

SOCIAL INVESTMENT IN CITIES



GOTHENBURG WELCOME TO SWEDEN

THE GOTHENBURG LANGUAGE INTRODUCTION CENTRE

Gothenburg is a highly multicultural city with a diverse population. Close to 200 different nationalities are represented in the city, and over 100 different languages are spoken in daily life. Over 20% of Gothenburg's population were born in another country.

Gothenburg aims to respond to the challenges associated with young migrants who have little or no knowledge of the Swedish language and who need assistance in order to understand Swedish society and Swedish public services. The Center för Språkintröduktion, or 'Language Introduction Centre' addresses these multiple challenges. The school is for young people aged between 16 and 20, when they first arrive in Gothenburg. Students normally attend the school for one year, and around 450 students attend the school every year.

The integrated service aspect of the school is that it goes beyond providing Swedish as a second language to young migrants. It also provides civic education, healthcare and social support. As the school is often their first point of reference for Swedish society, students are given advice on how to deal with day-to-day issues and challenges that they may experience in their new country.

The school provides a vital first contact with Swedish life, and within a year most students are ready to move on to other educational establishments or make their transition towards the labour market.

