European Year of Workers Mobility in Slovenia
Closing Conference
“Workers Mobility: The Way Forward”

Labour Integration Policy for Immigrants in Sweden

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Sweden in figures

• Inhabitants – 9 million

• Foreign born – 12 per cent

• Foreign background – 15 per cent

• Employment rate – 72,3 per cent

• Unemployment – 7,8 per cent

Source: Statistics Sweden and Eurostat
Sweden is an immigrant country

- A higher proportion of immigrants than UK, IE, NL, FR
- Almost as high as in USA
- A change from economic migration to humanitarian migration in the middle of the 1970s
- Sweden has never had a guest worker system
Labour Migration

- Open labour market for workers from new MS in the EU
- New regulation for third country citizens will allow for increased labour migration
- Today temporary work permits for people outside the EU
- Migration policy hand-in-hand- with integration policy
Labour market status for immigrants

• Lower work-participation
  Immigrants: 69,7%  Swedish born: 80,6%

• Higher unemployment
  Immigrants: 11,3%  Swedish born: 5,1%

• Lower employment rate
  Immigrants: 61,8%  Swedish born: 76,5%

Source: Statistics Sweden, 2005, age 16-64
Factors behind poor integration

• Discrimination

• Language difficulties

• Lack of networks
Objectives for Swedish Integration Policy

• Equal rights, obligations and opportunities for everyone, regardless of ethnic and cultural background.

• Social cohesion built on diversity.

• Social development characterised by mutual respect for cultural differences so long as these do not conflict with the basic values of society and in which everyone, irrespective of background, should participate and share a sense of commitment.
Measures to improve integration

• More jobs
• Better introduction of newly arrived immigrants
• Language training in combination with working life experiences
• Effective labour market policy measures
• Better co-operation between authorities
• Co-operation with the social partners
• Measures to counteract discrimination
• Better follow-up and evaluation
Work Place Induction

• Builds on methods from “supported employment”
• For job ready immigrants
• Structured work in six steps for a maximum time of six months
• 275 specially trained employment officers
• Subsidized employment if needed
• 57 per cent were still at work after WPI
• An evaluation of the effects shows that WPI has good effects on the possibility of getting a job
Trial opportunity

- Three months’ work experience scheme soon after the registration at PES
- A joint initiative from the Confederation of Swedish Enterprises and the Government
- To give the immigrant an opportunity to demonstrate his knowledge and competence
- A certificate signed by the employer
- Can be combined with procedures on the job for the assessment of professional skills
The assessment of professional skills on the job

- To get a first and quick assessment
- Carried out at work
- A part of the measure “trial opportunity”
- Remuneration to the employer
- A certificate signed by the employer
Joint declaration of intent

- Between central labour market organisations and the government
- Contains integration measures to increase employment, promote equal opportunities and counteract discrimination
What comes next?

• More worthwhile to work and easier to employ
• Simpler and more profitable to run a business
• LMP will be made more effective
• The work-first principle will be made clear in unemployment insurance