The Swedish Introduction Program in Practice

Malmö, Sweden
Overview

• The basics of the Introduction program
• Some statistics about participants
• Programs, projects and local cooperation
• Challenges
The Basics of the Introduction Program
Introduction Act - Basic facts

• Became law in Sweden 2010

• Target group: adult refugees who have a residence permit and their close relatives

• Individuals 20-64 year olds and 18-19 year olds in Sweden without parents

• Main aims: support refugees in learning Swedish, finding work and becoming self-sufficient
Introduction plan

- Activities facilitating labour market entry
- Collaboration with the client and our partners
- Minimum is SFI (Swedish for Immigrants), civic orientation and employment preparation activities
- Max 24 months
- 40 hrs/week

The plan ends when individual has:
- Worked full time for 6 months
- Started higher education
- Had a plan for 2 years
Introduction benefit

- 33 euro/day five days a week
- Equal for all participants
- Requires participation in activities
- PES administers and Social Insurance Agency disburses payment
- Supplementary introduction benefit for parents and housing benefit
Statistics for participants in Malmö
Autumn 2015 Asylum seekers per month
Influx of participants Malmö
Levels of Education

- Primary: 20%
- Upper secondary: 36%
- Post secondary: 44%
Age groups

- 18-24: 20%
- 25-29: 15%
- 30-39: 34%
- 40-49: 20%
- 50+: 11%
Shortage professions and new immigrants

Want ads and registered jobseekers in Malmö

- Teacher/pre-school teacher:
  - Want ads: 97
  - Introduction program: 62
  - New immigrants: 32
  - Total: 94

- Nurses:
  - Want ads: 68
  - Introduction program: 5
  - New immigrants: 8
  - Total: 13

- Physicians:
  - Want ads: 20
  - Introduction program: 14
  - New immigrants: 11
  - Total: 25

- IT and engineers:
  - Want ads: 155
  - Introduction program: 64
  - New immigrants: 59
  - Total: 123
Programs, projects and local cooperation
Work with employers

- "Sweden together" initiative
- "Employer agents"
- Employment subsidies
- Commitment Skåne
Labour market programs

- Vocational training courses
- Validation modules
- Job seeker preparation courses
Cooperation with Higher Education

- The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- School of Economics University of Lund
- Malmö College
- Swedish community colleges (folkhögskolor)
Other projects

• Validation of skills and competencies

• The Swedish Forest Agency

• Start by FC Rosengård

• Non-profit sector project ”NAD”

• Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Our local agreement (LÖK)

- PES in Malmö

- the city of Malmö: SFI, Social Services, Immigrant introduction division, Child Care services.

- The Swedish Migration Authority

- The Swedish Social Insurance Agency

- The Swedish Tax Agency

- Non-profit sector
Challenges

- Housing problems in Malmö and Sweden
- Jobseekers’ trauma och migration related issues
- Limited job opportunities for low skilled workers in Sweden
- Providing integration activities of high quality for all participants
Tack!
Thank you!

Christina Koch
Division manager
Swedish Public Employment Service
Malmö, Sweden