


The Swedish Guidance System



OVERVIEW

Type of guidance service	Clients/Target groups	Responsibility and administrative control
Guidance in compulsory school, upper secondary school and adult education	Pupils in compulsory and secondary school, students in municipal adult education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Education and Research - The Swedish National Agency for Education - Local Authorities - Individual Schools
Local Municipal Guidance and Information Centres	The public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Municipal Authorities
Academic guidance services at universities and university colleges	University students and prospective students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Education and Research - The Swedish Higher Education Authority - Individual Universities
Guidance service within Arbetsförmedlingen, the Swedish Public Employment Service	People in search of work; unemployed, clients in transition. Special focus on at risk groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Employment - Arbetsförmedlingen, Public Employment Service Head Office - Individual employment offices/private providers

An aerial photograph of a mountain range, showing dense green and blue vegetation covering the terrain. The mountains are rugged and layered, with varying shades of green and blue indicating different elevations and vegetation types. The overall scene is a complex, textured landscape.

Career Guidance in the School sector

Education Act and Curricula

Education Act: All pupils through the school system should have access to staff with competence to cover their needs to make future study and vocational choices.

Curriculum: Covers fundamental values, overall goals and knowledge requirements.



Goals for students:

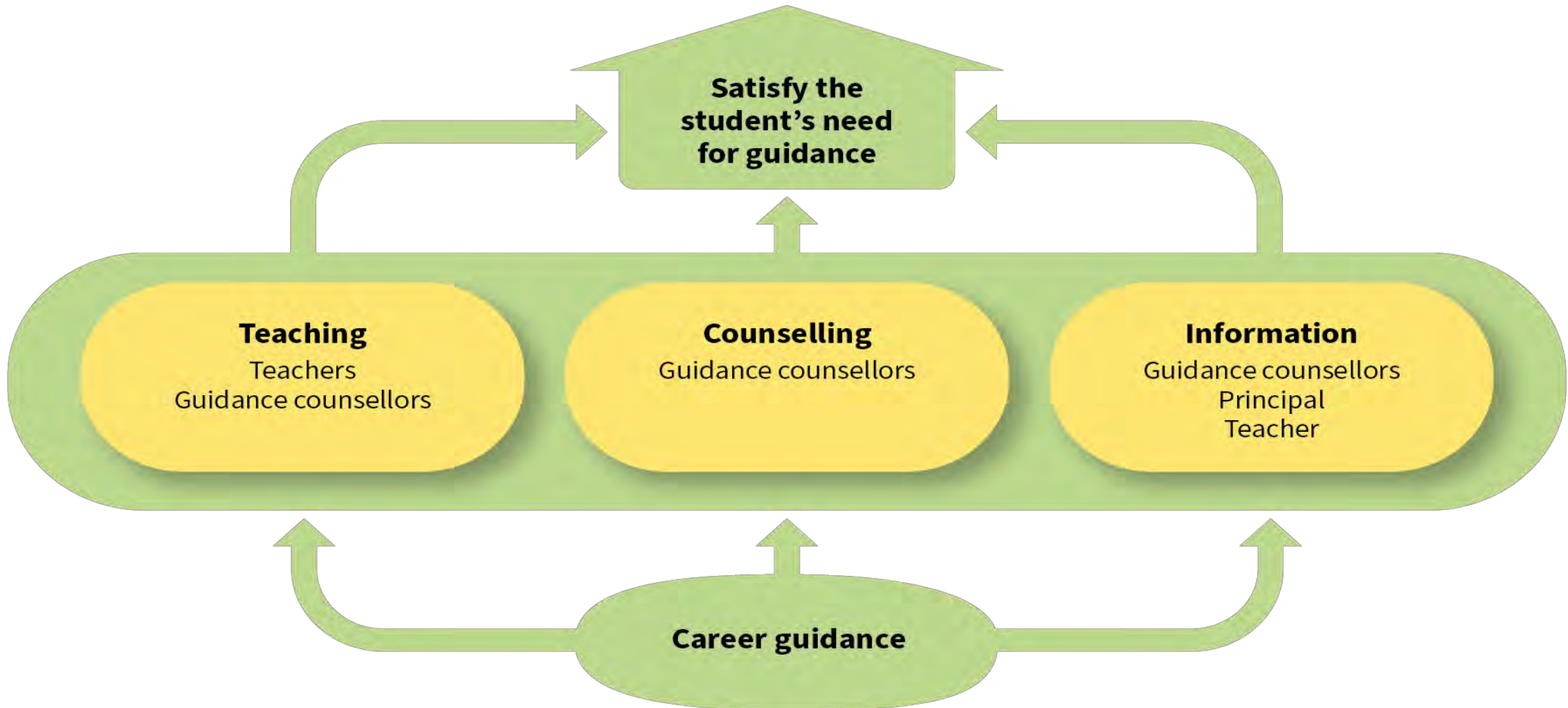
- can make well-informed choices regarding further education and vocational orientation
- can examine different options and make decisions on questions concerning their own future
- are informed about the opportunities for further education in Sweden and in other countries



Career Guidance - Individual and General



Guidelines



Success factors

- Development takes place
- Governance and management
- New arrival ´s learning
- Reports from The Schools Inspectorate
- They make plans
- The area of knowledge inspires





Study and Career Guidance within Higher Education

Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100)

- Students should be given access to educational guidance and occupational orientation.
- The university shall ensure that those who intend to begin an education have access to the information that they need.
- Universities should facilitate the transition to working life for the students.



Guidance services at Universities

- **central level**

Guidance support about university studies in general, eligibility requirements and exam rules.

- **departmental level**

Guidance support specialised in the department's specific subject area.

- **career centres**

Various types of support for students, doctoral student or alumni who want to prepare for working life.





**Career Guidance at
Arbetsförmedlingen,
the Swedish Public
Employment Service**

Legislation

Guidance is included in the Public Employment Service basic mission and regulated in several ordinances:

regulation on the **labour market policy actions** (Förordning, 2000: 628) which states that guidance is one of the ways in which the services should be offered

regulation on **labour market policy programmes** (Förordning, 2000: 634) where guidance is seen as part of preparatory interventions, which refer to individually adapted labour market policy interventions for those who need to prepare for education or work;

regulation on the **job guarantee for young people** (Förordning, 2007: 813) which stipulates that young people should be offered guidance and counselling.

Three levels of career guidance

Career Information (for those with good career competencies)

- Information about professions, training opportunities and labor market prospects, with the opportunity to ask and receive answers to questions of a general nature. Mainly via digital channels.

Career Orientation (for those with fairly good career competencies)

- Should supplement the career information and give the individual the opportunity to ask more person-specific questions about training and the labor market.

Qualified Career Guidance (for those who lack career competencies)

- Systematic and process-oriented support, so that the individual becomes aware of his/her conditions and can compare them against the demands and opportunities of the labor market and set goals.
- Contains various career-supporting activities and exercises, which together increase the individual's competence to make well-informed choices of education or work.

Description of the levels

The Swedish Employment Service website:
www.arbetsformedlingen.se
and other web-based services on offer on national level

For jobseekers who need more individual support than the digital tools can provide, in matters of education and occupations/work Offered in so called Personal Distance Meetings (PDM) via video, chat and phone.

8-week intensive guidance support for individuals who are registered at Arbetsförmedlingen as jobseekers. It should result in a career plan and is provided by private actors, procured by Arbetsförmedlingen

National web services

Utbildningsguiden.se (Education Guide)

The screenshot displays a grid of educational services:

- Betygskalkylatorn**: Få hjälp att räkna ut ditt meritvärde >
- Behörighetsvisaren**: Se vad du blir behörig till på högskolan >
- Förskolan**: Se filmen Förskolan är till för ditt barn >
- Information in other languages**: Languages About the Swedish school system... >
- HUR GÖR DU DITT GYMNASIEVAL?**: Öka din valkompetens inför gymnasievalet >
- Karta över utbildningssystemet**: Det här är den svenska skolan >

Arbetsförmedlingen.se (Employment service)

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Swedish Public Employment Service:

- Hitta jobb, börja plugga eller rekrytera?**
Välkommen till Arbetsförmedlingen
- Buttons: [Sök jobb i Platsbanken](#), [För arbetsgivare](#)
- Arbetslös, vad händer nu?**: Inskrivning, planeringssamtal, a-kassa. Det här behöver du veta.
- Extra stöd**: Arbetsmarknadsutbildning, praktik, stöd vid funktionsnedsättning, A-O.
- Så hittar du jobbet**: Platsbanken, skapa profil, starta eget. Flera sätt att hitta rätt jobb.
- Cv, ansökan och intervju**: Tips när du söker jobb. Validera dina betyg och intyg.
- Yrken och framtid**: Yrken, framtidsutsikter, utbildning, intresseguide - gör smarta yrkesval.
- Utbildning och studier**: Utbilda dig till jobb. Studiestöd och utbildningsvägar.
- Arbeta i Sverige**: Rättigheter, skyldigheter, lön och förmåner - hur fungerar det?
- Snabbgångar**:
 - [Skriv in dig](#)
 - [Sök jobb i Platsbanken](#)
 - [Aktivitetsrapportera](#)
 - [Anmäl sjukfrånvaro](#)
 - [Mina sidor](#)
 - [Rusta och matcha](#)
 - [Arbetsmarknadsutbildning](#)
 - [Skriv ut dig](#)
 - [Vanliga frågor och svar](#)

Studera.nu (Study now)

The screenshot displays the homepage of Studera.nu:

- Logo: Swedish Council for Higher Education
- Search bar: Search this site [Search]
- Navigation: Higher Education Studies, Road to studies, Student life, Study abroad
- Hero image: A smiling student couple.
- Buttons: [Introduction to higher education](#), [Study levels and degrees](#), [Information for asylum seekers](#), [Application process](#)

Educational background of Swedish Guidance Counsellors

Academic education:

- Three-year university programme, 180 ECTS, offered at 3 universities in Sweden; Malmö University, Stockholm University and Umeå University
- Further studies: Master´s Programme in Pedagogics with a focus on career development and guidance, 120 ECTS
- Research School FinnFram (find a way forward)

Basic training provided by the Employer:

- In-service training for guidance counsellors working at universities
- In-service training for the employees at employment offices



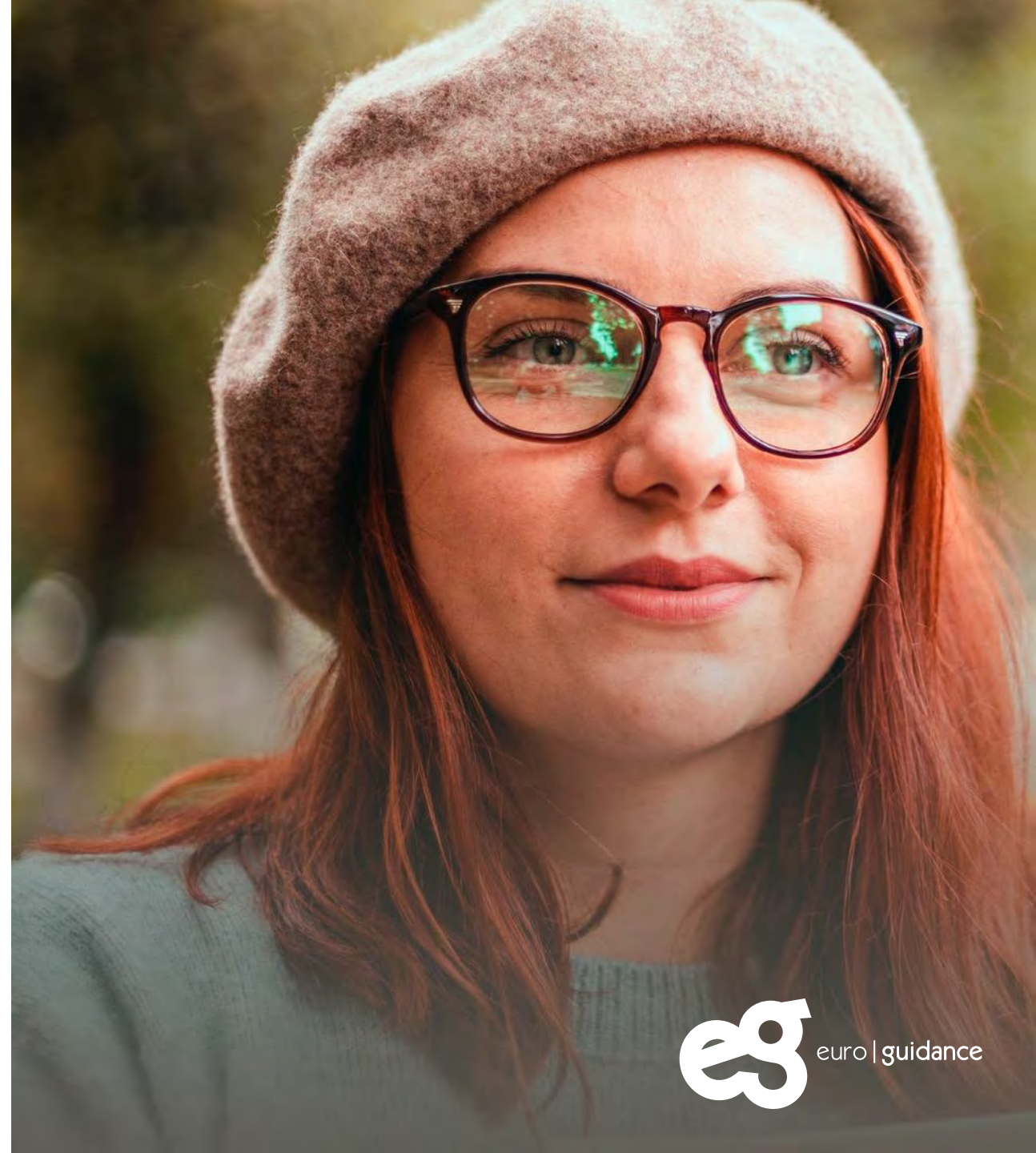
Professional Associations

Swedish Teachers' Union

- Studies about the work situation among members
- Ethical guidelines (schools)

The Swedish Association of Guidance Counsellors

- Ethical standards (all levels) and ethical council
- Annual national conference for guidance practitioners
- Annual price "Guidance counsellor of the year"
- National magazine, "Vägledaren"



Significant developments on national level

2007- 2015 Sweden was part of the **ELGPN** European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network

2011 National forum for cooperation between stakeholders in the area of guidance was established

2009 General guidelines and comments on career education and guidance in schools – new guidelines
2013

2011 Guidance becomes **area for inspection** by the Schools Inspectorate

2013-2019 Government investments to **strengthening career counselling and guidance provision in schools.**

- Courses, conferences, support material etc

2017 Review of labour market policies, including **strengthening of guidance services provided by Arbetsförmedlingen, PES**

- Internal national guidance strategy

Significant developments on national level

2018 -2019 Government investigation for improvement of guidance services in schools

Proposals;

- Clarification of what guidance is, and that it should be called “career guidance”
- Clarification of the pupils' access to individual career guidance
- Strengthening of the general career guidance perspective in various subjects
- A new compulsory element in schools with allocated time, referred to as “Future choice”, should be introduced in the compulsory school,
- Digital service

2019 - 2022 Government collaboration programme for competence supply and lifelong learning – including **guidance for skills supply and lifelong learning**

2022 - Several authorities were tasked via changes in their regulatory letters from the government to cooperate with the aim of contributing to a well-functioning supply of competences – **working group on career guidance**

2022 Transitions and skills support package.

Employees are given the opportunity to take part in basic transitions-and-skills-support to strengthen their future position on the labor market. This includes career guidance support. The package also includes study allowance for transition and re-train`

Conclusions

- Long experience – guidance system since the 40s
- Well developed guidance system according to legislation
- Good basic education for guidance counsellors
- Significant investments in guidance during the last years

Challenges:

- No national strategy or policy for guidance
- Decentralized system – a challenge for coordination and cooperation
- Shortage of guidance practitioners



Thank you for listening!

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