



Folkhälsomyndigheten  
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

# Updates on the Swedish situation on health equity

– commitments, priorities and initiatives at  
national, regional and local level

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# New Government – new priorities



# The Declaration of the new Government – in relation to health

**Stated by the Prime Minister on October 3rd 2014:**

➤ **Strong equity focus**

– A National Commission on Health Equity is appointed.

➤ **Strong focus on gender equality**

– “A feminist Government”.



Gabriel Wikström,  
Minister for Health Care, Public  
Health and Sport

# Political commitments for public health and health equity

**The overarching national goal for public health is to create societal conditions for a good health on equal terms for the whole population.**

“The long term goal for the Government’s public health politics is that, within a generation close the health gaps. The Government wish to create possibilities in society that enables a good and equal health development for the population as a whole”.

“The public health politics is also aiming at providing tools for people to improve their own health /../”.

<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/14847/a/251402>

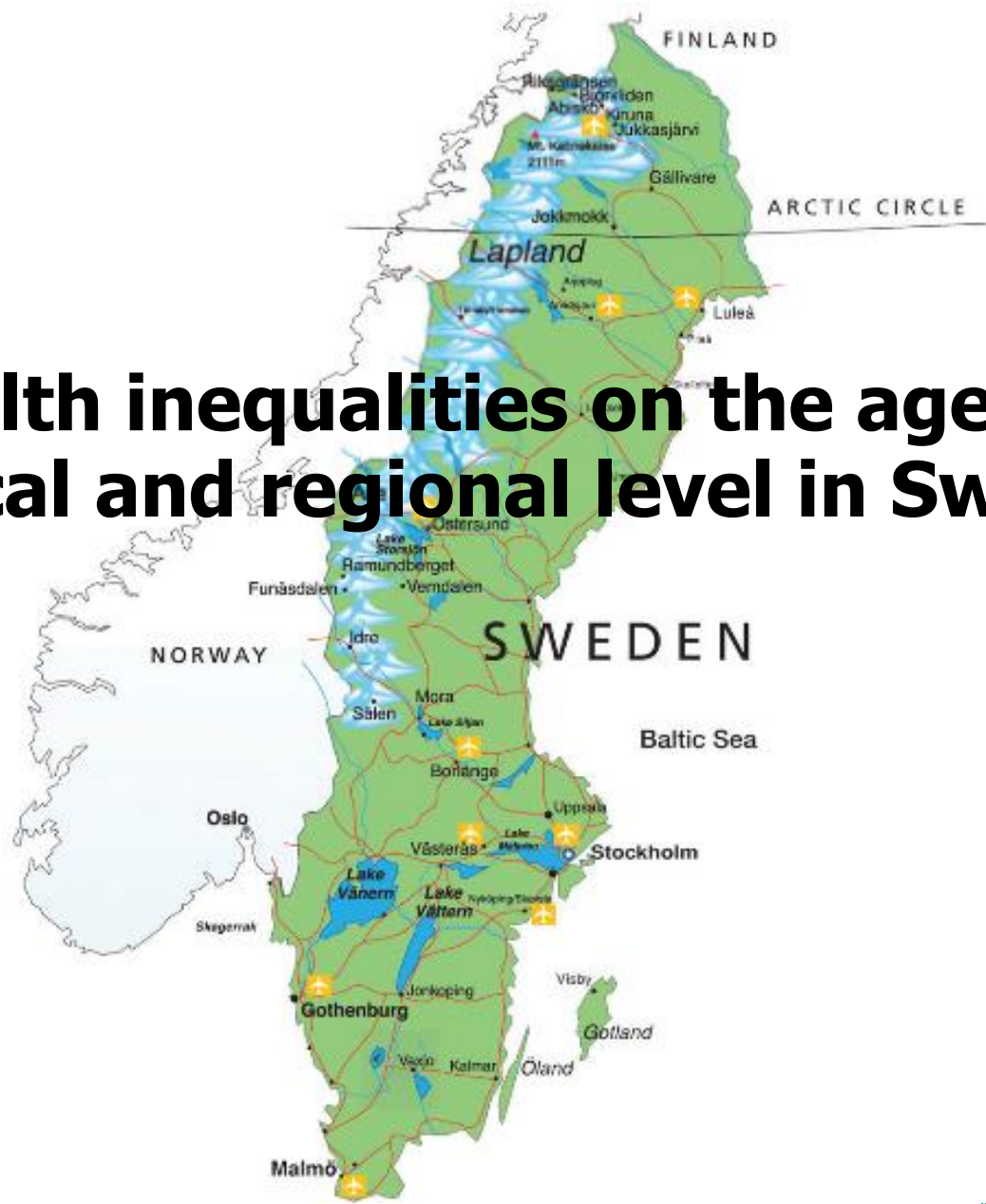
# National Commission on Health Equity

## Starting points:

- Broad multisectoral approach – involving the whole government.
- Focus on health disparities among different socioeconomic groups in society.
- Disparities among men and women shall specifically be taken into account.
- The Commission shall come up with suggestions for short-term, middle-long- and long term actions to reduce health inequalities in society.
- The Commission's final report will be published in May 2017.



# Health inequalities on the agenda at local and regional level in Sweden



# Incentives for commitments and actions on health inequalities

- *"The average health situation in Sweden is getting better and better. This shows that efforts that have been implemented in the welfare sector in Sweden and its local authorities, county councils and regions have been successful in many respects. Despite this improvement however, Sweden, like its Scandinavian neighbour countries, is faced with the challenge that health inequalities are growing between groups in the community with respect to gender, socioeconomic factors, ethnicity, etc."*
- **"A well developed public health infrastructure"** – the importance of the national public health policy 'Goals for public health' (2003).
- **Initiatives on health inequalities** at regional and local level part of the "social sustainability agenda".
- **An important point of departure** - The WHO report *Closing the gap in a generation*, published in 2008.

# The Social Sustainability Forum

- **The “Joint action of social sustainability”** (2011–2013) developed into **“The Social Sustainability Forum”** in cooperation between the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and the Public Health Agency.
- The Forum promotes health and welfare through exchanging knowledge and experience, in order to reduce health inequalities.
- Open to elected representatives, public servants, researchers in municipalities, county councils, the State, the business sector and NGOs.
- <http://www.motesplatsocialhallbarhet.se/motesplats-social-hallbarhet/>





## Commissions on Health Equity

- A.** The Commission for a Social Sustainable Malmö (2013);
- B.** The Region Västra Götaland – Action Plan for Health Equity (2013);
- C.** The Commission of Region Östergötland (2014).

*The processes of the three works are being evaluated – report in August.*

**Coming and ongoing work:** City of Gothenburg; Stockholm; the County of Dalarna; Örebro County Council.

*The World's healthiest citizens by 2020 – vision set up by Västerbotten County Council in collaboration with other actors in civil society.*





**Thank you!**

