

The Case of Sweden

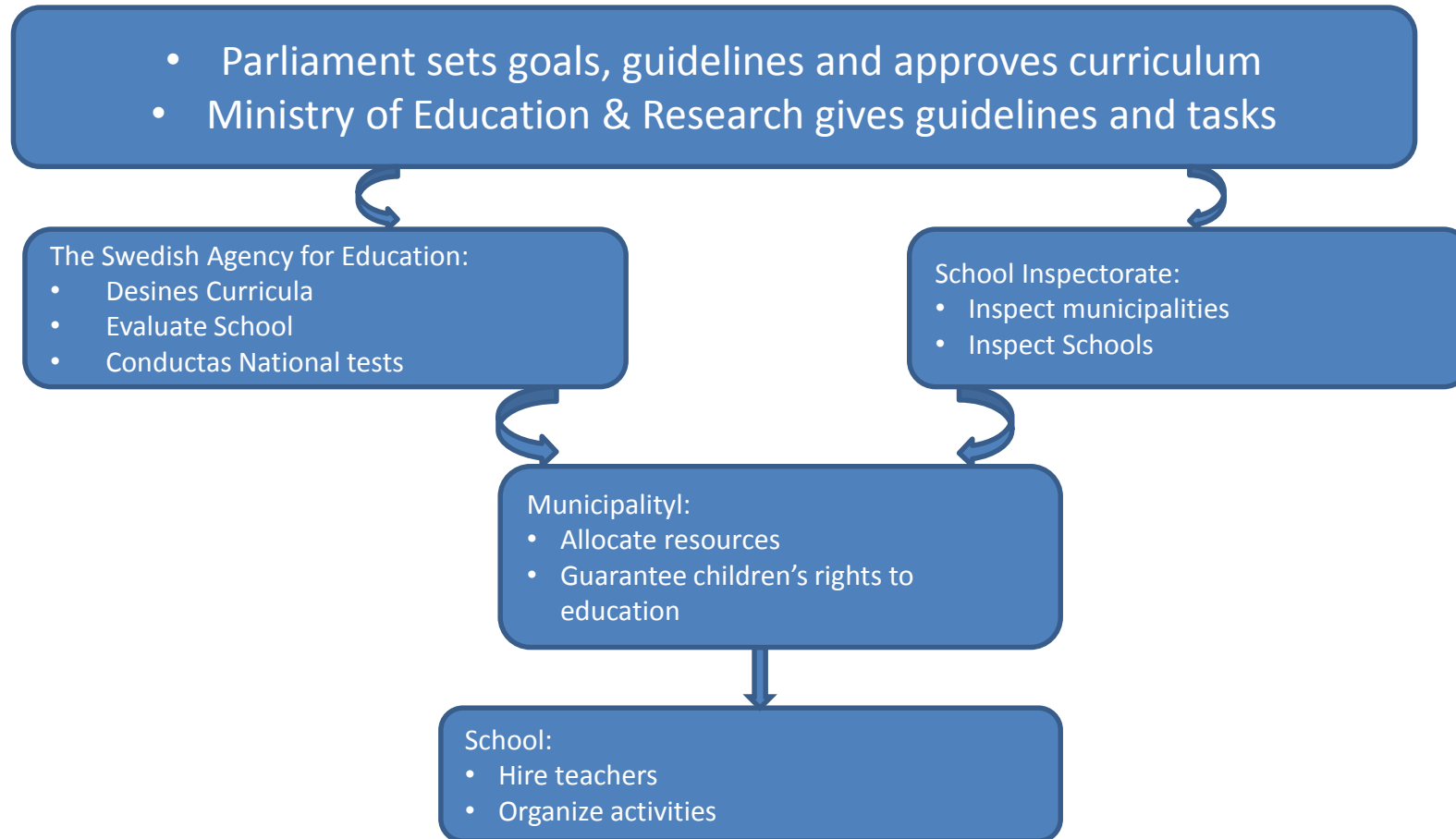
Stockholm University

Introduction to the Swedish History, culture and Education System

Culture and Values:

- Sweden has 9.5 million inhabitants.
- Remained neutral during the war and industry expanded.
- Equity + Rights + Gender Equality are major values.
- Renowned for its welfare state and taxation system (although slowly being eroded). 28.9% of GDP is on social welfare compared to 14.8% in USA.
- Abides by social democracy and functions through a planned economy – business is regulated by the government.
- Sweden is very big on nature and sustainability issues. Has the higher percentage of renewable energy in EU.
- Swedes are not into voluntary activities, as the state takes care of all.
- The Swedes are friendly but they like their space and their individual privacy

Pre- University Education System: 12 % of GDP



Types of Schooling by Law:

- Compulsory Schooling (Pre-School + Basic Education)
- Sami-Schools & Special Schools
- Upper Secondary school
- Adult Education
- TVET is growing in Sweden, it now bridges back to Academic.

- **Municipal Vs. Independent Schools:**
(Kommunal Vs. Friscola)
- More Students go to Kommunal at primary level, while at secondary level they are almost equal.
- **Inclusion is important in Sweden.**
- A national agency for special needs education and schools runs the sector.
- **Mother Tongue / Native Language program.**

Swedish School reform and Debates:

- Since the 1960's : Debate on grading.
- 1970's – 1980's : Discussions around decentralization.
- 1986 : Integrating different types of teacher education>
- 1989 : Municipalities fully responsible for teachers (Salaries, employment and conditions)
- 1992 : Independent (Private schools) receive public funding.
- 1992 – 1994 : Structural changes in upper secondary education (18 different programs at Gymnasium level.
- 1994 : Municipalities receive state grants to cover education.
- 2005 : Lararlyftet introduced.
- 2008 : Special education teachers reintroduced.
- 2011 : Distinction for different types of teachers and introduction of teachers registration.
- 2012 : Certification of grade 6 re-introduced.
- 2013 : New career position for teachers are introduced.
 - Teachers can have a career without leaving the classroom.
 - Two types: First teacher (educator and skills)

Teacher Education:

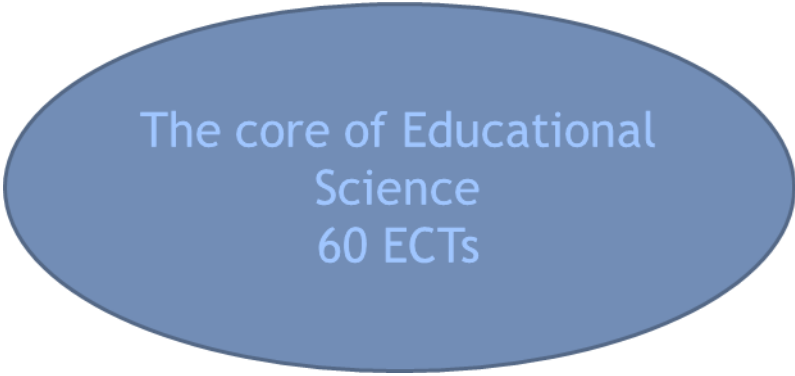
- Teacher Certification: All Pre=School and compulsory school teachers are on permanent contracts. Teacher status was declining, hence, certification was needed. Supply is low, aging and feminized. Teachers are losing autonomy as testing and grades are gaining more prominence nationally.
- Moving from integrated education through one diploma to more specialized degrees and sub-degrees. Now 4 diplomas
 - Pre- School education
 - Degree in subject Education
 - Primary
 - Degree in vocational education
- School Based Training is 30 ECT, over 20 weeks in 4 years out of a total of Cum 90 – 240 ECT. Practicum is supervised by the school and a faculty member who is responsible for grading.
- Stockholm University offers evening, part-time and distance courses for teacher practitioners .
- Stockholm University has 40 contacts with 40 municipalities to conduct practicum and also to have natural learning and research opportunities.
- Practicum happens over a whole year divided in small slots comprises of 4 parts.
- Practicum focuses on teaching skills- social relations (children and parents)- awareness of professional development.

Teacher Education in Stockholm University

The core of Educational
Science
60 ECTS

Subject areas
90 – 240 ECTS
(taught in traditional
subject area
departments)

School based training
30 ECTS



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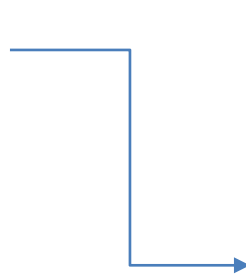
- Young people school and society
- Perspectives on learning and development
- Social relations in school
- Special education
- Development and evaluation in Primary and Secondary schools
- Subject teaching, curriculum design and assessment theory
- Knowledge, Science and methodology
- Rhetorics
- Law and ethics in school



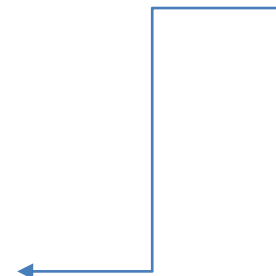
- University of Stockholm runs 1200 programs with separate tools to administer the practicum.

Administrative digitalized
tool for placement

Technical tool for
grading



Both are linked



Issues in Higher Education Reform:

- Some of the issues on HE global agendas and tensions between traditional and new roles:

Marketization – Competition – Ranking – Excellence – Quality Assurance – Massification – Harmonization – Rationalization – Global Learning.

- The most eminent tension lies between autonomy of higher education and declining expenditure and funding.
- Other tensions are between public vs. private education.

European 2020 Strategic Framework Includes the following Concepts and Modalities

- Life long learning ↔ Mobility and flexibility
- Quality ↔ Efficiency
- Creativity ↔ Innovation
- Equity ↔ Social coherence ↔ Active citizenship

Introduction to the Swedish history education system

Stockholm University:

- Stockholm University, founded in 1878 and formally a university in 1960, is large with about 70,000 students. President is a woman for the first time and from the Social Sciences.
- The university aims at Internationalization (they follow the Bologna process)
- SU offers 1000 programs of which 77 are Masters programs offered in English.
- SU has 68 departments and centers.
- SU is undergoing reform and focuses on rationalization through multi-disciplinarity and cross fertilization.
- Faculty are expected to allocate 70% - 80% of their effort in teaching and 30%-20% on research.
- Student voices in assessment is strong.
- University gets many grants and 23% of the budget is from external funding, the rest 69% is funded by the state and the fees is 8%.

The Institute of International Education (IIE):

- The Institute of International Education (IIE) is a small institute focused on research and training. It offers an MA and Ph.D all in English. It is a part of the department of Education, but is separate from teachers education.
- The institute has the best performing level in the university.
- It publishes its Master Thesis in book form.
- They focus on International and comparative education and attract International students.
- They are strong in team teaching and peer review is built in the system.
- They house 70,000 students of whom 1/3 are full time.
- Teacher Education is done through different departments.

- Research areas relate to international and comparative education as well as to teaching, the following are some of the areas:
 - Education for sustainable rural development
 - Education and globalization
 - Quality Education for all
 - Education Reform
 - Policy and Evaluation
 - Educational Planning
- They provide students with opportunities of independent studies and offer them internships.
- IIE is grandparent of PIZZA.

Action Research: by Inger Erikson

- Contributes to change.
- Empowers teachers to be agents of change.
- Is teacher driven (in her definition) and supported by researchers.
- They are however instances where she participated where the research design was provided by a researcher and later teachers collaborated.

Lesson study :

- Most famous technique used in Scandinavia but first developed in Japan 100 years ago.
- Teachers collaboratively and continuously observe, analyse and revise along with researchers policy makers and curriculum designers.

Learning study:

- It focuses on learning
- What are the competencies students need to develop in order for the learning to take place.
- Teachers therefore develop new knowledge.
- Phenomonography is an analytical way of understanding student understandings.
- Critical questions for the lesson study:
 - What is the objective of the project; student learning or teacher learning.
 - Who takes the initiative and the defining of the problem (teacher, researcher, teacher and researcher together or someone else)
 - Who suggested the solution.
 - Who masters the theoretical tool used (the researcher, the teacher, or both the teachers and the researchers)
 - What kind of division of labor (complementary or asynchronous)

Lararlyftet : CPD program 2012 - 2015

- A unit at the university staffed by ten people links SU to the Lararlyftet program and links with the National Agency of Education which runs the program.
- The agency relies on quotations and proposals made by Universities to create the program.
- Some 25 universities present proposals each year.
- The courses take place in 15 departments.
- The courses are designed through a partnership between government, the National Agency and Stockholm University.
- University gets compensation for the service (2.9 million Dollars)

Swedish National Agency for Education:

- Agency was commissioned in 2011 to investigate and propose a training program for all math teachers.
- Agency prepared a proposal based on consultations – Research and finally reached a final consensus.
- The modality selected was peer learning with external support.
- School effective leadership is a prerequisite for a school development program.
- The model for implementation of training included:
 - School leaders – Supervisors – principals – Teachers of Math
- The training included a consortium of university researchers – The National Swedish Agency for Education and Web – Based Learning Platform.
- Training presented in modular form

Three Year Plan 2013 – 2015 :

- Reaching 6000 Schools.
- 40,000 teachers.
- 800 Supervisors.
- 6000 Principals.
- Learning happens in groups of 4 -7 teachers.
- Each supervisor is charged with 3 groups.
- They go through 30 – 40 modules.
- Each module has 8 different parts.
- They study 2 modules per term.
- Each term is 18 to 20 weeks.
- They go through 4 steps in each study:
 - A- Self Study (Read/Learn)
 - B- Peer Learning & (discussional)
 - C- Activities (Peer visits), (Application)
 - D- Assess/Reflect/Discuss (Evaluation)
- The modules are delivered through blended means – some online learning and the rest is face to face.
- The team has subject specialists and web specialists.

