

Sweden

[SVERIGE]

RESEARCH PARTNER CENTRE
FORUM FÖR FRIVILLIGT SOCIALT ARBETE
NATIONAL FORUM FOR VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WORK

Giovanna Roiatti
Centro Servizi Volontariato Friuli Venezia Giulia

Karin Olsson
National Forum for Voluntary Social Work

[CONTACT]

Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete
National Forum for Voluntary Social Work
Hantverkargatan 3F
11221 Stockholm - Sweden
tel. +46 86510721
fax +46 86525114
goran.petersson@socialforum.se
www.socialforum.se

[info sheet on page 222]

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

- **Population** 9,256,347 inhabitants (2008)
- **Area** 449,964 sq. km
- **Population density** 22,6 inhabitants per sq. km
- **System of government** Sweden is a constitutional monarchy. The King or Queen is the formal head of state but has no practical power and no influence over the political process. Sweden is a parliamentary and representative democracy where all the public power proceeds from the people. The people are represented on a national level by the Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament), which has legislative power. Proposals for new laws are presented by the Government, which also implements decisions taken by the Riksdag. Sweden is divided into 21 counties at regional level and 290 municipalities at local level. The counties and the municipalities are run by elected assemblies assisted by administrations. General elections for the Riksdag, the county councils and municipal councils are held in Sweden every four years at national, regional and local levels respectively.
- **European elections** 2007: 19 European parliamentarians
- **Social security and welfare system**
Social security in Sweden is a universal model, hence it is publicly financed and administrated by the municipalities. The aim of the Swedish social service is to support people in respect of their economic and social security, equality and civil participation. The social security system is responsible for every individual in Sweden that is in need. The social services are carried out by public authorities and sometimes by not for profit organisation on commission from public authorities

▪ **Public health system**

The Swedish health care system is an integral part of the core domain of the Swedish welfare system and is therefore open to all citizens. It is administrated and financed by the municipalities when it comes to health care for elderly people, people with disabilities and people that are treated during longer periods. Health care that requires medical attendance and treatment in hospitals is funded and administrated by the counties. Most of the health care is carried out by care centres and hospital run by the municipalities and counties. Besides these, there are also private and some not for profit caregivers

▪ **Level of education**

20-24 years old	
who have completed secondary schooling	2007: 80.71%
25-64 years old	
who have completed secondary schooling	2002: 82.66%

▪ **Immigration rate**

10.92%

▪ **Growth rate**

2008: 1.19%

Births:	109,301
Deaths:	91,449

▪ **Employment rate**

2008

15-64 years old	
(total - male - female)	74.02% - 76.38% - 71.58%
55-64 years old	
(total - male - female)	70.53% - 73.95% - 67.11%

▪ **Unemployment rate**

2008

15-64 years old (2008)	
(total - male - female)	4.93% - 4.89% - 4.98%

Exchange rate (Inforeuro 2009) 1 Euro= 10,148 SEK

INDEX - Sweden

GLOSSARY	p. 183	VOLUNTEERS INVOLVING ORGANISATIONS	193
1	Definitions	1	Organisational forms
1.1	Volunteer	2	Rules and functioning
1.2	Volunteering activity	3	Relationship with public sector
1.3	Voluntary organisation	3.1	Overview
1.4	Volunteer support centre	3.2	From our point of view
2	On volunteering (interviews)		(interviews and questionnaires)
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	185	DATA OVERVIEW	195
1	Roots before 1900	1	Research and statistics highlights
2	The brief century: 1900 - 2000	2	Economic and statistical indicators
3	Where we stand: 2001 - 2008	2.1	Human resources
4	Volunteering now	2.2	Funding
	(interviews)	2.3	Growth trends
		3	Of volunteers and organisations (interviews)
LEGAL FRAMEWORK	190	3.1	Motivations and barriers
1	Overview of laws and regulations	3.2	Needs and challenges
1.1	Laws and regulations defining the third sector and its different components		
2	Participation in public policy making	REPRESENTATION	
3	Fiscal policies	AND COORDINATION BODIES	208
4	Rolls and registers	1	Federations and networks
5	List of laws and regulations	2	Networking (interviews)

SUPPORT BODIES	210	DEVELOPMENT POLICIES	224
1 Support measures (questionnaires and interviews)	210	1 On infrastructure for volunteering (interviews and questionnaires)	224
2 Volunteer support centres	210	2 European perspective (interviews)	224
FOCUS ON SUPPORT BODIES (questionnaires)	212	LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED	226
Girlzone	213	BIBLIOGRAPHY	227
Gothenburg NGO Agency	215		
National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations	218		
“Viljan” Södermalm’s Volunteer Centre	220		
National Forum for Voluntary Social Work	222	INTERNET RESOURCES	228

Glossary

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 VOLUNTEER

In Sweden, the term “volunteer” has a somewhat different meaning than in the Anglo-American context. Since unpaid work until recently was understood as an active dimension of organisational membership, all forms of unpaid work are treated in the same way. The terminological division between volunteering and political activism is therefore not as meaningful in Sweden as in the U.S. or in the U.K. The common Swedish understanding of the term “volunteer” is a person who is working or is active of his or her own free will during leisure-time. A volunteer is unpaid (or receiving a symbolic remuneration). The Swedish term for this phenomenon is *frivilligt arbete* or *ideellt arbete* (Olsson L. E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005, p.6).

1.2 VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY

As a consequence of the short introduction and definition above, volunteering activity is defined in the Swedish context as unpaid work of one’s free will, during leisure time. This definition does not imply organisational membership, but volunteering can be carried out as part of organisational activity.

1.3 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

By the most common definition of voluntary organisations we mean that they are formally regulated and have a board, some form of structure and regular activities. They are private, institutionally separate from government. They are not profit distributing. They are self-governing and, lastly, they involve voluntary work and participation to a meaningful degree.

1.4 VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CENTRE

Since volunteer work for historical reasons in Sweden is carried out within volunteer organisations as an ac-

tive dimension of organisational membership and because of the intervention of the welfare state in the post war period, there are strictly speaking no volunteer support centres in Sweden. However, entities called volunteer centres exist (*Frivilligcentral*) and they are presented in this report. The definition of such centres is as follows: a volunteer centre is an information office for volunteering activities, an interface for people who want to volunteer (for individuals directly or through organisations) and for people who need volunteer assistance. The volunteer centre's purpose is to make the local volunteer activity more visible and highlight its importance. It shall facilitate the conditions of organisations, groups and single persons, so they can contribute to their local environment. They shall be a complement to the public and private sector. However, over recent years other organisations aiming to help people to get involved in volunteering have been established, e.g. an organisation called Volunteer Bureau (*Volontärbyrå*). On the organisation's website, organisations can publish volunteer opportunities

for recruitment publicity and it creates an arena for people to find suitable volunteer assignments.

2 ON VOLUNTEERING (INTERVIEWS)

The interviewees agree in saying that the Swedish not for profit sector is an important prerequisite for welfare and democracy, with its variety of activities and relations. Through volunteer work people gain influence, feel engaged and become an integral part of society. This leads to a feeling of coherence, especially important from public health perspective. In successful volunteer work there are opportunities for integration across both generations and cultures and it creates meeting places that break people's isolation, making them feel that they belong. Volunteer work rests upon different grounds and meets more different needs than other sectors of society. According to the interviewees, the importance of volunteering is much underrated.

Historical overview of the third sector

1 ROOTS: BEFORE 1900

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

The first Swedish voluntary organisations resembling modern organisations appeared in the first half of the nineteenth century. This period can be described as a transitional phase between an old society founded on feudal privileges and the new capitalist society. In this phase new intermediate organisations from a variety of societal sectors filled the gap between central authorities and local communities. The organisations were initiated by conservatives and liberals and were striving for conflict rather than for consensus, trying to preserve society. These organisations were often charities active in poor relief and tried to assist the authorities in carrying out the poor relief program. Therefore, the organisations and the state worked together and it was difficult to draw a definitive line between the state and a “not for profit sector”. Authorities and charities worked together since the organisational form was not a question of vital importance in this early period, the activity to carry out the poor relief program was more important.

2 THE BRIEF CENTURY: 1900 - 2000

In the latter part of the nineteenth century Sweden changed from an agrarian to an industrialised country. As a consequence, the voluntary organisations also changed and the end of the nineteenth century saw the birth of the Swedish popular mass movements. Between 1850 and 1920, the population grew from 3.5 million people to nearly 6 million and a large part of the expansion took place in towns and cities. The part of the population who lived in towns and cities was 10 percent in 1850; in the 1920s, it was 30 percent. This urbanisation was a reflection of the increasing industrialisation; the part of the population who was working in farming and forestry decreased from 75 to 44 percent in the same period. Emigration also became an important ideological background to the popular mass movements because it meant increased international influences on the Swedish temperance movement and the free churches.

The popular mass movement is the most important concept to be able to understand how the Swedish not for profit sector has evolved. In a narrow sense, the Swedish popular mass movements refer to the free churches, the temperance movement and the labour movement but, in a broader sense, the concept also includes adult education, women’s liberation, the sports movement and consumers and farmers cooperatives, among others.

The Swedish popular mass movements became important at the turn of the century in the struggle for freedom of religion, democracy and universal suffrage. As they became powerful, they also came to shape the Swedish not for profit sector, with its emphasis on membership, membership activities and national democratic organisations. Knowl-

edge of this popular mass movements' heritage is important for the understanding of the strong link between membership and unpaid work in the Swedish not for profit sector, the emphasis on political activism and advocacy and how voluntary work for poor people became problematic since welfare was considered a political right, not a gift or a charity. This popular mass movement's structure endured until the end of the twentieth century. Not for profit organisations began to recruit volunteers among non-members and when the Swedish not for profit sector's traditional emphasis on advocacy and speaking out on issues of concern was reduced in the 1980s and 1990s because of the growth of service production in the core domains of the welfare state, such as health care, social services and education.

Even if the rise of the popular mass movements was a break with the former liberal and consensus oriented organisations, new organisations that worked with poor relief together with municipalities were founded in the last decade of the nineteenth century. These organisations meant the peak of the nineteenth century charity. They worked together with authorities and their activities were often taken over by the municipalities. Thus, they rather functioned as pioneers for, rather than as alternatives to, the modern Swedish welfare state.

However, by the beginning of the twentieth century the political critique of liberal charity and socially oriented not for profit organisations grew stronger. The labour movement was suspicious of and hostile to not for profit produced charity and poor relief, since they associated it with a class society. They thought the poor should not be grateful for the help from the wealthy, they should demand their rights through labour movements. When the socially oriented volunteer organisations reappeared - or rather grew stronger - at the end of the twentieth century the debate on whether volunteer work is an oppressive charity or a way for people to be responsible citizens surfaced again.

When the Swedish welfare state as we know it today made its ideological breakthrough in the 1930s it was due to a parliamentary alliance between the Social Democratic Party and the Agrarian Party. This alliance came about due to the depression in the 1930s and the need for a strong government. This alliance made a strong state inter-

vention possible and shaped the Swedish "spirit of compromise" (*samförståndsanda*) that characterises the Swedish model. But the reforms that laid the foundation for the Swedish welfare state were not carried out until after World War II. So, the health care insurance became fully state controlled at the beginning of the 1950s and made the voluntary health insurance societies superfluous. This is an example of how, during the post-war period, the social insurance system and other support systems became institutionalised and compulsory, financed and controlled by the state sector. An important exception is the case of the unemployment insurance funds that have been administered by the labour unions since the 1930s, although regulated and financed by the state.

It is easy to imagine that the takeover of the welfare state in the middle of the twentieth century, especially within the core domains of the welfare state, would lead to a diminished Swedish not for profit sector with dwindling membership figures, decreasing volunteer work and reduced societal importance. However, this is not the case. The Swedish popular mass movements became, and still are, important parts of Swedish society. The unions, the adult education organisations and especially the sports movement grew and became powerful organisations with millions of members. It is important to see that the strong Swedish welfare state did not lead to a crowding out effect and a diminished Swedish not for profit sector, but to a certain structure of the Swedish sector with powerful interest organisations such as unions, a large sports movement and a vital adult education, with strong links to the popular mass movements. At the turn of the century about one out of ten Swedes was a member of at least one not for profit association. By the middle of the 1970s, the figure had grown to nine out of ten.

The later half of the twentieth century was characterised by the growth of identity and interaction organisations rather than the older interest organisations. Organisations for people with disabilities and for immigrants grew, cultural organisations and sports clubs as well. Later, in the 1960s, so did different client organisations with mutual support for people with drug-related problems, people who had been treated in the psychiatric system, prisoners and people with homosex-

ual orientation. The 1960s also marked the birth of the Swedish new social movements, such as the peace movement, the modern women's liberation movement and the environmental movement. The new social movements questioned the old Swedish popular mass movements, and unlike the popular mass movements they challenged the dominating political parties.

3 WHERE WE STAND: 2001 - 2008

So, where does the Swedish not for profit sector stand in the first decade of the new millennium? As mentioned above, the traditional emphasis on advocacy by the popular mass movements' organisations, e.g. unions, has been reduced by the growth of production of welfare services. The growth of not for profit organisations active in the core domains of the welfare state has led to a formalised dialogue between the government, the regions and the municipalities on one hand and the social-oriented not for profit organisations on the other, which in 2008 resulted in an agreement, a national Compact aiming to regulate the commitments of all the parties involved (*Överenskommelsen mellan regeringen, idéburna organisationer inom det sociala området och Sveriges Kommuner och landsting*). The agreement has no legal status, but must be understood as an attempt to formalise the relations between the Swedish government, regions and municipalities and the socially oriented organisations in the not for profit sector. The model for the Swedish agreement was the Compact between the government and the not for profit sector in the U.K. The agreement can be interpreted as showing how the structure of the mass popular movement in the Swedish not for profit sector has weakened and how a framework more similar to an Anglo-Saxon context has been established. Another aspect of the strengthened welfare dimension of the Swedish not for profit sector is how subsidies, traditionally based on the organisations' member stock, in many cases have been replaced by compensations for work done by the organisation. Instead of the government supporting not for profit organisations according to their number of members, the organisations are

paid for their welfare services.

Another major change in the Swedish not for profit landscape is the separation of the state and the Church of Sweden. Since the reformation in the fourteen-century, the Lutheran Church had been part of the state, but in the beginning of the new millennium the Church of Sweden was separated from the Swedish state and became part of the Swedish not for profit sector. This transition from state to not for profit sector meant that an additional 24,000 employees were included in the Swedish not for profit sector. It also meant that the earlier division between the state church and the free churches became obsolete.

4 VOLUNTEERING NOW (INTERVIEWS)

The interviewees are all convinced that volunteer work is on solid grounds and that the engagement is as strong as ever, despite the fact that lots of things are changing. Below follows a description of the situation in the volunteer organisations and sector, and the interviewees' thoughts on cooperation with the public sector.

Medlemskapsbegreppet (concept of membership) is mentioned in nearly all interviews. This relationship between the individual and the organisation is central in the Swedish mass movements tradition, but is undergoing changes and becoming increasingly ambiguous. The interviewees say that for young, dedicated people, membership is no longer the natural way in. Instead, their commitment is channelled through conscious choices in everyday life, participation in actions, and work in temporary groups and networks. This was previously labelled as volunteering or political activism but is no longer considered part of organisational work and not visible in statistics. To be part of an organisation today does not always mean being a paying member. Furthermore, people of today are not loyal to an association in the same way as before, but rather to an idea or activity that can be carried out in different contexts. Membership is considered too limited.

Today (young) people are mainly looking for specific tasks, the

association providing the volunteer work becomes more of a side-product. People often want concrete suggestions to choose from and decide what is meaningful for them. Shorter and more well defined assignments are often more attractive. Young people use volunteering as a means to search for and create their identity, by gathering experience from many different volunteering contexts with different values and demands on contribution. When this meets with some associations' ready-made packages and their resistance to let people join in and shape the assignments problems evolve.

In the interviews, several interviewees say that it seems that the older and bigger an organisation is, the more the question of membership is seen as a question of identity, making it harder to challenge and change. For some other associations membership is more of a means to formalise the relation to the volunteers and is not as important in the carrying-out of their activities, activities that may also include non-members. For organisations with such an important function as advocacy, people's changed view on membership is more problematic, as it becomes harder for them to validate their authority as representatives of the group.

In some organisations membership is mainly used as a way of getting cheaper insurance or pastime activities, thus the concept of both membership and democracy is weakened. You do not become a member to influence or to take responsibility. The view on membership and what it implies is changing.

In spite of decreasing membership numbers, the interviewees do not think volunteering is decreasing. It is not hard to recruit people for association activities but rather for board and administrative work. The interviewees feel that commitment and not membership is the most important for democracy. At the same time, they say that membership does fill an important function for the organisations because it provides a demand of responsibility.

The interviewees mention that they quite often hear representatives for volunteer organisations saying "people don't want to volunteer, they don't have time." This is, according to the interviewees, merely a way for the organisations to avoid change and openness, to avoid receiving awkward people who think differently. The convenience and

safety of tradition, as well as the fear of no longer being important, is inhibiting.

All the interviewed mention problems with organisational models and structures, that no longer support volunteering and the democratic process. To become a relevant voice in today's society, new structures and educational methods are crucial. To some associations the organisation seems more important than the mission and the discussion about the future tends to consider new structures instead of more important questions. For youth organisations and other organisations with small budgets the situation is to some extent different. There are few employees and to survive the organisations constantly have to prioritise and change according to their purpose. The same thing is true for many of the associations in vulnerable and multi-cultural environments where the needs are strong and the organisations cannot survive without adapting.

Since young people are not very interested in being on the boards and the older members are not always eager to invite them there, the average age of many boards is high. Many of the older board members have old views on for example membership and organisational models, thus making the work of change more difficult.

In the interviews two trends are emphasised: The first regards how the organisations to a greater extent use employees to build a stable organisation and increase quality. The other is that there is some development towards organisations paying their volunteering leaders to stimulate them and make them perform better or stay. The interviewees say that the money is not the incentive, and that paying the leaders can destroy other values.

All of the interviewees speaks of the importance of volunteer work and the not for profit sector being an independent part of society and most interviewees also recognise this importance. The not for profit sector is gradually increasing the internal cooperation, building a stronger common identity and distinguishing itself from the other sectors.

However, some of the interviewed say that it is good for volunteer work not to be too organised but have a variety of volunteer organisations, economical associations and foundations. The politicians

ought to understand that the not for profit sector is so varied that it answers to many different political areas. The sector includes the old mass movements as well as newer network-based associations, volunteer organisations and cooperatives, legally formed as economic associations. There is also an important difference in thoughts and views between the national and local level. Thus, many different perspectives are present in the interviews when it comes to the role of volunteering.

One role that is increasingly apparent for the volunteer organisations is the one as producer of welfare and service. This development is partly driven by changes in society and smaller budgets for the public sector that thus becomes more eager to see the not for profit sector as a service producer. The interviewees think that all positive forces are needed to keep welfare intact but do definitely not see volunteer organisations as a crutch for the social authorities but rather as an alternative way of solving issues and reaching out to target groups.

Several of the interviewees point out the important role of creating meeting places where people can meet on equal terms. Independent meetings that are not characterised by exercise of authority, force or economical profit but by reciprocity, trust and companionship.

Another important and natural role is the one as creator of public opinion, a party that protests and speaks up for various groups. This function is especially explicit for youth organisations. This is maybe connected to the fact that the public sector seldom asks them to contribute to the municipal service, in spite of the youth organisations' unique complementary function in society: young people acting for young people, often completely voluntarily. A couple of the interviewees think this may be an indication of the insufficient trust in young people.

The interviewees have noticed an increase in competition from the private sector and commercial stakeholders that puts new pressure on the associations. They also see a growing tendency in the not

for profit sector to use the vocabulary of the business world and trust in market solutions (when at the same time private corporations, for example McDonalds and IKEA, start using the volunteer organisations' concept of membership).

The interviewees describe an increase in the cooperation within the sector and a greater interest in finding a common foundation and identity, to become more clearly defined in relation to other sectors of society. For volunteer work to become more distinct and visible, internal work on self-image and identity is needed. The interviewed say that one challenge for the organisations is to formulate what they consist of and what distinguishes them, the values volunteer work contribute with and what the function of volunteer work is. To make more people carriers of this message it then has to be implemented throughout the organisations. Some interviewees are concerned by the fact that it is mostly people with higher education and income who have access to the social arenas of the not for profit sector and ask themselves if volunteer work is becoming a class issue. Are lonely people moving towards greater isolation? Are the ones who already have a large network the ones that are approached and included? If so, what does it imply?

The interviewed wish to see the volunteer and the not for profit sector as:

- A distinct and independent sector.
- A sector that can meet, and have a dialogue, on equal terms with other sectors of society.
- A producer of service that is a complement and alternative to governmental and municipal activities.
- A producer of voice and creator of public opinion.
- A meeting place characterised by reciprocity and participation.
- More of an arena for young people, where their interests and ability to lead and change can be expressed.
- A place where democracy can be developed.

1 OVERVIEW OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

1.1 LAWS AND REGULATIONS DEFINING THE THIRD SECTOR AND ITS DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

General freedom of association is guaranteed in the Swedish constitution; hence any person is free to establish an association or foundation for whatever purpose he or she chooses. The legal system in Sweden is based on a civil law framework, but the parts of the legal system specifically pertaining to not for profit organisations are largely founded on general law since none of the principal legal forms of not for profit organisations have been regulated by any legislation of importance until 1997.

Besides the constitutional principles of freedom of association, the parts of the legal system that are relevant to the not for profit sector pertain to the Law on Economic Associations (SFS 1987:667), the Law on Foundations (SFS 1994:1220), the legal framework that gives the Church of Sweden (*Svenska kyrkan*) a legal status as a public entity outside the state and various tax laws and regulations concerning accountancy. There is, however, no specific legislation for the not for profit association (*ideell förening*), which is the most frequent legal form among the organisations in the Swedish not for profit sector. Most of the not for profit associations are therefore not defined in the existing law. Neither are there any particular legislation or case law regarding volunteers in Sweden; the volunteer would thus legally be treated either as a member or as an employee. For the former alternative there is no legislation or developed scholarly doctrine concerning the position of the member. If volunteers instead are treated as employees, they fall under the complex Swedish rules and laws in the field of employment. All this is due to the fact that the Swedish not for profit sector by tradition has been active in the production of welfare only to a limited degree. Hence, there has been no or very limited need for a legislation that regulates the legal position of volunteers. Since the Swedish not for profit sector is changing, more volunteers are working within or through municipalities and the strong link between volunteering and membership has been weakened, one can expect new laws and regulations regarding volunteers to develop.

One of the most important changes in the legal framework is the transition of the Church of Sweden, from the state to the not for profit sector. Until the year 2000, the Church of Sweden was a part of the Swedish state but from that year it is legally defined as a public entity that is legal *sui generis* and that is not a part of the Swedish state. Therefore, a new legal entity was created: a registered religious community. This legal entity applies to other religious congregations as well; hence all religious congregations can be treated as equals. This is of course not just a juridical change. From the year 2000, the Church of Sweden is a religious organisation in the not for profit sector among other religious organisations, for example the free churches that originated in opposition to the state church.

Another major change is the new Law on Foundations from January 1996 that defines foundations as a legal form and that regulates their administration and supervision. The Law on Foundations demands that foundations with assets more than 350,000 SEK have to be registered at the county administrative board.

A third significant change in the legal framework is the new regulations concerning the accountancy of not for profit organisations. Not for profit organisations that control a group of organisations, pursue business and/or have economic means over a certain amount (1.1 million in 2002) are from the year 2001 obliged to follow the law on accountancy. This means that, from a legal perspective, some not for profit organisations are treated as commercial organisations, hence they are in need of expertise in accounting. The organisations often hire accounting consultants that provide the required expertise.

One important regulation in support of not for profit organisations is exemption from income tax and, for eligible organisations, from wealth tax and, in some cases, the exemption from VAT. These exemptions are limited to organisations and do not comprise individuals. Therefore, Sweden differs from many other countries with regard to tax regulations concerning the not for profit sector.

2 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY MAKING (INTERVIEWS)

As described above, in 2008 a national Compact (*Överenskommelsen*) between the government, the regions, the municipalities and the social organisations was set up and a national umbrella organisation for all not for profit organisations in Sweden is being formed.

The people interviewed think that volunteer work and its important part in building society have to be made visible through education and changed attitudes. Politicians and officials need to understand that a society needs a strong not for profit sector that can set up its own goals and shape its activity according to members and engaged people's wishes.

The dialogue between the not for profit sector and the public sector is seen by many as one of the most important factors for suc-

cess. Today, the dialogue is often awkward and the relation has been mostly instrumental, primarily concerning grants and regulations instead of focusing on cooperation and missions. Now that the dialogue is developing, both parties need more knowledge to create two separate parties and one sustainable aim. Roles, responsibilities and goals need to be well defined and communicated. In the next few years focus needs to be on clarifying these roles and missions and developing processes for successful cooperation.

There should be continued work with the implementation of the national Compact at the municipal level, but for all organisations and not only the social ones. Small organisations should also get a chance to make their voice heard. The task for the municipal organisation is to facilitate and possibly coordinate the process. Heavy investments in research projects in the area are needed. More research means more knowledge, which contributes to an increased visibility and openness towards the sector, its views and activities. This also gives politicians and officials more information. Research will also mean support for the work within the not for profit sector. The awareness of the need for premises for the volunteer organisations' activities should be increased. Furthermore, it should be ensured that the volunteers' perspective is present in all future planning and construction of new residential areas and public buildings. A simpler legal framework, tax exemption for gifts, liquidity support for small organisations, as well as continued economic support, but with long-term arrangements, are also deemed necessary. The function of the public sector in this is to facilitate volunteer work through simple structures, legal framework and encouragement. The public sector should guarantee certain resources such as funds, research projects, premises and arenas for dialogue and meetings. According to some interviewees, though, the participation of the voluntary sector in the definition of public policies is "*fairly non existing*". There is no structured dialogue, which results in public offices generally consulting only with organisations whose activities they fund. There is also much resistance from the not for profit organisations in seeking major involvement as it is perceived as a jeopardy to independence: "*We don't want the public to tell us what to do.*"

3 FISCAL POLICIES

To receive tax exemption a not for profit organisation has to qualify as a charitable institution, aimed at public good. This is translated into three prerequisites common for foundations and not for profit associations (*ideella föreningar*), and a fourth prerequisite for not for profit associations only. The first demand is that the organisation's aim and purpose is considered of public good. The second prerequisite is that approximately 80 percent of the organisation's income over a five-year period should be used in the activities of the organisation. The third criterion says that the main activity of the organisation should be in line with the stated aim or purpose of public good. For associations a fourth prerequisite concerning the openness of the organisation is added.

4 ROLLS AND REGISTERS

The only public register there is on volunteer involving organisations is the Swedish Tax Agency's Register, which registers and defines public, voluntary and private taxable entities.

5 LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Law on Economic Association (SFS 1987:667)

Law on Foundation (SFS 1994:1220)

Volunteers involving organisations

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

1 ORGANISATIONAL FORMS

The association (*förening*) and the foundation (*stiftelse*) are the two most important organisational forms in the Swedish not for profit sector. Other important alternatives are the economic association and its related forms, for example cooperatives. However, some organisations in the not for profit sector have created structures that also include joint-stock companies. So, even if this latter organisational form rather belongs to the economic sector, these organisations are linked to the not for profit sector through their owners. This means that the boundaries between the societal sectors in Sweden are not absolute but blurred.

2 RULES AND FUNCTIONING

Most of the organisations in the Swedish not for profit sector are associations; but the associations are not as dominating as they were only ten or fifteen years ago. The association is the nucleus of the Swedish popular mass movements (*folkrörelserna*) and their central component is the member.

There is no formal legal definition of an association, but there is a definition that is established through practice. The definition demands that a group of individuals or other legal subjects (*rättssubjekt*), e.g. organisations, join together with the purpose of common action in organised form for some common aim. The association is an organisational form where people are the bearer of an idea or where the idea serves the people. In its Swedish popular mass movements' context, the association is democratic and membership is formally open to everyone. A new social movement such as Greenpeace, where membership is not open to everyone, is an anomaly in Sweden. Therefore, Greenpeace did not get subsidies when the organisation was introduced in Sweden. The organisation did not meet the earlier mentioned fourth criterion on tax exemption that demands openness. The legal subjects in an association, the members, do not have to be individuals. There are many federations in Sweden, associations that have organisations, not individuals, as members and they are characteristic for the Swedish not for profit sector.

The foundation is the other basic organisational form in the Swedish not for profit sector and was legally defined in 1996. There are not as many foundations as there are associations in Sweden and historically they have attracted less attention than the associations. A foundation is legally defined as a property that is separated by a founder to be administrated according to certain statutes for a distinct purpose. As a consequence, it is very difficult to change the statutes of a foundation. A foundation has a board but no members, hence it does not have the same open demo-

cratic form as an association. In contrast to the association, the foundation could be described as people serving an idea instead of an idea serving the people. In Sweden with its heritage of popular mass movements, this implies an important difference between associations and foundations. There are five forms of foundations; three of them are important for the not for profit sector and will be mentioned here. Besides the ordinary foundation there are fundraising foundations (*insamlingsstiftelse*) and foundations that conduct business (*verksamhetsstiftelse*),

The economic association is another legal form; it is defined by the Law on Economic Associations (SFS 1987:667) and gains its legal status through registration with the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (*Patent och Registreringsverket*). Cooperatives most often take the legal form of an economic association and are therefore defined through the Law of Economic Association.

3 RELATIONSHIP WITH PUBLIC SECTOR

3.1 OVERVIEW

Significant innovation is happening on the municipal level, in parallel with the national Compact. The different functions of the societal sectors are changing. The public sector is decentralised and seeks cooperation with private and volunteer parties to a greater extent.

3.2 FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW (INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES)

The interviewed see some development towards a greater trust in and respect for the not for profit sector. They think that many people in politics are beginning to understand that a country needs a strong not for profit sector, but they also meet politicians and officials that know too little about what it means to society. On a general

rhetorical level there is insight and respect, but the actions do not always show this. The interviewees think that politicians in general have a greater understanding than public servants, who sometimes even show resistance towards volunteer work. Maybe this is due to some sort of competition and territorial thoughts. The appreciation of volunteering is often small when compared with the consideration for the private sector. One illustration of this is how the public sector's money for the not for profit sector is called "grant" while for the private sector is called "investment".

The interaction between the voluntary and the public sector is deemed important and the interaction is seen as based on cooperation, respect and open communication. The shared vision is clearly that of being complementary, but national and local governments' policy and attitude reveal a different interest. This is evident in the social sector where for many decades volunteering had no role and the strong state was, or was perceived, as the sole service provider. Now volunteering arrives where state budget doesn't because the organisations "*don't have the money either, but have lots of volunteers, and these don't cost*". Debate is open on how the respective roles are to be defined and respected, especially as regards the tendency of public institutions to organise and coordinate volunteers directly, disregarding the strong tradition of civic involvement through membership based organisations.

Data overview

1 RESEARCH AND STATISTICS HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

The research data and statistical overview in this presentation is based mainly on two different research projects concerning the Swedish not for profit sector. Initially, these two projects and the researchers are presented, and in later paragraphs the findings will follow. Some additional texts about the Swedish sector will also be presented.

The scope and structure of the Swedish not for profit sector has been studied and analyzed by professor Tommy Lundström (Stockholm University) and associate professor Filip Wijkström (Stockholm School of Economics) as the Swedish part of the Johns Hopkins International Comparative Not for Profit Research (Lundström T., Wijkström F., 1998). This report was then translated to Swedish and updated (Wijkström F., Lundström, 2002), and a third update followed some years later (Wijkström F., Einarsson T., 2006). These three reports give together a comprehensive picture of the development and structure of the Swedish not for profit sector, with focus on the organisations and the economics of the sector. The parts in this presentation that concern the economy and the organisations of the sector, as well as the legal framework of the Swedish not for profit sector, is based on these three books. Three national surveys on volunteering have been conducted between 1992 and 2005 (Jeppsson Grassman E., 1993; Jeppsson Grassman E., Svedberg L., 1999; Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005), the two latter surveys also included informal help and care giving. These studies have been carried out by professor Eva Jeppsson Grassman (Linköping University), professor Lars Svedberg (Ersta Sköndal University College) and PhD Lars-Erik Olsson (Ersta Sköndal University College). The three reports give a comprehensive picture of the volunteer work and the informal help- and care giving in Sweden over the last fifteen years. A fourth national survey of volunteering is to be conducted in the spring of 2009. The parts of this presentation that concern the volunteer work in Sweden builds on findings from these three surveys.

These two research projects, one focusing on the organisations and economics of the Swedish not for profit sector and the other with focus on volunteering and informal help- and care giving are two important sources of first-hand empirical data on the Swedish not for profit sector. There is a lot of research in this field and it is impossible to include a reasonable overview of this vital field of research in this presentation. However, Statistics Sweden (*Statistiska Centralbyrån*) is another important empirical source of the Swedish sector. It collects empirical data on the not for profit sector focusing on the involvement in not for profit associations (e.g. Häll L., 1997; Vogel J., Amnå E., Munck I., Häll L., 2003). The Jubilee Fund of The Swedish Central Bank (*Riksbankens Jubileumsfond*) has published two books that discuss the Swedish civil society. The first volume comprises some important discussions concerning different perspective on the sector in a Swedish context (Amnå E. 2005). The latter book is an overview and presentation of the

dissertations concerning the Swedish civil society since 2000 (Svedberg L., Trägårdh L., 2006). Michele Micheletti has written about the history of the Swedish civil society and its relation to the Swedish state (Micheletti M., 1994). The Swedish research on the civil Society is also one voice in the international research discourse on Civil Society; one recent example is *State and Civil Society in Northern Europe, The Swedish Model Reconsidered* (ed. Trägårdh L., 2007)

2 ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL INDICATORS

In 1997, Filip Wijkström and Tommy Lundström estimated the number of not for profit organisations to more than 180,000. Of this huge amount only 15 percent had employees, hence in 85 percent of the organisations volunteers carried out the activity. It is important to

bear in mind that the Swedish not for profit sector is dominated by small organisations, without employees. However, this majority tends to disappear when the sector is measured by its expenditures and employees.

A crude measure of the Swedish not for profit sector is the annual turnover of the sector. In 1992, the turnover of the not for profit sector was roughly 60 billions, four percent of the Swedish GNP. Ten years later, the turnover had increased to 125 billions, 5.3 percent of the Swedish GNP. This means that the Swedish not for profit sector more than doubled its turnover in those ten years and increased its share of the Swedish GNP. In 1992, 110,000 persons were employed in the Swedish not for profit sector, ten years later they were 120,000. Thus, the percentage of the labour force employed in the sector increased from 2.5 to 2.7 percent in this ten years. The Swedish not for profit sector is therefore vital and growing. These figures do not in-

Table 1 **Distribution of expenditures among the organisations in the Swedish sector in 1992**

(In millions SEK. The figures are rounded up to the nearest 10 million SEK.)

	Costs 1992	Percentage of the sector 1992
Culture and Recreation	13,670	22.8%
Social services	4,430	7.4%
Education and Research	7,940	13.3%
Religion	2,530	4.2%
Labour and Business	12,530	21.0%
Politics, Identity and Interest	4,590	7.7%
Regional Development and Housing	5,300	8.8%
Health care	1,620	2.7%
Environment	1,020	1.7%
International activities	3,450	5.8%
Philanthropy	1,470	2.5%
Others	1,250	2.1%
Total	59,800	100%

Source: Lundström T., Wijkström F., 1997, p.140.

Table 2 **Distribution of expenditures among the organisations in the Swedish sector in 2002**

(In millions SEK. The figures are rounded up to the nearest 10 million SEK.)

	Costs 2002	Percentage of the sector 2002
Culture and Recreation	35,500	25%
Social services	20,600	15%
Education and Research	15,300	11%
Religion	14,700	11%
Labour and Business	24,200	17%
Politics, Identity and Interest	8,200	6%
Regional Development and Housing	9,700	7%
Health care	2,600	2%
Environment	2,600	2%
International activities	4,600	3%
Philanthropy	1,300	1%
Others	700	0%
Total	140,000	100%

Source: Wijkström F., Einarsson T., 2006, p.61.

clude the transition of the Church of Sweden to the not for profit sector that was mentioned earlier. By not including the Church of Sweden in these figures, it is possible to see the internal growth of the sector. However, in the table that follows below depicting the sector in 2002, the Church of Sweden is included, therefore it is important to interpret the differences between the tables below in the light of the entrance of the Church of Sweden into the not for profit sector. A closer look at the structure of the sector reveals how the expenditures are distributed among the organisations in the not for profit sector in 1992 and in 2002, respectively.

The categories in the tables reflect the ICNPO structure (International Classification of Not for Profit Organisations). The classification focuses on the organisations main activity. In 2002, culture and recreation constituted 25 percent of the sector, labour and business 17 percent. The category of culture and recreation is dominated by sports' organisations and the labour and business group include the unions.

These two groups represents more than 40% percent of the sector, this is a reflection of the history of the Swedish not for profit sector and the heritage of the Swedish mass popular movements. As mentioned earlier, the expanding welfare state in the post war period took over many of the socially oriented not for profit organisations and supported the popular mass movements, such as the sports movement and the unions. Sweden has a large and vital not for profit sector, like many other European countries, but the sports movement is more dominating than in many other comparable countries.

In the period of 1992-2002, the category of culture and recreation increased and the labour and business decreased. This is a reflection of how the Swedish not for profit sector is changing. The organisations active in the core domains of the welfare state, social services, education and health care, only represented 28 percent in 2002. However, a closer look reveals that the social services increased from 7.4% in 1992 to 15% of the sectors' expenditures during the period,

Table 3 Distribution of employees in the not for profit sector (employees of the church of Sweden included)

	Number of employees 2002	Percentage of the sector 2002
Culture and Recreation	39,700	27%
Social services	28,900	20%
Education and Research	22,500	16%
Religion	20,500	14%
Labour and Business	12,100	8%
Politics, Identity and Interest	6,800	5%
Regional Development and Housing	4,800	3%
Health care	4,500	3%
Environment	2,100	1.5%
International activities	2,000	1.5%
Philanthropy	500	0.5%
Others	600	0.5%
Total	145,000	100%

Source: Wijkström F, Einarsson T., 2006, p.60.

Table 4 Trend of development of employees in the not for profit sector (Church of Sweden not included)

	Number of employees 2002	Change compared to 1992
Culture and Recreation	35,800	+5,000%
Social services	23,000	+9,100%
Educational and Research	22,500	+1,600%
Religion	6,300	+200%
Labour and Business	12,100	-2,900%
Politics, Identity and Interest	6,800	-700%
Regional Development and Housing	4,800	-1,100%
Health care	4,500	+800%
Environment	2,100	-400%
International activities	2,000	-300%
Philanthropy	500	-400%
Others	600	-400%
Total	121,000	+10,500

Source: Wijkström F, Einarsson T., 2006, p.59.

furthermore reflecting how the Swedish not for profit sector is changing. The not for profit sector is also a labour market, and if we turn to look at the distribution of employees in the not for profit sector the structure is somewhat different than the distribution of expenditures.

Culture and recreation is still the dominating category and includes more than a fourth of all employees in the sector. In 2002, the organisations active in the core domains of the welfare state included 39 percent of the employees of the sector. It is important to repeat that this table includes the employees in the Church of Sweden and that Church of Sweden has been a highly professionalised organisation for a long time. This explains the fact that 14 percent of all employees in the sector are employed in the field of religion.

To understand how the Swedish not for profit sector is changing the following table shows the development of employees in the sector, to expose the internal change of the sector, the Church of Sweden is not included.

The number of employees has increased the most in the field of social services, in the fields of health care and education and research there has also been a growth in the number of employees. In these three fields there are 11,500 more employees in 2002, compared to 1992. On the other hand, the field of labour and business has lost 2,900 employees during the same period. The number of employees shows how the Swedish not for profit sector is changing from the traditional popular mass movements' advocacy, to the production of services by organisations active in the core domain of the welfare state.

2.1 HUMAN RESOURCES

The other major source of first-hand empirical data on the Swedish not for profit sector are the three national surveys of volunteering and informal help and care giving that was mentioned earlier. The focus in the following part will therefore be on volunteering. The results from these three surveys make it possible to describe the size and structure of volunteer work in Sweden and how it has changed

during the period between 1992 and 2005.

By studying volunteer work in Sweden, it is possible to say something about the activity of the Swedish not for profit sector. In contrast with other comparable countries, the Swedish sector is less professionalised; this is due to the state takeover of the socially oriented and more professionalised organisations during the not for profit sector in the post-war period. As a consequence of this state take-over, the sector is to a high degree kept active through volunteer work carried out by members. Volunteer work is also an indicator of citizenship in Swedish society. These two perspectives make volunteer work a central feature in a presentation of the Swedish not for profit sector.

As mentioned before, the distinction between volunteering and political activism as two different forms of unpaid work is misleading in a Swedish context, since citizens' voluntary and unpaid work is strongly linked to being a member in a not for profit organisation. Before the renewal of civil society discourse in Sweden in the 1990s, volunteer work was studied by Statistic Sweden (SCB) as an active dimension of membership in an organisation and was valued as "schools of democracy". These empirical studies of volunteering were however limited to the activity of members and focused on involvement in boards and the democratic process within the not for profit organisations. With the first national survey of volunteering and informal help and care giving in 1992 the intention was to study all volunteer work, not only member work and not only certain categories of volunteer work. Volunteer work was therefore studied as a monolithic phenomenon; as unpaid and voluntary work in an organisational context (as a member or not), without regard to if the work consisted of welfare production, administration in a sports club, a commission of trust in a political organisation, etcetera.

Swedish volunteer work is extensive and quite stable, at least during the years when it has been studied in national surveys (1992-2005). The table below shows its size during 1992, 1998 and 2005. The figures (in %) represent the percentage of the Swedish population between 16 and 74 years that carried out volunteer work.

Roughly half of the Swedish adult population is volunteering and

Table 5 Swedish 16-74 years old carrying out volunteer work (in percentage)

	1992	1992	1992	1998	1998	1998	2005	2005	2005
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Volunteer work	48	52	44	52	53	50	51	53	49

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005, p.14.

this pattern seems to be quite stable during these years. Men are still doing slightly more volunteer work than women, but the difference has decreased during the period. This can be explained by the fact that sports organisations have been and still are dominant in the Swedish not for profit sector and that men by tradition have been more involved as coaches and leaders in these organisations. Studies can however show that the share of women among volunteers involved in sports organisations has increased during the period. Therefore, the overall difference between men and women has diminished. This change can indicate a new interesting view on what means being an active parent. Before, an active parent was active in an advocacy group concerning e.g. school issues, today it is more likely that parents express their parental involvement within their children's sports activities, as organisers or trainers. One effect of the increase of parents' participation in sports organisations is that nowadays it is more difficult to find people for the board or administration than before. So, even if the field of sport comprises an increasing share of all volunteer work, these new parent leaders only work as long as their children are active in the team or club. They prefer to coach the children

and are less likely to take responsibility for money matters and administration. Therefore, the traditional model of volunteering is weakened, making the traditional organisational forms vulnerable to the changing patterns of volunteering.

The amount of volunteered hours per month and per person is also stable over the period. The table below reflects the average volunteered hours per month.

The fact that the average amount of volunteer hours per month is so stable over the period strengthens the impression that volunteer work is a stable phenomenon in the Swedish society. If we look at how volunteer work is distributed among age groups and gender, some circumstances of volunteer work are revealed. The figures represent the share (in %) of volunteers of the Swedish adult population.

One could perhaps expect to find those carrying out volunteer work overrepresented among the young and the elderly and that people in their middle age would be volunteering to a lesser degree because of the everyday pressure of work and family obligations. It is quite the opposite: at the age when the majority of people are more occupied, they volunteer the most. This paradox is an important indi-

Table 6 Average monthly hours spent volunteering

	1992	1992	1992	1998	1998	1998	2005	2005	2005
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Hours	approx 13	approx 14	approx 12	approx 12	approx 15	approx 10	approx 14	approx 14	approx 13

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005 p.16.

Table 7 Volunteers among the Swedish adult population (in percentage)

	1998	2005
Men, age: 16-29	50	39
Women, age: 16-29	47	43
Men, age: 30-24	55	59
Women, age: 30-44	57	60
Men, age: 45-59	62	55
Women, age: 45-59	53	48
Men, age: 60-64	54	56
Women, age: 60-64	38	45
Men, age: 65-74	45	56
Women, age: 65-74	45	37
Men, age: 75-84		32
Women, age: 75-84		24

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005, p.15.

cator of the conditions of volunteer work in Sweden. To explain why most people are volunteering when they are in their middle age, in spite of the fact that they are not expected to have time for volunteering, one can assume that this phenomenon is connected to, and explained by, the “arena-hypothesis”. This hypothesis predicts that people get involved in volunteer work because they are then exposed in social arenas. If you are a parent, you get involved in your children’s soccer team; employees join the union and perhaps gets a commission of trust; it is easy to get involved in the housing co-operative for those who own their apartment, etcetera. Therefore, immigrants, elderly people without social networks, young people and the unemployed are, according to this hypothesis, expected to be underrepresented among volunteers. The arena-hypothesis is in many respects confirmed by the empirical data of Swedish volunteering, which is shown in the following table (the table reflects findings from 2005).

There is a strong statistical covariance between volunteer work and income; there is also covariance between volunteer work, education and informal care, even if it is somewhat weaker. These findings confirm the arena-hypothesis: the more established people are in society, the more they can be expected to be involved in a volunteer organisation. These findings point to the fact that volunteer work is not an effective method to integrate people, for example immigrants or unemployed into society. Rather, volunteer work seems to be an arena that strengthens social ties for those who are already integrated

Table 8 Covariance between volunteering and different factors

	Education	Income	Informal care	Parent’s involvement	Age
Total	**	***	**	**	
Men	*	**	**	*	*
Women	*	*	**		

*=0,01 = p < 0.05 **= 0.001 = p < 0.01 *** = p < 0.001

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005, p.28.

and established in society. Social capital is therefore both an output and an input of volunteer work.

So, what do people do when they are volunteering? The table below

Table 9 **Volunteers active in various fields (in percentage)**

	1992	1998	2005
Education or leadership	24	21	23
Membership of the board or administration	58	56	70
Information/public opinion	14	15	15
Fundraising	26	20	17
Other activities	3	16	14

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005, p.17.

low gives some answers to that question even if the categories are broad (the figures reflect the percentage of all volunteers).

These findings indicate that some forms of volunteering are stable. On the other hand, administration and board meetings are increasing and fundraising activities are decreasing. The latter change can be explained by more professionalised forms of fundraising taking over the work of the volunteers. A suggestion would be that not for profit organisations are increasingly professionalised and that puts more demand on administration and management. The shares of other activities are increasing dramatically, presumably implying that the share of new forms of voluntary work is increasing.

The distribution of volunteer work among different types of organisations indicates in what sectors the volunteer work contributes to the Swedish society. The table below shows how the volunteer work in Sweden was distributed in 1992, 1998 and 2005. The figures represent the share, in percents, of all volunteers between the age of 16 and 74.

The most striking result is the high amount of volunteer work in sports organisations. As mentioned earlier, culture and recreation is the dominant field in the Swedish not for profit sector when it comes to economy and employees. Here we can see that this pattern is also reflected when it comes to volunteer work and that volunteer work is

Table 10 **Distribution of all volunteers between the age of 16 and 74 (in percentage)**

Volunteer work	1992	1998	2005
Humanitarian organisations, Social issues	3	6	3
Parental organisations	5	3	5
Disability/patient associations	2	2	1
Immigrant organisations	1	1	1
Women organisations	3	16	14
Organisations for senior citizens	1	2	2
Congregations in Church of Sweden	2	4	3
Other Christian churches, other religious communions	3	3	3
Temperance society	1	1	1
Local groups for social issues or community action	2	2	2
Organisations for international issues	1	1	0
Order	3	2	1
Volunteer work in state or municipalities	2	2	3
Sport organisations	16	19	20
Outdoor organisations	3	3	4
Environmental organisations	1	1	0
Culture organisations	7	7	5
Organisations for hobbies	5	3	3
Peace organisations	0	0	0
Motor organisations	3	2	2
Housing organisations	5	6	8
Shareholder organisations	0	1	0
Organisations for home defence	3	3	2

Volunteer work	1992	1998	2005
Consumer cooperatives	0	1	0
Other cooperatives	3	2	3
Union	6	6	4
Political parties	2	3	2
Student associations	1	2	2
Other organisations	0	4	2

Source: Olsson L.E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., 2005 p.19

increasing in this field. The unions have decreased during the same period, which means that the other important popular mass movement organisation is losing resources and perhaps importance in the Swedish society. The other old popular mass movements' organisations, the temperance societies and the free churches, only represent a minor share of Swedish volunteer work.

Of course, these findings say something about in which sectors of the Swedish society the not for profit sector contributes. At the same time, it is very hard to draw a clear line between organisations producing voice and organisations producing services. The advocacy organisations represent a minor part of the volunteer work in the Swedish not for profit sector. Besides the unions, there are political parties, peace, environmental and women organisations, patient/disability organisations and lastly organisations for senior citizens. In 2005, these organisations represented about 9 percent of all volunteer work. In 1992, these organisations represented 13 percent of the volunteer work, thus they have decreased during the period. Naturally, other organisations, for example organisations for immigrants and parents, also function as advocacy organisations, but the former would be the typical advocacy organisations.

If we try to point out organisations producing service, it is natural to mention humanitarian organisations, parental organisations, congregations in the Church of Sweden, the free churches and in other religious communities, temperance societies volunteering in or through the municipalities and local groups for social issues. These

organisations represent about 20 percent of all volunteer work. In 1992, they represented 18 percent, so there has been a small increase in the welfare area. However, after a closer examination the picture becomes more complicated. How about disability/patient organisations and how about organisations for senior citizens? They too contribute with service production beside their work with advocacy and interest. Even sports organisations produce welfare services, since the leadership among coaches and leaders has a social dimension. Hence democratic and social values of volunteering for society are often mixed and it is not always possible to draw a distinct line between organisations with volunteer work producing welfare services and organisations with volunteer work producing political voice.

2.2 FUNDING

The income of the organisations in the Swedish not for profit sector can be divided into three major sources. How the sector's income is structured is important because it concerns the independence of the sector. There is no recent data available about the income struc-

Table 11 **Income of the sector (Church of Sweden not included)**

Source of income	Share of income (in percentage)
Public sector payments	29
Earned income	60
Private giving	11
Total	66 bilions SEK

Source: Wijkström F., Lundström T., 2002, p.168.

ture of the sector. Therefore, we have to rely on data from 1992 (the Church of Sweden is not included in the table).

More than half of the sector's income is earned by the sector itself and less than a third comes from the public sector. It means that the Swedish not for profit sector is less dependent on governmental

Table 12 **Income sources of the not for profit organisations (in percentage)**

	Public sector payments	Eamed income	Private giving
Culture and Recreation	25	63	12
Labour and Business	5	92	3
Educational and Research	54	42	4
Regional Development and Housing	11	89	0
Politics, Identity and Interest	31	47	22
Social services	71	20	9
International activities	49	14	37
Religion	18	18	63
Health care	87	12	1
Philanthropy	15	81	4
Environment	14	61	25
Others	12	80	7

Source: Wijkström F., Lundström T., 2002, p.169.

revenue sources than many other comparable countries, for example Ireland and Germany. The explanation for this independence is that sub-sectors that are the most heavily financed by public money are those that are least important in the Swedish not for profit sector. Now, it is important to repeat that these findings reflect the 1992 version of the Swedish not for profit sector, or rather the Swedish society as a whole. Due to the growing production of services in the not for profit sector, the share of public sector payments can be expected to have increased. The following table that reflects the situation of 1992 supports that assumption (income sources of the not for profit organisations in percentage).

The fields that are most heavily dependent on public sector payments are social services and health care. This is not surprising because these organisations are more professionalised and demand more expensive investments. Since the production of welfare services has increased in the Swedish sector one can expect fields like social services to expand and the sector to become more dependent on public sector

payments. The organisations earn their income through membership fees, bazaars, entrances fees or lotteries. In Sweden the membership fees is not always something one pays in exchange for services or benefits from the organisation, sometimes membership fees can also be interpreted as a form of solidarity or support for the organisation. This is due to the central role of the membership in the Swedish mass popular movements and members as owners of the organisations.

2.3 GROWTH TRENDS

The Swedish not for profit sector is changing; these processes have been discussed earlier in terms of economy and employees. Here we will focus on some processes of change in the pattern of voluntary work.³ In the popular mass movements tradition, there is a strong link between membership and volunteering: in the middle of the 1990s, 85 percent of all volunteers were members of the organi-

sations in which they were active. Ten years later, in 2005, the share of members had decreased to 70 percent. The link between volunteering and membership is still very strong in Sweden compared to other countries, but with a loss of 15 percent in ten years the link is weaker nowadays and volunteering has become more like in other countries in Europe and North America. This new pattern has influenced the terminology in Sweden; the Anglo-Saxon term *volontär* (volunteer) has come back in the vocabulary and is sometimes used for persons volunteering as non-members. This weakened link between membership and volunteering depicts a change in how the organisations in the Swedish not for profit sector structure their labour force. Partly based on the three national surveys of volunteering, it is possible to see how the labour force in the not for profit organisations has been structured in new ways. Wijkström and Einarsson (2006) have shown that the share of work in the not for profit organisations performed by non-members increased from 41 million to 105 million hours between 1992 and 2002. In the same period, the share performed by members was stable, 253 millions in 1992 and 246 million hours in 2002. The share performed by paid employees increased from 90 to 99 millions hours during the same period. This means that the traditional Swedish mass popular movements pattern, where members volunteer for their own organisation, is slightly changed and that work in the not for profit organisations performed by non-members and employees has increased. This shows that the organisations in the Swedish not for profit organisations are professionalised to a higher degree than before and that an expanding group of people are volunteering without the democratic rights and duties that membership implies.

Another change in the Swedish not for profit sector is the growth of foundations (*stiftelser*). Traditionally, the association (*förening*) is the main organisational form in the Swedish not for profit sector. Besides this dominating organisational form there are also foundations, economic associations (*ekonomisk förening*) and community associations (*samfällighetsföreningar*). The associations still dominate, but the proportions of associations and foundations have changed during the period 1992-2002. This change is visible if one compares the distribution of expenditures between associations and foundations in

Table 13 Distribution of expenditures between associations and foundations (Church of Sweden not included)

	1998	2002
Associations	80%	69%
Foundations	12%	23%
Economic associations	6%	6%
Communiti associations	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%

Source: Wijkström F., Einarsson T., 2006, p.62.

1992 with the distribution in 2002

The associations still dominated the Swedish not for profit sector in 2002, but the gap between them and the foundations had diminished. This also shows a shift from the popular mass movements tradition, where an open democratic organisational structure and open membership are two central features. Foundations have neither members, nor a democratic structure in the traditional sense. The association is an organisational form that depends on people who has joined together, whereas a foundation is an organisational form that depends on the capital it administers.

3 OF VOLUNTEERS AND ORGANISATIONS (INTERVIEWS)

3.1 MOTIVATIONS AND BARRIERS

The reasons for volunteer work and the benefits of it are intertwined, according to the interviewed. It is not possible to separate one from the other and they affect and strengthen each other. Factors mentioned by everyone or at least the majority of the people interviewed are:

- Longing for and significance of being important by doing something for someone else.
- Affirmation by others, feeling of being important and useful.

- Participation and feeling of coherence, having a safe social place to meet other people. Benefit is mutual and multiple; and free meeting.
- Volunteering is joyful.
- A strong interest, the feeling of making an impact, accomplishing something.
- Devotion to something together with others.
- Finding a social role and identity, strengthening self-esteem and self-knowledge.
- Gaining knowledge and learning from others.

The interviewees indicate that volunteer work in arts and culture organisations is not always considered volunteering but a “pleasure” because it is being done “for one’s own sake”. At the same time, we know how important those organisations are at national holidays and in the work with the preservation of Swedish culture. Members of these organisations also express a joy over finding belonging and identity. One possible reason for this paradox is that for work to be seen as and called “volunteering” there must always be that “someone else” and some form of relationship.

In answering the question “why some people never engage in volunteer work and what the obstacles are”, the recurring answer is: they have never been asked (!) because the organisations are not open enough and often only ask a small set of people. The reason may also be that some people do not have a tradition of volunteering in the family. Other barriers mentioned concerned people who do not want to join because they are afraid to get involved for a long time ahead and be forced to do more than they are willing to. Also, the associations can be perceived as heavy and having an old-fashioned structure. Some mention that the organisations’ message does not get across and that the competition for people’s time is becoming stronger.

3.2 NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

What follows is a synthesis of the interviewees’ thoughts on fu-

ture challenges for the voluntary organisations and the sector as a whole, as well as more substantial requests on changes and infrastructure. The interviewed think that volunteer organisations need to become better at adjusting to society’s development, to meet the needs but also to welcome people who want to volunteer. Therefore, the organisations have to dare reconsider their way of formulating their mission and if necessary break with old structures and ways of organising. For change to happen, the organisations need to create room for the work of change and liberate resources.³ Different target groups are interested in different issues and see their volunteer work in various lights. The organisation and its missions thus need to be constructed in different ways and they need to be open and flexible. The interviewees point out how people need to be able to choose assignments themselves, not being served ready-made packages. Primarily, the organisations need to look at the ways leading in to the organisation. It has to be easy for people to find an assignment if they want to help. The organisations need to spend more time on determining which assignments need to be done and at the same time be prepared to shape these together with the volunteers. Basically, to have interest in people’s commitment and wish to do something meaningful, and to facilitate this dedication regardless of the length of the contribution.

As mentioned previously, the interviewees think that the concept of membership needs to be extended. It is important to see that the relationship between the individual and the organisation can take many different forms, without rating the various manifestations. For example, organisations need to accept that some are just paying members while others are active in periods without being members. The most important thing is not always how many members are registered but how many are engaged and have the opportunity to be active within the organisation. If people experience the work as meaningful and see the power and joy of doing things together, the understanding of the value of organising will follow.

A large and important challenge is to keep democracy alive despite that few are interested in being on boards or attending annual meetings. If no one wants to take the responsibility for them, what will

happen to the organisations? Since democracy requires responsible people, the organisations need to work to ensure continuity and knowledge. For example by opening up decision making bodies and leading positions to young people. Parallel to this, more investment in leadership should be done, as good leaders are considered a prerequisite for the development and future of volunteer work.

The organisations need to further consider the relationship between their mission and the democracy aspect, to find a balance between democracy and efficiency. Other important issues are the development towards more employees and the increased competition with private actors. To be credible in and to maintain an advocacy function requires an independent position. Some say that it is important for the organisations to find more funding options, both to protect their independence and to strengthen their "brand". It should be possible to form new relationships with companies or other parties of the business community. A question arises in one of the interviews, considering how the volunteer organisations will be affected by the future regionalisation of Sweden (5-7 regions are being planned). What consequences does this have for our way of organising the not for profit sector? Will the organisations succeed in maintaining the democratic structures? The answers to the question of what the organisations need most are slightly different, but many touch upon changed attitudes and views. The answers can be summarised in the following points:

- The courage to change, think outside of the box and question existing structures.
 - Changed attitudes of public servants in the municipalities.
 - A dialogue on equal terms with the public sector and the institutionalised research at all levels of society.
 - The need for change of thought within the organisation. Employees and trustees need to reconsider their view on themselves and on their role in the organisation to make room for the volunteer.
 - A continuity in the activities through stable economics and better organisational knowledge.
 - Local activities to be shaped according to people's needs and wishes.
 - Premises that are not too expensive, where activities can be carried out.
- Many say that money is important, but not the primary need. Money will not solve the problematic basic issues.
- Even with regard to the question of the organisations largest challenge, people's views and actions can be found in the answers:
- The lack of knowledge and understanding of what the sector does and means.
 - The treatment of and approach toward the not for profit organisations, which can include a questioning attitude and signs of a lack of trust.
 - Bureaucratic public servants in the municipalities.
 - Not being seen, for example in the media and in political contexts.
 - Creating something concrete from the organisation's ideological view, to break with old views and to change.
 - Remaining attractive to people.

Representation and coordination bodies

1 FEDERATIONS AND NETWORKS

VOLUNTEERING ACROSS EUROPE

In the Swedish not for profit sector there are several organisations coordinating or supporting not for profit organisations and their activity. Some of these organisations are briefly introduced here, but there are many organisations of this kind and just few of them can be mentioned in this report.

Ideell Arena (*Ideell Arena*) is not an organisation, rather a meeting place that is supported by 56 not for profit organisations. Its purpose is to initiate and develop programs for development to strengthen the leadership in the not for profit sector. Ideell Arena aims to be a meeting place for academic researchers and practitioners and for different not for profit organisations. To create a dialogue between the not for profit sector and the academy, as well as within the sector itself is a means for Ideell Arena to achieve their ultimate goal; to influence the development processes in the Swedish not for profit organisations.

National Forum for Voluntary Social Work (*Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete*) is a federation that functions as an umbrella organisation for Swedish socially oriented not for profit organisations. The aim is to improve the opportunities for voluntary social work within Sweden by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and by introducing new methods of work. National Forum for Voluntary Social Work was the leading not for profit organisation in the process of creating the earlier mentioned agreement between the government and the socially oriented organisations in the Swedish not for profit sector. The members in National Forum for Voluntary Social Work are 32 not for profit organisations involved in voluntary social work, some of them large federations like the Church of Sweden. Municipalities and companies are also allowed to be associated members in National Forum for Voluntary Social Work.

Famna-Not for Profit Providers within Health and Social Care (*Famna - branschorganisation för non profit vård och social omsorg*) is the voice of not for profit providers within health and social care in the political discussion about the production of health and social care. Famna wants to influence the government to develop comprehensive politics for the not for profit sector that stimulates its development and growth. Purchasing and agreements, economic resources for development and knowledge and to make not for profit activities in the areas of health and social care visible are all central issues for Famna. Famna is a federation with 31 not for profit associations and foundations active in the area of health and social care.

Swedish Fundraising Council (*Frivilligorganisationernas Insamlingsråd FRII*), whose purpose is to promote ethical and professional fundraising and improve the conditions for fundraising through political lobbying and negotiations with commercial suppliers. Swedish Fundraising Council has formulated standards and a code of conduct for its members. Besides lobbying, Swedish Fundraising Council promotes education for professional fundraisers. Swedish

Fundraising Council is a federation with 86 members, not for profit organisations active in fundraising.

Sektor3 (*Sektor3*) is a think tank that critically reviews the civil society through research, communication and debates. The point of departure of Sektor3 is that Sweden is in need of the resources of civil society. Sektor3 has the aspiration to scrutinise and make the Swedish civil society visible, and to examine its relations with other spheres of society. Sektor3 is a not for profit organisation with 24 organisations from the not for profit sector and other sectors as members.

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations (*LSU - Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*) is a federation with 81 organisations as members. It functions as a coordinating body that aims to constitute a forum for issues of common interest in youth organisations and to provide a network for national and international organisations dealing with youth cooperation. The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations lobbies on youth issues and works with youth policy and development of leadership and organisation.

Besides these organisations, there are also coordinating or supporting organisations in the field of immigrant organisations: **The National council for Swedish Immigrant Organisations** (*Landsrådet för Sveriges invandrarorganisationer - LSI*) and **The Cooperation Group for Ethnic Associations in Sweden** (*Samarbetsorgan för etniska organisationer i Sverige-SIOS*).

2 NETWORKING (INTERVIEWS)

Cooperation with other organisations is deemed essential by all interviewees. Many function as co-ordinators and have daily contact with various types of organisations, networks and work groups. The cooperation is increasing through umbrella organisations and contacts with the public and private sector, as well as an increasing number of international organisations. Cooperation is not an alternative way of working, but a corner stone for the not for profit organisations.

Support bodies

1 SUPPORT MEASURES (QUESTIONNAIRES AND INTERVIEWS)

Clear recognition of the essential role of volunteering is claimed from all segments of society and there is general agreement that this is on the rise. Different initiatives and the government-NGO agreement go hand in hand with the rising interest from the general public and a major involvement of businesses through corporate social responsibility. Political attention provides a positive context for development.

“Political parties are also putting more and more emphasis on the work being made by volunteer organisations and are more open to hand over bigger problems and activities.”

Critical points, which embrace also working indications for future development, include: volunteering *“not always open and accessible.”* *“A lack of coherence behind the policies.”* *“Little regional and local infrastructure to support volunteering.”*

2 VOLUNTEER SUPPORT CENTRES

In the Swedish context, the not for profit organisations are the main source of volunteering. They are therefore the infrastructure of Swedish volunteer work. This part of the presentation will focus on *frivilligcentraler*, that is, volunteer centres run by some of the Swedish municipalities. In Sweden there are no equivalents to what in some other national traditions is called volunteer support centre. The nearest we can come to this concept is the Swedish volunteer centre.

The first volunteer centres were established at the beginning of the 1990s in different locations. They were introduced as a model of cooperation between municipalities and local not for profit sectors by Cesam-Centre for Community Development and Mobilisation (*Cesam - Stiftelsen Centrum för samhällsarbete och mobilisering*) and during the period from 1993 to 1996 they were funded by the gov-

ernment to support not for profit activity.

In 2005, there were 69 volunteer centres in Sweden, more than half of them were established before the year 2000. In most cases, it was a municipality or the municipality in cooperation with local not for profit organisations that initiated the volunteer centre. Nearly 70 percent of the volunteer centres are completely funded by the municipalities, almost all of the rest by municipalities and not for profit organisations together. Only a few are funded solely by not for profit organisations. The municipalities run nearly half of the volunteer centres. Almost a fourth of the volunteer centres are organised as associations on their own and a third is run by the local not for profit organisations or in cooperation with the municipalities.

The volunteer centres are meant to contribute with preventive activity and be a complement to the public and commercial sector. The target groups of the volunteer centres are mostly elderly people and people with physical or psychological disorders. Relatives taking care of people with disabilities or elderly family members are another important target group. However, the people involved in the volunteer centres as volunteers are of course also a target group themselves, since they feel fulfilment and since they will be part of a community. In 2005, the government decided to support the municipalities with more than 114 million SEK in their work with relatives who are taking care of family members; part of that support will go to the volunteer centres.

Besides the work with social care, the volunteer centres are meant to create social networks and thus strengthen social ties and break isolation and loneliness. By inviting individuals to participate the volunteer centres are expected to empower people and as a consequence strengthen democracy. If the volunteer centres can fulfil all these expectations is an empirical question that is poorly understood and very little research is being done on the Swedish volunteer centres. It is important to underline that there are several other forms of cooperation between municipalities and local not for profit organisa-

tions, but they are often not so formalised and therefore not as visible as the volunteer centres. An important part of the volunteer infrastructure in Sweden is therefore not formalised and not visible. The volunteer infrastructure is in many cases based on the informal interaction between local not for profit organisations and employees within the municipalities. An alternative to the volunteer centres is the Volunteer bureau (*Volontärbyrå*), a mediator between people who

want to volunteer and not for profit organisations that offer volunteer work. The Volunteer bureau is run by the National Forum for Voluntary Social Work and uses the Internet as a mediator between individuals and volunteer work. The difference between the Volunteer bureau and the volunteer centres is that the former organisation does not work with brokerage, but offers support in volunteer management and a website for recruitment publicity.

Focus on support bodies

(Questionnaires)

Girlzone

[CONTACT]

Tjejzonen

Girlzone

Garvar Lundius Gränd 9

11220 Stockholm - Sweden

tel. +46 852247840

info@tjejzonen.com

www.tjejzonen.com

Tjejzonen is a not for profit association that has no affiliations with a political party or religion. Their target group are girls and women between the ages of 12-25 years, mainly within the county of Stockholm. It acts like a free zone for girls through activities, support and help. It also works actively to create an equal society. They work against racism, violence, bullying, oppression and abuse and are open to all girls and women, regardless of culture, ethnicity, sexuality or religion.

Its objectives are:

- To strengthen girls' self-esteem, confidence and trust for others and themselves.
- To give girls the opportunity to use their own creativity for personal development.
- To make girls feel that they are needed and have a place in society.
- To make girls feel that they can trust the adult world.
- To stimulate girls to obtain knowledge and to educate themselves.

Their activities include chat, mail, counselling, the "Big Sister" project, Mentorship and an Eating Disorder Zone with chat and mail and activities.

Achievements

The Big Sister program has become a great success. 26 Big Sister pairs were matched in 2007, but that number will be doubled 2008. The Eating Disorder Zone has developed into a chat for girls with these problems.

Member of SKR *Sveriges kvinnojourers riksförbund* (Swedish Association of Women's Shelters).

QUESTIONNAIRES

Girlzone

▪ Territory covered	Stockholms län, Stockholm	
▪ Volunteers	50	
▪ Staff	2 full time and 2 part time for volunteer support and development	
▪ Activities	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	Listening Support, relation, animation activities Call centre and phone help Support for learning
▪ Volunteering support activities	COMMUNICATION PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES	Periodicals publication and newsletters Press release Festivals expositions and fairs

Gothenburg NGO Agency

[CONTACT]

Göteborgs Föreningscenter
Gothenburg NGO Agency
 Mellangatan 1
 41311 Göteborg - Sweden
 tel. +46 31131396
 fax +46 31135654
 info@gfc.se
www.gfc.se

Göteborgs Förenings Center (GFC) was set up in 1995 and is a competence and development centre for organisations carrying out voluntary social work in the Gothenburg region. GFC is a unique support structure in Sweden; there are no other similar local or regional networks. GFC has about 100 member organisations including associations, volunteer centres, church organisations, self-help groups and help lines. The associations work together to help children, young people, women, drug addicts, disabled, patients and their families. The member organisations range from large organisations with hundreds of employees to small voluntary associations with nobody employed. GFC is owned by the member organisations who runs the organisation with the help of an elected committee. The main focus of GFC is the support of small and newly started associations with little resources whilst larger member organisations contribute their competence and knowledge.

The main objective of GFC is to support and stimulate the work of the member organisations, to develop voluntary social work and to inform about how the NGOs can contribute to Swedish society.

Its activities consist of:

- Arranging training and network meetings for the member associations and other interested parties.
- Supporting new initiatives within the voluntary field. Attracting the attention of the public through ads and articles to existing needs and the possibility of making a meaningful contribution as a voluntary worker.
- Spreading information about voluntary organisations with the help of a catalogue of associations. The catalogue of voluntary associations is also updated on web site: www.gfc.se
- Participating and organising training together with the rest of the social economy, public sector, as well as universities/colleges of higher education.
- Informing about voluntary social work, presenting the possibilities and restrictions it holds. Lobbying politicians and public servants to improve the conditions for the associations.
- To represent associations in various partnership, e.g. The Göteborg Regional Social Economy, the Council for Social Economy in Western Region, the Regional Committees for EU Social Fund Objective 3 and Urban II.

Some of its greatest achievements have been:

- Support of organisational development of the members own associations.
- Information and assistance with grants applications, e.g. applications to the EU.
- Training and lectures by GFC itself and in collaboration with local authorities, universities and colleges of higher education.

- Network meetings of various constellations.
- Participation in the International Volunteer Day exhibition on 5 December.
- The possibility to make and broadcast TV-programmes on Open Channel.
- Other services, including: the Future Workshop, accountancy, bookkeeping, salary administration, supervision.

Member of *Göteborgs sociala ekonomi* (Gothenburg Social Economy).

QUESTIONNAIRES

Gothenburg NGO Agency

▪ Territory	Gothenburg	
▪ Staff	1 full time for other activities	
▪ Activities	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	Contact for people with mental problems
▪ Volunteering support activities	CONSULTING AND ASSISTANCE	Fundraising Fiscal and administrative Project writing and presentation to bids Training processes Events organisation
	COMMUNICATION	Own website Periodicals publication and newsletters Presence in local and national newspapers Creation of special communication events Press release
	TRAINING	Courses, with or without stages
	PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES	Meetings and conferences Publications Public events
	INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION	Fundraising Database

National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations

[CONTACT]

Landsrådet för Sveriges ungdomsorganisationer

National Council of Swedish

Youth Organisations

Gammelgårdsvägen 38

11623 Stockholm - Sweden

tel. +46 86736678

fax + 46 86726690

info@lsu.se

www.lsu.se

The Landsrådet för Sveriges ungdomsorganisationer, LSU, was founded in 1948 to increase contacts between young people in Eastern and Western Europe. Today the LSU operates as a platform on different matters, on international as well as national topics. Through this co-operation, all its member organisations can share experiences, run projects and influence society. The LSU is a coordinating body for 82 Swedish youth organisations. The members come from all kinds of organisations, from the youth organisations of political parties, student movements, religious organisations, environmentalists to chess players associations.

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations is a coordinating body and its aims are:

- to constitute a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations.
- to provide a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.
- to work on the basis of the UN declaration on Human Rights, as well as the UN Declaration on Children's Rights (extract from LSU constitution §1).

To reach these aims, the LSU work in 2 areas, at a national as well as a international level: organisational development/leadership (mainly educational activities, networking etc); lobby on youth issues/youth policy work.

LSU was created 60 years ago, so the achievements are difficult to summarise. Influencing Swedish youth policy is one of them and building capacity among youth organisations the other main success domain.

Member of approximately 10-12 national and international networks. The range and scope of networks are not only national but also international and sector/thematic.

QUESTIONNAIRES

National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations

▪ Territory covered	Sweden	
▪ Staff	10 full time for volunteer support and development	
▪ Volunteering support activities	PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES	Meetings and conferences Promotional campaigns on mass media Publications
	CONSULTING AND ASSISTANCE	Training processes Management Project writing and presentations to bids Fund raising
	TRAINING	Courses, with or without stage Individual classes or seminars Long distance training
	INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION COMMUNICATION	Information and documentation Periodical publications or newsletters Own web site Production of lecture notes, books, manuals Presence in local and national newspapers Press release

“Viljan” Södermalm’s Volunteer Centre

[CONTACT]

Viljan - Södermalms frivilligcentral
“Viljan” Södermalm’s Volunteer Centre
Magnus Ladulåsgatan 15
11865 Stockholm - Sweden
tel. +46 87202556
viljan93@hotmail.com
www.viljan.nu

Viljan is a religious and politically independent association which arranges and carries out voluntary work in Södermalm in Stockholm. Target groups are old as well as young people who need help and support when the ordinary network is not sufficient. The association wishes to encourage voluntary social work and involve their members in volunteering work, to complement the public sector in the social field. The association also wants to promote self-help in the same area.

The activity is driven by demand, the need for action is primarily in four main areas:

- Occasional activities: companionship/personal assistance.
- The creation of regular contacts: between volunteers and people with insufficient contacts.
- External activities: strengthening of existing municipal services.
- Interest groups: to start and support targets groups based on participants desire for content.

Achievements

Viljan has about 50 volunteers and these volunteers worked as 4 fulltime employees during 2007. During this year it has reached 200 inhabitants living in the area where *Viljan* operates.

Member of Forum *för frivilligt socialt arbete* (National Forum for Voluntary Social Work).

QUESTIONNAIRES

“Viljan” Södermalm’s Volunteer Centre

▪ Territory covered	Södermalm	
▪ Volunteers	51	
▪ Staff	1 part time for volunteer support and development, 1 part time for other activities	
▪ Activities	HEALTH	Promotion and/or coordination of self-aid Rehabilitation
	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	Personal assistance Group activities Call centre and phone help Listening
▪ Volunteering support activities	PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES	Publications Meetings and conferences Public events
	TRAINING	Courses, with or without stage
	INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION	Information office Books, manuals and booklets Database

National Forum for Voluntary Social Work

[CONTACT]

Forum för Frivilligt Socialt arbete

National Forum for Voluntary Social Work

Hantverkargatan 3F

11221 Stockholm - Sweden

tel. +46 86510721

fax +46 86525114

goran.pettersson@socialforum.se

www.socialforum.se

Forum för Frivilligt Socialt arbete is the umbrella organisation for Swedish NGOs involved in social work. Its aims are to improve the opportunities for voluntary social work within Sweden through influencing public opinion, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and introducing new methods of work. Forum is also running the process of creating *Överenskommelse* (equivalent to the Compact, the longstanding agreement that sets out shared principles and guidelines for effective partnership working between government and the third sector, in England) within Sweden.

Forum's mission is a society with general welfare and a strong volunteer commitment where everybody can grow and feel trust. *Forum's* goals are to ensure that the national Compact is implemented and used in Sweden. To enhance the preconditions for the volunteer commitment by giving the social NGOs a common voice and by facilitating knowledge exchange, by giving the member organisations tools for development.

Forum's activities include taking part in the building of a stronger volunteering sector, arranging different meetings, from large conferences to small workshops as well as networking on the internet, affecting public opinion both through public relations and lobbying, creating a fact based awareness through the newsletter, mediating between the general public and volunteer organisations.

Its main achievement was the signature of the national Compact. The follow up processes are coming along and *Forum* has a good position. They are sought after as lecturers and panel members.

Member of

- *Nätverket mot utanförskap* (Network of People in Organisations that Work against Social Exclusion)
- *Sektor 3* (a think tank that critically monitors the civil society through research, communication and debate)
- ISIP (the board representative body of the third sector organisation in Sweden)
- European Platform for National Not for Profit Umbrella Organisations
- CEV-European Volunteer Centre
- *Ideell* arena (to promote knowledge, leadership and organisation in the volunteer sector)
- *Arbetsgivaralliansen* (an independent platform for employers within the volunteer sector)

QUESTIONNAIRES

National Forum for Voluntary Social Work

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| ▪ Territory covered | Sweden | |
| ▪ Staff | 4 full time and 3 part time for volunteer support and development
4 full time for other activities | |
| ▪ Volunteering support activities | PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES
TRAINING
INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION

COMMUNICATION | Public events
Courses, with or without stage
Books, manuals and booklets
Database
Own web site
Creation of special communication events
Production of lecture notes, books, manuals |

1 ON INFRASTRUCTURE FOR VOLUNTEERING (INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES)

Large economical resources are at the volunteer organisations disposal at many different levels. However, these are often conditional and tied to projects, not always giving the long-term economic structure that is needed. The interviewees' opinions on the national Compact are mainly positive, letting it symbolise hopes for a new starting point. Nevertheless, there are fears of it becoming only a paper product and for the important implementation on the municipal level to become difficult. Still, it is seen as a value increase of volunteering and a development towards more openness towards the not for profit sector. Besides the Compact, the interviewees do not see any positive initiatives. Strong critique is directed towards the public sector developing their own organisations for volunteers. Because the municipalities are authorities, they should not engage in volunteering activity and the general view among the interviewees is that the anomaly will not do well in the long run. Above all, the interviewed are troubled because it tends to ignore or forget the community building and deliberative aspect of volunteer work. Another thing that is considered disturbing is that regulations, for example tax rules, are not the same for the sports movement as for the other not for profit organisations. Also, the interviewees request a comprehensive research programme at national level, research being an area where Sweden is thought to be far behind other countries.

Some respondents to the questionnaires, while pointing out the need for a stronger infrastructure especially at national level, see as very positive the government initiated process of negotiating the national Compact also as a tool to redress the balance and to work alongside the public sector instead than on different fronts. Still, more public funding is needed as well as more research and the work has just started. Unity among the organisations would mean having more influence as representatives of the sector.

"As said above, there is not much infrastructure, but there are some examples of regional or local networks growing stronger. In the wake of the national Compact, there are several regions that now seem interested in investigating what a Compact at regional or local level could yield. The government decision to start the process of negotiating the national agreement has to be emphasised here. But there is still a long way to go in order to get reasonable balance of power."

"There has been a lot of interest in the past few years, but still very scarce resources. Public statistics on our sector is also very thin, this in a country that seems to have statistics on everything."

2 EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE (INTERVIEWS)

Many of the interviewees talk about how the Swedish not for profit sector works in some areas where other Eu-

European volunteer organisations do not. Furthermore, they mention that Sweden has a higher degree of unilateral financing by the State than other European countries who work more with private corporations and initiatives or with the EU. The interviewees with European connections mention that they all have different views on volunteer work, which can be a problem but can also mean an opportunity to gain new perspectives. The general feeling is that there is more that unites than what divides and it is extremely valuable to travel and meet colleagues from all over Europe. One of the interviewees discusses how volunteering can reach across national borders.

The interviewees' answers regarding the role for a European initiative in support of volunteering can be connected to four areas:

- Clear signals and instructions from the EU can put pressure on government and facilitate the national processes of volunteer work by legitimating their issues.
- EU projects mean much needed resources for development

work between countries and organisations.

- The process for advocacy within the EU can be opened up.
- Decisions and regulations within the EU facilitate the volunteer organisations' work.

Many feel that what comes out of the EU is often very heavy and bureaucratic. The EU projects thus need to be communicated using a simpler language and be less formal and more user friendly. In order to attract more people by encouraging innovative and creative activities, the projects should have a wider framework. The administration and economic demands (expending money beforehand) are large obstacles, especially for small organisations. What attracts for example young people to EU projects are the international experiences and to be a part of networks with other young people (such as leadership education and other forms of skill development). Some of the interviewed have tried to manage EU projects but had to stop due to lack of funds.

LIST OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED

The opinions presented in the chapters titled by the wording “interviews” or presented as “the interviewees’ opinions” are a synthesis of six interviews with the following people aged 27 to 63 years old having long and extensive experience of volunteering. They have worked in many different organisations; within the sports movement, arts and culture associations, social organisations, temperance movement, youth organisations, churches and communions, the scout association, adult education associations, international and political organisations and networks for social economy. They have all worked as volunteers for many years and are now employed as co-ordinators, chief executives or president at national or regional level.

Lars Farago

President of the *Amatörkulturens samrådsgrupp* (Cooperation of Cultural Volunteers) and Secretary General at *Riksförbundet folkmusik och dans* (The Swedish Folk Music and Dance Association), with 40 years of experiences mainly from many different culture associations, but also from work in political organisation.

Stefan Bergh

Secretary General at IOGT-NTO (a Swedish temperance organisation) and vice president of the International University Sports Federation. Former president of *Sveriges akademikers idrottsförbund* (The Swedish Sports Organisation for Academics). Former Assistant General Secretary for *Cancerfonden* (the Cancer Foundation) and former manager of sports politics at *Riksidrottsförbundet* (the Swedish Sports Movement).

Eva Hall

Chief Executive at *Region Skåne Halland, Röda Korset* (Red Cross Southern Region) and President of *Nätverket för Social ekonomi i Skåne* (The Social Economy Network Skåne). Formerly active in scout associations, Red Cross Youth, horse riding associations, BRIS (Children’s Rights in Society).

Hanna Hallin

President of *LSU-Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer* - The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations with 82 member organisations. Formerly active in the Red Cross Youth, *Utrikespolitiska föreningen i Uppsala* (Association of International Politics, Uppsala), the Scout association, *Svenska celiakiungdomsförbundet* (Swedish Youth Organisation for Celiac Disease) and *Rättvisemärkt* (The Fair Trade Movement).

Ivar Scotte

Sports officer at MISO (Malmö Cooperation for Sports Organisations) and association officer at MIP (Malmö Association for Voluntary Organisations). Together these two organisations have 450 member organisations. President of *Skånes volleybollförbund* (Volleyball Federation in Skåne). Formerly active in YMCA scout, SENSUS (Organisation for Adult Education) and the SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and Swedish church.

Bertil Johansson

Bishop adviser of volunteering in the dioceses of Luleå, Church of Sweden. Over 40 years of experience from EFS (Swedish Evangelical Mission) and Church of Sweden.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Amná E. (ed), *Civilsamhället*, Några forskningsfrågor, Stockholm, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond och Gidlunds förlag, 2005.
- Häll L., *Föreningslivet i Sverige-en statistisk belysning*, Rapport no. 86, Stockholm, Statistiska centralbyrån, 1994.
- Lundström T., Wijkström F., "The Nonprofit sector in Sweden", *Johns Hopkins Nonprofit Sector Series, 11*, Manchester; New York, Manchester University Press, 1997.
- Jeppsson Grassman E., "Frivilliga insatser i Sverige-en befolkningsstudie", in SOU 1993:82, *Frivilligt socialt arbete - Kartläggning och kunskapsöversikt*, Stockholm, Fritzes, 1993.
- Jeppsson Grassman E., Svedberg L., "Medborgarskapets gestaltningar. Insatser i och utanför föreningslivet", in Amná E. (ed), SOU 1999:84, *Civilsamhället*, Stockholm, Fakta Info Direkt, 1999.
- Micheletti M., *Det civila samhället och staten. Medborgar-sammanslutningarnas roll i svensk politik*, Stockholm, Fritzes, 1994.
- Olsson L. E., Svedberg L., Jeppsson Grassman E., *Medborgarnas insatser och engagemang i civilsamhället-några grundläggande uppgifter från en ny befolkningsstudie*, Justitiedepartementet, 2005.
- Svedberg L., Trägårdh L. (ed), *Det civila samhället som forskningsfält. Nya avhandlingar i ett nytt sekel*, Stockholm, Riksbankens jubileumsfond och Gidlunds förlag, 2006.
- Trägårdh L., "The 'Civil Society' Debate in Sweden: The Welfare State Challenged", in Trägårdh L. (ed.), *State and Civil Society in Northern Europe. The Swedish Model Reconsidered*, New York, Berghahn Books, 2007.
- Vogel J., Amná E., Munck I., Häll L., *Föreningslivet i Sverige: välfärd, socialt kapital, demokratiskola*, Rapport no.98, Stockholm, Statistiska centralbyrån, 2003.
- Wijkström F., Einarsson T., *Från nationalstat till näringsliv. Det civila samhällets organisationsliv i förändring*. Handelshögskolan i Stockholm, EFI, 2006.
- Wijkström F., Lundström T., *Den ideella sektorn*. Sober förlag, Stockholm, 2002.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Famna - branschorganisation för non profit vård och social omsorg

Famna - Not for Profit Providers within Health and Social Care.

www.famna.org

[Swedish] [English]

Forum för Frivilligt Socialt Arbete

National Forum for Voluntary Social Work.

www.socialforum.se

[Swedish]

Frivilligorganisationernas Insamlingsråd FRII

Swedish Fundraising Council.

www.frii.se

[Swedish] [English]

Ideell Arena

www.ideellarena.se

[Swedish] [English]

LSU-Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations.

www.lsu.se

[Swedish] [English]

Samarbetsorgan för etniska organisationer i Sverige - SIOS

The Cooperation Group for Ethnic Associations in Sweden.

www.sios.org

[Swedish] [English]

Sektor3

www.sektor3.se

[Swedish] [English]

Statistiska Centralbyrån

Statistics Sweden.

www.scb.se

[Swedish] [English]

Volontärbyrån

The Volunteer Bureau.

www.volontarbyran.org

[Swedish]

Sweden in:
Volunteering across Europe. Organisations, promotion, participation.
Bulgaria, Slovenia, Germany, Sweden, Estonia.
v.V.
Rome, Spes, 2010. pp. 179 -228.

For publications, initiatives and collaborations please contact:

SPES - Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio

Via Liberiana, 17

00185 Rome - Italy

Tel.: +39.06.44702178

Fax: +39.06.45422576

E-mail: europa@spes.lazio.it

Website: www.volontariato.lazio.it