



Annual report for 2015 from the Swedish network

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Background and aims of Swednet

Swednet was established October 26, 1997, after many years of being an informal network of educational developers in higher education. In 2003 the network was formalized to be an organized association. The association shall affirm the diversity of professional and academic perspectives and different approaches in education.

The aims for Swednet are to:

- encourage educational development in higher education
- promote collaboration and exchange of experiences on educational development in higher education
- strengthen the identity and promote professional development among people engaged in educational development in the higher education area.

Members and board

The network association has about 125 paying members from 29 universities around Sweden and the number is slowly increasing. The membership fee is SEK 1000/year and Swednet's economy is good.

The board consists of 6 members and has monthly online meetings and an annual 2 days planning meeting face-to-face. Current members of the board are:

- Mona Fjellström, Umeå University (Chair)
- Anna-Karin Högfeldt, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)(Treasurer)
- Cecilia Almlöv, Swedish University of Agriculture (Secretary)
- Lars Uhlin, Karolinska Institutet
- Åse Nygren, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH)
- Jeanette Sjöberg, Halmstad University

Network activities 2015/2016

Swednet's operations in brief:

- Annual inspiration day (January)
- Annual Conference with Annual Meeting (May)
- Membership recruitment and management of membership fees
- E-learning initiatives / cooperation with other networks
- Survey to Swednet members
- Involve more members in Swednet's activities
- Continued work on developing the new website
- National cooperation with SFS and SUHF on various issues
- International cooperation through, among other things, Nordic-Baltic Network for Educational Developers
- National course for educational developers
- Development of a common Nordic-Baltic Competency framework for educational developers

Annual inspiration Day for Swednet members:

- January 2015 at Lund University: Theme for the day was "*Educational development through a socio-cultural perspective - micro cultures, leadership and organization*" (discussion based on two dissertations: Torgny Roxå and Katarina Mårtensson)
- January 2016 at Uppsala University: The day consisted of two themes "*Active student participation in educational development*" and "*Networking and collaboration within Swednet*"

Annual Conference/Meeting

- May 2015 at Halmstad university: The theme of the conference was "*Innovation driven Educational Development*"
- May 2016 at Luleå Technical University: the days focused on mainly two themes: "*Dialogues for educational development*" and "*New national recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications*"

Building of a new website for Swednet

The new website contains information about Swednet organization, national and international conferences, courses, publications and resources and contact information. Most information is in Swedish (<http://www.swednetwork.se>)

Member Recruitment

The association sees a slowly growing membership. Efforts to recruit more members are done partly through the new website where it is possible to sign up as a member and to follow posts up-to-date information. Membership recruitment is also carried out at national educational development activities and conferences.

Survey to members about Swednet's operations and activities

In order to continue developing Swednet and offer activities, resources and meeting places that are interesting for our members, an inventory has been carried out during 2015/2016. The results of the inventory will be presented at the Annual Conference and in an article.

Course for educational developers

A national course for educational developers has been carried out during 2016. The course is based on the participants (16) own HE development projects and the purpose is to *develop the ability to proactively and scientifically grounded contribute to HE development at their own university*. During the course they develop knowledge and understanding of HE development, change management and their role in the organization. They also have the opportunity to reflect on their own roles and attitudes, as well as exchange experiences with colleagues who also work with HE development. The course is financed by Swednet and the participants.

National and international collaboration

Networks and working groups related to and supported by Swednet

One important aim of Swednet is to support collaboration and networking between educational developers and associated networks, working groups etc. The following networks and activities are supported economically by Swednet: (annual reports are available)

- Network for doctoral supervisor educators (NFU)
- National/Nordic network for Problem-based learning ([PBLnet](#))
- Stockholm/Uppsala University network (SUUN)
- Swednet West
- Vilår (Network for Work Integrated Learning)
- The journal "[Högre utbildning](#)" (Higher Education)

The Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF)

In 2015 Swednet were represented, through the Chair Mona Fjellström and Åsa Lindberg-Sand Lund University, in a SUHF Working group on *Teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher*. Since 2011, when the Swedish Higher Education Act was altered, the SUHF Recommendations have been the only national framework for academic teaching qualifications. They have played an important role in promoting mobility and national consensus on basic requirements for academic teachers. A revision was important to ensure that the recommendations reflect today's needs and existing regulations at Swedish higher education institutions. [New national recommendations](#) was decided on in May 2016.

Swedish National Union of Students (SFS)

Swednet has for many years had a continuous dialog with SFS. In 2015, this year the collaboration with SFS mainly occurred within SUHF Working group on *Teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher*, see above.

Collaboration with other national networks

In 2014 Swednet initiated a discussion with national networks for e-learning/information technology in HE to seek possible collaboration for joint activities for members as well as strategic work nationally. During 2015/2016, continued efforts have been made and a working group has been set up to find ways forward to enhance collaboration between national networks.

Nordic-Baltic Network for Educational Development

During the meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, November 2015, the network continued the work on a common Competency framework for educational developers in the Nordic-Baltic countries. The competency framework will provide a basis for recruitment, training, salary revisions, portfolios and possibly a system to assess "excellent educational developers"
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152124738192599/>)

