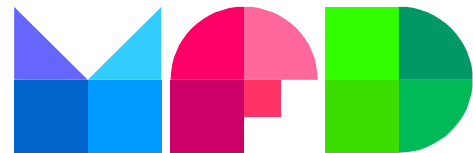


The Disability Policy in Sweden

Ola Balke



**Swedish Agency for
Participation**

The Disability Policy is built on

- CRPD
- Agenda 2030
- Discrimination laws



UN Convention

- Equal rights
- The connection between human rights and accessibility
- Individual self-determination and freedom to make own choices



National Action Plan and National Strategy

- Current Action Plan called "From patient to citizen"
- New Strategy 2021-2031 with strong follow-up perspective, 28 sectorial agencies and active involvement
- New National Action Plan 2026



The objectives of the policy

Achieve equality in living conditions and full participation for people with disabilities in a diverse society and actively contribute to increased gender equality and to consider the rights of children



The direction of the policy

- The principle of universal design
- Identify shortcomings in accessibility
- Individual support and solutions for individual independence
- Prevent and counteract discrimination



Participation

- To be a part of – on equal terms
- The right to participate is a human right
- Autonomi and self-determination



Accessibility

- The environment
- Transports
- Information and communication
- Goods, products, services and digital solutions



Universal design

The concept of universal design describes how products, the environment and services can be used by as many people as possible without any special adaptation. Diversity in the process is crucial to the outcome



Active involvement

- According to the CRPD, the states must actively involve organizations that represents persons with disabilities. So it works in Sweden.



The Swedish Agency for Participation

- Director General and 50 employees
- Agency under the Ministry of Social Affairs
- One of 342 agencies in Sweden



The Agency's business

- Finding ways for everyone to participate in the society
- Finding ways for the policy to make real changes
- Collecting, developing and disseminate knowledge



Target groups

- Governmental agencies
- Regions
- Municipalities



Tools for dialogue and strategy on disability

- The digital tools are primarily aimed for municipalities and regions.
- They provide guidance and tips in the work of increasing participation.
- There is a tool for dialogue with people with disabilities and one for developing strategies.



Follow-up

- how municipalities, regions and agencies work with accessibility and participation for persons with disabilities.
- on the development of living conditions for persons with disabilities.



Accessible elections

- The voting process does not yet provide for the full participation of all citizens
- Many balloting stations have been shown to have shortcomings concerning accessibility
- Written and digital information is not always accessible



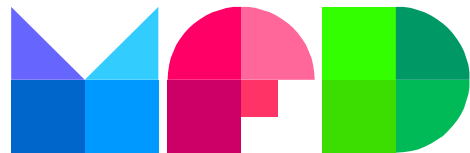
Winner!



Swedish Agency for
Participation

The Implementation of CRPD in Sweden

Ola Balke



**Swedish Agency for
Participation**

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Ratified 2008 and entered into force 2009
- The UN Committee in Geneva
- General comments and recommendations



The UN Convention contains

- Equal rights
- The connection between human rights and accessibility
- Individual self-determination and freedom to make own choices



The Swedish Disability Policy is built on

- CRPD
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National Action Plan and National Strategy

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Implementation of the Convention

- National Laws
- Promote and respect
- Fulfill and monitor



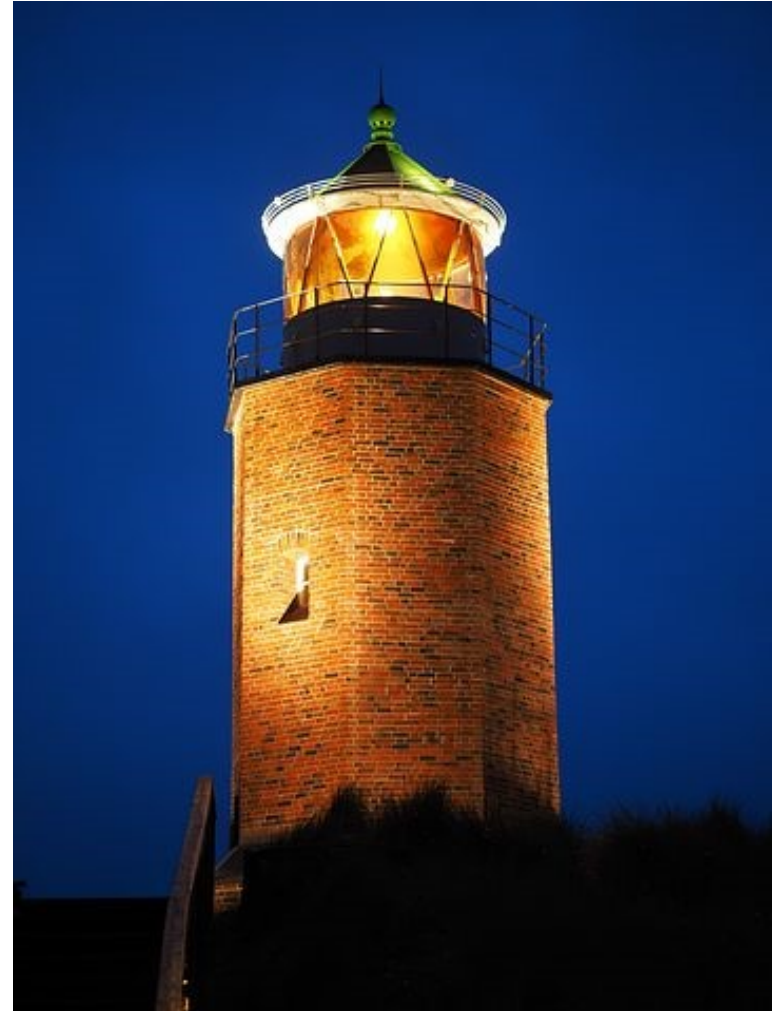
National implementation

- The Government is responsible
- According to Article 33 there must be a national focal point
- In Sweden, since January 2022 it is The Swedish Institute for Human Rights

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Local implementation

- Cooperation with Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
- The County Administrative Boards
- Agenda 2030



Good examples

- The municipalities Skellefteå och Botkyrka
- Access City Award is an EU initiative and a Governmental assignement
- The Council for sustainable cities and the New European Bauhaus in the North of Sweden



Thank You!