

Sweden URBACT National Dissemination Point Bi-Annual Report



Local Development Agreements 2008-2010 - a corner-stone in sustainable urban development in Sweden

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Area: Metropolitan Governance / Disadvantaged neighbourhoods / Active inclusion

Length: 550 words

An important part of the Swedish Government's aim to combat social exclusion and to decrease segregation is to find methods of long-term cooperation with city districts that has a large degree of disadvantaged neighbourhoods and widespread social exclusion. The basis for the cooperation in these subjects is the *Local Development Agreements*.

The first development agreements between central Government and the municipalities were signed in 1999 with agreements on a joint responsibility for social initiatives at the housing-area level. The current agreements runs through 2008-2010 and aims at identifying the topics that constitutes focal points in the central Government's and the municipalities' common work with urban development. The agreements are also pointing out the responsibilities for the government and the state, respectively. For the period of 2008-2010, 21 municipalities with altogether 38 city districts have signed Local Development Agreements with the Government, enabling them to join partnerships with the Government and actors in the private sector as well as actors in the social economy.

One example of a project in the Local Development Agreements is the project *Lilla Växthuset (The Little Green House)* in the City District of Fosie in Malmö, a meeting place for young people formed by young people's interests and needs, aiming at finding ways to work and education. Much of the activities in The Little Green House evolve around media and music production. The project is funded by the ERDF. Another example is the project *Tillväxt Biskopsgården* in Göteborg, a project aiming for sustainable city development, also funded by the ERDF. The purpose of the project is to develop the area of Biskopsgården, a disadvantaged neighbourhood in Göteborg. The project consists of a series of actions, all aiming to create an attractive city district and sustainable economical growth. An overall aim

is to integrate the area not only with the city and the region, but also with the rest of Sweden and the European Union. An important part of the project is to encourage entrepreneurship among the citizens. Many of the companies in the city district are run by persons with foreign background. There are also over 90 different NGOs in the area, which are seen as important assets. However, the lack of meeting places for these NGOs is seen as a restraining factor for the development of the area, especially when it comes to creating social resources and to encourage local entrepreneurship. An example of work within the project is to enhance the local plaza "Friskvåderstorget", a disadvantaged area which is a central meeting point in the district. The square is every year visited by many foreign tourists, visiting their relatives who live in the area. According to the project description, there is a lack of knowledge about this group, which is seen as a potential target group to develop the tourism sector in Göteborg.

The Local Development Agreements for 2008-2010 are currently being evaluated. Many of the local projects have engaged researchers from universities to commit ongoing evaluations, thus bridging the gap between science and practice. On national level, the *Swedish Agency for Public Management (Statskontoret)* has the mission to evaluate if the agreements have led to more effective administration and working processes within the Governmental authorities and departments. The company *SWECO EuroFutures AB* has the mission to estimate how the Local Development Agreements are functioning as a propelling force in the work with urban development in the city districts. Also, the *National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket)* is working on a knowledge overview with focus on the socio-economical aspects of sustainable urban development, while *The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen)* is evaluating the agreements from young peoples' point of view.

Read more:

The Swedish Government's website on urban development:

<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2188/a/15847>

Tillväxt Biskopsgården, Göteborg:

<http://www.tillvaxtbiskopsgarden.se/default.aspx?id=25>

Lilla Växthuset, Malmö:

<http://www.malmo.se/Kommun--politik/Om-oss/Stadsdelar/Fosie/SOM-Fosie/Motesplatser/Lilla-Vaxthuset.html>

The Delegation for Sustainable Cities - working for an integrated approach on urban development

Area: Metropolitan Governance / Quality sustainable living

Length: 300 words

The Delegation for Sustainable Cities is responsible for the national coordination of sustainable development of cities, urban communities and housing areas. The delegation is appointed by the Government for the period 2008-2010. The delegation's tasks are, among others, to manage the grants for the development of sustainable cities; to promote integrated cross-sectoral planning; to promote cooperation in urban development projects between business, municipalities and other actors as well as public participation, and to contribute to the development and dissemination of knowledge.

In order to promote sustainable cities, the delegation handles funds of in total 34 million € during 2008-2010. In 2009, three investment programs in Malmö, Stockholm and Umeå as well as 14 development projects all over Sweden have been granted funds.

One of the most important results of the delegation's work so far is that there is a need for a clearer view of what the social dimension of sustainable urban planning implies, and how this dimension should be integrated in the urban planning. The delegation proposes that social matters, cultural heritage and transports are examples of areas that need to be better integrated in urban planning.

The delegation is stressing a holistic view on urban development, where ecological, economical and social aspects are taken into account. Thus, it is necessary to have good knowledge about all three dimensions. Another conclusion of the delegation is that there is a

need of knowledge about how organisational forms influence the success of co-operation between departments and authorities. In general, the delegation is pointing out that there is a need for more co-operations between different sectors in order to succeed.

A factor in many successful urban development projects is the sensitivity and respect towards the residents of the area of the project. The most successful projects seem to have involved the residents to a high degree in the actual work within the projects, according the conclusions of the work within the delegation.

Read more:

The Delegation for Sustainable Cities:

<http://www.hallbarastader.gov.se/bazment/hallbarastader/en/start.aspx>

Young People's place in urban development - a report from the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs

Area: Active inclusion, Human Capital & Entrepreneurship

Length: 500 words

A recently published report by *The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs* (Ungdomsstyrelsen) - the government agency responsible for young people's access to influence and welfare – puts its focus on the young people in Sweden's possibilities to get a job or to resume education. In the report, entitled "*Vägarna in*" (The ways in), the board has reviewed how the 21 Swedish municipalities that have signed Local Development Agreements with the central Government are working with young people between 16-24 that are neither working nor studying. Thus, the report is an evaluation of the actions taken to facilitate active inclusion of young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

A main result of the report is that there is a lack of knowledge among the municipalities about who the young people participating in the actions are. There is little knowledge about their cultural and socio-economic background and about the young people's previous contacts with

authorities. The report also states that it is impossible to give an overview of to what extent the actions have led to work or resumed education. The contents of the actions are diverse, so are the young people participating, according to the report. Thus, the board identifies the need of a common instrument for assessment, which makes comparisons possible (see the chapter on Peer Review in this report for an example of such an instrument). The report also states that there is a need for particular knowledge regarding work on young people. The aspects of young people have not been clear in the urban development policies up till now, the report concludes.

One important area of improvement identified by city officials interviewed by the board is strengthened co-operation between the central Government and the municipalities, between departments within the municipalities and also between different actions and projects in the municipalities. According to the report, many municipalities have highlighted the importance of exchange with actors that have worked with urban development. An important node of knowledge exchange is the *EUKN* (European Urban Knowledge Network), placed in the *Multicultural Centre* in Fittja gård, Botkyrka. The report also stresses the importance of being where the young people really are. It's important to have offices or meeting places in disadvantaged areas, to where young people can turn without feeling alienated. It's also of great importance that these meeting places have personnel with broad competence and local knowledge, the report says.

Successful examples of cooperation and meeting places situated near the young people are so called *Navigation Centres*, available in a number of municipalities, where young people can get in contact with as many authorities, projects and organisations as possible. Young people should not be redirected back and forth between departments and authorities, the report states. Furthermore, the success relies on that there is a holistic view on the young people. Actions that put an effort in mapping the young people's background and competences are the most successful. Another key factor is flexibility and the ability to focus on the active involvement of the young people taking part. Several good examples of this can be found in the municipalities. One example of increased co-operation is the *Work and Integration Centre*

(*AIC*) in Malmö, where young people can get help with contacts to different authorities according to needs, for example at the local meeting place *The Little Green House*, which is built for young people on the basis of their own needs and wishes and where the young personnel have local knowledge and an intercultural competence.

Read more:

The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen):

http://ungdomsstyrelsen.se/english_main/0,2693,,00.html

EUKN Sweden

<http://www.eukn.org/sweden/>

The Multicultural Centre in Botkyrka

<http://mkc.botkyrka.se/>

Peer Review - a participatory instrument of evaluating urban development

Area of interest: Active inclusion

Length: 500 words

The method of *Peer Review* has been used for a long time in the academic world as a tool to review scientific publications, but has been more widely in social science used during recent years. During the Lisbon summit in 2000, the method was promoted by the European Commission as part of the Open Method of Coordination. The method could be described as a learning process with the involvement of equals, reviewing examples of good practice on the basis of systematic exchange.

When talking about urban development, the advantages of the Peer Review method were recently proven in Sweden. The method has been used on city level in the EU-project *Connections*, a mutual learning project with a primary focus on the way the integrated response to tackling multiple deprivation is organised in European cities. In the *Connections* project, researcher Dr Mikael Stigendal from Malmö University was involved and introduced to the method. In June 2009, Mikael Stigendal, as a thematic expert in the URBACT-programme, applied the method of

Peer Review to the URBACT thematic network *CoNet*. Two different examples of social sustainable urban development in Malmö, “*The Little Green House*”, a meeting place for young people and “*Young in Research*”, a project where young people are introduced to research as a summer job, were reviewed by delegates from a number of cities in Europe during the CoNet conference in Malmö. The two examples are local projects initiated through a larger umbrella project funded by the ERDF, called *SÖM Fosie*, which aims at active inclusion in one of Malmö’s most disadvantaged city district, the City District of Fosie. The purpose of *SÖM Fosie* is to “mainly promote an increase of gainful employment and a decrease in the dependency on social allowance; create attractive and safe neighbourhoods, an increase of growth and democracy and partaking.”, according to the project description.

The peers reviewers (delegates from the cities participating in CoNet) was handed a “pre-review report” a couple of weeks before the visit, in order to get acquainted with the projects and to be prepared for the site visits. The report included a number of questions which the authors wanted the visiting peer reviewers to answer. These questions related to a number of success criteria, originating from the URBACT I Thematic Network “*Young People- from Exclusion to Inclusion*” (2004-2006). The criteria; Empowerment, Strengthened social relations, Structural changes of schools, Co-operation with local society and Renewing the view on knowledge, were used as benchmarks in order for the peer reviewers to make an assessment of the success of the two examples.

When in Malmö, the peer reviewers visited the two examples for a couple of hours, looked around, listened to presentations by the project participants and asked them questions. The day after the site visits, the peer reviewers made a presentation, giving their reviews about the examples according to the predefined set of questions. The result of the peer reviewers’ presentations was put into a post-review report, written by the researcher Mikael Stigendal. The results from the Peer Review were used not only to review the success of the two examples, but also to suggest areas of improvement.

The method has since the CoNet conference in Malmö gained larger attention and was the matter of a seminar at Malmö University in

March 2010. The success from the CoNet and the Connections projects has paved the way of using Peer Review as a method of evaluation in several new initiatives in the City of Malmö, aiming at urban development.

Read more:

Connections project:

<http://www.connectionsprogress.eu/>

Conet mini-site at URBACT:

<http://urbact.eu/en/projects/disadvantaged- neighbourhoods/conet/homepage/>

Researcher Mikael Stigendal’s website:

www.mikaelstigendal.se

Reports from the CoNet conference:

Stigendal, M & Eriksson, M & Hamma, C (2009) [Pre-review reports. CoNet meeting in Malmö](#)

Stigendal, Mikael (2009) [Post-review report. CoNet meeting in Malmö](#)

Stigendal, Mikael (2009) [Thematic report. CoNet meeting in Malmö](#)

The organic town of Augustenborg - sustainability based on participation

Area: Quality sustainable living / Innovation & Creativity

Length: 600 words

“Ekostaden Augustenborg is a unique process, fuelled by diverse needs with a common goal, without a finishing point. Around 15 000 visitors from near and far have visited to see what has been achieved in the name of social, ecological and economical sustainability.”

So begins a newly produced booklet about *Ekostaden Augustenborg* (The organic town of Augustenborg), a neighbourhood in the City District of Fosie in Malmö.

The area Augustenborg has a special history in the City of Malmö. Built in the late 1940’s, Augustenborg became the first public housing area in Malmö. 1.600 of the 1.800 apartments are owned by the city’s housing company, MKB. The area was built to be self sufficient with an own central heating power plant and a central laundry facility. However, in the 1980’s,

the area had problems with flooding and the residents complained about high living costs. Augustenborg became unpopular and many of the residents moved away. Something had to be done to increase the area's reputation.

The history of Ekostaden Augustenborg began in 1997, when a large industrial area owned by the City of Malmö was to be shut down. Among city officials, an idea was born about an eco-friendly industrial park and a group of city officials and - most importantly - residents of the area gathered to discuss the idea, with the vision to create a sustainable district in the City of Malmö. Soon a suggestion was presented, which included green roofs, a musical theme playground, an open storm water system and several other actions aiming to create a vivid and sustainable area. Ekostaden Augustenborg was granted funds from the Government's Local Development Agreements in 1997, and Ekostaden Augustenborg could be inaugurated by the Minister for Environment, Anna Lindh, in 1998. The facades were renovated and recycling houses were built, all in agreement with the inhabitants of Augustenborg.

Ilmar Repalu, Mayor of Malmö, says in the booklet about Ekostaden Augustenborg that the key word in the process is participation: *"The residents in the area are the experts. Dialogue with the residents also creates a good breeding ground for local community groups. The most important thing we have learned from Augustenborg is how crucial participation is. In order to have sustainable city development the children need to understand how everything is connected, for instance by planting trees."*

One of the key actors in the process has been the school of Augustenborg. Today, the schoolyard is a mixture of green areas, ponds and open storm water drains. There is also an outdoor classroom where the children can sit outside and study.

The 30 green roofs in Ekostaden Augustenborg has become a major attraction for visitors. In 2001, the first botanical roof garden in the world was opened in Augustenborg with the aim of promote lightweight vegetation roofs in Scandinavia. The roof garden is also a research facility, covering over 9000 square meters.

The project has resulted in significant changes in Augustenborg. Heat and hot water consumption has decreased by 25 % and the biodiversity in the area has increased by 50 %.

The green roofs have attracted birds and insects, and the open storm water system provides better environment for the local plant- and wildlife. In social terms, the participation in elections increased from 54 % 1998 to 79 % in 2002. Also, new local companies working with sustainable development has started in the area.

Every year, the interest for the process that is taking place in Augustenborg is great. Around 15 000 persons have visited Augustenborg, and since the project goes on and develops, there is no sign of a decrease of visitors wanting to learn from Augustenborg on how to create an organic, social and economically sustainable area. At the world exhibition in Shanghai, Malmö - as the only Nordic city - will be represented at the "Urban Best Practice Area". Ekostaden Augustenborg will be one of the examples presented by the City of Malmö.

Read more:

Booklet by Catarina Rolfsdotter-Janssons:

http://www.rolfsdotter.se/pdf/Ecocity_Aug.pdf
(English)

http://www.rolfsdotter.se/pdf/Augustenborg_fr.pdf (French)

Website of Ekostaden Malmö:

<http://www.ekostaden.com>

Fairtrade cities in Sweden - municipalities taking a stand

Area: Low carbon urban environments / Quality sustainable living

Length: 250 words

The term *Fair Trade* is widely known as a social movement aiming to help small and local producers and to promote sustainability. Originally associated with developing countries, the term has during recent years also been connected with sustainable development in a local context. During recent years, a trend in Sweden is for cities and municipalities to apply for a Fair Trade diploma. But what does it mean to become Fairtrade City?

A Fairtrade City is a mark of quality to cities and municipalities who commit to ethical consumption, according to the Fair Trade website in Sweden. The purpose of Fairtrade

Cities is to increase the knowledge and the consumption of goods that has been produced with regards to human rights. The responsibility lies not only on the city, but also on the private sector and the social economy. Thus, becoming a Fairtrade City is a matter of an integrated approach.

There are a number of criteria that has to be fulfilled in order to qualify as a Fairtrade City, involving ethic purchasing, active information policies about sustainable development and a supply of ethical marked products in stores and at workplaces. There is also a requirement that the city increases its consumption of fair-trade products every year.

The diploma was originally introduced in the UK in year 2000. Today there are more than 700 Fairtrade cities in the world. In 2006, the City of Malmö became the first Fair Trade city in Sweden. At present, there are 29 Fairtrade cities in Sweden, and the popularity is steadily increasing

Read more:

Fair Trade Sweden's website:

<http://www.rattvisemarkt.se/cldoc/english.htm>

URBACT II

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 255 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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