

Swedish Labour Migration Policy

Experiences and lessons Tallinn 29-11-05

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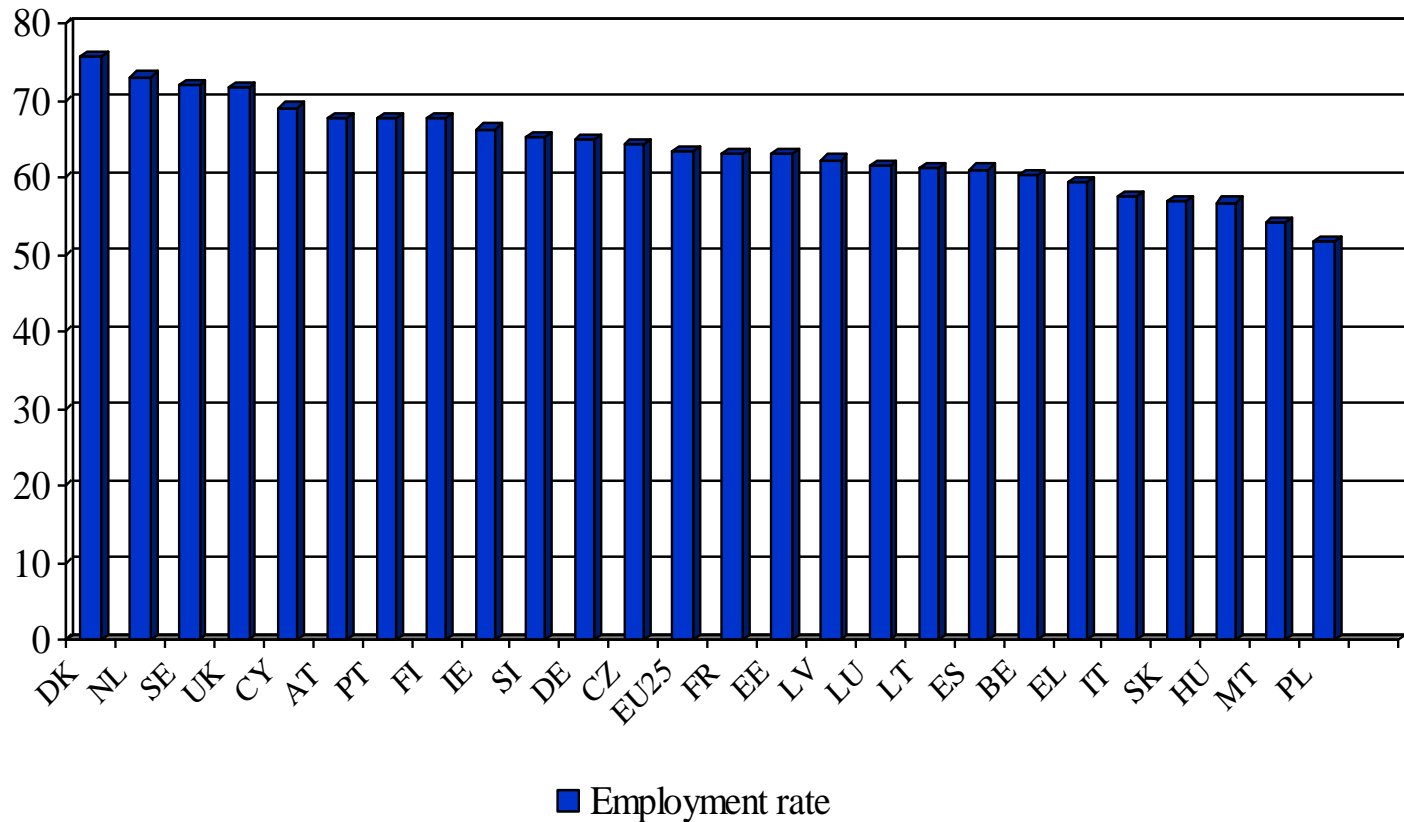
The task:

1. **Brief overview of the Swedish policies towards labour migration (EU; new MS; third countries) and explaining the argument behind the policy decisions.**
2. **Positive and negative impact of migrant workers to the labour market, economy and welfare system in Swedish experience (*including effect of EU eastern enlargement*)**
3. **How to manage migration? Swedish experience on integration policies.**

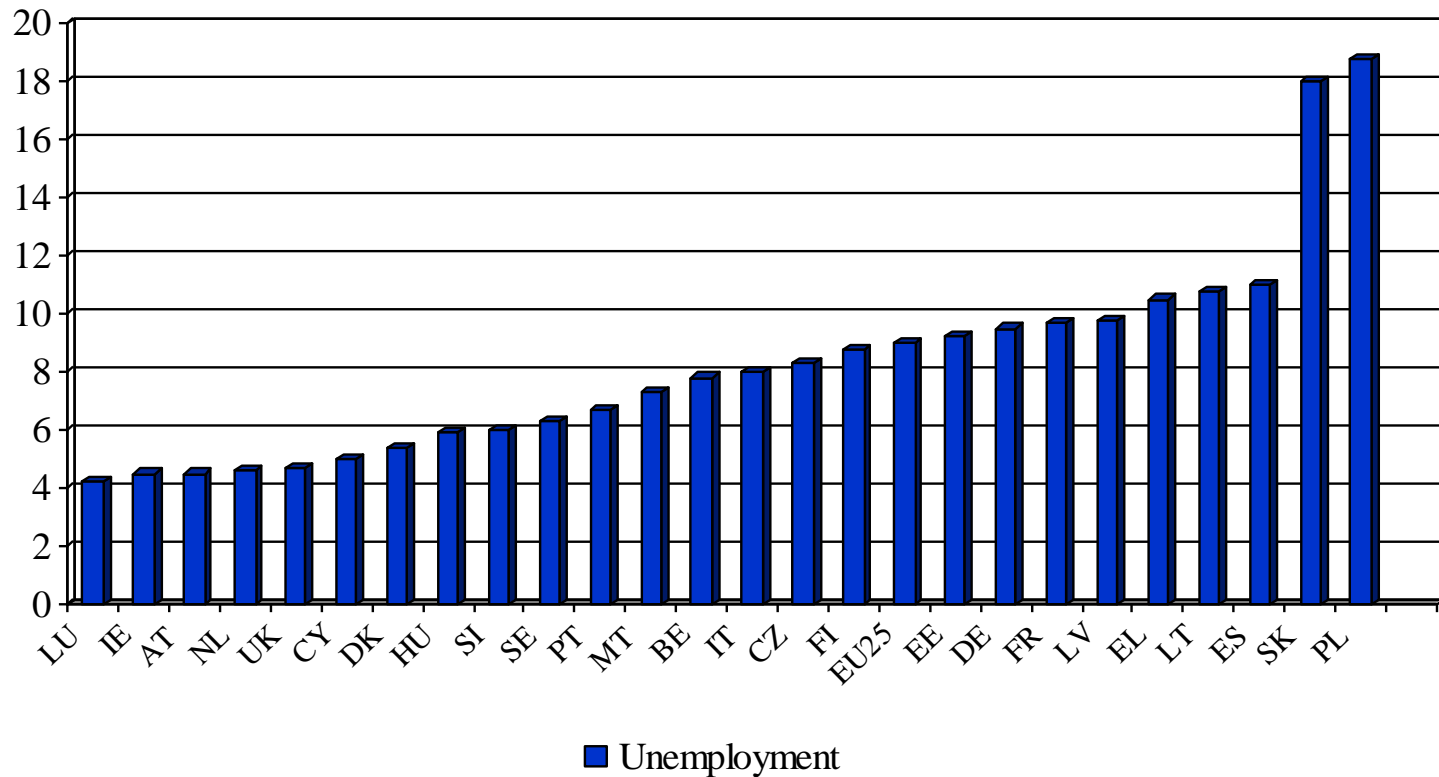
Sweden in figures

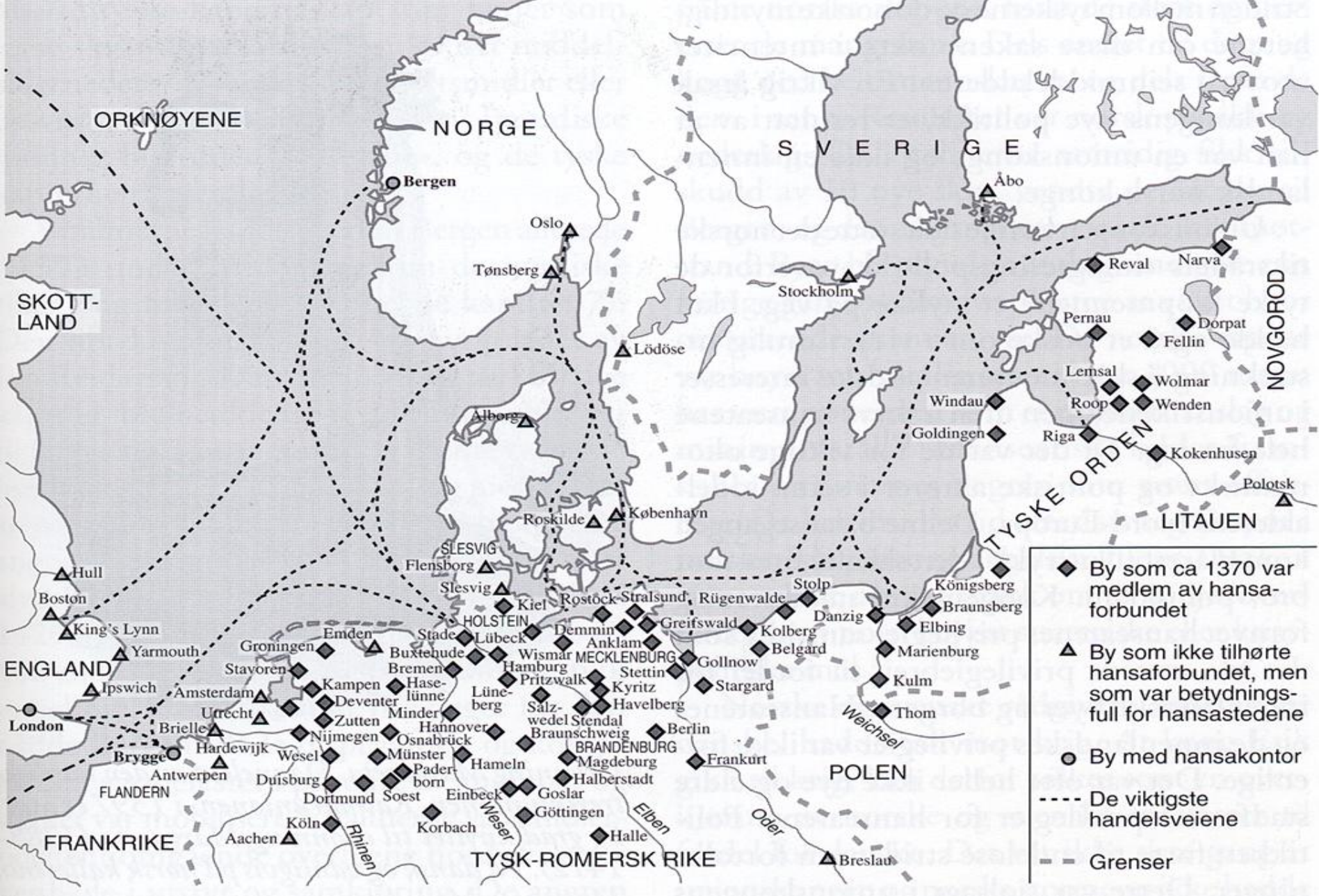
- **Inhabitants – 9 million**
- **Foreign born – 12 %**
- **Labour force participation – 78,7 %**
- **Employment rate – 72,1 %**
- **Unemployment – 6,3 %**

Employment rate in EU 25, 2004



Unemployment rate in EU 25, 2004

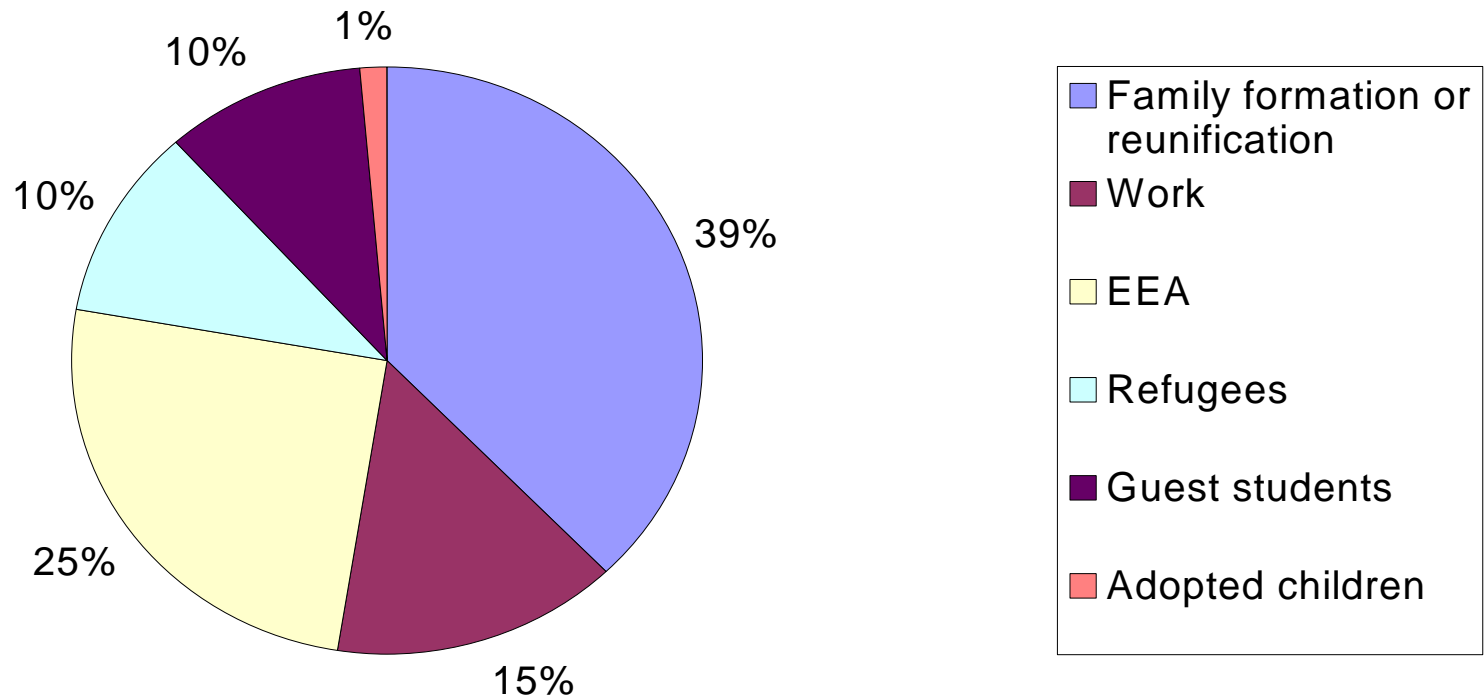




Labour Migration to Sweden

- **Free movement for workers in the EU including the new member states from May 2004**
- **Restricted policy for third country nationals to settle permanently for work**
- **Temporary work permits for third country nationals if there is lack of labour or for international exchange**

59 000 residence permits 2004



The EU enlargement in May 2004

- **No transitional rules**
- **Free access for employed workers to the labour market**
- **No restrictions concerning access to social benefits**
- **Wage and working conditions shall be according to Swedish standards**
- **In case of serious disturbances on the labour market Sweden reserves its right to take appropriate measures according to the Accession Treaty**

What is registered? And who?

- **Information is only available for those who stay over 3 months and apply for a residence permit**

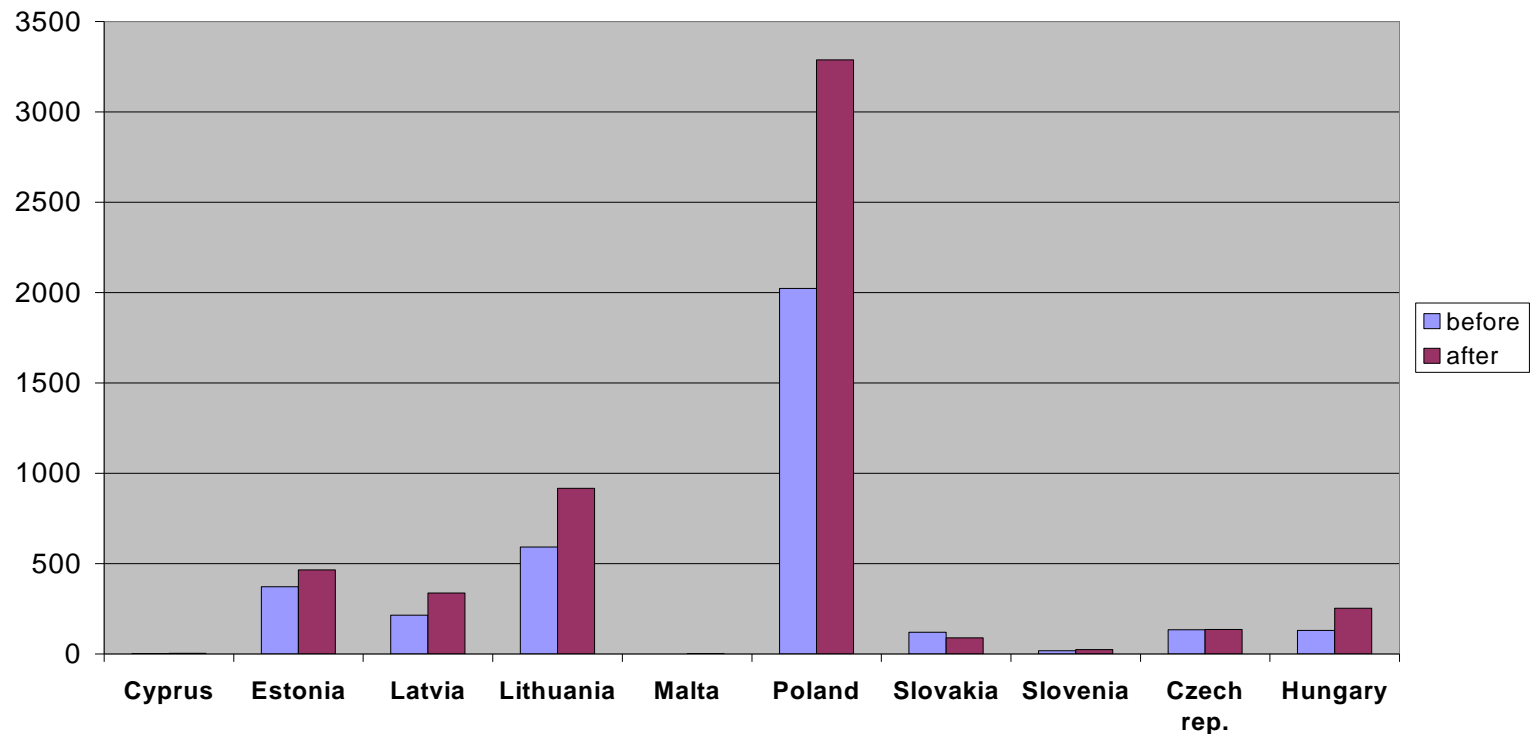
After the enlargement in May 2004

- **Few citizens from the new member states have chosen to come to Sweden for work**
- **After one year there is an increase in number by 50 per cent**
- **A majority comes from Poland, followed by Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia**

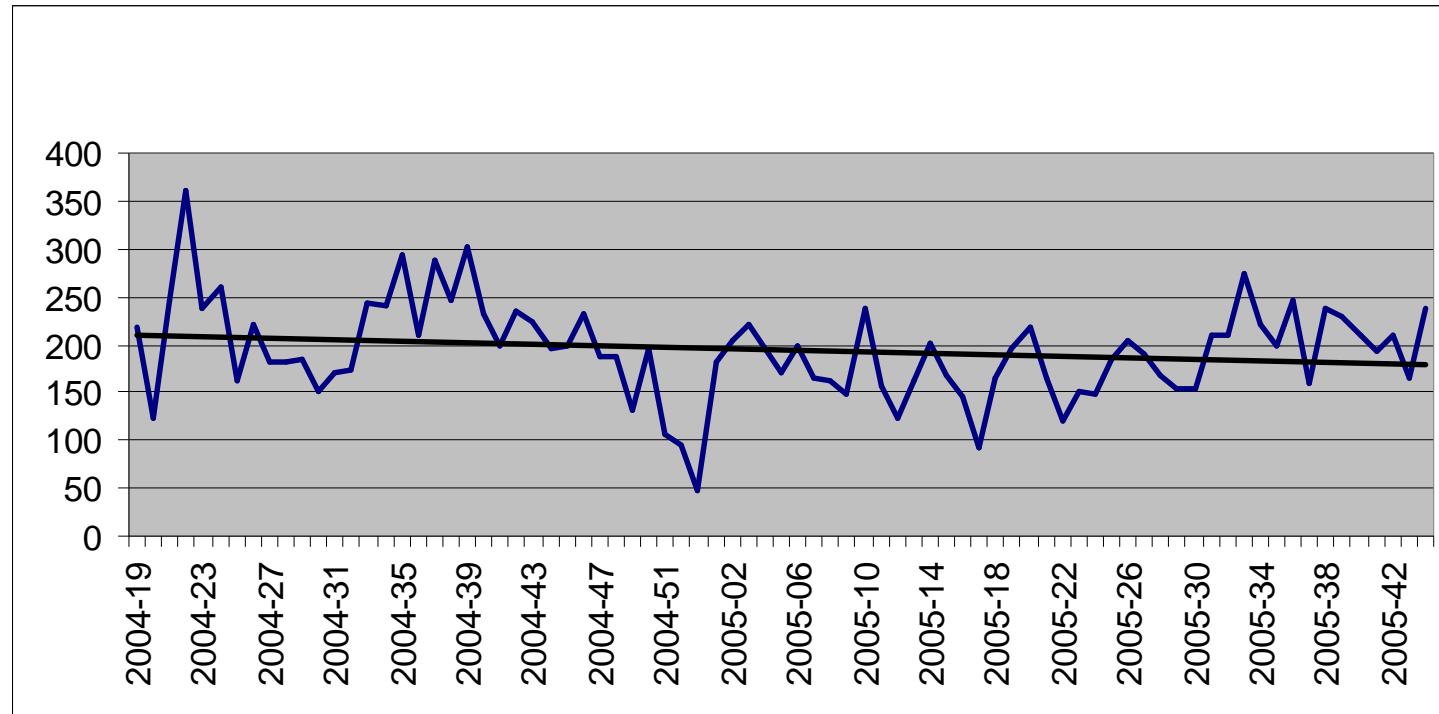
After the enlargement – some figures

- **Until mid-November 2005, 9 200 applications for work**
- **700 from Estonia**
- **5 700 from Poland, 1 450 from Lithuania and 525 from Latvia**
- **New member states accounts for 60 per cent of all applications from EU/EEA**
- **From EU 15 many come from Germany, UK and France**

One year before and one year after the enlargement



Applications for residence permits from the new member states



After the enlargement - some tentative conclusions

- **It is still too early to draw any far-reaching conclusions**
- **The enhanced mobility has made positive contributions to the economy**
- **There are no signs of disturbances on the labour market concerning employed workers**
- **There are no signs of increased demand for social benefits from members from the new member states**
- **The public debate today concerns posted workers**

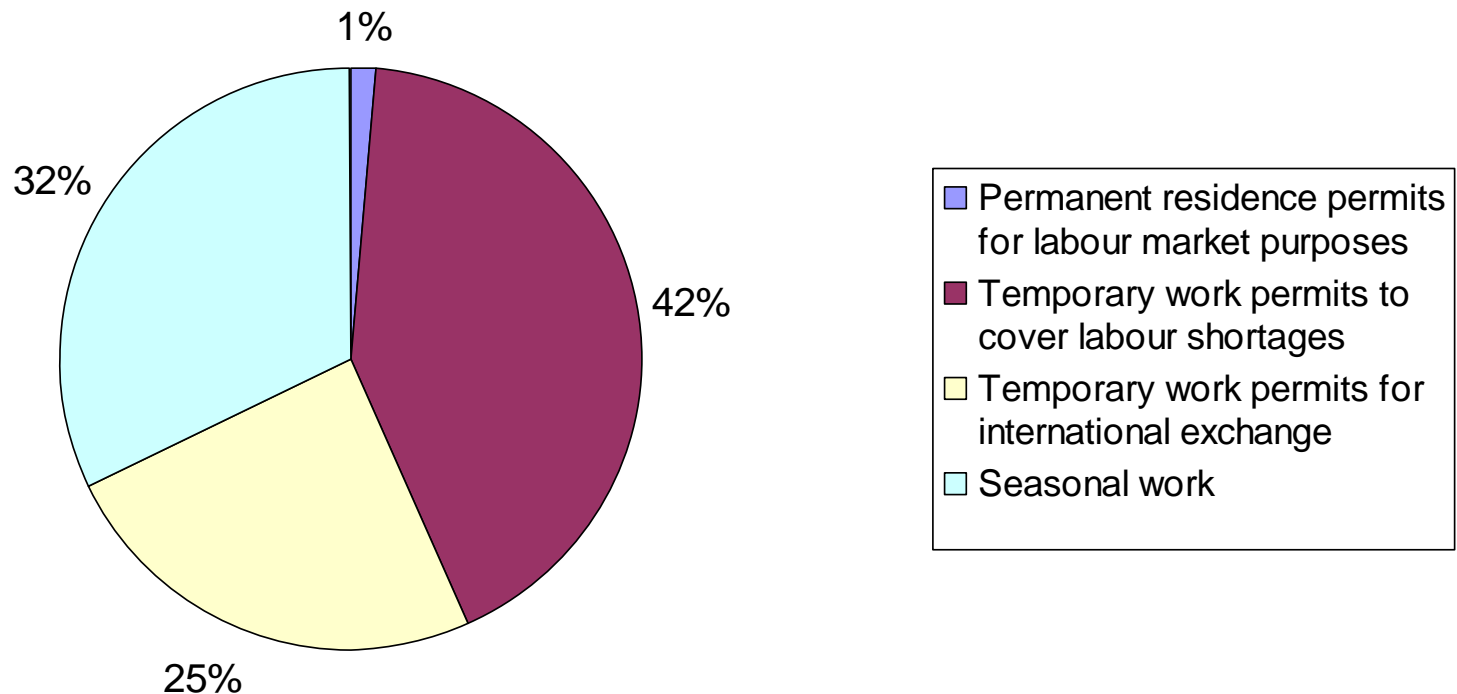
The Swedish model

- **No legislation on minimum wages**
- **Collective agreements for the regulation of wages and working conditions**
- **The agreements cover around 90 per cent of the employees**
- **An agreement is applied to all workers at a work place**
- **No mechanism to declare the agreements generally applicable**
- **The right to take industrial action is protected in the constitution**

Access to the labour market for third country nationals

- **Permanent permits**
- **Temporary permits to cover up for the lack of labour or for international exchange**

15 300 work permits issued in 2004 for third country nationals



Work permits – most frequent sectors

- **Entertainment**
- **Specialists in technology**
- **Education and research**
- **Agriculture**
- **Trainees**
- **Industry**
- **Sportsmen**

Work permits – most frequent countries

- **India**
- **USA**
- **China**
- **Ukraine**
- **Romania**
- **Russia**
- **Thailand**

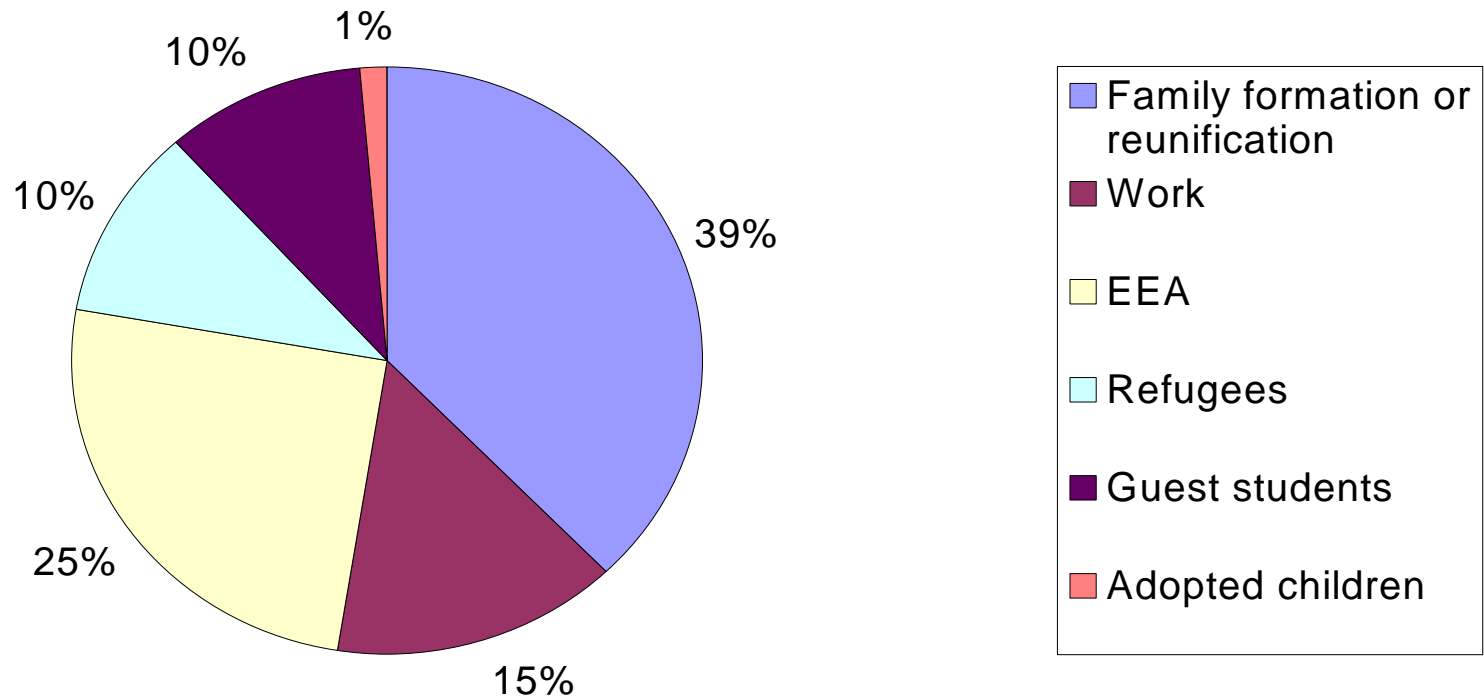
A Parliamentary Committee on Labour Migration

- **Shall propose a regulatory framework that allows for increased labour migration**
- **Shall be based on the needs of the labour market**
- **Wages and working conditions shall be equivalent to Swedish standards**
- **Flexible, sustainable, easy to administer**
- **The committee will present its proposals in march 2006**

Integration

Political initiatives to increase labour mobility must go hand-in-hand with measures for better integration of immigrants already living in the country

59 000 residence permits 2004



Objectives for Swedish Integration Policy

- **Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for everyone, irrespective of ethnic and cultural background.**
- **Social cohesion built on diversity.**
- **Social development characterised by mutual respect within the boundaries following from societies fundamental democratic values in which everyone, irrespective of background, should participate and share a sense of commitment.**

Integration

- **Preconditions for integration differ between groups of immigrants**
- **Work as a necessary but not sufficient condition**
- **Low employment and high unemployment among foreign born**
- **More problems to solve for those out of work than for labour migrants**

Measures to improve integration

- **Better introduction of newly arrived immigrants**
- **Language training in combination with working life experiences**
- **Active labour market policy measures**
- **Better co-operation between authorities**
- **Measures to counteract discrimination**

What can be learned up till now from the EU enlargement?

- **All labour mobility cannot be regulated by transitional rules**
- **Different systems interact**
- **More research is necessary to understand how**
- **Lack of labour mobility can often be a greater problem than the actual mobility**

“Mobility of labour and services after EU enlargement: Nordic differences and commonalities”

Jon Erik Dølvik, Line Eldring

Fafo, Oslo, August 2005

[www. fafo.no](http://www.fafo.no)