

2018 Country Report for Sweden

Key points for EASPD members

I. Employment and Labour Market Policy

- In 2016 Sweden had one of the highest employment rates in the EU at 81.2 %.
- Overall unemployment was below the EU average at 6.9 %.
- Labour shortages emerged in sectors such as construction, education, health, science, engineering and ICT.
- A major challenge for the labour market now is the integration of people with a migrant background, including those with relatively low levels of education and skills.
- The employment rate of non-EU born residents is better than the EU-average, but well below the one of the native population.
- Youth unemployment reached the lowest level since 2003.

II. Education Policy

- The educational performance gap between different social groups is large and widening.
- Despite recent measures, the education system does not appear to promote quality education for all. There are signs of growing inequalities in learning outcomes.
- There is a strong relationship between performance and the types of school that students attend.
- In the 2018 budget, the government proposes to allocate additional resources to improve equity and knowledge development in schools.
- Student performance improved significantly in mathematics and reading compared to 2012, and remained stable in science.
- The integration of newly arrived migrant pupils warrants close monitoring, as does the growing shortage of teachers.
- The growing number of students is not matched by the number of teachers entering the profession.
- The government has started to improve financial incentives for teachers, so far with mixed results.
- From autumn 2018, pre-school class (age 6) will be mandatory, meaning that compulsory education will last for 10 years.



III. Social Policy

- The share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) has increased from 15.6 % in 2012 to 18.3 % in 2016 (all ages).
- The healthy life expectancy at 65 is among the highest in the EU for both men and women.
- Sweden dedicates sizeable human and financial resources to the health care sector.
- The shortage of medical staff, in particular in rural areas, prevents securing an optimal mix of doctors and nurses, impeding the system's efficiency.

IV. Anything else?

- The gender employment gap is at a low level.
- The level of gender equality is high.
- Sweden has a good track record of receiving and integrating migrants into the labour market.

Additional Information

- European Commission: 2018 Country Report for [Sweden](#)
- EASPD [Activities on the European Semester](#)

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