

# TEEUP Survey Sweden

## 2. MIGRATION POLICIES AND MIGRANT LOCATION

### 2.1 Migration Policies (Legislation, Social and Ethical Responsibility)

Most foreigners working in Sweden can be divided into five groups.

- i) Refugees, relatives of refugees and individuals with family-connection to refugees. Since around 1969 there has been a comparatively large yearly inflow of this group of people.
- ii) Citizens of Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland. Since 1954 there has been a common Nordic labour market. Depending on the economic situation in the various countries the flow of people change.
- iii) Citizens of EU, outside of the Nordic Countries. Sweden has been a member of EU since 1995. Until 2007, when the Baltic States and Poland, became members too, there has been very little inflow of EU-citizens. Now there is some influx from these new EU-members.
- iv) Citizens from countries outside of EU who has been brought here by Swedish companies, public hospitals, Universities, etc.
- v) Citizens from outside EU who has married Swedes.

#### 2.1.1 Local

In the Municipalities there is a well-organized system for integrating refugees in Swedish society. The Migration Board has made agreements with most of the Municipalities to accept, each year, a certain number of refugees who get permanent permission to stay in Sweden (PUT). There is education in the Swedish language and about Swedish society. Then, depending on the refugee's educational background, they can move on to tertiary education or Adult Secondary education (Komvux).

Historically, people from the Nordic countries and Western Europe, have come to Sweden to work or to study at the Universities, they have not come for vocational education.

#### 2.1.2 Regional

On a regional level, the County Administrative Board (a state organization), is responsible for monitoring the integration of refugees in the municipalities that belongs to their County.

In some parts of Sweden, the County Councils, which are regional political bodies who are responsible for health care within their area of jurisdiction, have been active in recruiting doctors and nurses from other parts of the EU. The Councils have set up introduction programmes, in the Swedish language, health organization and ethics. The health-care sector

is one of the first areas where national shortage of qualified people has made itself felt. As the people born in the 1940's will retire, this situation will spread to more and more sectors of the economy. Like many other EU countries, Sweden will be forced to recruit a great number of qualified people from abroad, or recruit people abroad and add to their skills in Sweden.

#### 2.1.3 National

On the national level, some of the main public actors are the Migration Board, the Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, the Ministry of Employment and the Public Employment Office.

The Migration Board handles applications for asylum, applications for work-permit by non-EU citizens and applications for Swedish citizenship.

The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality shall promote, and monitor, the integrating of foreigners into Swedish society.

The Ministry of Employment is responsible for the functioning of the Swedish labour market.

The Public Employment Office is responsible for helping unemployed people getting work. They buy vocational training for unemployed people.

In the private sphere there two main stakeholders - the trade unions, and the organizations of employers. The main trade union organizations are:

The Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO) – members are trade unions for workers.

The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO) – members are unions for salaried employees.

The Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (SACO) – members are unions for academically trained people.

The employers have two main organizations:

Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (Svenskt Näringsliv) – members are associations of companies, in all sizes and in all parts of the economy. It is this organization, and its members, that do the negotiating with three kind of trade unions.

Federation of Private Entrepreneurs (Företagarna) – this is an organization for small and medium-sized companies and it has individual companies as members.

#### **2.1.4 International (EU Policies)**

Sweden has few problems with EU rules and regulations on the labour market, with one clear exception - the Laval case, see judgement C-341/05 by the Court of Justice of the European Communities. It is a judgement about the interpretation of the directive 96/71 about the posting of workers in other member countries.

The background of the case is: A Latvian building company, Laval, had won a contract to build a school in Vaxholm, a municipality just outside Stockholm. The Swedish Construction Workers Union, together with six other trade unions within the building industry wanted to force Laval to accept the collective agreements that has been negotiated between the Swedish trade unions and employer organizations. When Laval said no, the seven trade unions boycotted the building-site. This put a stop to the building of the school. Laval took the conflict to the Swedish Labour Court in December 2004.

