



European
Commission

HELPING PEOPLE
TO RETURN
TO THE LABOUR MARKET

Sweden: Introduction to working life

Information review: October 2015

SWEDEN

Long-lasting illnesses and health problems effect a large share of working age population in Sweden. In 2010 the prevalence of people who declared having a long-lasting illness, or health problem, among the inactive population aged 45 to 54 was 74.2%. The 'Work Life Introduction' programme aims to help people who have been sick for a long time, and are out of work, return to the labour market.

The evaluation of the practice showed that the programme is well-adapted to participants' needs and circumstances. Generally, participants were very satisfied with the guidance and other activities administered by PES.

Name of the PES

Arbetsförmedlingen
The Swedish Public Employment Service

When was the practice implemented?

2010 – on-going

Which organisation was involved in its implementation?

Occupational therapists, psychologists and social consultants were also involved in the delivery of the programme.

Which social groups were targeted by the practice?

Jobseekers

- ▶ Long-term unemployed
- ▶ Employed or self-employed
- ▶ Disabled (physical)/Disabled (mental/psychological)
- ▶ People suffering from physical disability or illness
- ▶ People who have received sickness benefits or temporary sickness allowance, but who have not been offered extended sick leave.

What were the practice's main objectives?

The aim of the programme is to help people who have been absent from the labour market for a long time, due to sickness, to return to the labour market.

What activities were carried out?

The first part of the programme involves a mapping of the participant's skills, experience, education, interests and so on with help from an employment officer. This is to find out which activities are suitable for the individual. After that, an individual action plan covering work trial, rehabilitation, vocational training, etc., is drawn up. The next step is to carry out those activities, which are followed up by the employment officer. The 'Introduction to Working Life' lasts a maximum of three months. After that, the individual should either be ready for work or participating in other PES programmes.

What resources and other relevant organisational aspects were involved?

The practice is managed by the PES. It is a national measure and includes employment officers' at all local PES offices in Sweden.

Source(s) of funding

National budget (tax revenue)

What were the outputs of the practice: people reached and products?

People reached:
Between January 2010 and April 2012, 60 421 people participated in the programme.

Products:
Local PES officers draw up individual action plans for all the practice participants in order to take steps to improve their chances of reintegration into the labour market.

What outcomes have been identified?

PES monitored those individuals who started the programme in January 2010 (13 758 people in total). In May 2012, the following results were recorded:

- ▶ 3 684 people (or 27%) were employed or in training;
- ▶ 4 437 people (or 32%) remained enrolled with PES as unemployed, or in another labour market programme;
- ▶ 5 637 people (or 41%) were de-registered from PES for reasons other than work (i.e. inactive).

The PES concluded that managing to secure employment or training for just over one in four participants (27%) is a very good result given the participants' long history of illness and absence from the labour market.

What are the lessons learnt and success factors?

Two years after participation in the programme, 27% of the participants were employed or in training. This is considered to be a very good result given the participants' long history of illness and absence from the labour market.

The evaluation also showed that the programme is well-adapted to participants' needs and circumstances. Generally, participants were very satisfied with the guidance and other activities administered by PES.

More information on the practice

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/empl_portal/weesp/SE-2.pdf



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