

28 and 29 November 2016
Thessaloniki, Greece

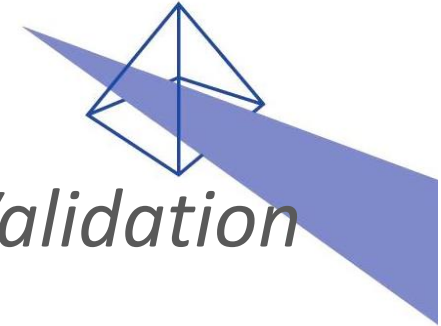
How to make learning visible

Strategies for implementing validation
of non-formal and informal learning



Elin Landell

*Director, National Delegation for Validation
2015-19, Sweden*



Karl Berg, Committee Secretary

Broader ways to work and education

A coordinated development of systems for
validation

The Swedish labour market context

A knowledge-based economy

Only 5% of the jobs require no specific skills

A dual labour market

Low unemployment: Swedish born with upper secondary education

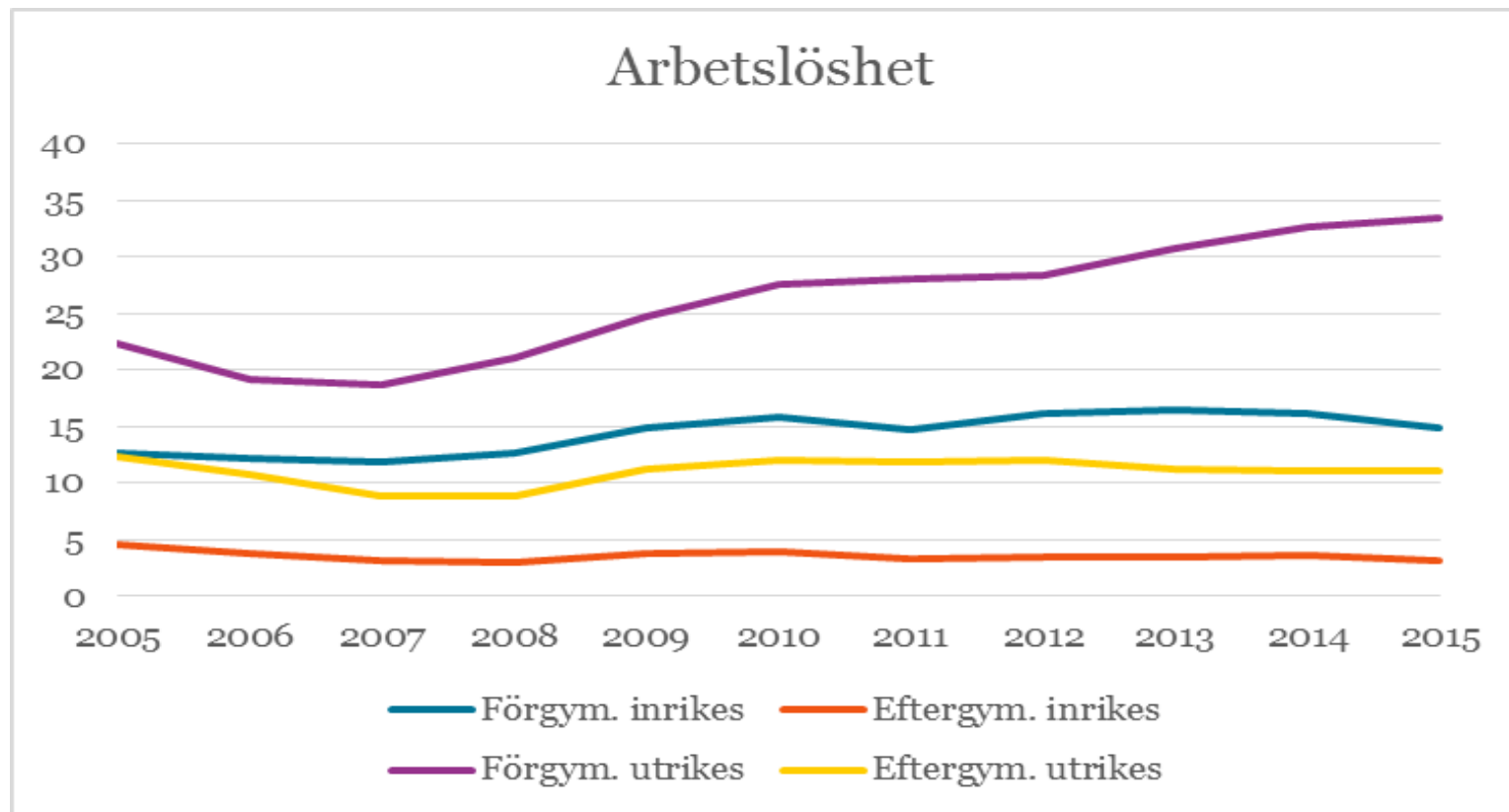
Shortage of skilled labour

Most important impediment to growth

Vocational skills, higher education diploma

Large inflow of humanitarian immigrants

Unemployment – widening gaps



Validation a tool to address the mismatch

- **Facilitate entry and re-entry into the labour market**
- **Identify needs of complementary training/ more effective bridging courses**
- **Recruitment and competence development for employed**
- **Lifelong learning – resume formal education and training**



Challenges...

- **Many actors and decentralised structures**
- **Methods for validation need to be developed for more sectors/occupations**
 - both in formal education and for sector qualifications
- **Quality (credibility, legitimacy) varies and need to be increased**
- **Low number of validations are performed**
 - both in formal education and at PES

A political priority – several initiatives

1. Early assessment and validation for newly arrived immigrants

- "Fast-tracks" in more than 20 occupations – validation a component
- Reduced handling times for recognition of formal qualifications

2. Higher quality, development of

- Validation as a permanent labour market programme
- Courses for study and career counsellors
- Standard for sector models for validation
- Methods and permanent structures for validation in higher education

3. More extensive use of validation and bridging courses

- Extra funding to PES
- More openings on VET in adult education
- Strong expansion of bridging courses in higher education
- Pilot scheme 1: Validation for immigrants lacking full documentation of previous studies
- Pilot scheme 2: "Validation vouchers" – incentives for employers to use validation

4. Coordinated development of validation

- National Delegation for Validation 2015 – 2019

The Delegation's tasks

- **To follow, support and urge on a coordinated work to develop validation**
 - **In formal education and for the labour market**
 - **On both national and regional level**
- **Final report in December 2019**
- **First interim report spring 2017: A national strategy for validation**

The Delegation's has 15 members

- **Chair:** Jonas Milton, former Executive Director of the Employers' Organization for the Swedish Service Sector
- **Trade unions** (4 representatives)
- **Employers' associations** (4 representatives)
- **National authorities:**
 - Public Employment Service
 - ESF-Council
 - National Agency for Education
 - National Agency for Higher Vocational Education
 - Council for Higher Education
 - Agency for Economic and Regional Growth

Overall vision?

To be formulated in the national strategy...

Validation is available to considerably more people

Resilient long term structures are established

- in formal education, on all levels
- as part of general labour market measures, and
- in systems for labour market qualifications as a functioning complement to qualifications from formal education

SeQF for transferability and quality assurance

Who should benefit?

Priority groups:

- Newly arrived immigrants
- Unemployed with low formal qualifications

But...

General measures that are open to everyone

**Value of validation must be visible to employers –
priority to sectors with:**

- High demand of labour (e.g. healthcare sector), or
- Need to raise competence/qualification level (e.g. teaching, manufacturing industries facing global competition)

Financing?

- **Embedded in:**
 - Regular education budgets, and
 - Funding for labour market programmes
- **Development of models, standards, methods**
 - Special financing needed, (e.g. European Social Fund)

Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

karl.berg@gov.se

elin.landell@gov.se

www.valideringsdelegation.se

