



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Employment

Several major challenges awaiting

Published 14 May 2019

Listen to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson talk about her continuing role as Minister for Employment, what challenges she sees ahead and which issue she will be addressing first.



Article from Ministry of Employment

The future of work is not set in stone

Published 29 April 2019

On 4–5 April 2019, a Nordic conference on the future of work was held in Reykjavik, Iceland. The conference focused on megatrends affecting the labour market in the future.

The findings of the report by the ILO (International Labour Organisation) Global Commission on the Future of Work were presented at the conference. The Norwegian research foundation Fafo also presented drivers, institutions and politics from the Nordic research project on the future of work.

A panel discussion linked to both reports was held with the participation of the Nordic labour ministers, the ILO and representatives of international employers and trade organisations. The discussion focused on the capacity to act and moving from words to action.

- Instead of asking ourselves what the future of work will be like, we need to focus above all on how we are to face the future. I would like to highlight four important factors here. Opportunities for retraining and the role of the social partners in promoting this; decent working conditions throughout an entire working life; continuing efforts to create a more gender-equal labour market; and well-equipped welfare systems, says Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

Participants included Sweden's Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson, Norway's Minister for Labour and Social Affairs Anniken Hauglie, Iceland's Minister of Social Affairs and Children Ásmundur Einar Daðason, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) Roberto Suárez Santos, and General

Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Sharan Burrow.

The material and discussions from the conference will make up the Nordic contribution to the ILO centenary at the International Labour Conference in Geneva later this year.



Article from Ministry of Employment

future of work

Published 14 February 2019

On 22 January, the ILO's centenary was launched in Geneva. The centenary, which will run throughout 2019, focuses on the future of work and forms part of the ILO's long-term strategy for creating a decent and sustainable working life worldwide.

At the same time as the centenary was launched, the Global Commission on the Future of Work was in attendance to present its final report. The Commission's report presents the possibilities and challenges that are arising due to digitalisation, climate change and demographic changes. The Commission's work has been led by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa.

In the report, the Commission presents a human-centred agenda for the future, consisting of 10 recommendations divided into three main areas:

- Investing in people's capabilities, for example through initiatives for lifelong learning, social protection and increased gender equality.
- Investing in labour market institutions, the development of collective agreements and so on, and social dialogue.
- Investing in decent and sustainable work for a green global economy.

From possibilities to reality

Modern working life demands an ambitious work environment policy. Making use of possibilities and turning them into reality requires global engagement, from the world's governments all the way to the social partners.

— Modern working life means new opportunities to get rid of dangerous jobs, while traditional working environment problems remain. Global

competition, digitalisation and new working methods are leading to new ways of organising work. These must not lead to precarious forms of employment or lower wages,” says Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The results of the Global Commission’s report will form the basis for continued discussions at the ILO’s International Labour Conference in Geneva, 10–21 June. Some 4 000 representatives of employer organisations, trade unions and governments will attend.



Article from Ministry of Employment

Nader Ahmadi new Director-General of the Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise

Published 27 June 2018

On 19 April 2018, the Government appointed Nader Ahmadi as Director-General and head of SAWEE. Most recently, he was pro vice-chancellor of the University of Gävle. Mr Ahmadi will be the first Director-General of the newly established agency when he takes up his post on 1 June 2018.

"The Government has clearly prioritised work environment efforts during the electoral period. Through the new Swedish Agency for Work Environment Expertise, we are now taking another important step to improve the working environment for everyone working in Sweden. I am pleased today to introduce the first Director-General of the new agency," says Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson.

Nader Ahmadi is a professor of sociology and has been the pro vice-chancellor and acting head of agency at the University of Gävle since 2016. He was formerly head of the University's Academy for Health and Working Life. Mr Ahmadi has broad experience in leadership and development work and has held positions at the Government Offices, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), UNICEF and the World Bank.

"The labour market has always been complex and dynamic, which means that the conditions for good work environment measures and sustainable working life are also constantly changing. The new agency will help prepare Sweden to better harness opportunities and respond to the working life challenges of today and tomorrow. Our vision is to be an engine for

improvement in working life and promote work environment measures that are always a step ahead," says Mr Ahmadi.

The Government has also adopted an ordinance containing instructions and appropriation directions for SAWEE, which will become a national knowledge centre for work environment issues. The agency has been tasked with compiling and spreading knowledge, as well as evaluation and analysis, to contribute to the practical application of knowledge about work environments.

The agency will also be tasked with developing knowledge on working life in the future. There is a need for both easily accessible overviews and in-depth knowledge about how a constantly changing working life can affect the work environment, as well as about the conditions for preventive work environment measures. A report on the assignment is to be presented alongside the annual report for 2019.

SAWEE will be located in Gävle and start operations on 1 June. According to the Government's budget bill, SEK 18.8 million will be allocated in 2018. The agency will gradually be built up and when operations are fully established in 2020, the budget is expected to total SEK 35 million per year.



Article from Prime Minister's Office

Both incentives and motivation needed to ensure learning becomes reality in the workplace

Published 11 June 2018

Supplying skills to the labour market, and to society at large, has been a recurring issue since the Government's National Innovation Council started meeting in 2015. When the Council met on 28 May at Harpsund, the meeting opened with the issue of lifelong learning in the workplace.

Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson summarises the discussions from the meeting: "Sweden has a strong starting position. The Swedish model means that we encourage and facilitate labour market adjustment. Both central government and the social partners take considerable responsibility in this. However, digitalisation and globalisation place major demands on skills development and learning in the workplace."

What is important to consider in the work going forward?

"The discussion emphasised the importance of business managers giving skills issues greater weight and of strengthening cooperation between working life and education providers. Both incentives and motivation are needed to ensure learning becomes reality in the workplace," says Ms Johansson.

What will the workplaces of the future look like?

"New opportunities to acquire new skills must be available to more people, for example through using online courses or other flexible means of

customising and making education accessible for concrete needs. But to ensure that these new skills benefit both the individual and the workplace, a good, supportive learning environment is important," says Ms Johansson.

In the current public debate, there is considerable engagement and interest in the issue of learning, lifelong learning and skills supply. Increasingly greater demands are being made today on continuous learning throughout one's entire working life, but how is this need being addressed in the labour market and at individual workplaces? What characterises a learning workplace?

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, one of the government members of the National Innovation Council, explains more from the meeting.

Could you give a brief summary of what the meeting concluded on this particular point? A concrete example to think about in the work going forward?

"It was an exciting discussion, including many well-informed contributions and good, concrete proposals. Technological developments in digitalisation and automation are resulting in new demands on knowledge and skills in working life. The days when it sufficed to acquire an education at the start of one's career are gone," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

"It's clear that we need a holistic approach to education and learning, where every part is needed to ensure a good overall outcome. Continuous learning in the workplace needs to be developed and regarded more as the strategic issue it actually is.

What is most important to ensure the success of lifelong learning?

"From the perspective of higher education, I believe that collaboration between educational institutions and companies must improve. Close cooperation is required to develop the courses the business sector needs and help increase access to the courses currently offered. The development of courses for professionals, digital learning and skills validation opportunities are important parts of the overall picture. More people will need to change their career path or acquire new skills and knowledge throughout their working life. This is why opportunities to study at higher education institutions later in life must increase. We are now working in a coordinated way on a number of education-based reforms throughout the country and through all stages of life. One major reform is expanding higher education

throughout the country through resources equivalent to almost 25 000 new places by 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

The Government of Sweden's measures against sexual violence and harassment

Published 03 January 2018

One of the Swedish Government's gender equality policy sub-goals is that men's violence against women must stop. With reference to #metoo, the following lists some examples of implemented and forthcoming measures to counteract sexual violence, harassment and assault.

The Government's work involves preventive initiatives, stronger protection and support, more effective law enforcement, work environment investments and awareness-building measures.

Article: The Government of Sweden takes action against sexual violence and harassment

Work at an overarching level

- On 1 January 2017, the ten-year national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, including honour-related violence and oppression, as well as prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes, came into effect. The strategy, which contains a package of measures, is intended to guide central government steering in this area and has a particular focus on developing efforts to prevent violence. In total, the Government is setting aside around SEK 1.3 billion for efforts to counteract men's violence against women in 2017–2020.

Fact sheet: National strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women

- A new gender equality agency begins working in January 2018. The agency will work with follow-up, analysis, coordination, knowledge and support for achieving the Government's gender equality policy goals. One of the sub-goals is that men's violence against women must stop, and that women and men, girls and boys must have the same right and access to physical integrity.

Summary of the Government Communication 'Power, goals and agency – a feminist policy'

Stronger protection and support

- At the end of 2017 the Government proposed to the Council on Legislation new sexual offence legislation that is based on consent. The Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority will receive resources to implement information and training initiatives in the area of sexual offences.

Press release: New sexual offence legislation based on consent

- The Act on special protection for workers against reprisals for whistleblowing concerning serious irregularities, the Whistleblowing Act, which entered into force on 1 January 2017, can be applicable in situations where an employer takes reprisals against an employee for reporting sexual harassment to a government agency or the media.

- In its bill on enhanced penal protection of personal integrity, the Government proposed that the protection against threats and violations be strengthened and modernised. Most of this enters into force on 1 January 2018.

- At the turn of 2016/17, the legislation for counteracting workplace discrimination was tightened.

- The issue of better protection against discrimination and violations in schools (based on SOU 2016:87) is being processed at the Government Offices.

More effective law enforcement and preventive efforts

- The Government is implementing a historic investment through additional funding to the Swedish Police Authority of just over SEK 9.8 billion over the period 2017–2020. Assignments in the appropriation directions to the Police and the Swedish Prosecution Authority allow the Government to follow how these authorities are working to develop their working methods for investigating rape and other sexual offences.
- The Government has an agreement with Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR, in 2017 to strengthen the focus of gender equality work on men, boys and questions of masculinity.

Work environment investments

- The Government has adopted a national work environment strategy in close consultation with the labour market and union partners, containing concrete measures in three priority areas, one of which is the psychosocial work environment. The strategy has been produced partly in light of gender segregation in the Swedish labour market. Research indicates that a gender unequal organisation goes hand in hand with psychosocial aspects such as conflict, harassment and high staff turnover.

A Work Environment Strategy for Modern Working Life 2016–2020

- The Government's strategy emphasises that initiatives are needed to strengthen the organisational and social work environment. The Swedish Work Environment Authority's regulations on organisational and social work environment were adopted in spring 2016 and entail a major step forward in work environment management. Victimisation is a focus area in the regulations.
- The Government has enhanced resources for its work environment policy by over SEK 100 million per year during this term of office. The funds have enabled the Work Environment Authority to strengthen its supervisory activities. Around a hundred new work environment inspectors have been hired.
- The Government has adopted some changes to the Swedish Work Environment Authority's instructions, which enter into force on 2 January 2018. The instructions now explicitly state that the Authority is to conduct its activities so as to promote diversity and gender equality and a work environment free from victimisation (Section 4 a).

Awareness-building measures

- The Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden is receiving SEK 500,000 from the Government to disseminate information and support materials on sexual harassment to all compulsory and upper secondary schools.
- In order to raise the basic competency of particularly relevant professional groups, the Government has decided to make teaching about men's violence against women and violence in close relationships, including honour-related violence and oppression, compulsory in a number of higher education programmes.
- The Swedish Schools Inspectorate is reviewing the sex and human relationships teaching of compulsory schools, compulsory education for pupils with intellectual disabilities, upper secondary schools and upper secondary education for pupils with learning disabilities. The completed assignment is to be presented by 16 February 2018 at the latest. The teacher's guide "Dags att prata om" [Time to talk about] has been launched for schools to improve their ability to talk to children about sexual abuse.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research,
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs,
Ministry of Justice

The Government of Sweden takes action against sexual violence and harassment

Published 03 January 2018

The #metoo movement in Sweden strongly demonstrates that more needs to be done to combat sexual harassment and sexual violence in workplaces and society at large. The Swedish Government requires all employers to take responsibility for a secure work environment. In the area of work environment and discrimination there are already many tools and relevant legislation, but the power and size of the petitions show that there are deficiencies in compliance with the regulations. For this reason, Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson and Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Regnér have met with the labour market and union partners, and several ministers have in recent weeks convened meetings with heads of government agencies and business leaders in order to focus on the responsibility of employers to counteract sexual violence and harassment.

The testimonies regarding sexual violence and harassment in a great number of workplaces and schools that have emerged in the wake of the #metoo

movement confirm that more needs to be done. The Government has already adopted a number of initiatives, and the long-term measures against sexual violence and harassment already adopted by the Government include a proposal for improved legislation on sexual consent and sexual offence, the national strategy to prevent and combat men's violence against women, the establishment of the new gender equality agency, and a national work environment strategy.

"Thanks to the important petitions in industry after industry, with testimonies about violations and harassment, we have moved the focus from women's behaviour and appearance to talking about the responsibility of men. Feminist policy is needed, and the work against sexualised violence and harassment is a high priority for the Government. The new gender equality agency, which commences its activities in January, will play an important role in supporting government agencies and organisations to systematically achieve societal change," says Minister for Gender Equality Åsa Regnér.

"Several of the testimonies made public have clarified the frequent link between working conditions and vulnerability to sexual harassment and abuse. Criminal acts committed at workplaces shall of course always be reported to be dealt with by the judicial system. But in addition to punishable acts, many women also bear witness to a completely unacceptable work environment. It is obvious that not enough has been done to rectify these problems," says Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson.

Meetings with government agencies and the social partners

With reference to the #metoo petitions, the Government has initiated meetings about sexual violence and harassment with heads of government agencies, labour market and union partners, business leaders and the initiators behind the petitions.

Concrete measures against violence and violations

The Government has both ongoing and planned measures to counteract sexual violence, harassment and violations. This involves preventive initiatives, stronger protection and support, more effective law enforcement, improved supervision and awareness-building measures.

Article: The Government of Sweden's measures against sexual violence and harassment



Article from Ministry of Employment

New work environment agency in Sweden

Published 27 September 2017

To strengthen national and international work environment efforts, the Government has today decided to establish a new government agency for work environment awareness. The agency is to be situated in Gävle and will start operations on 1 June 2018.

"From day one, the Government has clearly prioritised work environment efforts. A national strategy has been adopted and resources have been increased by SEK 125 million annually. Through the new agency for work environment awareness, work environment efforts will now be further strengthened," says Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority currently has a limited mandate as a national function for knowledge on the work environment and working life. But since the previous government closed the National Institute for Working Life 10 years ago, there has been no special agency with national responsibility for compiling and spreading knowledge about working life. Nor is there an actor that evaluates the work environment policies that have been implemented. The social partners – both trade unions and employer organisations – have long pointed out the need for such an organisation and have recommended the creation of a new agency for that purpose.

The new agency for work environment awareness will be tasked with compiling and making available knowledge about the working environment and communicating this in a manner tailored to the target audience. The aim is to support practical work environment efforts at workplaces. The agency will also evaluate and analyse labour market policy and support the

Government in international work environment efforts. The agency will also work on issues relating to occupational health services.

Strengthening central government presence and spreading central government agencies throughout the country is an important priority for the Government. It is also a way for the Government to contribute to central government jobs for civil servants and academics outside the biggest cities. The agency for work environment awareness will therefore be situated in Gävle. In choosing a location, the Government has considered it advantageous for the new agency to be situated in close proximity to the University of Gävle, which conducts working life research. Gävle municipality has a large catchment area for skills provision. All in all, it is considered that the new agency is well-placed to attract the right skills.

The new agency is to be up and running by 1 June 2018. In the Budget Bill for 2018, SEK 18.8 million has been earmarked for the agency. The agency will be built up successively. When operations are fully established in 2020, the agency's budget is expected to total SEK 35 million annually.

Ewa Stålldal has been appointed Inquiry Chair for the establishment of the agency. She was most recently Director-General of the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) in 2014–2016.

The Budget Bill for 2018 is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.



Article from Ministry of Employment

Ministry of Employment initiatives in the Budget Bill for 2018

Published 22 September 2017

Everyone who can work should work and contribute to our common welfare. This is why, in the autumn budget, the Government is investing in strengthening labour market measures and the integration of new arrivals. The Government is reforming the system of subsidised employment and introducing a new, uniform supportive measure – introductory jobs. The Government is also strengthening efforts for a sustainable working life by establishing a new agency for work environment awareness and allocating funds for the development of methods to combat unfair competition. Moreover, the Government is investing in measures to continue creating a sustainable reception system and ensuring the effective integration of newly arrived immigrants. The paths to employment will be strengthened through a new regulatory framework for Arbetsförmedlingen (the Swedish public employment service) on the integration of new arrivals and the introduction of an education and training obligation. The Budget Bill for 2018 is based on an agreement between the Government and the Left Party.

Integration of new arrivals

Same requirements for new arrivals as for other jobseekers

The integration of newly arrived immigrants in working life and Swedish society must be more effective. Therefore, a new regulation for the integration of new arrivals in working life and Swedish society will enter into force on 1 January 2018. The regulatory changes will harmonise the regulation of new arrivals' integration in working life and Swedish society to a greater extent with the regulations that apply to other jobseekers.

This harmonisation will mean that the right to an introduction plan will be removed and replaced with a referral to a labour market policy programme, that a proportional system of measures will be introduced for new arrivals corresponding to what currently applies to other jobseekers, and the processing of introduction benefit will be moved from Arbetsförmedlingen to Försäkringskassan (the Swedish social insurance agency).

Education and training obligation for new arrivals

As of 1 January 2018, the Government will introduce stricter requirements for all unemployed people who are considered to be in need of education and training to undertake training offered within labour market policy. The Government is also introducing an education and training obligation for newly arrived immigrants. The education and training obligation means that all newly arrived immigrants involved in Arbetsförmedlingen's introduction measures and who are considered in need of education and training to find work can be instructed to apply for and undertake education and training.

The education and training obligation makes clear the individual's responsibility to, within the framework of their introduction, obtain the skills necessary to be matched to a job or to take part in labour market policy measures or continue studying.

The Government considers that the municipalities should be allocated funding to better meet the education and training needs of newly arrived immigrants and therefore intends to raise the standard compensation for municipalities' reception of newly arrived immigrants in 2018. This additional funding amounts to SEK 301 million in 2018, SEK 467 million in 2019 and SEK 378 million from 2020 onwards.

Enhanced work training as a measure within the introduction programme

In connection with the introduction of the new regulations for integration on 1 January 2018, the Government intends to make enhanced work training available for participants in the introduction programme too. In the autumn budget, SEK 54 million has been allocated for 2018, SEK 39 million for 2019 and SEK 36 million as of 2020 for enhanced work training.

Increased resources for civic information within early measures

Information about how Swedish society works is crucial for those who have recently arrived in Sweden. It is important that asylum seekers receive information as quickly as possible about the basic principles of the Swedish system, gender equality and what applies with regard to the rights and obligations of the individual.

The Government therefore proposes that the funds for early measures be increased by SEK 39 million in 2018, SEK 39 million in 2019 and SEK 38 million from 2020.

Increase in promotion funds for fast tracks

The Government wants newly arrived immigrants in Sweden to quickly find a job that is relevant to the individual's education and experience. At the same time, there is a shortage of labour in many sectors. These sectors are now receiving help to find the skills they need thanks to cooperation between Arbetsförmedlingen, the social partners and industry on fast tracks.

To increase resources to the social partners' work on fast tracks, the Government proposes that the funds for special promotion and development measures be increased by SEK 20 million in 2018 and SEK 35 million in 2019.

Labour market

The Government's objective is that Sweden will have the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. The Swedish labour market is now developing strongly. The number of people in employment has increased by more than 200 000 since the Government entered office in 2014, and youth unemployment is at its lowest since 2003. The Government's reforms have contributed to strong growth, a rapid increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment, and this will continue in 2018. In 2018, unemployment is

expected to be below 6 per cent.

Introductory jobs – simpler and more effective employment support

Subsidised employment is an efficient way of getting people with weaker links to the labour market into work. For this support to function effectively, it must be adapted to the needs of jobseekers and employers. The Government therefore proposes that the current forms of employment support be merged and simplified. Five forms of support will become one – introductory jobs.

This reform will make processing more straightforward and remove unnecessary differences. There will also be less administration for employers. Introductory jobs provide more effective support for those with the greatest needs. This support can be combined flexibly with education and training. At the same time, the ceilings for support and introductory jobs will be harmonised in a benefit qualifying gross salary of SEK 20 000 per month, which is a considerable increase compared with the support being replaced. New start jobs and extra jobs will remain in place.

Gradual increase of the wage subsidies ceiling

Since the Government took office, work has been under way to raise the wage subsidies ceiling. The first increase was introduced at the beginning of the year. In the Budget Bill for 2018, it is proposed that the wage subsidies ceiling be raised further.

This autumn, the Government intends to raise the current ceiling from SEK 17 100 per month in benefit qualifying gross salary to SEK 18 300; in 2019 the ceiling will be raised to SEK 19 100 and will amount to SEK 20 000 in 2020. This is the same amount as the ceilings for introductory jobs, extra jobs and new start jobs. The proposal also includes a corresponding increase for jobs in sheltered employment with public sector employers.

SEK 500 million to municipalities and county councils

Extra jobs have given municipalities, county councils and private health and social care providers the opportunity to gain an extra resource to support their activities. Long-term unemployed people and newly arrived immigrants can also be employed in certain cultural, sports and social activities. To

further encourage municipalities and county councils to employ long-term unemployed people and newly arrived immigrants, the Government is allocating special municipality support of SEK 500 million in the autumn budget to support those who take a major responsibility in employing people who are furthest from the labour market.

More secure unemployment insurance fund

The Government is further improving protection for people who become unemployed. In the autumn budget, the Government is setting aside funds to reduce the number of initial qualifying days in unemployment insurance from seven to six days. The Government is allocating SEK 30 million in the Budget Bill for 2018, followed by SEK 60 million for 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Increased funding to Samhall

Samhall has an important role to play in employing people with disabilities and who cannot find work any other way or through other measures. The Government intends to increase funds to the company to improve the possibility of fulfilling the labour market policy remit and to create more transitions to employment outside the company, and to increase the number of jobs in sheltered employment.

Increased activity support for young people with disabilities to be phased out

There is currently a form of support allowing young people with disabilities to receive increased activity support if they have taken part in the programme for a certain period of time. This increase in compensation after more time spent in the programme deviates from other compensation systems and risks lengthening the period of unemployment. The Government's assessment is that this is not fit for purpose.

The Government proposes that the increased activity support for young people with disabilities be phased out by not granting this right to increased activity support to any new people once the change has been implemented.

Loans for driving lessons

To improve opportunities to enter the labour market, the Government

intends to introduce the possibility of taking out a loan for driving lessons for a category B driving licence.

The loan will finance driving lessons at approved driving schools and is intended in the first phase for certain unemployed people between 18 and 47 years of age. To help improve upper secondary school completion rates, the Government intends, in the second phase, to expand the opportunity in 2019 to include people aged 19–20 who have completed their upper secondary education.

Working life

New work environment agency to be located in Gävle

To strengthen national and international work environment efforts, the Government has decided to establish a new agency for work environment awareness. The remit for the new agency will be to collate and disseminate knowledge about the work environment. The agency will also evaluate and analyse labour market policy, focus on occupational health issues and support the Government in international work environment efforts. The new agency will be up and running on 1 June 2018 and will be located in Gävle.



Article from Ministry of Employment

European high-level meeting on young people's establishment in the labour market

Published 19 February 2016 Updated 19 February 2016

Youth unemployment is a high-priority issue for the Government. As a part of work on the European Employment Strategy, Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson initiated a high-level meeting in Stockholm to discuss young people's situation in the labour market. On 18-19 February five European ministers responsible for labour market issues met for a High Level Learning Exchange on 'Designing and implementing effective strategies to support the integration and retention in the labour market of youth at risk'.

– I am very satisfied with this meeting. Together with ministerial colleagues and officials from the European Commission we have discussed what efforts are working, and not working, for young people who have difficulty establishing themselves in the labour market. We have had good discussions where we shared important experiences, says Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

Even though economic growth is now increasing and new jobs are being created, it is still difficult for some young people to enter, and remain at, the labour market. To reduce youth unemployment, the Government is investing in closer cooperation between central and local government with the help of the Youth Employment Delegation; within the scope of this delegation, 286 municipalities have signed agreements with the Swedish Public Employment Service on how they will tackle youth unemployment at local level.

On 18-19 February Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson hosted a European high-level meeting in Stockholm. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences and best practice from each country and build on earlier lessons concerning young people who have difficulty establishing themselves in the labour market. Ministers from Denmark, Estonia, Germany and Portugal as well as representatives of the EU took part in the meeting.



Article from Ministry of Employment

Fast track - a quicker introduction of newly arrived immigrants

Published 11 December 2015 Updated 10 June 2016

The Government wants newly arrived immigrants in Sweden to quickly find a workplace that is relevant to the individual's education and experience. At the same time, there is a shortage of labour in many industries; these are now being helped with the provision of skills through the creation of fast tracks by the Swedish Public Employment Service and the industries, to make it easier for newly arrived immigrants to establish themselves in the labour market.

– I am pleased that we are now entering a structured collaboration with the industries. It is the social partners who have the expertise to assess what is required in a profession. The fast track will help employers find the opportunity to obtain people with the right skills, while newly arrived immigrants get to work in their profession, says Minister for Employment and Integration Ylva Johansson.

Fast track for social scientists and social workers

The fast track for newly arrived social scientists – including economists and lawyers – means that the Swedish Public Employment Service's various measures can be used in parallel. For example, work experience can be combined with lessons in Swedish for the workplace and a supplementary education programme at a higher education institution. To make use in the Swedish labour market of the skills of university graduates educated abroad and to ensure that they find employment that is in line with their education

and experience, the social partners see the need to establish a fast track for those with an academic background in the social sciences.

The fast track for social workers targets newly arrived immigrants with a degree in the area of social work. The fast track is a combination of work experience, lessons in Swedish for the workplace and a supplementary education programme at a higher education institution that currently offers social worker education, with the aim of supplementing foreign education in social work or a closely related subject to skills corresponding to those necessary for a Swedish degree in social work

Fast track for teachers and preschool teachers

The proposal for a fast track for newly arrived teachers means that the Swedish Public Employment Service's various initiatives for newly arrived immigrants can be used and undertaken in parallel, for example by combining work experience with Swedish for the workplace and supplementary education. The fast track for teachers and preschool teachers means that individuals will be able to enter a school or preschool through work experience and employment. The fast track is being established in cooperation with the social partners – the Swedish Teachers' Union, the National Union of Teachers, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, and Almega, the Employers' Organisation for the Swedish Service Sector – as well as the Swedish Public Employment Service, other relevant government agencies and several higher education institutions.

Fast track for professions requiring registration in health and medical care

The social partners and the Swedish Public Employment Service have produced a fast track for the twenty-one regulated professions in health and medical care. The fast track is based on the major groups of newly arrived immigrants in the area – doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists – and the goal is for the path into the labour market and a licence for newly arrived immigrants in these professions to be predictable, legally secure and as short as possible.



Article from Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Justice

German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth visited Sweden

Published 26 October 2015 Updated 26 October 2015

On Thursday, 22 October, Germany's Minister of State for Europe, Michael Roth, visited Sweden and had a meeting with the Minister for Employment, Ylva Johansson, and the Minister for Justice and Migration, Morgan Johansson. The aim was to exchange experiences on the occasion of the refugee situation in Europe.

One item on the agenda was the Swedish answer to the refugee crisis including labour market integration and cooperation with social partners. During his visit in Sweden, Michael Roth also met representatives of think tanks and NGOs engaged in issues regarding refugees and integration.



Article from Ministry of Employment

The Government presents the '100 club'

Published 26 October 2015 Updated 26 October 2015

One of our greatest challenges in society is how we can become better at harnessing the skills and experience of people who were born abroad. The current situation demands that the Government, public authorities and companies take new action to identify possibilities for more new arrivals to enter working life. The Government wants to work together with companies that are prepared to employ at least 100 new arrivals to create opportunities based on the conditions and needs of each company.

Everyone needs to lend a hand to get more new arrivals into jobs. The Government is now inviting companies to help out. To this end, the Government is now establishing the '100 club' – an initiative to enable the Arbetsförmedlingen (Swedish Public Employment Service) to offer support and package solutions to major companies that want to help contribute to the introduction of new arrivals while at the same time managing their labour supply. The purpose of the initiative is to customise packages of initiatives based on individual companies' needs so as to create new opportunities for companies to employ at least 100 new arrivals within three years.

Special access to the Arbetsförmedlingen for companies

Companies that want to employ at least 100 new arrivals will be offered special access to the Arbetsförmedlingen. From 12 October, the

Arbetsförmedlingen has set up a new telephone option on its national telephone line for employers. The company will be called back within three days and its needs and requirements will be discussed at a personal meeting, in order to then identify applicants and create a customised package for the company. Examples of measures include fast tracks, career aptitude assessment, employment training, validation of qualifications, entry recruitment incentives, new start jobs, work placement schemes and occupational training with an supervisor. The initiative will apply for three years and will focus on companies that can employ at least 100 new arrivals during this period.

On Monday 12 October, Sweco, Riksbyggen, Ragn-Sells, Axfood and Hemköp announced that they will participate in the initiative and will employ at least 100 new arrivals each.



Article from Ministry of Employment

Informal European ministerial meeting in Stockholm on fair conditions in the labour market

Published 11 September 2015 Updated 14 September 2015

The issue of fair conditions in the labour market is one of the Government's overall EU priorities for 2015. It is a question of fair working conditions in the EU internal market. Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson has invited a number of EU colleagues to an informal meeting in Stockholm on 10–11 September 2015 to discuss the issue.

The right of all EU citizens to move freely and work wherever they wish within the EU is a cornerstone of European cooperation. The single market holds an exceptional potential for social and economic prosperity. But a common European labour market must not lead to poorer conditions for the workers of Europe.

Swedish initiative to discuss fair working conditions

Ms Johansson has invited a number of fellow EU ministers to a meeting in Stockholm on 10–11 September. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange experiences and discuss ways forward to ensure fair working conditions for Europe's workers, while facilitating cross-border mobility.

Representatives from Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovakia, Belgium and France will take part in the meeting.

The European Commission to present proposal at the

end of the year

At the end of 2015, the European Commission plans to present a Labour Mobility Package intended to facilitate labour mobility and prevent misuse. The package is expected to contain proposals for better coordination of social security schemes, and a target-oriented review of the Posting of Workers Directive will provide opportunity to discuss how fair working conditions in the internal market can be achieved.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Employment

Employment and youth unemployment discussed in Milan

Published 10 October 2014 Updated 12 March 2015

Against the backdrop of continuing difficulties in the EU labour market, EU employment ministers met in Milan on 8 October to exchange experiences of labour market reforms.

Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson gave an account of the Government's reform ambitions and expressed the need to give young people opportunities for sustainable employment.

"We must create genuine paths into permanent employment. For me, it is vital that we do not create a new precariat," Ms Johansson emphasised.

The European Network of Public Employment Services' directors-general as well as representatives of the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, the ILO and the OECD took part in the employment ministers' working lunch. The social partners at EU level also attended. In the afternoon, the employment ministers joined the meeting of heads of state and government. At the lunch, Sweden was represented by Ms Johansson. Mikael Sjöberg, Director-General of the Swedish Public Employment Service, also attended.