TransParent – Sweden

Marie Evertsson and Katarina Boye
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI)
Stockholm University

The agenda

- Where Sweden is today and how we got there
- Labor force participation and gender equality
- Fertility
- The parental leave insurance
- Child care
- Quantitative data sets
- The qualitative study - Katarina
Sweden – The most Gender Equal Country in the World?

# 1 in the world when GDI as % of HDI is used to measure gender disparity

# 1 in the world when the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) is used to rank countries

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2008

How did we get there?

- Special women’s wages were abandoned in 1965
- Separate (individual) taxation (1971)
- The parental leave insurance (1974)
- Expansion of the public sector and high quality subsidized childcare
Labour force participation rates

Source: Swedish Labor Force Survey (AKU), Statistics Sweden

In the labor force and part-time work in 2007, age 20-64

- 81% of the women are in the labor force compared to 87% of the men
- 34% of all employed women work part-time compared to 10% of men
Source: Evertsson et al. (2009) "Is Gender Inequality Greater at Lower or Higher Educational Levels?" Social Politics 16(2): 210-241
Figure 8. Ratio of women’s to men’s median hours per week of household work. Child care excluded.

Source: Evertsson et al. (2009) “Is Gender Inequality Greater at Lower or Higher Educational Levels?” Social Politics 16(2): 210-241

Total fertility rate

TFR in 2008 1,91
Average age at first birth 28,9
Children born from 1995 - 30 days cannot be transferred to the other parent.
Children born from 2002 - 60 days cannot be transferred to the other parent.

Source: Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan)

Average yearly number of parental leave days

Source: Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan)
Men’s share of all parental leave days

Children in licensed childcare in 2006
(Source: OECD, Starting Strong II)
Data sets

- The Swedish Level of Living Survey
- 1/1000 of the Swedish population aged 18-75
- Retrospective biographies on changes in family composition, educational qualifications and work
- Data ends in 2000
- New survey this year

Register data

- The STAR data base
- Data from 1968 – 2007
- Everyone registered in Sweden on December 31 each year, 16 years of age and older
- Yearly information