

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

SWEDEN

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	No (skip the next two questions)
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	Swedish youth policy is governed by the Government Bill Power to decide - right to welfare, adopted by the Swedish Parliament in 2004. The two overarching objectives of the national youth policy outlined in the Government Bill are: • All young people should have real access to influence • All young people should have real access to welfare In 2009 the Government presented a Strategy for Youth Policy, in which some aspects of the policy were developed. The Strategy also included a Plan of Action containing 45 new measures for young people, During 2012 work with a new Youth Policy Bill, which is to be presented to Parliament in 2013, has been initiated.
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	Descriptions of Swedish Youth Policy can be found at: http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/3781 http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se/kat/0,2070,1413,00.html

<p>6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>The renewed framework for EU cooperation in the youth field and Swedish national youth policy have many similarities. The renewed framework has reinforced existing priorities in our national work. In the work with a new Government Bill on Youth Policy, the renewed EU framework of cooperation will be a very important point of departure.</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>Since Sweden has a rather decentralised system of government, many decisions concerning young people are taken at the municipal level. Youth policy goals set by the Parliament are requirements for the central government but only advisory for the municipalities. Because of this decentralisation, it's difficult to say how much municipalities have been affected by EU youth policy. However, many municipalities have shown interest in the new EU framework of cooperation.</p>
<p>8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?</p>	<p>YES, the Government has supported and promoted such cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>The Government Agency the National Board for Youth Affairs has as one of its main tasks to collect and disseminate cross-sectoral knowledge about young people's living conditions to relevant actors at all levels. In addition to studies on specific themes commissioned by the Government, The National Board for Youth Affairs, as part of the yearly follow up of national youth policy, produces two yearly reports: -"Young today" (Ung i dag) presenting approx. 80 indicators reflecting various aspects of young people's living conditions from approx. 15 government agencies -"Focus" (Fokus), an in-depth study focusing on one specific youth policy field such as health, work, young people with fewer opportunities, etc. Every fourth year "Young people with attitude" (Attityd och värderingsstudien), a survey of young people's attitudes and values is carried out. Also, The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research is responsible for coordinating Swedish child and youth research and to stimulate communication and cooperation between different actors in the field.</p>
<p>9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any initiative to establish such cooperation.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>There is no institutionalised cooperation between the Ministry and the youth research community. However, the National Board for Youth Affairs, which has the responsibility for implementing the national youth policy, has a close and regular cooperation with youth researchers.</p>
<p>10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?</p>	<p>YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>The institutional mechanism for ensuring the cross-sectoral approach of youth policy - an inter-ministerial consultation process - is based on the fact that the Swedish Government takes all its decisions as a collective. This means that all draft government decisions that could affect the living conditions of young people have to go through a consultation with the Division for Youth Policy and NGO's at the Ministry of Education and Research.</p>

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<p>11. Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]?</p> <p>[1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.</p>	<p>YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>ESF funding plays an important role in supporting young people's integration on the labour market in Sweden. Young people are a prioritised target group in the Swedish ESF Programme. In one of the two priority areas of the programme (priority 2), there is a 39 percent concentration of young participants in the age group 15-25 years.</p>
<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>NO, the Government is not planning to set up such a strategy.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>Youth work is a local responsibility in Sweden, wherefore the Government normally does not take specific initiatives in this area. However, it is one of the main tasks of the National Board for Youth Affairs to support municipalities in their work with youth policy and youth work.</p>
<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>As mentioned above, youth work is primarily a local responsibility. As for non-governmental youth work in civil society organisations, the Swedish Government annually provides substantial funding for civil society organisations, including for example youth and sports organisations.</p>

<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>The Renewed Framework of EU cooperation in the youth field has during its first years of implementation mainly served as a tool reinforcing already existing priorities in Swedish National Youth Policy. Since no revision of the policy has taken place since 2010 no concrete obstacles can be mentioned. During 2012 and 2013, when Swedish Youth Policy will be revised, we will have the first opportunity to formally connect to the renewed EU framework of cooperation.</p>
<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>The Government in 2010 published an information leaflet on the renewed framework of EU cooperation in the youth field, which was distributed to relevant actors. The Government Agency, the National Board for Youth Affairs, continuously spreads information about the framework at meetings, conferences and seminars around the country. The National Youth Council (LSU) annually receives funding to spread knowledge among youth organisations about the EU cooperation in the youth field and to organise the Structured Dialogue in Sweden.</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>No, see Q 14.</p>
<p>17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.</p>	<p>Since this specific questionnaire is only focused on listing actual measures that have been taken by the Swedish Government, and does not include any evaluation or discussion of the results of these measures, we have not deemed it necessary or appropriate to have a thorough consultation with young people on this report. In terms of youth participation this text has only been sent to the National Working Group for the Structured Dialogue for consultation. This approach has also been approved by the NWG.</p>

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship

<p>18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Swedish Government promotes cross-border professional and vocational opportunities primarily through the EU-programmes for Life Long Learning and the Youth in Action Programme. The programmes give opportunities for young people to participate in vocational training, skills development and voluntary work in other European countries. Several municipalities in Sweden have used the Youth in Action programme for vocational training on voluntary basis for young people, and with great success. Evaluations of the programme show that voluntary work supports the development of vocational and social skills and knowledge in foreign language. Participation in the programme has also increased young people's opportunities in the labour market. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency provides a vocational training programme for young people between 20-30 years to do voluntary work within organisations active in development countries. Another example is that Sweden since 1995 has participated in WorldSkills Competition. Sweden has a mission to increase the interest in trades and vocational education among young people and in 2004 Youth Skills Sweden started. It is a tripartite cooperation between the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Government. WorldSkills Sweden is responsible for the Swedish skills team and Sweden's participation in WorldSkills Competition (WSC) and also for arranging national skills champions

20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In Sweden, according to the new Education Act which entered into force in 2011, all pupils and students in every stage of the education system, from compulsory school throughout adult education, should have access to a person with sufficient competence as to meet their need of guidance for planning of their forthcoming education and work. The guidance counsellor must have relevant training for guidance work in order to be employed as a guidance counsellor. This is also regulated in the Education Act for the school system. In 2010-2011, there were 847 guidance counsellors working for the compulsory school system. That is, one counsellor for every 526 pupils. In upper secondary schools, there were a total of 955 counsellors, or one counsellor for every 500 pupils. Vocational guidance is also an important part of the general counselling and guidance activities that the Public Employment Service offers all unemployed persons. The Government has underlined the importance of frequent personal services, in order to offer adequate support and guidance to the unemployed, and at the same time verifying that the individual is actively applying for jobs. More than half of the personnel of the Public Employment Service are employed for this purpose.

21. To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>During 2011 the Swedish Government has permanently implemented upper secondary school apprenticeship training as an alternative learning scheme to a professional degree. The apprentice follows a national vocational program and at least half of the training is located in a workplace. Apprenticeship training provides students with valuable experience and contacts for their future integration on the labour market. For the period 2011-2014, the Government has allocated approx. 86 million EUR to develop and increase the number of apprenticeships. Educational content relevance and quality of the job learning is a prerequisite for the apprenticeship training to expand and develop into an even more attractive option for both students and employers. The National Agency for Education and the National School Inspection has been commissioned to work on quality in work based learning. The job guarantee for young people ages 16-24, is directed towards young people who have been enlisted with the Employment Services for more than three months consecutively. Internships is one of the tools to make it easier for young people to enter the labour market. It provides participants with professional orientation and work experience and may even, under supervision, be used for preparatory work before starting a business. In 2010 on average 47, 000 people per month participated in the job guarantee for young people, 41 percent women and 59 percent men.</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Sweden

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Swedish Government's family policy, aims to strengthen parents' power over their lives and increase families' freedom of choice. Family policy should make it easier for parents to combine work and family life by improving the possibility for both parents to work and to take care of their children when they are young. Parents have a specific parental benefit which they receive to be able to be at home with their children while keeping their job. A total of 480 days' benefit is paid per child. 60 days are reserved for each parent. This is mainly to encourage equality and shared responsibility. Most fathers are also entitled to 10 extra paid days of leave when the child is born (working or unemployed fathers with unemployment benefit). The Swedish parental leave system is very flexible. Parents can choose to be off work for extended periods of time, single days or parts of days. Time off can even be saved and used from 60 days before the expected delivery date until the child reaches the age of eight or at the later date when the child finishes the first school year. There is also a possibility of leave and compensation for income loss when a parent has to abstain from work due to a child's illness. In 2008, the Government introduced a gender equality bonus in the parental insurance system. The aim is to boost gender equality in terms both of parental leave and of participation in working life. The gender equality bonus is intended to encourage parents to share parental leave.

23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Sweden

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Swedish Government promotes entrepreneurship as a way to develop and promote young people's skills, knowledge and creativity, which is part of a sustainable society. In 2009 the Swedish Government therefore launched a strategy for entrepreneurship within the education system. The National Agency for Education has been mandated to promote the schools' cooperation with working life, offering training, facilitate exchange of experience and allocate development funding and business support. The Government's commitment to entrepreneurship in education will continue and it plays an important role in the new Education Act and in the reformed upper secondary schools, which will start in the autumn of 2011 and in adult education 2012. Entrepreneurship is an overarching theme that emphasises curriculum, degree objectives and the subject matter and curricula for primary, secondary and adult education. The Government intends to continue to stimulate entrepreneurship in education during 2013 and 2014 by allocating approx. 1.6 million EUR annually to organisations and principals who work with entrepreneurship in schools.

<p>Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship</p>	<p>The Swedish Government has a high priority to promote young people's employment. First of all, education is the main tool for young people's establishment on the labour market. Young people who don't finish primary or secondary school have difficulties to find a job. Another obstacle for young people is the high threshold between education and employment. Therefore young people are in need of specific support and employers should be supported to hire them. During 2010 and 2011 the Government has implemented several reforms in order to reduce the gap, i.e. strengthened vocational education in secondary schools, specific support to young people 16-24 to complete education, compensation to employers who hire young people who have not had a job in six months. Here are some examples of implemented reforms: According to the Swedish Education Act municipalities have a local monitoring responsibility for young people under 20 years. The provision states that a municipality must continuously keep abreast of employment for young people under 20 who have completed primary school but failed to complete secondary school and not studying there, this in order to offer them appropriate individual measures. The job guarantee for young people, ages 16-24, is directed towards young people who have been listed with the Employment Services for more than three months consecutively. The aim is to offer unemployed young people activities so they can find work as soon as possible, or initiate or go back to an education within the regular educational system. Within the guarantee young people is offered intensified support, with in depth mapping, guidance, counseling and job search activities with coaching. So called new start jobs imply that an employer hiring a person, who has been outside the labor market a certain period of time, due to for example unemployment or illness, has a right to an economic compensation from the state.</p>
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<p>SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation</p>	
<p>24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Regular consultation with young people and youth organisations is a natural part of Swedish youth policy. Young people in Sweden are regularly consulted on both national and international issues in youth policy, principally through the youth organisations, and consultation procedures can be both formal and informal. In 2011 the Minister with responsibility for youth affairs appointed a reference group for youth policy which meets regularly to discuss current issues of relevance for youth policy. The group consists of representatives from a number of youth organisations as well as other organisations working with youth issues, researchers, municipalities and The National Board for Youth Affairs. During 2011 the group has discussed youth participation as well as the development of a new youth policy bill. The new policy bill will also be preceded by a broader consultation with young people. It should also be mentioned that when a Government Committee of Enquiry reports, and before the passing of new legislation in Sweden, a formal consultative procedure is carried out which provides representatives from, among others, youth organisations and other non-governmental organisations with an opportunity to express their views of the proposals. The National Working Group on the Structured Dialogue, led by the National Youth Council, has since the establishment of the Renewed framework of cooperation in the youth field received special financial support from the Government for</p>
<p>25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Consultation with the organisations of the civil society constitutes an important part of the gathering of information within the Swedish Government Offices. It is also a way for the Government to anchor decisions and to stimulate and facilitate the public debate. During 2010 as many as 300 larger meetings for dialogue and consultation with the organisations of the civil society, organised by the Government Offices, took place. The Division for Youth Policy and NGO's at the Ministry of Education and Research is currently producing guidelines for consultation with civil society organisations to be used in the Government Offices in order to make future meetings even more successful.</p>
<p>26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Government supports NGO:s through substantial annual government grants. The grant to youth organisations also includes the youth organisations of political parties and the umbrella organisation for Swedish Youth Councils. Swedish municipalities are independent and a large proportion of decisions that concern the life situation of young people are taken at local level. One way used to reach out to young people and involving them in policy-making in the municipalities is to create influence forums for example youth councils, youth parliaments, youth ombudsmen, citizens' proposals etc . Just over half of the municipalities (290 in total) have set up such an influence forum.</p>
<p>27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A great deal of informal and non-formal learning takes place in non-governmental organisations. These are provided with extensive support by government. Approximately 10 billion SEK a year is provided in state grants to non-governmental organisations working with for example national minorities, LGBT, gender equality and social inclusion. Training can also be provided by folk high schools that can be closely linked to an NGO. A folk high school, folkhögskola, is an independent adult education college. The Government has also since 2010 allocated funds for youth organisations and other civil society organisations in order for them to seek methods and stimulate non-organised young people to become active in the organisations of the civil society. See further, Section 6 - Good Examples</p>
<p>28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A large number of Swedish municipalities work with different kinds of consultations through Internet as one out of several channels in corresponding with their citizens. The use of Internet has become especially important when reaching young people. Since 2006 the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) has been running the project Dialogue with citizens with the support of IT. The government has so far granted SALAR a total of 6.1 million SEK. The project was initiated in the light of a little faith in politicians, fewer members of the political parties, major differences in the socio-economic background and the growing gap between citizens and elected officials. At the same time, studies showed that during 2006 three quarters of Swedes, especially young people, are really interested in discussing social issues. One of the challenges for the project has therefore been to find new ways and methods of dialogue between elected officials and citizens. Dialogue has been the foundation and the ICT the tool.</p>
<p>29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Education Act states that “school activities shall be structured in accordance with fundamental democratic values”. This is the basis for citizenship education in the Swedish educational system. There are also clear regulations on children’s and student’s rights to influence and participation in the national curricula for the Pre-school to the Compulsory school and the Non-compulsory school. One of the main principles for student’s participation is that they should be able to exercise real influence over the education and that their possibilities to do this should increase as they get older. Participation is mainly taught as part of other subjects, i.e. social studies in compulsory school and civics in upper secondary school.</p>
<p>30.to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Government continuously works on different methods and strategies to support the debate between institutions, young people and their organisations. One example of this is the regular consultation with the organisations of the civil society (see Q25).</p>
<p>Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>In the run-up to the national general elections in 2010 so called School election 2010 was arranged. The National Board for Youth Affairs, supported by the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality in cooperation with the Election Authority, conducted a democracy campaign targeted at students and teachers. School elections were organised in all institutions of higher education and upper-secondary schools, in which over 440 000 young people, had the possibility to take part. As in the real elections (that took place concurrently) students and pupils “voted” for existing political parties. Turnout was 76 per cent. One of the two overall objectives of Swedish youth policy is that young people are to have genuine access to influence. Consultation and dialogue with young people and youth organisations is therefore a key feature of Swedish youth policy.</p>

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

<p>31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Sweden has been an active programme country in the EU Youth programmes since 1994, and the programme has been and is the main tool to promote mobility opportunities for young people in Sweden. The current programme Youth in Action is for young people aged 15-28 (in some cases 13-30). It aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future. Youth in Action is a programme for all. It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU borders, non formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background. The Swedish Government has supported the management of the previous and current EU programmes according to EU regulation.</p>
<p>32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Sweden joined the Eurodesk network in the mid-1990s. Eurodesk Sweden and the European partners inform young people and multipliers in the youth field of the possibilities of mobility for young people within the EU. The National Board for Youth Affairs, which is responsible for the implementation of the Youth in Action Programme in Sweden, carries out information activities about the opportunities in the programme on a regular basis.</p>
<p>33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Since voluntary activities in Sweden primarily takes place within the context of civil society organisations the Government has taken no direct measures to develop self-assessment tools. However, several self-assessment tools have been developed and are used in Swedish organisations, which receive general government grants for their work. An example is the government funded work of The Centre for International Exchanges (CIU) to develop the self-assessment tool ELD. This tool was highlighted as a good example at one of the meetings within the EU working group on cross-border mobility of volunteers.</p>
<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>See Q31.</p>
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Youth in Action programme has an emphasis on an inclusive approach that ensures fairness and equality of access to the programme’s range of activities. The approach also gives the programme greater reach, as young people will get to meet and work with peers from diverse backgrounds. This means that Youth in Action encourages participation by young people from all educational, socio-economic, cultural or geographical backgrounds, as well as disabled youngsters, and also supports projects with a clear thematic focus on inclusion. The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs has always worked actively with inclusion and the proportion of “inclusion projects” within Youth in Action currently is 43 % (2010).</p>

<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The instruments mentioned above are used according to the regulations and recommendations by the European Commission. A training module developed by the National Board for Youth Affairs that has been successful is 1+1=3. During the training the participants learn the concept of the Europass certificate and how to facilitate the process of issuing certificates, as well as how to work structurally and strategically with self-assessments elements of Youthpass.</p>
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Promoting voluntary activities is a high priority for the Swedish Government and substantial government funding every year goes to civil society organisations in general, and to youth organisations. The main part of voluntary activities takes place within Sweden.</p>

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

<p>38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Government invests large resources in promoting the non-formal learning of young people taking place in civil society organisations, primarily through the government grant to youth organisations. In 2011, 97 youth organisations have been allocated approx. EUR 22,9 million in government grants.</p>

<p>39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education serves as coordinator for the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). In June of 2011 the agency presented a proposal for a national Swedish framework, positioning the degrees of the public educational system and other courses and educations. In September of 2011 the agency presented a proposal for a model how actors outside the public educational system, in a second phase, will be able to connect also their qualifications to a national framework. Through the reports there is better foundation for adequate future measures to be taken. It is of importance that the model for national framework chosen is accepted by all parties involved as a useful tool. The process therefore has to take the time needed to make a well-founded decision regarding the Swedish model. Exactly how a Swedish framework should look like is currently drafted in the Ministry of Education. The Swedish framework should, in a first phase, include the educations within the public educational system and other educations regulated by laws and regulations. However, the purpose is that a national framework, including also other qualifications, gradually should develop concurrently with the interest of working life and the businesses. Sweden will work for the establishment of a national framework for qualifications and that we, like the majority of countries, shall present its reference report to the Advisory Group for EQF during 2012.</p>
<p>40. To promote learning mobility of all young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The International Programme Office for Education and Training is a Government Agency that promotes academic exchanges and cooperation across national borders. The mission of the agency is to support different forms of international cooperation within education and training. The agency awards grants and project funding as part of the cooperation and exchange programmes for which they are responsible, for example the Lifelong learning programme. The funding can be applied by Swedish education institutions and organisations, and in some cases, Swedish individuals. The agency also runs communication initiatives aimed at various target groups in the field of education in Sweden. The work is funded by and managed in close cooperation with several Swedish and foreign institutions. The primary funders of actions are the European Commission, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Swedish Government. Together with the agency's partners in other EU countries, the agency participates in the development of European cooperation in the field of education and training. The goal is to attain greater mutual support, cultural understanding and new knowledge, as well as to create and develop international contact networks. The agency awards all sorts of funding, ranging from grants for different cooperation and development projects to individual scholarships for overseas studies or training, teacher exchanges and further education. The programmes are aimed at different levels and types of</p>
<p>41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Government annually funds Folkbildning with approx. EUR 359 million. Folkbildning is the collective name for the activities conducted by Sweden's folk high schools and study associations in the form of courses, study circles and cultural activities. Folkbildning is a part of the liberal non-formal educational system and is free from detailed national control. This freedom, like the strong ties to the non-profit sector, makes folkbildning a force of societal change. The ideas of folkbildning are noticeable not least in its practical activities, through dynamic interaction with the participants. Folkbildning has the following characteristics: - it is always voluntary for the individual to participate in folkbildning, - the participants have considerable opportunities to influence the content of the activities, - folkbildning is characterised by an environment in which learning and social interaction go hand in hand, - the circumstances and experiences of every participant are taken into account, and - folkbildning contributes to strengthening civil society through close co-operation with volunteer organisations, associations and various types of networks. Every year, several million Swedes participate in folkbildning activities. The Swedish Government also invests large resources in promoting voluntary activities among young people and young people's organisations. This is done primarily through the government grant to youth org</p>
<p>Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>The Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs: www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se The International Programme Office for Education and Training: www.programkontoret.se The Swedish National Council of Adult Education: www.folkbildning.se The Swedish Public Employment Service: www.arbetsformedlingen.se</p>

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

<p>42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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Sweden

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Swedish Government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) have signed an agreement in 2008 in order to develop local work in order to promote children and young people's mental health. This cooperation continues and during 2011 the Government decided to allocate approx. 3,6 million EUR, to continue testing new ideas and approaches for local governments that want to participate in active development. Examples of areas of work: - The development of health services in order to promote children and young people's mental health - Children at risk of harm - Joint management and governance - School results and mental health - Common overall responsibility for complex problems - Social security investments

Regarding physical activity guidelines, Sweden has many actions that are consistent with these guidelines. Here are some examples: - Measures have been taken to promote an environment that promote physical activity for children and young people. - Measures have been taken to increase health care service's support to individuals to change their lifestyles through physical activity. Physical activities can for example be ordained by doctors in order to improve health. Specially regarding children, the National Board of Health and Welfare has been commissioned to compile and disseminate knowledge that will enable and support an effective health promotion and disease prevention in maternal health, child health and school health in the areas

43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Government has since 2010 assigned the National Institute of Public Health to be responsible for a specific “Attention Week” with the purpose to put specific focus on good eating habits and physical activity. It will also be arranged during 2012. During 2011 over 3000 different activities took place all over the country. The week has become very popular among schools. The Swedish Government has since 2007 allocated approx. EUR 54.3 million to the National Sports Association for a specific venture - The Sports Initiative (“Idrottslyftet”). It began in 2007 and is an investment in Swedish children and youth. The overall purpose of this initiative is to recruit and retain more members of sports clubs. It shall have an inclusive perspective in order to reach different groups in society. All activities shall for example be designed on equal terms for girls and boys. To reach the overall target the measures aim to: - Develop associations and organisations - Increase access to facilities and sporting environments - Recruiting and developing leaders - Collaborate with schools and other organisations, such as outdoor recreation organisations and other associations outside of sport.</p>
<p>44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The main responsibility for youth work lies at the municipal level in Sweden, wherefore the Government does not take direct measures in this area. The Swedish Government gives annual support to the association for Folk high schools, (in 2012 by approx. EUR 26 million). The schools have a long tradition of providing general civic education, always emphasizing active participation by the students. Among the Folk high school’s there is a specific association of schools which arrange education for youth workers which include knowledge about health and health promotion.</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>NGO's can use this method, but no measures are taken from the Government's side.</p>
<p>46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In order to promote young people's health, it is of vital importance that they have access to relevant and quality information about health, sex and relationships. In 2007 the Swedish Government took initiative to develop an on-line youth clinic. The website UMO (short for the youth clinic) was launched in 2008. UMO is developed in co-operation with young people in Sweden, youth clinics, school health services, NGO: s and professionals working with young people. In addition to targeted health information, young people can find information on everything from sex and contraception to mental health, bullying, eating disorders, substance abuse, violence, rights, and forced marriages. The site also makes it possible for young people to submit questions anonymously to the UMO's query service. Youth clinic professionals provide personal answers to all questions: Link: http://www.umo.se/Om-Umo/Andra-sprak/About-UMO/</p>
<p>Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

<p>47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In 2010 the Swedish Government initiated a specific training for youth workers and youth leaders on youth policy and methods on how to work for inclusion of young people on local level. The Government has also during 2011-2013 initiated the development of guidelines for youth workers on how to make youth recreation centers LGBT-inclusive. The National Board for Youth Affairs is responsible for both these projects.</p>
<p>48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Swedish youth policy is cross-sectoral. One of the main priorities of the Swedish Government is to combat social exclusion, and young people are a prioritised group in this work. A main focus in this work is to promote the integration of young people on the labour market and to decrease youth unemployment. During 2010-2011 specific efforts have been made in order to increase the possibilities for unemployed young people between 16-24 years who face different difficulties in the labour market in order for them to get apprenticeship training, support to finish education and to get individual coaching and job training. The Swedish government has in December 2011 submitted a action plan to protect Swedish democracy against violent extremism (2011/12:44). The action plan contains measures to increase knowledge about violent extremism, to discourage individuals from joining violent extremist groups and to make it easier for those who have already joined to defect from such groups. One measure in the action plan is that the Government have given the National Board for Youth Affairs to distribute funding to civil society organisations to finance activities aimed at strengthening young people's democratic values.</p>
<p>49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In December 2011 the Swedish Government adopted a national action plan in order to promote democracy and combat violent extremism. The action plan has specific focus on young people. The action plan includes measures to increase awareness of violent extremism, to prevent individuals to join violent extremist groups and to facilitate for those who already joined such groups to leave them. The action plan also contains measures to strengthen the structures for cooperation and measures to discourage breeding grounds for the ideologically motivated violence. The government intends to implement measures during 2012-2014. The 15 measures consist of the following six areas: 1. Strengthen awareness of democratic values 2. Increase knowledge of violent extremism 3. Strengthen structures of collaboration 4. Prevent that individuals join violent extremist groups and support drop-out from such groups 5. Prevent breeding grounds for the ideologically motivated violence 6. Deepen international cooperation.</p>
<p>50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>There are specific housing allowances to young people and families with low income. During 2012 the Swedish Government will increase the support to these two groups. In order to get more knowledge about young people's housing situation the Swedish Government also initiated a specific thematic analysis about young people's homelessness, housing and financial exclusion. The analysis was made by the National Board for Youth Affairs and presented in December 2011. In 2011 the Government appointed a national coordinator for efforts to combat homeless-ness and prevent families with children from being evicted.</p>
<p>51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In 2007 the Swedish Government took initiative to develop an on-line youth clinic. The website UMO (short for the youth clinic) was launched in 2008. UMO is developed in co-operation with young people in Sweden, youth clinics, school health services, NGO's and professionals working with young people. The Swedish government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) has made an agreement in 2008 in order to develop local work in order to promote children's and young people's mental health. During 2011 the government is investing approx. EUR 3,6 million to continue testing new ideas and approaches for local governments that want to participate in active development. In March 2011 the Riksdag (Parliament) adopted a cohesive strategy for alcohol, narcotic drugs, doping and tobacco policy for the period 2011-2015. One long-term objective is to gradually reducing the number of children and young people who initiate the use of tobacco, narcotic drugs or doping substances or begin drinking alcohol early. Priority goals linked to this objective is reduced initiation of narcotic drugs and doping abuse; development of methods for deterring children and young people from starting to use tobacco products; wider use of available, effective means of postponing alcohol debuts and reducing alcohol consumption; emphasis on health promotion in schools and finally, greater participation by parents, NGO:s and business community in preventive work. Different initiative

52. To promote specific support for young families? YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Young parents are a risk group for not finishing upper secondary school and therefore also a risk group for unemployment in the future. In Sweden, each year approx. 4 000 young people under the age of 20 become parents. Studies have shown that 75 per cent of the young parents do not finish upper secondary school. In order to increase the possibilities for young parents to finish education, the National Board for Youth Affairs has a task to develop methods for schools. A specific investigation about the economic support to pupils in upper secondary school will also look into the economic situation of young parents and make suggestions. This investigation will be finished in June 2013.

53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?

NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?

YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Creative Schools initiative Children and young people have the right to create and participate in cultural life. But the opportunities of children differ. In order to reduce these differences, it is the Swedish Government's intention to deepen and strengthen the school's work on culture in accordance with the curricula intentions. During 2008 the Creative Schools initiative was introduced for grade 7-9. Since 2011 all of compulsory schooling, grade 1-9 is covered by the initiative. Each year approx. EUR 16,3 million is allocated to promoting cooperation between schools and the professional cultural life taking as their starting point the curriculum. This allows the Creative Schools Initiative to contribute to attaining the school's academic goals. Youth involvement when outlining an action plan for the intended cultural work at school is an obligation to obtain the grant. The Swedish Arts Council has been commissioned by the Government to coordinate and spread knowledge through a national web page about child and youth culture offerings, educational initiatives, current research and statistics relating to the area of child and youth culture. In the beginning of 2012 the web page www.bolla.se will be established.</p>
<p>55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

New curriculum for the compulsory school, preschool class and the leisure-time centre 2011 According to the new curriculum, the task of schools is, among others, to promote learning by stimulating the individual to acquire and develop knowledge and values. The school should impart the more unvarying forms of knowledge that constitute the common frame of reference that all in society need. According to the curriculum, pupils should be able to keep their bearings in a complex reality, where there is a vast flow of information and where the rate of change is rapid. Study skills and methods of acquiring and using new knowledge are therefore important. The school should stimulate pupils' creativity, curiosity and self-confidence, as well as their desire to explore their own ideas and solve problems. Pupils should have the opportunity to take initiatives and responsibility, and develop their ability to work both independently and together with others. The school in doing this should contribute to pupils developing attitudes that promote entrepreneurship. Between 2005 and 2010 the Swedish Government has designated special funds for the development of use of IT in teaching. In all, approx. EUR 4,2 million has been funded, of which approx. EUR 1,1 million has been funded for 2010. The Swedish National Agency for Education shall continuously follow up children's, students and teachers use of IT and IT-skills in preschool, school and adult education. The assignment will be reported

<p>56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>As already stated in section A on Education and Training, the Swedish Government invests large resources in promoting voluntary activities among young people and young people's organisations. This is done primarily through the government grant to youth organisations. In 2011, 97 youth organisations have been allocated approx. EUR 22,9 million in central-government grants. The importance of voluntary organisations in Sweden is emphasised by the fact that since the start of the new millennium Sweden has had a general policy on NGOs, in which the objective is for people to be as well placed as possible to form and take part in various types of NGOs and community organisations. The Swedish Arts Council allocates around 30 % of the total of state cultural funding to operations and projects that directly benefit child and youth culture by professional stakeholders in areas such as theatre, dance, music, literature, arts periodicals and public libraries, and to the fine arts, museums and exhibitions. Operations and projects are performed in leisure time and during schooldays.</p>
<p>57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The support of youth workers is competence of the local municipalities. At regional and local level the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs supports the authorities in their work with youth policy, and seeks to ensure that whatever activities are carried out are based on a sound knowledge of young people's circumstances and views.</p>

Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).

National cultural policy objectives In 2009 the Swedish Parliament decided on new national cultural policy objectives where all children's and young people's right to culture is clearly articulated: Culture is to be a dynamic, challenging and independent force based on freedom of expression. Everyone is to have the opportunity to participate in cultural life. Creativity, diversity and artistic quality are to be integral parts of society's development. To achieve the objectives, cultural policy is to:

- promote opportunities for everyone to experience culture, broaden their horizons and to develop their creative abilities;
- promote quality and artistic renewal;
- promote a dynamic cultural heritage that is preserved, used and developed;
- promote international and intercultural exchange and cooperation in the cultural sphere; and
- pay particular attention to the rights of children and young people to culture

Culture within school Arts education has a long tradition in the Swedish school. The purpose is to give children both a theoretical and a practical education. School should make space for practice and the development of motor skills and aesthetic learning. In the national curricula the different subjects have different functions in order to develop knowledge and skills to help the pupils to become harmonious, responsible members of society. Drama, movement, dance, music and creativity in art, writing and design should all form part of the school's activity. Harmonious development and education provides opportunities for exploring, researching, acquiring and representing different forms of knowledge and experiences. Creative ability is a part of what the pupils should acquire. Awareness of one's own cultural origins and sharing a common cultural heritage provides a secure identity which it is important to develop, together with the ability to empathise with the values and conditions of

others. Subjects such as Arts, Physical education and Health including dance, Music and Textile, wood- and metalwork are compulsory up to 9th grade. Entrepreneurship drive The Government has approved a strategy for entrepreneurship in education, aimed at providing support to those working in the education system. The strategy affirms the close link between entrepreneurship and business activity but also highlights the ability of entrepreneurship to stimulate young people's creativity and inventiveness. Entrepreneurial skills are defined as the ability to see possibilities, to take initiatives and translate ideas into action, to learn how to solve problems, to plan and to work with others. The strategy describes measures to encourage entrepreneurship at all educational levels. These measures include giving entrepreneurship a more prominent place in policy documents for compulsory and upper secondary school, professional contests, and taking stock of and analysing the situation. Entrepreneurship in the new compulsory school syllabus Pr

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

The Swedish education system has a task to teach children and young people about issues such as sustainable development and human rights. Also the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency has a responsibility to disseminate information about development cooperation and global issues. The Living History Forum is a Swedish public authority which, using the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity as a starting point, works with issues on tolerance, democracy and human rights, with young people as an important target group.

<p>59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Government Bill and the Government Strategy on youth policy states that young people’s possibilities to engage in international cooperation should be strengthened and that young people’s participation in international fora for dialogue on global issues should be supported. As all MS Sweden sends youth representatives to the EU Youth Conferences. For more than 10 years Sweden has also had a youth delegate in the Swedish Delegation to the UN General Assembly. Every year Sweden also has a youth delegate at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development and in the UNESCO-delegation. Youth delegates have also participated when youth relevant issues have been discussed in for example the UN Commission for Social Development, and at the World Youth Conference in the UN General Assembly in July 2011. The youth delegates normally have the chance to make a speech during the meetings. The work with youth delegates is carried out in close cooperation with the Swedish National Youth Council (LSU). In April 2012, the Swedish Government is hosting the international conference “Stockholm +40 - Partnership Forum for Sustainable Development”. The aim of the conference is to prepare input for the Rio+20 summit and to promote dialogue between representatives of government, business, young people, civil society and researchers. The Swedish National Youth Council is closely involved also in this process.</p>
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Sweden

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Swedish Consumer Agency, in cooperation with the Swedish Competition Authority (both Government Agencies) host a website for young consumers (www.ungkonsument.se). One of the aims of the website is to promote sustainable/green consumption among young people.</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>This is mainly done through EU Programmes such as Youth in Action and the Life Long Learning Programme. As for voluntary activities, see Q62.</p>
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>A common way for young people in Sweden to participate in different development cooperation activities is to engage in Swedish civil society organisations working with development, or by going to carry out voluntary activities with one of these organisations in a developing country. These organisations receive substantial financial support from the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Sida also supports Minor Field Studies, a scholarship programme targeting students at the college or university's level with an international interest, who want to gather material for their thesis or equivalent in a developing country. The programme is designed to broaden and deepen a person's international skills and knowledge about Swedish development cooperation and contribute to the Swedish resource base for international commitment and work. The Junior Professional Officer, or JPO programme, is an other opportunity for young university graduates and young qualified professionals to obtain experience from working in international organisations and Sida supports a number of posts in different organisations each year.</p>
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<p>Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>
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SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The National Youth Council encourages a review of the structured dialogue, in order to eventually create more real influence for youth in the EU, not only through recommendations.</p>
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<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here</p>	<p>The National Working Group for the Structured Dialogue was established in a joint effort between the Ministry of Education and Research, the National Youth Council and the National Board for Youth Affairs. The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions was also invited to participate in the group. They were positive to participate on an ad hoc basis, but stated that they didn't have the possibility to be a permanent member of the group. The NWG is chaired by the National Youth Council which receives earmarked annual funding from the Government for the National Working Group and the structured dialogue.</p>
<p>65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Yes, see Q 64.</p>
<p>66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Research is represented by two persons in the National Working Group. The meetings of the working group are also hosted by the Ministry.</p>
<p>67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Government provides annual financial support to the National Youth Council for their work with National Working Group. See also Q64.</p>
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>As the Ministry participates in the meetings of the National Working Group, the Ministry is closely involved in the process of the national consultations. The joint work being performed by the different actors of the working group has shown to be very successful.</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No, we do not have any current plans for a follow-up</p>

<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>see q. 17</p>
<p>71. Would your Government support a No structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>Sweden believes the structured dialogue should be closely connected to the overall priorities of the EU cooperation in the youth field. Nationally, however we can have consultations on a wider range of issues. One of the two overall objectives of Swedish youth policy is that young people are to have genuine access to influence. Regular consultation with young people and youth organisations, therefore is a natural part of Swedish youth policy. Young people in Sweden are regularly consulted on both national and international issues in youth policy, principally through the youth organisations, and consultation procedures can be both formal and informal. (We are not sure we fully understood this question).</p>
<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	<p>As in other European countries, there is a difficulty in Sweden to reach young people that are not part of an organisation.</p>

<p>73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>-The members of the National Working Group have contributed to the structured dialog out of their field of expertise. For example the National Board for Youth Affairs has a network of contacts on regional and local level as well as extensive knowledge in the field of youth research. The National Youth Council has contributed with the knowledge of their member organisations and different national and local events in the consultation process. -A reference group chaired by the Minister for Youth Affairs, which meets regularly to discuss current issues of relevance for youth policy, have discussed issues related to the structured dialogue on occasion.</p>
<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In 2011 the minister with responsibility for youth affairs appointed a reference group for youth policy which meets regularly. The group consists of representatives from the youth field such as researchers, municipalities and The National Board for Youth Affairs.</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>This is done through the support for the work with the structured dialogue of the National Youth Council.</p>
<p>76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

The format and methods have improved over time. Short time for national consultations still remains a problem. It is important to take in to account that during the EU Youth Conference, the theme or questions being discussed need to open for additional perspectives and new questions from the delegates. Also, perspectives that may not have been raised during the national consultations need to be taken into account. Clear and concise background material, sent out well in advance of the Conference, is a success factor.

77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

See Q76. The Swedish youth representatives have been the same two persons over every 18-month period. Both the representatives themselves and the NWG believe this is a successful method to sustain a consistency in the national consultations and the EU youth conferences. Sweden would highly recommend other countries to do the same in the future. The questions in the national consultation form need to be simplified and shortened so that everyone can understand the meaning of the consultation. Methods for national consultations should be made more uniform by providing clear guidelines for the National Working Groups. The invitations to the EU Youth Conferences need to be more coherent, for example should the NA's be present or not?

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1

One of the priorities of the European Social Fund programme in Sweden 2007-2013 is interventions that help young people to establish themselves in the labour market. The target group is here primarily young people in social exclusion. Many of the social fund projects are working with young people who neither work nor study, and that often lack complete primary or secondary education. A survey shows that it is also often a question of multiple problems among the participants, with mental disabilities, problems at home, etc. In addition it has been reported that about half of the participants have been inactive for more than a year, and one third for more than two years. As a result of the young participants being largely detached from the labour market the social fund projects in many cases try to give them a structured daily life before moving on to training and internship. Projects may also include alternative forms of education and special support measures for young people in internships (and for the employers). A so-called thematic group within the social fund programme has compiled advice and experiences on internships for young people; Among other things, it is of great importance that young people are motivated, which

underscores the need for good preparation for the internship start. A good match between individual needs and the internship is especially important for young people who have previously failed in school or in their contacts with the working life. The thematic group has also developed a analysis model for describing young people aged 16-25 years who neither work nor study. Within the framework of the social fund programme there has also recently been a procurement of development efforts to reduce early school leavers. A key element of the development work will be learning, monitoring, evaluation and feedback of results to relevant stakeholders in the education and labour market. Demand in the Social Fund programme for activities for young people has been great. The quantitative target is at least 15 000 young participants in the projects concerned. The number of young people who started participation as per September 2011 is 23 000. Analyses show that the social fund programme has a good hit rate in the sense that it, in comparison with ordinary measures, reaches young people furthest from the labour market.

Presentation of good practice # 2

Commitment guides The purpose of the Commitment guides is to stimulate people living in areas with less organised inhabitants, in particular young people and women, and increase their contacts with civil society organisations in different areas of activity. Support to the Commitment guides has been allocated by the National Board for Youth Affairs during 2010 with 12 million SEK (1,4 million Euro). The number of applications received was well above expectations. Of 91 applications received were 21 projects granted. Out of these 21 projects 10 focused in particular on women/girls. The results of this strategy have so far shown that dialogue regarding attitudes and values with parents have had a great importance involving young women especially when given the opportunity or access to participate in the associative sector the local democratic processes and the local society development. Final reports from applicants show that over 300 associations have been involved in local projects and that the Commitment guides have reached about 6 000 young people in various ages. Through the Commitment guides new groups have taken part of local activities which have been organised within the projects. It seems that working with Commitment guides increases local involvement in the short term but it is too early to see any results in the longer perspective. The National Board for Youth Affairs will as a consequence of the very good results and big demand continue to support organisations in this field until 2013.

Presentation of good practice # 3

As a part of the support of entrepreneurship among young people a separate programme for promoting the innovative business ideas has been developed. The initiative is aimed to stimulate, develop and help commercialize business ideas. The programme model builds on the concept of an advisory board containing young, successful entrepreneurs with a unique capability to review innovations and encourage entrepreneurial solutions to answer the needs of the future/tomorrow. The programme is managed by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and Vinnova.