

Annual report 2016 from the Swedish network

First of all

Mona Fjellströms second period as chair ended in May 2017 and Patricia Staaf, Malmö University was elected as new chair for the period May 2017-May 2019. Patricia Staaf is director of The Centre for Teaching and Learning at Malmö University. She is a lecturer in Swedish as a Second Language and has a degree of Licentiate of arts. For many years, she has been engaged in the work of Widening Participation, both at institutional and national level, which is what led to a deeper interest in Higher Education Pedagogy and Educational Enhancement. She has also held management assignments with staff responsibility within higher education and in that role experienced the challenge of recognizing pedagogical excellence within Academia. Contact: patricia.staaf@mah.se

Inspiration Day 2016

On January 12th, the annual inspiration day for Swednet's members was held. Uppsala University arranged a day with the theme *Active Student Participation for Educational Development* as well as *Networking and Collaboration within Swednet*. Colin Bryson and Ruth Furlonger, Newcastle University, and representatives of Uppsala University's project "Further development of active student participation at Uppsala University" presented their work.

Collaboration on e-learning issues

A Swednet e-learning group began to form during the year. The group consists of 10-15 people from different universities and with an interest in enhanced collaboration on e-learning issues. At a few online meetings and in conjunction with NU2016 (Network and Education bi-annual conference), questions were discussed about e-learning and possible strategies for collaboration and skills development. The work during the year has specifically resulted in a joint Swednet/ITHU (IT in Higher Education) annual conference 2017 and close cooperation between Swednet's board and ITHU's steering committee. Lars Uhlin is now a member of ITHU's steering committee.

Annual Conference 2016 with annual general meeting

In May 2016, the Annual Conference was held with the AGM at Luleå University of Technology. The overall theme was "Influence Educational Development". Keynote was Tom Tiller, University of Tromsø, who spoke of *Learning Cultures in Development - from concept to grip*, and Maria Häll, Luleå University of Technology and Sunet (Sweden University computer Network), who talked about *A strategy for ICT-based support for higher education institutions*. A large part of the first day was devoted to working with various challenges and needs encountered by pedagogical developers in their daily lives.

International cooperation

ICED Council meeting and ICED Conference 2016

On 22-25 November, the ICED Council and ICED Conference 2016 were conducted in Cape Town, South Africa. Swednet was represented by Mona Fjellström and Lars Uhlin both presenting own development work during the conference.

Nordic-Baltic Network in Educational Development

Nordic-Baltic Network in Higher Education Development held its annual meeting at the University of Tromsø on 21-22 March 2017. The theme this year was *Who are we and who do we want to be? Academic developers as course providers, brokers, innovators or educational development, free or*



just acting as the extended arm for the leadership? Around 40 educational developers from the Nordic and Baltic countries came to the meeting. Åse Nygren, representing Swednet, presented the course *Strategic Educational Development* that Swednet ran during 2016-2017 (see below). Katarina Winka presented a report on institutional educational qualification systems in Sweden. Next year's meeting will be held at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark.

Inventory of members' thoughts and suggestions about Swednet's activities

During the year, the board conducted a survey that invented our members' wishes and needs for activities and information. The results of the survey showed that Swednet's operations in several areas, such as dissemination of information, networking and competence development, respond to the needs and expectations of the members. The inventory also illustrates how the association can further develop the activities that are most important to the members. Some issues raised include further improved dissemination of information, more skills development activities and a National Educational Development Fund.

Work on Swednet's website <http://www.swednetwork.se/>

Swednet has continued to develop its website in 2016, focusing on topicality, relevance and service. The information on the website should be relevant, relevant and should provide a good service for our members and others who are interested in our business. It is now possible to subscribe to the current flow, which has received a good response from our members.

Cooperation with national actors

In April 2016, the Association of Swedish Higher Education adopted a new national *Recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher and on mutual recognition (In English)*. A working group including Mona Fjellström, Swednet, has developed the recommendation. Mona Fjellström presented the recommendation and the thoughts behind it at the ICED conference in Cape Town in November.

Cooperation with The National Student Unions (SFS) has largely taken place in the context of the work on SUHF's new recommendation. During late autumn 2016, SFS was also invited to participate in a working group initiated by Swednet. The task is to drive the issue of a national body with the task of supporting higher education development nationally (a National Educational Development Fund). The working group, consisting of researchers, educational developers, student representatives and a member from the Association of Swedish Higher Education, had its first meeting early 2017.

Course in Strategic Educational Development for Educational Developers

The course, which started in March 2016, comprises a total of 5 weeks of attendance. It had two start-up days in Umeå, a full-time meeting in Malmö in connection with the NU2016 Conference and two closing days in Stockholm in connection with Swednet's annual inspiration day. In between, online meetings of 2 hours have taken place in smaller groups approximately once a month. The central learning activity of the course has been a strategic project, anchored in the participant's own academic context. Fifteen course participants completed the course and their project reports will be posted on Swednet's website. Teachers were Mona Fjellström, Umeå University Torgny Roxå, Faculty of engineering Lund University, Katarina Mårtensson, Lund University and Maja Elmgren, Uppsala University.



The Journal Högre utbildning (Higher Education)

During the year, the editorial board has been expanded and now consists of Marit Allern (University of Tromsø), Lars Geschwind (KTH), Kim J. Herrmann (Aarhus University), Lisbeth Lundahl, (Umeå University) and Ulla Riis (Uppsala University). A study of the magazine's publishing and authors is conducted through a survey sent to all published authors. Preliminary results were presented at NU2016 in Malmö, when the editors organized a special session inviting writers, reviewers and former editors. In connection with NU2016, the editors had a writing retreat financed by Swednet.

The journal has since the beginning used the OJS (Open Journal Systems) publication system. In 2016, a discussion was initiated with NOASP publisher, Nordic Open Access Scholarly. An agreement has been concluded in spring 2017. During 2017, the journal is financed through co-financing of several universities. Swednet also contributes with funding. The plan is to get a publishing grant 2018.

Hot topics

- Continued work and national cooperation on educational qualification systems
- Equivalent requirements for teaching qualifications at all Swedish HE institutions
- How to support and stimulate higher education research
- Strategic development of e-learning in HE
- Further development of inclusive and student-centered higher education

Patricia Staaf, Chair Swednet

Mona Fjellström, former chair and Swednet member