



30TH BSPC: FOURTH SESSION

Addresses and reports

Speaker: ***Ms Anna Mannfalk***, *responsible for cooperation public sector – Civil Society/NGOs, Vice Chair of Region Skåne Health Care Committee*

Mr Chairman,

My name is Anna Mannfalk and I hold the position of deputy Governor in Region Skåne (Scania), the most southern region of 21 in Sweden. My main focus is Health-Care issues and in the work with enhancing the health of our population, close cooperation with other organizations is vital and necessary. This include municipalities, who in Sweden have responsibility for the education up to but not including university, the care of the elderly and the integration of immigrants after an introductory period of 24 months. Equally important is cooperation with the civil society organizations as Mr Anders Bergström noted.

Region Scania is at the forefront with a structured mutual agreement to ensure that local nonprofit organizations have the opportunity establish and develop their operations. Together we strive for the goals of our Regional Development Strategy. I have the honor to be the Chairperson of the steering committee of the agreement-which also involves the regional representatives of the Swedish Government. I cherish this mission and thank you for the possibility to address you all today and appreciate that our work is mentioned in your final report.

The important and outstanding work of the NGO´s in our region could be classified in three categories;

1. The forming of Opinions

The art of communication and reaching isolated communities (sometimes in the center of a big city) with information is often done better by NGOs than official authorities. Many groups have experience of hostile and corrupt authorities and the lack of trust reflect how the information is received. The local football club, church, the Red Cross, LGBT -organizations or shelters for homeless have gained that trust and can therefore communicate more easily. [One programme is NAD, which emphasizes cooperation with civil society organizations in order to facilitate social networking and language training, among other things.](#)

Lately we have been able to reach communities both with information of the Covid19 – disease and promote vaccination through these channels.

2. Category two -Providing services

A number of organizations provide regular health care services. The City Mission of Malmö employ a trained nurse who can offer examinations and when needed follow the person to further medical care. Others offer support to persons with mental issues and facilitate contacts with psychiatric care and the social authorities. These services are mostly financed through IOP (non-profit public partnership) which gives both parties a longer planning horizon than yearly grants. We also explore the opportunity to use the possibility for targeting NGOs in the EU rules for public procurement. During the Covid19- pandemic vaccination of homeless people and migrants without proper papers have been performed by NGOs.

3. Category three Innovation

The non-profit organizations are more innovative and quicker to action than large organizations like Region Skåne. This was evident in 2015 when Ngo's met immigrants at train stations and opened shelters as tens of thousands of migrants daily crossed the borders to Sweden in Skåne.

When the disease of Covid19 struck Europe and the rest of the world, the situation was quite different. The tools that were normally used for crisis – human warmth, food and shelter were ruled out due to fear of spreading the virus. A majority of the volunteers were themselves at an age where they should isolate themselves and stay safe at home. On top of that the several governments shut the borders trapping people. Being a part of a common job-market with Copenhagen this had consequences. During the spring of 2020 the non-profit organizations had to find new ways to be able to continue their activities. Region Skåne inquired early on what needs had to be met in order to start up digital tools for social, physical or cultural activities and have been able to help finance some. **Now we need to find ways to break the isolation.**

What are our other challenges for the future? Skåne has a relatively young population but a lower employment rate than other urban regions in Sweden. This leads to segregation and polarization. We are involved in projects aiming to test new models for cooperation enabling NGOs to take part in the planning and implementation of operations leading to social sustainability. By joint efforts we can attract more knowledge and larger funding and hopefully reach better results.

Thank you for listening.