



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Proof of vaccination may be required for access to public gatherings and public functions

Published 18 November 2021

The Government intends to proceed with the proposal to allow the use of vaccination certificates at public gatherings and public functions from 1 December 2021. The aim is to limit the spread of the virus among unvaccinated people in particular by preventing them from gathering in large groups, while public gatherings and public functions can continue to receive visitors.

“The pandemic is not over and in our part of the world the virus is now spreading. The negative trend is worrying, even though we have not yet seen a similar development in Sweden. The Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden therefore see a need to be able to use vaccination certificates as a disease control measure to limit the chains of infection,” says Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

The Government has today received a request from the Public Health Authority of Sweden, which sees the need for access to vaccination certificates as a disease control measure. In September, the Government referred a proposal to ease the restrictions that apply to an event if the organiser can guarantee that the participants are vaccinated by requiring them to present a vaccination certificate showing that they are fully vaccinated, i.e., the vaccination component of the EU’s digital COVID certificate.

This means that if the organiser chooses to require a vaccination certificate, they do not have to adhere to the attendance limits that the Public Health

Agency of Sweden deems necessary for public gatherings and functions. According to the Public Health Agency of Sweden, this applies to events held indoors with more than 100 participants.

“It is a priority of the Government to provide opportunities to promote culture, sport and other important events and gatherings. Now that we see that the situation is in danger of getting worse, we intend to proceed directly with the proposal for vaccination certificates that has already been prepared, so as to enable organisers of cultural and sporting events to continue their activities,” says Minister of Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The Government intends to proceed with the proposal, which will take effect on 1 December 2021. Because the current government is a caretaker government, support for the measure will be sought in the Riksdag.

The proposal in brief

- The proposal is aimed primarily at reducing the risk of transmission by preventing unvaccinated people from participating in public gatherings and public functions.
- Only vaccination certificates will be accepted, i.e., the vaccination component of the EU’s digital COVID certificate, which means that you have to be vaccinated.
- The aim is for the new rules to come into force on 1 December 2021.



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

More restrictions to be removed from 29 September

Published 08 September 2021

The government has previously presented a plan for how the advice and restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are to be adapted and removed. At a press conference on 7 September, the government announced that restrictions on attendance numbers at public gatherings and events are planned to be removed as of 29 September 2021.

High vaccination levels throughout the population are the single most important prerequisite that will allow all restrictions to be lifted. However, the assessment was also based on the burden on health services, mortality rates and an assessment of the risk of increased transmission.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden's overall assessment is that it is possible to implement stage 4 of the government's plan for removing restrictions on 29 September 2021. This means that many of the restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 can be removed.

The following will happen as we move into stage 4 of the government's plan for removing restrictions:

- Restrictions on attendance numbers for public gatherings and events will be removed
- Restrictions on attendance numbers for private gatherings at rented premises, for example, will be removed
- Remaining restrictions on catering establishments, including the size of parties and distance between parties, will be removed
- The Public Health Agency's advice to work from home will be removed

and a gradual return to the workplace can begin. Anyone with symptoms should continue to stay at home and be tested, and employers should then facilitate working from home.

Vaccination certificates for large public gatherings and events if needed

However, in line with the Government's plan for removal of restrictions, the Public Health Agency has previously argued that certain specific regulations may still be needed for very large public gatherings and events going forward.

In order to be prepared, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs will therefore shortly be submitting a memorandum proposing that vaccination certificates can be used at these major public gatherings and events during stage 4.

The proposal means that any restrictions on attendance numbers that may be necessary for public gatherings and events with 15,000 or more attendees would not apply if the vaccination certificate system is used. This means that the organiser will not be obliged to limit the number of attendees on premises and in defined areas or spaces at the organiser's disposal if there are restrictions in respect of this. Exceptions will be made for children under 16 and people who should not be vaccinated for medical reasons.



Article from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Adjustment of restrictions from 1 July

Published 29 June 2021

The Government previously presented a plan for adapting and phasing out the restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At a press conference on Monday, June 28 2021, it was announced that a number of restrictions will be lifted as of 1 July 2021, in line with stage 2 of the Government's plan.

In terms of the pandemic, things are steadily moving in the right direction. The spread of infection and the number of people requiring hospitalisation for COVID-19 are decreasing. More than half of the adult population has now received at least one dose of the vaccine. The Government and the Public Health Agency of Sweden have now determined that we can proceed with stage 2 of the Government's plan for phasing out the restrictions.

The following applies from 1 July

The participant limit for events categorised as public gatherings or public events will be raised further. For indoor events, up to 50 participants may be allowed. If there is assigned seating for participants, up to 300 participants may be allowed. For outdoor events, the maximum number of participants is 600 without assigned seating, or 3,000 participants with assigned seating.

For outdoor demonstrations, up to 1,800 participants are now allowed.

Adjustments are being made to the participant limit for outdoor races and similar sporting events, so that it only applies to the starting line and finish

line area. The provision also applies to sporting events with a course held on roads, on or in water, or in the woods or otherwise off-road. At the same time, the participant limit is being raised to 900 athletes.

Sectioning

In addition to raising the participant limit, events can also be organised for more participants if the organiser is able to divide up the room, area or space into sections large enough to allow participants to maintain a safe distance. This ensures that participants from different sections cannot come into contact with each other during or immediately after the event. In such cases, the participant limit applies to each section. Each section needs to have separate entrances and exits, and have access to its own service facilities, such as toilets and, where applicable, food and beverage establishments.

Trade fairs

Trade fairs, which are public events, will be regulated in a way similar to how the Government previously dealt with rules for markets and permanent funfairs. This means that they will not be subject to the participant limit rules that apply to public gatherings and public events. Trade fairs will instead be subject to rules similar to those for markets.

Private gatherings

The Government has also decided to raise the participant limit allowed for premises, spaces and areas rented out for private gatherings. Such a room or area can be rented out for a group of maximum 50 people.

Long-distance public transport

The Government intends to take a decision to repeal the rules on passenger restrictions in long-distance public transport from 15 July. This means that long-distance public transport providers can now start planning to accommodate passengers at full capacity.

Public Health Agency's decisions under the plan

Under the Government's restriction phase-out plan, the Public Health Agency has also taken a number of decisions on adjustments and phase-outs

of restrictions during stage 2 of the plan. These include relaxing restrictions on the opening hours and the size of groups in food and beverage establishments, and removing the recommendation to shop alone and to not spend a lot of time in shops. Recommendations to sports and cultural clubs as well as to individuals in relation to sports shall also be withdrawn. For more information, please visit the Public Health Agency's website.

The amended restrictions decided by the Government, which will be introduced on 1 July 2021, will be supplemented by the Public Health Agency's regulations, which may involve some continued restrictions depending on the conditions of the premises, area or space.

Participants in the press conference included Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, and Johan Carlson, Director-General of the Public Health Agency of Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

The Swedish Holocaust Museum will be established in Stockholm

Published 27 January 2021

The Statement of Government Policy presented by Stefan Löfven in the Riksdag in January 2019 announced that a new museum would be established to preserve and perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. Today, 27 January, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Government has announced that the museum is to be established in July 2022 and that it will be located in Stockholm.

The Government will establish the Swedish Holocaust Museum as an independent museum within an existing museums agency. By doing so, the museum can be incorporated into an established organisation with management functions and museum expertise, thus providing stability for the new museum. Facilities for storage, conservation, archives and other functions can be jointly used and coordinated. If the museum is located in Stockholm, it will be easier for school pupils and the general public from around the country to visit.

Memories of the Holocaust can be found all over the country in all the local communities where thousands of Swedes volunteered to help refugees and survivors.

The Holocaust museum should collaborate with many key actors, such as county museums and local museums, both to facilitate involvement of the country's entire population in the activities and because the accounts, testimonies, objects and places concerning the Holocaust are found

throughout the country.

The murder, persecution and terrible suffering of the Jewish people, Roma and millions of other victims of Nazism have left an indelible scar across Europe. Although the killing did not take place on Swedish soil, Sweden both influenced and was influenced by what happened. The Holocaust is also part of Sweden's history. As a society, we have an obligation to promote education, remembrance and research on the genocide committed by the Nazis and their allies so that new generations will be able to learn from history. The Swedish Holocaust Museum will be one way of doing so.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

Sweden to lead the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2022–23

Published 27 January 2021 Updated 28 January 2021

Sweden has been entrusted with holding the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) from 1 March 2022 until 28 February 2023. The decision was taken at the IHRA's digital plenary meeting in Leipzig on 3 December 2020.

Sweden will chair the IHRA twenty plus years after the first Stockholm Forum on the Holocaust and one year after the Malmö Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

“I have promised survivors to do what I can as Prime Minister – and as a human being – for Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism today. I intend to keep that promise. The Presidency of the IHRA, the Malmö Forum and the coming museum about Sweden and the Holocaust are all important parts of these efforts”, says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Even though history has shown us what the ultimate consequences of antisemitism, antiziganism and racism can be, they still exist in all parts of society. Sweden must set an example and do all it can to prevent something similar from happening again. Remembering is also about learning from history”, says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

In May 1998, on the eve of the new millennium, Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the President of the United States Bill Clinton agreed to set up a Task Force to promote international cooperation on Holocaust education, remembrance and research, laying the foundation for the IHRA.

The first Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust took place on 26–28 January 2000. The Stockholm Declaration became the founding document of the IHRA.

It is with a sense of historical responsibility that the Government of Sweden declares itself ready to lead the IHRA, twenty years after its establishment, thus building on to the work of Prime Minister Persson two decades earlier.

Prime Minister Löfven's deep commitment to the cause of combating antisemitism has been expressed through a series of measures to strengthen security for Sweden's Jewish community.

A state museum for passing on the testimonies of those Holocaust survivors who sought refuge in Sweden is to be established. 50 heads of state and government and 20 organizations have been invited to the Malmö Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, 13-14 October 2021.

The IHRA presidency will be another significant undertaking by Prime Minister Löfven and his government.

One central priority of the Swedish Presidency will be to follow up on the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

"Taking upon itself the Presidency of the IHRA, is the first and a central national pledge for Sweden", says Annika Ben David, Ambassador for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and Head of Sweden's delegation to the IHRA.

"The magnitude of the Holocaust must be forever seared in our collective memory. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning", says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

"Antisemitism and all forms of racism are threats to us all and to our open and democratic societies. Wherever we see antisemitism, and no matter who expresses it, we must step in and – with unwavering resoluteness – expose, confront and combat it. Antisemitism is a direct threat to Jews, but it is not a

problem to be borne by Jews alone. We must address Holocaust denial and antisemitism by protecting and promoting democratic values and respect for human rights”, he continues.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Parts of the budget concerning culture

Published 05 October 2020

The Government proposes the following investments in culture in the additional amending budget, the autumn amending budget and the Budget Bill for 2021. The Government's proposals are based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

SEK 1.5 billion extra for culture this year

SEK 1.5 billion of additional support is being invested in culture in 2020. This money will help to ensure that an infrastructure for culture is maintained throughout the country, that cultural creators who have lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic can continue to support themselves, and that the cultural sector is given a chance to recover.

This support will both compensate for the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on cultural life and help cultural life to start up again. Some of the money will be used as support for creating conditions for events that are safe in terms of preventing infection and for facilitating the production of culture during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important that the support now being allocated is disbursed widely and contributes to both emergency crisis measures and the restart of cultural life.

This support is included in the additional amending budget to be presented to the Riksdag shortly.

Government to introduce stimulation billion for culture

SEK 1 billion will be allocated in 2021 to adapt and restart cultural activities throughout the country.

The Government will provide more information at a later date about how this support will be distributed.

Permanent reinforcement of regional culture

The Government proposes a reinforcement of regional cultural activities throughout the country by strengthening the cultural cooperation model to the tune of SEK 300 million in 2021 and SEK 150 million in subsequent years.

Regional culture is an important part of Sweden's cultural life and very meaningful to people's everyday lives up and down the country. This money will help to strengthen cultural infrastructure throughout the country in the form of theatres, opera houses, regional museums, visual art and design activities, regional libraries, orchestras, concert houses, dance activities, promotion of film and handicrafts, and some archive activities.

The cultural cooperation model also helps to strengthen the labour market for artists and cultural creators and to increase public sector actors' collaboration with civil society and professional cultural creators.

The money will be distributed through the cultural cooperation model, which means that the regions decide themselves how central government funding is to be distributed in their county.

Permanent investment to strengthen conditions of cultural creators

The Government proposes that SEK 80 million be allocated each year from 2021 to strengthen the conditions of cultural creators throughout the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on the conditions of

professional cultural creators. At the same time, it has shed light on how difficult the conditions were even before the pandemic. Creating better conditions for cultural creators to support themselves and develop their art is one of the Government's most important cultural policy priorities. If cultural creators are not able to earn a living, this has a negative impact on culture throughout the country.

Of this SEK 80 million, SEK 43 million will go to reinforcing grants and remuneration that are distributed directly to cultural creators. The Swedish Arts Council's appropriations to independent performing arts groups will receive an additional SEK 16 million and independent actors in the area of visual art and design will receive an additional SEK 6 million within the framework of the investment. In order to strengthen cultural creators' opportunities in the labour market, culture centres will also receive SEK 5 million and performing arts alliances will receive SEK 10 million.

More art purchases next year

The Government proposes an investment of SEK 50 million to increase state purchases of art in 2021.

Sweden's artistic life, including visual art and design artists, has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has also affected the infrastructure around these artists, such as galleries that represent artists.

This investment includes support to infrastructure in the area of art, such as galleries. Above all, it enables individual artists to be paid for their artistic activities, while the general public gains access to more art.

This investment includes SEK 25 million each to the National Public Art Council and Moderna Museet.

Support to museums

Central museums, government agencies and foundations

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on Sweden's museums. Some museums have remained completely closed for part of the year, whereas others have opened but had considerably fewer visitors than usual. This has had a financial impact on important museum activities.

The Government is now allocating SEK 25 million to the central museums that are foundations: Nordiska museet, Skansen, the National Museum of Science and Technology, and the Museum of Work.

The Government is allocating SEK 28 million to Nationalmuseum, the National Historical Museums, Moderna Museet and the Swedish Museum of Natural History in this year's autumn amending budget.

This is to alleviate the financial effect of the COVID-19 pandemic due to loss of revenue.

This support is to alleviate the financial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make it easier to restart activities. It is important for museums to be able to continue running their activities both physically and digitally during the pandemic – and that these activities can continue once the pandemic is over.

The Jewish Museum

Permanent financing of SEK 2 million per year for the Jewish Museum from 2021

The Jews are one of Sweden's five national minorities. The languages and cultures of the national minorities being made visible in society as part of our shared cultural heritage is an important part of the Government's national minorities policy. In just a short period of time, the Jewish Museum has become an increasingly important societal actor working to make Jewish culture accessible and spread knowledge about it. The museum is experiencing a difficult financial situation and the Government is therefore now strengthening its financing.

Form/Design Center

The Government proposes that Form/Design Center in Malmö be allocated SEK 3 million per year from 2021. The temporary state grant to Form/Design Center, which has been paid over a period of three years, will now become permanent.

This permanent grant will now give Form/Design Center even better conditions and greater opportunities to continue its work as a meeting place and hub for architecture, design and applied art in southern Sweden.

Government to strengthen the National Archives

The Government proposes that the National Archives' appropriation increase by SEK 20 million per year from 2021.

The National Archives is a key actor for Swedish public sector information management, for maintaining our collective memory and for preserving our cultural heritage. The National Archives is also an invaluable resource for research. This is why it is important that the National Archives can rely on functioning financing.

The National Archives has had a deficit, which also shows the need for strengthened financing.

Government investing in children's access to culture

The Government is investing in children's access to culture and creativity by doubling the state grant to municipal culture schools and reinforcing Creative Schools.

The state grant to culture schools will be doubled to SEK 200 million in 2021–2023. Municipal culture schools reach children and young people throughout the country. They are unique places where thousands of children and young people learn to play an instrument, do drama or in other ways get the opportunity to develop artistically together with others. Culture schools play an important role for both individuals and Sweden's cultural life.

All municipalities that run culture schools can apply for the culture school grant. Grant applications are processed by the Swedish Arts Council.

The Creative Schools initiative will be allocated SEK 25 million per year during the period 2021–2023. In many respects, Creative Schools is a successful and established initiative for culture in schools and benefits many children and pupils throughout the country.

The grant has been in place since 2008 and has two main objectives: to help ensure the long-term integration of cultural and artistic expression in schools, and to increase professional cultural activities for and with children and pupils.

The further reinforcement of Creative Schools gives the initiative the conditions to be developed further and to increase access to all forms of

cultural expression and opportunities for children's own creativity. Research shows that cultural practice among children and young people tends to decline with age. This is why the Government wants the grant to cover preschool class, compulsory school and equivalent school forms in future.

Implementation of the Reading Delegation's proposals

The Government proposes that SEK 55 million be allocated in 2021 and SEK 75 million per year in 2022–2023 for the implementation of the Reading Delegation's proposals. This investment is permanent and will total SEK 45 million from 2024.

Reading and literacy are very important for both society and individuals. Ultimately this is a matter of democracy and equality in terms of access to education and culture, and in terms of being able to take one's place in society and, as a citizen, taking part in the democratic conversation.

Since 2015, the Swedish Arts Council has been running an initiative for young children's language and reading development called Bokstart (Book Start). The Government proposes that SEK 15 million be allocated in 2021 and SEK 20 million per year from 2022 for an expansion of Bokstart.

A boost for reading promotion for public librarians will be introduced. This initiative will provide continuing professional development in the promotion of literature and reading, with a special focus on reading among children and young people. It is proposed that SEK 15 million be allocated for 2021 and SEK 30 million per year for 2022 and 2023 for this training initiative for librarians.

A reading council to bring together reading promotion actors from different parts of society will be established, and the Government estimates that SEK 10 million per year will be allocated for this from 2021. Moreover, the Government proposes that SEK 15 million per year be allocated from 2021 for the Swedish Arts Council's reading promotion work. The reading council should be given the opportunity to provide views on how reading promotion work should be designed.

Continued investment in more resources for libraries

The Government proposes investing SEK 150 million in 2021 and

SEK 75 million per year in 2022 and 2023 in more resources for libraries.

Public libraries around the country are very important to people in their local communities in that they both provide literature and act as meeting places. Libraries are also the most important reading promotion actor outside schools. Investing in more resources for libraries also means investing in more reading.

Libraries must be accessible for all. Over 90 per cent of the country's 290 municipalities have applied and received approval for grants within the framework of more resources for libraries for the period 2018–2020. The Government is therefore allocating SEK 150 million in 2021 and SEK 75 million per year in 2022 and 2023 as a continuation of the investment in more resources for libraries.

Reading initiative to be extended

All pupils must acquire more skills and knowledge. It is crucial that schools equip all pupils with good reading comprehension skills if children and young people are to complete their studies and become established in the labour market. But there are currently major gaps between groups in terms of both reading comprehension and interest in reading. It is therefore proposed that SEK 25 million per year be allocated up to 2023 for this initiative to promote the reading skills of all pupils.



Article from Ministry of Culture

The Swedish Arts Council, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and the Swedish Authors' Fund to distribute crisis funds to culture

Published 13 May 2020

The Government has taken a decision on how the SEK 500 million crisis package to culture is to be allocated and on the terms of the support, including by adopting a new ordinance on state aid for cultural events that have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

Cultural activities and cultural creators throughout the country have been hit hard financially through lost income opportunities due to COVID-19. The Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, have proposed that SEK 500 million be set aside for culture for stakeholders that have lost income due to the situation resulting from the COVID-19 virus and, on 8 April, the Riksdag adopted the proposal in an additional amending budget.

Distribution of the support

The Swedish Arts Council will distribute the majority of the funds, SEK 370 million, to large and small cultural activities that lose income as a result of events being cancelled or are affected by additional costs as a result of events being postponed. The Swedish Film Institute will distribute SEK 50 million in the area of film, primarily to cinemas and film festivals that are affected financially by the prevailing situation. The Swedish Arts Grants

Committee will distribute SEK 70 million and the Swedish Authors' Fund will distribute SEK 10 million to individual cultural creators in the form of grants.

In addition to the crisis package of SEK 500 million, the agencies allocating the funds have also adapted their regular support provision to the prevailing situation.

The agencies will provide details about the applications procedure at a later date.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Infrastructure

Several Ministers participated in commemorating Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January

Published 30 January 2020

On Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27 several representatives from the Swedish Government participated in memorial services to honour the victims of the Holocaust and to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven attended a memorial ceremony at Auschwitz-Birkenau to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation. The memorial service began in Auschwitz and ended with a candle lighting ceremony in Birkenau.

Minister for Education Anna Ekström spoke at a memorial service arranged by the Council of Roma representatives in Malmö and then at a memorial service arranged by the Jewish Community of Malmö in the Synagogue of Malmö.

Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg spoke at a ceremony arranged by The Living History Forum at Raoul Wallenberg's Square and then at the memorial ceremony in the Great Synagogue of Stockholm. Minister for Environment and Deputy Prime and Climate Isabella Lövin, Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson and Minister for Financial Markets and Housing Per Bolund also participated at the ceremony in the Great Synagogue.

Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind visited the Jewish Community of Gothenburg and spoke at the memorial ceremony in the evening.

Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation Åsa Lindhagen spoke at the memorial ceremony at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Further Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman and Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson participated in a memorial service at the The Royal Dramatic Theatre.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Investments in culture, democracy and sports in the 2020 Budget

Published 18 September 2019

In the Budget Bill for 2020, the Government, together with the Liberal Party and Centre Party, puts forward several proposals to strengthen democracy, culture and sports throughout Sweden. Here you can learn more about some of the proposals within the Ministry of Culture's budget areas.

Media support for local journalism throughout Sweden

To improve the conditions for news coverage and local journalism throughout the country, the Government proposes that media subsidies are increased by a total of SEK 140 million in 2020, and SEK 110 million a year in 2021 and 2022, including previously announced increases. Moreover, an increase of SEK 30 million is proposed for 2019.

Article: Budget initiative for journalism throughout the country

Swedish democracy centenary

To celebrate 100 years of Swedish democracy, the Government proposes that SEK 25 million a year be allocated during 2020 and 2021 so that government agencies, municipalities and civil society organisations can implement special measures to strengthen democracy.

“More people should feel involved, knowledge about democracy must be increased and we need to safeguard the democratic dialogue. The democracy

we inherited from earlier generations must be even stronger when we pass it on to our children,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

School trips to Holocaust memorial sites

The Government proposes extending and strengthening the support for history and remembrance trips, so that more schools can make trips to Holocaust memorial sites, such as Auschwitz, and other concentration camps. This entails a further SEK 5 million being allocated for history and remembrance trips in 2020, and that SEK 6 million is allocated annually during 2021 and 2022.

The proposal will enable more remembrance trips to be made in 2020, and means the investment is extended by two years, from 2020 to 2022. More schoolchildren making history and remembrance trips to Holocaust memorial sites and learning about the history of the Holocaust, antisemitism and racism, helps raise awareness among young people of the consequences of racism and undemocratic government.

Government support to culture schools reintroduced

To ensure that as many children and young people as possible can benefit from municipal culture school activities, the Government proposes that the support to municipalities running culture school activities should be reintroduced, and that it should amount to the previous level of SEK 100 million a year.

Article: Government support to culture schools reintroduced

Free admission to state-owned museums

Free admission to museums has enabled more people to visit museums and have access to our shared cultural heritage. Since the reform was introduced in 2016, the number of visitors has increased, and to boost the work of the museums, the Government proposes in the Budget Bill that the free admission reform is reinforced with a further SEK 10 million. This means that the state-owned museums will receive SEK 90 million a year going forward to enable them to continue offering free admission and high-quality activities.

Measures to promote reading

To give all children and young people more equal opportunities to attain adequate reading skills, the Government considers that the appropriation increase calculated for the grant to literature and cultural publications for libraries' work on reaching young people in socio-economically disadvantaged environments should instead be used for measures to promote reading. This is because the investment in strengthening libraries already achieves the aim of reaching young people in socio-economically disadvantaged environments. This proposal means that the appropriation will be increased by SEK 25 million annually in 2020 and 2021.

Life-long sporting activities

Sport and physical activity should be life-long commitments that contribute to better health and reduce loneliness among the elderly. It is therefore important to improve access to sports for elderly people and the Government therefore proposes in the Budget Bill an investment of SEK 20 million in the sports movement, which can develop forms for activities in this field, together with pensioner organisations.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Government support to culture schools reintroduced

Published 18 September 2019

To ensure that as many children and young people as possible can benefit from municipal culture school activities, the Government proposes that the support to municipalities running culture school activities should be reintroduced, and that it should amount to the previous level of SEK 100 million a year.

“Culture school activities give children and young people the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, be in a theatre play or explore their creativity in some other way. We should be proud that we have this type of activity in Sweden and we should not neglect it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

Prior to 2016, the Government introduced annual support of SEK 100 million to municipal culture school activities, making it possible for municipalities to broaden the activities available and reach new groups. The support was then phased out as a result of the Riksdag budget decision for 2019, which was based on the budget proposal by the Moderate Party and Christian Democrats, but it was then reintroduced in connection with the spring amending budget. The Budget Bill for 2020 is now proposing that the support will also apply during 2020–2022, in the amount of SEK 100 million per year.

The municipal culture schools reach a lot of children and young people throughout Sweden and contribute to both cultural and social development. The culture schools are very important not only for individuals, but also for general education in society, which means they are of national importance. The Government was able to allocate money in the 2019 spring amending

budget for this year's autumn term, and now the Government is proposing that the support be reintroduced.

“I have seen the difference this money makes to lots of children in Sweden. I am therefore pleased to inform you that the investment will not end this year; the government support of SEK 100 million a year will be reintroduced,” says Ms Lind.

The proposal builds on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.



Article from Ministry of Culture

Budget initiative for journalism throughout the country

Published 13 September 2019

To improve the conditions for news coverage and local journalism throughout the country, the Government proposes that media subsidies are increased by a total of SEK 140 million, including previously announced increases. Moreover, an increase of SEK 30 million is proposed for the current year.

A range of strong and independent media throughout the country is a prerequisite for a functioning democracy. Everyone, regardless of where in the country they live, must have access to comprehensive and high-quality news and media provision.

The media landscape has fundamentally changed in a short period of time. Media developments and changing media habits have led to tough financial pressures on local newspaper journalism in particular. The newspaper industry is grappling with falling circulations and advertising revenues. A closely related problem concerns ‘blind spots’ – geographical areas with non-existent or weak journalistic coverage. Studies show that 75 of the country’s municipalities lack a regularly staffed editorial office.

Since 1 February 2019, there has been a special subsidy for journalistic coverage in blind spots within the framework of the media subsidy. When the media subsidy as a whole is strengthened, the possibility of increased subsidies for the coverage of blind spots is also increased.

Strong independent media with comprehensive news coverage and investigative journalism are of crucial importance for an open and democratic society. Therefore the best possible conditions for diverse

independent journalism are needed throughout the country.

“The existence of comprehensive news coverage throughout the country is crucial for democracy. Local newspapers are essential for maintaining the democratic ecosystem throughout the country. We are now taking a concrete and clear measure, in accordance with the January Agreement, to safeguard independent journalism throughout the country by strengthening the media subsidy,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Culture

Everyone should be able to take part in our cultural life, sporting life and democracy

Published 13 May 2019

Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, talks about her areas of responsibility and her role as minister.