



EUROCITIES
- Michele Corbetta

Application to EUROCITIES-Network of Local Authority Observatories

1. Why Stockholm would like to remain a Local Authority Observatory (LAO)

To be a part of the Network of Local Authority Observatory on Active Inclusion has been very rewarding for the city of Stockholm. The project made it possible to reflect on the importance of Active Inclusion on the local level. In many of the City of Stockholm's ordinary steering documents it is possible to trace bits and pieces of the Active Inclusion strategy. But, it has not been thought about in the term active inclusion. The Social Welfare- and Labour Market Administration in Stockholm is very eager to continue examine more research areas in order to achieve an even broader perspective of the local implications of Active Inclusion. One perspective that is important to analyze and where there are improvements to make is further development of integrated services.

Another reason for wishing to remain a LAO is the possibility to act within the Open Method of Coordination (OMC). It has been very giving to work with new methods and strengthen methods internally in the organization. For Stockholm it has been very positive to work with an OMC project since it has broadened the policy discussion between national and local level. At meetings and seminars the city has taken the opportunity to link inclusion policy with national stakeholders. EUROCITIES guidelines for the research process with organization of national seminars has also been a very open and positive structure that enabled the Social Welfare- and Labour Market Administration to link to new contacts on the national- and local level as well as with researchers and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO:s).



Finally it has been fortunate for Stockholm to be a part of the NLAO since EUROCITIES is a very reliable leader part in the project.

Normally it can be quite hard to be a lead part in an EU- project, but in this case the project administration has been very smooth.

2. Why Stockholm should engage with the European policy agenda around Active Inclusion

Cities are the closest authority to the inhabitants and therefore it seems natural that cities should engage in the policy around Active Inclusion. For Stockholm it is very interesting to be a part of a process where cities are invited to influence Active Inclusion policy. Stockholm can contribute with the status of belonging to a traditional social welfare state but at the same time facing a shift towards more freedom of choice for the users, more user involvement and a diversification of service providers. A lot of changes have taken place in the delivery of social services in Stockholm the last few years. Therefore, it is very important for Stockholm to learn from other cities about for example commissioning of services. Mutual learning between big European cities is crucial for Stockholm. There are sometimes more common urban challenges in the European perspective than in a national one.

As a capital Stockholm is used to build policy in a national context and there are several examples where Stockholm is the first municipality in the country to implement a new method, approach or strategy. One example is within homelessness where Stockholm was the first city to offer a “roof over your head guarantee”. A recent example is that Stockholm just started a Housing First project, the city will introduce Housing first on a trial basis. The NLAO housing report recommended an introduction of Housing First. For Stockholm it is very exciting to also try to play a role also within European policy.

Since the Active Inclusion strategy is quite new and not very integrated or known in Sweden, Stockholm finds it extremely valuable to be a part of the policy process around the strategy. It is both a question of having the opportunity to learn and to build competence within social inclusion. On the 15th of June the *Stockholm Region* (based in Brussels) arranges a seminar about Social Inclusion in Stockholm with a very broad representation of national stakeholders. LAO Stockholm attends and holds a presentation at the meeting. This is one example of the possibility to be a part of the national debate on social inclusion, thanks to NLAO.

3. Track record of active engagement with EUROCITIES in particular in relation to policy areas relevant for Active Inclusion.

During 2010 Stockholm is the chair of Social Affairs (SAF) in EUROCITIES which of course has, emphasized the city's experience in policy issues around social inclusion. The vice mayor, as the chair of SAF, has been involved in the project and the reports have been presented at the Welfare and Labor committee where he is presiding. Stockholm is also a member of seven working groups in the Social Affairs Forum: Employment, Health & Well-being, Homelessness, Education, Migration & Integration, Crime Prevention and Social Inclusion.

As one of the first five cities to be a part of NLAO the administration has built expertise and experience on how to cooperate transnationally around report writing and decision making. That, in itself will be a great asset for the continuation of the project. The NLAO's midterm seminar was held in Stockholm and the staff both at NLAO and European Forum were very engaged in the process of planning, organizing and delivering results from the event.

In May 2010 two of the NLAO Stockholm staff held a presentation and attended at the EC Conference, Mutual Learning on Active Inclusion and Homelessness in Brussels.

EUROCITIES asked Stockholm to hold a presentation of quality tools (presented in the Housing report on Active Inclusion). In June 2010, Cornelia Ölmin (quality controller in the central administration, city of Stockholm) attended a meeting of the Social Protection Committee's working group. The working group is preparing a European quality framework for social services as a voluntary guidance to help social services providers to improve the quality of their services.

4. Experience of participation in EC-funded projects (relevant project, during the last three years)?

The Social Welfare and Labour Market Administration have mostly worked with projects within the European Social Fund aiming to help different target groups to reach or approach the labour market. For the moment the department is actively working with the following Social Fund projects:

- Etablering Stockholm(Establishment Stockholm): aim is to shorten the establishment of new arrivals on the labour market. It is a cooperation

project between the city of Stockholm and the Public Employment Service. Other partners are the Red Cross, the Study Promotion Association, the Swedish Federation of Business Owners, the Migration Board, unions and a number of educational companies.

<http://www.stockholm.se/Arbete/Etablering-Stockholm/>

- ALFA: tries to link persons with **mental disabilities** to studies, training and employment through individual guidance (in the municipality and at private providers). The initiative originated from user organizations. Cooperating actors are the Public Employment Service, National Social Insurance Service, two user organizations, Stockholm County Council, another municipality and Stockholm.

<http://www.stockholm.se/Arbete/Arbete-och-sysselsattning-for-personer-med-funktionsnedsattning/Alfa-projektet/>

- Carpe: skills training for staff within social services. The aim is to raise awareness of the care of disabled among decision makers and among employees as well as further develop places of work with a high degree of mutual trust where existing qualifications are made the most of and every co-worker's development is promoted. A cooperation between municipalities in the county of Stockholm.

<http://www.projektcarpe.se/english.html>

- Filur: aims to establish **young people** on the labour market. The aim is to help long-term unemployed young people that despite different measures have not found a work. The project tries to further develop matching to young people

Merit: aims to work with **young people**, especially with measures to motivate young people to start to study.

FAMU: tries to help **long-term unemployed** living in segregated areas to approach the Swedish labour market.

The department is also engaged in two projects financed by the European Refugee fund Samhällsorientering i samverkan (Civic training/introduction for newcomers, regional cooperation) and Hälso-kommunikatörer i Stockholms län (bilingual health communicators for newcomers).

Besides the projects within the Social Welfare and Labour Market Administration, Stockholm has been involved in the Eurocities project Matrix and the city works with around 30 EU-projects in total.

5. Capacity for engaging relevant stakeholders in Sweden

LAO Stockholm has been very successful to engage relevant stakeholders in Sweden and Stockholm within the NLAO project. Stockholm has established contacts with representatives from different authorities, other cities, NGO:s and researchers. Three general stakeholders within the Active Inclusion concept that LAO Stockholm has cooperated with are:

- Renate Minas: Associate professor in Social work, Institute for Future Studies
- Eva Franzén: Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
- Sonja Wallbom: Chair of European Anti Poverty Network – Sweden

Two stakeholders within the field of housing in close cooperation with LAO Stockholm:

- Annika Remaeus, The National Board of Health and Welfare
- Mija Bergman, Stockholms Stadsmission (NGO)

Two stakeholders within the field of labour in close cooperation with LAO Stockholm:

- Katarina Thorén, Växjö University
- Tor Hatlevoll, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

Please see also the attachment with the attendants at our kick-off and the two national seminars.

In the beginning of the year, European Forum Social policy issues, which is where LAO is placed organizational wise in the Administration, got reorganized. European Forum is now a part of the Preventioncenter/Research and Development Unit. The reorganized unit is responsible for developing and renewing social affairs issues in the city which will make the issues researched, the conclusion and recommendations developed, more readily available for discussion and consideration for a wider audience within the City of Stockholm. A network of researcher is tied to the Unit which gives the LAO access to contacts with researchers from many different subjects areas.

6. Envisaged structure for a LAO in Stockholm

The structure of LAO Stockholm during the pilot phase has been:

Senior Supervisor: Anna Mattsson

Steering group: Anna Mattsson and Karin Eriksson Bech

Research work: Maria Andersson and Christina Grönberg

Reference group: key officers in the city administration

Expert group: during the employment research an expert group also followed the process. Representation in the group: Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Public Employment Service, National Board of Health and Welfare, Jobbtorg (City of Stockholm) and Verdandi (NGO).

Stockholm intends to work in a similar way regarding the structure of steering-, reference- and expert group. On the other hand, more staff from the local authority will be involved in the operational part of the project.

There will be a more intense need of information- and communication skilled staff for the web portal and newsletter service. The ambition to involve more staff from the new larger unit is to spread the work of Active Inclusion to a larger circle, which makes it less vulnerable and hopefully the findings more useful for Stockholm's social inclusion work.

In the next phase, the organization will be:

Senior officer: Anna Mattsson

Information and Liaison Manager: Christina Grönberg and staff person from the new unit.

LAO Researcher: Christina Grönberg

Finally, the LAO Stockholm is well integrated in the administration which means that a structure for financial accounting support exists as well as quality follow-up.

7. Specific suggestions for activities and topics

The Commission has outlined the following social services as particularly relevant in respect of the active inclusion concept.

- employment and training services
- housing support and social housing
- social assistance services
- childcare
- long-term care services
- health services

Stockholm would find it interesting to investigate the existing areas after employment and housing. Other suggestions would be to separately look at the **segregation problem** which came up as small parts in the reports of



employment and housing. For Stockholm it would be interesting to explore new methods within the segregation field since it is a typical urban challenge and that the urban reference in Sweden is quite small (even though Göteborg and Malmö have similar problems).

Other interesting areas to cover could be:

Prevention (addiction, crime, women as victims of violence). Describe different approaches/methods within preventive work in order to avoid exclusion and therefore create a more inclusive society.

Disability: has been mentioned in the reports of employment and housing but could probably function as a research area in itself.

Attachments:

- Attendance lists from Kick-off and National seminars in Stockholm
- CV:s