bridge a lack of contacts and networks of importance to the labour market. As regards more specifically people with a foreign background, the access to validation of previous education and work experience, as well as good opportunities to supplement studies at compulsory, upper secondary and tertiary level are key. Swedish for immigrants must also be of high quality and be adapted to the level and needs of the individual.

People who immigrate to Sweden are a very heterogeneous group. At present the measures that exist are largely aimed at supporting job seekers with a low educational level who have come to Sweden as refugees. For increased growth and a more effective labour market the individual's skills, capacity and ambitions should be more in focus. An important perspective that should be taken into account more than it is today is to ensure that there are measures to promote better matching in the labour market. Everyone who immigrates to Sweden would benefit from guidance to information on the Swedish labour market, and should be offered Swedish language training and validation services. Much of this does not exist or is deficient as it is now.

Comments from the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

1. The surplus target has fulfilled its original purpose of repaying net debt. In the context of a continued stable framework the target can now be adjusted to a balance target. To ensure a transparent and confidence maintaining transition this should be preceded by a government inquiry.

2. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise welcomes the European Commission's analysis of household debt, as experience shows that too high a level of indebtedness can cause extensive problems. The Government should follow developments closely and investigate how the risks of rising debt can be reduced.

3. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise shares the view that rent regulation aggravates the housing shortage, which has negative effects on matching in the labour market. Simplified building regulations and planning processes are essential for increasing building. It is particularly important to remove the

municipal special requirements that make building more expensive and impair competition.

4. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise welcomes the reforms that have been implemented in recent years, which have strengthened incentives to work and led to increased labour supply. More measures are required to further integrate groups with a weak foothold in the labour market. It is important that young people complete compulsory and upper secondary school with a final school-leaving certificate and that the attractiveness, quality and relevance of vocational programmes are strengthened. Adult vocational training should become a permanent feature of adult education. Higher education should be supplemented by targets for graduation rates and establishment.

High “minimum wages” combined with the design of industrial conflict rules and employment protection, make establishment in the labour market more difficult. The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise considers that a proportionality principle should be introduced as regards industrial action in the labour market and that sympathy action should be forbidden in the Act on Co-determination at Work. Moreover, employment protection for permanent employment contracts should be reformed to stimulate job creation, increase the possibilities for weak groups’ establishment and enable companies to recruit and retain the employees with the best skills for the company’s business, for example in accordance with OECD recommendations.

2. Contributions from SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) – as representative of regional and local levels in Sweden

Strategic work on the Europe 2020 strategy

The Europe 2020 strategy affects several policy areas that in Sweden fall within the responsibility of municipalities, county councils and regions. SALAR therefore shares the Commission's view that strengthened participation by municipalities and regions, and by the social partners at national and European levels, is key to the success of the strategy. Many of Sweden's municipalities, county councils and regions have integrated the Europe 2020 targets into their development plans, operational plans and annual budgets. There are solid strategic efforts to follow up on the targets with fixed indicators as part of the strategy. In this context, it is important to emphasise that for the regions and county councils that have regional development responsibility, their basic remit includes working on and driving many of the issues highlighted in the strategy. The 290 municipalities throughout Sweden also work on many fronts and within many of their core activities on measures that can be linked to the Europe 2020 objectives. In a majority of regional councils, municipalities have also integrated the targets of the strategy into their operational plans and budgets and defined measurable indicators.

A conference focusing on the implementation of Europe 2020 – “How has it gone so far?” was arranged on 20 February 2014 in Sundsvall. The objective of the conference was to strengthen the dialogue between local, regional and national levels and the EU level, i.e. as part of the ongoing political discussion and decision-making process (planning-Europe 2020). Views that were put forward at the conference, on and off the podium, were the need for dialogue and meeting places for this process. The conference was a joint effort between SALAR, the Government Offices (Prime Minister's Office), the European Commission, Europaforum Norra Sverige and the Västernorrland county council. The following people were among the participants: European Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, Oscar Wåglund Söderström, State Secretary, the Minister for EU Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office and Pierre Schellekens, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Sweden.

The importance of multi-level governance and cohesion policy to the implementation of the strategy

Sweden's municipalities, county councils and regions play a decisive role for enabling implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in Sweden. Cohesion policy should be foregrounded as the method and the structural funds as the instruments for controlling growth and implementing development work at the local and regional levels. Both are highly important and entirely decisive tools in the realisation of the strategy. SALAR considers that cohesion policy requires a clear and strong role for the local and regional levels on issues of sustainable

development and cohesion. It also requires a well-functioning dialogue between the different levels from a multi-level perspective that respects subsidiarity and proportionality. In accordance with these principles, the authority embodied by the member states must be respected. A particular challenge is to combine the possibilities of multi-level governance for pragmatic solutions, broad partnerships and administrative efficiency with demands for openness and democratic accountability. It is therefore important that methods be developed for the composition, responsibilities and roles of the partnerships with regard to the planning, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of programmes for territorial development.

Regional and local examples contributing to the fulfilment of Sweden's national targets

Around Sweden, numerous different projects are in progress at the local and regional levels with the aim of meeting the targets of the strategy. The examples presented below are not representative of all municipalities, county councils and regions in the country but can be seen as a small selection of good examples of successful efforts in various parts of the country.

Examples within the framework of SALAR

Unga till arbete (Young people to work)

Reducing youth unemployment is primarily a matter of young people's opportunities to live an independent life. For the municipalities too, a high employment rate is of great importance, both to ensure necessary tax revenue and for limiting costs of social assistance etc. SALAR is continuing to prioritise its Youth to Work initiative in 2014 and, within the framework of this work, the association is developing its support for the municipalities in their efforts to facilitate young people's path to earning their own living. Work is also being carried out through the Sweden's Most Important Jobs communications initiative to encourage young people to choose paths that lead to jobs, with the aim of recruiting people to the welfare sector. SALAR also cooperates with the Insecure Transitions research project, which examines how local factors affect young people's opportunities to earn a living. Among other things, it has studied what strategies and initiatives exist within the municipalities to support young people's transition from working life.

Drop-outs and Plug In

SALAR's work with *Drop-outs* also focuses in 2014 on the *Plug-In* project. SALAR runs this together with five regional councils and 55 municipalities. The work is conducted nationally, regionally and locally all at the same time. The project is partially financed by the European Social Fund (ESF), has a total budget of SEK 200 million and will run until the end of June 2014. The project, which is to prevent drop-outs from upper secondary school and to get pupils

who have dropped out to resume their upper secondary studies, also aims to develop and compile concrete proposals as to how efforts could generally be changed to achieve greater success in getting young people to complete upper secondary school. The project has attracted international interest with the OECD, thanks to the strategic multi-level initiative that the project represents. The OECD and its Local Economic and Employment Development Program (LEED) is carrying out a case study in which Plug-In will be compared with similar projects in other countries. The results will probably be presented at a seminar at the Annual Meeting of the LEED Forum in Stockholm on 24 – 25 April, arranged jointly by SALAR, the Ministry of Employment and the Swedish Public Employment Service. Several Plug-In-projects will be presented at the Meeting.

Kungsbacka is one of the municipalities that are part of Plug In. The work aims to get a greater number of 16-25 year-olds to complete upper secondary school. The work focuses particularly on developing teaching environments for pupils with autism or with neuropsychiatric disabilities. This entails coaching and continuing professional development of teachers in the special attention these pupils need.

PlugInnovation is a national platform to prevent pupils dropping out of upper secondary school. It offers for example information on research and studies on school absenteeism.

Regional examples

Studentmedarbetare (Student employees)

The Southern Småland regional council has built further on a Danish concept of *Student employees*. Through the project, students in higher education are offered qualified and relevant jobs while studying, which offers them the opportunity to create a network of contacts in the working life of the region. The purpose is to improve the possibilities of employers in the county of Kronoberg to recruit graduates and to increase the inclination of students to remain in the region after graduating. Student employees in Kronoberg started in January 2013 and will run for three years.

Ingjuta (Inspire)

A Social Fund project is in progress in the county of Jönköping, called *Inspire*. Inspire is a collaborative project between the municipalities of Sävsjö, Vimmerby, Vetlanda and Hultsfred and the School of Health Sciences at Jönköping University, the Public Employment Service, foundry companies, the IF Metall trade union and Swerea SWECAST (the Swedish foundry branch's institute for research, development, education and training). The project involves foundries in and around the above-mentioned municipalities and offers participants work experience within ordinary production operations, with supervisors from the companies. The aim is to increase integration and employment while meeting the foundry sector's needs for professionally trained

labour. Participants include young adults of 18–24 years of age who have been unable to establish themselves in the labour market. The project started in 2012 and will continue until June 2014. To date 54 per cent of the participants have found employment after completed foundry work training.

UngSam

In the context of UngSam 130 jobs have been created/mediated to date for young people through outreach activities by the project's municipal recruiters. The project also works with *En väg in* (A way in) for young people aged 16–25 which has created models for coordinated and clearer contacts with the municipality and employers for young people who have left school. The county council has further developed its concept *Liv i Livet* (Life in Life) to help the young people who are furthest from the labour market.

Export sales training programme

The Skåne Regional Council also runs the export sales training programme, which targets companies in the region in all sectors that want to strengthen their international marketing efforts and their competitiveness by bringing in export sales interns. The export sales training programme is aimed at academics born outside Sweden who lack a foothold in the labour market and aims to increase employment and encourage more companies in the region to increase their competitiveness by drawing benefit from the skills of people born outside Sweden. The Skåne Regional Council and the Swedish Public Employment Service co-finance this initiative, which means among other things that the company does not pay any wages to the trainee and the work is classified as work placement.

Min-Novations

The Örebro Regional Development Council is conducting the Min-Novations project which aims to build up a regional and international network between universities, research bodies and the small and medium-sized companies that extract raw materials from the waste dumps of the mining industry in the Baltic Sea Region. The companies in the network are to be offered technical/scientific assistance in applying new technologies to achieve more efficient utilisation of raw materials, enhanced profitability and better environmental results. This project corresponds to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy regarding smart specialisation, increased competitiveness and the environmental objectives. The Swedish parties - the Örebro Regional Council in collaboration with Bergskraft Bergslagen Ekonomisk Förening and Örebro University (Man Technology Environment research centre) - have a budget for their participation of about SEK 2.5 million and SEK 4.8 million respectively. Min-Novations is a project with 12 partners in six Baltic Sea countries; Poland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Estonia and Finland in the EU-funded Baltic Sea Region Program. The total budget for the three-year project is about SEK 37 million.

Nya digitala perspektiv (New digital perspectives)

The *New digital perspectives* project in Västernorrland contributes to the national digital agenda to give all inhabitants and companies in the county access to a fully developed IT infrastructure with competitive speed and capacity and to promote IT use positively to narrow digital divides among inhabitants and companies are small. This also includes creating conditions for further development of collaboration networks and strategic collaboration locally, regionally and nationally. Apart from the processes and forms of cooperation required to create and establish a regional digital agenda and an action plan for expansion of the IT infrastructure, the project is to contribute by developing new forms of co-financing with private and public actors. Coherent and focused investment in the digital area contributes to an attractive and competitive region. The project will run from 2013 to the end of 2014.

Local examples

Ung Arena (Young arena)

Young Arena is a project in the municipality of Jönköping coordinated between four different administrative units to prevent exclusion among young people aged 16–20 who have not begun or completed upper secondary school and who are not directly employable. New approaches and individual mapping interviews with young people in the target group form the basis for the development of methods and targeted measures that, combined, are expected to be able to meet the needs of young people better than previously. Through these measures, a lasting link between school and working life is established that will, in the long term, enhance the employability of young people and consequently also regional growth. The results show the importance of identifying these young people before exclusion sets in. It can be shown that considerable socioeconomic gains are to be made by investing in young people.

Jobba i Västerås (Work in Västerås)

The *Work in Västerås* initiative is a project that has succeeded with regard to both cooperation between the organisations involved and skills mismatch. The project became the hub in an initiative that brought together the business sector, the public sector, the education sector and organisations regulating the labour market in Västerås' largest labour market initiative in modern times. It focuses on encouraging young people to develop an interest in technical education programmes, and the fact that many actors are working together is one of the reasons behind the project's success.

Rätt väg ut (The right way out)

The Right Way Out is a cooperative project between the folk high schools in Medlefors and Solvik, Urkraft and the municipality of Skellefteå and is aimed at young people aged 16–29 who have not completed upper secondary school. The project's objective is to help all young people in Skellefteå find a place and an

identity in which they can develop the talents and skills they need to participate in society.

MakerSpace Youth

MakerSpace Youth is a concept developed by Blekinge Institute of Technology that offers an innovation environment where unemployed young people and students have been able to develop their ideas past the prototype stage in collaboration with companies and supervisors.

Hållbara Järva (Sustainable Järva)

Sustainable Järva is a project aimed at developing the urban districts around Järvafältet in Stockholm as one of the city's environmental profile areas alongside the large-scale renovation of the housing areas built in the 1960s and 1970s as part of the "Million Homes Programme". The objective is for the Järva area to become a national and international role model for the sustainable renovation of housing areas of this kind. Investment in solar cells means that the Järva area will be one of the areas in Sweden with the highest density of solar cells. The project is unique in that it takes a broader approach to an entire district, specifically coordinating efforts in the area of solar cells.

3. Contributions from the local and regional levels

Examples of how the Örebro region contributes to meeting Europe 2020 targets

The Örebro Regional Council would like to present this summary in response to the request by the Government Offices for contributions giving local and regional examples for inclusion in the Swedish National Reform Programme. A selection is given below of what the Örebro region is doing specifically to achieve the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Smart growth

Work is in progress in 2013 to prepare a regional innovation strategy for the Örebro region. The strategy is aimed at highlighting the innovative processes and conditions that must exist so that the objectives of regional development strategy can be realised. These processes are also required to enable the innovation support system to act as an engine for the innovative development and growth of the region. The strategy takes its cue from the national innovation strategy that is clearly linked to Europe 2020 and the flagship initiative “Innovation Union”. The preparation of the regional strategy should also be seen as a part of the Örebro region’s Smart Specialisation.

As part of strengthening the region’s innovation work, the county council has set up an innovation sluice aimed at stimulating commercialisation of innovations in health care. Through the sluice, employees of the county council will receive help and support in developing their ideas and putting them into practice. The innovation sluice will also function as a contact node for companies and facilitate the introduction of innovations in health care.

The county of Örebro is among the best in Sweden for broadband coverage. Conditions are therefore particularly good here for using and utilising digital technology and realising the targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy's flagship initiative “a digital agenda for Europe”. The county of Örebro was the first in Sweden to start work on a digital agenda at regional level and the agenda has already been circulated for comment in the county. The “Klivet 11” project to extend canalisation so as to reduce costs of building out broadband in rural areas is also in progress in the region.

Sustainable growth

In 2012 the Örebro Regional Council and the Örebro County Administrative Board drew up a new programme for energy and climate in the county of Örebro. The plan is closely associated with the climate emission and energy supply targets found in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The vision for the Örebro region is to create a society without emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. A number of ongoing or recently completed activities have been undertaken around the county to realise the energy and climate programme and the targets within the Europe 2020 Strategy. These include a project to encourage development towards more energy efficient and climate smart freight transport. The project is based on five dialogue forums in which transport purchasers and transport providers met. The themes of the forum included tools for environmental requirements when purchasing freight transport, methods for monitoring agreements, saving and replacing fuel and more effective logistics arrangements. The energy efficiency project is also being run within food retailing and to create sustainable and climate smart public sector catering services in the Örebro region. In a recently completed project an energy expert examined the facilities of 31 sports associations to find energy “thieves” that the associations can remove and thus save energy and money.

Inclusive growth

In national terms the Örebro region has low results at compulsory school level, which has a negative effect on the region's development. The Regional Council has had a regional school support project since spring 2012. The school support project exists to help school authorities, school managers and schools in their work to support children's and young people's learning for better achievement of objectives and equal opportunities. To date the project has carried out surveys of 14 different schools that then established a development plan for continued work. The Europe 2020 targets are highly relevant as schools with consistent standards and better achievement of objectives contribute to better educational opportunities that ultimately contribute to better employment prospects and reduce the risk of social exclusion.

If the companies and organisations of the Örebro region are to cope with tougher competition, education programmes need to correspond better to the needs of working life, employees' skills need to be developed and we must make use of the skills of people who are currently outside the labour market. All perspectives are highlighted in the recently produced regional action plan for skills provision in the Örebro region. The action plan is a clear instrument for achieving the Europe 2020 targets for increased employment and higher educational levels. The action plan highlights a total of 22 measures and states when the measure is to be started, the actor with the main responsibility and which actors are to work together. Each measure requires in turn action plans/project plans to further clarify and make visible what needs to be done to achieve the targets.

4. Contributions from organisations in civil society

COOMPANION

Coompanion is a corporate advisory organisation for people who want to start companies together as cooperatives. We have 25 locations throughout the country, with representation in all counties of Sweden. Coompanion broadens entrepreneurship and gives people who want to realise business ideas together customised information, business advice and training – from idea to successful enterprise. We work to promote an increased number of growing social, values-based and cooperative companies. Coompanion has about 130 employees and is owned and controlled locally by more than 900 members who, just like us, want to promote democratic enterprise in which cooperation and everyone's commitment are the pure driving force for economic, social and sustainable growth.

Coompanion's entire area of activity covers the Europe 2020 targets and we welcome the Commission's ambitions for multi-level governance in the implementation of the strategy, in which civil society is an important party. The examples mentioned here are to be seen as a limited selection of Coompanion's contributions to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

Coompanion works to support more organisations and companies being run in cooperation. In 2013 economic associations were the only corporate form that was growing in Sweden. Coompanion also works to develop the social economy and social innovation where all activities are central elements of both the territorial cohesion and in the search for new solutions to social problems in accordance with the Europe 2020 Strategy. In that Coompanion advises and helps to start activities and companies that use social innovation to meet unfilled social needs, we contribute to smart growth. Through taking environmental impact into account and our long-term vision we and the companies we advise create sustainable growth. By emphasising human and social cohesion we, the cooperative movement, and newly started companies are at the centre of inclusive growth. The motive behind our activities is, in other words, to create social and economic changes that contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives.

Smart specialisation

It is often necessary for small companies to collaborate with other companies. Companies that are part of a network manage knowledge building better, have faster adaptation to the needs of the market and work more cost effectively. Coompanion contributes to organised cooperation through the economic association form of incorporation. Examples of this are: Finnskogarna (tourist

industry), Nordic Innovation Food Arena (meals) and Företagsutbildarna (skills provision).

A large proportion of Coompanion's business is to promote regional and local development through cooperation. As examples can be mentioned: Torek ekonomisk förening i Haradsbyarna, in the municipality of Boden, which is an engine for local development where they are conducting a pilot study of digester gas plants, organising rental of private cottages, training refugees in forestry, creating and marketing to bring about food processing in a closed health care centre, running a café and manufacturing window frames to create jobs for people who are unwilling or unable to travel to Boden to work. Another example is Västgötalandet where around 50 companies are cooperating on tourism and hospitality in Vara and neighbouring municipalities.

Sustainable growth

Coompanion supports, advises and helps in starting small-scale renewable energy production. This mainly concerns companies in wind power, solar power and biogas. For example the following economic associations can be mentioned: Egen Kraft i Sverige, Karrydvind, Solel i Sala och Heby and Biogas Dalsland. Another example is Qvinnovindar, which invests shares in wind turbines, among other things to increase gender equality in energy production. Qvinnovindar has 90 members at different levels.

Coompanion also supports other environmental and sustainability initiatives where Ingebo Hagar can serve as an example. Ingebo Hagar is a model village that acts as a competence hub for training and inspiration concerning practical work and concrete action for sustainable living, agriculture and forestry and a sustainable lifestyle. In Ingebo a holistic approach is taken to the concept of sustainable development, environmentally, socially and economically, by moving from word to deed. Ingebo Hagar's inhabitants share resources and create income opportunities and earn a living in a way that does not drain resources but instead returns them to the land they cultivate.

Inclusive growth

Coompanion has contributed directly to the establishment of more than 300 work integration social enterprises and working cooperatives (of which more than 100 were established in 2012/2013). Most work integration social enterprises started by Coompanion are run in the form of working cooperatives and are for people who do not make their own living. More than 9 500 people earn their income from these enterprises; people who previously were far from the labour market. These enterprises create the opportunity of work by being an alternative to the private and public sectors, i.e. broaden the labour market. Coompanion also works to create support structures for more and growing work integration social enterprises, where Kooptjänst in Östergötland, Gotland

Skog och Miljö, Villa Vägen Ut in Gothenburg and PASS in Skaraborg can be mentioned.

We continue to look forward to being an actor in Sweden's ambitions to achieve the Europe 2020 targets, where we also hope that the Commission's initiative for social enterprise and innovation will play a more prominent role.

Famna- The Swedish Association for Non-Profit Health and Social Service Providers

Famna – the Swedish Association for Non-Profit Health and Social Service Providers – works mainly to achieve the Europe 2020 Strategy targets in the overall priority area covering inclusive growth but also within the EU target of smart inclusive growth, through active and forward-looking innovative work for values-based health and social care.

Famna has around 50 member organisations throughout Sweden with a total turnover of about SEK 4.5 billion and about 6 000 employees. All members are values-based enterprises/organisations that steer their activities on the basis of their core values towards social goals. Any profits are reinvested in the enterprises/organisations. The activities have developed on the basis of needs that have attracted attention in society but that are not met in any other way. The needs of the user, the patient, are in focus, which creates organisations close to flexible and innovative solutions. Almost 90 % of members' turnover consists of remuneration for health and social care services with municipalities and county councils as customer, services that are largely subject to public procurement procedures. Famna receives financial support from the Government, as well as various project grants from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the Swedish ESF Council and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

Famna and its members are part of civil society that through collaboration with the public sector works to develop and facilitate social policy reforms. Famna works together with the Government and Riksdag, the ministries, government agencies, county councils and municipalities to create better conditions for the health and social care that is provided by values-based organisations that reinvest their profits. A concerted policy for the values-based health and social care sector aimed at stimulating its development and growth is high on the agenda. Of particular importance are the issues of procurement and agreements, access to financial resources for development and/or new establishment as well as the need for knowledge and making visible the activities and values that values-based non-profit health and social care represent. The need for initiatives in these areas has also been identified as important for development in the Social Business Initiative set up by the European Commission.

Famna is working to achieve the EU inclusive growth targets through its work on growth and development of values-based health and social care. For the purpose of mapping and making visible the obstacles to growth encountered by values-based health and social care, Famna produces an annual growth report. The 2013 report dealt in particular with the issue of capital supply for values-

based health and social care. In previous years such issues as procurement have been in focus.

In 2013 Famna worked on a project funded by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth aimed at stimulating increased values-based enterprise in health and social care. The project involved cooperation with some selected municipalities and county councils. The project also aimed to reach various stakeholders with knowledge of values-based enterprise in health and social care. These stakeholders are potential providers, such as faith communities, interest organisations, user organisations, popular movements and health and social care personnel. The project also aimed at increasing enterprise among values-based organisations that are already providers of health and social care. Experience from Famna's growth reports shows that there is great growth potential in these organisations but they need more support and skills enhancing measures, not least concerning procurement, freedom of choice systems and good business practice.

In recent years Famna has developed as a national values-based development structure in the areas of quality development, leadership, innovation and eHealth in health care and social care in Sweden. Through its work, Famna participates in achieving the EU's objectives for an agenda for new skills and jobs.

Proceeding from a quality strategy that aims to create skills and capacity in these areas, Famna has offered skills development programmes in national initiatives (most infirm elderly, evidence-based practice, eHealth and innovation development). Furthermore, there is an ongoing ESF funded project in quality and leadership in which Famna cooperates with Jönköping University. The project has an integrated approach in which an individual degree course in leadership is combined with workplace-based development projects for improvement teams and management groups. The programmes are aimed at all sectors in health and social care (private, values-based public) to increase cooperation between them and to reduce lock-in effects for employees in the various sectors. In 2013 more than 200 people participated in Famna's various programmes.

In 2013 Famna, together with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and others, drew up an action plan for quality development in health care through open comparisons of services' quality. The action plan highlights skills development needs in profound knowledge of improvement and analysis. This is well in line with Famna's initiatives above. Famna is also active in several other national projects in the quality area, such as patient safety and national quality registers.

Famna also participates in achieving the smart growth objective through its work on eHealth and innovation. Famna is one of the authors of the national eHealth strategy in Sweden and is deeply involved in developing eHealth in health and

social care. Particular focus for Famna lies in using eHealth as a support for developing health and social care, involving users and patients, investing in social services and promoting national systems that are made accessible to all actors.

In the context of the Government's investment in promoting innovations in health and social care Famna operates one of 30 test beds supported by Sweden's innovation agency, VINNOVA. The test beds are focused on supporting innovations for more person-centred health and social care in the values-based sector.

SKOOPI

SKOOPI is an interest organisation for work integration social enterprises and has about 150 companies as members throughout Sweden.

Work integration social enterprises are companies that conduct business activities (produce and sell goods and/or services and supported employment places):

- *Their overall purpose is integrating people who have great difficulties in getting and/or keeping a job, in working life and society.*
- *They create participation for employees through ownership, agreements or in other well-documented ways.*
- *They mainly reinvest profits in their own or similar activities.*
- *They are organisationally independent of the public sector.*

Sweden describes five national targets for Europe 2020 – the EU’s joint growth and employment strategy. SKOOPI responds below about how the organisation and its member companies work with three of these targets.

1. To strive for a level of employment well above 80 per cent for women and men aged 20–64 by 2020. The increase is mainly to be achieved among groups with a weak foothold in the labour market, such as young people and people born outside Sweden, as well as by counteracting long periods without work. The difference in the level of employment between women and men is to decrease through an increase in the level of employment among women.

In work integration social enterprises people work to 100% of their own capacity. This gives more people an opportunity to step into a labour market they could have been outside for a long period for reasons such as long-term sick leave, criminality or discrimination. These enterprises have a long-term approach; every individual should be able to find long-term employment there. However, there must also be a possible path to move on from work integration social enterprises to other jobs in the labour market and studies. SKOOPI’s activities include training for its members as regards employer liability, working methods such as supported employment, and enterprise, good business practice and business development. SKOOPI monitors trends for its members and spreads information to them. SKOOPI is a voice for its members, for example in responding to documents that are circulated for comment.

2. To improve social inclusion by reducing the percentage of women and men aged 20–64 who are not in the labour force (except full-time students), the long-term unemployed or those on long-term sick leave to well below 14 per cent by 2020.

Being outside the labour market for a long period due to long-term unemployment or sickness leave may make it difficult to get back in or to enter the labour market for the first time. Moving from no employment to at best full employment, people should have the possibility to work 100 % of their own

capacity. This may mean starting to work for one hour a day and gradually increasing the time. SKOOPI's members are given support in how they can receive new participants in the best way and channel them into their activities. In that every individual has a workplace to go to where everyone can and may feel that they are contributing and making a difference, social participation is increased, which makes people feel better. Because SKOOPI has many members that are all work integration social enterprises, contacts are built up and networks created between them, which strengthens social identity and contributes to a positive approach to sharing experience and knowledge with each other.

3. That the proportion of 18-24 year-olds not having completed upper secondary school and not studying is to be less than 10 per cent in 2020 and the proportion of 30 to 34 year-olds with at least a two-year tertiary education is to be 40-45 per cent in 2020.

People can be in long-term unemployment or on long-term sick leave for various reasons. SKOOPI considers that work integration social enterprises are a good alternative to being trapped in exclusion. Everyone there can work at 100% of their own capacity. This may involve starting to work a few hours every day and gradually increase the number. Being able to try out different jobs and gain more experience. Adapted introduction or re-introduction to the labour market opens up opportunities for more people to want and dare to take the step of completing unfinished upper secondary studies and applying for tertiary education. SKOOPI provides its member enterprises with training and information on employer issues, receiving new participants in the enterprises and business development. SKOOPI spreads knowledge and information to its members and is a voice for them for example in responding to documents circulated for comment.

SKOOPI's member enterprises are in the social economy, they operate on a values-based approach and reinvest their profits. This means that the enterprises are independent of the public sector. The enterprises trade with public bodies as well as private individuals and the business sector. The enterprises are not profit-making, instead their activities are fundamentally based on their ideas and values.

The Swedish Women's Lobby

The Swedish Women's Lobby is a non-party political and non-profit umbrella organisation for the Swedish women's movement whose work rests on a feminist foundation. Under the umbrella are 42 member organisations that work to strengthen the position of women in society. The Swedish Women's Lobby works to ensure women's full human rights in a gender equal society.

15:52 – high time to be paid for the full day

Ahead of 8 March 2012, the Swedish Women's Lobby decided to focus on the question of pay. We took the initiative for what came to be called the 15:51-movement, which is a historically broad partnership with our member organisations, trade unions and parties' women's associations around gender-equal pay. The purpose of the partnership was to draw attention to the pay differential of 14.3% between women and men after restating part-time work as full time. 15:51 refers to the time of day when women stopped being paid calculated on a working day from 8 to 17.

On the date of International Women's Day 2013 the wage gap between women and men had narrowed by 0.2 percentage points. The pay differential between the sexes was then 14.1 %. In terms of a working day from 8 to 17 this means that women work for free after 15:52.

Since women were now being paid for one minute more we changed the name to the 15:52 movement. Ahead of and on 8 March 2013 there were events and other activities in more than 20 places around the country. In Stockholm the 15:52 movement arranged a seminar on 8 March from 14.00 to 15:52 to discuss concrete measures to reduce wage differentials between women and men. The Minister for Gender Equality Maria Arnholm, as well as representatives of trade unions and employers, were there.

On 8 March at 15:52 a country-wide digital campaign to put pressure on the Riksdag, Government and employers for gender equal pay took place. Thousands of people all over the country changed their status update on Facebook and tweeted the message: "After 15:52 women are working for nothing. Every day. High time to be paid for the full day!" under #lönheladagen. The campaign received a lot of media coverage. Partly in news reports and partly through about 15 articles published in the press around the country. Two interpellations based on the political demands of the 15:52 movement were brought before the 2013 Riksdag.

Gender equality analysis of the Budget Bill

Gender equality analysis of the central government budget is a high priority activity at the Swedish Women's Lobby, and has been carried out for the past

five years. It is unique both in a national and international context that a non-profit women's organisation conducts regular reviews of central government budgets.

We see it as an important task to analyse the Budget Bills from various thematic perspectives and develop methods so that other people and organisations can analyse budgets from the point of view of gender equality. The central government budget is a policy document for all of society and reflects the norms that govern the actual distribution of resources. In all analyses of the Budget Bills carried out by the Swedish Women's Lobby we have systematically investigated such things as the existence of indicators and gender-disaggregated statistics to see how the Government formulates problems, analyses and acts on the basis of a gender equality perspective. The purpose is to examine whether the Government lives up to its own commitments on gender mainstreaming, and to see how public resources are distributed.

The 2013 analysis “Kvinnorna och krisen” (Women and the crisis) focused particularly on the after-effects and consequences of the crisis for gender equality and women's rights in Sweden and in an international perspective. There is a great need to examine the mechanisms of economic crises and their consequences from a gender equality perspective, for example as regards public welfare. Cutbacks largely affect women, so we have looked at what happens to women and gender equality when countries deal with crises and restructure their economies.

The work of budget analysis was led by a working group from the Board. The secretariat and various external experts in the field were attached to the project. “Women and the crisis” was presented in the form of an anthology in which a number of people knowledgeable in the area have made in-depth analyses of different aspects of the crisis and the Budget Bill. In this way we have been able to go directly to analysis and show different perspectives of the economy and politics.

As in our previous analyses the Budget Bill still shows deficiencies as regards gender mainstreaming. Less than half of all data on initiatives and results in figures and tables are gender disaggregated and the statistics that exist are either not analysed at all or only insufficiently. Our conclusion is that differences in outcomes between men and women do not constitute a basis for initiatives. Consequently the Government's investments will not either lead to a gender equal future. In the work on the budget the conditions of life and work of men are still the benchmarks for economic policy, which means that political interest in gender equality and women as a group has to take a back seat.

The analysis also shows that higher savings requirements are made in areas where women predominate – schools, health and social care. The writers of our report would like to see a new policy if we are to live gender equal lives. The

economic policy instruments used must support gender equality. The Budget Bill sets the parameters for how future policy is set out and it is time that we start to discuss what feminist perspectives and alternatives have to offer in terms of the economy and society. Taking that as our starting point we can hope to achieve a renewed feminist discussion on the value of work, on sustainability and on economics.

The report “Women and the crisis. Do the Government’s investments lead to a gender-equal future?” was launched and presented at a seminar in the Riksdag on 29 May 2013. Those responsible for economic policy, the parties’ spokespeople on economic policy, were invited to comment and discuss the results of the report. Those participating in the seminar were Maria Arnholm, Minister for Gender Equality, Anders Sellström, spokesperson on economic policy (ChrDem), Carl B Hamilton, spokesperson on economic policy (Lib), Elisabeth Svantesson, Chair of the Committee on the Labour Market (Mod), Per Bolund, spokesperson on economic policy (Green), Ulla Andersson, spokesperson on economic policy (Left) and Ylva Johansson, spokesperson on labour market and gender equality (SocDem). The seminar was packed and attracted great attention in the media. The debate also went on in the social media before and after the launch. Several interpellations were brought before the Riksdag based on our report.

The report was also presented at the Women’s movement economics seminar arranged by the Swedish Women’s Lobby during the Almedalen week and at an open space conference on the consequences of economic policy for women from outside Europe held in Husby.

Vetenskap & Allmänhet (Public and Science - VA)

VA is a non-profit association that aims to promote dialogue and openness between researchers and the public. We have about 80 member organisations and were established 12 years ago.

In summary VA has three main tasks:

- 1) *Knowledge development through studies and opinion surveys on public perception of research; on opinion-forming societal groups' perception and utilisation of research; on researchers' interaction with the external community; on methods for dialogue on research.*
- 2) *New formats for discussions on research, based on aspects that concern and involve people.*
- 3) *Dissemination of internal and external knowledge and experiences.*

VA and Europe 2020

The growth agenda Europe 2020 has a clear focus on solving the major social challenges of our time. Research plays a key role in that task and public support is decisive for the strategic initiatives required by Europe 2020. By making knowledge of research-related questions accessible and by giving different target groups the opportunity to conduct a dialogue with the research community, VA contributes in several ways to the Europe 2020 targets.

VA's activities touch most closely two of the Europe 2020 targets: the research and development target and the education target. The activities of the association are closely linked to the target of improving conditions for research on a general level. The EU's efforts relating to responsible research and innovation are also closely related to VA's operational concept. Both the association's knowledge-building and dialogue-focused activities contribute to improving conditions for research and researchers.

The education target has been particularly relevant to VA in recent years in connection with the project "School meets science". By investigating and highlighting the role of science in school VA contributes to increasing interest both in research among children and young people and for scientifically based methods among teachers and school managements. The project will continue in 2014. The purpose is also to increase the scientific understanding and aptitude of young people.

Related VA activities in the research and development target

The RRI Tools project is aimed at improving processes for responsible research and innovation (RRI) and has 26 European partners, where VA acts as the Swedish hub. The project will develop innovative tools that will then be used and spread in dialogue between many actors, such as researchers, civil society,

education actors and industry. There will be particular focus on decision-makers to influence future research policy.

The VA barometer: VA conducts annual surveys of the general public's confidence in, and views on, research and researchers. The data we have compiled, analysed and reported on through the years makes it possible to take a structured approach to creating the conditions for investment appetite and confidence in research.

Media seminars for researchers: VA arranges seminars with for example the research councils Formas, Forte, the Swedish Research Council and VINNOVA, where researchers are invited to meet the media and learn more about how journalists work. For their part, journalists need to be able to easily reach researchers who are willing to talk to them, do it in an understandable way and feel comfortable with that.

Forum for research communication: The purpose is to create a meeting place for inspiration, skills development and networking for research communicators. In 2013 about 200 communicators participated in the forum, which is part of the Science Festival in Gothenburg. The event will be repeated in May 2014. The organisers are seven research financiers, the Science Festival and VA.

The science fair ForskarFredag (ResearchFriday) takes place on 26 September 2014 in about 30 places in Sweden and hundreds of places in Europe under the name Researchers' Night. VA has been coordinating the event in Sweden since 2006 and is responsible for joint marketing, website, activities, evaluation and for applying for EU grants for local and national implementation.

Researchers' Grand Prix is a national competition for researchers, where they have three minutes to present their own research in the most engaging, inspiring and educational way as possible. Researchers' Grand Prix is organised by VA and the research councils Formas, Forte, VINNOVA and the Swedish Research Council. Regional heats are arranged by a number of local organisations as part of ResearchFriday and with the support of the European Commission.

Science Café is a meeting place for anyone curious about research. The public and researchers discuss a current topic or new findings that concern them over a coffee. Science Cafés are arranged in many countries. In Sweden VA works to spread the concept and support actors who want to arrange their own café discussions.

Smedpack VA also contributes to cooperation projects that actively involve the public in research and development. The Smedpack project is aimed at developing pharmaceutical packaging to be safer and simpler to use. Medicine users give their views at several stages through focus groups run by VA.

Opinion forming for the sub-programme Science With And For Society in Horizon 2020: VA was involved in the work of ensuring that the new EU framework programme Horizon 2020 would include earmarked funds and the horizontal programme Science With And For Society.

Related VA activities as part of the education target

As part of Researchers' Night a mass experiment is conducted every year in which children and young people are invited to participate. Data collected is analysed by one or more researchers and the findings presented in an easy to understand research report. In the 2013 mass experiment, the Autumn Experiment, about 10 000 pupils and 426 teachers around Sweden documented more than 2 000 trees and autumn signs in nature.

Schools' perception of science in the context of the School Meets Science project was examined by VA in a survey of teachers' and school managers' views of the role of science in teaching and their contacts with research and researchers. The findings are presented in the report "Skolans syn på vetenskap" (How schools view science). It was presented and discussed on VA day on 23 September 2013, among others by Deputy Minister for Education Maria Arnholm.



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Prime Minister's Office
Sweden**

Address: SE-103 33 Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone: +46 8 405 10 00

www.sweden.gov.se