



ECAR – European cities against racism

Responsibilities of cities in counteracting racism sustainably

Botkyrka and Växjö

Situation analysis



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Part 1: Introduction into the local situation

This ECAR analysis report of the local situation in the Swedish municipalities of Botkyrka and Växjö is written with regards to the different conditions, problems and challenges in a diverse society when it comes to issues of discrimination. The analysis takes as its point of departure the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and its definition of racial discrimination.¹

”In this Convention, the term "racial discrimination" shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

1.1 Introduction into the local situation

Växjö and Botkyrka have the same population, around 83.000 inhabitants each. Both municipalities have scientific institutions that have been exploring the link between academic intelligence and the knowledge the inhabitants have about the living conditions –possibilities and challenges – in the specific geographic area or context where they live their lives. The common insight is that academic knowledge is not enough to create social change. To be able to achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to find a working method to link theoretical knowledge with the context based knowledge of the inhabitants. The common goal of this project is to start to develop that structure.

The aim of the analysis is to map out the local conditions, approaches and strategies for antidiscrimination work in Botkyrka and Växjö, and to map the various situations pertaining to different ethnic, racial and religious groups within the municipality in order to be able to reach out to a broad group of residents and develop good practices for equal rights, social cohesion and antiracism within the municipal administration. The analysis will also serve as the basis for exchange of experiences between the partner cities of ECAR and as a point of reference for the project activities and scientific circles. The analysis is primarily based on official statistics and previous studies including surveys and interviews. The analysis has been written in cooperation with all the Swedish partners of the project and the local Antidiscrimination bureau in Botkyrka.

This report is an analysis from the Swedish perspective. That means that Sweden generally still have better basic conditions regarding to living conditions and income per capita than many other european countries.

¹ ICERD is a United Nations convention which was signed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1965, and which has been ratified by 174 parties meaning the vast majority of the world’s nation states.



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Although the living conditions and the public support to inhabitants is at the level of the welfare state, many people of immigrant background describe their situation of exclusion as difficult and even more

1.2 Sweden – national level

In terms of absolute numbers, in total 1,797,889 residents in Sweden, out of 9,412 851 belonged to the foreign background-population in 2010, of whom 1,384,929 are foreign-born and 412,960 are Swedish-born with two parents born abroad. Out of this foreign background-population altogether 633,292 still have a foreign citizenship. A qualified estimation says that around 8% or 750,000 of the total Swedish population are Swedes of colour of whom close to 470,000 are foreign-born, 160,000 have two foreign-born parents, 40,000 are adopted and 80,000 are mixed.² People of colour in Sweden, non-white Swedes, are more or less those who are born in or who have one or two parents who derive from the so-called Third World, namely from the three continents of Asia, Africa and South America.

The Ombudsman against Discrimination at national level gives us general information about the amount and character of the reports about racism and discrimination.

The national proportion of Swedish inhabitants with a foreign background currently stands at 19,1%.

1.3 Relevant laws, judicial decisions and regulations which frame the city's actions

The Swedish national law against discrimination including legislation about compulsory school action plans for equal treatment.

Botkyrka's work against discrimination is also linked to two strategies for social growth in the Regional Development Plan for the County of Stockholm (RUFSS 2010). The first strategy focuses on strengthening social cohesiveness in a region characterised by an ethnic diversity and an increasingly transnational population. The other strategy zeroes in on providing people the opportunity to live more productive lives.

The municipal council has given the municipal executive board the final responsibility for the creation of an intercultural Botkyrka. The Committee for Democracy drafts the documentation as a preparation for all-embracing decisions regarding the efforts and follow-up. The Personnel Committee has a corresponding role to play with regard to the municipal authority as an organization. Each committee is responsible for ensuring that its activities live up to the politically outlined directories against discrimination.

² This estimation and the forthcoming statistics regarding Botkyrka comes from Tobias Hübinette's & Carl Björkbom's report *Demografisk översikt över de 32 största invandrargrupperna i de 24 största kommunerna*, Multicultural Centre, 2009.



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Botkyrka's guidelines to promote diversity and combat ethnic discrimination (2006)³ were replaced by a Strategy for an Intercultural Botkyrka June 17 2010. This strategy is an important step towards a sustainable Botkyrka and delineates the starting points for a long term and systematic activity within the municipality. It draws attention to the limitations for the individual's development which can arise as a result of attitudes linked to gender and social or ethnical background and which have a restrictive effect. The strategy deals with three principal spheres with associated paths of action: anti-discrimination, the municipality as a place, and the municipal authority as an organization. The ambitions outlined in the strategy shall provide the basis for establishing targets and undertakings within the framework of the ordinary regulating system, at the governing and at the administrative and executive levels.

The paths of action which are identified are expressed in terms of targets and undertakings in the one-year plans of the departments in the municipality, with focus on being turned into concrete efforts in the municipal activities. The strategy concerns the whole of the Botkyrka municipal district, and thus embraces all the committees, boards and wholly owned municipal companies. Other documents developed locally to develop the work towards diversity and against discrimination need therefore to be updated to ensure that they are in accordance with the targets and paths of action in this intercultural strategy.

³The guidelines are currently being updated and will be replaced by a strategy for an intercultural municipality. The municipal council will vote on the new strategy in spring 2010.



Part 2: Presentation of Botkyrka and Växjö Municipality

2.1 Presentation of Botkyrka Municipality

Botkyrka is one of Sweden's 290 municipalities, and is geographically located in the south-western part of the Greater Stockholm area (Storstockholm) and the County of Stockholm (Stockholms län) in the historical shire Södermanland, and belongs to the urban region called Southern Greater Stockholm (Södra Storstockholm) or Södertörn which apart from Botkyrka includes the municipalities of Haninge, Huddinge, Nacka, Nynäshamn, Salem, Södertälje and Tyresö plus the southern part of Stockholm City (Stockholms stad) which is called Söderort. In March 2011, the population stood at 83,184 inhabitants and the municipality is demographically the 23rd biggest one in Sweden and the 5th biggest one in Greater Stockholm after Stockholm City (851,155 residents) and the municipalities of Huddinge (97,959), Nacka (90,401) and Södertälje (86,695). The population has increased exponentially from 13,688 in 1960, 26,673 in 1970, 65,218 in 1980, 68,542 in 1990 and 73,097 in 2000, and currently has the fourth fastest population growth rate in Greater Stockholm after Stockholm, Nacka and Huddinge.⁴

36,5% born in another country

15,8 % (second generation - born in Sweden; both parents born abroad).

Since 2010, Botkyrka has the highest proportion of residents with a foreign background of all Swedish municipalities, 53,2%, thereby replacing Haparanda with 50,3% which historically has been the most "foreign" municipality in Sweden due to its close links to Finland.⁵

Botkyrka is furthermore the municipality in Greater Stockholm which from the 1960s and 1970s and onwards proportionally has received the highest rate of immigrants, particularly from non-Western countries, and the municipality is also on a nationwide level associated with non-Western immigration.⁶ This particularly concerns the northern part of the municipality (Norra Botkyrka), which is spatially as well as psychologically separated from the more Swedish-born dominated southern part of Botkyrka (Södra Botkyrka). Contrary to Southern Botkyrka which has a longer history going back to the mill town (*bruksort*) and railway station Tumba in the 18th and 19th centuries, today the administrative centre of Botkyrka

⁴ These statistics derive from the government body Statistics Sweden's (*Statistiska centralbyrån*) web site <http://www.scb.se> and pressrelease "Sveriges befolkning 2010" (http://www.scb.se/Pages/PressRelease___310406.aspx), and Stockholm County Council's (Stockholms läns landsting) annual report *Befolkningsutvecklingen 2010 i Stockholms län* (2011).

⁵ After Botkyrka and Haparanda, Södertälje (44%) and Malmö (40,2%) are the Swedish municipalities having the highest proportion of their total population with a foreign background. However, Haparanda still has the highest proportion of the population who are foreign-born, 45,9%, compared to Botkyrka's 37,4%.

⁶ Botkyrka's migration history can be found in Vendela Heurgren and Leif Magnusson (eds.), *NoBo. Boken om Norra Botkyrka*, Multicultural Centre, 2006.



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Municipality, Northern Botkyrka was constructed as part of the governmental so-called Million Program (*miljonprogrammet*) which between 1965-75 built one million housing units during the time of Swedish high modernity.

The grand urban development project of the Million Program was mainly targeted for the domestic working-class, but the construction period coincided with an intense labour immigration due to the so-called record years (*rekordåren*) of the Swedish economy (1950-75). In the 1950s and 1960s, the influx of foreign-born workers to the Swedish industry more or less only consisted of Nordic and European immigrants from countries like Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia and Greece. Being a predominantly working-class and industrial municipality, Botkyrka received many Nordic and European labour migrants from countries like Finland, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and Germany, and from the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s also Turks and Turkish Kurds and Christian minorities from Syria and Lebanon who mostly settled in the newly constructed Northern Botkyrka.

In the 1970s and 1980s other non-European, non-Protestant, non-white and non-Western migrant groups followed at a time when labour immigration was replaced by refugee immigration. Except from both majority and minority groups coming from Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and also Iraq, other notable migrant populations in Botkyrka are Chileans and Colombians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, Filipinos and Chinese, Afghans, Moroccans and Ethiopians, and Poles, Bosnians and Russians. It was mainly from the 1980s and even more from the 1990s when non-Western immigration fully took over, when Northern Botkyrka became what it is today, namely heavily dominated by residents deriving from non-Western countries. This has resulted in the fact that the three administration areas of northern Botkyrka, Fittja, Alby and Hallunda-Norsberg, are among the most heavily racialized as well as proletarianized place names and imaginary sites in all over Sweden, turning up over and over again in the political debate, in the media and in cultural productions as urban spaces with typical Million Program high-rise apartment buildings made of concrete even labelled and treated as non-white and lower-class ghettos.⁷

The previously mentioned municipality of Haparanda can therefore not be compared to Botkyrka, as Haparanda's foreign background-population principally consists of Finns while Botkyrka's foreign

⁷ See for example Corina Lacatus, *The (in)visibility complex. Negotiating otherness in contemporary Sweden*, Centre for Research in International Migration and Ethnic Relations, 2008. This means that people who live outside of Greater Stockholm and people who have not even visited Northern Botkyrka know about place names like Fittja and Alby and, above all, consider themselves to know that these urban districts are foreign, non-Swedish, non-white and dangerous as well as exotic.



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background-population is dominated by non-Western minorities. Northern Botkyrka is also geographically and demographically embedded within an area which numerically includes the biggest and most important concentration and cluster of people of colour not just only in Greater Stockholm but in Sweden and in the Nordic countries, namely the ten subway stations from Bredäng to Norsborg along the so-called Red line (*röda linjen*) which covers the south-western part of Greater Stockholm and three municipalities of Stockholm, Huddinge and Botkyrka: Bredäng, Sättra, Skärholmen, Vårberg, Vårby Gård, Masmo, Fittja, Alby, Hallunda and Norsborg. This geographically widespread area is in its turn connected to other similar districts in the vicinity such as Flemingsberg in Huddinge, Storvreten in Southern Botkyrka, and Fornhöjden, Geneta, Ronna and Hovsjö in Södertälje, all within reach by public transportation. The Red line districts and the neighbouring districts are some of the most underprivileged and least affluent urban areas in both Greater Stockholm and on a national level, and taken together they are therefore associated with poverty and crime, and non-Lutheran and non-white populations.

Foreign background (*utländsk bakgrund*) is the contemporary official term and statistical category in Sweden related to migration and migrants, and includes all residents born in another country and born in Sweden by two parents who are foreign-born, a group which until 1994 was called second generation immigrants. The foreign background concept was introduced in 1999 as a replacement of the older term immigrant (*invandrare*) which in its turn had replaced the term foreigner (*utlänning*) in 1969, and which also had included those born by one Swedish-born and one foreign-born parent. In practice this means that the foreign background category of today consists of immigrants including also foreign-born adoptees and the children of immigrants born in endogamous relationships while mixed Swedes are excluded.

The strictly endogamous based foreign background category is solely based on the birth country and the nationality and citizenship, disregarding everything from ethnic minority status, race and religion. This also means that sovereign states as well as territories and colonies that have dissolved and disappeared throughout history are still counted by Swedish statistics and registered in the Swedish population register (*folkbokföringen*) (for example the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia), while many foreign background-groups which most probably are dominated by minorities are officially categorised as belonging to the majority (for example Turks and Syrians). Besides, the exclusion of mixed people means that some foreign background-groups with a high rate of intermarriage with Swedish-born people are underestimated according to people's own self-identifications (for example Spaniards and Thais), while the inclusion of adopted Swedes means that some foreign background-groups whose birth countries are important countries of origin for



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adoption to Sweden are similarly miscalculated according to people's own self-identifications (for example Koreans and Colombians).

Furthermore, those born by two Swedish-born parents who are born in a foreign country are also included within the foreign background-population as well as those who have emigrated from Sweden but who have not yet unregistered themselves, while those Swedish-born individuals who have parents who are born abroad in different countries are double counted as belonging to two foreign background-groups. All these "flaws" in the Swedish population register when counting residents with a foreign background go back to the strict state and endogamy based definition saying in reality that people always belong to a certain birth country and to a certain national group regardless if they belong there according to their own self-identifications or are born there or not as the foreign background-categorisation is obviously inheritable, and in the end that people ought to reproduce within their own country and nationality.

In terms of absolute numbers, in total 1,797,889 residents in Sweden belonged to the foreign background-population in 2010, of whom 1,384,929 are foreign-born and 412,960 are Swedish-born with two parents born abroad. Out of this foreign background-population altogether 633,292 still have a foreign citizenship. A qualified estimation says that around 8% or 750,000 of the total Swedish population are Swedes of colour of whom close to 470,000 are foreign-born, 160,000 have two foreign-born parents, 40,000 are adopted and 80,000 are mixed.⁸ People of colour in Sweden, non-white Swedes, are more or less those who are born in or who have one or two parents who derive from the so-called Third World, namely from the three continents of Asia, Africa and South America.

The official statistics for the municipality of Botkyrka are based on the same definitions and categorisations as the abovementioned ones. The following 35 countries of origin were the biggest ones in 2007 among a total foreign background-population of 53,2%.

⁸ This estimation and the forthcoming statistics regarding Botkyrka comes from Tobias Hübinette's & Carl Björkbom's report *Demografisk översikt över de 32 största invandrargrupperna i de 24 största kommunerna*, Multicultural Centre, 2009.



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Country of origin (foreign-born and their children)	Number background	Percent of foreign in the county population	Odds ratio of the group
1. Turkey	7 703	19,2%	5.3
2. Finland	5 473	13,6%	1.5
3. Iraq	3 471	8,7%	2.0
4. Syria	2 465	6,1%	3.8
5. Chile	2 024	5%	2.5
6. Poland	1 972	4,9%	1.9
7. Lebanon	1 680	4,2%	4.0
8. Yugoslavia	1 676	4,2%	2.6
9. Iran	920	2,3%	0.8
10. Pakistan	829	2,1%	4.7
11. Ethiopia	798	2%	1.8
12. Germany	613	1,5%	1.0
13. Greece	586	1,5%	1.6
14. Bangladesh	512	1,3%	2.8
15. China	490	1,2%	1.6
16. Morocco	480	1,2%	1.8
17. Sri Lanka	473	1,2%	-
18. India	441	1,1%	1.9
19. Bosnia	399	1%	1.3
20. Hungary	384	1%	1.7
21. Great Britain	358	0,9%	1.1
22. Tunisia	321	0,8%	-
23. Afghanistan	320	0,8%	2.0
24. Thailand	299	0,7%	1.0
25. Eritrea	295	0,7%	1.0
26. Russia	293	0,7%	1.3
27. Norway	291	0,7%	0.7



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28. Gambia	290	0,7%	-
29. Estonia	256	0,6%	0.9
30. Romania	253	0,6%	1.5
31. Somalia	249	0,6%	0.5
32. Peru	223	0,6%	1.1
33. Vietnam	212	0,5%	-
34. Colombia 212	0,5%	1.2	
35. Egypt	197	0,5%	-

This means that in absolute numbers the ten biggest foreign background-groups in Botkyrka are Turkey, Finland, Iraq, Syria, Chile, Poland, Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Iran and Pakistan, while proportionally in relation to their total numbers in Stockholm County the ten biggest foreign background-groups are Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Bangladesh, Yugoslavia, Chile, Iraq, Afghanistan and India. The foreign background-population of Botkyrka is unevenly divided between the different administrative districts in the municipality, of which Northern Botkyrka's Fittja (90,5%), Alby (79,1%) and Hallunda-Norsborg (73%) stand out, and where those of a non-Western origin dominate while those of a Western origin are more often to be found in Southern Botkyrka such as in Tullinge and Tumba including Vårsta and Grödinge. Certain groups also dominate certain areas in Northern Botkyrka, for example Turks and Kurds in Fittja and Christians from the Middle East, Syrians and Assyrians, in Hallunda-Norsborg. Northern Botkyrka has also for several years been a prime target area for the Swedish metropolitan or urban policy which ever since the 1990s has aimed at combating the dramatically increased housing segregation and unemployment rate patterns in Sweden's big and middle-sized cities. The urban policy in Sweden is today involving 21 municipalities with 38 different districts including Botkyrka and Fittja, Alby and Hallunda-Norsborg, which have signed so-called local development agreements (*lokalt utvecklingsavtal*, abbreviated LUA) with the government, and which in its turn among others provides the municipalities with specialized and updated statistics through the government body Statistics Sweden.⁹

⁹ See http://www.scb.se/Pages/List___275836.aspx. Statistically, Fittja is together with Hjällbo in Gothenburg City and Rosengård in Malmö City the urban areas in Sweden having the highest proportion of inhabitants with a foreign background with over 90%.



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Additional statistics on a local level are also collected and compiled by Botkyrka's municipal administration.¹⁰ Here follows a table of the 135 biggest immigrant groups compiled by the municipality, valid as of December 2010 and based on birth country in relation to the total population of Botkyrka and the total foreign-born population. In practice, this only includes the first generation of immigrants.

Country of birth	Number	Percent of total population	Percent of foreign-born population
1. Turkey	4 315	5,2%	14%
2. Finland	3 341	4%	10,9%
3. Iraq	2 771	3,4%	9%
4. Poland	2 357	2,9%	7,7%
5. Chile	1 392	1,7%	4,5%
6. Syria	1 227	1,5%	4%
7. Yugoslavia	1 065	1,3%	3,5%
8. Lebanon	809	1%	2,6%
9. Ethiopia	668	0,8%	2,2%
10. Iran	629	0,8%	2%
11. Pakistan	551	0,7%	1,8%
12. Germany	407	0,5%	1,3%
13. Sri Lanka	392	0,5%	1,3%
14. China	391	0,5%	1,3%
15. Bangladesh	389	0,5%	1,3%
16. Greece	380	0,5%	1,2%
17. India	347	0,4%	1,1%
18. Thailand	323	0,4%	1%
19. Morocco	321	0,4%	1%
20. Afghanistan	320	0,4%	1%
21. Russia	318	0,4%	1%

¹⁰ See for example <http://www.usk.stockholm.se/internet/omrfakta/omradesvisbotkyrka.asp>



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22. Bosnia	299	0,4%	1%
23. Romania	299	0,4%	1%
24. Hungary	291	0,4%	0,9%
25. Great Britain	245	0,3%	0,8%
26. Gambia	235	0,3%	0,8%
27. Eritrea	227	0,3%	0,7%
28. Serbia	218	0,3%	0,7%
29. Estonia	212	0,3%	0,7%
30. Bulgaria	200	0,2%	0,7%
31. Norway	199	0,2%	0,6%
32. Tunisia	192	0,2%	0,6%
33. Nigeria	187	0,2%	0,6%
34. Colombia 180	0,2%	0,6%	
35. Bolivia	178	0,2%	0,6%
36. Somalia	178	0,2%	0,6%
37. Egypt	177	0,2%	0,6%
38. Peru	162	0,2%	0,5%
39. Denmark	146	0,2%	0,5%
40. Ghana	142	0,2%	0,5%
41. Montenegro	132	0,2%	0,4%
42. Spain	132	0,2%	0,4%
43. Ukraine	129	0,2%	0,4%
44. Uganda	124	0,2%	0,4%
45. Philippines116	0,1%	0,4%	
46. Cuba	116	0,1%	0,4%
47. Vietnam	115	0,1%	0,4%
48. Lithuania	112	0,1%	0,4%
49. Latvia	109	0,1%	0,4%
50. Uzbekistan	109	0,1%	0,4%
51. Italy	108	0,1%	0,4%
52. DR of Congo	102	0,1%	0,3%
53. Soviet	102	0,1%	0,3%



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54. Cameroon 98	0,1%	0,3%	
55. USA	93	0,1%	0,3%
56. Austria	90	0,1%	0,3%
57. Kenya	87	0,1%	0,3%
58. Korea	82	0,1%	0,3%
59. Ecuador	72	0,1%	0,2%
60. Argentina 68	0,1%	0,2%	
61. Jordan	67	0,1%	0,2%
62. France	65	0,1%	0,2%
63. Belarus	65	0,1%	0,2%
64. Indonesia	62	0,1%	0,2%
65. Azerbaijan 60	0,1%	0,2%	
66. Czechoslovakia	60	0,1%	0,2%
67. Netherlands	57	0,1%	0,2%
68. Ivory Coast	53	0,1%	0,2%
69. Armenia	51	0,1%	0,2%
70. Croatia	51	0,1%	0,2%
71. Algeria	50	0,1%	0,2%
72. Brazil	48	0,1%	0,2%
73. Kazakhstan	47	0,1%	0,2%
74. Uruguay	46	0,1%	0,1%
75. Malaysia	45	0,1%	0,1%
76. Tanzania	44	0,1%	0,1%
77. Japan	42	0,1%	0,1%
78. Macedonia	39	-	0,1%
79. Sudan	39	-	0,1%
80. Georgia	37	-	0,1%
81. Kuwait	36	-	0,1%
82. Portugal	35	-	0,1%
83. Senegal	33	-	0,1%
84. Nicaragua 32	-	0,1%	
85. Palestine	32	-	0,1%



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86. El Salvador	31	-	0,1%
87. Mongolia	31	-	0,1%
88. Australia	30	-	0,1%
89. Honduras	29	-	0,1%
90. Libya	28	-	0,1%
91. Switzerland	27	-	0,1%
92. Burundi	26	-	0,1%
93. Israel	26	-	0,1%
94. Czech Republic	26	-	0,1%
95. Guinea	23	-	0,1%
96. Dominican Republic	21	-	0,1%
97. Sierra Leone	20	-	0,1%
98. Angola	19	-	0,1%
99. Liberia	19	-	0,1%
100. Unknown ¹⁹	-	0,1%	
101. Venezuela	19	-	0,1%
102. Yemen	18	-	0,1%
103. Kosovo	18	-	0,1%
104. Montenegro	18	-	0,1%
105. Congo	17	-	0,1%
106. Mali	17	-	0,1%
107. Belgium 16	-	0,1%	
108. Iceland	16	-	0,1%
109. Canada	16	-	0,1%
110. Albania	15	-	-
111. Mexico	15	-	-
112. Hong Kong	13	-	-
113. Saudi Arabia	13	-	-
114. United Arab Emirates 11		-	-
115. Laos	11	-	-
116. Ireland	10	-	-
117. Kyrgyzstan	9	-	-



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118. Moldavia	9	-	-	-
119. Slovenia	9	-	-	-
120. Cyprus	8	-	-	-
121. Haiti	8	-	-	-
122. South Africa	8	-	-	-
123. Nepal	7	-	-	-
124. Paraguay	7	-	-	-
125. Singapore	7	-	-	-
126. Slovakia	7	-	-	-
127. Taiwan	7	-	-	-
128. Togo	7	-	-	-
129. Guinea-Bissau	6	-	-	-
130. Mozambique	6	-	-	-
131. Rwanda	6	-	-	-
132. Tajikistan	6	-	-	-
133. Panama	5	-	-	-
134. Trinidad & Tobago	5	-	-	-
135. Others ¹¹	52	0,1%	0,2%	

Botkyrka has always been a traditionally working-class municipality which votes for the socialist and leftist parliamentary parties and particularly the Swedish Social Democratic Workers' Party (*Sveriges socialdemokratiska arbetareparti*), commonly abbreviated as SAP or as the Social Democrats, which ruled Sweden from the 1920s and up until 2006 except from the years of 1976-82 and 1991-94. SAP has governed Botkyrka ever since the present municipality was formed in 1971 (although the area called Salem broke out in 1983 and formed its own municipality) except for the period between 1991-94, usually in coalition with other parties and mainly together with the Swedish Communist Party which today is known as the Left Party (*Vänsterpartiet*) and sometimes also with the Green Party of Sweden (*Miljöpartiet*). Administratively and politically, Botkyrka belongs to the Kingdom of Sweden (*Konungariket Sverige*) and the County of Stockholm whose parliamentary assemblies are elected every fourth year just like on a municipal level. Municipalities in Sweden have a high degree of local self-government autonomy (*kommunalt*

¹¹ The countries having less than 5 representatives are Costa Rica, Mauritania, Myanmar, New Zealand, Grenada, Cambodia, Madagascar, Seychelles, Turkmenistan, Guatemala, Jamaica, Malta, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Cape Verde, Luxembourg, St Lucia and Zambia.



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självstyre) in relation to the state and county governments compared to many other countries, which means that political decisions and responsibilities are strongly localized in the country. Even if the national as well as the Stockholm County administrations are governed by the alliance of the four traditional bourgeois parties, Social Democratic ruled Botkyrka still has a high level of local autonomy.

In 1991, the right-wing populist and anti-immigration party New Democracy (*Ny Demokrati*) gained two representatives in the municipality which were subsequently lost in the next election (thereafter the party also dissolved), and since 1991 the right-wing populist local party Botkyrka Party (*Botkyrkapartiet*) has gained between 2-5 elected representatives in every election.¹² In 2006, another local party called the Tullinge Party (*Tullingepartiet*) which is solely based in the Swedish-born and middle-class dominated area with the same name gained one representative which in the 2010 election increased to six on a right-wing populist program demanding to break out from the municipality and form an independent one. In 2010, also the former National Socialist party the Sweden Democrats (*Sverigedemokraterna*) gained three representatives on an explicit anti-immigration program, with most of its constituency based in the southern rural parts of the municipality and in the central part of Tumba.

Altogether, this means that currently even if the Social Democrats still govern the municipality after the recent election in 2010, receiving 36,2% of the votes and in coalition with the Left Party (6,6%) and the Green Party (7,1%), right-wing populism with a more or less explicit anti-immigration rhetoric has a strong foothold in Botkyrka with almost 5% voting for the radical Sweden Democrats in the national parliament election and 4% in the municipality election with 10% or more in the three constituencies of Gamla Tullingeberg, Vårsta Centre/Bremora and East Storvreten, while the Botkyrka Party received 3,3% with 10,8% in its stronghold in North Slagsta and the Tullinge Party 10,5% and locally in Tullinge district as much as up to half of all votes cast. The traditional opposition bloc in Botkyrka finally consists of the four Swedish historical bourgeois parties, namely the traditionally conservative and nowadays mostly right-wing liberal Moderate Party (*Moderaterna*) with 21,6% of the votes in the municipal election, the traditionally left-wing liberal Liberal People's Party (*Folkpartiet*) with 5,2%, the Lutheran dominated Christian Democrats (*Kristdemokraterna*) with 3,5% and the traditionally agrarian based peasant dominated Centre Party (*Centerpartiet*) with 1,5%.

Botkyrka is one of Sweden's 290 municipalities, and is geographically located in the south-western part of the Greater Stockholm area and the County of Stockholm in the historical shire Södermanland. In March

¹² The election statistics can be found at the Swedish Election Authority's (*Valmyndigheten*) website: <http://www.val.se>



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2011, the population stood at 83,184 inhabitants and the municipality is demographically the 23rd biggest one in Sweden and the 5th biggest one in Greater Stockholm after Stockholm City and the municipalities of Huddinge, Nacka and Södertälje. The population has increased exponentially from 13,688 in 1960, and currently has the fourth fastest population growth rate in Greater Stockholm.¹³

Since 2010, Botkyrka has the highest proportion of residents with a foreign background of all Swedish municipalities, 53,2%, thereby replacing Haparanda with 50,3% which historically has been the most “foreign” municipality in Sweden due to its close links to Finland. The national proportion of Swedish inhabitants with a foreign background currently stands at 19, 1%. In total Botkyrka has 160 nationalities represented out of 193 possible in the world, and over 100 languages are spoken.

Botkyrka is a very diverse municipality, both concerning territory and inhabitants. The majority of the municipal territory is rural. At the same time another part of Botkyrka is one of the most urban areas of the Stockholm region. The municipality is most known as one of the main spots in Sweden for international migration and also as one of the creative clusters in the Stockholm region with the greatest arena for new circus, film making and creative entrepreneurship. Yet another characteristic is a high birth rate and one of the youngest populations in Sweden as well as the fact that the annual number of incoming inhabitants to the municipality exceeds the annual number of those who move out.

Despite all creativity in progress within the municipal borders, Botkyrka is the least affluent municipality in Greater Stockholm in terms of income level per capita, and the municipality has the highest unemployment¹⁴.

Botkyrka is the municipality in Greater Stockholm which from the 1960s and 1970s and onwards proportionally has received the highest rate of immigrants, particularly from non-Western countries, and the municipality is also on a nationwide level associated with non-Western immigration.¹⁵

Being a predominantly working-class and industrial municipality, Botkyrka received many Nordic and European labour migrants from countries like Finland, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece and Germany, and from

¹³ These statistics derive from the government body Statistics Sweden’s (*Statistiska centralbyrån*) web site <http://www.scb.se> and pressrelease “Sveriges befolkning 2010” (http://www.scb.se/Pages/PressRelease___310406.aspx), and Stockholm County Council’s (Stockholms läns landsting) annual report *Befolkningsutvecklingen 2010 i Stockholms län* (2011).

¹⁴ Average income from employment for the population 20 – 64 years: 229 500 SEK (before tax 30%). Average income per capita in Botkyrka: 164 624 SEK (before tax). Average income per employment: 174 000 SEK (employment in Botkyrka).

¹⁵ Botkyrka’s migration history can be found in Vendela Heurgren and Leif Magnusson (eds.), *NoBo. Boken om Norra Botkyrka*, Multicultural Centre, 2006.



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the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s also Turks and Turkish Kurds and Christian minorities from Syria and Lebanon who mostly settled in the newly constructed Northern Botkyrka.

In the 1970s and 1980s other non-European, non-Protestant, non-white and non-Western migrant groups followed at a time when labour immigration was replaced by refugee immigration. It was mainly from the 1980s and even more from the 1990s when non-Western immigration fully took over.

2.2 Presentation of Växjö Municipality

Växjö is an exciting combination of idyllic small town, university town and centre of entertainment - a strong regional center in the middle of the south of Sweden. The statistics shows that there are 83 000 people living in Växjö in 2010.

It is easy to grow and develop in Växjö – both for companies and for people. Few towns of Växjö's size can offer a comparable comprehensive choice of cultural and entertainment activities.

Back in the history Växjö has burnt to the ground on several occasions, but has always raised itself, like a phoenix from the ashes, and been re-built. The town has a long tradition as a seat of learning, the seat of the County Government and as a Cathedral City. Up until the beginning of the 1990s Växjö was also a garrison town.

The east, west and south coasts are within easy reach. This geographical location, in combination with excellent educational opportunities, a favourable business climate and a rich variety of experiences to be enjoyed, makes Växjö perfectly situated in a number of different ways.

Växjö became the Greenest City in Europe in the international and national media during 2007. This gives us the obligation to further intensify our efforts in environmental areas.

Växjö is governed by the council, in effect, Växjö's "parliament. Here, important decisions are taken on issues such as policy initiatives, setting the local budget and service provision. Växjö has 61 councilors, who are elected every four years. After the election in September 2010, the two largest single parties were the Conservatives. The municipal executive board is formed by the municipal council and has 15 members. The chairman for the 2010-2014 period is Bo Frank, The Moderate Party. The executive, in other words, the city's government, carries out the municipal council's decisions. All parties are represented in proportion to the number of seats they hold on the municipal council.



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The work of the municipality is such that the council cannot handle all the business alone. There are therefore a number of politically appointed boards that specialize in various areas. Växjö has 14 such boards.

There are 14 municipal companies and are responsible to take to handle certain activities in the city - property management and municipal power companies, for example. The boards of these enterprises are politically appointed and again, mirror the composition of the municipal council.

Foreign background is the contemporary official term and statistical category in Sweden related to migration and migrants, and includes all residents born in another country and born in Sweden by two parents, who are foreign-born, a group which until 1994 was called second generation immigrants. The national proportion of Swedish inhabitants with a foreign background currently stands at 19, 1% and the proportion of residents with a foreign background in 2010, in Växjö there was 18, 6 %, 15 400 citizens.



Part 3: Vulnerable groups in the municipalities

The number of persons who could be victims of racism and discrimination depends on how to estimate the risk. According to the latest citizen's survey, we estimate that there are about 10.000 inhabitants that feel that they are restricted in their daily lives because of discrimination. Our largest ethnic groups are from Turkey (9, 5 %), Finland (5, 8 %) and Iraq (4, 4 %). The largest groups identified at risk to be discriminated or victims of hate crime are inhabitants from the African countries (5, 5%) and from the countries in the Middle East (19, 8%). This inhabitants constitute 25,3 % of our population. We don't have figures of ethnic origin of third, fourth generations and so on. This means that the real figure of the amount of inhabitants at risk is higher. We have difficulties in collecting statistics and analyzing stereotypes and discrimination of inhabitants of different origins of generations later than first or second generation.

3.1 The situation of men, women, boys and girls as regards racism and discrimination

Our figures are collected through the Antidiscrimination bureau as well as through the Citizens survey made by the municipalities. The question about discrimination in the 2011 citizen survey in Botkyrka has been nuanced but this only gives an overall hint about the local situation concerning racism and discrimination.

Botkyrka is characterised by a high birth rate compared to other municipalities, as well as by the fact that the annual number of incoming inhabitants to the municipality, of which most are refugees, exceeds the annual number of those who move out. Together with the municipalities of Stockholm, Huddinge and Södertälje, Botkyrka receive the biggest number of newly arrived immigrants including unaccompanied refugee children in the Greater Stockholm area.¹⁶ It depends to some extent on what criteria you use, but the fact still remains that Botkyrka is one of the least affluent municipalities in Greater Stockholm together with Sundbyberg, Södertälje and Sigtuna in terms of income level per capita, and unemployment among young people and women in relation to other municipalities in the Stockholm region. Another important fact is that the poverty indicators are unevenly distributed within the municipality and there is a correlation between these numbers and discrimination/exclusion.

Occurrences of discrimination, segregation and exclusion in the modern Swedish society are underlined by far more complicated issues than those of simple bigotry or xenophobia.

¹⁶ Economic statistics can be found at Svenskt näringsliv's (Confederation of Swedish Enterprise) website Ekonomifakta: <http://www.ekonomifakta.se>



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Interwoven issues such as *inter alia* gender, age, personal economy, situation of the immediate neighborhood, level of education in the family, duration of stay in Sweden, health and religion combine to create a unique situation for every inhabitant of the municipality. This interplay is what we call intersectionality.

Intersectionality patterns of particularly vulnerable nature include combinations of female gender with either age, ethnicity, religion and/or health. The same goes for all inhabitants of lower education background and non-European descent and/or newly arrived immigrants. There is a large number of circumstantial constellations which increase the probability of social, societal and economic exclusion. Most of these correlations are still not properly investigated in a scientific manner.

The level of literacy and knowledge of Swedish language are important factors in determining the level and frequency of discriminatory incidents. Structurally this often may include i.e. municipal and other offices personnel failing to summon a translator when doubts about successful communication arises.

There seems to be a line of thought advocating that employment alone is the solution to the problems of integration. This is a false premise. Employment is vital in basic self-empowerment, but the reality is much different, as shown by the situation of those who migrated to Sweden 1960' – the so-called work force immigration. Many of these, now elderly, people don't speak Swedish and still are estranged towards the society, or more correctly – the society is estranged towards them.

In regards to the youth new dilemmas appear. Many southern suburbs are plagued by a sort of “ghetto-mentality”. This is due to many of these environments being shunned and neglected by the powers that be, thus becoming untidy and gaining a bad reputation. Similarly segregated suburbs, primarily occupied with upper-middleclass ethnic Swedes don't carry the same burden.

This mentality resonates in the youth of the neighborhood creating a sense of hopelessness and estrangement towards the concept of Sweden as a national state in general, and the sovereignty of the state in the area, in particular. In many cases this results in viewing of official structures and services as foreign. I.e. the police is sometimes viewed as a tool of oppression, instead of being the guarantees of safety and security. Above mentioned problems provide a breeding ground for exclusion and discrimination.

These views are brought to our attention by individuals seeking assistance at the office of the Anti-discrimination bureau Stockholm South (the office is partly financed by the municipality of Botkyrka and the office is in Alby/Botkyrka). Of course the problems arising in building a modern intercultural society are vastly complicated and deserve a proper individually adapted scientific study. However many times this



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issue is being politicized upon by laymen politicians and abused in populist rhetoric. A multi-ethnic Sweden is a fact, but intercultural understanding and anti-discrimination practices still need to be worked on.

Vi behöver få fram mer detaljerad statistik på (över- liksom under-)representation av vissa grupper i vissa områden och inom vissa sektorer för att överhuvudtaget kunna uttala oss här, helst både via kommunal statistik, via attitydundersökningar och via självsvarsformulär. Det är många sektorer som ska beaktas, frågan är hur vi balanserar nationell, regional och kommunal statistik och hur mycket vi tar in och refererar till vad gäller studier på olika nivåer.

Race relations, race formations and racialized groups in Sweden and in Botkyrka (in terms of ethnicity, race, religion): Roma, Jews, Saami, Moslems, Blacks, Latin Americans, Middle Easterners, South Asians, East Asians, Eastern Europeans, white Swedes – more?

- Composition of the local population (availability and/or progress of ethnic data collection (how is this collection organized, how is the access to this information organized), country of birth, vulnerable groups – according to skin colour, ethnic background or religious belief - e.g. Muslims, black and Roma people and any other country specific vulnerable groups)

3.2 Short overview of attitudes towards vulnerable groups (e.g. on the local, regional or country level)

(exclusion / restriction / distinction / preference-disadvantage - in the various fields)

- Political and social participation
- Housing / residential segregation
- Education
- Public spaces
- Job market
- Local public administration
- Police and judiciary
- Public health care

Official labour force participation (2009): Alby 55,5% (women 50,1%, 20-29 years 42,9%, outside EU/EFTA 53%), Fittja 54,4% (women 45,4%, 20-24 years 48,2%, outside EU/EFTA 54,9%), Hallunda-Norsborg 61,8% (women 57,6%, 20-24 years 52,1%, outside EU/EFTA 57,6%)



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Low-incomers (kontrolluppgift under 1,5 basbelopp) (2009): Alby 21,5% (women 24,3%, 20-24 years 44,1%, outside EU/EFTA 22,3%), Fittja 23% (women 26%, 20-24 years 36,5%, outside EU/EFTA 21,6%), Hallunda-Norsborg 17,6% (women 19,2%, 20-24 years 36,3%, outside EU/EFTA 19,5%)

Proportion who neither study nor work between 20-64 years: Alby 37,8% (women 41,3%, 20-24 years 33,9%, outside EU/EFTA 40,3%), Fittja 39,2% (women 45,5%, 20-24 years 32,7%, outside EU/EFTA 39,5%), Hallunda-Norsborg 32,9% (women 35,5%, 20-24 years 28,4%, outside EU/EFTA 36,8%)

Proportion who are not eligible for secondary education (gymnasium) 2010: Alby 27,1%, Fittja 25%, Hallunda-Norsborg 12,9%

Proportion who are not eligible for post-secondary education (högskola) 2010: Alby 25,3%, Fittja 21,4%, Hallunda-Norsborg 25,3%

Dependency on allowances including sick leave and unemployment (2009): Alby 14,2% (women 15,9%, 55-64 years 22,8%, outside EU/EFTA 15,6%), Fittja 15,5% (women 18,2%, 55-64 years 33,9%, outside EU/EFTA 15,9%), Hallunda-Norsborg 12,9% (women 14,4%, 55-64 years 20,8%, outside EU/EFTA 14,9%)

Proportion who contribute to ohälsotalet 2009: Alby 19,8% (women 23,4%, 55-64 years 42,4%, Norden excl. Sweden 37,7%), Fittja 18,8% (women 21,8%, 55-64 years 49,7%, Norden excl. Sweden 42,9%), Hallunda-Norsborg 22,2% (women 25,9%, 55-64 years 42%, Norden excl. Sweden 37,2%)

kommunen <http://www.usk.stockholm.se/internet/omrfakta/omradesvisbotkyrka.asp>

The following fields will be presented in the report according to exclusion / restriction / distinction / preference-disadvantage:

- Political and social participation
- Housing / residential segregation
- Education
- Public spaces
- Job market
- Local public administration

The fields are presented in a short overview of attitudes towards the most vulnerable groups towards (e.g. on the local, regional or country level) according to skin colour, ethnic background or religious belief - e.g. inhabitants with Muslim identity, people from the African countries (black people) and other country specific vulnerable groups or national minorities as the Roma.



3.3 Political and social participation – national level

In Sweden the right to vote in the national election is limited to people with Swedish citizenship and is possessed by Swedish citizens who attain the age of 18 years not later than on election day and who are or at some time have been registered residents in Sweden. The right to vote in elections to county councils and municipal councils is possessed by Swedish citizens who attain the age of 18 years not later than on election day and who are registered for population purposes within the county council area or municipality concerned. Citizens of the EU and citizens of Iceland and Norway also have the right to vote subject to the same conditions. Other foreign citizens have the right to vote if they have been registered residents in Sweden for a continuous period of three years before Election Day.

3.4 Political and social participation – Botkyrka

Botkyrka has always been a traditionally working-class municipality and the Swedish Social Democratic Workers' Party, SAP, has governed Botkyrka ever since the present municipality was formed in 1971, except for the period between 1991-94, usually in coalition with the Left Party (*Vänsterpartiet*) and now also with the Green Party (*Miljöpartiet*). Municipalities in Sweden have a high degree of local self-government autonomy in relation to the state and county governments compared to many other countries, which means that political decisions and responsibilities are strongly localized in the country. Even if the national as well as the Stockholm County administrations are governed by the alliance of the four traditional bourgeois parties, Social Democratic ruled Botkyrka still has a high level of local autonomy.

In 2010, the Sweden Democrats (*Sverigedemokraterna*) gained three representatives on an explicit anti-immigration program, with most of its constituency based in the southern rural parts of the municipality and in the central part of Tumba.

The Social Democrats govern the municipality after the recent election in 2010, receiving 36,2% of the votes and in coalition with the Left Party (6,6%) and the Green Party (7,1%), right-wing populism with a more or less explicit anti-immigration rhetoric has a strong foothold in Botkyrka with almost 5% voting for the radical Sweden Democrats in the national parliament election and 4% in the municipality election with 10% or more in the three constituencies of some parts of the municipality, while the Botkyrka Party received 3,3% and the Tullinge Party 10,5% and locally in Tullinge district as much as up to half of all votes cast. The traditional opposition bloc in Botkyrka finally consists of the four Swedish historical bourgeois parties, namely the traditionally conservative Moderate Party (*Moderaterna*) with 21, 6% of the votes in the municipal election, Liberal People's Party (*Folkpartiet*) with 5, 2%, the Lutheran dominated Christian



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Democrats (*Kristdemokraterna*) with 3, 5% and the traditionally agrarian based peasant dominated Centre Party (*Centerpartiet*) with 1, 5%.

3.5 Housing/residential segregation – national level

Due to shortage of housing and confined housing in Sweden during the fifties, a political decision was taken to build a million houses in Sweden. Between 1965 and 1974, 100 000 apartments a year was built. The housing programme was called “The million-programme” and the areas are now called “Million programme areas”. The functional city planning ideal of the time characterizes the million programme areas. The ideal was light, practical houses and the areas were located in the outskirts of the city and were characterized by functional and traffic separation.

3.6 Housing/residential segregation – Botkyrka

The northern part of the municipality is spatially as well as psychologically separated from the more Swedish-born dominated southern part of Botkyrka. Northern Botkyrka was constructed as part of the governmental so-called Million Program (*miljonprogrammet*) which between 1965-75 built one million housing units during the time of Swedish high modernity.

In absolute numbers the ten biggest foreign background-groups in Botkyrka are Turkey, Finland, Iraq, Syria, Chile, Poland, Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Iran and Pakistan. The foreign background-population of Botkyrka is unevenly divided between the different administrative districts in the municipality, of which Northern Botkyrka’s Fittja (90, 5%), Alby (79, 1%) and Hallunda-Norsborg (73%) stand out, and where those of a non-Western origin dominate while those of a Western origin are more often to be found in Southern Botkyrka such as in Tullinge and Tumba including Vårsta and Grödinge. Certain groups also dominate certain areas in Northern Botkyrka, for example Turks and Kurds in Fittja and Christians from the Middle East, Syrians and Assyrians, in Hallunda-Norsborg.

Northern Botkyrka has also for several years been a prime target area for the Swedish metropolitan/urban policy which ever since the 1990s has aimed at combating the dramatically increased housing segregation and unemployment rate patterns in Sweden’s big and middle-sized cities. The urban policy in Sweden is today involving 21 municipalities with 38 different districts including Botkyrka and Fittja, Alby and Hallunda-Norsborg, which have signed so-called local development agreements with the government, and which in



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its turn among others provides the municipalities with specialized and updated statistics through the government body Statistics Sweden.¹⁷

3.7 Housing/residential segregation – Växjö

The central district Araby in the city of Växjö is a “million programme area” which has about 2 400 rental apartments and 5500 inhabitants today. Somewhat unusual for the million programme area Araby is located in the central parts of Växjö with a walking distance to the main street.

When the million programme areas were built the ambition was not to build “social housing” but to build good houses for everybody. The shortage of houses shifted to a surplus of houses in the 80s and 90s. At the same time the number of refugees increased in Sweden due to the Balkan conflict. The apartments in the million programme areas were therefore used to accommodate newly arrived refugees. The rent of the apartments in Araby is relatively low why newly arrived refugees continue to be accommodated in Araby.

Today (2008) nearly 50 % of the people living in Araby are born abroad and the number is increasing. Araby is today an area with high levels of unemployment and a high percentage of households receiving social allowance.

The city of Växjö has started a local development programme in Araby to make the area more attractive and to improve the living conditions for the people living there. The programme will go on until 2010 and is a cross-departmental cooperation programme to initiate improvements in different sectors which will strengthen each other in an integrated development for the area. Three types of efforts will be taken:

- Efforts to improve individual welfare
- Efforts to make the area more attractive
- Efforts to decrease the housing/residential segregation in the city of Växjö

¹⁷ See http://www.scb.se/Pages/List___275836.aspx. Statistically, Fittja is together with Hjällbo in Gothenburg City and Rosengård in Malmö City the urban areas in Sweden having the highest proportion of inhabitants with a foreign background with over 90%.



3.8 Job market – national level

Discrimination on the labour market is one of the biggest challenges in our society and also in Botkyrka and Växjö. Employment is a fundamental means of participation in society, and discrimination implies a waste of valuable human resources. Thus, discrimination in access to employment not only endangers the success of any efforts for people with foreign background's integration, but also leads to social tensions and economic loss for individual enterprises as well as the national economy as a whole.

In the Swedish immigration debate, labour market participation of the foreign-born is one of the most important and frequently-used measures of integration into Swedish society. Especially in terms of governmental policy, the reduction of immigrant unemployment has been repeatedly advocated as the most important objective in terms of combating segregation and increasing integration. In labour law there are four laws that ban discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity and religion, as well as other beliefs, gender, disability and sexual orientation.

The foreign born population in Sweden consists of approximately three major groups:

- the labour migrants of the 1950s and 1960s, predominantly from Finland, Southern Europe and Turkey
- The refugees from the 1970s and onwards, from countries in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and most recently from the former Yugoslavia.
- People moving within the free labour markets of the Nordic countries and the EU.

Closest to the employment rates of natives are those born in other Nordic countries, followed by other EU15 countries. The largest "employment gap" is found for people from countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, especially those who have spent a short period of time in Sweden. In general, men have higher employment rates than women, but women from Nordic and African countries who have resided in Sweden for an extended period of time are an exception to this gender pattern.

3.9 Job market – Botkyrka and Växjö

There are several reports of local organisations which show that exclusion and discrimination does not only occur with regard to access to the labour market but also in contact with colleagues, employers or clients. There low rate of reporting discrimination among foreign born citizens because of the fear of losing their present job.



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The debate in a region such as Stockholm is in general strongly limited to refugee questions, and if the discussion is extended to include citizens with a foreign background it is often from a negative perspective, i.e. as a problem. But refugees are only one third of all the international immigration and the large numbers of Swedish citizens who have long had their roots in Sweden are not noted for being a strongly competitive group in the population.

This is confirmed by OECD's expert review of the Stockholm region. One of the greatest weaknesses of the region is its inability to utilise this competence. The opportunities for immigrants and the children of immigrants who have lived the greater parts or all of their lives here to establish themselves on the labour market are poor – both for the highly educated and for those with less education. The expert review draws attention to a number of serious structural weaknesses on the labour market and in industry, weaknesses which they judge will be a threat to the region's competitiveness in the long term. The explanation often given is that persons with a foreign background have insufficient qualifications, but this is an explanation of the difficulties of only certain immigrant groups to come into the labour market, since it is also known that only 40 % of these born abroad who have a university degree from a country outside EU have a qualified employment, compared with 90 % of the Swedish population.



Part 4: Local stakeholder in Botkyrka and Växjö - their approaches and strategies to prevent and combat racism

Local stakeholders and their approaches and strategies to prevent and combat racism: Who are the stakeholders in your city and what do they do and how do they do it? E.g. local programs, action plans, initiatives, measures.

1. Public administration
2. NGOs / community organisations / social foundations (civil society)
3. Education and Science institutions
4. Political Parties
5. Business sector (enterprises)
6. Media
7. Religious organizations
8. Sport clubs

4.1.1 Public administration: Botkyrka

The Municipal Council of Botkyrka decided upon a strategy for an intercultural municipality free from discrimination on June 17, 2010.

The municipal challenge is to go from the present situation, where various ethnic and socio-economic groups live within the same municipality or district but alienated and in ignorance of each other, to an intercultural society characterised by meetings and interaction between individuals and groups. The aim of the strategy is to provide support for the development of structures and activities to match the social changes which have taken place during the last 40 years, linked to the population composition, but which have not yet to a sufficient degree influenced the way in which we organize and lead the social development. It deals with how we as a municipal authority shall contribute to social and economic expansion built upon the civil rights, opportunities and responsibilities of each individual man and woman regardless of ethnic origin or religious believe.

The intercultural strategy provides guidance for how employees shall act in their professional roles with regard both to equal rights in their immediate service to citizens, and in regard to planning. The execution of the strategy shall create conditions for individuals and groups not only to coexist but also to interact to achieve joint goals.



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Botkyrka is a member of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) and currently Vice-President. The membership is used in order to cooperate with towns and cities in Europe with a population composition and challenges similar to those in Botkyrka, with a particular focus on the problem of discrimination. The coalition offers a given structure for all the cities in the network to identify and rectify structural discrimination and everyday racism.

One of the three principal spheres with associated paths of action is work against discrimination. We are also making a fundamental effort to develop relevant statistics and routines in order to monitor the development within these spheres.

Anti-discrimination is an all-embracing path of action. In all the planning, regulation, distribution of resources and execution of the activities of the municipal authority we shall counteract power structures which lead to conditions of inequality among our residents. It includes questions such as:

- Counteracting and creating a preparedness for handling conflicts and hate-crimes involving racism and discrimination, through information and preventive action (e.g. religious concerns, honour oppression or violence, riots).
- The development of an interaction with local actors as advisors, to obtain a true picture of the situation with regards to racism and discrimination in different parts of the municipality (ongoing development of the intercultural dialogue, methods and networks).
- Active work to counteract discrimination and to promote equal opportunities and rights for girls and boys with regard to schooling and higher education. The questions which are at the forefront are pedagogics and attitudes towards pupils and parents (intercultural performance).
- Active work in favour of diversity and against discrimination within the cultural and recreational sector with regard to both representation and availability (e.g. democracy through theatre, put racism off side).

4.1.2 Public administration: Växjö

Due to the fact the labour immigration in the 1970s and 1980s and the refugee immigration in the 1990s the City of Växjö has been actively working to combat racism and all forms of discrimination. The Swedish Discrimination Act was established in 2008. The purpose of this Act is to combat discrimination and in other ways promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.



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In November 2009, the council of Växjö and all the political parties passed the *Diversity Programme 2010-2014* based on Swedish Discrimination Act. The action plan was developed together with civil sector, nongovernmental organisations and citizens with aims to develop and implement measures to combat discrimination based on sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

The Municipality of Växjö runs goal-oriented initiatives promoting equal rights, obligations, and opportunities among its citizens, giving rise to good living conditions for all. Discrimination, either direct or indirect is forbidden. Diversity Action Plan is featured in all of the municipality's sectors of activity, as well as being included in budget, planning and development work. In addition, all of the committees and municipal boards must contribute towards achieving the targets of the Diversity Plan.



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The key fields of action in the Diversity Plan are;

- Providing good information and encourage participation and dialogue with citizens and giving them opportunity to influence and engage in the municipality's activities and future development. Increase the number of direct meetings with citizens.
- Strengthening the dialogue with local stakeholders
- Combating racism and discrimination
- Reducing residential segregation

In order to secure the implementation of the Diversity Plan, the council of Växjö has appointed political leaders in the municipal board to monitor and followed up in the annual reports of the to the board. In 2009, the executive office established a Diversity office in order to developing strategies and implementing measures against racism and discrimination. The mission is also to make sure that the Diversity plan is becoming recognized among the citizens of Växjö.

4.2.1 NGOs / community organisations (civil society) - Botkyrka

There are only two known NGO: s that works explicitly against racism and discrimination in Botkyrka. One of them is the Antidiscrimination bureau South that is run by the Cooperation Group for Ethnic Organizations in Sweden (SIOS) and supported partly by the Municipality of Botkyrka. The other one is OPAD (Organization for Poverty Allievation and Development –Say no to Discrimination). Although, many associations and organizations do explicit activities within the field of antidiscrimination or antiracism and social cohesion and conflict resolution. Another important association is the Botkyrka Youth Council. The Youth Council gets economic support by the municipality, but with an explicit mission to act as an independent voice. The Youth Council has a special ECCAR group.

The character of the associations varies in our five different municipal districts. Two of the districts, Alby and Hallunda –Norsborg, have Association Councils with elected president representing all the associations with focus on common concerns. This coordination of local associations is a very effective way to work for social cohesion regardless of ethnic origin or religious believe against racism. In other districts there are ethnic associations taking a bigger responsibility in the well being of the whole area. Other examples are the Night Walkers of the Turkish Association in Fittja and local Football Clubs as IFK Tumba and Fittja IF taking and active role in the fight against racism.



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4.2.2 Nongovernmental organizations - civil society - Växjö

There are a several non-governmental organizations in Växjö which purpose is work to prevent and combating racism and discrimination. Växjö is also characterised by a high rate of immigrant organizations and centres for people with foreign background. The nongovernmental organisations are primarily working with creating knowledge about living conditions in Sweden, labour activities and involving more people in the civil sector. In this short summary it is not possible to mention them all but to point out some of them.

Ditt fria val - is a project that is mainly established to create a successful way of working with young people about democracy, participation, human rights, combating racism and discrimination in Växjö. The purpose of the organization is also following;

- Increasing the participation of citizens (especially young people) with foreign background in the elections.
- Organizing “democracy days”, seminars, training and workshops for nongovernmental organizations, high schools and having municipal preparation courses in order to implant democracy as an integral and natural part of everyday life.
- A lot of young people are interested democracy and anti-discrimination but they rarely have the knowledge of how to make a difference or what democracy or democratic rights are. The goal is thereby to increase the number of young people to be interested in working with preventing racism and discrimination.

Discrimination on the labour market is one of the biggest challenges in our society thereby the there is an associations called Integration in Sweden – the association is created in order to increase the number other youngsters, people with foreign background and minorities on the labour market.



Part 5: Results and discussion

Sweden is a heavily segregated country. The Swedish paradox is that Sweden is the less racist country but the most segregated. It is easy not to be a racist if you don't meet people who are different from you. People from the southern part of Botkyrka who are Swedish born never goes to the northern part of the municipality and people from the northern part who are mostly people with foreign background rarely goes to the southern part. It seems like there is an invisible board. In Sweden the racism is more subtle. That is why people say that they feel like they are in jail, because they cannot grab the problem. In Botkyrka you can see racism and discrimination between different groups of immigrants. The municipality tries to do what they can in order to bring people with different nationalities and cultures together, for example by promoting intercultural dialogues.

It is positive that people with foreign background who are not EU citizen can vote after living three years in Sweden.

In Växjö it's easier for people with foreign background to get job. Muslims is the group who are feeling more discriminated.

Discrimination in access to employment not only endangers the success of any efforts for people with foreign background's integration, but also leads to social tensions and economic loss for individual enterprises as well as the national economy as a whole.

Discrimination on the labour market is one of the biggest challenges in our society and also in Botkyrka and Växjö. Employment is a fundamental means of participation in society, and discrimination implies a waste of valuable human resources. In the Swedish immigration debate the reduction of immigrant unemployment has been repeatedly advocated as the most important objective in terms of combating segregation and increasing integration. Closest to the employment rates of natives are those born in other Nordic countries, followed by other EU countries. Those who have more difficulties getting job are people from countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. There are several reports of local organizations which show that exclusion and discrimination does not only occur with regard to access to the labour market but also in contact with colleagues, employers or clients. There is low rate of reporting discrimination among foreign born citizens because of the fear of losing their present job.

Local stakeholder in Botkyrka and Växjö - their approaches and strategies to prevent and combat racism
Public administration: The Municipal Council of Botkyrka decided upon a strategy for an intercultural municipality free from discrimination on June 2010.



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Responsibilities of cities in counteracting racism sustainably

The City of Växjö has been actively working to combat racism and all forms of discrimination. The Swedish Discrimination Act was established in 2008. The purpose of this Act is to combat discrimination and in other ways promote equal rights and opportunities regardless of sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age. NGOs / community organizations / social foundations (civil society)

Although, many associations and organizations do explicit activities within the field of antidiscrimination or antiracism and social cohesion and conflict resolution, there are only two known NGOs that work explicitly against racism and discrimination in Botkyrka.¹⁸

¹⁸ This project has been funded with support from the European Union's Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.