



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska socialfonden

The Swedish ESF Council

Peer Review on supporting disadvantaged young people
to take part in mobility

6 - 7 May 2021

Could you briefly tell us about the Swedish approach to mobility programmes? How does it differ from the approaches used by Czechia and Germany?

- The Swedish transnational approach has been flexible and promoted the possibility for exchange as an added value for the young person. There hasn't been a transnational program for transnational measures.
- During spring 2015 calls were launched in three regions, *Young people in mobility*.
- The calls resulted in four projects, three were completed: SPACE, Active Mobility and Mobile You
- An evaluation of the three projects led to a national call in 2019 and a national project MOVES.

Who are your target groups for mobility programmes and why?

- Target group *Women and men aged 18-30 that are unemployed or that are far from the labour market.*
- At the time, 2015, The Swedish National Social Fund Program for 2014-2020 showed that the threshold in the labour market for young people remained high. A significant part of the young unemployed were far from the labour market and had significant difficulties in getting into the labour market. Especially young people who failed to complete secondary education, were born abroad or had reduced working capacity due to disability, posed a high risk of ending in future long-term unemployment.

The mobility projects have had a heterogeneous target group

The participants' backgrounds differ quite a lot between the projects.

- The majority of the participants in Mobile You were registered with the Public Employment Service at the start of their projects and had upper-secondary school or post-secondary education. They were thus relatively closer to the labour market from the beginning compared with the participants in the other projects.
- In Active Mobility the majority of participants came from the Social Insurance Agency and had compulsory schooling as their highest level of education. All the young people who participated in Active Mobility had reduced work capacity due to psychological, neuropsychiatric or cognitive impairments.
- In SPACE the majority of participants had been admitted to the project as a result of long-term sick leave caused by mental ill health.
- In all of the projects the gender balance was relatively even, with a slight over-representation of men.

What types of support provision are built into your mobility programmes, considering the specific needs of the target group?

Mainly

- comprehensive human resources
- participants' travel to and from the recipient country
- daily amount for subsistence and insurance
- costs to reimburse the expenses of received organizations for participants

What lessons have you learned from your previous mobility programmes?

For the participants

- The mobility projects have contributed to strengthening the participants' self-confidence and drive.
- The projects have also contributed to strengthening the participants' self-awareness and ability to act themselves to feel as good as possible (coping strategies).

Socio-economic efficiency of mobility initiatives

- Mobility projects need to bring the labour market entry forward by 29 months for the projects to be socio-economically efficient.
- Recruitment of the right target group is crucial
- Mobility initiatives also contribute to other values that are difficult to calculate but that can motivate the initiatives from a different perspective

What lessons have you learned from your previous mobility programmes?

What is required for the method to work? Success factors

- The content of the initiatives is important, but also how the initiatives are implemented in terms of working methods and attitudes.
- Adapted recruitment
- Increasing challenges and support in interaction
- The group as a support structure
- An inclusive and responsive approach
- A successful internship abroad
- Cooperation between designating and supporting actors
- Working in accordance with the three phases is not enough to create maximum value - organizational capacity is also required.

What lessons have you learned from your previous mobility programmes?

The significance of the transnational exchange

- The fact that the internship is abroad has several perceived values
- Increases the probability that the participants complete and thus develop to a greater extent - "can not just call dad and ask him to pick me up"
- "The carrot" for breaking up at home and changing your current situation - "you only get a chance like this once in your life"
- Involves a greater challenge and thus contributes to a greater extent to strengthening confidence in one's own abilities
- The change of context is perceived to contribute to increased opportunities to free oneself from negative self-image and an inhibitory support structure