Social inclusion of refugees and immigrants in Swedish Rural areas.

Nils Lagerroth/Hans-Olof Stålgren Swedish Rural Network





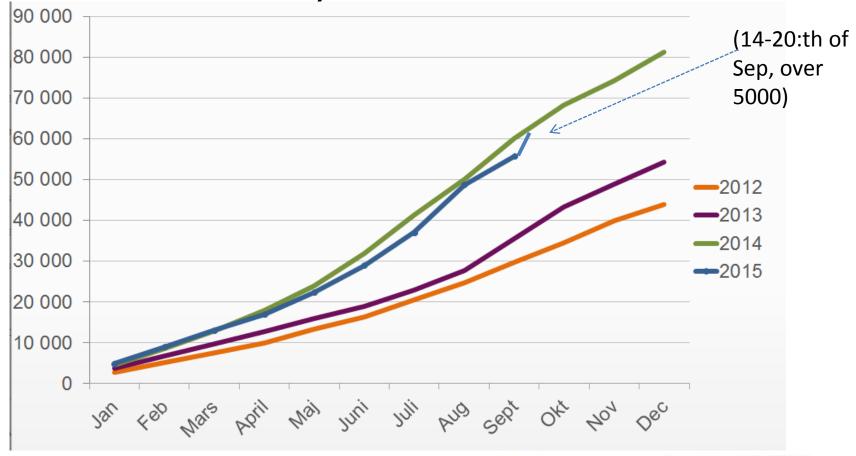
Rural areas are loosing population

- 60% of Swedish municipalities have decreased in population 1990-2011
- Not all rural areas are decreasing
- But most are struggling to keep local schools, shops, health care, other services
- A challenge for LAGs





Asylum seekers in Sweden 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015







Small rural villages receive many



Undrom, Sollefteå: 85 inhabitants. 200 refugees. Trensum, Karlshamn: 106 inhabitants. 300 refugees. Långträsk, Piteå: 109 inhabitants. 52 refugees. Byxelkrok, Borgholm: 129 inhabitants. 133 refugees. Dalskog, Mellerud: 133 inhabitants. 124 refugees. Blackstad, Västervik: 145 inhabitants. 120 refugees. Gysinge, Sandviken: 200 refugees. 149 inhabitants. Virestad, Älmhult: 155 inhabitants. 81 refugees. Trehörningsjö, Örnsköldsvik: 160 inhabitants. 50 refugees. Rätan, Berg: 195 inhabitants. 84 refugees. Stavsjö, Nyköping: 212 inhabitants. 150 refugees. Liden, Sundsvall: 254 inhabitants. 110 refugees. Ramsberg, Lindesberg: 257 inhabitants. 55 refugees. Hällnäs, Vindeln: 259 inhabitants. 500 refugees. Asarna, Berg: 268 inhabitants. 148 refugees.





Social inclusion in rural areas-how?

- Comittment, involvement and engagement of:
 - Inhabitants
 - NGO:s
 - Business sector
 - Municipalities

- becoming friends
- social life, training etc
- internship, job, matching
- education, health care, housing
- Did you read LEADER?





Stavsjö - Accept or reject?

- 212 inhabitants
- 150 asylum seekers



- Collecting clothes, toys, sports equipment.....
- Language café in the village hall
- Starting a company offering language courses
- Organising basic health care
- Dance performance tour
- Pre study through Leader





Building relationships, Brålanda







Building relationships, Orust







Swedish NRN Thematic Working Group Social Inclusion of Refugees and Immigrants

- The Agriculture and Rural Economy Society
- The Swedish Football Association
- The County Administration Board
- The Swedish Village Action Movement
- Private Expert with own experience
- The Federation of Swedish Farmers

- The Swedish Board of Agriculture
- LEADER
- SIOS, The Cooperation Group for Ethnical Associations in Sweden
- The Swedish public employment service
- The Migration Agency
- The Federation of Business Owners,





Working group action plan

Supporting local civil society, LAGs and NGOs for social inclusion

- Mapping:
 - Overview
 - Finding good examples
 - Finding areas with potential
- Handbook, checklists, web
- <u>Disseminating good examples</u> <u>More links</u>
- Seminars
- Assisting ethnic organisations in rural areas
- Meeting decision makers, MPs etc





It is possible - but not easy

Thank you for your attention!

Hans-Olof Stålgren

hans-olof.stalgren@jordbruksverket.se

Our monthley review in English

German TV about refugees in Skellefteå



