



Statement by Ola Henrikson in panel "Collaboration through innovative partnerships on promoting migrant integration and social cohesion", IOM Council meeting

- Excellencies, Friends, Dear Colleagues,
- I am honoured to speak on the important topic of "Collaboration through innovative partnerships on promoting migrant integration and social cohesion"
- Sweden has a long-standing tradition of welcoming migrants. Migration does not only contribute to development through the hundreds of billions of dollars remitted each year. Migration also contribute through filling needs on the labour market, encouraging trade and investment between countries as well as transferring skills and ideas as transnational networks are formed.
- One example of the many positive contributions of migrants is the Swedish ICT sector, which each year employs thousands of IT specialists from all over the world. Their employment in Sweden is often essential to the success of Swedish companies. But it also empowers people from developing countries such as India and China by increasing their knowhow and financial situation, and thus, in the long-run, also the development in their home countries.
- For migrants who come to Sweden specifically to work, the Swedish labour migration system provides an avenue to go from temporary to permanent migration status once firmly established on the labour market.

- Spouses of migrant workers coming to Sweden are entitled to work. This empowering policy is good for gender equality and it is good for integration.
- Looking more broadly, workers in Sweden enjoy the same labour rights regardless of their country of origin. This means, for example, that migrant workers have equal access to parental leave and child care; that they have access to the same level of health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights. Such rights are crucial for decent work in general and for gender equality in particular.
- In 2015, we experienced the largest per-capita inflow of asylum seekers ever recorded in an OECD country. This has caused strains on our reception systems and will have a long term impact in various sectors of the Swedish society.
- What we are now experiencing when welcoming so many newly arrive immigrants to Sweden in such a short period, is also an opportunity
- Let me share some of our experiences with integrating newly arrived immigrants into the Swedish society. Around 70 percent of newly arrived immigrants currently in Sweden are between 20 and 39 years old. This means that the number of persons in Sweden who have valuable experiences, connections and language skills from other parts of the world keep increasing.
- [About out one third are well educated, but some have basic education and some lack sufficient skills for the Swedish labour market. We need to provide sufficient tools and opportunities for people to fulfil their potential and contribute to society.]
- In order to lower the threshold for newly arrived immigrants to enter the labour market, we have introduced a number of targeted measures, such as subsidized jobs, complementary education and programs for validation and work placement.
- For newly arrived immigrants, Sweden has a fast-track system for sectors with skills-shortages. Through this system newly arrived can have their skills validated, be offered complementary education and

training where this is required and offered internships to gain a foothold on the labour market.

- The fast track system relies on a public-private partnership, whereby branch associations provide guidance on competencies required for their respective fields of work.
- A recent OECD study called Making integration work highlights this fast-track system among a number of important lessons in the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications.
- Still, there is more work to be done. Employment rates are still significantly lower among persons born abroad than among persons born in Sweden, especially among women. This remains a particular area of concern for the Government, especially when it comes to women born outside Europe with low education and limited working experience. Achieving better results and providing more targeted and efficient measures for these women is crucial.
- This is why it is important to incorporate a gender-sensitive perspective in legislation, policies and programs.
- As you perhaps know, the Government of Sweden is a feminist government. This calls for ensuring that migrant women and men are empowered as well as that their rights are fully protected through a regulatory framework.
- Research suggests that female dominated occupations suffer from more stressful work environments and that women are overrepresented in work related diseases. Accordingly, a gender perspective is needed to address these challenges.
- Our goal must naturally be that our new citizens, women and men, will be active and influential in developing and improving our society. We are convinced that this is good for the migrants that join our societies, it is good for Swedish public finances as it raises tax-revenue, and it is good for public perceptions and social cohesion as people feel included and that refugees and migrants are contributing to our societies.

- It is also in this spirit of leaving no one behind that we must continue to strive towards the goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and from which we should find inspiration as we continue to engage in the Global Compact on Migration.
- Thank you!

Bakgrund

Snabbspår

Regeringen gav under våren 2015 Arbetsförmedlingen i uppdrag att tillsammans med arbetsmarknadens parter ta fram metoder och processer för att nyanlända som har utbildning och arbetslivserfarenhet inom bristyrken snabbare ska komma i arbete, s.k. snabbspår. En konkret förändring som snabbspåren har inneburit är att Arbetsförmedlingen nu arbetar strukturerat tillsammans med arbetsgivarorganisationer och fackförbund inom ett stort antal branscher med fokus på nyanlända och på arbetsgivarnas behov av kompetensförsörjning inom bristyrken.

Det finns för närvarande 13 snabbspår som omfattar drygt 20 yrken. Över 3000 personer har hittills deltagit i något av snabbspåren. Arbetet med snabbspåren har kommit olika långt. I vissa snabbspår fungerar arbetet väl och nyanlända tar del av exempelvis utbildningsinsatser eller är på praktik som innebär att de kommer närmare en anställning i Sverige inom sitt yrke. I andra snabbspår finns utmaningar, till exempel att det i vissa fall är svårt att hitta lämpliga deltagare till de insatser som erbjuds.

Det finns snabbspår inom följande yrken: Distributionselektriker och ingenjörer elbranschen, djursjukskötare, kock, lastbilsförare, legitimationsyrken inom hälso- och sjukvården, livsmedel slaktare/styckare och bageri, lärare och förskollärare, målare, samhällsvetare inkl. ekonomer och jurister, socialt arbete, tekniker och ingenjörer fastighetsbranschen samt

OECD:s landrapport

Sverige var det första landet att bli granskat inom ramen för OECD:s projekt om integration på arbetsmarknaden. Granskningen resulterade i rapporten *Working Together: Skills and Labour Market Integration of Immigrants and their Children in Sweden on integration in the Swedish labour market and in Swedish society* som presenterades av OECD på ett seminarium i Stockholm i maj 2016. Rapporten var den första i en ny OECD-serie om integration på arbetsmarknaden för nyanlända och deras barn i olika länder. Rapporten visar att Sverige har ett utvecklat och hållbart system för mottagande och integration, men att det stora antalet asylsökande som kom 2015 har skapat nya utmaningar. Rekommendationerna från OECD innefattar att Sverige bör åtgärda bostadsbristen, säkerställa tillgång till tidiga insatser samt förbättra stödet till lågutbildade för att påskynda en effektiv etablering av nyanlända.