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EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

14th National Report on the implementation
of the European Social Charter

submitted by

THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN

- Article 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 27, 31 for the period
01/01/2010 – 31/12/2013
- Complementary information on Article 12§1
(Conclusions 2013)

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4 November 2014

CYCLE 2015

REVISED EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER

14th National Report on the implementation of
the Revised European Social Charter
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THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN

(Articles 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 27 and 31 for the period 01/01/2010 –
31/12/2013 and Article 12.1 due to non-conformity for lack of
information)

Fourteenth report

Submitted by the Government of Sweden

in accordance with article 21 of the Revised European Social Charter on the measures taken to give effect to the following provisions of the

Revised European Social Charter

Articles 7, 8, 16, 17, 19, 27 and 31 for the period of 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013.

Articles 7.5, 7.6, 8.2, 8.4 and 8.5 have not been ratified by Sweden.

Article 12.1 due to non-conformity for lack of information (Conclusions 2013).

In accordance with Article 23 of the Revised Charter, copies of this report have been communicated to

- (1) Svenskt Näringsliv (Confederation of Swedish Enterprise)
- (2) Svenska Kommunförbundet (the Swedish Association of Local Authorities)
- (3) Landstingsförbundet (the Federation of Swedish County Councils)
- (4) Arbetsgivarverket (Swedish Agency for Government Employers)
- (5) Landsorganisationen i Sverige (the Swedish Trade Union Confederation)
- (6) Tjänstemännens Centralorganisation (the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees)
- (7) SACO, Sveriges Akademikers Centralorganisation (the Swedish Confederation of Professional Organisations)

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Article 7 – The right of children and young persons to protection

Since 1 February 2012, there are new provisions in Sweden regarding minors' work environment (AFS 2012:3). These are available in Swedish at the following website: http://www.av.se/lagochratt/afs/afs2012_03.aspx. Reference is made to this website for all further references to the AFS.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority conducts annual inspections where many young people work. The number of workplaces and the number of visits for the period of 2010–2013 follow below.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of workplaces inspected</u>	<u>Number of requirements</u>
2010	609	879
2011	791	1067
2012	887	843
2013	1411	1514

Inspections – number of projects regarding young people 2010–2013 per economic activity

A Companies in agriculture, forestry and fishing	257
B Mines and quarries	3
C Manufacturing industry	143
D Electricity, gas, steam and hot water plants	4
E Water supply, sewage cleaning, waste disposal and decontamination	9
F Construction industry	284
G Trade, repair establishments for motor vehicles and motorcycles	649
H Transport and storage companies	32
I Hotels and restaurants	1398
J Information and communication companies	2
K Financial institutions and insurance companies	4
L Real estate companies	77
M Professional, scientific and technical companies	27
N Administrative and support service companies	78
O Public authorities and national defence	218
P Educational establishments	272
Q Human health and social work establishments	493
R Establishments for arts, entertainment and recreation	771
S Other service companies	184
T Households as employers of domestic personnel; private households with undifferentiated production of goods- and services for own use	0
U Extraterritorial organisations and bodies	0
Total	4905

Article 7§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

According to section 3 and section 12 AFS 2012:3 minors who have not reached the age of 13 must not perform any work. There are two exceptions:

- simple work without any risks within enterprises run by a family member without other employees;
- if the Work Environment Authority has given a prior authorisation to performance in cultural, artistic, sports or advertising activities.

According to section 14 AFS 2012:3 minors who have reached the age of 13 but not the age of 16 and who are still in compulsory school may not perform work that requires physical or mental strength. Neither are they allowed to sell goods that require a certain age (for instance alcohol, tobacco etc).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Additional information with reference to Conclusions 2011

According to the Work Environment Ordinance (SFS 1977:1166) there are certain rules regarding inspections of work done in the home. According to section 15, in the case of work done in the home, inspection visits are only to be paid at the request of the employer or employee concerned or if there is some other special reason for them. The same shall apply concerning work done by a person carrying on business without employees or employing only a member or members of his family.

Article 7§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

Section 11 and the appendix of the AFS 2012:3 include provisions for certain hazardous jobs. Minors are not allowed to perform these jobs unless there is an exception stated below.

Some of the assignments in the appendix are strictly forbidden (the column “Förbjudet”).

Some of the assignments are allowed if the assignment is part of teacher-supervised tuition located on school premises or some other place specially arranged for tuition or if the minor is taking part in training (the second column “Tillåtet om arbetsuppgiften ingår i undervisning som är förlagd till en skollokal eller någon annan plats som är anordnad särskilt för undervisning, eller ingår i handledarledd praktik för ungdomar”).

Some assignments are allowed if the minor has undergone vocational training for the assignment in question (the third column).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Article 7§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

The purpose of the provisions (section 1 AFS 2012:3) is to prevent minors having less opportunity of taking part in education.

According to section 8 AFS 2012:3 work must not encroach on the minors' opportunities to benefit from compulsory schooling (up to the age of 16 and still in compulsory school).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Additional information with reference to Conclusions 2011

According to section 20 AFS 2012:3 minors who are up to 16 years of age and still in compulsory school must have at least four consecutive weeks of holiday each year.

Section 20 also provides detailed information about how many hours a minor (up to 16 years old and still in compulsory school) is allowed to work. For example the minor is only allowed to work two hours a day at the most during school days, and 12 hours at the most per school week.

Article 7§4

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

There are limitations regarding working hours in sections 15–21 AFS 2012:3:

- A minor must never perform work between midnight and 5 am.
- After 4.5 hours at the most a minor is entitled to a break of at least 30 consecutive minutes.

Furthermore regarding minors who have not reached the age of 16 and who are still in compulsory school:

- They must not perform work between 8 pm and 6 am.
- They are entitled to a minimum rest period of 14 consecutive hours for each 24-hour period.
- They are entitled to at least two days off for each seven-day period. The rest period must never be less than 36 consecutive hours.
- They are entitled to a period free of any work of at least 4 consecutive weeks in the school holidays.
- They are allowed to work 7 hours a day and 35 hours per week at the most during school holidays.
- During school weeks they are allowed to work 2 hours per school day or 7 hours per non-school day and 12 hours per school week at the most.

Furthermore regarding minors who have reached the age of 16 and who are not in compulsory school:

- They are entitled to a minimum rest period of at least 12 consecutive hours for each 24-hours period.
- The period between 10 pm and 6 am or between 11 pm and 7 am should be free from work. The daily rest may be reduced to 11 hours in work places where the ordinary work shifts end between 10 pm and 12 pm or starts between 5 am and 7 am. The daily rest may also be reduced to 11 hours regarding work performed in hospitals or similar establishments, in agriculture or in hotels and restaurants. The

same applies for activities involving periods of work split up over the day. The minors are allowed suitable compensatory rest time.

- They are entitled to at least two days off for each seven-day period. The rest period must never be less than 36 consecutive hours.
- The work must never exceed 8 hours per day and 40 hours per week.

According to section 23, sections 15–23 apply also to minors working under a theoretical and/or practical combined work/training scheme or an in-plant work-experience scheme.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please supply any relevant statistics or other information.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Article 7§7

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

According to section 20 AFS 2012:3 minors who have reached the age of 16 and who are still in compulsory school must have at least four consecutive weeks of holiday each year.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Article 7§8

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

According to section 19 AFS 2012:3 minors who have reached the age of 16 and who are still in compulsory school must not perform work between 8 pm and 6 am.

According to section 21 minors who have reached the age of 16 but not the age of 18 and who are not in compulsory school must not perform work between 10 pm and 6 am or between 11 pm and 7 am. There are exceptions:

- If the regular shifts end between 10 and 12 pm or start between 5 and 7 am.
- Activities involving periods of work split up over the day.
- Work performed in hospitals, agriculture, hotels, and restaurants.

A minor must never, however, perform work between 12 pm and 5 am (section 16).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Article 7§9

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report, the Swedish statement to article 7§9 (Governmental Committee, 8–12 October 2012) and to the following information.

According to section 5 AFS 2012:3 regular medical controls shall be performed if necessary for risk evaluation of the minor's safety, physical or mental health or development. The interval between the medical controls shall be adjusted to the nature of the risks and to the minor's health and maturity.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority continuously follows up and evaluates the health situation for young people. There is a handbook accompanying AFS 2012:3 where further instructions and examples are given to employers with young employees.

There are provisions on obligatory occupational medical supervision to certain work, irrespective of age and risk assessment. The provisions for minors (AFS 2012:3) expand the protection and require that, apart from the obligatory medical controls for certain types of work, special attention has to be paid to the minor's physical and mental health development when assessing whether additional medical controls have to be performed.

Some types of work are prohibited for minors to perform altogether, whilst other types of work that do not require medical supervision for other employees are assessed to have risks for minors, and therefore medical supervision should be made. In the abovementioned handbook examples are given of such work and include for example

some types of construction work, heavy lifting within the health sector and opening and closing of a store.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority's assessment is that very few minors in Sweden perform work that requires obligatory medical controls irrespective of age and that few minors perform work that has special risks with regard to the minor's physical and mental health and development.

Sweden maintains its position that after an overall assessment of the laws, provisions and practice it complies with the requirements in article 7§9 of the Charter.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Article 7§10

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

The purpose of the provisions in AFS 2012:3 is to prevent ill-health and accidents at work and to prevent minors from getting less opportunities of taking part in education.

Minors who have reached the age of 13 but not the age of 16 and who are still in compulsory school may not perform work that requires physical or mental strength. Neither are they allowed to sell goods that require a certain age (for instance alcohol, tobacco etc).

Section 11 and the appendix of the AFS 2012:3 include provisions for certain hazardous jobs. Minors are not allowed to perform these jobs unless there is an exception stated below.

Some of the assignments in the appendix are strictly forbidden (the column "Förbjudet").

Some of the assignments are allowed if the assignment is part of teacher-supervised tuition located on school premises or some other place specially arranged for tuition or if the minor is taking part in training (the second column "Tillåtet om arbetsuppgiften ingår i undervisning som är förlagd till en skollokal eller någon annan plats som är anordnad särskilt för undervisning, eller ingår i handledarledd praktik för ungdomar).

Some assignments are allowed if the minor has undergone vocational training for the assignment in question (the third column).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the information below.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the statistical information above.

Additional information with reference to the Conclusions 2011

The Government adopted a new Action Plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children in February 2014. The Action Plan also includes a description of the work carried out and measures taken in the area between 2007 and 2013. The measures that have been taken include strengthened legislation, increased cooperation between relevant authorities, spreading of relevant knowledge to children, adults and people working within the field and an increased international cooperation. Below follows examples of the measures that have been taken between 2007 and 2013:

- Sweden ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in May 2010;
- Changes in the national legislation on trafficking in human beings, including a more clear and appropriate description of the crime;
- Better coordination and cooperation between relevant authorities on work against trafficking and prostitution. The Stockholm County Administrative Board was tasked to be the national coordinator on trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes and prostitution in 2009. The role was widened in 2013 when the Board was tasked also to coordinate trafficking in human beings for other purposes than sexual. The widened assignment also includes ensuring that children that risk being or have been victims of trafficking get the support, protection and rehabilitation they need and that their rights are ensured. This includes children that are indirectly affected by trafficking in human beings.
- Strengthened legislation against child pornography was adopted in July 2010, which amongst other things makes it easier to sentence offenders in Sweden even if the crime was committed abroad.

The Stockholm County Administrative Board completed a national study in 2012 on children exposed to exploitation and trafficking. It found that between 2009 and 2011 there had been 166 registered cases of children suspected to be victims of human trafficking or crimes and exploitation related to human trafficking. The study showed that there were as many children that were victims of sexual exploitation as there were those that were victims of other forms of exploitation such as pick pocketing or stealing, servitude begging and work. Two thirds of the children had other nationality than Swedish and about half of them were in Sweden temporarily. There were as many girls as boys and their ages varied between 3 and 17 years. Another vulnerable group, according

to the study, was the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Most of those children dwelled in the local municipalities on a temporary basis and many of them deviated before the social services had the chance to initiate an investigation or give effect to decided measures. The survey called for clearer guidelines to the social services and also increased knowledge amongst officials that came in contact with children that risked being victims of exploitation or trafficking.

The objective for the 2014–2015 Action Plan is that no child should be a victim of trafficking, exploitation or sexual abuse and is therefore wider in its scope than the earlier Actions Plans (from 1998, 2001 and 2007) that dealt primarily with sexual exploitation of children. The measures in the Action Plan aim to improve the protection of children in particularly vulnerable situations. The measures are expected to lead to:

- increased awareness among government agencies, professionals, the general public and children themselves of the vulnerability of children to trafficking, exploitation and abuse;
- increased effectiveness in the work of governments and other relevant stakeholders to protect children from these violations and
- improved contributions by Swedish authorities to international cooperation on protecting children from trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse.

A fundamental element in combatting the abuse and exploitation of children is the interventions of specialised authorities and agencies. The Government has tasked Stockholm County Administrative Board with monitoring, coordinating and disseminating knowledge and methods to municipalities, county councils, country administrative boards and government agencies concerning efforts to prevent trafficking in children and the exploitation of children.

Some measures are focused on knowledge and awareness raising of children and young people. One goal of the Government is to promote awareness raising addressed to the general public providing information on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and on the effective preventive measures which can be taken. Additionally, children have to receive information on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, as well as on the means to protect themselves, adapted to their evolving capacity. This information, provided in collaboration with parents, where appropriate, shall pay special attention to situations of risk, especially those involving the use of new information and communication technologies. The Government has therefore granted funding to the Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden to implement an information campaign, aimed at adults and children, on reducing the risk of sexual abuse of children. This campaign will adapt the campaign One in Five of the Council of Europe to the Swedish society. Its aim is to equip children, their families and societies at large with the knowledge and tools to prevent and report sexual violence against children, thereby raising awareness of its extent. Other assignments have been given to the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society and a second one to Children's Welfare Foundation Sweden.

The Government Offices will initiate annual thematic dialogues with the Swedish Media Council and other actors to enhance protection of children from harmful exploitation in

social media. The Government Offices is also to initiate a thematic dialogue with travel agencies, police and others – especially the Swedish missions abroad so that they pay special attention to sexual exploitation of children in connection with tourism and travel, and have heightened preparedness to manage cases involving Swedish citizens.

In the area of prostitution the Government continues the efforts via the Stockholm County Administrative Board and National Board of Health and Welfare to follow the developments and trends in prostitution and the support to and the needs of support and assistance of sellers and buyers of sexual services. The National Board of Health and Welfare is also to revise and disseminate training materials on support for children and youth in prostitution.

Sweden has bilateral agreements with Thailand and Vietnam on law enforcement cooperation in combating between others organised crime, trafficking on human beings and other serious crimes. The Government intends to promote bilateral agreements with other countries for instance the Philippines, on cooperation to combat sexual exploitation of children in connection with tourism and travel. The aim is to improve the routines of missions abroad and streamline the identification and prosecution of Swedish perpetrators.

The Committee has also drawn attention to child pornography on the Internet. With a view to provide the Committee with comprehensive information on how Sweden is tackling this major concern, reference can be made to Sweden's contribution of June 2014 to the Global Alliance on Child Sexual Abuse on the Internet. In connection to the points particularly highlighted by the Committee, we wish to mention the following from the report:

- Since 2007 a Financial Coalition has been operating in Sweden for the purpose of forming a partnership between the financial and payment sectors, the Police and the organisation ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography, and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) with a view to stop payments over the Internet for child sexual abuse material. In overarching terms, the development since the 2006 report from ECPAT shows that the number of websites with commercial child pornography has decreased.
- The voluntary blocking co-operation is indeed an example of a successful private-public partnership (as is also the Financial Coalition). It seems that the number of subscribers that are covered remains at a level of 90%.

Article 8 – The right of employed women to protection of maternity

Article 8§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information. Reference can also be made to the information given in article 16.

A woman who is pregnant can apply for parental benefit and leave from her work 60 days before the expected time of birth at the earliest. If the woman has a dangerous (hazardous work environment) or heavy job and cannot be transferred to another post, she is entitled to leave of absence from work during the entire pregnancy or parts of the pregnancy. When the pregnant woman's work capacity is reduced and her job is heavy she can get pregnancy benefit 60 days before the expected time of birth at the earliest. When she is working in a hazardous work environment she can get pregnancy benefit for the entire pregnancy. Pregnancy benefit is not paid for the last ten days before the expected birth. As of 1 January 2014 pregnant self-employed women are also covered by the right to pregnancy benefit on account of risks in their work environment. In 2012 some 20 per cent of all pregnant women received pregnancy benefit.

Parental benefit is paid for a total of 480 days. Parents with joint custody of a child are each entitled to half (240 days) of parental benefit. Parental benefit days can be transferred between parents, with the exception of 60 days that are reserved for each parent. The benefit may be granted to the expectant mother up to 60 days before the expected birth and to either parent until the child is twelve years old (older rules apply for children born before 1 January 2014, see details of recent amendments in the report on article 16). The length of leave and flexibility in choosing when to take parental benefit ensure the possibility of not only an extended period of time off work with young children, but also of greater work-family balance through working part-time, shorter hours or taking time off work when caring for older children.

Parental benefit consists of two different kinds of compensation: 390 days are compensated at a rate based on parental income up to a maximum ceiling, and 90 days are compensated at a flat rate of SEK 180 per day. The income-related days are compensated at around 80 per cent of the parent's sickness benefit qualifying income, which usually is equal to the parent's annual previous income. If a parent does not have a previous income, parental benefit is SEK 225 per day. In 2014 the highest income entitling to sickness benefit for calculation of parental allowance was SEK 444 000. The highest payment per day was SEK 944. The higher ceiling for parental benefit makes it possible for more parents to receive compensation equivalent to 80 per cent of their salary and can increase incentives for men to use parental benefit. For people whose income is higher than the ceiling, collectively agreed supplementary insurance schemes (agreed upon by the social partners) play an important role. The extent of the supplement differs across labour

market sectors, and is an indication of employers' generally positive view of parental leave.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to demonstrate that the level of maternity benefit is adequate.

Reference is made to the previous report and the information above.

Additional information with reference to Conclusions 2011

There is no special agreement with social partners regarding the question of postnatal leave. However, parental leave pay has been negotiated in many collective agreements in both the public and private sectors. A common collective agreement is that the employer pays 10 per cent extra under the ceiling (i.e., workers receive 90 per cent of earnings) and up to 90 per cent above the ceiling.

Article 8§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

Artikel 16 – The right of the family to social, legal and economic protection

In addition to the information provided below, reference is made to the report on article 17.

Definition of family

There is no legal definition of the notion family under Swedish law. However, the concept may sometimes have legal relevance (e.g. when it comes to assessing the amount of financial assistance that an individual is entitled to). It must then, based on the law applicable, be determined in each case which people that may be considered part of a particular person's family.

Social protection of families

Housing for families

Reference is made to the report on article 31 and to previous reports on article 16 and 31.

Childcare facilities

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Under the Education Act municipalities are obliged to provide preschool and out of school centers for children aged 1–12 years to the extent necessary in order to allow for parents to be gainfully employed or study or if the child has its own need of the activity. The obligation also comprises preschool for children whose parents are unemployed or on parental leave for a sibling. These children must be offered a place in preschool at least three hours a day or 15 hours a week. Municipalities may also provide pedagogical care (e.g. family day care), instead of preschool according to the parents' choice. The municipalities have an obligation to organise universal preschool to all children from the autumn term of the year the child reaches the age of three.

Preschool for children is publicly subsidised with a low parental fee that makes it available for all families. The maximum fee (maxtaxa) means that there is a cap on how high fees can be for a family and makes early childhood education and care affordable for all. Fees charged are at a maximum rate of 3, 2 and 1 per cent, respectively, of a household's estimated income before tax for the first, second and third child in the family (fourth child for free). The income cap is momentarily at SEK 42 000 per family and month. From the autumn term when the child reaches the age of 3 and up to the time when school starts, there is a right to 525 hours free of charge per year, which means a reduction on the maximum fee for children using more hours.

The childcare voucher system

The childcare voucher system is a municipal grant to independent approved preschools and out of school centers. The municipalities are also obliged to provide grants to independent approved forms of pedagogical care in addition to preschools and out of school centers. Thus, the municipal grant follows the child to the activity the parents themselves choose. The aim of the childcare voucher system is to increase parents' freedom of choice and chances of choosing different forms of pedagogical activities for their children. It is the municipality that decides the level of the grant to the activity in question on the same grounds as applied by the municipality in connection with the distribution of resources to its own activities.

The childcare allowance

The childcare allowance gives parents greater opportunities to be at home and care for their children when the child is between one and three years old and is an alternative to publicly financed activities. The child cannot participate in preschool or pedagogical care at the same time as the parents receive child care allowance. The childcare allowance is voluntary for the municipalities and amounts at most to SEK 3 000 a month.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

In 2013 preschool and pedagogical care comprised 87 per cent of all 1–5-year-olds. Over 506 000 children were in preschool and pedagogical care in 2013, where approximately 105 000 adults are employed. In 2013 the total cost of preschool was SEK 59.8 billion. The number of children per annual worker (number of employees converted to year-round work) was 5.3 children.

Family counselling services

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms, 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

According to the Social Services Act (2001:453); SoL, the municipalities are responsible for family counselling being available to those who request it. Family counselling can be provided by the municipality or through another suitable professional counsellor, if the municipality has made a special agreement to that effect. The municipalities have the right to charge a fee for the counselling. During 2013 the number of municipal family counselling cases was about 34 000. During 2013 just over 110 000 family counselling sessions took place with about 60 000 persons aged 18 and above. This is equivalent to 9 per 1 000 of the population aged between 18 and 69. The number of cases initiated was about 27 000 in 2013 and almost 43 000 children under the age of 18 were directly or indirectly affected in the cases initiated during the year. In around 81 per cent of the cases initiated in 2013, those seeking counselling were married couples or cohabiting partners.

In approximately five per cent of the cases they were living separately and in 10 per cent of the cases the couple was separated. There are variations between different counties regarding the share of the population that visited municipal family counselling in 2013.

In 2014 the Government has invested in a pilot program of so-called interaction teams with the intention of developing models and methods for better coordination of public efforts directed at parents and children in conflict or separation.

Legal protection of families

Maintenance obligations between spouses

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Under Swedish law each of the spouses is responsible for her or his own and the other spouse's maintenance during the marriage. The Marriage Act presupposes that both spouses assume responsibility for both finances and chores at home. The spouses are also liable to provide each other with the information necessary to ensure that the finances of the family can be assessed. If the spouses live separately, for example during a period for reconsideration pending a divorce, they are still liable to contribute to each other's maintenance.

According to the Act each spouse is normally responsible for their own support after a divorce. However, if one of the spouses needs money for her or his maintenance for a transitional period, he or she might be entitled to an allowance from the other spouse. The question of how long such a readjustment period should last must be assessed in view of the circumstances in the individual case. If the spouse in need has difficulty in maintaining him or herself following the dissolution of a long-lasting marriage, he or she may obtain a maintenance allowance for a longer period than only a transitional period.

The assets and liabilities of spouses

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Under Swedish law spouses may have two kinds of assets, namely marital property and separate property. Marital property is the most common and applies unless something else has been specially decided. During marriage, each spouse decides over her or his own property. In principle, one spouse has no right to decide over the other spouse's assets. However, to protect other members of the family, there are certain restrictions on a spouse's rights to decide about her or his property. These restrictions mean that certain measures may not be taken without the consent of the other spouse. Each of the spouses is personally responsible for her or his debts. Thus, a spouse's creditors are not entitled to obtain payment out of the property of the other spouse, irrespective of whether the property comprises marital property or is the spouse's separate property.

When a marriage is dissolved the main rule is that it is the spouses' marital property and not their separate property that should be divided through a division of property. The spouses may agree that property which they have made separate property by a marital property agreement should also be included. In that case, the separate property is dealt with in precisely the same way as marital property. However, the spouses cannot include property that is separate as a result of conditions for a gift or in a will.

Legal custody

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Under Swedish law (The Children and Parents Code) all children under 18 years of age should be in custody of one or two adults. Custody of children involves certain obligations, for example, to ensure that the child has their need for care, security and a good upbringing satisfied. It is usually the child's parents or one of them who, in the capacity of custodian, fulfils these duties. If the child's parents are married to each other when the child is born, the parents automatically obtain joint custody of the child. If the parents only marry later, they automatically obtain joint custody by virtue of the marriage. If the parents divorce, joint custody continues to apply without the court having to make any decision to this effect in connection with the divorce.

Custody is accompanied by rights and obligations to decide in matters concerning the child's personal affairs, for example the upbringing and education of the child. The custodian should pay greater regard to the child's own views and wishes in pace with the increasing age and development of the child. Joint custody means a joint legal custody obligation. Parents should decide jointly on matters concerning the child. However, one of them may decide alone if the other parent is prevented from participating in the decision and the decision cannot be postponed. But he or she cannot make the decision alone if the decision is of major importance for the future of the child (unless the best interest of the child manifestly requires such a decision). If the custodians do not consent to a child receiving certain support measures, for instance psychiatric treatment, the social welfare committee may nonetheless decide that the measures are to be provided for the child if it is considered that it is necessary considering the best interests of the child.

The custodians have a responsibility to ensure that the child does not come to harm. Under an express statutory provision, a child must not be exposed to physical punishment or other humiliating treatment; corporal punishment is in other words prohibited.

Arbitrary conduct concerning a child

The criminal responsibility for arbitrary conduct concerning a child when the offender has joint custody of the child was extended on 1 July 2014. Also to wrongfully withhold a child is now subject to criminal liability and not only, as previously, to carry off the child.

Maintenance obligation for parents

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Under the Children and Parents Code parents are responsible for maintenance of their children according to what is reasonable having regard to the child's needs and the combined financial capacity of the parents. A parent who does not have any capacity to contribute to their child's support is not liable to pay maintenance. The obligation to provide maintenance ceases when the child attains the age of 18. However, if the child's education is not concluded by then, the maintenance obligation continues as long as the schooling continues, but at most until the child attains the age of 21.

A parent who is neither the custodian nor permanently lives together with the child should fulfil their maintenance obligation by paying a maintenance allowance, usually a fixed amount per month. A parent who is a custodian jointly with the other parent may also be liable to pay a maintenance allowance. This is the case if the child lives permanently with only the other parent, regardless of whether that parent is single or lives together with a new partner. In general, a parent can be ordered by a court to pay a maintenance allowance if they neglect their maintenance obligation.

A child is entitled to maintenance support from public funds if the parents do not live together and if the child permanently lives with only one of the parents. Through maintenance support, society guarantees that a child of separated parents will receive certain maintenance even when the parent liable to pay maintenance (that is to say the parent who should fulfil a maintenance obligation through paying maintenance allowance to the child) does not perform their maintenance obligation. Maintenance support to a child is payable at SEK 1 273 per month (more information on maintenance support can be found in the section about economic protection below).

Parental support strategy

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Government's parental support strategy was adopted in 2009 and SEK 130 million has been allocated for projects aimed at offering all parents parental support while their children are growing up. A written communication detailing the Government's measures to strengthen parental support has been presented to the Swedish Parliament in 2014. The communication describes actions that have been taken and proposals for future measures.

Mediation services

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Procedures of settling disputes

Disputes relating to spouses' financial obligations towards each other and in relation to their children may be resolved either by agreement between the parents or by the courts. Spouses can also apply in Court for an estate distribution executor to make the division of the joint property.

If parents agree to implement an alteration of custody, residence or contact they can apply to the court for joint custody or, alternatively, apply for one of them to have sole custody. They can also resolve the custody issue by an agreement. However the social welfare committee must approve the agreement, which must be in writing and signed by both parties in order to be legally binding. If only one of the parents wishes to implement an alteration of custody that parent may institute court proceedings. It is possible for the court to assign a mediator with the purpose of reaching a common agreement between the parties. If court proceedings concerning custody, residence or contact have been instituted, the court can take initiative for cooperation discussions.

Cooperation discussions

Parents who wish to have help in concluding an agreement may apply to the municipality, which is under an obligation to offer assistance. According to the Social Services Act (2001:453) the municipalities are also liable to offer cooperation discussions. The purpose of the discussions is to reach a common view on issues relating to custody, residence and contact for parents who are separating or have separated. Even if the parents cannot reach consensus solutions, the parents may, through these discussions, acquire a greater understanding of one another's views and learn to deal with their conflicts in a manner that causes as little detriment to the child as possible. The cooperation discussions are free of charge.

Many conflicts between parents concern economic issues and cooperation discussions are as of 1 July 2014 also offered on the topic of how to financially support the child.

The municipalities are liable to assist parents who wish to make agreements on questions regarding custody and residence of children as well as access/visiting rights after a separation. Altogether, around 3 700 agreements of this kind were made in 2013. Almost 52 per cent of those concerned agreements on custody, 24 per cent residence and the remaining 24 per cent referred to access.

The Government has instructed the National Board of Health and Welfare to evaluate the cooperation discussions. The result is to be reported by 31 December 2015. The National Board of Health and Welfare is also to survey to what extent children are given the

possibility to be heard in inquiries concerning custody, residence and access. The report is to be submitted by 31 December 2014.

Combating all forms of violence against women and domestic violence.

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Criminal law

Gross violation of integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity

The criminal legislation concerning gross violation of integrity has recently been evaluated. The evaluation shows that the introduction of the crimes gross violation of integrity and gross violation of a woman's integrity has led to a general increase in the penal value of repeat offending in close relationships. Further, on 1 July 2013 the minimum penalty for these crimes was increased and the scope of their application was widened in order to further strengthen the protection in penal law against repeated violations by closely related persons. Today violation of integrity crimes cover various types of violent crimes, crimes against liberty and peace, sexual crimes, offences of inflicting damage and breaches of non-contact orders. Reference is also made to the report regarding article 17.

Protection against stalking

In 2011 amendments to the Non-Contact Orders Act, formerly the Restraining Orders Act, entered into force. The purpose of these amendments is to improve the situation of individuals who have been subjected to or risk being subjected to violence, threats or harassment in various ways, often repeatedly, what is called stalking. In order to enhance the protective effect it should be possible to monitor certain non-contact orders electronically. At the same time a new penal provision, unlawful persecution, was added to the Penal Code. This provision is aimed at persecution that consists of repeated criminal acts against one and the same person. The purpose is to strengthen the protection in penal law against harassment and persecution and to raise the level of penalties for crimes of this kind. The Government has commissioned the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention to monitor and evaluate the reform on improved protection against stalking. A final report on this commission is to be presented by 16 January 2015 at the latest.

In January 2014 the possibilities of preventing domestic violence were increased further through an additional amendment to the Non-Contact Orders Act. This amendment means that there no longer needs to be a *substantial* risk of a crime for a non-contact order relating to the common home to be issued.

Sexual crimes

The sexual crimes reform implemented in 2005 has been evaluated. Certain amendments have been made to the legislation in order to reinforce and sharpen the protection of sexual integrity and sexual self-determination. For example, the crime of rape has been

widened further. These amendments entered into force on 1 July 2013. Reference is also made to the report regarding article 17.

The Istanbul Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) was signed by Sweden in May 2011. Sweden deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on 1 July 2014.

Forced marriage and child marriage

On 1 July 2014 a new crime, coercion to marry, was introduced. It applies to a person who, by unlawful coercion or exploitation of another person's vulnerable situation, induces a person to enter into marriage or a marriage-like relationship. Even before the new legislation, cases involving coercion were punishable as unlawful coercion. The new crime has a more severe scale of penalties than unlawful coercion. The new regulations also go further than present legislation since attempt and preparation to commit coercion to marry have been made punishable and since cases of coercion to marry may be examined by a Swedish court even when the act is not punishable in the country where it was committed. The provision on coercion to marry is supplemented with the new offence of luring someone to travel abroad with the purpose of forcing them to enter into marriage. The penalty is imprisonment for at most two years. As of 1 July 2014 it is no longer possible for children under the age of 18 to marry before a Swedish authority.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and children, including domestic violence, is highly prioritised by the Government. The point of departure for this work is that any and all forms of violence against women and girls comprise a major obstacle to women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights as well as to achieving gender equality. Sweden's commitments within the framework of UN and Council of Europe efforts in this area also represent an important basis for national action.

On 1 July 2007, Chapter 5, Section 11 of the Social Services Act (2001:453) was amended to clarify the obligation of social welfare committees regarding the provision of help and support to crime victims. The amendment is intended to clarify the responsibility of municipalities to help and support crime victims. The revision specifies that a municipality shall – rather than should – give special consideration to the needs of women exposed to violence and of children who have witnessed violence. The Government has given several instructions to the National Board of Health and Welfare to improve knowledge-based support to the municipalities in their implementation of the amendments to the Social Services Act.

In 2007, the Government decided on an action plan to combat men's violence against women, violence and oppression in the name of honour, and violence in same-sex relationships (Communication 2007/08:39). In addition, in 2009 an Action plan to stop and prevent young people being married against their will (Communication 2009/19:229) was presented. The implementation of the Action plans has been evaluated in 2011 by the

National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) and the National Council for the Protection of Women against Violence (NCK) at Uppsala University.

The evaluation of the work 2007–2010 to combat men’s violence against women shows that the action taken has contributed to greater awareness and knowledge among the relevant agencies and to a better structure and organisation for work both within and between agencies. Collaboration between government agencies has been strengthened and attention has been drawn to the risk of violence in particularly vulnerable situations such as exposure to honor-related violence and oppression, violence against women with disabilities and women substance abusers.

In 2011–2014 the Government has followed up the action plans with new actions mainly intended to ensure the sustainability and long termism of the development work and to work for the integration of methods, knowledge and ways of working in the regular activities of government agencies. More emphasis has also been placed on action aimed at men who use violence.

In 2012 the Government appointed a national coordinator to combat violence in close relationships. The Coordinator’s tasks included bringing together and supporting the relevant authorities, municipalities, county councils and organisations to increase the effectiveness, quality and sustainability of the work against violence in close relationships. The coordinator, for example, would consider ways of improving protection and support to victims of crime. Those children who grow up in families where violence occur are an important target group in the coordinator’s work. The final report on this mandate, including more than 50 proposals, was presented on 27 June 2014.

On account of the amendment to Chapter 5, Section 11 of the Social Services Act (2001:453) on the responsibility of the social welfare committee for crime victims, especially women subject to violence and children who witness violence, the National Board of Health and Welfare is carrying out enhanced supervision in this area as a commission from the Government. This led to the development of common assessment criteria for supervision. The result of the supervision shows that extensive development work is now under way in the municipalities in all areas, and that the supervision as such is driving these developments.

The National Board of Health and Welfare has a number of ongoing commissions that relate to support and assistance for crime victims, particularly women and children, and treatment methods aimed at perpetrators. These commissions consist of producing national guidance for staff in healthcare and social services in order to discover persons subjected to violence, to carry out open comparisons of the municipalities’ work to support women who are subjected to violence and children who have witnessed violence and to develop methods and guidance for work with individuals who use violence in close relationships. New guidelines will be in force in October 2014.

The National Board of Health and Welfare also has a mandate to initiate development concerning risk assessments relating to custody, residence and access.

In 2014, the Health and Social Care Inspectorate presented its report on a national inspection of the work performed by municipalities, health care and women's shelters with women subjected to violence and children who witness violence. The inspection results show that extensive development work is in progress and that the inspection is in itself driving this development. Furthermore, the report shows that the municipalities possess considerable knowledge on the issue of men's violence against women, but that several municipalities demonstrate deficiencies in investigations and documentation, risk assessment, follow-up and long-term support. The inspection also showed that women's shelters have a high level of expertise but sometimes lack, e.g. documentation and procedures for their reporting obligation. Both within the health care system and among municipalities, there are differences in approach between regions and various activities.

Since 2007, all county administrative boards have had a government assignment to support the coordination of measures aimed at combating men's violence against women and preventing children from being forced to witness violence. This assignment includes consultation, coordination and competence-enhancing measures as well as the distribution of development funding. As of 2008, the assignment was expanded to include violence and oppression in the name of honour.

Violence in the name of honour, forced marriage and female genital mutilation

Since 2013, the County Administrative Board of Östergötland has had a commission to develop a national competence team to combat forced marriage, child marriage and violence in the name of honour. The commission has been extended to 2015. In 2013, the County Administrative Board of Östergötland and the National Board of Health and Welfare were commissioned to carry out preventive work against female genital mutilation. Their commissions include measures adapted to health and medical care and a study to gain knowledge about how many are at risk of becoming victims of female genital mutilation. Furthermore, proposals are to be developed on how agencies and activities can work with prevention, protection and support in cases in which a girl or a woman risks subjection to genital mutilation. Reports on the completed commissions are to be presented in 2015.

Funding to assist women subjected to violence

The municipalities receive yearly special funding (SEK 109 million) for measures to reinforce and develop their work to support and assist women subjected to violence and children who have witnessed violence in accordance with the legislation, for example to develop and strengthen sheltered housing for battered women.

The work undertaken by voluntary women's shelters, crime victim support-centers and other voluntary organisations are a valuable complement to the support services provided by the municipalities. In order to strengthen the work of the voluntary women's shelters the Government has increased the funds distributed to voluntary organisations working on combating violence against women. The reinforcement of SEK 10 million previously decided by the Government was increased by a further SEK 13.4 million in 2014. As of 2015 the Government grant, which is distributed by the National Board of Health and Welfare, has a permanent reinforcement of SEK 23 million.

In December 2013, the National Crime Prevention Council was mandated to evaluate the functioning and use of the assault protection kit which serves to prevent women living under threat becoming victims of violence. The final report on this mandate is to be presented no later than 27 February 2015.

Between 2009 and 2010, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority was tasked by the Government with distributing SEK 45 million to research and other activities aimed at increasing knowledge about men's violence against women, honour related violence and oppression, violence in same-sex relationships, prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes.

For 2011–2014, the Government commissioned the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority to distribute SEK 42 million for research, method development and other similar initiatives aimed at increasing knowledge about men's violence against women, including sexual violence and other sexual abuse. This also includes knowledge about perpetrators and the effects of measures to prevent repeat offences among perpetrators of violent and sexual crimes. Increased knowledge is required in order to allow for the development, inter alia, of evidence based working methods intended to improve the protection of and support for victims of crime. In this context, support for children growing up in families where violence occurs is to be taken into account. The commission is to be presented by 15 December 2014.

In May 2011 the Government commissioned the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority to further develop and implement a training program for improved reception of the victims of sex crimes in connection with police reports, preliminary investigations and trials. The training program is to focus on the particular vulnerability and needs of children and young people in connection with these types of crimes, and on cooperation in sex crime cases. The program is directed at police officers, prosecutors, judges and solicitors. The commission was presented on 13 June 2014.

Work with perpetrators and prevention

The Government's investment in activities within the Swedish Prison and Probation Service aimed at violent men has had a clear impact. Among other things, the efforts have led to a significant increase in the number of completed treatment programmes for convicted men. In 2013, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service was instructed to intensify recidivism prevention through measures during the sentence of those convicted of violent crime. The focus of the activities, in collaboration with relevant actors, is to be on planning the post-release period in order to prevent recidivism. A report is to be submitted in March 2017. The social services also have an important role to play in initiatives aimed at perpetrators of violence. The National Board of Health and Welfare has been tasked with developing assessment instruments and support initiatives for persons exposed to violence or other abuse by those in close relationships. The commission runs from 2012 to 2014.

The Government has also granted Karolinska University Hospital funds for 2011–2014 to develop and quality assure activities of the Centre for Andrology and Sexual Medicine (CASM) that receive persons who perpetrate or are at risk of perpetrating sexual violence.

The commission includes the development of a national telephone support line for sexual offenders. A report is to be submitted on 31 December 2014.

The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority has been instructed to allocate SEK 42 million (about EUR 4,6 million) for research, method development and other related efforts, with the aim of increasing knowledge about men's violence against women, including sexual violence and other sexual abuse.

The Government has also focused some initiatives on young people who practise violence or who may come to do so. The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society¹ has been tasked, during the period 2011–2014, to increase the knowledge about boys' and young men's attitudes and values regarding gender equality, masculinity and violence. The Agency is also to produce knowledge support focusing on attitudes and values in order to combat men's violence against women.

Economic protection of families

Parental insurance

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

In addition to the information provided below, reference can be made to the report on articles 8 and 27.

Parental benefit is paid for a total of 480 days. Parents with joint custody of a child are each entitled to half (240 days) of parental benefit. Parental benefit days can be transferred between parents, with the exception of 60 days that are reserved for each parent. The benefit may be granted to the expectant mother up to 60 days before the expected birth and to either parent until the child is twelve years old (older rules apply for children born before 1 January 2014, see details of recent amendments below). The length of leave and flexibility in choosing when to take parental benefit ensure the possibility of not only an extended period of time off work with young children, but also of greater work-family balance through working part-time, shorter hours or taking time off work when caring for older children.

Parental benefit consists of two different kinds of compensation: 390 days are compensated at a rate based on parental income up to a maximum ceiling, and 90 days are compensated at a flat rate of SEK 180 per day. The income-related days are compensated at around 80 per cent of the parent's sickness benefit qualifying income, which usually is equal to the parent's annual previous income. If a parent does not have a previous income, parental benefit is SEK 225 per day. For people whose income is higher than the ceiling,

¹ The National Board for Youth Affairs changed its name to the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society on 1 April 2014.

collectively agreed supplementary insurance schemes (agreed upon by the social partners) play an important role. The extent of the supplement differs across labour market sectors, and is an indication of employers' generally positive view of parental leave.

Temporary parental benefit can be paid for 60 days per child per year. Temporary parental benefit provides a parent with just below 80 per cent of his or her sickness benefit qualifying income. Temporary parental benefit can also be granted to a father (or to both adoptive parents) in connection with childbirth.

Pregnancy benefit can be paid to a woman at the end of her pregnancy if she has a physically demanding job that reduces her work capacity. A pregnant employee who is prohibited from continuing to work on account of risks in her work environment may also be entitled to pregnancy benefit.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

As of 1 January 2012 it is possible for parents to obtain parental benefit at the same time for a period of 30 days, during the child's first year of life, in order to increase the parents' freedom of choice.

As of 1 January 2013 the basic level of parental benefit was increased for parents who have low or no income. Women claim considerably more days at the basic level than men. In 2013 some 23 per cent of days paid that can correspond to income were paid at the basic level for women; for men the corresponding figure was six per cent. The increase in the basic level therefore affects the financial situation of more women than men. To clarify the responsibility of both parents for their child and reduce conflicts between parents, new rules for parental benefit have been introduced for children born on or after 1 January 2014. The payment levels of parental benefit (the sickness benefit level and the minimum level) will be shared equally between parents with joint custody of a child. This means that parents will have the right to parental benefit for 195 days at the sickness benefit level or basic level and 45 days at the minimum level. As before, days can be transferred between parents, apart from 60 days at the sickness benefit level for each parent.

New age limits in parental benefit

For children born on or after 1 January 2014 the rule is that parental benefit is granted for a total of 480 days per child, 240 days for each parent with joint custody. After the child's fourth birthday a maximum of 96 days can be claimed for the child. However, these days can be claimed until the child reaches twelve years instead of eight years as under the previous rules. The proposal is intended to make clear that parental benefit is mainly intended for care when the child is young and the need for care is greatest.

- As of 1 January 2014 pregnant self-employed persons are also covered by the right to pregnancy benefit on account of risks in their work environment. In 2012 some 20 per cent of all pregnant women received pregnancy benefit. A woman also has

the option of using parental leave days at the end of her pregnancy if she wishes to reduce her working hours or to be off work before delivering her baby.

- In 2013 a total of 416 476 women and 340 246 men received parental benefit. For children born before 2008 women had used an average of 301 days of parental benefit when the child reached four years, the corresponding figure for men was 72 days.
- In the case of children born in 2004, at the age of eight years (when the right to the benefit ends) 59 per cent had a father who had claimed more than 60 days of parental benefit. In the case of children born in the period 2002–2004, each year about 10 per cent of the children had a father who had not claimed a single day (the corresponding share for women was about 2 per cent).

Gender equality bonus

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

As stated in the previous report, on 1 July 2008 a gender equality bonus was introduced in order to create better conditions for both mothers and fathers to take active responsibility for their children through parental leave. In 2012 simplifications were made to the bonus in order to make it easier to access and understand.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information.

In 2012 simplifications were made to the bonus in order to make it easier to access and understand. In 2013 SEK 250 million were disbursed.

Child allowance

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

General child allowance is paid for all children up to the age of 16. The allowance is SEK 1 050 per month. The child allowance can be extended for a child over the age of 16 if the child is attending compulsory school. The allowance is SEK 1 050 per month. A supplementary allowance for additional children is paid to families with two or more children.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

The supplementary allowance for additional children was increased in July 2010. The supplement is SEK 150 for the second child and increases for additional children.

In November 2013 the parliament adopted the Government's proposal of an amendment to the payment rules for child allowance. When parents have joint custody of a child, half of the child allowance is to be paid to each parent, if the parents have not reported who is to be the recipient. If the child resides alternately with both parents, half of the child allowance is paid to each parent, if the parent who wants the benefit to be shared shows that it is probable that there is alternate residence. Today a majority of the benefits are paid to the mother. These provisions entered into force on 1 March 2014.

In 2013 child allowance was disbursed for around 1.7 million children per month. The total cost for child allowance was SEK 24.7 billion. General child allowance constituted almost 90 per cent of the cost, around SEK 21.7 billion. The large-family supplement was about 11 per cent of the total cost (around SEK 2.8 billion) and the extended child allowance one per cent (241 million).

Housing allowance

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Housing allowance to families with children consists of two parts, the special allowance for children living at home and the allowance towards housing costs, which depends on the housing cost but also on the number of children in the family. Generally both parts of the allowance are paid to the household. Families with low rents only receive the special allowance. The size of the allowance depends on housing costs, housing space, household income and number of children. The housing allowance is paid as a provisional benefit based on income as estimated by the applicant. The Swedish Social Insurance Agency compares the estimated income with the final assessed income for the year in which the housing allowance was paid.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

Housing allowance for families with children can be paid to families with low incomes. A number of investments have been made in housing allowance since 2012 in order to improve the financial situation of these households.

In 2012 changes were also implemented to the calculation of the part of the housing allowance that is based on housing costs.

The special housing allowance for families with children has been increased. As of 1 January 2014 the increase was:

- For families with one child the amount has been increased by SEK 200 to SEK 1 500 per month.
- For families with two children the amount has been increased by SEK 250 to SEK 2 000 per month.

- For families with three children the amount has been increased by SEK 300 to SEK 2 650 per month.

In 2013 the cost for housing allowance was SEK 4.5 billion. About 91 per cent of the cost is attributed to housing allowance for families with children, nine per cent for households between 18 and 29 years of age. More women than men are single parents, which mean that more women than men receive housing allowance. Out of the households with only one applicant, 103 814 were women and 35 858 were men (December 2013). Out of all households with children in Sweden (0–18 years) 12 per cent received housing allowance in 2013.

Maintenance support

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

No changes have been made in the general legal framework. Reference is made to the previous report.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

In 2013 SEK 3.3 billion was disbursed in maintenance allowance to about 227 000 children. The average amount paid per child and month is SEK 1 206. Parents that are required to pay back the maintenance support provided paid about SEK 1.2 billion in 2013, which mean that the total cost in 2013 amounted to SEK 2.05 million. The majority of parents that are required to pay the cost for maintenance support for children they are not living with are men (87 per cent in 2013).

Care allowance

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

To be eligible for a care allowance, the child must be in need of special supervision and care for at least six months. The care allowance can also be granted if a child has a disability that entails extra expenses. Parents can be granted care allowance up to and including June of the year when the child reaches the age of 19. The full rate of a care allowance is 2.5 price base amounts per year (SEK 110 000 in 2014). The allowance may also be paid at a reduced rate of three quarters, half or one quarter of the full benefit. Care allowance is counted as a taxable benefit. It also qualifies for pension rights.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information to show that Article 16 is applied in practice.

The Swedish Government has identified that the support to disabled persons should be revised and taken the initiative to an inquiry on the matter. The care allowance is one of the benefits that is being revised and the inquiry will leave its suggestions in October 2014.

Municipal childcare allowance

Reference is made to the previous report.

Vulnerable families

The committee asks what measures are taken to ensure the economic protection of Roma families. For that part reference is made to the report on article 31.

In addition, as from 1 July 2014 a so-called leisure time voucher was introduced in the Social Services Act. The voucher is payable to households with children dependent on social assistance. The support is granted to households with children attending grades 4 to 9 in elementary school and covers the costs for regular instructor led leisure time activities. The maximum amount of the voucher is SEK 3000 per year and is administered by the local municipality.

Equal treatment of foreign nationals and stateless persons with regard to family benefits

The right to family benefits is regulated in the Social Insurance Code and covers people who reside legally or work in Sweden and is therefore neutral in terms of sex and nationality. If you are living in Sweden longer than a year you are as a rule insured for residence based benefits. If you are working in Sweden you are as a rule insured for work based benefits. That means that Swedish, EU/EEA as well as non-EU/EEA citizens have the right to family benefits if they are residing or working in Sweden.

Family benefits include both residence based benefits and work based benefits. Benefits such as child allowance, housing allowance, maintenance allowance, child care allowance and parts of parental benefit are residence based. Work based benefits include parental benefit at the sickness insurance level, temporary parental benefit and pregnancy benefit.

Artikel 17 – The right of children and young persons to appropriate social, legal and economic protection

Article 17§1

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Sexual crimes

The sexual crimes reform implemented in 2005 has been evaluated. According to the evaluation the reform has improved the protection against sexual violations. Certain amendments have been made to the legislation in order to further reinforce and sharpen the protection of children towards sexual abuse. For example, the scope of the crime gross sexual abuse of a child has been widened and the minimum penalty has been raised from imprisonment six months to imprisonment one year. These amendments entered into force on 1 July 2013. Furthermore, in order to fulfil the commitments in the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) Swedish law has made exceptions from the requirement of dual criminality concerning the crimes purchase of a sexual act from a child and exploitation of a child for sexual posing. In addition, the period of limitation has been extended for the crime exploitation of a child for sexual posing; now it starts from the day the child reaches or should have reached the age of 18. The Convention entered into force for Sweden on 1 October 2013.

Non-contact order relating to the common home

In January 2014 the possibilities for preventing domestic violence were increased through an amendment to the Non-Contact Orders Act. This amendment means that there no longer needs to be a *substantial* risk of a crime for a non-contact order relating to the common home to be issued. The possibilities to use such a non-contact order in order to prevent crimes in close relationships have therefore increased. The aim of the amendment is to enhance the child's right to a safe home environment by enabling children to a greater extent to remain in their homes without the risk of beings subjected to threats or abuse.

Child pornography crime

On 1 July 2010, amendments were made in the Swedish Penal Code that criminalise viewing of a child pornographic picture which the viewer has gained access to, sometimes referred to as web-viewing. The amendment also involved a clarification of the prerequisites under which an offence should be considered gross. Attention should in this latter regard be paid to if the child was particularly young, had been exposed to coercion or violence or exploited in some other particularly ruthless way. On 1 January 2011, additional amendments were made in order to extend the criminalised area to include all

pornographic representations of children under eighteen, regardless of whether they have undergone a full pubertal development. The amendments were made with the explicit purpose of making the combat against child pornography crimes more effective.

Directive (2011/92/EU) on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography

Sweden has implemented the EU directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. On 18 December 2013, a new act came into force introducing a duty for those who are offered a position, an assignment or a traineeship in certain activities to, if requested to do so, present information about their criminal records if the work involves direct and regular contact with children. At the same time the period of limitation was extended for purchase of a sexual act from a child and for sexual molestation committed against a child so that the time begins to run from the date the victim attains the age of 18.

Children who witness violence

In 2011 the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority was mandated to conduct training measures in order for children who have witnessed violence and other abuse in close relationships to be made visible to a greater extent in the preliminary investigations of such crimes and thus improve their opportunities to obtain crime victim compensation and also other support and protection. The final report on this mandate was presented on 18 December 2013.

Children with parents deprived of their liberty

The Swedish Prison and Probation Service works continuously to develop their support for parents who are deprived of their liberty and their children. In order to develop the knowledge and qualification in matters relating to children, the Prison and Probation Service is, among other things, working in close collaboration with several NGOs. In 2014, the Government has allocated a larger proportion of the Prison and Probation Service funding for government grants to NGOs. At each institution there are specially trained professionals that will provide children, parents and staff support in children's issues. According to the Prison and Probation Service regulations (to the Act on Imprisonment) the child's best interests must always be considered in children's issues. Regarding visits, phone calls or leave there are regulations that take into account a child's need to maintain contact with a detainee parent and special needs of children in contact with their parents and during visits in prison or remand prisons.

Young offenders

If a juvenile has committed a serious crime before his or her 18th birthday and the court finds that the sanction should be imprisonment, such sanction must instead be transformed into institutional care of young persons for a specific period, unless there are special reasons not to do so. The National Board of Institutional Care is responsible for the enforcement. The social services in each municipality have overall responsibility for young offenders serving time in institutional care. In consultation with social services, the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS) decides at which special residential home for young people the offender will be placed, and how to plan and implement the sentence.

The maximum period for institutional care of young persons is four years. According to the Act of institutional care of young persons (Swedish Code of Statutes 1998:603), which in the committee's conclusions is referred to as the Act on the Enforcement of Closed Juvenile Care, it is possible to keep a sentenced person separated if he or she displays violent behaviour or is affected by drugs in a way that cannot be kept in order. According to the act, a prerequisite for this measure is that he or she is under constant supervision by the staff. Furthermore, according to the act, the measure shall not last longer than what is absolutely necessary and under no condition longer than 24 consecutive hours.

The law was changed in August 2011, with the aim of strengthening the care chain following sentencing at special residential homes for young people. The legislative amendment entails changes such as greater opportunity for controlled residence outside of the residential home. The change came about after the Government observed that the cooperation between SiS and the social services in the municipalities could be improved, and that some young people do not have any planned measures following their release.

According to Section 12 of the Act of institutional care of young persons, every sentenced person shall be given the opportunity to take part in education. Even if a young offender is sentenced to prison, he or she has a right to education. According to Chapter 3, Section 1 of the Imprisonment Act (Swedish Code of Statutes 2010:610), a prisoner shall be given the opportunity to take part in education.

Children in public care

Relevant domestic law

Relevant provisions are found in the 2001 Social Services Act (Socialtjänstlagen, SFS 2001:453, hereinafter 'the 2001 Act') and in particular in the 1990 Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (Lagen med särskilda bestämmelser om vård av unga, SFS 1990:52, hereinafter 'the 1990 Act').

General provisions about the social services

As part of systematic and continual development, follow-up and guarantee of care quality, the social welfare committee shall ensure that routines are in place to prevent, detect and address risks and unsatisfactory conditions.

When measures within the social services affect children, particular attention must be given to the best interests of the child (Chapter 1, Section 2 of the 2001 Act). Moreover, since 1 January 2013, what is best for the child is to be the determining factor in decisions or other measures concerning care or treatment (Chapter 1, Section 2 of the 2001 Act). This addition was made to adapt the Act to the commitments in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under article 3 of the Convention, the best interests of the child must be the primary consideration in all measures concerning children. The child's best interests are to be determined in each individual case, based on an assessment of the circumstances in the case in question. No other interests may take priority over the best interests of the child. 'Care and treatment measures' refers to full-

day measures and open measures. ‘Full-day measures’ refers to measures such as placing the child in a foster home, emergency foster home or home for care or residence. ‘Open measures’ refers to contact persons, contact families and structured outpatient programmes. This wording is the equivalent to that in Section 1, fifth paragraph of the 1990 Act. It shall be possible to grant community-based (non-institutional) interventions to children aged 15 and older, even without the consent of their parents or guardians.

The social welfare committees shall endeavour to ensure that children and young people grow up in secure and good conditions and to promote, in close cooperation with families, the comprehensive personal development and favourable physical and social development of children and young persons (Chapter 5, Section 1 of the 2001 Act). They shall ensure – in close cooperation with families – that children and young people in danger of developing in an undesirable direction receive the protection and support which they need and, where justified by consideration of the young person’s best interests, care and upbringing away from home (*ibid.*). Such care shall be provided either in a foster home or in a home for care or residence (Chapter 6, Section 1 of the 2001 Act). The care should be designed to promote the affinity between the individual concerned and his or her relatives and others closely connected to them, as well as contact with their home surroundings (*ibid.*).

Anyone who is aware of a matter that may imply a need for the social welfare committee to intervene for the protection of a child should report the matter to the committee (Chapter 14, Section 1c of the 2001 Act). Authorities whose activities affect children and young people, among others health care authorities, are duty bound to notify the social welfare committee immediately of any matter which comes to their knowledge and may imply a need for the committee to intervene for the protection of a child. (Chapter 14, Section 1 of the 2001 Act.) The committee shall open without delay an investigation of matters which have been brought to its knowledge and which may occasion action by the committee (Chapter 11, Section 1 of the 2001 Act). If there are no special reasons for a different course of action, decisions to launch or not launch an investigation shall be made within 14 days. An individual affected by such an investigation shall be informed immediately that the investigation has been launched, unless there are special reasons not to do so. When an investigation is completed without any intervention being decided on, the committee may – in certain circumstances – decide to follow up a child’s situation.

The social welfare committee should offer a meeting with the child, the parent or guardian and the person who submitted the report, if this is suitable considering the best interests of the child. At the request of the person who submitted the report, or on the committee’s own initiative, the social welfare committee shall inform the report submitter that an investigation is under way, is not under way, or that an investigation is already ongoing.

When a child needs to be cared for in a home other than its own, a plan for care shall be drawn up (Chapter 11, Section 3 of the 2001 Act). Provisions have been introduced regarding out-of-home care. If an individual who, following a decision made by a different municipality, is already residing in a prospective private residence, the social welfare committee shall inform and consult with that municipality before making a decision on

placing the individual in care. In conjunction with deciding to place a child or young person in care, the social welfare committee shall sign an agreement with the foster home about the obligations of the committee and the foster home during the period of care.

The social welfare committee is now obliged to provide the foster home with the training required for those the committee intends to entrust with the care of children in foster homes or emergency/short-term homes. The social welfare committee shall also endeavour to ensure that children and young people who have been placed in a foster home, emergency/short-term home or home for residence or care (HVB) receive healthcare. When care is provided in a foster home or an HVB, the social welfare committee shall appoint a designated social worker who is to be responsible for contacts with the child or young person. The specially appointed social worker shall visit the child or young person regularly and to the extent that is suitable on the basis of the needs and wishes of the child or young person. The social worker shall have one-to-one conversations with the child or young person.

Relevant special provisions on compulsory care etc.

Measures within the social services affecting children shall, as far as possible, be taken on the basis of agreement with the young person concerned and the child's custodian/custodians in accordance with the provisions laid down in the 2001 Act (Section 1 of the 1990 Act).

Such measures shall be characterised by respect for the human dignity and integrity of the young person. According to Section 1, fifth paragraph, the best interest of the young person shall be of vital concern in decisions under the Act. Taking measures under the Act is not, however, unconditionally linked to the issue of whether or not there is consent. Measures may be taken without consent from the child's custodian, provided that they are in the best interests of the young person (Section 1 of the 1990 Act.). Thus, under Section 2 of the 1990 Act, a care order shall be issued if there is a palpable risk of detriment to the young person's health or development, due to physical or mental abuse, exploitation, deficient care or some other circumstance in the home.

The Act covers all situations in which a child is subjected to abuse in the home. A low level of abuse is sufficient to represent a tangible risk for the child's health and development, unless it is a case of a one-off, rash act. If the abuse is of a more serious nature, the child should be given regular care outside the home, at least for a certain time. Assessments must be made on a case-by-case basis, but in most cases – at least in the case of a young child – it is likely to be inevitable that the child is removed from the home. Another situation that falls under the concept of deficient care is when parents subject the child's health to a tangible risk of damage by failing to ensure that the child receives appropriate medical care. This may also concern a disabled child who – because the parents do not agree to it – does not receive necessary treatment, e.g. physiotherapy for mobility impairments. 'Deficient care' also refers to situations in which the child's need for emotional security and stimulation is seriously neglected, e.g. due to substance abuse or mental disturbance on the part of the parents. There may also be a deep conflict between the parents, where the child is stuck between them in a way that risks damaging his or her health or development. Cases in which the parents place the child in an

environment where there is a tangible risk of damage to his or her health or development are included. 'Deficient care' also covers situations in which the parents transfer responsibility for the child to other people who are not able to guarantee the child a safe environment in which to grow up (Government bill 1989/90:28, pp. 63 and 107–108).

According to the preparatory work to the 1990 Act, 'palpable risk' means that concrete or apparent circumstances supporting the conclusion that there is a risk to the young person's physical or mental health have to be present in order for a care order to be issued. Thus, a temporary or less significant risk, irrelevant circumstances such as public order, or a subjective assumption that a young person is in danger, is not enough. 'Health' is taken to mean both physical and mental health and 'development' refers to social development (*ibid.*). Care orders are issued by the Administrative Court on the application of the social welfare committee (Section 4).

Under Section 6 of the 1990 Act, the social welfare committee may order that a young person be taken into immediate care. For such a measure to be taken, there has to be reason to assume that he or she needs to be provided with care under the 1990 Act and that a court decision cannot be awaited, *inter alia*, owing to the risk to the young person's health or development. Such an order has to be submitted to the Administrative Court for approval within a week after being made (Section 7 of the 1990 Act).

The social welfare committee decides how the care of the young person is to be arranged and where he or she is to reside during the period of care (Section 11 of the 1990 Act). The committee may consent to the young person residing in his or her own home if this may be presumed the most appropriate way of arranging care, but care pursuant to the 1990 Act always has to commence away from the young person's home (*ibid.*). The committee or the care provider appointed by the committee shall exercise supervision over the young person and, to the extent necessary for the discharge of the care, make decisions concerning his or her personal circumstances (*ibid.*).

According to Section 13a of the 1990 Act, the social welfare committee is to closely follow the care given to a young person pursuant to the Act. As of 1 January 2013, this means that the social welfare committee must monitor care, primarily through regular visits in person to the home where a child is living, private discussions with the child, discussions with the person or persons who have welcomed the child into their home, and discussions with the custodians. The social welfare committee must pay particular attention to the child's health, development, social behaviour, schooling and relationships with relatives and other people close to him or her. If care has been provided for the young person under Section 2, the social welfare committee is to consider, at least once every six months, whether care is still necessary and how care should be directed and designed (Section 13 of the 1990 Act). The social welfare committee is to discuss and consider the child's care. It is up to the social services official who is closely supervising care to report to the committee at least once every six months on how care is being given and how the child's and parents' situations are developing. Particular attention should be paid to matters concerning the parents' attitude towards continued care in a foster home. The purpose of reporting to the social welfare committee is not that this should always result in a formal decision-making process. Only when the committee considers that

there are grounds to question the need for continued care should the committee conduct an examination. If in its deliberations the social welfare committee considers that the matter should be examined within the committee, it should take upon itself to carry out the necessary additional investigations. The decision then made by the committee may be appealed against to the administrative court (Section 41 of the 1990 Act). However, if in its deliberations the committee considers that the report on care does not give the committee reason to take any measures, the committee can file the report without taking a decision in the matter (Government bill 1989/90:28, pp. 114–115). When the child has been placed in the same foster home for a period of three years after the implementation of such placement, the social welfare committee shall undertake a special consideration of whether there is reason to apply for a transfer of custody under Chapter 6, Section 8 of the Children and Parents Code (Section 13 of the 1990 Act).

If a young person has been taken into care, the social welfare committee has to ensure that the greatest possible provision is made for the young person's need for contact with parents or other persons having custody of him or her (Section 14 of the 1990 Act). If necessary, the social welfare committee may decide how a custodian's right of access is to be exercised or that the young person's whereabouts must not be revealed to the custodian. The committee is to review, at least once every three months, whether such an order is still needed (*ibid.*). The decisions made under Section 14 may be appealed to the Administrative Court (Section 41). According to the preparatory work to the 1990 Act, there must be strong reasons behind a decision on access restrictions but one such reason may be that the parents interfere in a negative way with the care of the child.

When care under the 1990 Act is no longer needed, the social welfare committee shall order that the care be terminated (Section 21). It shall make careful preparations for the young person's reunification with his or her custodian/custodians (*ibid.*). The reason for the termination of care under the 1990 Act may also be that the child's custodian has consented to the necessary public care. If this is the case, future care will be provided on a voluntary basis under the 2001 Act.

Judicial and other proceedings under the 1990 Act are to be expedited promptly (Section 33). If the young person is aged 15 or over, he or she is entitled to speak on his or her own behalf in judicial or other proceedings under the Act. A child under the age of 15 should be heard if this can benefit the investigation and if it may be presumed that he or she will not suffer harm from being questioned (Section 36). Public counsel should be appointed for the young person and for his or her custodian *inter alia* in cases concerning public care (Section 39). A person appointed as public counsel for a person aged under 15, but not for the custodian, is the young person's representative in the case or matter in question (Section 36).

Supervision of social services

The Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO) has been responsible for supervising social services since 1 June 2013. IVO is obliged through acts and ordinances to inspect residential care facilities for children and young people regularly – at least twice a year. At least one of the inspections shall be unannounced. The regulation applies to homes for residence or care (abbreviated to HVB in Swedish) for children and young people and the

special residential homes for young people run by the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS). These are both public sector and private operations. In all inspections, the children who wish to speak to the inspector from IVO shall be given the opportunity to do so.

In an inspection of a care facility, if IVO detects anything unsatisfactory that impacts individuals' opportunities to receive the interventions that they are entitled to, IVO may order the person responsible for the care facility to rectify the problem. Such an order shall detail the measures that IVO deems necessary to rectify the unsatisfactory condition. A decision on an order may be combined with a fine.

IVO has had extended powers of authority since 2010. If serious unsatisfactory conditions are detected that endanger the life, health or personal safety of children and young people, IVO may decide, without issuing a prior order, to fully or partly withdraw the permit for the care facility.

IVO now has explicit responsibility for providing information to children and young people in care about their rights. IVO also has a direct telephone number and email address for children and young people in care to use if they have any questions or complaints (if they experience that something is not working well and that their rights are being violated).

The supervision of homes for care or residence (HVB) has been reinforced, and in the regular statutory inspections, the inspector talks to the children and young people who wish to discuss matters.

The primary aim of these conversations is that the children and young people gain the opportunity to talk to the inspectorate themselves. They can raise the issues that they wish to talk about and they are listened to. The children and young people tell the inspector how well they think the care facility is operating, and IVO uses this information in its assessment of the quality of care. The children and young people thereby contribute their knowledge, experiences and opinions to the inspection.

If the children and young people say that they are not happy at an HVB home or that there are unsatisfactory conditions, this may lead to a discussion with the manager of the care facility, a contact with the social services branch who placed the person in care, or a decision on an intervention. Sometimes an additional inspection is performed based on the information that has emerged.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Contact with a child for a sexual purpose (so-called grooming)

In June 2014 an investigator was assigned to review the penal provision on contact with a child for a sexual purpose. The provision was introduced in 2009 to further strengthen the penal law protection for children against being exposed to sexual abuse. The investigator will consider whether the criminal responsibility is properly designed or if there are

reasons to extend or otherwise alter the provision. The assignment will be reported by June 2015.

Action Plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children 2014–2015

In February 2014 the Government adopted a new Action plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children. The objective for the 2014–2015 Action Plan is that no child should be a victim of trafficking, exploitation or sexual abuse. The measures in the Action Plan aim to improve the protection of children in particularly vulnerable situations. The measures are expected to lead to:

- increased awareness among government agencies, professionals, the general public and children themselves of the vulnerability of children to trafficking, exploitation and abuse;
- increased effectiveness in the work of governments and other relevant stakeholders to protect children from these violations and
- improved contributions by Swedish authorities to international cooperation on protecting children from trafficking, exploitation and sexual abuse.

Young offenders

The Government has, in order to ensure that all of the authorities affected contribute to cooperation in matters concerning young offenders, in June 2014 proposed an obligation in the Act with Special Provisions concerning Young Offenders (1964:167 – LUL) for public authorities to promote such cooperation.

In light of the legislative change implemented in 2011 with the aim of strengthening the care chain following sentencing at special residential homes for young people, the Government tasked SiS with smoothing the transition from secure youth care. The task included improving sentence planning and building up a structured and controlled operation for the transition from secure youth care. The project for better transition included improving SiS's work on planning treatment through individual sentence plans for those sentenced to secure youth care and improved measures for transition, drawing up models for cooperation with social services, testing conditions for use of electronic monitoring and working to enable retrospective evaluation of the reform. The project ran throughout 2012 and subsequently became part of the regular activities.

The protection of children in social care/A programme for safe and secure care

In 2012 the National Board of Health and Welfare was tasked with drawing up a programme for safe and secure care in foster homes and homes for residence or care (HVB). Within the framework of the assignment, the Board has drawn up regulations, general advice, guidelines and manuals to support the profession. In addition, guidelines on the education and health of children have been published. The Board has also developed a standardised assessment method for investigation of foster homes to enable early identification of unsuitable presumptive foster homes. The assignment included drawing up material that the municipalities can use in the basic training of foster homes. Furthermore, the Board has had the task of communicating and distributing the knowledge support that it had produced.

Within the framework of safe and secure care, the Government then decided on several key assignments that consist of focusing on skills development for staff involved in social care of children and young people, drawing up a method for listening to children in foster homes and making social services available to children and young people (see the descriptions below).

Supervision – pilot scheme with supervisory representatives for children and young people in care

The supervisory and permit activities of the county administrative boards were transferred to the National Board of Health and Welfare on 1 January 2010 and were coordinated with the Board's supervision of healthcare. The aim of the coordination was to create better conditions for more uniform and predictable supervision and provide the prerequisites for concentrating resources. Coordinated supervision also aimed to make it easier for citizens to find the right authority to which they can report complaints or shortcomings.

On 1 June 2013 the National Board of Health and Welfare's supervisory activities were transferred to a new authority established by the Government called the Health and Social Care Inspectorate (IVO).

The Government has also taken the initiative for a pilot scheme regarding supervisory representatives for children in foster homes. The National Board of Health and Welfare and subsequently IVO have been tasked with implementing a pilot project regarding supervisory representatives for children and young people in foster homes in a number of Swedish municipalities. The representative has conducted supervisory activities regularly during the year and has spoken with the child or young person separately if they consented to such a conversation. The role of the supervisory representative has included forming an opinion of whether the child or young person is being looked after satisfactorily, the conditions for the placement are being followed up and the social welfare committee is fulfilling its statutory obligations. IVO's mandate includes evaluating the activity. IVO shall present a final report on the assignment by 1 October 2014.

Qualifications and skills for staff involved in social care of children and young people

Requirements for qualifications to perform certain tasks in social care of children and young people came into force on 1 July 2014. The social welfare committee shall use caseworkers who have a Swedish Bachelor of Science in Social Work or other relevant first-cycle higher education qualification, or who have a recognised qualification from abroad. Through demands set in legislation and ordinances and through regulations, more stringent demands are made of municipalities to ensure that staff have the right skills and experience.

To strengthen the work of the responsible bodies, the Government is also carrying out a long-term initiative to support the municipalities' skills development work in social care of children and young people until 2016 (inclusive). In an initial phase, the National Board of Health and Welfare has been given the task in 2013 and 2014 of annually allocating a total of SEK 57 million to the municipalities to enable training and skills

development and to take stock of existing and required skills. The overall picture of the municipalities' needs for skills development measures in social care of children and young people that the National Board of Health and Welfare has reported within the assignment framework will form the basis of the direction of the Government's continued efforts in this field.

Model for listening to children in foster homes

A key foundation required to enable the development of social care of children and young people is knowledge of how the care recipients themselves perceive the care. The National Board of Health and Welfare and the Ombudsman for Children have therefore been tasked with conducting a preliminary study and proposing a model that can be used in a pilot survey to listen to children in foster homes. The work is designed to result in a model that will be used regularly in the future to follow up how children perceive their stay in foster homes.

A social service for children and young people

The Government has tasked the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Ombudsman for Children with improving the availability of social services for children and young people. The Board shall draw up and distribute information that is tailored to children, young people and parents and that clarifies what social services are to offer children and young people who need support or protection. The task also includes encouraging municipalities to make their social services clear and visible to children – put simply, to make their information accessible for children and young people. The Ombudsman for Children is responsible for involving children and young people in the implementation of the task.

Knowledge support to the profession

The Government has given the National Board of Health and Welfare the task of developing knowledge support and, where relevant, updating existing knowledge support for social services, particularly regarding meetings with those who have an obligation to report, feedback on submitted reports and assessment of children's statements. The task shall be performed in consultation with the Ombudsman for Children, the National Police Board, the National Agency for Education, the Swedish Prosecution Authority and other relevant actors.

The Government has also tasked the National Agency for Education with creating and distributing knowledge support to staff at preschools, schools, leisure time centres and other educational activities as guidance for how to interpret and apply the reporting obligation.

National centre for knowledge about violence and other forms of child abuse

The National Board of Health and Welfare has the task of notifying state-run universities and other higher education institutions in Sweden of their opportunity to become a national centre for knowledge about violence and other forms of child abuse. The Board is also responsible for proposing to the Government which educational establishment should become this centre. The goal for the national centre's activities is to compile and distribute knowledge on violence and other abuses in a structured way. The aim shall be

to encourage multi-disciplinary knowledge development concerning violence and other child abuse, and to encourage and support cooperation between authorities. The activities shall also contribute to promoting networks and knowledge sharing between professional practitioners, researchers and values-based organisations in civil society. The National Board of Health and Welfare shall present a report on the assignment by 16 March 2016. The Government Offices of Sweden will subsequently draft a mandate for the selected higher education institution.

Focus on children and young people through an agreement between the Government and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

Through an agreement between the Government and SALAR, regional development managers for social care of children and young people (the project titled BoU-satsningen in Swedish) have been in place since 2011. These regional development managers shall provide support for implementation of new knowledge and research in the field and encourage long-term development work. The managers have a key role in identifying and conveying the need of the responsible bodies for knowledge and support to the national level. The work aims to attain a structure for the continued development, distribution and implementation of knowledge in social care of children and young people that is sustainable in the long term. One priority task for the regional development managers consists of supporting the work of the responsible bodies on systematic follow-up of children and young people placed in foster homes or homes for residence or care. Another key component is to support the municipalities in implementing the new provisions in the Social Services Act that came into force on 1 January 2013, with the aim of making social care of children and young people safe and secure, and distributing the knowledge that the National Board of Health and Welfare and other normative authorities generate in the field.

Review of the provisions regarding compulsory care of children and young people

The Government has appointed an inquiry chair to review the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (abbreviated to LVU in Swedish). The aim of the inquiry is to further reinforce the children's rights perspective and legal security for children and young people subject to compulsory care under LVU and to contribute to a quality improvement in social care of children and young people, with a special focus on compulsory care. In a supplementary directive, the inquiry chair has been tasked with reviewing the placement options/forms of residence for children and young people and with presenting proposals for additional options to complement the range currently available. The commission of inquiry submitted its sub-report "Boendeformer utanför det egna hemmet – placeringsformer för barn och unga" (SOU 2014:3) (Forms of accommodation outside of the home – forms of placement for children and young people) in February 2014. The proposals are currently being drafted in the Government Offices. An additional supplementary directive tasks the inquiry chair with examining how long-term care and stability can be guaranteed to a greater extent for children who have already been, or are predicted to be, in care for a long time. The inquiry chair shall report on the assignment to the Government on 15 June 2016.

National coordinator for social care of children and young people

The Government has decided to appoint a national coordinator for social care of children and young people for the period from 1 November 2014 to 30 April 2017. The aim of the appointment is to support the municipalities in their efforts to create safe and secure care for children and young people. By visiting 50 municipalities, the coordinator shall establish a dialogue with the municipalities and encourage and inspire them to develop their activities optimally to tackle the prevailing challenges. In this dialogue with the municipalities, the coordinator can highlight good examples of successful working methods and discuss how the municipalities can draw up local action plans for social care of children and young people. The coordinator shall submit a final report to the Government on completion of this assignment, in which they shall detail the work they performed and summarise their observations and conclusions.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information.

Children in public care

In 2013, around 12 900 children and young persons were subject of measures that started during the year. Of those nearly 10 000 had not been subject of any of the measures in the five preceding years.

- On 1 November 2013 nearly 22 700 children and young persons were subject of 24-hour measures.
- During 2013 nearly 32 600 children and young persons were subject of one or more 24-hour measures at some time.
- Of the 22 700 children and young persons who were subject of 24-hour measures on 1 November 2013, over 17 000 received care with the support of the Social Services Act (SoL), nearly 5 400 children and young persons were subject of care under the Care of Young Persons (Special Provisions) Act (LVU), and around 200 children and young persons were subjected to immediate custody under the LVU.
- Family home was the most common form of placement among children and young persons in care on 1 November 2013. 57 per cent of the children in care under the SoL and 70 per cent of the children in care under the LVU were placed in family homes on that day.

Non-institutional measures

- On 1 November 2013 nearly 29 100 children and young persons were subject of one or more of the reported non-institutional measures.
- Of the three SoL measures, needs-tested personal support was the one that most children and young persons were affected by in 2013, with over 27 100 being subject of this measure at some time during the year. There were nearly 18 800 children and young persons that received a back-up person/family and over 10 700 were subject of structured non-institutional care programs at some time during 2013.

Article 17§2

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

In recent years the Government has reformed Swedish school policy. Among the reforms currently being implemented are a new Education act, a new upper secondary school, new curricula with new syllabuses and a new grading scale with more levels. The Government has also instructed the National Agency for Education and the Swedish Council for Higher Education to produce statistics on teachers' permission to get a clearer basis for dimensioning of teachers' training.

Teacher education

Due to a declining interest in the teaching profession, the Government has reformed the system of teacher education to include higher standards and more focus on subject studies. This has resulted in a greater interest in education. The number of applicants has increased by 15 per cent.

The career step reform

Research shows that highly skilled teachers are the most important factor in pupils' ability to succeed in school. The purpose of the new career services (lead teacher and senior master/mistress) is to take advantage of especially skilled teachers' skills to develop the school and pupils' achievements. At the same time, the reform gives opportunities for all teachers to develop themselves as teachers and the school as a whole. The reform opens up new career paths and wage increases for individual teachers. Teachers should be able to make a career without leaving teaching. School authorities can apply for government subsidies for the wage premium for skilled teachers.

Disadvantaged areas

Pupils in disadvantaged areas are often less able than other pupils to complete school. Funds will therefore be allocated to encourage employers to employ more qualified teachers with higher salaries to schools in disadvantaged areas.

In cooperation with unions, measures have been implemented to create a higher quality in the Swedish teacher and preschool teacher education. This cooperation has resulted in the following program:

1. A career step reform has been set up providing teachers SEK 5 000–10 000 more than the individual teacher salary before the reform. In areas with specific problems these services will be developed.
2. A reform to reduce teachers' work with administration. This action will free up time for teachers to plan and implement instruction.
3. Pupils should meet licensed and qualified teachers in the classroom. A system has been implemented whereby all teachers who teach in schools should be registered teachers. From 1 December 2013 a teacher registration, in which the competence is specified, is required in order to obtain permanent employment and be responsible for teaching.
4. Stricter requirements for admission to teacher education programs.

5. Aptitude test for admission to teacher education. The introduction of aptitude tests should be preceded by a pilot project that could be the basis for decisions on the implementation on a broad scale.
6. Didactics is an important part of teacher training. Furthermore, the part of didactics that concerns teaching must be strengthened.
7. The practical training in the education for student teachers will be developed with regards to follow up assessment and examination.
8. Principals will continue to be required to offer all trained teachers an introduction year. This means that student teachers should be offered the support of a trained and experienced supervisor during his or her first year in the profession.

The Parliament has approved extended teaching time in mathematics in primary school.

The Government gives the school organisers a state subsidy for organising summer school for pupils at risk of not achieving the goals.

The Parliament has decided that newly arrived pupils will be given more tuition in the Swedish language.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Initiatives to reduce upper secondary drop-out rates

Pupils with a good level of knowledge from compulsory school are better equipped to follow a national programme at upper secondary school. There is a government grant available to school organisers to arrange homework help for pupils in school years 6–9 of compulsory school.

There is an ongoing initiative on summer schools. The current focus is on pupils in school years 6–9 at risk of not meeting the knowledge requirements. However, it is also possible for school organisers to apply for government grants for summer schools for pupils in vocational programmes of upper secondary school that have not achieved the knowledge requirements of the introductory course in mathematics. An inquiry has been set up to make proposals on an obligation for the municipalities to offer summer school for pupils who by the end of the eight grade are at risk of not being eligible for a national programme in upper secondary school and for pupils who by the end of the ninth grade are not eligible for such a programme.

Declining skills in reading and mathematics may be one of several explanations for upper secondary school dropout. The Government has therefore recently instructed the National Agency for Education to carry out a skills development programme in reading and writing development for teachers of Swedish in compulsory school and the first year of upper secondary school. A similar skills development programme for teachers of mathematics is already ongoing. The Swedish Parliament has also voted in favour of more teaching time in mathematics in compulsory school.

Study and career guidance prevents interruptions of studies and acts as a motivator for the pupils. The Government has charged the National Agency for Education with the task of linking study and career guidance more clearly to the labour market. Within the framework of this remit, the National Agency for Education is to offer continuing professional development to study and career counsellors. SEK 10 million was allocated in 2013 for this purpose and for 2014 SEK 11 million has been allocated. For 2015 SEK 10 million is projected and for 2016 SEK 5 million.

Teachers are one of the most important factors affecting pupils' academic performance. An additional large-scale and important measure for teachers will be taken through the Government's career-development reform introduced in the autumn of 2013. The initiative means that it is possible for school authorities that establish the career stages lead teacher and senior master/mistress to receive central government support. This central government support may only be used for salary increases for these teachers. The initiative affects teachers in compulsory schools, upper secondary schools and equivalent types of schools.

A reform of the upper secondary school was introduced in the autumn of 2011. One of the overarching aims of the reform is that every pupil should be able to reach the goals. The completion ratio should be high and pupils should obtain their upper secondary diploma within three years. As few pupils as possible should drop out of their upper secondary education. In the reformed upper secondary school the quality of vocational education and training has been strengthened. The entry requirements to both general and vocational upper secondary education have been raised, so that pupils are better prepared for upper secondary level studies. For pupils that do not fulfil the entry requirements, there are five introductory programmes. These programmes should give pupils who are not eligible for a national programme an individually adapted education, which satisfies pupils' different educational needs and provides clear educational routes. The introductory programmes should lead to an establishment on the labour market and provide as good a foundation as possible for further education. Higher quality education for pupils not eligible for the national programmes is supposed to increase the completion ratio and prevent early school leaving. Since the reform was launched in 2011 it is yet too early to say whether the throughput has increased.

Measures to promote good behaviour and discipline

In spring 2014 a commission was appointed to find measures to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils so that all pupils will have an opportunity to focus on their studies. The investigation shall propose how to bring peace and quiet in the classrooms and also follow-up if the new Education Act has had an influence on how schools work with good behaviour and discipline and to reduce truancy.

Measures to reduce absences for Roma children

The Swedish Parliament and the Government set goals and guideline the schools. This applies to all schools in Sweden to ensure that the training has both high quality and is equal in the country. The municipalities are responsible for the implementation of school activities within the framework the state specifies in laws, curricula and other regulations.

The school organisers have the freedom to decide how schools will be organised for national targets to be achieved. The Swedish Schools Inspectorate scrutinises schools and uses different supervisory and quality auditing activities. The objective is good education in a safe environment. The Swedish education system is free of charge and focused on mainstream solutions, with integrated compulsory school in which the choice of further specialisation is made relatively late. There are no special institutions or schools for Roma children; they receive the same schooling as other children. Although the basic principle of Swedish schools is inclusive, sometimes special measures are required e.g. for pupils whose mother tongue is not Swedish or pupils with learning disabilities.

The Government has undertaken many efforts to support schooling of pupils of national minorities. Mother tongue tuition is regulated in the Education Act, in the School Ordinance and in the Upper Secondary School Ordinance. For education in a minority language there are fewer requirements than for other mother tongues; the pupil does not need to use the mother tongue as his/her daily language, there is no requirement of at least five pupils in the municipality and the tuition can be provided for more than seven years in compulsory school. The Government has recently decided to remove the last requirements for education in minority languages: that the guardian should have the language as a mother tongue and that the pupil must have basic knowledge in the language for compulsory school education. A syllabus in Romani for beginners will be produced in connection with the legislative change.

The Government has invested SEK 13 million in the website Tema Modersmål². The website is designed as a support for mother tongue teachers, parents and children with another mother tongue than Swedish. On the webpage there are five Romani varieties represented. The Government has paid attention to the lack of teaching materials in Romani and has allocated over SEK 14 million to support development and production of materials in the minority languages. For example the Swedish National Agency for Education has produced a material about Roma children in preschool and school in Kale Romani, Finnish and Swedish. The material illustrates situations in Swedish schools and corresponding situations in Roma culture; the aim is to get to know each other's cultures. To support teacher education in Romani Chib, Södertörn University has got an assignment to build such an education.

On 16 February 2012, the Government adopted a coordinated, long-term strategy for Roma inclusion between 2012 and 2032. To speed up developments, the Government is conducting a special initiative in the form of a pilot scheme in five municipalities (Luleå, Malmö, Helsingborg, Linköping and Göteborg). Education is one of the most important factors for achieving better living conditions for the Roma population. The National Agency for Education has therefore been instructed to describe the situation of Roma children and pupils in preschools and schools in the municipalities included in the pilot scheme, to develop and disseminate a teaching aid supplement on Roma culture, language, religion and history³, and to promote the development and production of teaching tools in all varieties of Romani Chib for children, young people and adults. The National Agency for Education has been instructed to arrange for the preparation of an educational

² <http://modersmal.skolverket.se/romani/>

³ <http://www.skolverket.se/skolutveckling/larande/nationella-minoriteter/romer>

programme for mediators who have Roma language and cultural skills to serve as a link between individuals and the public sector. The mediators work in preschools and schools in the pilot municipalities.

Undocumented and hidden children

Children who are staying in the country without permission often find themselves in a very difficult situation which they usually cannot control. The children's families often try to hide from the authorities which further can increase stress for the children. The right to education means that these children are given the opportunity to achieve the same level of knowledge as peers. Such a right also plays a significant role in their health and development. The children are given the right to education and a better chance of developing mentally and socially. On 15 May 2013 the Swedish Parliament decided that children residing in Sweden without permission will essentially have the same right to education as the children who are residents in the country. The right to education should not entail any compulsory education for these children. The change of the law came into effect on 1 July 2013. The Government invests SEK 25 million in government grants for this purpose. Data about the children's identity will not be requested for the access to education.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information.

Children and pupils, autumn 2013

489 275 children in preschool, age 1–5,
109 943 pupils in preschool, age 6,
920 997 pupils in compulsory school,
9 346 pupils in compulsory school for pupils with learning disabilities,
330 196 pupils in upper secondary school,
7 721 pupils in upper secondary education for pupils with learning disabilities.

Schools, autumn 2013

9 861 preschools,
2 749 independent preschools,
3 640 preschools age 6,
554 independent preschools age 6,
4 887 compulsory schools, of which 792 were independent schools,
630 compulsory schools for pupils with learning disabilities, of which
43 were independent schools,
1 346 upper secondary schools, of which 460 were independent schools,
304 schools for upper secondary education for pupils with learning disabilities, of which
39 were independent schools.

Teachers and staff, autumn 2013

101 251 teachers served in preschool age 1–5,
88 765 teachers served in compulsory schools,
32 886 teachers served in upper secondary schools, where the average student-teacher ratio was 12.1 pupils/teacher.

Compulsory school, autumn 2013

Proportion of pupils who successfully completed compulsory school with passing grades in all subjects was 77 per cent.

Proportion of pupils who after leaving school in the ninth year were eligible for a vocational program was 88 per cent.

Percentage of pupils who after leaving school in the ninth year were eligible for higher studies was 87 per cent.

Completion of upper secondary school, drop-outs

Almost all adolescents in Sweden start upper secondary school. In the autumn of 2009 122 750 pupils started upper secondary education. Three years later 68.9 per cent had received a school leaving certificate. After four years 76.6 per cent of the pupils had received a school leaving certificate.

According to the definition of Early School Leavers, used in the European Union, the proportion of Swedish 18 to 24-year-olds without a completed upper secondary education and who were not in education was 7.1 per cent in 2013. This is better than both the EU target level and Sweden's national target of less than 10 per cent.

Article 19 – The right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance

Article 19§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Swedish Aliens Act (2005:716) is available in Swedish at the following website: <http://www.notisum.se/rnp/sls/lag/20050716.HTM>. Please note that previously published translations of the Aliens Act into English do not include amendments later than 2009.

Reference is made to the previous report, with the following in addition.

Since 15 December 2008, Sweden has regulations on labour migration that make it easier for employers to recruit labour from third countries. The employer's assessment of the need to recruit foreign labour is the key point when processing residence and work permit applications.

Conditions for being granted a work permit in Sweden

A basic requirement for being granted a work permit in Sweden is that there is an offer of employment that will enable the person to support her or himself. The terms of employment offered must be no worse than those specified in relevant Swedish collective agreements or provided by common practice in the occupation or industry. The principle of European Union preference must be respected. The principle of Union preference means that residents of the EU, the EEA and Switzerland should receive information about vacancies in the Swedish labour market.

Permit duration

Work permits may be granted for the duration of the employment, but for no longer than two years at a time. Work permits may then be extended on one or more occasions. Such applications for extension may be made while in Sweden. The total duration of a permit may not, as a rule, exceed four years. However, if there are special grounds, the total duration may be extended to a maximum of six years. An employee who has held a residence permit for work purposes for four of the past seven years may be granted a permanent residence permit.

The permit's ties to an employer and the type of work

The first time a work permit is granted it is to be tied to a certain employer and a certain type of work. After two years, the work permit is only to be tied to a certain type of work.

Guest students' right to seek work and apply for work permits while in Sweden

Guest students who have completed studies equivalent to 30 higher education credits or who have completed one semester of a postgraduate program may apply for a residence and work permit while in Sweden. However, they must apply for a permit before their residence permit for study purposes expires.

Guest students who have completed at least two terms at a higher education institution in Sweden may under certain conditions be granted a residence permit in order to look for work or to examine the possibilities of conducting business activities in Sweden. This kind of residence permit may be granted for a period of six months.

Asylum seekers and work permits

In certain circumstances, asylum seekers who have received a final decision rejecting their application for asylum can apply for a residence and work permit while in the country. The person must have worked for at least four months and been offered at least one year of continued employment that meets the basic work permit requirements. In addition, the application must be made within two weeks of the final decision rejecting the asylum application.

Right to apply for a new work permit when employment has ended

A residence permit for an alien who has lost her or his job or resigns during the permit period, may be withdrawn if the alien does not apply for a work permit for a new job within three months. If the employment ended after the Swedish Migration Board launched an investigation into whether there are grounds to withdraw the residence permit, the alien must instead apply for a work permit for a new job within four months. To put it another way, a person who loses her or his job or resigns while in possession of a valid work permit has up to four months to find a new job.

Amendments in 2013 regarding health and medical care

Regarding foreigners staying in Sweden without the necessary permits ("irregular migrants"), new legislation on the County Councils' obligation to offer health and medical care, including dental care, entered into force on 1 July 2013 (Act on health and medical care for persons staying in Sweden without necessary permits, 2013:407). The County Councils are obliged to offer adult persons of this category the same subsidised health and medical care as adult asylum seekers. This means: one free health examination, emergency or urgent medical and dental care, gynaecological care, maternal and prenatal care. Care in accordance with the Swedish Communicable Diseases Act is for free. The County Councils are entitled to offer adults care up to the same level as residents in Sweden. Children and persons up to the age of 18 who lack the necessary permits are offered full health and medical care (subsidised and often for free), including regular dental care.

Amendments in 2013 due to EU Directives

In August 2013, Sweden implemented the Blue Card Directive (Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009) on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment and the Sanctions against

Employers Directive (Directive 2009/52/EC of 18 June 2009) on minimum standards and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

The Aliens Act was amended with the new Chapter 6a on 1 August 2013 for the rules regarding the EU Blue Card. The requirements for third-country nationals to be granted a permit for high-skilled employment are, e.g., a university degree or five years' professional experience, an employment contract or offer of highly qualified employment lasting at least one year, a comprehensive health insurance and a salary no less than one and a half times the average gross salary in Sweden. For more information, please see the Swedish Migration Board Website: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/For-EU-citizens/EU-Blue-Card.html>

As for the Sanctions against Employers Directive, illegal employment of foreigners staying in Sweden without the necessary permits is penalised whether the employment is intentionally or through negligence. Regardless of the penalisation, a fee shall be paid by such employers. A legal-based right for foreigners staying in Sweden without prescribed permits (illegally employed migrants) to make a claim against their employer for any outstanding remuneration is introduced in a new act (2013:644). Please follow this link for the act in Swedish: http://www.riksdagen.se/sv/Dokument-Lagar/Lagar/Svenskforfattningssamling/Lag-2013644-om-ratt-till-lo_sfs-2013-644/?bet=2013:644. A foreigner, who previously has been granted a temporary residence permit upon application from the person in charge of a preliminary investigation, may apply for renewed residence permit in order to pursue such a claim. This is due to an amendment of the Aliens Act, Chapter 5, Section 5d.

Amendments in 2014 aiming to facilitate mobility and circular migration

On 1 July 2014 amendments to the Swedish Aliens Act entered into force, in order to facilitate mobility and circular migration to and from Sweden. The aim is to remove obstacles to circular migration and enhance the positive development effects of migration on development. The main changes are:

- For non-Swedish residents in general: if a foreign citizen with a permanent residence permit leaves Sweden to reside elsewhere, the residence permit is not automatically revoked if the person notifies the Swedish Migration Board that he/she wishes to keep the permanent residence permit. The permit can be kept for up to two years. This revokes an important obstacle to mobility.
- For migrant workers: it is now possible to be granted a work permit for a total time of six years (previously maximal four years). Additionally a permanent residence permit can now be granted to a person who has been working in Sweden for at least four years in the past seven years (previously four years in the past five years). This makes it possible to have longer or shorter interruptions of residency.
- For doctoral students: time devoted to doctoral studies counts towards qualifying for a permanent residence permit. A permanent residence permit can be granted to a person who has been conducting doctoral studies in Sweden for at least four years in the past seven years. This makes it possible to have longer or shorter interruptions of residency.

- For students: after completing a university degree, it is possible to stay in Sweden for six months after graduation to seek employment or investigate opportunities to start a business in Sweden.
- For asylum applicants: if an asylum application is rejected, it is now possible to apply for a work permit without first having to leave the country, if the applicant has had an employment during the asylum application process. The length of employment necessary for such a procedure is reduced from six months to four months.

For more information on circular migration and the Swedish perspective on this issue and its links to development, please turn to the website of the Swedish government:

<http://www.government.se/sb/d/574/a/152650>

New control measures in 2014

See also “Measures to prevent labour exploitation and misuse of the labour immigration rules” below.

On 1 August 2014 new rules entered into force in Sweden aiming to address misuses of the labour migration system by untrustworthy employers and to prevent workers from countries outside of the EU/EEA area from being exploited. The Swedish system for labour migration is effective, flexible and open. The new rules address the weaknesses and vulnerabilities that have been identified so far in the system.

The regulations, as from 1 August 2014, give the Swedish Migration Board increased powers to conduct follow-up checks and revoke permits if the conditions of the work permit (e.g. the requirements concerning the terms of employment) are no longer met or if the employment does not begin within four months. An obligation carrying a penal sanction to provide written information, at the request of the Swedish Migration Board, about terms of employment has been introduced for employers of workers who have been granted a work permit.

For more information about measures to counteract abuse of labour migration regulations, please turn to the website of the Swedish Migration Board:

<http://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Other-operators-English/Employers/Nyheter/2014-07-29-Measures-to-counteract-abuse-of-labour-immigration-regulations.html>

Information to migrants

The Swedish Migration Board has detailed information on its website in several languages on how to apply for a work permit or for a residence permit as a self-employed person or a visiting researcher: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Working-in-Sweden.html>.

The “Working in Sweden” website (<http://work.sweden.se/>), operated by the Swedish Institute, provides relevant information for foreigners interested in working in Sweden. The information covers issues as finding a job and a home, registration at the Swedish Tax

Agency and the Swedish Social Insurance Agency, how to open a bank account and joining a union.

The Swedish Work Environment Authority provides information in a number of languages aimed at specific sectors with a large concentration of labour migrants, such as construction and restaurant services: www.safeatwork.se.

Measures to prevent labour exploitation and misuse of the labour immigration rules

A fundamental requirement for being granted a work permit in Sweden is that the terms of employment are not inferior to those required by Swedish collective agreements or practice in the relevant profession or industry. This requirement is in part to prevent people from being exploited on the Swedish labour market.

The Government has in the appropriation directives for 2011 and 2012 clarified the Swedish Migration Board's assignment to be observant of fraud agreements. The Migration Board has intensified its work with developing clear routines in order to counteract fraud. The Board is also working on rationalising its work in order to free resources that can be redirected to areas where misuse and abuse of the system have proven to occur. The Migration Board has developed a certification system, which means that cases that do not need much processing by the Board can be handled swiftly while more time can be spent on cases that from experience have proven to demand more work. The system means that employers who have a certain quantity of applications each year, who always submit complete applications and have positive opinions from the trade unions can be certified by the Migration Board. In order to be certified the employer has to ensure that all employees are offered terms of employment that are acceptable to the relevant union. This, together with the fact that all applications must be complete, means that a large part of the workload is transferred from the Migration Board to the employer, resulting in faster processing by the authority. The aim is that decisions shall be made within seven days and the Migration Board has been successful in doing so.

On 16 January 2012 the Migration Board also implemented stricter control measures for employers in sectors where abuse of the immigration system has proven to occur. The purpose is to prevent foreign workers from being exploited on the Swedish labour market. Companies in sectors such as cleaning, restaurants and construction as well as all newly established businesses must show that they can:

- guarantee wages,
- show that they previously have paid salaries and taken out insurances,
- demonstrate that employees have received information about the terms of employment.

The Migration Board is furthermore co-operating with other concerned authorities (the Tax Agency, the Work Environment Authority, the police) in order to prevent human trafficking on the labour market.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, including the patterns of emigration and immigration between States party for employment purposes.

Number of work permits granted (first time permits), citizens of non-EU countries:

2010: 14 000 (9 500 excl seasonal workers)
2011: 15 200 (12 300 excl seasonal workers)
2012: 17 000 (11 300 excl seasonal workers)
2013: 16 000 (10 100 excl seasonal workers)

The most prominent professions during 2012 (not counting seasonal workers) were:

1. Computer specialists
2. Restaurant staff
3. Cleaners
4. Civil engineers

The most prominent professions during 2013 (not counting seasonal workers) were:

1. Computer specialists
2. Restaurant staff
3. Civil engineers
4. Cleaners

The top five nationalities among labour migrants during 2012 (not counting seasonal workers) were:

1. India
2. China
3. Ukraine
4. Turkey
5. Iran

The top five nationalities among labour migrants during 2013 (not counting seasonal workers) were:

1. India
2. China
3. Syria
4. Iran
5. Ukraine

Further statistics on labour related emigration and immigration, especially related to EU/EEA citizens and citizens from the Nordic countries, is in want of figures due to a few reasons, such as:

- not all EU/EEA citizens register, whether they are obliged to or not,
- citizens from the Nordic countries (Norway, Finland, Denmark and Iceland) are not required to register, and
- work permits for shorter periods than twelve months are not included in migration statistics.

Article 19§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report, with the following in addition.

As residents, the labour migrant and accompanying family members gain access to the same rights and obligations as Swedish citizens, excluding voting rights. The spouse of the labour migrant will also be granted full access to the labour market.

The Introduction Act

A major reform (the Introduction Act) entered into force on 1 December 2010 with the purpose to speed up the introduction of newly arrived immigrants to working and social life. The reform is based around the principle ‘individual responsibility with professional support’, and includes strengthening incentives to find a job and participate in introduction programmes. The target group is protected persons and their family members, not migrant workers.

For the first time introduction activities and responsibilities are collectively regulated in a single Act. Newly arrived immigrants covered by the ‘Introduction Act’ now have the statutory right to employment preparation activities, civic orientation and language courses.

The Public Employment Service plays a key role in the implementation of this reform. It produces a personal introduction plan together with the newly arrived person, based on the individual’s previous education and work experience. An introduction benefit, that is equal for everyone regardless of where one lives, is paid to newly arrived immigrants who participate actively in introduction measures. An independent introduction guide, working on the instructions of the Public Employment Service, is to help the newly arrived person to find a job.

In addition, a number of other subsidised labour market schemes have been put in place to encourage labour market engagement, including a ‘step in jobs’ programme with subsidised jobs in both the public and private sectors to develop language learning and work experience amongst newly arrived persons.

Agreement on integration efforts

An agreement on integration efforts was made in 2010 between the Government, civil society organisations and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR). The purpose of the agreement is to clarify the role of different actors in the integration work and to develop methods for better cooperation between them. Currently about 40 national organisation have signed up to the agreement. The Government continues to follow the implementation and development of the agreement. In 2013 a seventh regional conference was held, as well as an annual national conference,

focusing on spreading knowledge about the agreement and discussing how the intentions of the agreement can be implemented locally. A study on family reunification of Somali refugees has also been presented.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, including the patterns of emigration and immigration between States party for employment purposes.

Please see the report on article 19§1.

Article 19§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Swedish social security legislation is coordinated under the EU system for coordination of social security. This is a precondition for free movement between the EU member states. In addition, Sweden has concluded bilateral agreements on social security with countries outside the EU/EEA area. For further information, reference is made to the Swedish annual reports on the application of the European Code of Social Security and its Protocol.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, including the patterns of emigration and immigration between States party for employment purposes.

Please see the report on article 19§1.

Article 19§4

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

As for remuneration and other employment and working conditions, see answer to article 19§1 above.

With regard to posted workers, reference is made to the Committee of Ministers Resolution Res/CM ChS (2014) 1 of 5 February 2014, as well as to article 6 of Sweden's 13th national report on the implementation of the Revised European Social Charter for the period 01/01/2009 – 31/12/2012.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, in particular concerning the number of migrant workers, if possible, which have had access to subsidised housing.

Reference is made to the report on article 19§1.

Article 19§5

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report. As stated in previous reports, as residents migrant workers enjoy full access to the welfare system on the same level as Swedish citizens.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

There are no relevant figures or statistics available for labour migrants since they are not registered separately in the applicable systems.

Article 19§6

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report. In addition, the following can be added.

The regulations on residence permits for family members in the Aliens Act (2005:716) were mainly given their present wording in connection with Sweden's implementation in April 2006 of the Council Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification. Rules based on the Directive give, for example, a spouse/partner and minor children to a person who is a resident in Sweden, the right to a residence permit unless there are special grounds against granting a permit (such as a threat to public order and security). Furthermore, there are national rules not based on the Directive. These apply, for example, to persons intending to marry or enter into a cohabiting relationship with a person resident in Sweden or, in certain cases, close relatives other than members of the nuclear family wishing to join someone resident in Sweden, for example if he or she has been a member of the same household and there exists a special relationship of dependence between the relatives.

In April 2010, a maintenance requirement as a condition for a family member to be granted a residence permit on the grounds of family ties was introduced in order to promote integration. The maintenance requirement requires the sponsor to be able to support him- or herself and have accommodation of adequate size and standard for him- or herself and the family member. There are several exceptions to this rule, for instance when a child is involved, or when the sponsor is a refugee or a person eligible for subsidiary protection. Exemptions also apply when the sponsor has spent at least four years in Sweden with a permanent residence permit, or when there are other special grounds for exemption.

As a procedural requirement, the general rule is that a residence permit by virtue of family ties should be applied for and granted before entry. However, certain derogations are enshrined in Swedish law. One of them targets applicants who are considered to have strong ties to another person residing in Sweden and who cannot reasonably be required to travel to another country in order to submit the application there. In July 2010, amendments to the Aliens Act came into force with the aim of preventing certain cases of family separation where children are involved. With these amendments it is now clearly stated that the consequences for a child from being separated from his or her parent should be given special attention. It is now possible, to a greater extent, to grant parents and children who are already in Sweden a residence permit in cases where it is clear that a permit would have been granted if the examination had been carried out before entry.

Sweden has specific rules concerning certain categories of family members, for example family members of a person who has been granted a temporary residence permit for labour migration (Chapter 4, Section 4 of Aliens Ordinance 2006:97). Residence permits, for the same duration period, may be granted to a family member who is the spouse or cohabiting partner of such a person, or a family member who is a direct descendant of the person or of his or her spouse or cohabiting partner, if the descendant is dependent on either of them for means of support or is under 21 years of age. The maintenance requirement mentioned above does not apply to these family members.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, in particular on the number of applications for family reunion, and the percentage of applications which were granted and turned down, respectively.

Statistics from the Swedish Migration Board: Registered and decided cases on residence permits regarding family ties.

Year	Registered	Decided cases	Decisions, granted	Decisions, denied	Decisions, non-matter*
2010	44934	43904	23968	16854	3082
2011	42133	41073	23012	11812	6249
2012	45746	42169	28565	10047	3557
2013	48186	39422	27321	8343	3758
Total	180999	166568	102866	47056	16646

* Cases in which the decisions are of a non-substantive matter, due to e.g. a withdrawn application, that the applicant cannot be reached or that the applicant has left Sweden.

Article 19§7

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

As stated in the previous report, access to justice applies to all individuals within Swedish jurisdiction. The Legal Aid Act (1996:1619) is administrated by the Legal Aid Authority.

To pay the cost of a lawyer or a legal practitioner a person involved in a legal dispute must primarily use the legal protection cover that is included in his or her home insurance. If the person does not have a home insurance, he or she could be entitled to legal aid in certain circumstances. Legal aid does not mean that the state automatically pays all costs for a lawyer or legal practitioner. A person who receives legal aid pays a part of the cost for a lawyer as a legal aid fee. Legal aid includes part of the cost for the lawyer, or legal practitioner, for up to 100 hours. For persons under the age of 18 who have no income or wealth, the whole cost may be covered. Legal aid can be increased if there are special reasons. Legal aid also includes the cost of evidence in a general court, the Market Court and the Labour Court, and investigation costs up to SEK 10 000 (excluding VAT). Furthermore, legal aid includes costs for interpretation and translation, court application fees, copies of documents from authorities, documents that have been served and the cost of a mediator, etcetera. Reference is also made to the report on article 31.

All proceedings before courts are in Swedish. Individuals who are not in command of Swedish have a right to be assisted by an interpreter. It is the Swedish Courts who consult the interpreters and pay their fees.

Article 19§8

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report and the Swedish statement on article 19§8 and §10 before the Governmental Committee 8–12 October 2012. To this, the following can be added.

Security cases under the Aliens Act (2005:716) are cases in which the Swedish Security Service, for reasons relating to national security or otherwise bearing on public security, recommends

- that a foreigner should be refused entry or expelled,
- that a foreigner's application for a residence permit should be rejected or that a foreigner's residence permit should be withdrawn,
- that a foreigner should not be granted a status declaration or that a foreigner's status declaration should be withdrawn, or
- that a foreigner should not be granted a travel document.

Number of persons whose applications are marked as security cases, regardless of the grounds for application (e.g. asylum, family reunification, work etc.):

2010:	8
2011:	11
2012:	26
2013:	27

Pursuant to amendments which entered into force on 1 January 2010 security cases are now examined in essentially the same manner as other cases under the same law. The Swedish Migration Board's decisions in security cases may be appealed to one of the migration courts and further to the Migration Court of Appeal.

Specially qualified security cases may be processed under the Aliens Controls Act (1991:572, sometimes referred to as the Special Provisions Act) if certain conditions are met. The outcome of qualified security cases is of special importance to national security, i.e. the state itself is being exposed to a serious threat. Pursuant to the amendments in 2010, the scope of the Aliens Controls Act has been reduced by stricter prerequisites and the legal safeguards surrounding the Act have been enhanced. The Government is still the highest instance of appeal, but when the appeal is made the Migration Board shall transfer the documents in the case directly to the Migration Court of Appeal. The Court is required to state its opinion on all matters of the case, not only on the impediments to enforcements (as the risk of capital or corporal punishment, torture, or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment). The Court shall hold an oral hearing before expressing its opinion and the appellant is assured the right to express his or her own evidence. If the Court considers that there are impediments to enforcement of the expulsion order, the Government may not deviate from the assessment. In this case the

Government shall order that enforcement shall not be allowed until further notice, or grant the foreigner a temporary residence permit. An expulsion order cannot be enforced during the period the residence permit applies.

As a part of the Swedish Parliamentary control system, the Government is required to present an annual written communication to the Swedish Parliament on its application of the Aliens Controls Act. The communication is processed by the Parliament which expresses its opinion to the Government in an official note. The latest annual communication from the Government (skr. 2013/14:63) shows that the Aliens Controls Act was not applied during the period 1 July 2009–30 June 2011. The law was applied in two cases during the period 1 July 2011–30 June 2013.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, in particular on the number of migrant workers nationals of States party served with an expulsion order.

Please note that the following figures are not related to security cases.

Withdrawal of work permits 2010–2013 for migrant workers who simultaneously have received expulsion orders:

2010:	44
2011:	59
2012:	126
2013:	217

With regards to migrant workers whose work permits have been withdrawn and who have received expulsion orders, only one enforced expulsion order was reported during 2013, none during 2010–2012. Voluntary return, with the assistance of the Migration Board, was reported for six migrant workers in 2012 and six migrant workers in 2013, none during 2010 and 2011. In 2010, 37 migrant workers were reported as “no departure” (did not leave Sweden). Corresponding numbers for 2011 are 42 persons, 2012 - 99 persons and 2013 - 176 persons. The remaining number have gone into hiding or left Sweden without further contact with the Migration Board.

Article 19§9

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to previous report, RAP/RCha/SW/X(2011).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Government has instructed the Swedish Consumer Agency to set up a web-based information service that will enable consumers to compare the cost of transferring money from Sweden to low- and middle income countries. The aim is to make it possible for consumers to find the best and cheapest service for payment transfers from Sweden. The information service will also help to promote competition in order to achieve lower prices. The web-based information service should be operational by 1 December 2014.

Article 19§10

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on article 19§8 above.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on article 19§8 above.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on article 19§8 above.

Article 19§11

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms and 2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Swedish tuition for immigrants

Swedish tuition for immigrants (SFI) is advanced language education which aims to give adults with a mother tongue other than Swedish a basic knowledge of the Swedish language. During the education students learn and develop a functional second language. The municipalities are required to provide Swedish tuition for immigrants. The education is based on courses. Study plans are individual and are to be tailored to meet the needs of the individual. Adaptation to individual needs presupposes genuine opportunities for students to influence the structure and organisation of the education.

Swedish as a second language

In compulsory school the subject Swedish as a second language replaces the subject Swedish for pupils with this requirement. The teaching is aimed at developing the pupils' knowledge in and about the Swedish language both in speech and in writing.

The Education Act is decided by the Swedish Parliament. It contains general provisions for all school forms and deals with the student's right to education. The Ordinance on Adult Education is decided by the Government, and contains more details than the Act. The curricula are decided by the Government. Swedish tuition for immigrants shall be based on the fundamental values set out in the 1994 curriculum for non-compulsory school forms (Lpf 94). The Government decides on the syllabuses for Swedish tuition for immigrants and the education has had its present form since 2002.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or factual information, in particular on how migrants are being taught the national language of the receiving State.

The number of students in Swedish tuition for immigrants (sfi) has increased substantially during the 2000s. In 2013 the number of students amounted to more than 113 000 students, which is the highest number of sfi-students ever and an increase of 5.4 per cent over the previous year. The proportions were 57 per cent women and 43 per cent men. The number of students has more than doubled since 2005.

Article 19§12

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Mother Tongue education

Mother Tongue is a subject of its own in compulsory school. The aim of the subject is to enable children to profit from the education at school as well as to develop their bilingual identity and competence. All children who speak another language than Swedish at home may receive Mother Tongue education at school. A pupil with one parent who has another mother tongue than Swedish is offered Mother Tongue education if this language is used in everyday communication at home. Adopted children have a right to education in Mother Tongue even if the language is not used at home. Some of the largest languages taught are Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English and Spanish. Municipalities and principals are not required to organise Mother Tongue education if there are fewer than five pupils entitled to education in the specific language, or if a suitable teacher cannot be found.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Government Offices are currently examining the issue of distance tuition for pupils in municipalities where Mother Tongue teachers are hard to find.

As mentioned in the previous report, RAP/RCha/SW/X(2011), the National Agency for Education has developed the website Mother Tongue Theme <http://modersmal.skolverket.se>, primarily intended as a resource for teachers in child care and school education. The website is available in 35 languages.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or factual information, in particular on how migrants are being taught the mother tongue of their parents.

Number of pupils entitled to Mother tongue education at compulsory school:

2009/10	173 147
2010/11	181 412
2011/12	183 676
2012/13	184 220

About 20 per cent of all pupils at compulsory school level are entitled to Mother Tongue education.

Artikel 27 – The right of workers with family responsibilities to equal opportunities and equal treatment

Article 27§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report.

Additional information with regard to Conclusion 2011

Reference is made to the report on articles 8 and 16 and to the following information.

Workers with family responsibilities that have been away for a long time from working life can turn to the Public Employment Service and participate in the Job and Development Programme, which allows the worker to take part in individually adapted measures that are intended to help the person to find work. The measures can for example consist of jobseeker activities with coaching, preparatory measures, occupational rehabilitation, labour market training and help in starting your own business.

Article 27§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on articles 8 and 16.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on articles 8 and 16.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the report on articles 8 and 16.

Article 27§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Reference is made to the previous report.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information, if appropriate.

Reference is made to the previous report.

Artikel 31 – The right to housing

Article 31§1

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

Amendments to the Rent Act (12 Chap. Land Code [1970:944]) have been adopted, specifically regarding § 55 c concerning possible exemptions for newly built rental dwellings from the generally used “use-value” criteria in rent-setting, but also concerning evictions.

In 2007 an amendment was made to the Rent Act stipulating that the rent for dwellings in newly produced rental housing could be exempted from ‘use-value’ rent and instead have a rent covering the production cost and the risk of investment – providing that the rent is negotiated in advance with an organisation of tenants that is well established in the area, and that the deal covers all dwellings in the building. During the time of exemption the rents in such estates are binding for both parties and can normally not be modified by the Rent Tribunal, nor can the rent for dwellings in such estates be used as comparison in complaints concerning reasonable use-value rent for a dwelling for which the rent is determined in the traditional way. The period of exemption was set to ten years, but is now – since 1 February 2013 – 15 years.

From 1 July 2014 the tenure protection for tenants and tenant-owners who have been victimised by relatives has been strengthened. When a person is notified for eviction because of neglected obligations and the breach had its basis in the claim of a crime, i.e. abuse, this fact shall be considered an argument against letting the rent agreement cease.

In addition, in order to improve tenants' protection against losing their homes in an unexpected way, from 1 July 2014 a lease is extended as a general rule, unless the landlord has warned the tenant that the lease can be terminated due to misconduct. Also, the social welfare committee in the municipality shall be informed of disputes over renewal of leases.

A special act for the rental of private housing⁴ has been adopted in order to induce private persons to let a house, a flat or part of a dwelling that they temporarily do not need (The [2012:978] Act on Letting Your Own Dwelling). This legislation exempts such lettings from the stipulations in the general Rent Act (Chapter 12 of the Land Code) in such matters as what constitutes an acceptable rent and terms of rent, especially pertaining security of tenure. The act clearly stipulates that if more than one apartment is leased, the Act applies only to the first leasing. Furthermore, necessary corresponding changes have

⁴ Lag (2012:978) om uthyrning av egen bostad.

been made in the law that regulates tenant-ownership associations (The (1991:614 Tenant-Ownership [Associations'] Act).

Though a lease is for an indefinite period, unless a specified rental period has been agreed, both the tenant and the “landlord” may terminate the lease without the tenant being entitled to an extension of the lease. For the tenant the notification period is one calendar month while for the “landlord” the notification period is three months.

In a dispute over the rent in the Rent Tribunal, unless a lower rent is stipulated by the tenancy agreement, the acceptable rent must not significantly exceed the cost of capital and operating costs of the dwelling. The capital cost is estimated as a reasonable rate of return on the property's market value. The decision of the Rent Tribunal shall apply from the date of application to the Rent Tribunal or, if there is reason, from a later date, but no later than the date of the decision of the Rent Tribunal.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The legislation mentioned under question 1 above has been adopted.

On 16 February 2012, the Government adopted a coordinated, long-term strategy for Roma inclusion between 2012 and 2032 (Government communication 2011/12:56). The Government has allocated SEK 60 million for the period 2012–2015 for measures for Roma in addition to the regular funds available to the national minorities. The strategy is based on the proposals in the final report – “The Rights of the Roma” – of the Delegation for Roma Issues (SOU 2010:55). A number of hearings and meetings with Roma representatives were held during the preparation of the proposals.

The overall goal of the 20-year strategy is that a Roma person who turns 20 years of age in 2032 is to have the same opportunities in life as a non-Roma. The primary target group of the strategy is Roma in situations of social and economic exclusion. Special priority is given to women and children. The strategy is based on a human rights perspective, with special emphasis on the principle of non-discrimination. The strategy contains goals and measures in several areas of activity: education, employment, housing, health, social care and security, culture and language, and civil society organisation.

3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information.

First, it must be made clear that – with the exception of such dwellings that are allocated specially to people in need due to problems with health or for social reasons – no dwellings in Sweden are allocated by publicly established queue lists. All property owners are entitled to set their own criteria for prospective tenants as long as these criteria are non-discriminatory. There are public Housing Allocation Agencies (HAAs) in some municipalities or regions, most notably in Greater Stockholm. However, since these HAAs collaborate with private and municipal property owners they should most correctly be described as a common “market place” that facilitates the meeting of prospective tenants and landlords with vacant dwellings. This means that even though allocation is according to queueing time this does not necessarily mean that you get to

rent a specific flat, even though you have been informed that it corresponds to what you are looking for and you are “first” in line in the queue. You still have to meet the (non-discriminatory) requirements applied by the landlord. One of the most common requirements is that you have a certain, regular, income. Often this income is set in relationship to the rent for the dwelling.

Second, Stockholm is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe and though housing production is now reaching necessary levels it has been lagging behind for a long time. Housing shortage is widespread not only in Stockholm but also in the metropolitan areas and larger towns. Keeping this in mind the following statistics for 2013 have been presented by The Stockholm House Service (Bostadsförmedlingen i Stockholm AB), which is a company owned solely by the Municipality of Stockholm but collaborating with a large number of Municipal Housing Companies (MHCs) and private landlords around the county of Stockholm.

The goal of the Stockholm House Service is to fairly and effectively match the housing applicant with vacant homes. Since inception they have passed 541 021 homes. In 2013, the housing agency helped 10 079 people to find homes from Nyköping in the south to the north of Uppsala.

On 31 December 2013 a total of 431 144 people were in the queue, an increase of 32 457 people, or 8 per cent, compared with the year before. About 14 per cent of those in the queue, or nearly 62 000 persons, are active customers, defined as people who make 5 applications or more per year.

50 per cent of those in the queue are residents of the municipality of Stockholm, 34 per cent live elsewhere in Stockholm County, while 13 per cent are residents elsewhere in the country or abroad. One fifth of those in the queue are younger than 25, 30 per cent are 25–34 years, and 16 per cent are older than 55.

How long you must be in the queue to get a dwelling is a question that the housing agency often receives. The answer is that the waiting time can differ substantially. Generally, one can say that it usually requires a much longer waiting time to get a dwelling in the inner city or in a nearby suburb compared to an apartment farther out from downtown Stockholm. There may also be significant differences in waiting time between homes in the same area, at least partly due to differences in rent, standard and the number of rooms.

Over half of the rented apartments in the queue were mediated to people with 5 to 7.5 years of waiting times in 2012 and with 5.6 to 8.3 years of waiting time in 2013.

The Stockholm House Service also services the internal exchange queue of the MHCs owned by the City of Stockholm as well as the special queue for sheltered housing in Stockholm.

To the City's housing company's internal exchange queue 1 278 dwellings were brokered while 66 dwellings were mediated in Stockholm's queue for sheltered housing.

In 2013 38 per cent of the dwellings mediated belonged to private property owners, 56 per cent to the MHCs in Stockholm's and 6 per cent to other MHCs.

In 2013, 247 homes were transmitted with priority and 308 were trial and training flats.

Additional information with reference to the Conclusions 2011

1. “The Committee notes that outside the reference period (in June 2010) amendments to the legislation on public housing companies and rent setting were decided upon. It understands from the report that the amendments decided upon aimed at further liberalising the housing market. It asks the next report to show whether and how such liberalisation has contributed to the effective enjoyment of the right to housing.”

The Swedish housing and housing construction markets have for a long time been rather dysfunctional with growing housing queues, increased competition for those dwellings that are available on the market, whether they are “old” or newly produced, as well as different kinds of shady or purely illegal “black market” deals with rental contracts. The recent reforms of the legislation pertaining to the municipal housing companies (MHCs) and the rent setting system are not enough to solve all these problems. It is now up to the organisations of tenants and the landlords by way of collective negotiations to establish appropriate structures for rent levels within this new framework. Since rents are negotiated between the organised interests – tenants on the one hand and MHCs and private landlords on the other hand – it takes time before the changes are actually implemented, and even longer before the results can be seen on the market. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) has been commissioned by the Government to follow the consequences of all the different aspects of the changes in the legislation that came into force 1 January 2011, with the aim of a full scale evaluation when enough time has elapsed for an evaluation to be meaningful. See also comments to paragraph 7 below.

2. “The Committee refers to its Conclusions 2003 and 2005 for a description of the criteria for adequate housing in Sweden, which it considered to be in conformity with article 31§1 of the Charter.

In its previous conclusion (Conclusions 2005), it noted that such criteria were to be reviewed and asked to be informed about relevant changes.

In reply the report states that on 1 March 2010 (outside the reference period) changes in the requirements to issue a management injunction were agreed upon with the aim of guaranteeing an increased protection of tenants' right to adequate housing. These changes thus do not entail a reconsideration of the Committee's assessment of the criteria for adequate housing in Sweden.”

Some data on the quality/standard of dwellings in Sweden are presented below:

Average useful floor area per dwelling (2009)⁵:

All dwellings:	92.8 m ²
New dwellings:	99.1 m ²
Occupied dwelling stock:	45.2 m ² per person

Residents by standard of space (this indicator is very sensitive to the definition used which is why the standard of space/crowdedness is shown according to two different definitions):

Crowdedness according to “norm 2” (more than 2 residents per room, not counting the kitchen nor the living room)⁶:

Crowded:	3.6 %
Normal:	52.5 %
High:	43.9 %
Total number of residents (thousands):	6 869

If instead crowdedness is measured according to “norm 3” (more than 2 residents per room, not counting the kitchen nor the living room; if there is a married or cohabitating couple they are expected to share bedroom) 15 per cent of the households are crowded, a decrease from 20 per cent in 1980. It is more common that young people and people with foreign background live crowded.⁷

However, according to a survey by Eurostat the overcrowding rate in Sweden is about 10 per cent of the population⁸ (2009)⁹.

The share of the population living in housing with a good standard was 87.8 per cent in 2009.¹⁰

The availability of different facilities, per centage of the whole housing stock (2008)¹¹:

Bath/shower:	100.0 %
Hot running water:	100.0 %

⁵ Source: Housing Statistics in the European Union 2010, table 2.1

⁶ Survey data for 2010, source: Bostads- och byggnadsstatistisk årsbok 2012, tabell 1.3.2 / Housing and Building Statistical Yearbook 2012, Statistics Sweden 2012, table 1.3.2

⁷ “Trångboddheten i Sverige minskar” / “Crowdedness in Sweden decreases”, article in Valfärd no. 2, 2011, Statistics Sweden

⁸ A person’s living conditions are considered as overcrowded according to the definition of Eurostat if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: one room for the household; one room per couple in the household; one room for each single person aged 18 or more; one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age; one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category; and one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

⁹ Housing conditions in Europe in 2009, Statistics in focus 4/2011, figure 3, Eurostat

¹⁰ Boendesituationen i Europa / The Housing Situation in Europe, Levnadsförhållanden rapport 121, tables 2–6, Statistics Sweden 2011)

¹¹ Source: Housing Statistics in the European Union 2010, table 2.3

The share of the population with certain problems or deprived of some housing items (2009)¹²:

Leaking roof:	6.6 %
No access to bath or shower:	0.5 %
No flushing toilet:	0.0 %
Too dark/lack of light	6.1 %
With two deficiencies:	0.9 %

The proportion of people with income above and below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold reporting inadequate electrical and plumbing installations in 2007 (%)¹³:

	Electrical installations	Water installations
Not at risk	3.7	4.5
At risk	5.5	6.7

The proportion of people with income above and below the at-risk-of-poverty with housing problems according to different measures in 2007 (%)¹⁴:

	Deprived of 1 of 3 and overcrowded	Reporting 3 of 5 module problems	Overall dissatisf. with housing
Not at risk	0.7	1.8	4.2
At risk	3.6	2.8	9.2

The share of heated area in multi-dwelling buildings by method of heating (2012)¹⁵:

Central heating:	85 %
Electrical heating ¹⁶ :	2 %
Oil ¹⁷ :	0 %
Combinations with heat pumps ¹⁸ :	4 %
Others:	9 %

¹² Source: Housing conditions in Europe in 2009, Statistics in focus 4/2011, table 1, Eurostat 2011; Boendesituationen i Europa / The Housing Situation in Europe, Levnadsförhållanden rapport 121, tables 2–6, Statistics Sweden 2011.

¹³ Source: The Social Situation in the European Union 2009, Eurostat 2010, table 27

¹⁴ Source: The Social Situation in the European Union 2009, Eurostat 2010, table 29.

¹⁵ Source: “Energistatistik för småhus, flerbostadshus och lokaler 2012” / Energy Statistics for houses, multi-dwelling houses and non-residential premises 2012, table 2.8 and 2.9, Energimyndigheten / The Swedish Energy Agency, 2013

¹⁶ Including air source heat pumps.

¹⁷ Local boiler and another central heating room.

¹⁸ In combination with geothermal-/ground source-/lake (water) source pumps.

The share of houses by method of heating (2012):

Central heating:	12 %
Only electrical heating ¹⁹ :	29 %
Electricity + oil:	1 %
Electricity + biofuel:	21 %
Only oil (local boiler):	1 %
Oil + biofuel:
Only biofuel:	10 %
Geothermal-/ground source-/lake (water) source pumps:	11 %
Geothermal-/ground source-/lake (water) source pump + electricity and biofuel:	7 %
Other:	9 %

3. “The Committee notes that the report does not contain any figures or statistics on adequacy of dwellings. It also does not contain details on financial resources invested to guarantee the right to adequate housing.”

According to Swedish legislation the state is responsible for providing the legal and financial infrastructure for housing provision, the municipalities are responsible for the planning of housing provision and households are generally expected to solve their housing situation at the market where housing is provided by a number of actors – MHCs, private landlords, tenant-ownership co-operatives, investors in providing tenant-ownership dwellings and different kinds of owner-occupied dwellings. The fact that housing production subsidies have been abandoned does not mean that individuals and families who cannot solve their housing situation on their own is abandoned by the public authorities.

For families with children, young adults and elderly there are different forms of housing benefits available. The municipalities are also required by the Social Services Act (SFS 2001:453) to provide support to families in need of support – example of such instruments are economic support (livelihood support) and rent guarantees. When the situation is acute, for instance due to eviction because of rent arrears or disturbances, the municipalities often provide temporary lodgings. According to the Act on Support and Service to Certain Disabled Persons (SFS 1993:387) some of the measures, which can be considered to be legal rights for the persons belonging to this group, are

- 1) housing in foster or residential care activities for children or young people who need to live outside the parental home, and
- 2) housing with special services for adults or other housing specially adapted for adults.

The municipalities are also engaged in providing shelter and housing for homeless people by different means.

¹⁹ Including air source heat pumps.

However, there is no comprehensive statistics on the expenditures of the state and municipalities aimed at providing adequate housing to those who are not able to get access to housing in the market without some kind of public support.

4. "In its previous conclusion (Conclusion 2005) the Committee requested information on the frequency with which public and private buildings are inspected and the circumstances in which injunctions may be issued against owners. As mentioned above, the report indicates that the requirements to issue management injunctions were eased. It however does not contain any indication as to the frequency with which public and private buildings are inspected. The Committee therefore reiterates its request."

Once a building with dwellings has been finished they are not subject to regular inspection regarding quality or standard, except with a few exemptions, i.e. ventilation and lifts. However, if there are problems tenants or organisations of tenants can bring the matter to the municipality. If it is a matter that concerns health or environment the local Office for Environment and Health is obligated to make inspections and issue the necessary injunctions. If it is a matter of neglected repairs and maintenance the matter can be brought to the Rent Tribunal which can decide either that the property owner shall submit the management to a special manager with whom the property owner must sign an agreement (administrative injunction) or that the property is under the management of a special manager appointed by the Rent Tribunal (compulsive management). Application for special management may be made by the municipality or by the organisation of tenants (Bostadsförvaltningslagen / The Housing Management Act, SFS 1977:792).

Legal protection

5. "The Committee refers to its Conclusion 2005 for a description of how the right to adequate housing is legally protected in Sweden. To enable it to assess the impartiality of rent tribunal members, the Committee asked whether the two members appointed by organisations in the rented housing market are independent of the parties. It also requested more information on the cost of legal representation in rent tribunals and entitlement to legal aid. The report does not contain the requisite information. The Committee therefore reiterates its request."

The rent tribunal is, as a main rule, composed of a chairman, who is legally trained, and two lay assessors, one of whom must be familiar with the problems of the administration of property and the other with those of tenants.

The lay assessors are appointed by the National Board of the Judiciary for a term of office of three years. They are appointed from organisations of the housing sector (essentially the Swedish Federation of Property Owners and the National Tenants' Union). The persons selected sit in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their organisations. Like judges, lay assessors shall make an objective assessment of all the circumstances of the case. The lay assessors are independent of the parties.

There are no statistics of the cost of legal representation in rental tribunals.

To pay the cost of a lawyer a party must primarily use the legal protection cover that is included in his or her home insurance. If the party does not have a home insurance, he or

she may be entitled to legal aid in certain circumstances according to the Legal Aid Act. A basic requirement is that the applicant's annual income does not exceed SEK 260 000. The applicant must be in need of legal help and it must also be reasonable that the state contributes with legal aid.

Receiving legal aid does not mean that the state automatically pays all costs for a lawyer. The basic idea is that the party pays a part of the cost in the form of a legal aid fee. Legal aid includes part of the cost for the lawyer for up to 100 hours (in the case of persons under the age of 18 who have no income or wealth, the full cost could be covered). Legal aid can be increased if there are special reasons.

An application on legal aid is examined by the Legal Aid Authority if the case is dealt with by the rental tribunal and by the court if the case is dealt with there.

6. "The Committee notes from the report that between 1998 and 2006 the total number of applications made to the Rent Tribunals under the Housing Administration Act were about 30 per year. During the same period of time only a total number of 41 applications were tried; the others were discontinued or dismissed. The Committee asks whether this is to be explained by the positive results of the mediation role played by the Rent Tribunals as described in Conclusions 2005."

It is possible that the positive result is due to the mediation role played by the Rental tribunals. However, there is no statistical data to draw a firm conclusion on the issue.

7. "The Committee asks the Government to indicate what measures were taken to guarantee equality of treatment in access to adequate housing for Roma families following the above mentioned consultations"

Housing is a key issue when it comes to Roma inclusion in the sense that it has a significant effect on individual living conditions in general, including opportunities for employment and education and children's chances of a stable school career. The goal should be for Roma people to have the same access to housing as the rest of the population. Measures are in particular targeting the discrimination against Roma people in the housing market.

Furthermore, the National Board of Housing, Building and Planning plays a central role in providing a status report on the situation of Roma in relation to this goal within the work with the Swedish strategy for Roma inclusion. Other authorities involved in this measure are the Public Employment Service, the National Agency for Education and the National Institute of Public Health. The report will provide qualitative data on how government agencies and other relevant actors within the certain pilot municipalities address the rights of Roma and how they work to ensure that the Roma have access to their rights when it comes to employment, education, housing, health, social care and security. The obstacles/disadvantages and possibilities that are faced as far as Romani inclusion is concerned shall also be included in the status report. In particular, the report shall highlight the kind of treatment Roma are met with, the discrimination they face, anti-Gypsyism, and what participation and influence Roma have when it comes to their

taking advantage of their rights. The status report shall be based on interviews with officials as well as Roma. The plan is that the result of this work will provide a starting point for regular similar follow-ups during the 20 years that the strategy will last, in order to monitor the progress of the work and the impact of the measures within the strategy.

8. "In addition to the figures and statistics requested above, the Committee requests that the next report contain detailed information on the work of the new Equality Ombudsman with regard to cases of discrimination regarding the right to housing of vulnerable groups."

Discrimination relating to housing remains an obstacle to the full and effective enjoyment of the right to housing. Information obtained by the Equality Ombudsman through its dialogue with representatives of civil society, taken together with the individual complaints it receives and seen against the overall patterns of discrimination in Swedish society, indicate that several groups are particularly vulnerable in this respect. These groups include Muslims and persons with a Middle-Eastern background, Afro-Swedes and Roma. It may also be noted that a significant number of the complaints received by the Equality Ombudsman in this field concern discrimination on the ground of disability.

It should in this connection further be noted that the Equality Ombudsman in 2009 was requested by the Government to investigate the existence and prevalence of discrimination in the housing market. The conclusions of the resulting survey - which was carried out by Uppsala University through the use of so-called situation testing - were reported by the Ombudsman in the following year. The results of the inquiry confirmed the situation of Roma as a vulnerable group in this respect.

The particular vulnerability of Roma was similarly noted by the Ombudsman in its 2011 report "Roma Rights – Discrimination, paths of redress and how the law can improve the situation of the Roma". In the report the Ombudsman reviewed the individual complaints, court judgments and settlements concerning discrimination of Roma, *inter alia*, in the housing market in the period 2004–2010. The report concluded that this type of discrimination constitutes a substantial and complex problem for many Roma which hinders their full and equal enjoyment of the right to housing.

The Equality Ombudsman is currently implementing a special project during 2013–2015 focusing on discrimination against the Roma, *inter alia*, within social services and the housing market.

The Ombudsman has conducted trainings and consultations with both Roma and local authorities that have focused, *inter alia*, on the situation of Roma in the field of housing. The Equality Ombudsman has also, within the framework of the implementation of the Government's strategy for Roma inclusion, entered into consultations with national authorities with a view to establishing a broader dialogue on this issue with local authorities and actors on the housing market.

During the reference period the Equality Ombudsman received between 77 and 45 individual complaints per year concerning discrimination with respect to housing. This figure may be compared to the total number of individual complaints in all areas of

society received by the Ombudsman during the same time-period, which varied between 2 614 and 1 835 complaints per year. It is to be noted that the level of underreporting may be assumed to be significant.

The majority of the complaints received in this area have concerned discrimination on the ground of ethnicity, with an additional significant portion of the complaints received relating to discrimination on the ground of disability. The other grounds of discrimination covered by the Discrimination Act (sex, religion or other belief, sexual orientation, age and transgender identity or expression) have up until the present time resulted in a lower number of complaints.

The Equality Ombudsman does not record the ethnic origin of complainants, and it is therefore not possible to provide any precise statistics as to the number of complaints that relate to specific ethnic groups. It may however be observed that a considerable part of the complaints of discrimination on the ground of ethnicity received in this area concern the situation of Roma in relation to housing. The complaints relate to issues such as not being allowed to rent an apartment, to remain in a rented apartment or of being subjected to harassment from landlords or neighbours.

During the reference period the Equality Ombudsman has entered into settlements in eight cases concerning discrimination in this field. Five of these cases related to discrimination of Roma in the housing market. These cases all concerned situations where the complainants reported that they had been refused to rent or purchase an apartment, or to remain in an apartment already rented, on the ground that they were Roma. The remainder of the settlements related to complaints of discrimination on the ground of ethnicity (other than Roma) and disability. In all eight settlements financial payments were made to the complainants, in amounts varying between SEK 25 000 and SEK 120 000.

During the reference period one final judgment was issued in this area in court proceedings initiated by the Equality Ombudsman. The case concerned a family of refugees that was being charged higher levels of rent than other persons living in comparable accommodation. In its judgment the court found that the housing company had discriminated against the family, and ordered it to pay financial compensation in the amount of SEK 30 000.

Article 31§2

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to a previous report and to what is stated above under article 31§1.

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework and 3) Please provide pertinent figures, statistics or any other relevant information.

Preventing homelessness

In 2007 the Swedish Government presented an integrated strategy for efforts to combat homelessness under the heading "Homelessness – multiple faces, multiple responsibilities".

The strategy comprised four objectives:

1. Everyone has to be guaranteed a roof over their head and be offered further coordinated actions based on their individual needs.
2. The number of women and men admitted to or registered at a prison or treatment unit, or who have supported accommodation or are staying in care homes and do not have any accommodation arranged before being discharged has to decrease.
3. Entry into the ordinary housing market has to be facilitated for women and men who are in housing ladders, training flats or other accommodation provided by the social services or other actors.
4. The number of evictions has to decrease and no children are to be evicted.

Results of the initiatives

The strategy's main activity was to give support to local development work. This part of the strategy was evaluated by the University of Lund in 2011. The evaluation showed that out of the four objectives set for the strategy, a positive development was only clearly indicated for objective number 4.

The National Board of Health and Welfare's experiences showed that there was a strong commitment in these issues among the local authorities involved in the local development projects, and that much effort was put in to prevent homelessness and to improve the situation for people in homelessness. The efforts resulted in increased local activity. However, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare, structural changes seem to be difficult to implement using development funds. The local development work has in many cases been singular and limited actions for a stipulated time, and not part of a long-term, strategic effort to combat homelessness and housing exclusion in the municipalities.

A new mapping of homelessness in 2011

In 2011, a new national mapping of homelessness in Sweden was carried out by the National Board of Health and Welfare. The mapping showed that homelessness had increased in all homelessness situations since the mapping 2005. However, fewer people were sleeping rough during the measurement week compared to 2005. This could be seen as a sign that one of the objectives in the Government's Homelessness Strategy mentioned above – that everyone shall be guaranteed a roof over his or her head – had been taken seriously.

By clarifying the definition of homelessness, a broader group was reported compared to the previous national mapping, carried out in 2005. Thus, there are factors that complicate comparisons of results between the mappings in 2005 and 2011.

A total of approximately 34 000 people, according to the definition formulated by the National Board of Health and Welfare, were reported as homeless or excluded from the regular housing market during the measurement week. This group included people who lived under very different conditions and had different needs for support from the community. 4 500 people were in acute homelessness, of which 280 were sleeping rough. 5 600 people received institutional care or lived in different forms of category housing. 13 900 people lived in long-term housing solutions, provided by the social services in the municipalities. 6 800 persons lived in short-term insecure housing solutions that they had organised themselves.

A National Homelessness Coordinator assigned by the Government

In January 2012, the Swedish Government commissioned a Homelessness Coordinator with the aim to implement research results and knowledge generated from the previous Homelessness Strategy 2007–2009. The Coordinator's commission ended in July 2014. The County Administrative Boards have also been commissioned by the Government to support the municipalities to enhance their housing planning processes and to support them with their work to combat homelessness. The County Administrative Boards' commission ends in January 2015.

The Homelessness Coordinator's task has been to support the local authorities and municipalities in combatting homelessness and exclusion from the housing market, with focus on creating long-term, sustainable structures and working methods. The Coordinator's aim has been to establish a dialogue with the municipalities to stress their responsibility to provide housing for all of their inhabitants. The aim has also been to implement up-to-date-knowledge and provide the local authorities with research results. The Homelessness Coordinator has also gathered information on good examples of working methods and on what needs and challenges the municipalities have met. A special focus has been set on the prevention of evictions, especially concerning families with children.

In June 2014, the Homelessness Coordinator presented a final report with results, conclusions and proposals for future actions (see Appendix 1).

Forced evictions

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

The basis for an eviction can be a court judgment, a decision in the summary debt recovery procedure, a decision by a court in a divorce case, decisions by a regional rent tribunal or a rents and tenancies court of appeal or a protocol of a distress auction of real estate or settlement confirmed by a court (Chapter 2, § 2, the Enforcement Code). If the landlord in the case of a tenancy does not apply for eviction based on the enforcement

order and lets the tenant remain provided he or she pays rent, it might be considered a new tenancy after a certain period of time.

When someone, for example a landlord, has applied for eviction the defendant is notified of the eviction by the Enforcement Authority beforehand, if it is possible to locate him or her. The social welfare authority is also notified of the eviction and when it will take place (Chapter 16, § 2, the Enforcement Code).

If it is necessary with regard to the defendant's situation the Enforcement Authority may grant the defendant respite for a period of two weeks or if there are exceptional reasons, for a period of four weeks. In the latter case the respite is granted provided that a reasonable compensation is paid for the entire period during which the respite is granted. The applicant may also grant the defendant respite an unlimited number of times during a period of six months from the day of the application of eviction. If the landlord grants the defendant respite exceeding the mentioned period of six months the case at the Enforcement Authority is closed (Chapter 16, § 3 and 4, the Enforcement Code).

In case of an eviction the property of the defendant is removed from the home or the door lock is changed. In the latter case the landlord lets the defendant in to fetch his property at a later date decided upon by the parties. If the property of the defendant is removed, the Enforcement Authority is charged with storing it during a period of three months. The defendant must take care of his property before the end of this period of time. If he or she does not, the property is sold to pay for the rent of the storage premises. If the defendant has not been present at the proceedings he or she is notified of the eviction (Chapter 16, § 6, the Enforcement Code).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

The Swedish Government has recently appointed a commission that has been tasked with reviewing the Enforcement Code in order to modernise the rules on enforcement. The commission's mandate includes reviewing the rules on eviction, for example the rules on deferral to move have been highlighted particularly.

Additional information with reference to the Conclusions 2011

2. "The Committee refers to its previous conclusion (Conclusion 2005) for a description of the rules governing the procedures of eviction and the legal protection persons threatened by eviction are entitled to. It recalls that it had considered them to be in conformity with Article 31§2 and asked for the number of appeals against eviction orders and the specific cases in which legal aid may be provided and to whom. The Committee reiterates these specific requests while noting that the Government enforcement service has developed eviction statistics which make it possible to study the number of evictions by municipality and type of household. "

For information regarding the provision of legal aid, see the report on Article 31§1.

Improved statistics

The Swedish Enforcement Authority has been commissioned to develop and improve the statistics on evictions. As a result, from January 2013 it is now possible to show the number of evictions where children are concerned, whether a child lives on a permanent basis in the apartment concerned by the eviction, and if the family (including the child) was present during the eviction. This new way of presenting the statistics will serve as a better tool for the municipalities in their work to prevent evictions, especially among families with children. The number of evictions where children are concerned decreased between 2011 and 2013 by 24 per cent, from 663 to 504 children.

In July 2014, the Act (1973:188) concerning Tenancies and Rent Tribunals was amended in order to strengthen the position of tenants in risk of losing their tenancy. Right now, there is also an ongoing judicial process to make amendments of the Social Service Act in order to counteract eviction of families with children.

Number of evictions:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	3004	3040	3116	2802	2616	2532
persons						
Of which	716	618	632	663	569	504
number of children						

Source: Swedish Enforcement Authority.

As from 2013 there is also statistics on eviction by municipality.

Number of appeals against eviction orders from the enforcement authority to the district courts during 2009–2013:

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
684	611	685	657	639

3. “The Committee refers to its questions under Article 31§1 as regards measures taken to guarantee equality of treatment in the enjoyment of the right to housing of Roma. It further asks that the next report contain more details as to the number of evictions concerning Roma families and the number of cases brought for lack of alternative accommodation offered or compensation awarded.”

The Swedish Enforcement Authority does not keep statistics concerning ethnicity according to the Swedish Personal Data Act 13 §. Therefore this report cannot present more details as to the number of evictions concerning Roma families.

4. “The Committee asks for the next report to clarify whether
- shelters/emergency accommodation satisfy security requirements (including in the immediate surroundings) and health and hygiene standards (in particular whether they are equipped with basic amenities such as access to water and heating and sufficient lighting);
 - shelter/emergency accommodation is provided regardless of residence status;
 - the law prohibits eviction from shelters or emergency accommodation. “

In Sweden, “shelters” often refer to emergency housing while "emergency accommodation" could refer to both hotels, hostels and other temporary housing, for example, women's shelters. As for emergency housing/shelters, housing is offered almost exclusively according to the Social Security Act, and are therefore in conformity with legislation, both from a participatory, safety and employee perspective. All emergency accommodations supported by the Social Services should therefore fulfil both security requirements and health and hygiene standards.

In order to get shelter or an emergency accommodation the individual must be residing in the municipality and have recourse to the public funds, i.e. access to the social welfare system and/or the social security system. Exceptions do occur in emergency situations and longer exceptions can sometimes occur when it comes to families with children.

The law does not prohibit eviction from shelters or emergency accommodation.

Article 31§3

1) Please describe the general legal framework. Please specify the nature of, reasons for and extent of any reforms.

Reference is made to the previous report and to the following information.

There are many obstacles and thresholds for those who wish to enter the housing market, especially in situations of housing shortage. For this reason the Swedish Government in August 2013 instructed the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) to develop proposals in order to improve conditions for households entering the residential market, whether they be new households or, having previously lost their homes due to unfortunate circumstances, wishing once more to get a dwelling of their own. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning will illuminate such concrete establishment problems in the housing market as individuals encounter and propose measures that could facilitate the establishment of households and individuals with weak (economic) conditions. The focus is on the barriers that individuals face when they wish to enter the housing market but also on proposals for alternative and complementary measures and instruments, especially the simplification and improvement of various regulatory systems.

Housing supplement

Pensioners who have reached the age of 65 years and persons younger than 65 years of age who are drawing sickness or activity compensation are entitled to housing

supplement. The housing supplement is a means-tested benefit and has remained largely unchanged during the period January 2010 – December 31 2013. The changes that have taken place are improvements for pensioners who have reached the age of 65 years (see below).

2) Please indicate the measures taken (administrative arrangements, programmes, action plans, projects, etc.) to implement the legal framework.

Regarding housing benefits for families and youth please see article 16.

Housing supplement

To improve the private economy for elderly women with low pensions a sum of SEK 170 a month per person is added to the housing cost prior to the means-test from January 2012. From January 2013 the sum was changed to SEK 340 for single persons. This means that the sum that is added to the housing cost is the same for all households (SEK 340). The introduction of the additional amount helped to lift many elderly, often single, women with low pensions above the poverty rate. From January 2014 another improvement was introduced for pensioners over 65 years of age who still work. To encourage elderly people with low pensions to proceed to work, their income from gainful occupation will not affect the housing supplement unless it exceeds SEK 24 000 a year. If the income is higher than SEK 24 000 a year, it is only the amount that exceeds SEK 24 000 that affects the housing supplement. The highest possible housing supplement that may be granted to persons over 65 years of age is SEK 4 990 (=93 % x 5000+340) a month for unmarried persons and 2 495 SEK for married persons.

3) Please provide statistics or any other relevant information.

Housing benefits

When applying for housing benefit for people under 29 years of age and for households with children there are some requirements that need to be met; accommodation, the right age and/or children. If these primary requirements are met there is a right to apply for housing benefit. The benefit will be calculated on the basis of housing factors and the number of children. This amount will then be related to the estimated household income. Everything above a certain amount decreases the housing benefit and also determines the amount that will be disbursed. Please note that the calculated amount might be null depending on the size of the income.

If an application is refused it is on the grounds that the requirements are not met and that the applicant therefore is not eligible. For instance;

- when the applicant is older than 28 years of age and does not have children.
- when the applicant, or one of the applicants, is not considered eligible for housing benefit as it is residence-based.
- when the applicant rents a part of a home or sublets he or she will only be eligible for benefit for children and not for the cost of the actual rent.

Housing supplement

In December 2013 housing supplement was paid to 275 257 persons who had reached 65 years of age (215 221 women and 60 036 men). Housing supplement was also paid to 118 350 persons younger than 65 years who carried sickness or activity compensation (64 102 women and 54 248 men). During 2013 the Pension Agency granted housing supplement to 33 314 pensioners who did not receive the benefit before. By separate reasons 17 510 pensioners were refused housing supplement. During 2013 2283 cases were corrected or reviewed.

Additional information with reference to the Conclusions 2011

Social housing

5. "The Committee asks the next report to contain information on the impact of the changes outlined above on the most vulnerable groups and recalls that it considers that in order to establish that measures are being taken to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources, States Parties to the Charter must show not the average affordability ratio required of all those applying for housing, but rather that the affordability ratio of the poorest applicants for housing is compatible with their level of income (European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) v. Slovenia, Complaint No. 53/2008, decision on the merits of 8 September 2009, § 72)."

As mentioned in the comments in paragraph 1 above a formal evaluation cannot be undertaken until a reasonable time has passed for the changes to be implemented and have effect. However, according to the annual reports of The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning so far there are no or small changes in the result of the rent negotiations, and rent increases have been fairly modest.

In its 2013 report the Board notes that it previously has studied rents in Sweden at an aggregate level (see for instance the report "Hyror i Sverige 1975–2009" / "Rents in Sweden 1975–2009"). During the period 1995–2009 the average rent increase was 2.2 per cent per year, or in real terms, 0.8 per cent per year.

In 2011, the average rents increased by 2.8 per cent in the public housing and 2.0 per cent of the privately owned homes ("Den nya lagstiftningen på hyresbostadsmarknaden - en första uppföljning", rapport: 2012:15 / "The new legislation concerning the rental housing market – a first following up", report 2012:15, Boverket 2013).

In the words of the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning these rent increases were by no means exceptional in comparison with previous years. In real terms, the increase in rents in 2011 was significantly lower than the average for the period 1995–2010. It should be noted that according to the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning the average rent level is lower in the MHC sector than in the private sector.

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning also notes that not even during the years 2012 and 2013 does it seem that average rents increased more than previously. Referring to statistics from the National Tenants Union it is claimed that the

rents in the MHC sector increased by about 2.5 per cent in 2012. For both the MHC's and the private companies it seems that rents for 2013 increased by just below two per cent on average. It is therefore difficult to see that the rental community would have suffered any major rent increases as a result of the new legislation. Even when looking at the regional level, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning does not see any significant differences from previous years.

In its latest report on rent setting the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning notes that rents in general increased by 2.3 per cent in running prices and slightly more than 2 per cent in real terms – a consequence of almost no inflation (“Det svenska hyressättningsystemet” / “The Swedish Rent Setting System”, Boverket 2014).

Housing benefits

6. “To assess the situation in practice the Committee requested that the next report indicate the number of refusals of housing benefits requests and the number of appeals lodged against such refusals and with what outcomes. It also asked to be informed about whether reasons are given, and if so, what are they when housing benefits are refused. The committee reiterates its request for such information and data and underlines that should the next report not provide them, there will be nothing to establish that the situation in Sweden is in conformity with Article 31§3 of the Charter as concerns the legal protection of the right to housing benefits. “

Reference is made to the report on housing benefits above and to the following information.

For housing benefits for families and youth there were 417 521 decisions 2013 and out of those 52 501 (approximately 13 per cent) were refusals for separate reasons. During the same period 1 739 were corrected, reviewed or had a verdict from court of law (approximately three per cent).

Article 12§1

In the conclusions dated January 2014 (Conclusions 2013), the Committee concluded that Sweden is not in conformity with Article 12§1 of the European Social Charter (revised) due to a lack of information regarding the minimum level of sickness benefit or unemployment benefit combined with other supplementary benefits. As stated in previous reports, no statistical data is available that shows the total amount that individuals receive from different benefits. Due to this, the requested information is provided below by descriptions of supplementary benefits and examples of applicable levels of these that an individual who receives sickness benefit or unemployment benefit can be entitled to, in order to uphold a reasonable standard of living.

In line with the previous statement by the Government, the Government maintains the position that the Swedish social security system provides an adequate and sufficient financial support for unemployed and sick individuals and consequently fulfils and respects the requirements of Article 12§1 of the European Social Charter.

Sickness benefit

The sickness benefit level depends on the individual's income and the normal level is 77.6 per cent of the person's income from work. The Swedish wage setting system is based on collective agreements between employers' organisations and trade unions. There is no minimum wage set by law. As a consequence, there is no minimum level in the sickness benefit scheme. Almost everyone working in Sweden has an income qualifying for sickness benefit, which also applies to a person who has left his or her job and is seeking for a new job. There is, however, no statistical data available regarding the general coverage, as registration of such income is done when a person applies for benefit. Rules about income qualifying for sickness benefit can be found in the Code of Social Security (*Socialförsäkringsbalken*), Chapter 26.

There is, however, one exception to the rule regarding no minimum level in the sickness benefit scheme. Young individuals, at the age of 19–29 years, can be granted activity compensation (*aktivitetsersättning*) (a kind of temporary disability benefit), if their working capacity is lastingly reduced due to sickness. Activity compensation is not part of the sickness benefit scheme but a person who has reached the age limit for activity compensation and does not have an income qualifying for sickness benefit or an income that is below SEK 80 300 per year, can receive sickness benefit in special cases (*sjukpenning i särskilda fall*). This benefit is paid for all days of the week at SEK 160 per day. The benefit is lower if the working capacity is only partly reduced or if the person receives ordinary sickness benefit for the same period. Rules about sickness benefit in special cases can be found in the Code of Social Security, Chapter 28 a.

Individuals who receive sickness benefit in special cases are also entitled to a special supplementary housing allowance (*boendetillägg*). The size of this allowance depends on if the individual is married or not and if the individual has children. An unmarried recipient of sickness benefit in special cases receives SEK 84 000 per year in supplementary housing

allowance. A married person can receive SEK 42 000 per year. The allowance is higher if a person has children: SEK 12 000 additionally per year if a person has one child, SEK 18 000 additionally per year if a person has two children and SEK 24 000 additionally per year if a person has three or more children. The size of this housing allowance is not dependent on the individual's costs for housing. Rules about special supplementary housing allowance can be found in the Code of Social Security, Chapter 103 a–d.

Based on the construction of the social security system, the sickness benefit should be viewed together with other intertwined benefits when evaluating the support a sick person receives. Other supplementary benefits are described below.

Unemployment benefit

As stated in the previous answer, the Swedish Government cannot present the average monthly amount that a typical unemployed person might receive from the basic unemployment benefit (*grundersättning*) plus additional benefits. People covered by the basic insurance are paid a *basic level* of benefit per benefit day, linked to the amount the job seeker worked prior to becoming unemployed. The highest basic level that can be paid per month is SEK 7 040.

Based on how the social security system in Sweden is constructed, the different types of benefits are intertwined and should not be viewed as a number of individual benefits when evaluating the support an unemployed person receives. For example, an unemployed person with two children will receive SEK 2 250 per month in child allowance. If the same person is a single parent he/she can receive maintenance allowance with SEK 2 546 per month. This unemployed person will have a disposable income of approximately SEK 10 280 per month. In addition, the unemployed person can receive housing allowance (see below).

An unemployed person above the age of 29 who does not have children is consequently not entitled to child allowance nor to housing allowance, but can be entitled to social assistance (see below).

Supplementary benefits

Housing allowance

Housing allowance (*bostadsbidrag*) is targeted to households with children and young people between the age of 18 and 29 years. The allowance depends on the household's income, the size of the residence and the cost for housing. The average allowance for parents is estimated to SEK 2 671 per month and for young people SEK 954 per month in 2014. About 190 000 households with children and 62 000 households with young people receive housing allowance. The housing allowance is regulated by the Code of Social Security, Chapter 94–98.

Social Assistance

A sick individual who has no qualifying income for sickness benefit or a low such income, as well as an unemployed individual can be entitled to social assistance (*försörjningsstöd*).

Social assistance is the ultimate safety net in the social welfare system. It is regulated in the Social Services Act. Social assistance can be seen as a complementary support to the social security system. The level is partly decided on a national level – the national norm – by the Government and partly by the municipalities. The national norm is based on calculations of the National Board for Consumer policies (*Konsumentverket*).

Anyone who is unable to provide for his or her needs or to obtain provision for them in any other way, is entitled to social assistance. The aim of the assistance is to assure the individual of a reasonable standard of living. Social assistance is means tested, which includes income of the whole household. All income reduces social assistance, with two exceptions. A person who has received social assistance for a period of six months is entitled to deduct 25 per cent of his or her income from work when assessing the need for social assistance. Income (up to SEK 44 400 per year) from work received by a child or a person who is attending school and is younger than 21 years old shall not be included when assessing the need for the household's social assistance. The aim of these special rules is to increase the incentives of taking temporary jobs or for young persons to work during vacations.

The national norm can be considered as the minimum level and should cover basic consumption, i.e. food, clothing, shoes, leisure, hygiene products, daily paper, telephone calls, television and radio licence. The level is different for various age groups and types of households. In addition to the national norm, the municipalities are obliged to grant support for reasonable costs for housing, travel to work or to job searching, household electricity, home insurance, unemployment insurance and trade union membership. Furthermore, additional social assistance may be granted for other expenditures, e.g. dental and medical care. In the table below these extraordinary expenses are not included.

Examples of levels of social assistance per year, figures in SEK and referring to year 2012.
 Source: National Board of Health and Welfare, City of Malmö and Statistics Sweden

	<i>Single person household</i>	<i>Single parent two children (age 7 and 10)</i>	<i>Couple two children (age 7 and 10)</i>
<i>National norm - income support</i>			
Sum of personal costs for two children living at home	0	57 360	57 360
Personal costs adults	35 040	35 040	63 240
Common household expenses	11 040	15 600	17 760
Housing costs	58 080	103 020	103 020
<i>Cost related to other aspects of life</i>	based on needs	based on needs	based on needs
“Reasonable standard of living” that should be ensured by social assistance	104 160	211 020	244 380
<i>Leisure activities for children 10-15 years of age in households receiving social assistance six months or more</i>	0	3 000	3 000
Reasonable standard of living plus leisure activities.	104 160	214 020	247 380

Social assistance is complementary to other income. The reasonable standard of living that should be provided for by social assistance will therefore be reduced if a household has other income or transfers, such as housing allowance, universal child allowance, possible large family supplement and maintenance support.

List of Appendices

1. Final Report of the National Homelessness Coordinator