

Some Notations on the Swedish Social Welfare Model

Jonas Gustafsson

Petros Gougoulakis

Stockholm Institute of Education

www.jongus.se

And first...





Sweden in Brief

Area: 450,000 km², third largest country
in Western Europe

Forests: 53%

Mountains: 11%

Cultivated land: 8%

Lakes and rivers: 9%

Longest north-south distance: 1,574 km

Longest east-west distance: 499 km

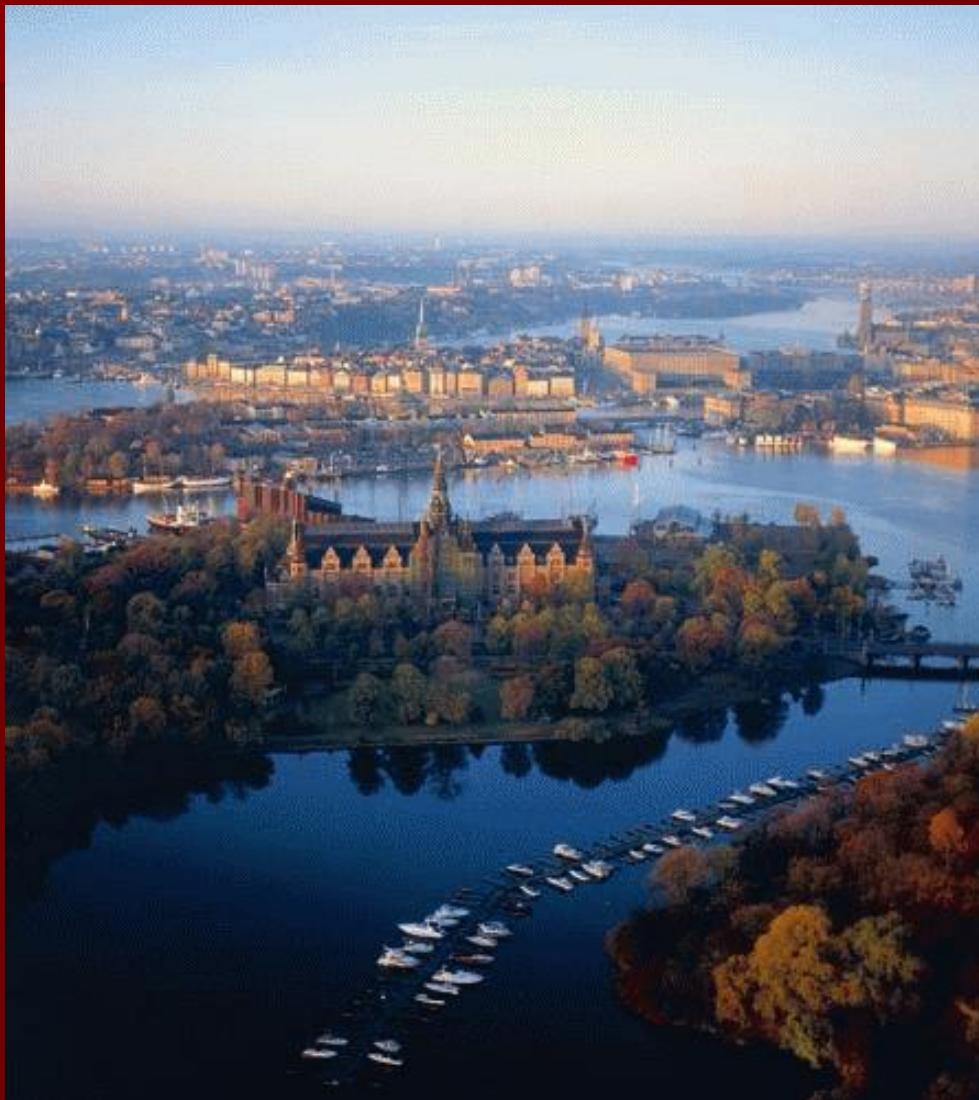


- Capital: Stockholm
- Population: 9 million inhabitants
- Languages: Swedish; recognized minority languages: Sami (Lapp), Finnish, Meänkieli (Tornedalen Finnish), Yiddish, Romani Chib (a Gypsy language).
- Form of government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy.
- Parliament: The Riksdag, with 349 members in one chamber

Stockholm



Stockholm



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- Religion: 80% belong to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sweden.
- Average life expectancy: men 78 years, women 82 years.
- Most important export goods: Electrical and telecom equipment, machinery, passenger cars, paper, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel.
- Most important imported goods: Electrical and telecom equipment, machinery, foodstuffs, crude oil, textile products, footwear, passenger cars

Midnight sun



Many kinds of families

- About 2/3 of all families with children consists of mother, father and child/children
- 84 % of the families have 1 or 2 children
- The number of divorces are not increasing
- Families tend to get their first child later

How Swedes live



The Bonus Family



The Bonus Family



The Single Parent Family



The Multicultural Family



The 40+ Family



The Rainbow Family



Social Insurance in Sweden

- Social insurance is an integral part of the Swedish social security system.
- The Swedish social insurance covers everyone that lives or works in Sweden.
- It provides financial protection for families and children, for persons with a disability and in connection with work injury, illness and old age.
- Through the Swedish membership in the European Union, you may also be eligible for social insurance benefits in other EU member states.

If you fall ill

■ If you are employed:

- a. you must report sick to your employer, from which you are entitled to get sick pay for the first 14 days of your illness.
(No payment is made for the first day - the “waiting period”).
- b. If you are still ill after 14 days, you get sick pay from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency (it is about 80% of your ordinary salary)

- If you become unemployed:

It is important that you register within 3 months from the day your work ceased with the employment office as seeking work.

(When you no longer have income from work, you run the risk of loosing your income-related sickness benefit is based) ceases to apply. Though, it is possible to keep your sicknes benefit when you register with the employment office as seeking work.)

Dental care



- Everyone who lives or works in Sweden receives some form of subsidised dental care.

It briefly works as follows:

- *up to the age of 19, you receive free dental care, which is financed by the county councils.*
- *from the year in which you reach the age of 20, you are covered by dental care insurance. You pay a patient charge and Swedish Social Insurance Agency compensates the dentist directly for the remaining cost.*



Some Pregnancy Rights

- If you are pregnant, you are entitled to be transferred to other duties. If you have a physically demanding job that you cannot continue doing as a result of your condition.

Pregnancy benefit

If your employer is unable to relocate you, you may be able to draw pregnancy allowance if

- your capacity for work is reduced by at least a quarter owing to your pregnancy and you have a physically demanding job
- you have a job that you are not able to do because of risks in the work environment.

If you have physically demanding work, you can draw pregnancy benefit for up to 50 days, starting at the earliest 60 days from the date on which you are expected to give birth.

Parental benefit

- If you have children, you are also entitled to parental benefit if you give up gainful employment in order to look after them.
- Parental benefit is payable for 480 days for children born in 2002 or later.
- The days of parental benefit are always shared equally between both parents. One parent may give up the right to parental benefit to the other parent.
- If you are a lone parent, you are entitled to all these days yourself. If you are the mother, you can start drawing parental benefit 60 days before you are expected to give birth.
- Parental benefit may be drawn until the child reaches the age of eight or when the child comes to the end of his or her first year at school.
(You can choose to draw full, three-quarters, half, one-quarter or one-eighth parental benefit.)

Child allowance and large family supplement

- If you have a child under the age of 16, you will receive child allowance if the child lives in Sweden.
- When your child reaches the age of 16, the child allowance ceases and is replaced by extended child allowance if the child is still attending compulsory school.
- Extended child allowance is paid up to and including the month in which the child finishes compulsory school.
- If you have two or more children, you may be able to get large family supplement.
- Children who continue their studies without interruption after the age of 16 also entitle the family to large family supplement.

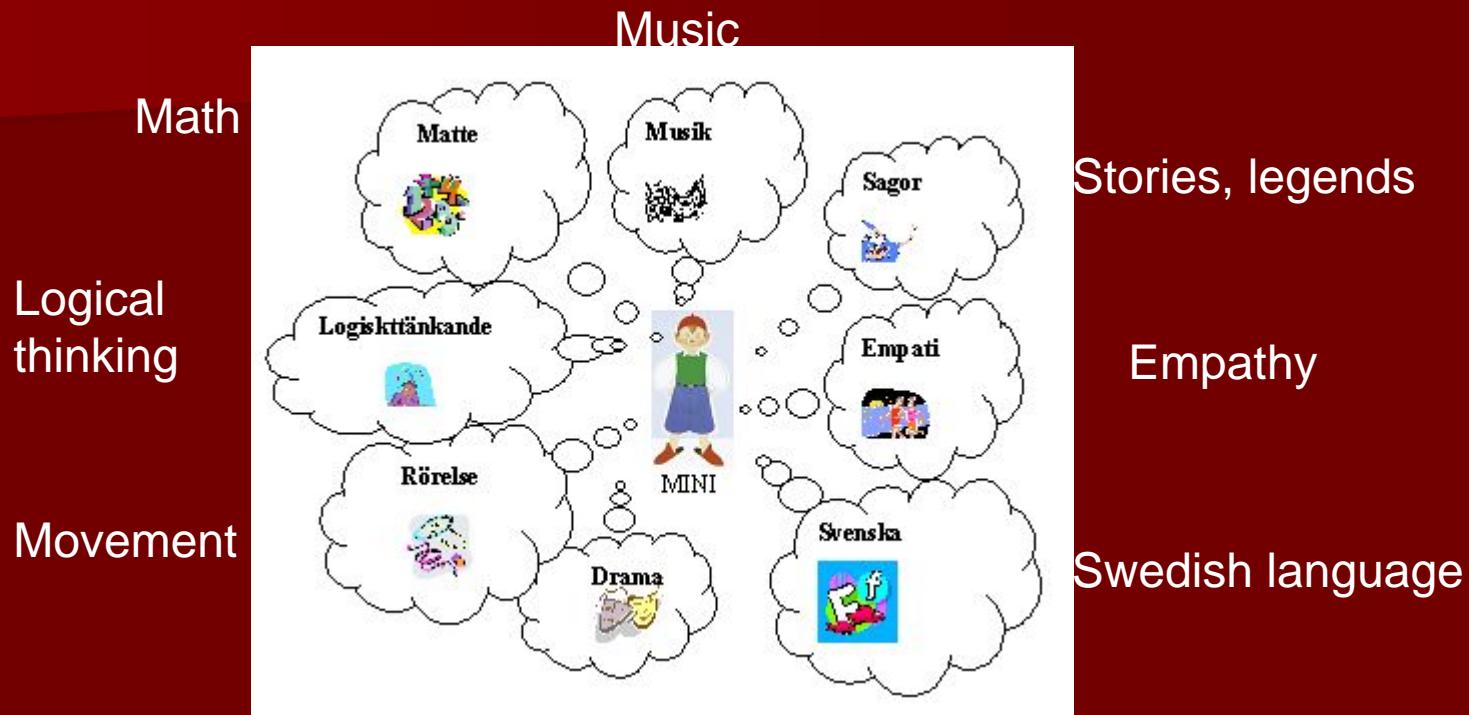
Maintenance

- If you are parents who are not living together, the parent who is not living with the child must contribute towards the care of the child by paying maintenance.

Maintenance support

- If the parent liable for maintenance fails to pay it, Swedish Social Insurance Agency may pay maintenance support to the parent with whom the child is officially registered as living.
- The amount to be paid depends, among other things, on the size of this person's income.
- Maintenance support can be paid until the child reaches the age of 18.

The swedish school system



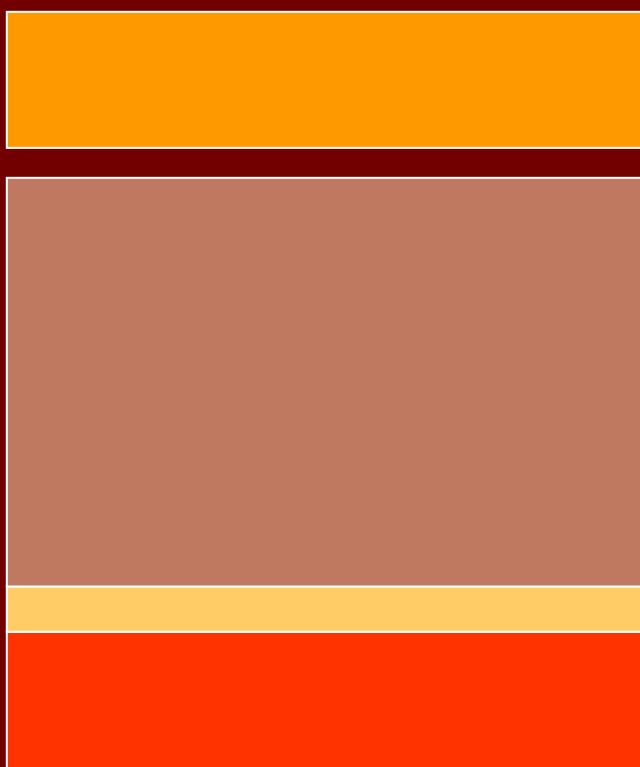
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Pre-school class

Kindergarten

The swedish school system

16



Upper secondary school – 3 years

Compulsory school – 9 years

Pre-school class

Kindergarten

Children



"The best thing about pre-school is you're free to be a child." Amanda, aged 5

Swedish early childhood education and care



A pedagogical challenge to encourage the child's development and learning

- Education and learning for our youngest children are without doubt two of our society's – Sweden's - most important tasks.
- There is a growing recognition that early access to education provides young children with a good start in life.
- In pre-school children 1–5 years old, take the first steps towards lifelong learning.
- Pre-school should meet every child's own conditions and needs.

- The Swedish pre-school is part of the educational system and is regulated in the Education Act and in the curriculum for pre-school.
- The curriculum states that children learn all the time, in every situation and with all their senses.
- Pre-school is an obvious **part of Swedish education and Family policy.**



Aims of the Swedish early childhood education and care

1. to make it possible for parents to combine parenthood with employment or studies
2. to support and encourage children's development and learning, and help them grow up under conditions that are conducive to their well-being.

Along with the parental insurance and child benefit systems, childcare has become a cornerstone of Swedish family welfare policy.

Of all one year olds in Sweden 43% attend pre-school - 87% of three year olds and 92% of five year olds.





The Children's Ombudsman (BO)

- The Ombudsman's main duty is to promote the rights and interests of children and young people as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

www.bo.se

- In order to find out childrens views and opinions the Ombudsman maintains regular contact with children and young people.
- The Ombudsman visits children in schools and youth clubs, and children can get in touch with the Ombudsman by letter, phone and through the BO's website.
- Each year the Children's Ombudsman submits a report to the Government. This report addresses the situation of children and young people in Sweden, for example their opportunities and problems.

Convention on the Rights of the Child



**Adopted and opened for signature,
ratification and accession by
General Assembly resolution 44/25
of 20 November 1989**

**Since its adoption in 1989 the Convention
has been ratified more quickly and by more
governments (all except Somalia and the US)
than any other human rights instrument.**

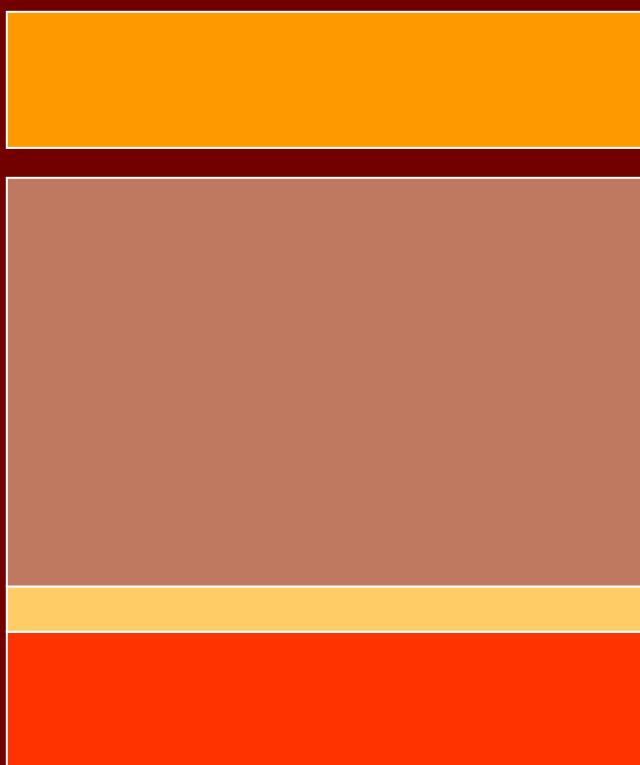
Fundamental principles of the Convention



1. You should not suffer discrimination.
2. Your best interests should be at the top of the agenda when decisions affecting you are being made.
3. You have the right to survive and develop. This includes the right to mental and physical well-being.
4. You should be free to express your views. And these views should be taken into account in all matters that affect you.

The swedish school system

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Upper secondary school – 3 years

Compulsory school – 9 years

Pre-school class

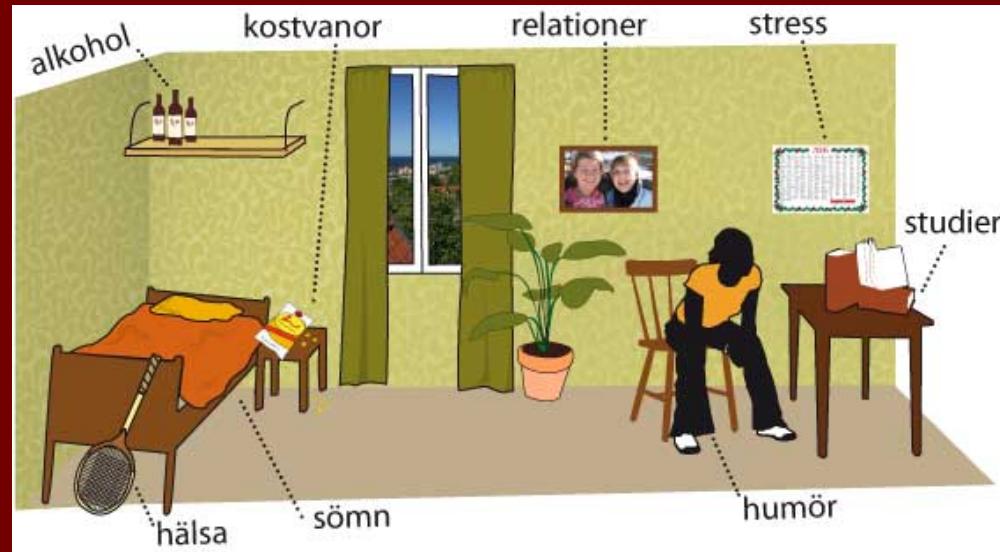
Kindergarten

Young swedes



Life as a student

- Studying at university is free, but you must pay a fee to the student union
- Most students live in their own room, not in a dormitory
- Many students do not live on campus
- Some students share an apartment with friends
- More women than men are students



You either apply to

- a programme, like teacher ed, psychology, computer science, or engineering
- free courses, like history, french, math, astronomy, philosophy, or fashion studies



Economy

- Living i Sweden is expensive
- A student is offered a loan and a grant.
- Many students work part time while they study – and still, they complain about their economic situation

Financial aid for studies

www.csn.se/en/2.135/2.624

■ You can receive a study allowance

- if you are 16-20 years old
- if you are a full-time student
- if you will be attending an upper secondary school, adult secondary education programme (Komvux) or folk high school.

(1,050 each month)

Student aid

You can receive student aid:

- if you will be attending a college or university or taking certain other courses after upper secondary school
- if you will be attending a folk high school, adult secondary education programme (Komvux), national adult education programme, or another compulsory or upper secondary school starting in the autumn of the year that you turn 20
- until the year that you turn 54 - but your eligibility for a loan may be limited starting in the year that you turn 45.

How long can you receive student aid?

If you will be studying at:

- a college or university, you can receive student aid for up to 240 weeks (12 semesters)
- the upper secondary level, you can receive student aid for 80-120 weeks
- the compulsory school level, you can receive student aid for 40-100 weeks.

(Amount: **1,841 kr**, from which **grant** 632 kr and **loan** 1,209 kr)



Student's social life

- University clubs
- Café's
- Movies
- Bars, clubs



Clubs

- Music
- Socializing, meeting friends
- Dancing
- Looking at people
- Dresscode



Dresscode?

