

Swedish Local Self Government



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Instrument of government

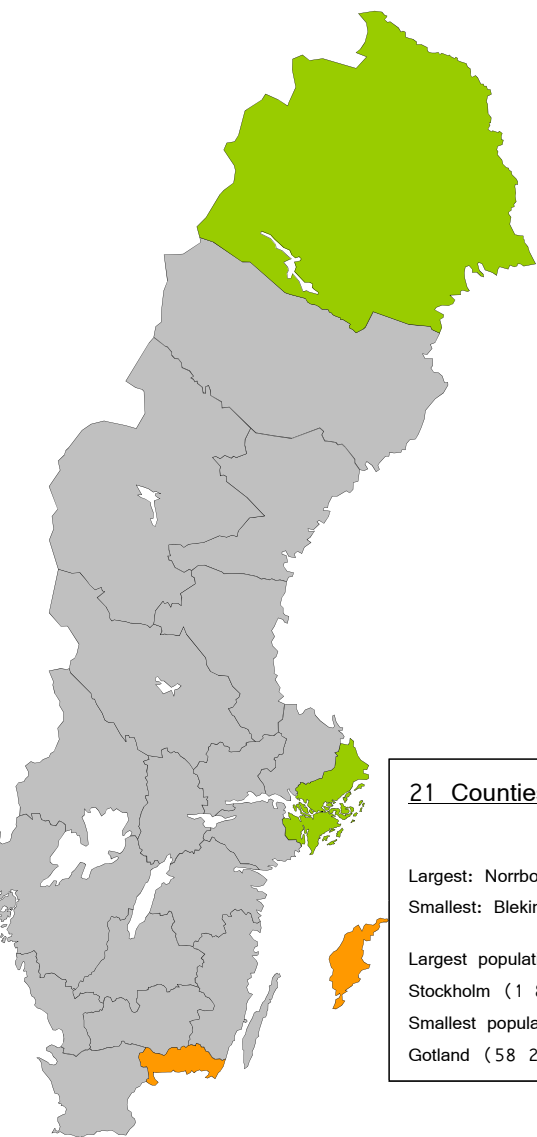


Art 1.

- Swedish democracy (...) shall be realized through a representative and parliamentary policy and *through local self-government.*

Art 2.

- Sweden has municipalities and county councils. The decision making power in these local authorities is exercised by elected assemblies.
- The local authorities may levy taxes in order to perform their tasks.



21 Counties

Largest: Norrbotten (98 911 km²)

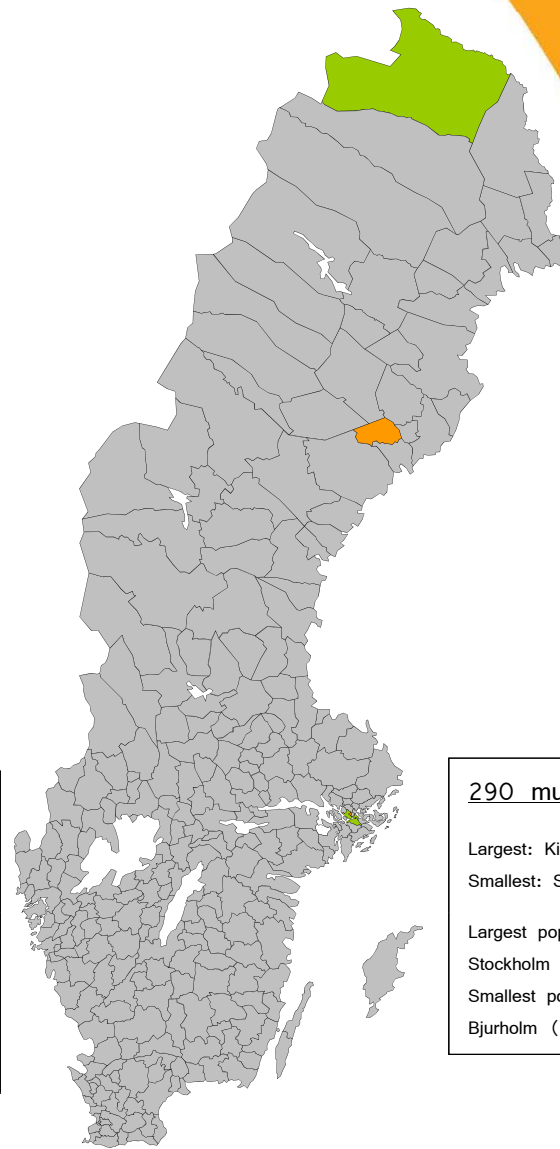
Smallest: Blekinge (2 941 km²)

Largest population:

Stockholm (1 860 872 inh.)

Smallest population:

Gotland (58 254 inh.)



290 municipalities

Largest: Kiruna (19 447 km²)

Smallest: Sundbyberg (9 km²)

Largest population:

Stockholm (761 721 inh.)

Smallest population:

Bjurholm (2 575 inh.)

The Public Sector in Sweden



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and Regions

Swedish citizens

National
Parliament (riksdag)

Government

County
Councils (landsting)

County administrative
boards
(länsstyrelser)

Municipalities
(kommuner)

Division of responsibilities

- **State**

- foreign policy, public order, higher education and research, labour market, social insurance and transfer payments

- **County Councils**

by law

- health and medical care, (regional development)

on voluntary basis

- support to cultural activities, public transport

- **Municipalities**

by law

- social services, schools, spatial planning, health and environmental protection, refuse collection and waste disposal, rescue services, water and sewerage

on voluntary basis

- recreation activities, culture, housing, energy, industrial facilities, public transport

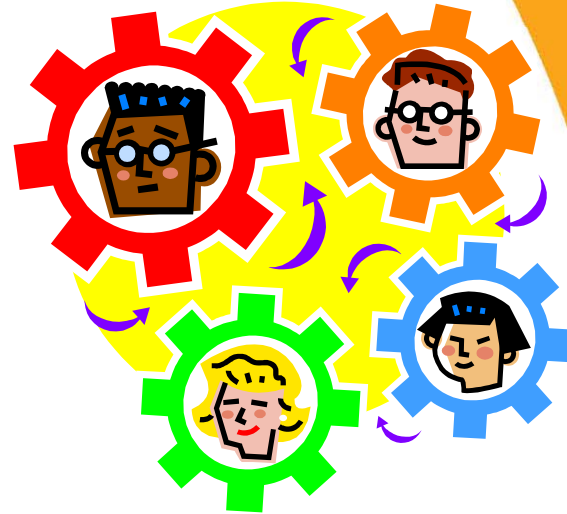


Role of local authorities and county councils



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- 75 % of public services
- 21 % of GDP
- 80 % own finance
- Employ 30 % of the labour force



Historical background



- Freeholding farmers – parish meetings
- Local Government Act of 1862
 - civil tasks assigned to cities and rural municipal districts.
 - county councils (landsting) established
- Popular movements – citizen involvement
- Welfare state post WWII
- '60:s and '70:s merging of municipalities
- '90:s deregulation and general grants



The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

SALAR is an employer's organisation for municipalities, county councils and regions. We look after the interests of our members and offer them support and services.

We raise issues, act forcefully and enlighten public opinion.

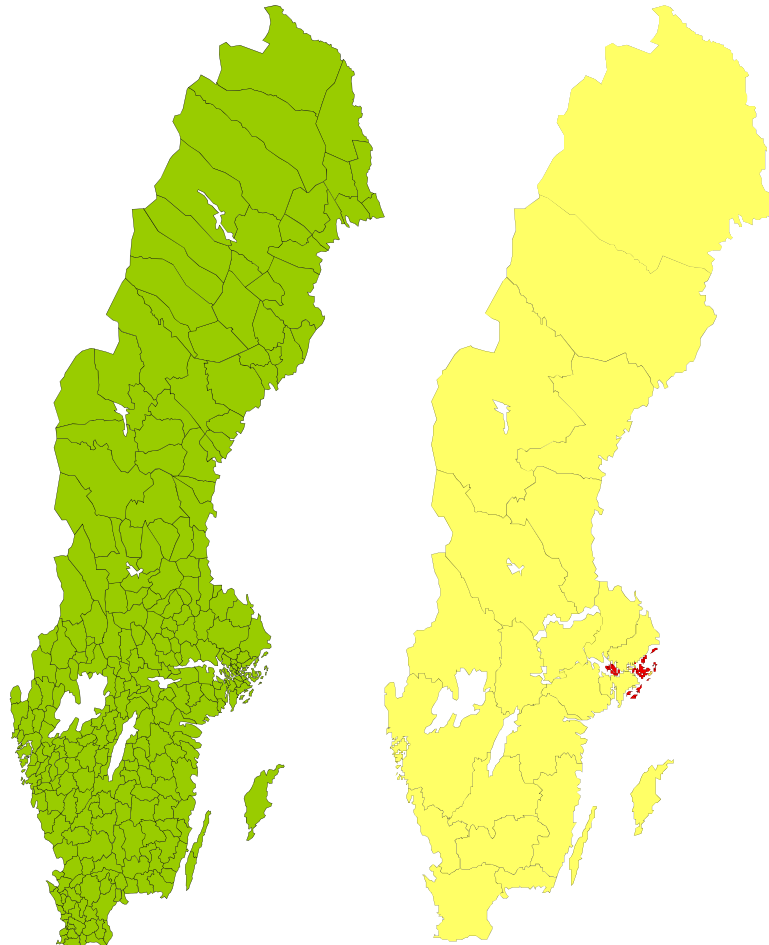
Our **mission** is to provide municipalities, county councils and regions with better conditions for local and regional self-government.

Our **vision** is to develop the welfare system and its services.

It's a matter of democracy.

Characteristics

- ALL 290 municipalities and 20 county councils are members
- 100% financed by members – no state subsidies
- Complete independence from central government



The political structure of SALAR



Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
Congress



Board
Executive Committee



Delegations

- Delegation for Negotiations
- Delegation on Healthcare

Permanent Committees

- Committee on Democracy
- International Committee
- Committee on Culture and Leisure
- Committee on Primary Healthcare and Elderly Care
- Committee on Planning and Community Development
- Committee on Social Policy
- Committee on Growth and Regional Development
- Committee on Education

Temporary Programme Committees

- Committee on Freedom of Choice
- Committee on Tax Bases and Long-term Financing of Welfare Provision

Organisational Structure

(administration/secretariat)



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Priority Issues 2009



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1. Strong regional and local self government
2. Content and financing of the welfare system
3. Open Comparisons
4. Safe care and medical services
5. Increased patient and user influence
6. Simplified procurement
7. Invest in infrastructure
8. Better results in schools
9. Good employers
10. Limit climate impact
11. Safety and security
12. Better industry environment