



**The European Commission Mutual Learning Programme
for Public Employment Services**

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

YOUTH GUARANTEES - SWEDEN

Peer country paper Youth Guarantees
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Arbetsförmedlingen

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1 COUNTRY SPECIFICS OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – RISKS FOR LOW-SKILLED YOUNG PEOPLE

December 2010: Unemployment rate for all ages: 7.4 %

December 2010: Unemployment rate for ages 15-24: 22.0 %

In autumn 2009, almost 99 percent of the pupils who left compulsory school at about age 15 in the spring of 2009 went on to upper secondary school. Upper secondary school offers various types of programmes. There are 17 national programmes which last for 3 years. Individual programmes are provided for pupils with particular educational needs, or those without passing grades in English, Swedish or Swedish as a second language and mathematics. There are also locally run tailor-made programmes which combine subjects from the various national programmes.

In 2009, 72 percent of the country's 20-year olds had received their final grades from upper secondary school. This means that approximately a quarter of all 20 year olds were missing final grades. Another way to record final grades is to focus on the pass rate i.e. the proportion of pupils with final grades for the different groups of pupils. When examining the last ten beginner groups that were monitored over three years, between 65–69 % of the pupils received their final grades within three years. After another year of study, the proportion of pupils increased to 73–76 %. After five years of study, the proportion of pupils with final grades was 74–77 %. This data applies to all pupils, including those studying individual programmes which have a high number of pupils who have problems with their studies or are not motivated to study. The pupils studying individual programmes achieve final grades to a lesser extent. For pupils who started their studies at the individual programmes the pass rate within three years is at most 6 percent. The corresponding proportion within four years is between 17–21 percent. Within five years, 21–25 percent of the pupils who began their upper secondary school studies on an individual programme have completed their studies.

The share of young people using PES services as a percentage of this age cohort: 15 %

The share of young people using PES services for more than one year before they are integrated into the labour market or into higher education: 6 %

2 PES ORGANISATION AND SERVICE PROFILE

The Swedish civil service is largely independent and ruled by law. The objectives of labour market policy are formulated by the Parliament and the Government. The PES is funded centrally from general taxation. The Director General and the board delegates are appointed by the Government. However, the PES formulates its own activity targets.

The Swedish Unemployment Insurance Funds (Arbetslöshetskassorna) are responsible for:

1. processing the applications for unemployment benefit
2. investigating and determining entitlement to unemployment benefit
3. dispensing any benefit entitlement
4. answering queries about the entitlement.

The Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) is responsible for:

- 1) providing information and responding to general queries about the basic conditions jobseekers must fulfil to qualify for unemployment insurance
- 2) checking that those in receipt of benefit satisfy the basic conditions for entitlement.

The Swedish PES is a public authority with offices throughout the whole country. Our head office with departments and management is situated in Stockholm. Our 320 local employment offices are divided into 69 labour market areas. This subdivision is based on natural labour markets where people work or where companies seek manpower. In turn, these labour market areas are grouped into ten market areas and one national market area with responsibility for Customer Service. In addition to these, there is another national area with responsibility for culture and media. There are a total of 11 600 employees located throughout the whole country.

In 2010, the grants totalled 79 billion SEK (EURO 9 billion). More than half of the grants, 54 billion SEK (EURO 6 billion), was money for unemployment benefit and activity support for participants in labour market programmes. The remaining grants consist of:

- Eight billion SEK (EURO 912 million) for purchasing services from private providers, various labour market programmes and measures, and various types of support for programme organisers.
- Eleven billion SEK (EURO 1.2 billion) for wage subsidies and other special measures for disabled people.
- Six billion SEK (EURO 684 million) as administration grants for wages, premises and other running costs.

The resources allocated to young people are difficult to calculate but it is at least 2.8 billion SEK (EURO 319 million). That includes activity support for participants in the youth guarantee (see below) and various labour market programmes and measures within this guarantee. The figure does not include wages, premises and other running costs.

The Swedish PES overall service is offered both to jobseekers and employers. The service is provided in-house to a large extent but contracts with private providers are increasing in importance. Every office decides how to organise its work with young people and therefore there are offices both with special teams for young people and offices without.

3 ENSURING ACCESS TO PES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

To mitigate the high youth unemployment and decrease young people's time in unemployment is an important task for the Swedish PES. We offer young people specific actions and programmes to facilitate their entry to the labour market. The actions or programmes depend on the need of every young individual. The overarching objective of the work with young people is, of course, that they shall be able to enter either the regular labour market or education as soon as possible.

There are three routes to reach the Swedish PES service:

- Through our website www.arbetsformedlingen.se. This website includes our job bank, with thousands of vacancies listed, in which employers both in Sweden and abroad are seeking employees. On this page young people can also find information on activities and services taking place at the PES offices. They can also find practical advice on how to write a CV and an application.
- Through the Swedish Public Employment Service customer telephone service, young people can get in contact and talk to a PES officer. It is a common telephone number for the whole of Sweden.
- Young people can visit us directly at the local Employment Service office. There are computers that young people can use to look for jobs online and print applications. Young people can also come to the Employment Service if they want to talk directly with an employment officer. Placement officers also help young people get the right information and inform them about how to best apply for a job.

In reaching young people it is important to be aware of young people's communication channels. In order to get information through to young people, the Swedish Public Employment Service has recently launched an official page on Facebook. It allows our clients to communicate both with us and others directly in a different environment.

4 PES SERVICES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people can be registered at the PES immediately after leaving school. In the first 90 days after registering, young people are matched against the vacancies available in the labour market. For us to succeed in our work with young people, it is essential that we offer the right response to the right person at the right time based on their individual needs. This is especially important for young people finding it difficult to establish themselves in the labour market on their own.

The support for each young unemployed person must be started immediately after they are registered; starting with an individual action plan which is made for each young person with the assistance of the employment officer. The action plan describes the needs of the individual and what steps need to be taken, both by the individual and by the Employment Service, during the first 90 days that the individual is registered at the Employment Office. During the first 90 days, most young people receive support and are matched against the labour market through the Employment Service's regular service. The regular service includes advice for young people on how to improve their CV and application letters and opportunities to visit special recruitment meetings.

Another important feature of the regular service is the EURES advisers. These are involved in working with young people, since it is important to market job and training opportunities within the EU and EEA. To promote the free movement within EU and EEA the employment service provides various forms of support for those looking for work, commuting to and from work or moving to a new job within the EU or EEA. If a young person has reached the age of 20 years, he/she is entitled to compensation for an interview journey. The support can, if certain provisions are met, be provided for job interviews in Sweden and other EU / EEA countries.

To further develop our activities and take advantage of successful practices and procedures we are monitoring various ESF projects taking place in Sweden. Many of these projects involve working with young people who have a difficult social background and many of the participants lack the complete education from the Swedish school system. The purpose of this is to find new ways to reach young people who are far removed from the labour market and implement best practice in our regular activities.

5 EFFECTIVE PES MEASURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

After 90 days of unemployment all young people are offered youth specific activities within the “Job guarantee for young people”. The Job guarantee for young people is a labour market programme for people between 18 and 24 years of age. The young person is referred to the program as soon as she/he has been unemployed for a total of 90 days within a time frame of four months. The programme aims to provide special measures and activities for the participant in enable them to get a job or return to education as soon as possible.

Within the job guarantee it is possible to take part in various activities all aimed at assisting the transition to work or education in the regular education system.

During the first three months, the activities of the job guarantee for young people include:

- in-depth assessment
- educational and vocational guidance
- job search activities with coaching

Thereafter, the activities are combined with:

- work experience placement
- education and training
- start your own business grants
- employability rehabilitation programme

During the in-depth assessment it is also decided whether the participant's needs can best be met by the Employment Office or with an external complementary provider. The private providers are an integral part of the labour market policies and are an important part of the Employment Service's range of services.

A young person can participate in the job guarantee for young people for up to 15 months.

Within the services of the Swedish Public Employment Service there are other possibilities for facilitating young people’s transition to the labour market.

“New Start Jobs” is one of these opportunities and it targets young people who have been jobless for at least six months. The support is aimed at all employers both private and public for all types of employment. The support means a reduction of the payroll tax of 31.42 %. The employer can receive the subsidy for a maximum of one year.

6 ASPECTS OF TRANSFERABILITY AND CONCLUSIONS

In the Swedish PES work with young people we focus on:

- Preventive action
- Attitude and communication
- The right action for the right person at the right time
- The job guarantee for young people
- Young people with disabilities
- Collaboration with employers and relevant organizations
- Taking advantage of ongoing methodological development