



KARLSTAD, Sweden

The Career Path Värmland Programme

Key facts

The Career Path Värmland (Yrkesväg Värmland) programme is implemented in 11 municipalities in the region of Värmland, Sweden, including Karlstad, with the aim to overcome challenges related to the supply of competences in the local area. This case is an example of how to put in place targeted programmes and that can strengthen the skill levels of immigrants according to the needs of the local economy.

Timeframe and funding

The programme runs from August 2020 to June 2022 and is funded partly by the local governments and partly by the European Social Fund.

City population

61,492

Governing body

Karlstad City Council

Link

[Yrkesväg Värmland | Länsstyrelsen Värmland \(lansstyrelsen.se\)](https://lansstyrelsen.se/vr/yrkesvag-varmland/)

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme is:

- To meet ongoing societal challenges by providing targeted career guidance and vocational training especially for groups with weak language skills.

Content and mode of delivery



The county of Värmland is facing major challenges related to the supply of competences due to, among others, declining population base, demographic challenges and high unemployment especially among foreign-born inhabitants. In Värmland, it is more difficult for foreign-born people find work than in the rest of the country and long-term unemployment is increasing, especially for women with low education. At the same time, it is primarily within the group foreign-born that resources are available for the supply of competences in the future, but in many cases, the target group lacks the skills required.

To meet these societal challenges, the programme presents a cross-sectorial collaboration between employers and industries with recruitment needs, the Public Employment Office, adult learning, and labour market integration services, etc. Among other things, the programme presents different methods for developing and incorporating language and vocational skills in close collaboration between adult/occupational education, labour markets and integration services, and employers with recruitment requirements.

Stakeholders



The main stakeholders in the project are:

- Employers and industries with recruitment needs
- The Public Employment Office
- Adult education and labour market and integration services

In addition, regional and inter-municipal collaboration is a key element of the project, as individual actors and municipalities often lack the resources and prerequisites to develop the necessary interventions and methods on their own. All participating municipalities have themselves chosen to be a part of the programme and have chosen their own focus. The Country Administration Board is primarily responsible for the project. The board coordinates the project and the participating municipalities, and reports back to the European Social Fund.

Key challenges, success factors & transferability



The biggest challenge with regard to the implementation of the programme has been to create a good collaboration between the many different municipalities and to implement high-quality initiatives. According to the city of Karlstad, the main success factor, which could also be transferred to other places, is the basic recognition that it is possible to carry out vocational training even for groups with weak language skills. This requires that language teachers and vocational teachers jointly carry out the training, which strengthens the development of both vocational skills and language skills.

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