

Social inclusion of refugees and immigrants in Swedish Rural areas.

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We need everyone that want - to stay in rural areas

- To meet the challenge with decreasing population
- To keep local schools, shops, health care and other services
- To meet the problems with labour shortage in different sectors



Small rural villages receive many



Undrom, Sollefteå:	85 inhabitants.	200 refugees.
Trensium, Karlshamn:	106 inhabitants.	300 refugees.
Långträsk, Piteå:	109 inhabitants.	52 refugees.
Byxelkrok, Borgholm:	129 inhabitants.	133 refugees.
Dalskog, Mellerud:	133 inhabitants.	124 refugees.
Blackstad, Västervik:	145 inhabitants.	120 refugees.
Gysinge, Sandviken:	149 inhabitants.	200 refugees.
Virestad, Älmhult:	155 inhabitants.	81 refugees.
Trehörningsjö, Örnsköldsvik:	160 inhabitants.	50 refugees.
Rätan, Berg:	195 inhabitants.	84 refugees.
Stavsjö, Nyköping:	212 inhabitants.	150 refugees.
Liden, Sundsvall:	254 inhabitants.	110 refugees.
Ramsberg, Lindesberg:	257 inhabitants.	55 refugees.
Hällnäs, Vindeln:	259 inhabitants.	500 refugees.
Åsarna, Berg:	268 inhabitants.	148 refugees.

Social inclusion in rural areas-how?

- Today less than 10 of 100 stay in rural areas
- With early social inclusion 20-30 of 100 want to stay
- We need comittment, involvement and engagement of:
 - Inhabitants - becoming friends, local anchorage
 - NGO:s - social life, training etc
 - Business sector - internship, job, matching
 - Municipalities - education, health care, housing

And also counter prejudices!



Impressive efforts by local actors

Results from a survey undertaken by the Rural Network working group on social inclusion of refugees and immigrants

- Volunteer language introduction
- Internship and job matching
- Volunteer transportation
- Finding and matching houses for them who want to stay
- Society guidance and help with other contacts with authorities
- Include refugees in ordinary recreational activities, such as sport and cultural activities
- Special events to promote meetings between locals and refugees
- Take refugees on study trips
- Teach about the local landscape and nature
- Collect clothes, etc to supply the refugees



The NRN group collectes and disseminates good examples through articles and short films. [Read more](#) about the three first



In Sollerön nine different nationalities play in the soccer team – it brings people together

To start a company, promote local food products and promote integration. That's the objectives for the Project International food Orust.



Swedish NRN Thematic Working Group

Social Inclusion of Refugees and Immigrants

- The Agriculture and Rural Economy Society
- The Swedish Football Association
- The County Administration Board
- The Swedish Village Action Movement
- Private Expert with own experience
- The Federation of Swedish Farmers
- The Swedish Board of Agriculture
- LEADER
- ***SIOS, The Cooperation Group for Ethnic Associations in Sweden***
- The Swedish public employment service
- The Migration Agency
- The Federation of Business Owners,



Working group action plan

Supporting local civil society, LAGs and NGOs for social inclusion

- Mapping:
 - Overview
 - Finding good examples
 - Finding areas with potential
- Handbook, checklists, web
- [Disseminating good examples](#) [More links](#)
- Seminars (for Leader 13th of April)
- Test models for inventory housing in rural areas
- Assisting ethnic associations in rural areas:
- Meeting decision makers, MPs etc



Working group action plan

Assisting ethnic associations in rural areas:

- Finding 3 local areas where ethnic associations can be supported for increased membership and activities.
- Improve cooperation between ethnic associations and other NRN member organisations.
- Involving more NGOs in contact with asylumseekers and migrants.



Why the rural area

- Increasing the Swedish population with a foreign background .
- Often the refugees move to cities.
- Few of them today stay in rural areas.
- Many are unemployed.
- Is the countryside an option for Swedish immigrants?



Integration is for sustainable economic growth

- Ethnic organisations play a big roll to help the refugees.
- Agreement between the government, non-profit organizations in the field of integration and Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions.



Not only the Green Economy



 Rural Network



EUROPEAN UNION
European
Structural and
Investment Funds

It is not always easy - but possible

Thank you for your attention!

www.landsbygdsnätverket.se

Our monthly review in English

German TV about refugees in Skellefteå



To discuss:

- How to build bridges and promote a welcoming culture among the local population? How to encourage local actors to engage in integration?
- How to correctly identify the key gaps and needs of different migrant communities?
- How to ensure that Leader strategies and projects can respond to the evolving needs of newcomers with sufficient flexibility?
- What can LAGs do by themselves and how can they work in a more joined up way with other agencies and funds?

