Fast track - a quicker introduction of newly arrived immigrants

“I am pleased that we are now entering a structured collaboration with the industries. It is the social partners who have the expertise to assess what is required in a profession. The fast track will help employers find the opportunity to obtain people with the right skills, while newly arrived immigrants get to work in their profession.”

Ylva Johansson
Minister for Employment and Integration

The Government wants newly arrived immigrants in Sweden to quickly find a workplace that is relevant to the individual’s education and experience. At the same time, there is a shortage of labour in many industries; these are now being helped with the provision of skills through the creation of fast tracks by the Swedish Public Employment Service and the industries, to make it easier for newly arrived immigrants to establish themselves in the labour market.

Tripartite talks – background

In March 2015, the Government launched a first round of tripartite talks on ‘fast tracks’ with particular focus on newly arrived immigrants under the introduction system. The purpose of the talks was to work with the social partners and the Swedish Public Employment Service to identify forms and measures for making the best use of valuable skills possessed by newly arrived immigrants with education or experience in shortage occupations so that they can be matched more quickly with the needs of industries and enterprises.

The initial tripartite talks with central organisations were followed by in-depth talks with the partner constellations that had expressed an interest in forming fast tracks in their industry. Relevant government agencies, such as the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Council for Higher Education, the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education, the Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Public Employment Service also took part in the in-depth tripartite talks.
Tripartite talks have been held in the following industries

- Pharmacies, tourism, health and medical care, local government, industry, health and social care, transport, painting, timber and graphics companies, real estate, energy and electronics, building, forestry and agriculture.

Practical example - fast track for chefs

The Hotel and Restaurant Union (HRF), Visita and the Swedish Public Employment Service jointly created the very first fast track, which meant that newly arrived immigrants who have experience working as chefs can validate their skills in their mother tongue. Validation is carried out at a real workplace and means that newly arrived chefs undergo career aptitude assessment conducted by professional assessors who are certified to carry out validation in their mother tongue.

Fast tracks in many professions

The social partners and the Swedish Public Employment Service have also produced fast tracks for a wide range of professions, for example teachers, doctors, nurses and electrical and mechanical engineers. The fast track is based on the major groups of newly arrived immigrants.

More fast tracks are being prepared

The Swedish Public Employment Service is conducting talks with the social partners and relevant government agencies on forming more fast tracks.

For more information: www.government.se/fasttrack