



”Welkom”

Recognition of Qualifications held by Refugees

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”Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of
good practices”





“Welkom” - a two-year European integration project within Erasmus +

During the period 2017–2019, Medborgarskolan has been granted EU funds for an Erasmus + project. The project is called “Welkom” and includes Italy, Greece, Iceland, Belgium and Sweden.

In order to succeed in the integration of refugees who have come to Europe in recent years, the EU has identified education and language learning as two key areas.

The purpose of the Welkom project is to make it easier for refugees to study and work in their new countries. Participants in the project will therefore study how each country works with language learning as well as validation of knowledge, skills and competencies.

By comparing the results, we can learn from each other and actively help to facilitate integration.

*** Medborgarskolan**

Medborgarskolan is one of Sweden’s largest educational organisations. We were founded in 1940 and exist in a wide range of places around Sweden. We are a non-profit organisation without religious, political or economic interests. Our functions include elementary schools, upper secondary schools, adult education and training in association with the Swedish Unemployment Agency. Our asylum swedish is organised under this association.

*** The project’s different areas**

Within the framework of the various parts of the project, the following areas have been investigated.

Subarea 1

- In Sweden no formal decisions have been taken whether ECVET will be applied in the national VET system.
- In the proposal developed by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education, the SeQF is divided into eight levels, covering all levels of the public educational system from primary school to the highest higher education qualification. For every level there is a descriptor describing the learning outcomes in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.
- To date 25 validation models for different industries have been developed in Sweden, comprising approximately 140 professional roles.

- Performers of validation of prior skills is mapped
- Assessment of foreign education is mapped
- Teacher eligibility: The survey concerns pre-school, elementary school, high school and university

Subarea 2

Interviews with teachers actively working to teach asylum Swedish/Swedish as a foreign language.

Subarea 3

Compilation of the study plan, lesson planning and course curriculum regarding the teaching in asylum Swedish that we conduct in our organisation.

These courses consist of:

- Swedish from day one, 15 hours (Swedish Migration Board)
- Everyday Swedish, 40 hours (Swedish Migration Board)
- Swedish and social studies in the context of TIA - the early intervention for asylum seekers, 36 hours (Administrative Board)

The Welkom project comprises of five European organisations:

- UC LEUVEN-LIMBURG, Belgium, College in Flanders
- OECON GROUP, Greece, a European Consultative Organization and Center for Validation and Adult Education.
- EQUALITY CENTRE / JAFNRÉTTISHÚS, Iceland, Educational organisation with equality issues in focus
- MEDBORGARSKOLAN, Sweden, study federation
- FUTURO DIGITALE, Italy, Non-profit organisation that works for young people's opportunities

* Validation - an assessment and crediting of practical and theoretical knowledge

Anyone who has experience in a profession, but lacking a certificate can be helped to get their professional skills assessed. The assessment consists of both practical and theoretical tests in a so-called validation.

To date 25 validation models for different industries have been developed in Sweden, comprising approximately 140 professional roles.

Development and production of validation is provided, inter alia, by Valideringscentrum i Göteborgsregionen (Validation Centre in the Gothenburg Area) and Valideringscentrum i Malmö (Validation Centre in Malmö), where validation methods for some twenty

professional fields have been established in cooperation with adult education providers, the national employment agency (Arbetsförmedlingen) and social partner organisations.

Various industries have developed around 25 national validation models comprising some 150 professional roles, most of which can be found on the web site www.valideringsinfo.se, which is managed by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education.

The national employment agency procures validation services on a national scale, both according to the industry models and according to the courses included in the national subject syllabuses for the vocational programmes. In adult education, validation can be done for all types of schools and courses.

Since 2013 the Swedish Council for Higher Education has been responsible for the assessment and recognition of foreign qualifications at both upper-secondary and post-secondary levels. It took over this responsibility from the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education and two former public agencies: the National Agency for Higher Education (Verket för högskoleservice) and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket).

* Validation of prior learning

In the education system, for entry requirements and recognition of qualifications

• Adult education

Validation available in all types of schools
Provider(s): municipalities/county councils

• Higher vocational education

Validation for entry requirements and recognition of qualifications
Provider(s): Education and training providers. Link: www.myh.se

• Higher education

Validation for entry requirements and recognition of qualifications
Provider(s): HEIs. Link: www.studera.nu

• Popular education

Folk high schools and adult educational associations have a long-standing experience of validation, and the purposes vary depending on the character of the education/training.

For the labour market, before employment, self-employment etc.

• National employment agency

Procures validation services from external providers and is mainly a purchasing organisation

• Industry bodies

Model owners/developers
Provider(s): providers approved by the industry

• Regulated professions

Competent authorities are responsible for regulated professions

* **Assessment of foreign education**

For continuation of studies

Swedish Council for Higher Education

The council is responsible for the assessment of foreign education in relation to entry requirements for higher education and for labour-market purposes. The assessment of foreign education is organised into three units: the unit for assessment of upper-secondary education, the unit for assessment of higher education and the unit for assessment of post-secondary vocational education.

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- **Industry bodies**

Some regulated by agreements where social partner organisations have agreed on the criteria

- **Regulated professions**

Competent authorities are responsible for regulated professions

* **Timetable of selected activities with registration procedures, venues etc**

Medborgarskolan in Stockholm offers the following courses in asylum Swedish with ongoing starts every Monday. Teaching is done Monday to Wednesday every week, from 09:00–12:00 alternatively 17:30 to 20:30.

- Swedish from day one, 15 hours
- Everyday Swedish, 40 hours
- Swedish and social studies in the context of TIA - the early intervention for asylum seekers, 36 hours

* **Contact information for the Educational Associations and the Swedish Migration Board**

Educational Associations that offer asylum Swedish

- Medborgarskolan: www.medborgarskolan.se
- Sensus: www.sensus.se
- Studieförbundet: www.studieförbundet.se
- ABF: www.abf.se
- Bilda: www.bilda.se
- Folkuniversitetet: www.folkuniversitetet.se

Authorities

- Swedish Migration Board: www.migrationsverket.se





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