

# **Role and experiences of local authorities in the unaccompanied minors process**

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Swedish Association  
of Local Authorities  
and Regions

# Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions(SALAR)

- SALAR is a member organization and employer organization for municipalities, county councils and regions (290 municipalities and 21 regions)
- Our mission is to provide municipalities, county councils and regions with better conditions for local and regional self-government. The vision is to develop the welfare system and its services.



# Change in reception

- From 1 July 2006 the accommodation of unaccompanied minors should be provided by the municipalities -Expertise, experience and the support required to meet children in vulnerable situations
- Government has decided on a change in the law from 1 January 2014 that gives expanded possibilities for the Migration Board to designate unaccompanied children seeking asylum to all municipalities in Sweden
- Assign to a municipality to which the child is considered to have some connection, a person in the network or relative (37%)



# Local municipalities responsibilities

- It's always the municipality that is responsible for ensuring that the child receives the support and assistance provided for in the social services act
- Unaccompanied minors should be able to get same support measures that social services can offer as for other children
- Social services investigate the child's need for support and assistance
- The child's participation is especially important when he or she has the ability to affect their situation



# Placements and accommodations in Sweden

- Today, there are two common forms of placements, foster family and HVB Homes (institutions) . Are they tailored to the needs of the unaccompanied minors?
- In 2013 22 700 children subjected to full daily placements decided by a municipal social service. The foster family was the most common placement form ( 40 % UAMs today)
- For unaccompanied minors, most of them in the upper teens ,the majority are placed in smaller institutions - due to large influx
- 84% have been granted residence permits excl. Dublin and those that attributed



# Education and health care

- Unaccompanied minors and young people have the same rights to education and health care as all other children in Sweden
- This applies to both at the time they apply for asylum and after they were granted residence permits



# Guardianship - volunteers

- Each unaccompanied minor have the right to get a guardian . It is the head of guardian in the municipality where the child staying in, which is the one who appoints a guardian.
- A national web training for guardians has been developed in order to increase legal certainty for the unaccompanied children and clarify guardians mission
- A national web training to clarify the responsibilities of various actors for unaccompanied minors. The training goes through social services, immigration, head of guardians, health care and the school's responsibility.



# Reception and Living in Families (RLF) EU projekt

- Cooperation between the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Sweden
- Projects implemented under 1½ years, final Conference in Amsterdam January 2015
- Visit 10 countries where we meet government representatives, public authorities, NGOs and children's ombudsman
- Mapping of foster care for unaccompanied minors in the EU (+Norway). Sharing experiences and giving each country strategies for development in the area



# Challenges in Sweden

- Introduction to the municipality to which the asylum seekers unaccompanied minors has or is believed to have some links (37 %)  
Only 3 of 10 children can stay in network family after assessments
- Large influx requires more flexible forms of accommodation and accommodation chains. Unaccompanied minors have different needs than other children in social care in general
- Allow the public high schools that offer accommodation and study forms for unaccompanied youth
- The Migration Board should sign agreements with municipalities in co-operation -procurement legislation should not put obstacles in the way of an extended contractual cooperation between municipalities
- Professional guardians ?
- The importance of all actors involved in the reception is to advancing their positions and collaborate

