



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden and the HLPF 2019

Published 05 July 2019

The UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable development will meet in New York on 9-18 July 2019.

The theme will be "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". The set of goals to be reviewed in depth is the following:

- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions

Goal 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development is reviewed every year.

To find out more about Sweden's main messages for each of the goals that are being reviewed at HLPF, click the respective link above.

Sweden will host a side event together with Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on tackling climate-related security risks, conflict and equalities. For more information visit <https://www.sipri.org/>



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sustainable pensions: Improved basic protection for pensioners and a gradual increase in retirement age

Published 24 June 2019

The Government wants to raise pensions. The Government and the Working Group on Pensions have therefore proposed a number of pension measures in bills submitted to the Riksdag on 28 May. The Working Group on Pensions includes the governing parties – the Swedish Social Democratic Party and the Green Party – and the Moderate Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats.

Basic protection for pensioners

The basic protection for pensioners consists of the guarantee pension, the housing supplement for pensioners and maintenance support for elderly persons. The guarantee pension and housing supplement by far cover the most people. These different forms of support are means-tested to varying degrees and are also partially directed at different groups of pensioners.

Government proposes improved basic protection

To improve the basic protection for the least well-off pensioners, several different proposals aim to improve the financial situation for around 830 000 pensioners.

The basic level of the guarantee pension will be raised by SEK 200 per month for everyone who receives the guarantee pension. Pensioners who have not worked or have a low pension for some other reason are entitled to the guarantee pension.

The housing cost ceiling in the housing supplement for pensioners will be raised from SEK 5 600 to SEK 7 000 for those who are unmarried, and to SEK 3 500 for those who are married. This higher ceiling means that the housing supplement will better cover current housing costs while also making it easier for older people to move to housing that is adapted to their needs.

It is suggested that these proposals enter into force on 1 January 2020.

Income throughout life and basic protection

The main principle of the pension system is that a pension is based on the individual's earned income throughout their life, the 'lifetime earnings principle'. The basic protection for pensioners is a departure from this principle. Through the basic protection and housing supplement, individuals who have not worked, or who have worked very little, can receive a higher pension. The proposals aim to strengthen the financial situation of the least well-off pensioners.

Women benefit from the new proposals

The pension system itself is gender neutral and any differences between women's and men's pensions are largely based on previous employment income. Women on average have lower pensions than men because women generally earn less than men, work more part-time, assume more responsibility for unpaid domestic work and are on sick leave more. Women on average also leave working life earlier than men. Around 80 per cent of current pensioners receiving the guarantee pension and housing supplement are women. The proposal to raise the basic level of the guarantee pension by SEK 200 per month is expected to increase the individual disposable income of almost half of today's women pensioners. This investment to enhance the basic protection is estimated to cost a total of around SEK 2.2 billion.

Increasing life expectancy

We are living longer. In the past 50 years, life expectancy has increased by around 7 years for women and 8.5 years for men. We eat better and live

healthier, and new pharmaceuticals prevent and cure previously fatal diseases.

Since the new pension system was introduced in the mid-1990s, life expectancy has increased by almost three years. This is good news, but it means that pensions as a proportion of final wages are falling because they have to last longer.

Gradual increase in retirement age necessary

To guarantee adequate pensions today and in the future, the retirement age needs to gradually rise, while working life also needs to become more sustainable. The Government proposes introducing a new concept: the 'target age for retirement'. The target age aims to serve as a benchmark for deciding when to retire. The target age mainly aims to replace today's well-established standard age of 65 with a retirement age that takes account of the increasing life expectancy in Sweden.

There is no fixed retirement age in the Swedish pension system and, like today, it will remain possible to decide when to retire, as long as a person has reached the minimum age.

A first stage that is now being proposed is to raise the minimum age for drawing a national pension by one year in 2020, from age 61 to 62. It is proposed that the legislative amendments enter into force on 1 December 2019.

The Government has previously proposed that the right to remain in the labour market should be raised in two stages, by one year in 2020 and by an additional year, to age 69, in 2023.

Sustainable working life

Long-term, secure and sustainable pensions require a greater shift than simply making changes to the pension system. A more gender-equal, sustainable and flexible working life is required. It is vital that people are not worn out in the labour market but, on the contrary, are able to go the distance. In order to achieve a sustainable working life and manage future skills supply and long-term sustainable pensions, the opportunity to adapt during working life is key. It must be possible to change course several times in life, perhaps by working with something else or reducing working hours.

The age at which a person starts working is also important. We are studying longer, which also currently leads to later entry into working life in Sweden than in our neighbouring Nordic countries.

Investing in better working environments

The Government is proposing and implementing several measures to achieve a more sustainable working life. High demands in the workplace increase the risk of leaving working life prematurely. Physical demands and ergonomically inadequate working environments also increase the risk. This particularly affects women, who have a higher rate of sickness absence and more health problems, and leave working life earlier than men.

In January 2016, the Government adopted a national work environment strategy for 2016–2020, setting out the direction of the work for the coming five years.

In addition, the Government has implemented several action programmes to reduce sickness absence, increased support to research on working life, signed an agreement with the social partners on healthier workplaces and provided extra funding to occupational health services.

First pensions in 1913

When the decision on the first pensions was adopted in 1913, life expectancy was less than 60 years. At that time, the retirement age was set at 67. In 1976, it was lowered to 65. The new pension system, introduced around 20 years ago, has no fixed retirement age. Despite this, many people still believe that the earlier retirement age of 65 also applies today.

Income pension, premium pension and guarantee pension

The income-based pension is the main part of the national pension system and is based on total earnings throughout a person's life. The longer you work, the higher pension you receive. Income includes salaries, sickness benefit, unemployment benefits, etc.

The premium pension is also based on lifetime earnings. It is placed in funds and everyone may choose the funds into which this money will be placed.

The guarantee pension is there for those who have had little or no income from work during their life. It is linked to the price base amount, calculated annually by Statistics Sweden, based on price-level changes in society. The size of the guarantee pension also depends on how long a person has lived in Sweden. To receive the full guarantee pension, a person must have lived in Sweden for 40 years.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Social insurance agreement signed with Japan

Published 16 April 2019

On 11 April, Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Japan's Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki signed a social security agreement between the two countries. The agreement coordinates the Swedish and Japanese public old-age, survivors' and disability pensions systems (for Sweden, sickness and activity compensation). Japan is one of Sweden's largest trade partners outside the EU.

"The world is getting smaller, and labour market mobility is increasing year on year. Japan is one of our largest trade partners outside the EU, and around 3 000 Swedes work in Japan. This agreement not only increases security for the individual, it is also beneficial for businesses in both countries", says Ms Strandhäll.

Agreement between Sweden and Japan coordinates pension benefits

The agreement encompasses public old-age and survivors' pensions and invalidity benefits, and governs whether a person must be insured for such benefits in Sweden or Japan. As the agreement coordinates the Swedish and Japanese regulatory frameworks, individuals will not lose their accrued social insurance rights, primarily pension rights, when they move between the two countries.

From a Swedish perspective, the agreement will make it easier for Swedes working in Japan to receive Japanese pension payments in the future if they

return to Sweden. At present – before the agreement enters into force – a Swede has to have worked in Japan for 10 years to receive Japanese pension payments in Sweden.

The agreement also makes it possible to combine Swedish and Japanese insurance periods, making it easier for an individual to meet the conditions on which entitlement to a benefit may be based.

Agreement important for Swedish businesses in Japan

Around 3 000 Swedes work in Japan. This agreement will lead to advantages for Swedish businesses and Swedes working in Japan. Thanks to the agreement, businesses will not have to pay social security contributions for the benefits in question in both countries, meaning they avoid ‘double’ social security contributions.

It will also enable businesses to post workers to the other country for up to five years. For the duration of the posting, the worker will continue to be covered by their home country’s legislation on the benefits in question. Self-employed individuals are also covered by the posting regulations.

Family members who accompany a posted worker to the other country will also be covered by their home country’s legislation on the benefits in question for the same period, as long as they themselves do not work in the other country.

Approval required from both parliaments

Following the signing of the agreement, an application agreement will be negotiated. This is necessary so that the authorities in each country are able to process actual cases.

Next, the countries’ parliaments will need to approve the agreement before it can enter into force. In Sweden, this means the Government submitting a government bill to the Riksdag.

The aim of social security agreements

Social security agreements aim to coordinate parts of the public social insurance systems when an individual moves between Sweden and the other

country involved. The intention is that an individual only needs to be insured in one of the countries. This means that people do not lose the social security benefits they have accrued, and social security contributions do not have to be paid in both countries.

Most commonly in such agreements, the basic premise is that individuals are insured in the country in which they work. They usually contain provisions on equal treatment, entitlement to payment of benefits in the other country, combining insurance periods, and administrative assistance between authorities. The rules on combining insurance periods make it possible for Swedish insurance years to be used to meet insurance requirements in the other country.

Sweden's social security agreements with other countries

Sweden has concluded social security agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Cap Verde, Chile, India, Israel, Morocco, the Philippines, Serbia, South Korea, Turkey and the United States. The social security systems within the EU are also coordinated.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Annika Strandhäll on health care investments

Published 23 August 2018

In this film, Minister for Health and Social Affairs Annika Strandhäll talks about health care investments made between 2015 and 2018. The Government has made investments in cancer care, mental health services, women's health, health care accessibility and quality, and other areas.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Government agencies and authorities respond to effects of drought and heat

Published 09 August 2018

Rescue services, government agencies and local authorities are engaged in intensive efforts in response to the forest fires raging around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heat wave. More information about these efforts is available below. Crisis preparedness is part of the remit of every government agency and authority.

Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) manages coordination and national priorities for international support. The MSB maintains constant preparedness and can provide reinforcement resources, both equipment and expertise, if requested by rescue operations leaders or county administrative boards. The MSB is also in regular dialogue with neighbouring countries and the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre concerning international resources.

The MSB has forest fire depots (with hoses, motor pumps and six-wheel ATVs) located around the country, which are being used for several of the fires.

The MSB can also provide personnel with collaboration and leadership

expertise to reinforce actors' management functions.

The MSB reinforces relevant county administrative boards' staffing and their reception of international support. Moreover, the MSB can provide housing solutions, hygiene facilities such as showers and toilets, and high-capacity pumps – resources that include accompanying expertise.

More information about ongoing events and measures relating to the forest fires is available on the MSB website

Information about the forest fires from county administrative boards, municipalities and rescue services is gathered at www.krisinformation.se, the national website for emergency information. Important public announcements (in Swedish only) are published on this website.

- [Krisinformation.se](http://www.krisinformation.se) website

Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard

Swedish Armed Forces, including the Home Guard

The Swedish Armed Forces is providing continued support in the form of personnel and equipment, in response to expressed needs.

More information is available on the Swedish Armed Forces website

Swedish Transport Administration

The Swedish Transport Administration is assisting with firefighting equipment and staffing resources, especially tracked vehicles equipped with water tanks and fire suppression equipment, and personnel to staff this equipment. At the moment, the Swedish Transport Administration is supporting rescue services at forest fires in Gävleborg, Dalarna and Jämtland counties. Traffic is impacted in the affected counties and traffic information is being updated regularly.

More information is available on the Swedish Transport Administration website

Swedish Coast Guard

The Swedish Coast Guard has specially equipped marine patrol aircraft, two of which are now being used to assist rescue services and the MSB with

patrolling, documentation and directing other aircraft resources in connection with the forest fires. The Coast Guard has also produced special maps of the fires.

More information is available on the Swedish Coast Guard website

Swedish Police Authority

The Swedish Police Authority is providing local support from each region and police from unaffected regions. The Police Authority's main task in connection with the fires is to save lives and reduce injuries. This involves cordoning off areas, directing traffic and evacuating residents in accordance with rescue service decisions. The National Operations Department has taken decisions concerning nationwide special events in order to support regions with national resources, where necessary, and prepare for potential decisions concerning nationwide special events. The fires are primarily affecting the Mitt, Nord and Bergslagen police regions. The Police Authority has decided to reinforce resources in the central police region Mitt with a number of police officers from the Öst, Väst Syd and Stockholm police regions.

More information is available on the Swedish Police Authority website

County administrative boards

The county administrative boards are monitoring the forest fires and coordinating efforts between local actors and national level. They are also coordinating county information to the media and the public. County administrative boards also take decisions about fire bans and provide information to the public. All county administrative boards are closely monitoring access to animal feed and water in each county. The grazing and hay harvesting situation is extremely serious in several counties. Some county administrative boards have provided resources to other affect counties. The MSB's assessment is that resources to deal with the ongoing forest fires are currently available at county administrative board level.

County administrative board website

Municipal rescue services

All municipal rescue services are providing assistance based on their

capacity. The number of firefighters and other personnel working to contain the ongoing fires in Sweden is constantly changing. A large number of volunteers, Home Guard personnel, police, and others are also assisting.

Svenska kraftnät

Svenska kraftnät is the government agency that ensures Sweden has a secure electricity supply. Its remit includes ensuring that the country's electricity supply is prepared to handle extreme events, such as fires, that may entail serious strains on society. The electricity system is monitored around the clock. Svenska kraftnät is monitoring the ongoing forest fires closely and is in dialogue with rescue services on the ground and, when necessary, can provide emergency equipment to restore the power grid. This includes tracked vehicles equipped with wireless communications, such as the Raket system. These mobile command and communication units (MOLOS) are operated by Sweden's Voluntary Radio Organisation as instructed by Svenska kraftnät.

[Svenska kraftnät website](#)

Swedish Board of Agriculture

The Swedish Board of Agriculture is working actively to find solutions to alleviate the situation for affected farmers. These solutions include exemptions from regulations, higher advance payments from support funds to help liquidity, and more. For example, the Board has granted an exemption allowing farmers to take feed from grassland that otherwise must not be harvested.

[More information is available on the Board of Agriculture website](#)

National Food Agency

The protracted drought in large parts of the country is creating major problems for agriculture. This also means that everyone must conserve drinking water. At present, around 80 municipalities have introduced a ban on watering. Thus, it is equally as important to save municipal drinking water as private well water. Water is needed for many important activities, such as food production, hospitals and agriculture.

The National Food Agency is cooperating with the Swedish Board of

Agriculture and other authorities to manage the difficult situation of farmers.

More information is available on the National Food Agency website

Swedish Forest Agency

The Swedish Forest Agency is supporting firefighting efforts by providing map data, landowner contact information and equipment such as hoses, pumps and drones. The Agency can also provide staffing resources and coordinate the exchange of information between the forestry sector, the MSB and other government agencies and actors, as well as provide status reports to landowners and the public. The Agency can also conduct inventories and offer support and guidance to affected forest owners.

More information is available on the Swedish Forest Agency website

Swedish Work Environment Authority

Heat can impact employee attentiveness and judgement, which can lead to an increased risk of accidents. The Swedish Work Environment Authority is responsible for issues regarding work environment and working hours, and monitoring legal compliance. At present, the Authority is providing information about relevant risks, work environment responsibilities, preventive measures and applicable regulations. For example, the Authority has gathered information on its website about temperature and climate conditions at workplaces. The Authority is monitoring and analysing developments to prepare for additional measures.

More information is available on the Swedish Work Environment Authority website.

The social partners are monitoring compliance with labour legislation such as the Annual Leave Act and collective agreements that may regulate working hours, for example.

Swedish Work Environment Authority website

SOS Alarm

Response times for the emergency number 112 are increasing, and the system is under pressure. SOS Alarm has heightened its level of

preparedness, producing status reports each day (at 06.00, 09.00, 15.00 and 20.30) and enabling measures to be taken when necessary. SOS Alarm is urging people to refrain from calling the emergency number 112 if they are not in acute or immediate need of help.

More information is available on the SOS Alarm website

National Board of Health and Welfare

The National Board of Health and Welfare works to strengthen the preparedness of health, medical care and social service providers before, during and after serious incidents. In light of the ongoing heat wave and the many serious forest fires in the country, the Board is working with other government monitoring agencies.

More information is available on the National Board of Health and Welfare website

Public Health Agency of Sweden

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides targeted advice for municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors to use in their efforts to reduce health risks associated with heat waves. This advice is then passed on to the individuals concerned.

More information is available on the Public Health Agency of Sweden website

Lantmäteriet

Lantmäteriet, the government agency that produces maps of Sweden, is currently using its expertise to support other agencies. It has established a 'geo cell' in Färila, Sweden, staffed by Lantmateriet personnel with GIS expertise, and equipped with hardware such as computers, printers and plotters that can compile, analyse and print out maps based on the needs of rescue services, the police, county administrative boards and the MSB. Lantmäteriet takes part in regional collaboration conferences and the national collaboration conferences for government agencies.

Lantmäteriet website

Swedish Post and Telecom Authority

The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS) is collaborating with other government agencies and societal actors, providing regular status reports on electronic communications. PTS is in regular contact with sector actors and has convened a meeting of the National Telecommunications Coordination Group (NTSG). PTS has also assigned a radio frequency permit to Polish rescue services.

More information is available on the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority website

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is reaching out to businesses and organisations in the hospitality industry to enable them to inform tourists about the serious situation in Sweden and current conditions.

Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth website

Swedish Maritime Administration

The Swedish Maritime Administration has had an ongoing dialogue with the MSB for the past week concerning the type of support the Administration can provide to fight the fires raging around Sweden. The Administration is supporting the MSB by coordinating society's combined resources. This involves overall planning, leadership and strategies for system managers, staff functions and prioritising society's resources from a national perspective. It also includes aircraft coordination and logistics support, which may entail optimising fuel supplies of the aircraft resources taking part.

More information is available on the Swedish Maritime Administration website

Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) issues heat warnings when a period of high or extreme temperatures is expected. High temperatures put a strain on the body, creating problems particularly for risk groups.

Heat warnings on the SMHI website

SMHI and the Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) collaborate and provide continuous updates on the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

Water shortage risk service (in Swedish) on the SMHI website

Geological Survey of Sweden

The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU) monitors groundwater trends and publishes up-to-date maps showing how much groundwater levels differ from normal monthly levels.

Groundwater levels on the SGU website

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has national responsibility for supervision guidance on drinking water and groundwater protection, and water-related activity (including withdrawing water for watering/irrigation).

Water guidelines on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website

Information about water shortages on the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management website

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and actions individuals can take.

Information about water shortages (in Swedish) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website

Medical Products Agency

The Medical Products Agency is responsible for approving and regulating medicinal products and natural remedies, and for the supervision of medical devices. Advice from the Medical Products Agency about storing medicinal

products during periods of prolonged heat is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website.

More information is available on the 1177 Vårdguiden website



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Heatwave and health

Published 01 August 2018

Sweden is experiencing unusually high temperatures this summer. Heatwaves can cause problems for people's health. Exposure to heat carries with it different risks for different individuals.

Risk groups are above all elderly people, the chronically ill, people with disabilities, young children, pregnant women and people on medication.

The Government is in continuous contact with the relevant agencies. Weekly meetings at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions provide the Government with updates on what the various agencies are doing to help elderly people and others in the heat. The meetings will continue as long as the current situation persists.

Private individuals can contact their county council and 1177 Vårdguiden for information and advice about various heatwave-related health risks. Advice about the heatwave (in Swedish) on the 1177 Vårdguidens website

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides advice for different target groups that can be used by municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors in health and medical care services.

Public health advice in English on preventing health effects of heat from The World Health Organisation, WHO

High temperatures can influence the growth of bacteria in drinking water and food. The National Food Agency website has information and advice.

Information (in Swedish) on The National Food Agency's website



Article from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Cooperation to combat effects of drought and heat

Published 20 July 2018 Updated 08 August 2018

The prolonged heat and drought have impacted many sectors of society. There have been numerous forest fires, the agricultural sector has been severely affected by the drought and groundwater levels have dropped. The extreme temperatures can also cause health problems, especially among older people and the sick. The Government is following developments closely and taking the necessary decisions. The Government Offices is in continuous contact with the responsible government agencies.

In view of the forest fires around the country, the widespread drought and the ongoing heatwave, intensive efforts are under way among rescue services, government agencies and municipalities.

Efforts to stop the forest fires

At present, several forest fires are raging around the country and the rescue services are making tremendous efforts to protect people, property, forests and the functioning of society.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency is coordinating relevant agencies and supporting municipal rescue services, together with the Swedish Armed Forces and the county administrative boards, by providing reinforcements in

terms of equipment, staff and expertise.

Via the EU, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency has requested assistance in the form of firefighting aircraft from other European countries.

The work of the authorities is crucial to combating the fires. But everyone also carries a personal responsibility. In many parts of the country, fire bans are in place. Remember to check whether a fire ban is in place where you are.

EU Civil Protection Mechanism

Information about the forest fires at krisinformation.se

Information about the forest fires on the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency website

Efforts to support agriculture

The Government is closely following developments in the agriculture sector and continues alongside government agencies and other actors to seek solutions to the challenges emerging so as to alleviate the situation for farmers. For example, the Government will provide SEK 1,2 billion in national funds to strengthen the liquidity of our farmers. Sweden is also an active dialogue with the EU about exemptions and other solutions to alleviate the situation for Swedish farmers.

Heatwave and health

The heatwave can cause problems for people's health. Exposure to heat carries with it different risks for different individuals. Risk groups are above all elderly people, the chronically ill, people with disabilities, young children, pregnant women and people on medication.

The Government has ongoing contact with the relevant government agencies and local authorities. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs holds weekly meetings with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. These meetings bring the Government up to date on what the government agencies are doing to help older people and others cope with the heat. The meetings will continue as long as the current situation persists.

Private individuals can contact their county council and 1177 Vårdguiden for information and advice about various heatwave-related health risks.

Advice about the heatwave (in Swedish) on the 1177 Vårdguidens website

The Public Health Agency of Sweden provides advice for different target groups that can be used by municipalities, county councils, regions and private actors in health and medical care services.

High temperatures can influence the growth of bacteria in drinking water and food. The National Food Agency website has information and advice.

Water levels and water supply

The Government is closely following developments in groundwater levels and water supply and has continuous contact with the responsible agencies. Municipalities are responsible for the public supply of drinking water.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency provides general information about water shortages, drought and what measures people can take themselves.

Information about water shortages (in Swedish) on the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency website

The Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and the Geological Survey of Sweden collaborate and provide continuous updates about the risk of water shortages in their 'water shortage risk' service.

Water shortage service (in Swedish) on the SMHI website



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Reforms for increased security and welfare in the Budget Bill for 2018

Published 27 September 2017

In the Budget Bill for 2018, the Government presents a range of proposals to increase security and welfare in Sweden. Here you can learn more about the proposals related to the areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Children's rights

The proposal is presented in expenditure area 9 'Health care, medical care and social services'.

Summit on ending violence against children

In February 2018, Sweden will host the Solutions Summit, a high-level gathering bringing together representatives of governments, international organisations and other actors working to end all forms of violence against girls and boys. The Summit is part of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, of which Sweden is a member, launched at the initiative of UNICEF and WHO.

Disabilities

The proposal is presented in expenditure area 9 'Health care, medical care and social services'.

Increased standard amount for assistance allowance

The Government intends to increase the standard amount for assistance allowance by 1.5 per cent. This is a higher adjustment than in 2017, when the standard amount was increased by 1.05 per cent.

Improved interpretation services in working life

The Government is investing in greater access to interpretation services in working life. The aim is to strengthen the labour market opportunities of women and men who are deaf, deaf-blind or have a hearing impairment. The Government intends to allocate SEK 15 million per year for this purpose in 2018–2020.

Gender equality

The proposals are presented in expenditure area 13 'Gender equality and integration of newly arrived immigrants'.

Multi-year investment to combat honour-related violence and oppression

The Government intends to make a coordinated, multi-year investment to prevent and combat honour-related violence and oppression comprising measures worth SEK 100 million in 2018 and SEK 57 million per year in 2019–2020.

Appropriations to the new gender equality agency

The Government has decided to establish a gender equality agency to help ensure strategic, coherent and sustainable governance, and effective implementation of gender equality policy. The agency, which will be located in Gothenburg and open on 1 January 2018, has been allocated SEK 80 million for 2018.

Social insurance

The proposals outlined below are presented in expenditure area 10 'Financial security for the sick and disabled'.

Higher ceiling in the sickness insurance system

The ceiling for the sickness benefit qualifying income will be increased from seven and a half times to eight times the price base amount from 1 July 2018.

1. The housing supplement and the special housing supplement will be increased from 1 January 2018.
2. Tax will be reduced for people receiving activity and sickness compensation from 1 January 2018.
3. Guarantee compensation will increase by SEK 300 from 1 July 2018.

Improvements for people receiving activity and sickness compensation

The Government proposes reforms in three different areas that improve the financial situation of people receiving activity and sickness compensation.

4. The housing supplement and the special housing supplement will be increased from 1 January 2018.
5. Tax cuts for people receiving activity and sickness compensation will apply from 1 January 2018.
6. Guarantee compensation will increase by SEK 300 from 1 July 2018.

Proposal for sickness benefit pending a final decision

The aim of the proposal is to ensure that people on sick leave will not have their benefit suspended retroactively.

Under the proposal:

- A matter concerning sickness benefit may not be decided to the detriment of the insured without informing the insured of the content of the upcoming decision and giving them an opportunity to comment on it.
- Sickness benefit qualifying income will apply during the time the insured is waiting for the final decision.
- If sickness benefit has been paid previously, it will be paid until Försäkringskassan (Swedish Social Insurance Agency) has made a final decision.

Proposal for enhanced rehabilitation to promote return to work

The Government and the Left Party have together proposed measures to stimulate and ensure early assessment of rehabilitation needs and early measures for adaptation and workplace rehabilitation. The aim is to strengthen the individual's access to rehabilitation.

The proposals outlined below are presented in expenditure area 11 'Financial security for the elderly'.

Higher housing supplement for pensioners

The housing supplement, the special housing supplement and maintenance support for older people will be increased from 1 January 2018. The Government is investing SEK 655 million annually and 290 000 pensioners will be affected by the increase, 75 per cent of them women.

Tax cut for pensioners

On 1 January 2018, taxes will be cut by up to SEK 5 000 per year for 75 per cent of people over the age of 65. This will apply to 1.5 million over 65s, which means that 3 out of 4 older people will receive tax cuts in 2018.

The proposals outlined below are presented in expenditure area 12 'Financial security for families and children'.

Increased child allowance

The Government proposes that child allowance and extended child allowance be increased by SEK 200 per month per child from 1 March 2018.

New age-differentiated maintenance support

The Government wants to raise maintenance support for older children to improve the situation of families with children with the greatest financial needs. This is a twofold initiative for teenagers aged 15 and over, and children aged between 11 and 14.

Health care

The proposals outlined below are presented in expenditure area 9 'Health care, medical care and social services'.

Patient billion – enhanced health care guarantee in primary care and patient contract

The Government wants to support the introduction of an enhanced health care guarantee in primary care to improve patient accessibility. SEK 1 billion per year will be allocated for this in 2018–2021. The 'Patient billion' will also support the introduction of a patient contract to promote a more coherent approach to planned care. This is particularly important for patients with complex care needs and frequent contact with health care providers.

Good working conditions and new working methods for health care staff

The Government is investing to improve conditions for health care staff and develop health care activities. When health care staff have more time to provide their patients with treatment and care, patient safety is strengthened. SEK 2 billion will be allocated per year in 2018–2021 for this purpose.

More investments in maternity care

To address the problems and shortcomings experienced in maternity care, the Government proposes that the current investment be extended and expanded by SEK 1 billion per year up to 2022.

Increased general dental care subsidy

The Government intends to double the general dental care subsidy from SEK 300 to SEK 600 for the 22–29 age group, from SEK 150 to SEK 300 for the 30–64 age group, and from SEK 300 to SEK 600 for the over 65s.

Free cervical cancer screening

The Government is investing in free cervical cancer screening to ensure that no woman feels she is unable to afford a pap test.

Initiatives to improve mental health

The Government sees a major need to expand investments in mental health services and mental health. It is therefore strengthening efforts in this area by providing SEK 650 million in 2018 and SEK 1150 million per year in

2019 and 2020.

Strengthened child health services

The Government wants to increase accessibility to child health care services for groups with poor general health and poor dental health. SEK 137 million per year will be allocated for this purpose in 2018–2020. These funds will also be used to develop vaccine information and communication efforts to increase vaccination levels. The Government also intends to take a decision concerning the inclusion of the rotavirus vaccine in the national vaccination programme for children.

Social welfare services

The proposals outlined below are presented in expenditure area 9 'Health care, medical care and social services'.

Free holiday activities and swimming lessons

The Government is investing in free school holiday activities. It intends to allocate SEK 250 million per year in 2018–2020 to enable the municipalities to offer free activities during school holidays.

Support to older people with considerable health and social care needs

Older people with multiple illnesses and those in great need of care require the involvement of many different actors. Organisational changes are required and health care and social services need to be coordinated. The Government proposes that SEK 12 million per year be allocated for these initiatives in 2018–2020.

Falls prevention

Falls are the leading cause of accidental death, hospitalisation and visits to emergency departments. To achieve the goal of halving the number of fall-related accidents, the Government intends to enhance prevention efforts.

Staff reinforcements in social care for children and young people

The Government's ongoing investment to increase staffing levels in social care for children and young people will continue as planned. In 2018–2020, the Government intends to invest an additional SEK 250 million per year to strengthen initiatives for children subjected to or at risk of abuse.

Reinforced appropriation to the National Board of Institutional Care

Over the last three years, demand has been very high for residential care places provided by the National Board of Institutional Care (SiS). To enable SiS to expand its capacity, the Government intends to increase the administrative appropriation by SEK 40 million in 2017, SEK 110 million in 2018 and SEK 150 million per year in 2019–2021.

Central government initiative to combat acute homelessness

In 2018–2021, the Government will provide the municipalities with SEK 25 million per year as support for their work to combat acute homelessness.

Habilitation compensation

As of 2018, the Government intends to provide municipalities with a grant of SEK 350 million for their efforts related to habilitation compensation.



Article from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Innovation partnership programmes impact Swedish innovative environments

Published 04 September 2017

The collaborations, initiatives and projects that have resulted so far from the five innovation partnership programmes were presented when the National Innovation Council met on Monday 28 August. Together, the project managers and the Council looked to the future and discussed critical success factors, goals and opportunities for developing these partnerships. The experiences of partnership working, where the business sector, academia and organisations work together strategically, were highlighted and discussed by the Council.

The innovation partnership programmes originated from the three social challenges that the National Innovation Council highlighted at the beginning of the electoral period: digitalisation, life sciences, and environmental and climate technologies. The Council has followed the work over the year and provided input, stressing for example the importance of joining forces to increase skills supply.

The innovation partnership programmes were launched on 1 June 2016. The partnership groups associated with the programmes focused on identifying challenges and opportunities for each programme and priority setting of important areas for joint action. Several working groups have been established and a number of concrete partnership projects have been

developed.

Within the framework of a partnership project, available public resources and co-financing from the business sector can be used jointly to meet specified priorities. Even so, the Government has provided additional funds for measures related to the innovation partnership programmes, including through the Research and Innovation Bill adopted by the Riksdag in early 2017. These funds are primarily channelled through programmes and calls for projects from the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council Formas.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Changes to the subscription service for content concerning health care, public health and sport

Published 01 June 2017

Changes will be made to the subscription service for some areas on government.se from 2 June. This includes 'Health care' becoming a subscription area of its own, while 'Public health and sport' will be combined within a single area. In order to continue to receive the content you want, you may need to update your subscription on government.se.

As a result of the changes:

- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on public health, you will need to add the area 'Public health and sport' to your subscription.
- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on health care, you do not need to do anything: you will continue to receive it, but under the category of 'Health care'.
- If you wish to continue to subscribe to content on sport, you do not need to do anything: you will continue to receive it, but under the category of 'Public health and sport'.

How to change your subscription

You can change your subscription from Friday 2 June, as follows:

1. Click on the 'Change your subscription' link found at the bottom of any subscription email from the Government. You will be taken straight to the web page entitled 'Subscribe via email'.

2. Click on 'Select area'. Your previous choices will already be checked. You can now add or remove your areas of interest, e.g. 'Public health and sport' or 'Health care'.

3. Click on 'Create/change subscription'.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gender-equal pensions

Published 14 February 2017 Updated 14 February 2017

The Working Group on Pensions takes a holistic approach on gender-unequal pensions. Within the framework of the ongoing review of pensions, a project – ‘Gender-equal pensions’ – was carried out, aimed at tackling the challenge presented by the large differences in women’s and men’s pensions.

The differences in pensions between women and men are relatively large, larger than the pay differences between the sexes. The national pension system is in itself gender neutral, and the differences therefore have their roots in factors outside the pension system. These differences existed when the pension reform was carried out 20 years ago and will exist for a long time – even if both working life and gender-unequal social structures were changed tomorrow.

The project has investigated nine different sub-areas and the impact they have on women's and men's pensions. Based on this kind of analysis, measures will then be considered on how to achieve more gender-equal pensions.

The nine sub-areas are:

- The income gap for pensioners – income disparities between women and men
- The importance of basic protection for gender-equal pensions
- Occupational pensions' contribution to the pension gap
- The importance of the 'widow's pension' for gender-equal pensions
- The impact of part-time work on pensions
- Why do women leave working life earlier than men?
- Shared pension rights between spouses

- Transfer of premium pension rights between spouses
- Pension rights for childcare years and studies and how they contribute to gender-equal pensions.

The analyses were presented at a seminar and in a memorandum on 21 June 2016.

Action plan for gender-equal pensions

Pensions reflect people's lifetime earnings. Even if, from an international perspective, Sweden is a relatively gender-equal country, women still have lower salaries, they work part-time to a greater extent, have a higher rate of sickness absence and take more responsibility for the family. This means that a woman's lifetime earnings are lower, which can also be seen in their pension statement. In light of the differences that exist between women's and men's pensions, the Working Group on Pensions (the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Moderate Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats) decided in May 2015 that a special review of pensions should be carried out from a gender-equality perspective.

In a first step, an analysis of the pension gap has been done from nine different perspectives. The analysis was presented in the report 'Gender-equal pensions?' (Ds 2016:19) in June 2016. The communication was subsequently circulated for comment to a number of public authorities, and a relatively large number of comments have been received. Based on the analysis carried out and the comments received, the Working Group on Pensions has adopted an action plan for further work: Action plan for gender-equal pensions.

Discussions with the social partners on a longer working life

Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll appointed Göran Hägglund and Göran Johnsson as process coordinators for a dialogue with the social partners that the Working Group on Pensions has decided should be the starting point for work on measures for a longer working life. The report 'Statement of intent on a longer working life' was presented in September 2016.

Working Group on Pensions: how it works

The Working Group on Pensions consists of representatives of the parties that support the pension agreement (the parties in government and the Moderate Party, the Liberal Party, the Centre Party and the Christian Democrats), chaired by Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll. The other members are: Tomas Eneroth (Social Democratic Party), Fredrik Lundh Sammeli (Social Democratic Party), Lars-Arne Staxäng (Moderate Party), Solveig Zander (Centre Party), Mats Persson (Liberal Party), Lars Gustafsson (Christian Democrats) and Rickard Persson (Green Party).

The Working Group on Pensions is tasked with safeguarding the pension agreement and preserving the pension reform and its fundamental principles. The Working Group on Pensions is to consult on issues concerning the pension reform and, if necessary, take initiatives to adjust the pension system. The head of the Working Group is the government minister with the main responsibility for the national pension system.

The Swedish Pensions Agency administers the national pension

The Swedish Pensions Agency administers the national pension and related pension benefits, and provides information about them. The Swedish Social Insurance Inspectorate ensures that the Swedish Pensions Agency conducts its administration with due process and efficiency.

[Swedish Pensions Agency website](#)

[Swedish Social Insurance Inspectorate website](#)

Background: Pensions

The national pension is called the 'statutory pension', which covers everyone who has worked and lived in Sweden. The amount a person receives as their pension depends on how much they have earned, how long they have worked and how earnings in Sweden have grown.

The national pension consists of:

- Income pension
- Premium pension
- Guarantee pension.

In addition to this, most people receive an occupational pension from their employer. People may also have private pension savings with banks or insurance companies.

Income pension, premium pension and guarantee pension

The income pension is the main part of the national pension system and is based on total earnings throughout a person's life. Income includes salaries, sickness benefit, unemployment benefits, etc.

The premium pension is also based on lifetime earnings. It is placed in funds and everyone may choose the funds into which this money will be placed.

The guarantee pension is there for those who have had low or no income from work in their life. It is linked to the price base amount calculated annually by Statistics Sweden. The size of the guarantee pension depends on how long a person has lived in Sweden. To receive the full guarantee pension, a person must have lived in Sweden for 40 years.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gender-equal parenting and good conditions for children to grow up in, a review of parental insurance

Published 22 February 2016 Updated 22 February 2016

An Inquiry will conduct a review of the rules for parental leave and parental insurance. The purpose is to identify problems and propose measures so that parental insurance can contribute to a greater extent to gender equality in the labour market and gender-equal parenting and can keep contributing to good conditions for children to grow up in.

Comment by Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll:

Why is the review of parental insurance being conducted right now?

"It is simply high time. Parental insurance has been in place for over 40 years, and although changes have been made along the way, society itself has changed quicker than the design of the insurance. By conducting a review, we will be able to see how the insurance needs to be changed to better enable modern and gender-equal working and family life. Everyone must have the same opportunities to use parental insurance regardless of whether they run their own company or are employed.

Women claim three quarters of parental benefit days and also carry out the majority of unpaid work in the home. They work part-time more often, have poorer career development, take more sick leave, and their pensions are 30 per cent lower than men's pensions. The Inquiry will examine how we can

facilitate the use of parental insurance for various family constellations, and will analyse the need to simplify."

The Government chose to collect the views of referral bodies at an early stage. Why was that?

"In this work, attitudes and approaches need to change. A number of actors in society must take responsibility for this development. For this reason, we wanted to involve the referral bodies as early as the start-up phase. It is also a way for us to ensure from the very beginning that we do not miss any wise thoughts and important perspectives. Now we are ready to tackle this major and important task, and I am full of expectation ahead of the proposals that the Inquiry will submit."

The Inquiry will present its findings on 1 October 2017.

Opinion piece: Adapt parental insurance to suit modern working life

Committee terms of reference

An Inquiry will conduct a review of the rules for parental leave and parental insurance. The purpose is to identify problems and propose measures so that parental insurance can contribute to a greater extent to gender equality in the labour market and gender-equal parenting and can keep contributing to good conditions for children to grow up in. (Decision at a government meeting on 4 February 2016.)

Summary

An Inquiry will conduct a review of the rules for parental leave and parental insurance. The purpose is to identify problems and propose measures so that parental insurance can contribute to a greater extent to gender equality in the labour market and gender-equal parenting and can keep contributing to good conditions for children to grow up in. Parental insurance must be adapted to a modern labour market and its requirements, and provide conditions for a good balance between family and working life. It must also be designed to be effective regardless of the form a family takes.

The Inquiry is to submit proposals for a design of parental insurance that is fit-for-purpose, clear and easy to administer, that helps achieve the subsidiary objectives of gender equality policy concerning economic equality and an even distribution between parents of unpaid housework and care

work, and that focuses on the best interests of the child.

The principle of loss of income is to remain one of the cornerstones of parental insurance.

In carrying out the assignment, the Inquiry Chair is to do the following:

- Analyse and propose measures needed to achieve an even distribution between parents with regard to parental leave, parental benefits and temporary parental benefit.
- Analyse whether age limits for the right to parental leave, with or without parental benefits, are well-balanced and whether there is need for change.
- In particular, analyse the conditions for and consequences of reserving further months for which a parent cannot transfer the parental benefit entitlement to the other parent.
- Analyse and propose how to limit possibilities for parental leave with parental benefits so that a parent coming to Sweden with children can only use a limited number of days with parental benefits after the child turns two years old. The purpose of the limitation is to shorten the period before introduction in the labour market.
- Identify problems and examine possibilities for various family constellations to use parental insurance and propose changes as needed.
- Survey conditions and opportunities for entrepreneurs and students to use parental insurance and propose changes as needed.
- Analyse the need to simplify and, based on the various purposes of parental insurance, refine the regulatory framework to make it clear and easy for parents to use and to provide good conditions for effective and legally secure administration with good opportunities for control.
- Consider the proposals' impact on coordination under Council Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and take account of other EU legislative rules.

The remit includes drawing up necessary legislative proposals.

Committee report

An interim report is to be submitted no later than 31 October 2016 and the final report no later than 1 October 2017.

The Inquiry is to report the part of the remit related to changed age limits in parental benefits for children born abroad but who move to Sweden no later

than 31 October 2016. The Inquiry is to present its overall report no later than 1 October 2017.

Background

Parental insurance plays a key role in realising objectives in financial family policy, child rights policy, labour market policy and gender equality policy. It promotes labour force participation by both parents, provides children with a possibility to be cared for by their parents and enables good living conditions for families with children. During the four decades since its introduction in 1974, parental insurance has developed to include a number of different insurance situations and in particular, parental benefits have become more generous with regard to the opportunity for longer leave from work.

The overall aim of parental insurance is to provide both parents with equal opportunities for compensation for loss of earned income when they are looking after a child and thereby make combining family and working life easier. Today, parental insurance includes numerous types of closely related yet independent support for families with children, such as parental benefits, temporary parental benefit and pregnancy benefit. In addition, the specified benefits constitute pensionable income, which forms the basis of income-based old-age pensions and for which national old age pension contributions are paid.

Parental insurance largely consists of work-related benefits, i.e. people who work in Sweden, as employees or entrepreneurs, are insured for parental benefits at sickness benefit level and basic level, temporary parental benefit and pregnancy benefit.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Gender equality in health

Published 21 July 2015 Updated 21 July 2015

Avoidable health inequalities will be eliminated in a generation. The long-term goal is to eliminate the disparities between women's and men's sick leave, while reducing sick leave rates in general to a low and stable level. Men's violence against women must stop.

Current challenge

Sick leave

Sick leave in Sweden, as in many other countries, exhibits a considerable bias in its gender distribution. Women are off sick to a far greater extent than men; two out of three people on sick leave are women. This is a historic pattern that has persisted over time.

Psychiatric diagnoses are now the most common cause of sick leave and are increasing among both women and men; however, the increase is greater among women.

Mental ill health

The risk of a young woman attempting to take her own life is three times as high as the risk of a young man doing so. Self-reported mental and somatic problems are increasing, particularly among girls aged 13 to 15. In addition, the difference between girls' and boys' perceived health increases with age.

Men's violence against women

Many women are still subjected to abuse. In 2014, a total of 28 200 cases of

abuse of women were reported to the police. This is an increase of 5 per cent compared with 2013. The number of reported rapes increased by 13 per cent between 2013 and 2014, to 6 620 reported offences. Around 17 women are killed each year by a man they have or have had a close relationship with.

HeForShe goals

Avoidable health inequalities will be eliminated in a generation. The long-term goal is to eliminate the disparities between women's and men's sick leave, while reducing sick leave rates in general to a low and stable level. Men's violence against women must stop.

HeForShe initiatives

- The Government has appointed a national commission for health equity. Consistent attention will be given to gender health disparities in this work.
- To respond to women's higher sick leave rates, all relevant stakeholders in society need to be mobilised. This includes public authorities, employers, and health and medical care, as well as measures for women's work environment.
- The Government is considering a future long-term initiative to strengthen preventive work in the area of mental health and improve early action for young people suffering from mental health problems.
- The Government is investing in sport and expects the sports movement, at all levels, to redouble its efforts to achieve gender equality in sports to give those who are actively involved the same opportunities to realise their interest in participating, regardless of gender.
- A national strategy will be drawn up for work on men's violence against women. The Government will strengthen its support to women's shelters that support and protect women subjected to violence. The rape legislation will be reviewed so that more sexual offences are cleared up. Sentences for aggravated sexual offences will be made tougher. More will be done to promote increased participation by men in these efforts to promote change. The Government has extended support to a national telephone line which people, primarily men, who risk committing sexual assaults can call for advice and assistance in obtaining treatment. Work will be stepped up on changing gender stereotypes surrounding masculinity, violence and destructive masculine behaviour.



Article from Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

A more equal parental insurance system

Published 02 June 2015 Updated 01 April 2015

The Government is proposing a third 'reserved' month of parental benefit. The aim of the proposal is to achieve a more gender-equal take-up of parental benefit, which strengthens the right of children to both their parents. The proposal is also aimed at increasing gender equality in the labour market.

At present, two months of parental benefit are reserved for each parent. It is proposed that the new system apply from 1 January 2016 for children born or adopted from that date.

Annika Strandhäll, minister for social security: – The proposal is important because we can see that parents are not sharing parental benefit days equally at present. Women take considerably more days than men, which means spending more time away from the labour market. This can have consequences for women in terms of weaker wage development, fewer career opportunities and even a lower pension as a result of lower lifetime earnings. The proposal would therefore improve gender equality in several ways, in terms of both the situation of women in the labour market and the sharing of unpaid household work. It also strengthens the child's right to both parents.

Parents not taking parental benefit in a gender-equal way

The current take-up of parental benefit is not gender-equal. Women take a considerably larger proportion of parental benefit than men. This can result

in the division of housework and provision of care being established early on, meaning that women shoulder a greater burden of this work and also remain away from the labour market for longer as a result of long periods of parental leave, part-time work and a higher take-up of temporary parental benefit (to care for a sick child).

Gender equality in the labour market

Absence from the labour market can have an impact on the labour market situation of women, resulting in both worse wage development and fewer career opportunities compared with men. It can also mean lower pensions. On the other hand, men can also come across obstacles in the labour market stopping them from taking longer periods of parental leave or working part-time.

Parental leave and how it is divided up between men and women - measured as take-up of parental benefit days - therefore has a significant impact on how gender equality in the labour market develops. Against this background, there is a need to take measures that enable the care of a child and housework to be divided in a more gender-equal way between parents.

Additional 30 days to be reserved for each parent

The proposal involves reserving an additional 30 days for each parent that can be paid as parental benefit at the sickness benefit level. This means that 180 of the total 390 days of parental benefit at sickness benefit level will not be transferable to the other parent. This will create strong incentives for the parent currently not taking as many days - often the father - to take more parental benefit days. The reserved days within the parental benefit system are themselves an incentive for parents to take parental benefit days as they cannot be transferred to the other parent.

Timetable and implementation

It is proposed that the new regulations enter into force on 1 January 2016. The current regulations will still apply to parental benefit and the gender equality bonus for children born before that date.