

# Newsletter from Delmi

June 2017

## Greetings,

Migration is still a major issue on the political and mass media agendas. Facts and knowledge must always be brought to the fore in the discussion of immigration and integration. This is important both in reporting about migration and as input when new laws are enacted and new rules applied. Delmi clearly has a unique role and important social mission today.

Current issues include labour market entry for new arrivals and family reunification for people who have been granted protection in Sweden. Responsibility for refugee reception is also highly topical in light of the questions arising from faltering cooperation among EU countries. Some of Delmi's reports coming this autumn will discuss these issues.

In this newsletter, you can also read about the consequences of immigration in Norway, according to a report by a Norwegian committee appointed in late 2015. The report has contributed knowledge and facts to the discussion of immigration in Norway and provides insights that are also applicable to Sweden.



Kristof Tamas  
Head of Secretariat,  
Delmi

## New figures and statistics

New figures and statistics for 2016 will be posted on our website this June, including areas such as international migrants in the world, asylum applicants in EU/EEA countries and economic assistance to households in Sweden. The statistics on [Migration in Figures](#) cover several years retrospectively until today in the areas of migration and integration, in Sweden and abroad. Keep yourself up to date!

## New report looks at the long-term consequences of high immigration to Norway



*Integration and trust – long-term consequences of high immigration*, is a report by a Norwegian committee appointed by the government in December 2015 after the increased influx of asylum seekers in the autumn of that year.

The report identifies consequences for the Norwegian economy and for social cohesion. It shows that high immigration of people with low qualifications may present a challenge to the Norwegian welfare system. The report also shows that increased cultural and religious diversity may affect social trust and cohesion.

The committee was headed by Grete Brochmann, professor of sociology at the University of Oslo, who presented the report at a Delmi seminar on 10 May. See the seminar [Lessons learnt from Norway – The consequences of immigration for trust and economic development](#) (in Swedish).

The panel guests for the following discussion were political scientist Susanne Wallman Lundåsen and economist John Hassler, professor of economics at Stockholm University.

Download Delmi's [Policy Brief of the report](#) (in Swedish)

Download the entire report (in Norwegian), [NOU 2017:2 Integrasjon og tillit – Langsiktige konsekvenser av høy innvandring](#)

# 'Policy cannot be pursued without knowledge'

QUESTIONS TO Grete Brochmann, whom the government assigned to lead the major Official Norwegian Report *Integration and trust – long-term consequences of high immigration*.

**The report shows that high immigration of people with low qualifications may entail challenges for the Norwegian welfare system. What are the challenges?**

One central challenge is that the Norwegian welfare model is based on high employment and relatively equal wage distribution to maintain the present generous welfare provisions. Effective Norwegian labour market and welfare institutions provide good support for integrating refugees, but conditions are particularly challenging in connection with immigration of people with low qualifications.

**How is the welfare system challenged?**

In Norway, the wage level for unqualified jobs is relatively high, a fact that sets high demands for employee productivity, which makes the integration of people with lower qualifications considerably more demanding. Therefore, they are also at higher risk of becoming dependent on public transfers. This is a consequence of the design of the Norwegian welfare model and is an inherent challenge to the model itself.

**How has Norway handled integration and the increased cultural diversity thus far?**

The report presents a complex picture. On the one hand, increased cultural and religious diversity can affect social trust and cohesion. On the other, it seems that 'second-generation' immigrants become socialised in Norwegian society to a great extent through education and civil society. They are catching up to people of Norwegian origin in several different social arenas and are becoming more equal in terms of both opportunities in life and acceptance of important values. As ethnicity is gradually becoming less relevant to opportunities in life, Norway seems to be on the right track.

**And what is the situation for first-generation immigrants?**

There are large disparities there, both in terms of standard of life and cultural affinity. Growing inequality is thus the great challenge for society. It is particularly problematic when cultural differences and economic inequality are combined. Social trust and cohesion are challenged primarily if the people who are outside the labour market in low-income groups are also perceived as the most different in terms of culture and values.



Grete Brochmann is a professor of sociology at Oslo University.

**What are the biggest differences in how Sweden and Norway have managed immigration?**

The concept of 'freedom of choice' is a key issue. That discourse has been stronger in Sweden than in Norway since the 1970s, although Norway imitated Swedish policy and ideology for a long time. The major parties in Norway have also been less afraid to pursue restrictive immigration policies than has been the case in Sweden. In Norway, there have been stronger arguments as far back as the 1990s for maintaining control over the influx of new arrivals for the purpose of managing immigrant integration.

**In Sweden, we sometimes talk about 'resistance to facts' in matters of immigration and integration. Is that also true in Norway and, if so, how did it affect the reaction to the report?**

Yes, resistance to facts has been a problem in Norway too. The fear that facts will stigmatise various groups has, for a long time, influenced what is researched and what is communicated publicly. But that has changed in recent years – it has become more accepted that solid factual input is needed in order to adequately manage things like immigration and integration. When we submitted our report last winter, many people of immigrant background also felt this was important to discuss. Policy cannot be discussed or pursued without knowledge. This report is a good example of that.

# What can Sweden learn from Norway?

HELLO THERE, Joakim Palme, chair of Delmi and professor of political science at Uppsala University.

## What can Sweden learn from the Norwegian report?

That more people have to get into work faster, so that the high costs are balanced down over the long term. On average, 60 per cent of beneficiaries of protection in Sweden are employed after ten years, compared to 80 per cent of people born in Sweden. Foreign-born women must also enter working life. There are tremendous gains to be made here, in terms of both gender equality and the Swedish economy. From a European perspective, there are no disparities in employment rates for refugees; it is rather that employment levels in Sweden are remarkably high for native-born people, hence the wide employment gap.

## How will that be accomplished?

The Norwegian committee identifies three tracks that a welfare

state needs to focus on to strengthen integration and reduce costs. The first is to give immigrants the right to healthcare, education and so on. The second involves market strategies to make it easier for immigrants to get jobs, such as adjusting wages or providing wage subsidies. The third entails raising the level of education among immigrants so that they are equipped to enter the labour market.

## But hasn't Sweden already done this?

Yes, initiatives are being taken in these areas, but a great many refugees have arrived in a short time and most of them have little education. To achieve faster progress, the Norwegian report emphasises the importance of concerted efforts in all three areas at once. In Sweden, we are currently investing a smaller portion of GDP in an active labour market policy than we did in the 1990s, when we allocated more funds to subsidising education, training and employment.

## Immigration to Norway has been much lower than immigration to Sweden. How applicable is the report to us?

It is still quite applicable because our social models are very much alike. We invest a great deal in social security systems; we have local authority-based care services and high ambitions as regards healthcare. We are rich, attractive countries with ageing populations. But yes, Sweden has more experience with immigration than Norway. Norway chose not to allow labour force immigration in the 1950s and 1960s and was later than Sweden to accept refugees.

## Is a similar inquiry needed in Sweden?

I believe a comprehensive Swedish inquiry into the consequences of migration for Swedish society and for migrants would be valuable. Facts and statistics put into a context are a better basis for discussion and action than either prejudices or well-meaning hopes. According to Grete Brochmann, who chaired the Norwegian committee of inquiry, it has given rise to a constructive discussion in Norway.

This is an abridged and edited version of an interview published in *Uppsala nya tidning*. It is published here with the permission of the writer, Elin Sandow.



Joakim Palme moderated the seminar at Rosenbad, *Lessons learnt from Norway – The consequences of immigration for social trust and economic development*.

## Round-table discussion: The pathway to work for newly arrived

In connection with the Delmi report *The pathway to work – labour-market integration of foreign-born people in Sweden* Delmi arranged a round-table discussion on 28 April among representatives of the research community, government agencies, trade unions, business and civil society.

Annika Sundén, Delegation Member at Delmi and head of research at the Public Employment Service, opened the discussion with a general outline of the Swedish labour market and current challenges.

‘High skills and education requirements are one of the greatest challenges for the integration of newly arrived migrants in Sweden. About half of those currently registered in the Public Employment Service’s introduction system lack upper secondary education,’ said Annika Sundén.

### Recommendations to facilitate recruitment

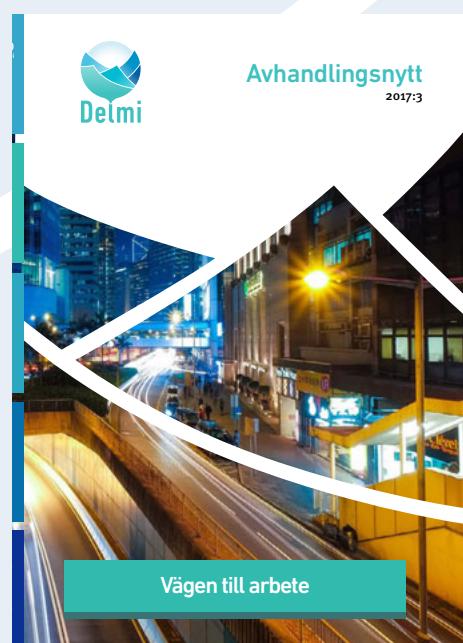
All representatives of industry and employers’ organisations agree that there is tremendous willingness to hire newly arrived migrants, but that several ‘thresholds’ are obstacles to recruitment and should be reconsidered. A few of the recommendations for achieving change in this regard were:

- Lower language skills requirements in occupations where fluent Swedish is not necessary.
- Practical testing of the skills of newly arrived in connection with job matching, as part of the validation process.
- A shorter-term ‘training package’ to get new arrivals into work in occupations where there are labour shortages and skill requirements are relatively low.
- Staffing agencies acting as intermediaries between the Public Employment Service and employers, something that has been implemented in Germany with good results.

### Cultural differences and gender equality in the introduction system

Another aspect addressed was that we must have the courage to talk about cultural differences and thus the large group of women of working age who are not presently registered with the Public Employment Service. Many of these women did not work outside the home in their countries of origin and thus need to be motivated to do so here in Sweden. In this regard, the participants agreed that the introduction system needs to become more gender equal so that women are given more time by employment advisers and are able to benefit from more initiatives.

Download the Delmi report [\*The pathway to work – labour-market integration of foreign-born people in Sweden\*](#) (in Swedish)



# DELCI publications IN THE PIPELINE

## Knowledge overview: The history of immigration – From the 'people's home' (*Folkhemmet*) to present-day Sweden, 13 June

A new knowledge overview of the Swedish immigration policy development during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, by historians Mikael Byström and Pär Frohnert, was published on June 13. The study was presented at the seminar *Labour force immigration then and now – From the 'people's home' to present-day Sweden*, which was arranged in partnership with the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

During the seminar, the presentation of the study was followed by commentary from Carola Lemne, director general, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise; Veli-Pekka Säkkälä, chief collective bargaining officer at IF Metall; and Henrik Ehrenberg, head of social policy at Unionen. The discussion was moderated by Henrik Malm Lindberg, docent in economic history and delegation secretary at Delmi.

Download the knowledge overview [here](#) (in Swedish)

## Report: How immigration is depicted in the media, 23 August

A new report from Delmi will be published 23 August, which examines how Swedish newspapers cover issues of immigration. The report, written by Jesper Strömbäck, professor of journalism and political communication at the University of Gothenburg, analyses news articles in *Aftonbladet*, *Dagens Nyheter*, *Expressen* and *Svenska Dagbladet* during the period of 2010–2015.

## Anthology: Voter participation and political representation among foreign-born, 6 September

One year before the next general election in Sweden, 6 September, Delmi will release a new anthology on voter participation and political representation among people born abroad or with a foreign background. The anthology answers questions including how foreign-born individuals vote and about the representation gap between people born in Sweden and people born abroad. Twelve researchers from various disciplines contributed to the report, edited by Professor Pieter Bevelander and Docent Mikael Spång of Malmö University.

A public seminar will be held at Rosenbad in conjunction with the book launch.

More information will be provided on the website, [delmi.se](#)

## KEEP AN EYE OUT:

## Theme: Responsibility-sharing for refugee reception

The New York Declaration, adopted at the UN Summit in September 2016, is aimed at achieving consensus among UN Member States in supporting a more humane and coordinated strategy in the reception of international migrants and refugees.

There are three report projects ongoing at Delmi that proceed from the question of how responsibility-sharing for displaced persons and refugees should be coordinated on a global scale.

## Report: Responsibility Sharing for Refugees in the Middle East and North Africa

*Responsibility Sharing for Refugees in the Middle East and North Africa* examines how responsibility-sharing for refugee reception works in practise in the Middle East and North Africa – which actors are involved and which policy instruments are used, as well as how these affect the behaviour of displaced persons and their choices. The project is headed by Professor Susan Martin of Georgetown University and is expected to be complete during the autumn of 2017.

## Report: A Fair Share: Refugees and Responsibility-Sharing

*A Fair Share: Refugees and Responsibility-Sharing* studies refugee reception by government and non-government actors with focus on what responsibility-sharing models are available and under what circumstances they can be expected to be effective. The project is also developing a new method to measure the degree of solidarity in refugee reception on a global scale. The project is headed by Professor Alexander Betts of Oxford University and is expected to be complete during the autumn of 2017.

## Report: The future of the Common European Asylum System

*The future of the Common European Asylum System in the light of the refugee crisis of 2015/2016* aims at examining and taking stock of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). It asks what has been achieved and what has failed, focusing on two of the most pressing challenges: the unequal distribution of asylum seekers across the EU Member States; and the wide variations regarding Member States' decision-making practices on asylum applications. The project is headed by Bernd Parusel and Jan Schneider and is expected to be complete during the autumn of 2017.

### Responsibility-sharing for people in need of protection

That protection of refugees requires international cooperation is stated from the outset in the introduction to the 1951 UN Convention Relating the Status of Refugees. In practise, however, the extent to which states apply the principles of solidarity and responsibility-sharing as regards people in need of protection varies widely. Consequently, states in geographical proximity to regions with major displacements of people are those who receive most refugees. For example, more than four million of the approximately five million Syrian refugees abroad\* are provided protection in only three countries – Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

\*Data from [UNHCR](#)

## Theme: Family immigration

### Report: Family immigration policy in Nordic countries

The increase in migrants seeking protection in Sweden in recent years has made family immigration a topical issue, particularly in political debates and in relation to the implementation of stricter migration policies. Family immigration refers to immigration in which some form of family relationship is claimed as grounds for a residence permit.

For this reason, an ongoing research project that is studying family immigration policy in Sweden, Denmark and Norway is of immediate interest. Why, how and with what consequences are states attempting to regulate family immigration? The study focuses on the policy changes that have occurred in these countries' regulations in the past 15–20 years. The project is headed by Karin Borevi, docent of political science at Södertörn University. The research report is expected to be complete during the autumn of 2017.

### International conference: Family reunification in Sweden and Europe

In partnership with the European Migration Network (EMN) in Sweden, Delmi organised an international conference on the theme of *Family reunification in Sweden and Europe – state of play and lessons for the future*. The conference was held 12 May in Stockholm and gathered more than 100 people, including researchers, practitioners and experts from Sweden and abroad.

Read more about the seminar [here](#)

---

*Delmi – The Migration Studies Delegation – is an independent committee under the Government Offices of Sweden. We are tasked with producing and disseminating research concerning migration to decision makers and the general public.*