

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, selection of relevant and recent passages from published reports related to Sweden

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References to Sweden marked with **bold**

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Data Explorers and Tools

Mapping minimum age requirements with respect to the rights of the child in the EU

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/minag?mdq1=country&mdq2=432&plot=inCountry&cntryName=Sweden>

Forced return monitoring systems – State of play in 28 EU Member States

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/return?mdq1=country&mdq2=431&plot=inCountry&cntryName=Spain>

Survey on Minorities and Discrimination in EU (2016)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-second-eu-minorities-discrimination-survey?mdq1=country&mdq2=432&plot=inCountry&cntryName=Sweden>

Violence against women survey data explorer

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-violence-against-women-survey>

EU LGBT Survey data explorer

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/survey-data-explorer-lgbt-survey-2012>

Indicators on the right to political participation of people with disabilities

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/political-participation>

Mapping victims' right and support in the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/victims-support-services>

Mapping child protection systems in the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/child-protection>

Annual Reports

Fundamental Rights Report 2018

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/fundamental-rights-report-2018>

1. Shifting perceptions: towards a rights-based approach to ageing

“[...] in Denmark, the Netherlands and **Sweden**, 90 % of persons aged 65 or above declared no cost-related difficulties.” (p. 13)

2. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its use by the Member States

No mention of Sweden here.

3. Equality and non-discrimination

“Other research conducted or published by public authorities 2017 sheds light on [...] unequal working and living conditions for persons with disabilities compared to persons without disabilities (Denmark, Germany, Ireland, **Sweden**).” (p. 61)

“**Sweden**’s Public Employment Agency drew on the population register to identify persons with disabilities and assess their experiences of discrimination in the labour market. Persons who self-identified as having a disability were interviewed, regardless of whether they were employed at the time of the survey. Among persons with disabilities with a reduced ability to work, two-thirds answered “yes” to at least one of the questions on discrimination. Negative attitudes among employers was the most common type of discrimination they reported experiencing in the past five years. This was nearly twice as common as violations of integrity, discrimination in access to employment, or bullying.” (p. 63)

“In addition, findings of discrimination testing are accepted in court in a number of EU Member States, including Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden. In 2017, legal developments in the field occurred in Belgium. In addition, relevant research findings were published in Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, and **Sweden**.” (p. 63)

“In **Sweden**, a field experiment that involved sending fictitious CVs to employers showed a strong negative effect for age, also in combination with gender. Over 6,000 spontaneous applications were sent to potential employers, with information on applicants’ age and gender randomly assigned. The findings show that, across all occupations, the likelihood of being contacted by an employer falls sharply from the age of 40, with women more affected than men. For applicants close to the retirement age of 65, the response rate was found to be close to zero.” (p. 63)

4. Racism, xenophobia and related intolerances

“Similarly, **Sweden** amended its legislation to state that employers and educational actors should take preventive and active measures to combat discrimination and promote equal rights and opportunities covering all seven discrimination grounds, including racial and ethnic discrimination.” (p. 82)

“In **Sweden**, the Svea Court of Appeal reviewed the claims of 11 persons of Roma origin who alleged that they were included in a Swedish police registry because of their Roma ethnic origin, as they were friends or relatives of three Roma families with a criminal record. The court applied the burden of proof principle and asked the State to prove that there was another valid reason for including the persons in the registry. As the State could not prove this, the court concluded that ethnicity was the sole reason, which amounted to a violation of the Police Data Act and of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the ECHR in conjunction with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life).” (p. 85)

“In **Sweden**, the police introduced a project aimed at hiring civilians from diverse ethnic backgrounds for 12 months to foster relations with different ethnic communities and encourage more applicants to the Swedish Police Academy.” (p. 87)

5. Roma integration

“In **Sweden**, the National Employment Office continued informational campaigns for job seekers from the Roma community in pilot municipalities, increasing the number of Roma using these services and the number of employed Roma.” (p. 104)

“In **Sweden**, awareness-raising efforts by the national employment office reached out to Roma women.” (p. 105)

“Providing guidance materials and training for property owners

National authorities in **Sweden** have taken an initiative to combat discrimination against Roma in the housing market in recent years. Activities include guidance materials aimed at property owners and landlords, as well as the establishment of a network consisting of Roma representatives, property owners and landlords. The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning uses the materials for awareness-raising activities, including training programmes. Roma representatives also received free training about their rights in the housing market.” (p. 108)

“For example, Hungary, Ireland, Slovenia and **Sweden** developed policies to provide diversity training for health-service providers, [...]” (p. 109)

“**Sweden** upheld gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting principle that all projects financed by the European Social Fund should use, including during their implementation and monitoring phases. As a result, qualitative impact indicators consider women and children as especially prioritised groups.” (p. 110)

6. Asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration

“In 2016, Germany and **Sweden** adopted temporary measures excluding beneficiaries of subsidiary protection from applying for family reunification for a certain time period after being granted protection. These temporary measures remained in force throughout 2017.” (131)

“As shown in Figure 6.5, at the end of 2017, internal border controls within the Schengen area were in place at some sections of the borders of five EU Member States (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany and **Sweden**) as well as Norway.” (p. 132)

“By the end of 2017, Cyprus, Germany, Slovakia and **Sweden** had no operational [forced return] monitoring systems [pursuant to Article 8 (6) of the Return Directive] in place. [...] In **Sweden**, legislation adopted in 2017 established that the Swedish Migration Board is responsible for monitoring forced returns. Structural changes are underway to establish a functioning return monitoring mechanism within the service’s international relations entity.” (p. 140)

“First, in 2014, ten EU Member States lacked operational return monitoring systems that FRA considered sufficiently independent to qualify as “effective”. By 2017, that number dropped to four – and two of them, Germany and **Sweden**, were taking steps to have effective monitoring systems by 2018.” (p. 140)

7. Information society, privacy and data protection

“According to Article 8 of the GDPR, where the child is below the age of 16 years, such processing shall be lawful on the basis of consent only if and to the extent that consent is given or authorised by the holder of parental responsibility over the child. However, Member States may set by law a lower age for those purposes, provided that this is not below 13 years.

Several Member States, such as [...] **Sweden** and the United Kingdom, proposed in 2017 to reduce the minimum age requirement to 13 years.” (p. 158)

“Age remains linked to the level of use of new technologies in most EU Member States, as shown in Figure 7.1. Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, **Sweden** and the United Kingdom have a low ‘digital divide’ of less than 10 % between the proportions of individuals in different generations who in 2017 had never used the internet.” (p. 158)

8. Rights of the child

“In the European Semester, country-specific recommendations often include the topic of housing. In 2017, Ireland, the Netherlands, **Sweden** and the United Kingdom received recommendations on housing.” (p. 180)

“However, only Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and **Sweden** accepted the right to housing (Article 31) when ratifying the Revised European Social Charter.” (p. 180)

“For example, in **Sweden**, the National Board of Health and Welfare compared all Swedish municipalities’ policies on homelessness and found that 23 % of the municipalities had action plans on how to protect children from evictions.” (p. 180)

“In **Sweden**, the assessment is called the ‘child impact analysis’. It is carried out at municipal level and recorded in a digital online migration database. The case handler cannot proceed if best interests of the child-related steps have not been completed. The system was developed by national authorities together with the Ombudsperson for children and is currently under review.” (p. 186)

“In **Sweden**, the Dialogue Compass offers governmental-developed educational material for professionals (such as social workers, teachers, police officers, nurses and youth leaders) who meet young people at risk of radicalisation. The material aims to prevent radicalisation of young people by engaging in supportive and preventive dialogue.” (p. 188)

9. Access to justice including the rights of crime victims

“In December 2017, the Government of **Sweden** presented a proposal to the Council on new sexual offence legislation based on lack of consent, and the obvious: sex must be voluntary. Convicting a perpetrator of rape will no longer require that violence or threats were used, or that the victim’s particularly vulnerable situation was exploited. The Government also proposed introducing two new offences, ‘negligent rape’ and ‘negligent sexual abuse’. The negligence aspect focuses on the fact that the other person did not participate voluntarily.” (p. 209)

“In addition, **Sweden** adopted legislation increasing the penalty scale for the crime of FGM [Female Genital Mutilation].” (p. 210)

“In Denmark and **Sweden**, measures were discussed to criminalise and combat non-consensual distribution of intimate images and videos, including through improvements relating to case administration by the police and public prosecutors.” (p. 211)

10. Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“**Sweden**, by contrast, has one of the most long-standing and comprehensive personal assistance systems. However, concerns about rising costs prompted the government to look for ways to reduce the overall funds attributed to assistance allowances in 2017. In response, the National Association for Mobility-Impaired Children and Youths (*Riksförbundet för rörelsehindrade barn och ungdomar*) started a campaign called ‘Stop the assistance lottery’

(*Stoppa assistanslotteriet*). It focuses on stories of persons with disabilities who have had their assistance allowance hours reduced or removed altogether, resulting in family members having to stop working. A government-appointed special investigator looking at state-funded assistance will report back in 2018.” (p. 228)

“This leaves Bulgaria, Estonia and **Sweden** as the only three Member States yet to appoint monitoring bodies Article 33 (2) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities].” (p. 233)

Fundamental Rights Report 2017

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017>

1. Between promise and delivery: 10 years of fundamental rights in the EU

No mention of Sweden here.

2. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its use by Member States

“When a court interprets national law, the Charter tends to be one among several legal sources guiding the court in interpreting national provisions. An exception is a case from **Sweden**, where the Charter was the key source referred to. The case concerned a man who had helped a family to cross the border illegally. Normally, a person who is paid for assisting a foreigner’s entry into **Sweden** is sentenced to three to four months in prison. However, in this case and in light of Article 24 (the rights of the child), the court decided to change the prison time to a suspended sentence and community service because the person concerned was motivated by the desire to help children.” (p. 42)

“[...] **Sweden** announced, in a document concerning the government’s strategy for work on human rights, that it would review the Charter’s application in Sweden.” (p. 50)

3. Equality and non-discrimination

“In February, it also became possible for same-sex couples in Portugal to jointly adopt children. As of the end of 2016, this was also the case in [...] **Sweden** and the United Kingdom.” (p. 67)

4. Roma integration

“Three Member States do mention the term anti-Gypsyism (or its national adaptation), in the introductory sections describing the status of Roma (Belgium, **Sweden**) [...]” (p. 112)

“In **Sweden**, the Commission against Anti-Gypsyism (*Kommissionen mot antiziganism*) reported in 2016 that, although the legal framework for combating hate crime is adequate, its implementation is not satisfactory, as very few complaints lead to prosecution and even fewer to convictions, despite an increase in the number of hate crimes reported. The report also notes that Roma women and children are particularly at risk of hate crime.” (p. 113)

5. Asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration

“In **Sweden**, a new law introduced time-limited residence permits for refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection as long as they are not employed.” (p. 127)

“Changes introduced at national level include new or shorter timeframes to apply for family reunification to benefit from more favourable conditions (Austria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, **Sweden**); increased material requirements – for example, proving sufficient income, adequate accommodation or health insurance – in case of non-compliance with the new timeframe (Austria, Finland, Hungary, **Sweden**); [...]excluding beneficiaries of subsidiary protection from

applying for family reunification for a certain time period after being granted protection (Austria, Denmark, Germany, **Sweden**) [...].” (p. 134)

6. Information society, privacy and data protection

“Data protection in the context of surveillance has also featured throughout the Universal Periodic Review of EU Member States (Belgium, Estonia, Latvia) and was stressed in the UN Human Rights Committee’s concluding observations on Denmark, Poland and **Sweden**. Regarding **Sweden**, for example, the committee stated that it was concerned by the limited transparency about the scope of surveillance powers and the safeguards in place both regarding their application and the sharing of raw data with other intelligence services.” (p. 156)

“The GDPR will apply uniformly across the EU. However, several opening clauses leave room for Member States to further develop some of the principles in the regulation. [...]. In most Member States, such as Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece and **Sweden**, governments have set up working groups tasked with assessing whether or not new legislation will be needed.” (p. 161)

7. Rights of the child

“In Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Slovenia and **Sweden**, meanwhile, fewer than 17 % of children are at risk [of poverty or social exclusion].” (p. 175)

“In about one third of the countries, only minor changes can be observed [in the reduction of the number of people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion] between the situations in 2005 and 2015, increasing or decreasing by at most one percentage point. This is the case in [...], **Sweden** and the United Kingdom.” (p. 176)

“In 2015, the five EU Member States that received the highest numbers of asylum applications from unaccompanied children were **Sweden** (35,250 applications), [...].” (p. 181)

“In **Sweden**, the County Administrative Board of Stockholm published a report on unaccompanied children. It contains some information on children who did not seek asylum but did visit transit accommodation for rest and food. According to interviews with the children, they place very little trust in the authorities and are aware that their chances of remaining in **Sweden** are slim.” (pp. 181-182)

“Some countries have more uniform [foster care] systems in place at the national level – namely Cyprus, Ireland, the Netherlands, **Sweden** and the United Kingdom.” (p. 185)

“FRA’s monthly migration reports also noted the high number of children allocated per guardian in some Member States. This can hinder the functioning of the service and result in insufficient care being provided to the children. For example, in **Sweden**, a person may serve as guardian for up to 30 children.” (p. 186)

8. Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“The deadline for transposing Directive 2013/48/EU (right to access a lawyer) passed on 27 November 2016. Many Member States adopted the necessary measures to do so: Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia, **Sweden**, the Netherlands and Romania.” (p. 206)

“In a notably positive trend, a significant number of Member States increased state funding for victim support services in 2016. These include [...] **Sweden** and the United Kingdom.” (p. 207)

“Many other Member States have similar schemes to ensure steady funding for victims of crime, as FRA has found previously – for example, [...] **Sweden** and the United Kingdom.” (p. 207)

“Awareness of support services [for victims of gender-based violence] listed in the survey ranged from close to 100 % of respondents in Germany, Malta, and **Sweden** to under 30 % in the Czech Republic and Romania.” (p. 209)

9. Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“At the most basic level, 2016 saw no developments in the four EU Member States (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece and **Sweden**) still to appoint Article 33 (2) bodies.” (p. 233)

Fundamental Rights Report 2016

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fundamental-rights-report-2016>

1. Asylum and migration into the EU in 2015

“The increased number of arrivals put a significant strain on domestic asylum systems in [...] countries of destination (Austria, Germany and **Sweden**, as well as to a lesser extent other Member States). Among the last group, **Sweden** recorded the highest number of applications per capita in the EU (some 11.5 applicants per 1,000 inhabitants). As **Sweden**’s asylum and reception system was no longer able to cope with the arrivals, a proposal to suspend relocation to the country was tabled in December.” (p. 17)

“In October 2015, FRA started to publish regular overviews of migration-related fundamental rights issues in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden.” (p. 18)

“From 15 November 2015 to 11 December 2015, for example, on average, some 800–1,000 persons were staying for days in the Malmömässan conference hall in southern **Sweden**, where they shared eight toilets, until their asylum applications were registered.” (p. 19)

“In 2015, 251 asylum seekers were welcomed into homes in Germany and 240 into homes in Austria. This initiative is also in place in [...] **Sweden**.” (p. 20)

“But a significant number [of children] also disappeared in **Sweden**, a country of destination, where some 35,369 unaccompanied children sought asylum in 2015. When they disappear, any follow-up is difficult.” (p. 21)

“In a few of these [Member States] (Cyprus and **Sweden**), fees are low and the same fees are charged to nationals when accessing emergency healthcare. [...] In **Sweden**, migrants in an irregular situation must pay a patient fee of SEK 50 (approximately €5) to visit a doctor.” (p. 26)

“Using economic considerations to support fundamental rights and public health care arguments

This report presents an economic model for analysing the costs of providing regular access to healthcare for individuals and compare these with the costs incurred if these persons are not provided with such access and, as a result, need to use more expensive emergency healthcare facilities. It does so by analysing two medical conditions: hypertension and prenatal care. To better illustrate its application in practice, the model was applied to three EU Member States: Germany, Greece and **Sweden**.” (p. 26)

“Furthermore, in Slovakia and **Sweden**, monitoring is conducted by an agency belonging to the same branch of government that is responsible for returns, which does not appear to satisfy the Return Directive’s requirement of ‘effective’ – meaning independent – forced return monitoring.” (p. 27)

2. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its use by Member States

“[...] and **Sweden** have not referred to the Charter when referring cases to the CJEU in the past five years.” (p. 41)

“Moreover, the Charter is sometimes referred to peripherally but not actually applied in the legal scrutiny of the legislative proposals, as an example from **Sweden** shows.” (p. 49)

3. Equality and non-discrimination

No mention of Sweden here.

4. Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

“**Sweden** has implemented several programmes that deal with racism at schools through training for personnel of pre-school, school and after-school programmes. It has also implemented training on past and current racism for all students in compulsory (age 6–15) and upper-secondary schools (age 16–18).” (p. 79)

“In the [...] and **Sweden**, national public campaigns and/or information websites were launched on living together without prejudice, racism and xenophobia; on increasing the reporting of racist and discriminatory incidents; and on victim support.” (p. 81)

“Similarly, the UN Working Group on People of African Descent expressed concerns about racial profiling of Africans and black people in **Sweden**.” (p. 84)

5. Roma integration

“In Gothenburg, **Sweden**, support services are provided for vulnerable EU citizens through public partnerships with local NGOs.” (p. 102)

The [Commission’s 2015] report [on the implementation of the EU Framework for NRISs] also noted progress in drawing up, revising and planning local-level action plans in Member States, such as [10 Member States], and Sweden.” (p. 102)

“In addition, access to services is reported to be the focus of existing action plans targeting Roma specifically but not exclusively in Slovakia and **Sweden**, for example.” (p. 106)

“Conversely, in **Sweden**, efforts towards Roma integration are included in the NRIS [national Roma integration strategies] and implemented through five pilot projects in municipalities. The proposed strategic evaluation is contracted out to an independent entity, which assesses the five pilot cities over a three-year period and produces a learning evaluation. In addition, each municipality has a set of indicators and provides an annual follow-up report to the County Administrative Board of Stockholm (*Länsstyrelsen Stockholms län*). Evaluations of other components of the NRIS are commissioned from external actors.” (p. 107)

“On the other hand, Hungary and **Sweden** opted for independent expert monitoring carried out by external actors without the involvement of local authorities or civil society.” (p. 109)

6. Information society, privacy and data protection

“In **Sweden**, Tele2, a telecom company, informed the Swedish Post and Telecoms Authority that it would stop storing data to comply with the CJEU judgement. However, the police informed the Post and Telecoms Authority that this would undermine the effectiveness of their

work, so the authority requested the company to continue retaining data. Tele2 filed proceedings against the state, arguing that its failure to abolish data retention conflicted with EU law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The case is now pending before the CJEU and is expected to shed light on whether or not the mandatory retention of electronic communications data unlawfully interferes with the right to privacy and protection of personal data.” (p. 125)

“**Sweden** has taken a similar approach: although its Police Act provides a legal basis for collecting PNR data in the country, it has not established a database so far and is awaiting the EU directive to properly launch the process at national level.” (p. 128)

7. Rights of the child

“Beyond the specific CSRs [country-specific recommendations], reforms to child allowance systems took place in some Member States, including [...] and **Sweden**.” (p. 141)

“There were other positive developments at Member State-level. Several states adopted policy measures that increased resources for anti-cybercrime operations, including the [...] **Sweden**, and the United Kingdom. [...] The Swedish police created a national centre for IT crimes, doubling the number of police working on IT-related crimes. The centre is in charge of efforts targeting child sexual abuse material.” (p. 145)

“The **Swedish** Digitalisation Commission appointed a group of young experts aged seven to 18 to make up the ‘young commission’, which was active until December 2015. The Digitalisation Commission had the mission of analysing and monitoring progress on meeting Sweden’s goal of becoming a world leader in exploiting the opportunities of digitalisation. The young commission served as discussion partners and provided advice. At the closing meeting, the children created a list of “ten digital things to learn or understand before you become an adult”, which was handed over to the Minister for IT.” (p. 145)

“In **Sweden**, although there were no changes to the law, new guidelines concerning detention –including of young suspects – came into effect in 2015. The General Prosecutor’s guidelines regarding restrictions and long detention-periods aim to decrease the use of restrictions and make the prosecutor assess proportionality. The government also appointed an inquiry chair in 2015 to propose measures for reducing the use of detention and restrictions for children and young offenders.” (p. 148)

8. Access to justice including rights of crime victims

“**Sweden** proposed different ways of using authorised translators and interpreters more effectively in courts, such as – for example – using technical solutions more efficiently and extensively, improving judicial staff’s knowledge about interpretation matters, or enhancing administrative support.” (p. 164)

“In 2015, several EU Member States started or continued discussions on legislative and policy measures needed to transpose the directive. [...] and **Sweden**, for example, continued existing legislative processes or proposed new draft legislation.” (p. 165)

“Five EU Member States registered transposition of the Victims’ Rights Directive with the European Commission by 16 November 2015: the Czech Republic, Malta, Portugal, Spain and **Sweden**.” (p. 167)

“Finally, in **Sweden**, the Implementation of the Victims’ Directive Bill was approved and entered into force on 1 November 2015. The law amends the Code of Judicial Procedure to ensure that courts employ an interpreter; that documents are translated on demand; and that victims can demand notification about the time and place of court proceedings. The government also announced a package of measures to strengthen support for crime victims,

including by improving information provided to victims about the release of perpetrators, about available protection and care measures, and the individual safety assessment made by the police.” (p. 167)

“**Sweden** in 2015 increased the fee that must be paid to the Swedish Crime Victim Fund by anyone found guilty of a crime that carries a prison sentence – from SEK 500 (€53) to SEK 800 (€85). Authorities also further simplified the application form – introduced in 2014 – for applying for compensation for an injury related to a crime (see FRA’s 2013 Annual report, Section 9.2).” (p. 170)

9. Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

“Although this means that all but four (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece and **Sweden**) of the Member States that have ratified the CRPD have now appointed Article 33(2) bodies, concerns persist about the effectiveness of some of these monitoring mechanisms.” (p. 193)

Thematic Reports

Roma women in nine EU Member States (April 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/eumidis-ii-roma-women>

“According to Eurostat, in the EU the mean age at first marriage for women ranges from around 27 (e.g. in Bulgaria, Poland and Romania) to 33 or more years of age (e.g. in Spain and **Sweden**). For men, the corresponding figures are higher ranging from around 30 (e.g. in Bulgaria, Croatia, Lithuania and Poland) to peak at 36,5 in **Sweden**. The survey results show that on average many of the Roma women and men surveyed tend to marry at younger age, often below the age of 18. This contributes, among other factors, in undermining their chances to stay and continue education in order find decent work.” (p. 22)

Beyond the peak: challenges remain, but migration numbers drop (March 2019)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2019/migration-2018-review>

“Discrimination through racial profiling by police, border and security guards emerged as an issue in a number of Member States, including in Austria, Finland, Germany, Spain and **Sweden**. [...] In **Sweden**, the results of a qualitative study based on interviews with police officers, as well as individuals who have been subjected to ethnic profiling, show that ‘to be stopped frequently by the police produces a feeling of being treated as a potential perpetrator for no reason’”. (p. 14)

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism – Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU (December 2018)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/2nd-survey-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews>

“Samples over 1,000 respondents were obtained in Germany, the Netherlands and **Sweden**. For the remaining seven countries, the sample sizes ranged from 400 to 800 respondents.” (p. 8)

“Over 80 % of respondents in five countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Poland, and **Sweden**) saw antisemitism as ‘a very big’ or ‘a fairly big problem’ [...] A large majority of respondents in Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and **Sweden** saw racism as ‘a very big’ or ‘a fairly big problem’ in the country where they live (depending on the country, between 82 % and 91 % of the respondents hold this view).” (p. 15)

“The percentage of respondents indicating that antisemitism increased during the past five years is especially high (about 90 %) in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, **Sweden**, and the United Kingdom.” (p. 18)

“Regarding racism, a large majority of respondents (around 80 %) in **Sweden**, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Austria, and the Netherlands indicate that this has increased ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ over the past five years.” (p. 20)

“Germany, the United Kingdom and **Sweden** stand out with growing shares of respondents who say that antisemitism on the internet is on the increase (increase of 23, 21 and 19 percentage points, respectively, between 2012 and 2018).” (p. 24)

“Among the respondents who have seen or heard one or more of the negative statements about Jews in the 12 months prior to the survey, fewer respondents in the United Kingdom (29 %), Denmark (34 %) and **Sweden** (38 %) indicate public spaces as the context of the statements in comparison to [...]” (p. 28)

“Just over one third of respondents (38 %) avoid certain places in their local area or neighbourhood at least occasionally because they do not feel safe there as Jews. Higher proportions do this in Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, and **Sweden** (49 %, 49 %, 46 %, 45 %, and 44 %, respectively).” (p. 36)

“The highest proportions of respondents who at least occasionally avoid wearing, carrying or displaying these items were in France (82 %), Denmark (80 %), **Sweden** (78 %), and Germany (75 %).” (p. 37)

“Closer examination shows that, while over three quarters of respondents in Italy, Denmark, and Belgium (79 %, 78 %, and 75 %, respectively) consider government efforts to be adequate, this is not the case in **Sweden** and Poland (with 74 % and 64 %, respectively, indicating ‘probably’ or ‘definitely’ not).” (p. 40)

“However, three countries stand out with increased shares of respondents who say that they have considered leaving the country due to safety concerns in the past five years: Germany, **Sweden** and the United Kingdom (with increases of 19, 17 and 11 percentage points, respectively).” (p. 40)

“More than one third of respondents in Germany (41 %), Belgium (39 %) and the Netherlands (35 %), and close to one third of respondents in Poland, Spain (32 % each) and **Sweden** (30 %) experienced at least one type of antisemitic harassment in the 12 months before the survey.” (p. 46)

“In the case of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment, the proportions of victims who referred to antisemitic language during the incident range from 61 %–65 % in France, Denmark, Austria, and **Sweden**, to 72 %–79 % in Belgium, Hungary and Poland. That the respondent could be identified as Jewish was less often the case in incidents of antisemitic harassment in the Netherlands, Poland and Italy (ranges in between 43–48 %) than in France, the United Kingdom or **Sweden** (65 %–67 %).” (p. 53)

“The category ‘someone with a left-wing political view’ is observed among the three most frequently mentioned perceptions in Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, **Sweden** and the United Kingdom (it ranges from 21 % in France to 38 % in Italy).” (p. 54)

“Awareness of legislation prohibiting discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion when applying for a job is highest among respondents in the United Kingdom (92 %), **Sweden** (91 %) and France (90 %) (Figure 26).” (p. 66)

“National equality or human rights bodies were mentioned by 61 % of those who know of the existence of an authority or a support organisation, with higher proportions in **Sweden** (91 %), Hungary (79 %) and Poland (75 %).” (p. 66)

“Denmark aside, **Sweden**, Poland, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany show the highest proportions of respondents who say that they have heard non-Jewish persons suggesting that circumcision, traditional slaughter or both of these should not take place in the country, with over 70 % of respondents saying they are aware of such discussions.” (p. 69)

“In **Sweden**, 44 % of respondents said that a ban on traditional slaughter would be a problem for them as Jews, with 38 % in Poland sharing this view (Figure 29). A partial explanation for the results concerning **Sweden** may be that, unlike the other countries included in the survey, Sweden has banned traditional slaughter since 1937, although Jewish people there have been able to import traditionally slaughtered meat.” (p. 70)

Combating child poverty: an issue of fundamental rights (October 2018)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/child-poverty>

“The employment rate in the EU-28 was 71.1 % in 2016, with significant differences among Member States (from 81.2 % in **Sweden** to 56.2 % in Greece), according to the latest data.” (p. 31)

“[...] while flexible arrangements and part-time work are common in some Member States (Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and **Sweden**), these arrangements are still associated with lower pay, fewer promotion opportunities and reduced pension entitlements, resulting in a higher risk of poverty and fewer unemployment entitlements. In addition, women are more likely than men to opt for flexible arrangements to take care of children.” (p. 31)

“In **Sweden**, from the age of one year, all children are legally entitled to ECEC [early childhood education and care]. The municipality should be able to offer a child a place, within four months of a request, close to the child’s home. Since 1995, the Swedish Schools Inspectorate has had the power to take action against a municipality that does not meet this obligation. Supply meets demand in most municipalities (98 %), as reported by the government in 2013.” (p. 37)

Hate crime recording and data collection practice across the EU (June 2018)

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/hate-crime-recording>

“Potential hate crime could be flagged either by including a dedicated check box in the general crime recording system or, when not incorporated in the general crime recording system, using a separate system – such as a specific form for hate crimes. [...] In some Member States – for example, in Finland and **Sweden** – recorded cases are regularly reviewed to check how/if the hate crime flag is used.” (p. 22)

“**Working together to uncover the ‘dark figure’ of hate crime**

Bringing together information from law enforcement and civil society presents a more complete picture of the prevalence and impact of hate crime at the national level. Furthermore, CSO experiences and knowledge from direct work with victims can be drawn upon when deciding questions of crime survey design, including how to reach ‘hard to reach’ groups, such as people with disabilities or irregular migrants.
 Examples: **Sweden**, The Netherlands” (p. 26)

“Sweden

Legal framework

Chapter 29, Section 2(7) of the Swedish Criminal Code (CC) establishes a general aggravating circumstance that has to be given special consideration in assessing penal value of committed offences. It applies if the motive for the crime was to aggrieve a person, ethnic group or some other similar group of people on the basis of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, creed, sexual orientation or other similar circumstance. In the preparatory work for the provision, the lawmaker mentions transgender identity or expression as an example of ‘other similar circumstance’.

Chapter 16, Section 8 of the CC provides for the substantive offence of agitation against a population group, which is defined as threatening or expressing contempt for a national, ethnic or other such group of persons with reference to race, colour, national or ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation in a statement or other message which is spread. The provision prohibits the spreading of racist statements or communications not only in public but also within organisations, since court praxis has defined the spreading to encompass “more than just a few persons”.

Chapter 16, Section 9 of the CC sets out the criminal offence of unlawful discrimination, which is committed by business persons who in the conduct of their business discriminate against a person on grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation by not dealing with that person under the same terms and conditions that would normally be applied by the business person in the course of their business with other persons.

In November 2017, the Government presented a bill proposing legislative amendments aimed at affording transgender persons full protection under the hate crime legislation. The bill proposes transgender identity and transgender expression to be included specifically in the provision on aggravating circumstances when assessing the penal value (*straffskärpningsregeln*) and to be added to the provisions on agitation against a population group (*hets mot folkgrupp*), unlawful discrimination (*olaga diskriminering*) and in the provisions on public prosecution for insulting behaviour (*förolämpning*).

IGO observations and recommendations

<p>Observations & Recommendations by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with regard to recording and collecting data on hate crime, 2013-2017</p> <p>CERD/C/SWE/CO/19-21 (CERD, 2013) A/HRC/30/56/Add.2 (WG People of African Descent, 2015)</p>	<p>119. Afrophobic hate crimes should be presented in the annual reports from the National Council on Crime Prevention (Brå) as independent categories of hate crimes and not just merely as subcategories to xenophobic/racist hate crimes.</p> <p>11. [...] The State party should extend to all parts of the country the training given to the police, prosecutors and judges to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish hate crimes, in order to close the gap between reported incidents and convictions. The Committee reiterates its request that the State party introduce a common and clear definition of hate crime so that it is possible</p>
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	to track all such reported crimes through the justice system.
Observations & Recommendations by ECRI, in relation to recording and collecting data on hate crime, 2013-2017	n/a
Observation by OSCE/ ODIHR in relation to recording and collecting data on hate crime, 2016 OSCE/ODIHR hate crime reporting Sweden	Sweden has not reported information on sentenced hate crime cases to ODIHR.

Recording hate crime

In Sweden, the police does not have specific crime codes in the computer system for registering hate crimes, since any crime could be a hate crime.¹²⁹ The electronic police recording system includes a tick box, which is used by police officers to indicate a potential hate crime. In the process of ticking the box, a pop-up window comes up with the definition of what a hate crime is. The box also includes the link to web-based hate crime training materials for police officers.

Text on hate crime provided in a pop-up window in the police reporting system

[informal translation]

What is a hate crime?

Hate crime consists of:

agitation against a population group: Criminal code Ch. 16 § 8

unlawful discrimination: Criminal code Ch. 16 § 9

and all other crimes where a motive has been to aggrieve a person, a population group or another such group of persons because of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, creed, sexual orientation or another similar circumstance (as per the penalty enhancement rule in Criminal code Ch. 29 §2 point 7).

An example of another similar circumstance, as expressed in the penalty enhancement rule, could be transgender identity or expression. The victim does not need to belong to any of the protected groups listed in the penalty enhancement rule. It is sufficient that the perpetrator perceives that the victim belong to or represent such a group.

Flagging potential hate crimes is compulsory and integrated in the general crime reporting form. The reports are filed in the Rational Notification Routine (RAR) system. Flagging is not used to generate hate crimes statistics, however; for that purpose, a special data collection method is employed.

A guide on handling hate crime reports (including recording them) is available to all law enforcement officials (police officers, operators, investigators and all other categories within the police organisation) on the police intranet.

Data collection and publication

Hate crime data are collected by the Swedish national council for crime prevention (*Brå*), through digital keyword searches and manual examination of the narrative text included in police reports, regarding a number of specific crime categories. The search list contained 385 keywords in 2016, both derogatory words and phrases and describing words and phrases that could indicate a possible hate crime, for example “hate crime”, “fag”, “church”, “mosque”, “go back”, “his religion”, “her sexual orientation”. Data on hate crimes include defamation, hate

speech and discrimination crimes. Since 2012, the keyword search is applied to a 50 % sample of reports. Reports containing words and phrases that indicate a potential hate crime motive are examined manually by at least two different researchers. Reports considered to contain a hate crime motive contain details such as motive, location and relationship between offender and victim, coded in before producing population-level estimates, which compensates for the 50 % sample. These estimates subsequently make up the hate crime statistics. Up until 2016, the statistics were published annually (see Table 25), but will from now on be produced biannually in favour of other hate crime studies in the years in between.

The statistical data are disaggregated by the following bias motivations (year when included in the statistics):

- Xenophobia/racism (from onset, 1992)
 - Afrophobia (presented separately from 2008, always been included in xenophobia/racism)
 - Anti-Roma (presented separately from 2008, always been included in xenophobia/racism)
- Islamophobia (2006)
- Anti-Semitism (from onset 1992)
- Christianophobia (2008)
- Otherwise anti-religious (2008)
- Sexual orientation
 - Homophobia (from onset, 1992)
 - Biphobia (2008)
 - Heterophobia (2008)
- Transphobia (2008)

Cooperation with civil society organisations

The Swedish police hold regular national and local consultative forums with civil society and key stakeholders to coordinate its action against hate crimes. Organisations working on hate crimes are consulted about their perspective on hate crime trends, incidents of particular concern, evidence of new types of modus/ perpetrator and other issues. This approach has helped the police identify new potential bias indicators and trends. At the local level, police hate crime units in particular may inform NGOs about the number of cases they deal with, or have recorded. In turn, NGOs may share available information about incidents with the police, even if not collected systematically.

Brå consults civil society when proposing substantial changes to the statistics. For example, when changing the frequency of their reporting, when adding new motives or when suggesting terminological changes.” (all on pp. 86-88)

Challenges facing civil society organisations working on human rights in the EU (January 2018)

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/challenges-facing-civil-society-orgs-human-rights-eu>

“Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and **Sweden** have criminalised *lèse majesté*. [...] and **Sweden** criminalise defamation of foreign heads of state.” (p. 24)

“Promoting sustainable forms of funding

In **Sweden**, the commission of the “Palette for a strong civil society” has proposed introducing more long-term funding and increasing the funding of non-profit organisations themselves rather than their projects – that is, changing from project funding to core funding. The report has been submitted for consideration by the government.” (p. 33)

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey - Main results (December 2017)

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/eumidis-ii-main-results>

“Most respondents describe perpetrators of hate-motivated harassment (71 %) and violence (64 %) as someone from the ‘majority population’. However, 23 % of victims of hate-motivated harassment say the perpetrator was from another ethnic minority, and 8 % say that the perpetrator had the same ethnic or immigrant background as themselves. This proportion was much higher for respondents with Sub-Saharan African background in France (35 %) and **Sweden** (44 %), [...]” (pp. 16-17)

“Immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Turkey (TUR) mainly indicate two grounds of discrimination – ethnic origin or immigrant background (ranging from 17 % in Germany to 41 % in the Netherlands) and religion or religious beliefs (ranging from 7 % in **Sweden** to 27 % in the Netherlands).” (p. 28)

“However, they are also more likely to experience discrimination on the job, with respondents of Sub-Saharan African background in Luxembourg, **Sweden**, and Ireland indicating the highest discrimination rates in the 12 months before the survey (21 %, 17 % and 17 %, respectively).” (p. 36)

“For example, respondents who feel discriminated against on average tend to report more often in Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and **Sweden**.” (p. 42)

“While one out of four victims from this group [immigrants from Turkey] reported or made a complaint about the latest incident of discrimination in **Sweden** (22 %), Denmark (21 %), and the Netherlands (21 %), only every tenth did so in Germany (11 %).” (p. 44)

“Independent of their origin, respondents in **Sweden**, the Netherlands, and France show similar levels of awareness [of organisations that offer support or advice to discrimination victims in their country of residence], which are on average higher than in other countries. Specifically, in **Sweden**, for immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa, 44 %, and from Turkey, 35 %; [...]” (p. 50)

“The highest awareness of anti-discrimination legislation is found among respondents with Turkish background in **Sweden** (82 %), [...]” (p. 52)

“Denmark, Germany and **Sweden**, immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa indicated experiencing hate-motivated harassment 10-13 percentage points more often than immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Turkey interviewed in these three countries.” (p. 58)

“Immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa were most likely to experience incidents of hate-motivated harassment perpetrated by individuals from another ethnic minority: 31 %, compared to the average of 23 % among all respondents. Immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa in France (35 %) and **Sweden** (44 %) were particularly likely to indicate that this was the case.” (p. 62)

“Among the stopped respondents with Sub-Saharan African background, the highest rates of perceived discriminatory police stops were indicated in Italy, Austria, and **Sweden**. [...] half of male respondents in Austria, Italy, **Sweden**, and Denmark (59 %, 56 %, 54 %, and 49 %, respectively) believed that the last stop was because of their immigrant or ethnic origin.” (p. 71)

“A large gender gap can be observed, with women less often engaged in paid work, across target groups and countries – except for persons with Sub-Saharan African background in Austria and Portugal, persons from Turkey in **Sweden** [...]” (p. 77)

“Among respondents from Turkey in **Sweden**, one in five were asylum seekers upon arrival (19 %); the percentage of asylum seekers among this target group is much smaller in the other EU Member States covered in this report.” (p. 80)

“First-generation immigrants from Turkey and North Africa in the Netherlands indicate being nationals in the largest shares (82 %), followed by immigrants from Turkey in **Sweden** (75 %), [...]” (p. 84)

“Strong differences between men and women are observed among Sub-Saharan African immigrants in Finland, Denmark, Ireland and **Sweden** – with women indicating they are nationals at higher rates than men.” (p. 84)

“Among respondents from Turkey with citizenship of the country of residence, the percentages of dual citizens range from about 1 % in Austria to 45 % in **Sweden**.” (p. 85)

“In France, Portugal and **Sweden**, the shares of second-generation respondents with at least upper secondary education (89 %, 56 %, 87 %, respectively) even exceed the shares reported for the general population living in those countries (75 %, 47 % and 79 % respectively).” (pp. 89-90)

“In comparison, respondents with Turkish background indicate having sufficient language proficiency at lower rates (60% – 75%) – with the exception of **Sweden**, where 83 % of respondents from this group report having ‘good’ to mother-tongue-level proficiency in Swedish (Figure 38).” (p. 92)

“Levels of trust in the police are the same or higher than the general population’s in Belgium, Austria and Germany, and slightly lower in Denmark, **Sweden** and the Netherlands.” (p. 100)

“For example, in **Sweden**, [...], between 30 % and 59 % of the total population indicate not having any such close friends [with a different ethnic background].” (p. 107)

Together in the EU - Promoting the participation of migrants and their descendants (March 2017)

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/migrant-participation>

“Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Poland and **Sweden** had no specific integration action plan for third-country nationals in 2015. Sweden has adopted integration policy goals aimed at the entire population, specifying targeted interventions for third-country nationals with permanent residence status (*nyanlända*).” (p. 24)

“FRA’s research found little evidence of specific references to gender in national action plans or strategies on migrant integration, although a number of positive initiatives and good practices were identified – for example, in [...], **Sweden** and the United Kingdom, focusing on immigrant and/or refugee women.” (p. 30)

“Muslim Women’s Sports Association

The Muslim Women’s Sports Association aims to promote sports, exercise, health and solidarity in **Sweden**. It operates in an Islamic spirit; members practise Islamic rules and appropriate behaviour regarding clothing, manners and mutual respect. The association

arranges swimming lessons and opportunities for swimming at local public swimming pools, in accordance with members' preferences for using the space." (p. 31)

"Eleven Member States ([...], **Sweden**) monitor progress in migrant integration outcomes regularly through official integration indicators, mostly recently adopted and referring to all or most of the Zaragoza indicators." (p. 35)

"In **Sweden**, several studies conducted in recent years have shown increasing inequality in education; school segregation may be the result of a school's free choice or because of the migrant populations' housing patterns and their overrepresentation in relation to their proportion of the general population in certain areas." (p. 40)

"FRA's research found that the educational policies or strategies for primary and/ or secondary education of 17 Member States [including **Sweden**] include references to cultural diversity, as a guiding principle or as part of curricular subjects." (p. 41)

"In several Member States, trade unions have well-established policies to reach out and support migrant workers – for example, in [...] **Sweden**, Slovenia and the United Kingdom." (p. 47)

"There are important differences between Member States: while "the proportion of native-born offspring of immigrants who work in the public services sector in Germany is less than one in ten, it is as high as one-third in countries like France, the Netherlands and **Sweden**"." (p. 48)

"The research found that only a few Member States, such as Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia and **Sweden**, allow all residents with limited language proficiency to attend courses." (p. 51)

"All Member States require a certain level of language proficiency for acquiring citizenship. FRA's research found that, except in Ireland and **Sweden**, knowledge of the country's official language is tested when one applies for a certain legal status (e.g. long-term residence status or citizenship) allowing the same access to entitlements and rights as country nationals." (p. 51)

"Although only six Member States (the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands and **Sweden**) have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level, 20 Member States actually have similar legal provisions allowing third-country nationals to vote at least in local elections." (p. 55)

"At local level, 12 countries provide access to voting rights for third-country nationals ([...] Slovenia and **Sweden**). Of these countries, eight [including **Sweden**] also allow third-country nationals to stand as candidates in local elections." (p. 56)

Rights of suspected and accused persons across the EU: translation, interpretation and information (November 2016)

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/rights-suspected-and-accused-persons-across-eu-translation-interpretation-and>

"In **Sweden**, for example, interpretation must be provided in line with the rule providing that arrested or detained persons are not obliged to remain for questioning for longer than six hours. If it is particularly important for them to be available for further questioning, they are obliged to stay for a further six hours. Persons under 15 years of age are not obliged to remain for more than three hours – plus a further three hours if of extreme importance for the investigation. According to a government inquiry on transposing the directive into Swedish

law, court or police interrogations are sometimes postponed if a need for an interpreter cannot momentarily be satisfied because of a lack of interpreters or a lack of sufficiently qualified interpreters.” (p. 35)

“The remaining five Member States bound by the directive – Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, Malta and **Sweden** (as well as Denmark, to which the directive does not apply) – do not appear to list essential documents in their legislation.” (p. 36)

“Similarly, in **Sweden**, in practice, it appears that written translations of documents are rarely done. The rule is that documents are translated orally.” (p. 40)

“In **Sweden**, a government inquiry on implementing Directive 2010/64/EU established that such interpretation is provided on the basis of analogical applications of existing provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure – such as the legal counsel’s duty to prepare the defence through consultation with the suspect or accused person, which cannot be fulfilled without an interpreter if the person does not speak Swedish.” (p. 41)

“In **Sweden**, it is up to the defence to contract a translator and then make a reasoned request for remuneration to the competent court.” (p. 43)

“Using the same state-appointed interpreters to interpret both during police interrogations and to interpret communications between a defendant and their lawyer may present a conflict of interest, and may conflict with the principle of confidentiality of client-counsel communications. [...] The practice of extending the services of an officially appointed interpreter to also fulfil this role exists in a number of Member States, including Croatia, Ireland, and **Sweden**.” (p. 44)

“Although Directive 2010/64/EU does not require Member States to establish a register, Figure 4 shows that 17 Member States bound by the directive have provided for one in their laws: [...] and **Sweden**.” (p. 45)

“In three Member States (Estonia, the Netherlands, and **Sweden**), it [the register] is maintained by various other public agencies or bureaus.” (pp. 45-46)

“Laws in [...] and **Sweden** allow the police and courts to use unregistered interpreters and translators.” (p. 47)

“Eight Member States (Austria, Croatia, Finland, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and **Sweden**) require interpreters and translators to pass a specialised exam before registration.” (pp. 48-49)

“Improving examinations of interpreters and translators

In **Sweden**, a rigorous examination process is in place, which includes a written examination, oral questions and a role-playing exercise. The exam tests the candidates’ ability to accomplish a technically satisfying interpretation with good information transfer, meaning that the information passed between two parties is not lost in translation. Candidates are also expected to show that they are well-acquainted with the professional code of ethics and have a broad knowledge of terminology regarding social matters, health care and everyday laws.” (p. 49)

“Research shows that, in three Member States – the Netherlands, Romania and **Sweden** – police officers who speak the required language are used in practice.” (p. 51)

“Developing policies on interpretation to ensure high quality services in courts

In **Sweden**, the District Court of Södertörn established a policy on using interpretation services following a series of 20 focus interviews asking specialised legal interpreters for suggestions on how the court could help interpreters produce high-quality work, in combination with the

applicable legal provisions for interpreters and the guidelines for good interpreting practice.” (p. 55)

“Some Member States’ laws explicitly link the obligation to inform someone of their rights with issuing a specific written decision or written notification. This is the case, for example, in [...] **Sweden**.” (p. 64)

“Some national laws have more specific provisions, which require authorities to provide this information [on the accusation] in or together with the official decision or notification about suspicion or accusation (unless the person is arrested before this) – such as [...] **Sweden**.” (p. 68)

“As for additional rights covered in some Member States’ letters of rights, these include, for example, the rights to challenge one’s treatment and/or detention conditions in [...], **Sweden** and the United Kingdom (England and Wales and Northern Ireland).” (p. 74)

“Other Member States have expanded upon the rights in Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA to include rights such as the right to silence (France, the Netherlands, and **Sweden**), the right to inform a third party (France, Poland, the Netherlands, Latvia and **Sweden**), the right to food or drink (**Sweden**), and the right to be examined by a doctor (France, the Netherlands, Poland and **Sweden**).” (p. 76)

“In **Sweden**, all arrested or detained persons have an unconditional right, on their own request, to be made aware of the ‘circumstances’ that form the basis of the decision to arrest or detain them. The right in itself cannot be limited, neither with respect to the investigation of the crime nor on the grounds of secrecy, and the prosecutor is obliged to state these ‘circumstances’ when making an application for arrest or detention. This, however, does not necessarily amount to giving the suspect a right to copies of the investigation material; such access is determined in each individual case. According to the Swedish Government, to comply with the requirements of the directive, it suffices to make material available to detainees. However, the lack of detailed knowledge of the documents could in practice lead to undue restrictions of the right to challenge the legality of detention.” (p. 84)

“In **Sweden**, all steps taken by national authorities during pre-trial criminal investigations are registered in the Swedish police’s computerised investigation routine (DUR – *datoriserad utredningsrutin*), but the signature of the suspected/accused person is not required. The system takes account of all steps in a criminal investigation, including when the Letter of Rights is provided.” (p. 87)