



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Gothenburg to become Sweden's first literature city in UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Published 09 November 2021

Gothenburg has been admitted to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the field of literature. It will be Sweden's third city in the UNESCO network.

– Gothenburg has a long history of compelling work in the field of literature, and the city's admission to the UCCN is an extension of that work. Throughout the years, Gothenburg has also been a model for inclusion, and its initiatives to promote writing and reading among the city's non-native Swedish speakers are especially impressive. Being Sweden's first literature city is very exciting not only for Gothenburg, but the entire literary community in Sweden, says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The aim of the network is to strengthen collaboration between cities where creativity is central to their identity. Their work is also strategic to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The global network currently comprises 295 cities.

Gothenburg was admitted to the network based on its already vibrant community of non-profit organisations and its literary community, complemented by welfare initiatives, reading promotion projects and international collaborations. The city is home to a number of thriving professional and non-profit literary organisations, literature festivals and the Gothenburg Book Fair, which is the Nordic region's largest international cultural event. The application to join the network is backed by several stakeholders, including the City of Gothenburg, the University of Gothenburg, Region Västra Götaland, the Writers' Centre, the Gothenburg

Book Fair, Göteborgs Litteraturhus (Gothenburg House of Literature), Swedish PEN and the Swedish Authors' fund.

The other two Swedish cities represented in the network are Östersund, which became Sweden's first creative city in 2010 in the field of gastronomy, and Norrköping, which joined the network in 2017 in the field of music.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Government decision concerning transfer of artwork to Poland

Published 26 August 2021

The Government has today decided to allow Nationalmuseum to transfer the painting *The Lamentation of Christ by the School of Lucas Cranach the Elder* (inventory number NM 6344) to Muzeum Narodowe we Wrocławiu (National Museum in Wrocław) in Poland.

The Polish Ministry of Culture has requested that the painting be returned to Poland. Based on this request and the findings of its investigation, Nationalmuseum's recommendation to the Government is that the painting be transferred to Poland.

Following its investigation, Nationalmuseum determined that the painting is unusable for the museum. According to Chapter 8, Section 6 of the Budget Act (2011:203), the Government may decide to transfer movable property if the property is no longer needed for central government activities or has become unusable, or if it has not been acquired with state funds.

In light of what has emerged in this matter, the Government consents to the transfer of the painting to the National Museum in Wrocław.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

# Increased possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden

Published 19 August 2021

The Government has today adopted an amendment to the temporary ban on entry from third countries that expands the possibilities for participants in international elite competitions to enter Sweden.

A temporary ban on entry from third countries (i.e. countries other than EEA countries or Switzerland) has been in effect since March 2020. The entry ban is a joint action at EU level to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus. There is already an exemption from the ban for people taking part in or performing necessary tasks at international elite sports competitions.

“The exemption that the Government has now adopted is important to be able to increase possibilities for holding international elite competitions in eSports and similar events in Sweden,” says Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

The decision means that the exemption for international elite sports competitions will also apply to other similar elite competitions. There is still a requirement to present a negative COVID-19 test result on entry.

“I am glad that this decision now opens up the possibility of holding international eSports events even during the pandemic. Sweden has long been a leader in eSports, which is a position we must preserve,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The amendment/exemption will enter into force on 23 August 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence

# Sweden's new Government

Published 09 July 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

## Prime Minister's Office

### Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

### Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

## Ministry of Employment

### Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

## Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

## Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

## Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

## Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Emergency support and incentives to culture

Published 19 May 2021

The Government proposes that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 750 million for extended emergency support and incentives in 2021 to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate the resumption of activities once the situation allows. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The situation for cultural actors throughout the country remains difficult, and the Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to public cultural activities, artists and other actors in the area of culture. Most of the emergency support will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Council, which will also distribute support to the regions for regional and local cultural activities. The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Authors' Fund and the Sami Parliament will also distribute grants. The Government and the institutions distributing the support will provide more information about the details of the support at a later date.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 3.53 billion in emergency support and incentives to independent cultural life in 2021.

Alongside previously announced support, this proposal is a lifeline for these actors, as well as being essential to their planning and production ahead of a resumption of activities. In April, the Government also presented support to

organisers of events that have to be cancelled or considerably limited due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government will announce the details of this support in due course.

The Government intends to present proposals on extended support to the Riksdag in a coming amending budget.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Emergency support and incentives to sport

Published 19 May 2021

The Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 600 million to sport to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, facilitate the resumption of activities once the situation allows and contribute to gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

It is very important – particularly for children’s and young people’s health and wellbeing – that the sports movement is able to continue to operate based on the current rate of infection and, above all, resume activities once the situation allows. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on sports activities.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support to sport and allocate funds to the sports movement to resume activities in a COVID-safe manner once the situation allows.

In all, the Government proposes that sport be allocated an additional SEK 600 million for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

The emergency support is intended to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on sports activities throughout the country, particularly for children and young people. The support will offer a lifeline to sports associations and contribute to the resumption of gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The support will ultimately be distributed via the Swedish Sports

Confederation in dialogue with the specialised sports federations.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 1 955 billion in emergency support and incentives to sport in 2021.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Increased media support in the Government's budget

Published 20 April 2021

To enable continued distribution of printed newspapers in areas where newspaper distribution is affected by mail being delivered every other day and to promote journalism throughout country, the media support appropriation is being increased by SEK 100 million. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

This investment secures funding for the current year for a solution to continued daily distribution of newspapers in areas where mail is delivered every other day. This is important to ensure continued delivery to newspaper readers' mailboxes in rural areas.

The funding is also intended to compensate for increased expenditures for rights-based operational subsidies and thus the need for increased funding for media support, including editorial subsidies. This is particularly important for news media still suffering from reduced advertising income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

# Support to event organisers

Published 12 April 2021

The Government intends to introduce new financial support to organisers of events planned for period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19. The proposal means that the State will cover part of the financial risk. The design of the support is currently being prepared at the Government Offices, and the Government intends to present the details at a later date. This is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The pandemic has meant that event organisers have been hard hit financially since restrictions on the number of participants prevent them from carrying out their activities. This applies to organisers of concerts, stage performances, exhibitions, festivals and other similar cultural events, fairs, markets, civil society events and athletics and other sports events. In light of this, the Government is now proposing event support intended for these kinds of events.

At present, the Government cannot comment on when it will be possible to allow events of a certain size or which restrictions will apply for events when they are allowed. In this uncertain situation, and to make it possible to hold events that require planning once the infection situation allows, it is an important signal that the State will cover part of the costs if an event cannot be held or must be limited due to the spread of COVID-19.

Under the proposal, the support will amount to a maximum of 70 per cent of

the costs not covered by revenues or other support.

This support is contingent on approval by the European Commission before the Government can take a decision on implementation.

The new event support is one of the measures the Government intends to take to stimulate a restart once the situation allows and should be seen together with the support to culture and sport also proposed by the Government.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Emergency support and incentives to sport

Published 12 April 2021

The Government proposes allocating an additional SEK 1.02 billion to mitigate the economic impact of the spread of COVID-19, to facilitate a restart of activities once the situation allows and to contribute to gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

It is very important that the sports movement can conduct activities based on the current rate of infection, and above all is able to start up once the situation allows, particularly with regard to children's and young people's health and well-being. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on the sports sector.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to sport and allocate funds so that actors can start up their activities again in an infection-safe manner once the situation allows.

In all, it is proposed that sport be allocated an additional SEK 1.02 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

Emergency support is intended to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on sports activities throughout the country, particularly on children and young people. The support will help sports association survive and contribute to being able to start up gender-equal and equitable sports activities. The final distribution of the support will be carried out via the Swedish Sports Confederation in dialogue with specialised sports federations.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 1 355 billion in emergency support and incentives to sport in 2021.

This support is necessary to facilitate a restart. In addition, the Government is presenting support to organisers of events planned for the period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Emergency support and incentives to culture

Published 12 April 2021

The Government proposes that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 1.28 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021 to mitigate the economic impact of the spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate a restart of activities once the situation allows. The proposal is based on an agreement between the government parties, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

A prerequisite for cultural life to exist throughout the country is that there are dynamic actors that have the opportunity to create art and plan performances, concerts, exhibitions and other cultural events. The restrictions and general advice introduced due to COVID-19 have had a negative economic impact on the cultural sector.

The Government therefore wants to extend the emergency support distributed to public cultural activities, artists and other actors in the area of culture that have been hit hard, and allocate funds so that the actors can start up their activities again in an infection-safe manner once the situation allows. Support will also be distributed via the cultural cooperation model to cultural activities throughout the country.

In all, it is proposed that the area of culture be allocated an additional SEK 1.28 billion for emergency support and incentives in 2021.

Most of the emergency support will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Council, which will also distribute support intended to enable actors to start

up their activities again. The Swedish Arts Grants Committee, the Swedish Film Institute, the Swedish Authors' Fund and the Sami Parliament will also distribute grants. The Government and the supporting institutions will provide more detailed information about the design of the support at a later date.

This proposal means that the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, has proposed a total of SEK 2.78 billion in emergency support and incentives to independent cultural life in 2021.

This support is necessary to enable production ahead of a restart. In addition, the Government is presenting support to organisers of events planned for the period July–December 2021 that cannot be held or must be greatly limited due to the restrictions resulting from the spread of COVID-19.

The Government intends to present this proposal to the Riksdag in a coming amending budget.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

# Swedish Holocaust Museum to be established

Published 27 January 2021

Today, 27 January, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Government has announced that a Swedish Holocaust museum is to be established in July 2022 and will be located in Stockholm.

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. The museum will be established in 2022 and it will be located in Stockholm to make it easier for school pupils and the general public from around the country to visit.

“I have promised survivors to do what I can as Prime Minister for Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism today. The Swedish Holocaust museum and the international forum in Malmö later this year are part of those efforts,” says Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

“Collecting testimonies and accounts of historical events is part of remembering and honouring those who died and ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten. A museum that compiles the names and accounts of survivors will become part of the cultural heritage that we preserve together for the future,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

“This museum will fulfil so many important aims. It is a place for remembrance, but also a place where future generations can learn about what undemocratic forces and phenomena such as antisemitism, conspiracy theories and polarisation can lead to. We must all learn from history,” says Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government will soon task the relevant museums agency with establishing the museum. Integrating it into an existing agency should ensure a streamlined process while maintaining a high standard.

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 connected to the Holocaust are found throughout the country.



Government Offices of Sweden

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

# Sweden to lead the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Published 04 December 2020

Sweden has been entrusted with holding the Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) – an intergovernmental organisation to promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance – 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.

“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.

The IHRA, which Sweden helped found in 2000 through the Stockholm Declaration, consists of 34 member countries and a number of organisations.

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

Antisemitism on 13–14 October 2021, which Mr Löfven will host.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice

# Changes to the ordinance prohibiting the holding of public gatherings and events

Published 23 October 2020

To address the crowding that has been seen in nightclubs, the Government has decided that public dance events for more than 50 people will once again be prohibited. The Government has also adopted a new exemption from the ordinance, allowing public gatherings and public events with a maximum of 300 seated attendees, rather than the 500 previously discussed. The changes come into effect on 1 November.

In light of the increased transmission in recent months, the Government had previously chosen to delay the introduction of an exemption from the ordinance with respect to public gatherings and public events for a maximum of 50 people. Following recent dialogue with the Public Health Agency of Sweden, the Government today decided to introduce this exemption.

Holding events for a maximum of 300 seated attendees is conditional on every attendee being allocated a seat at a distance of at least one metre from other attendees, and that it is possible for attendees to maintain that distance throughout the event. Two people in the same party may be placed less than one metre apart, however.

To address the crowding seen on nightclub dancefloors, the Government today also decided that public dance events will once again be subject to the ordinance's limit of 50 attendees.

The Government also proposes that the temporary act on communicable disease control measures at eating and drinking establishments, which is due to expire at the end of the year, be extended by five months to the end of May 2021. This is because the risk of transmission is particularly high when people gather in small areas for extended periods of time. Restaurants, bars and cafés are examples of such environments.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Reallocation of financial support to the creative arts

Published 24 June 2020

During the spring, the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals presented several crisis packages to support culture in response to the new coronavirus. The proposals included SEK 500 million for event organisers and independent artists to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis.

Of this, SEK 370 million has been allocated by the Swedish Arts Council to support cancelled or postponed events, and SEK 80 million has been distributed to individuals involved in the creative arts. Some of the applications received by the Swedish Arts Council for compensation for lost revenue due to cancelled or postponed cultural events, do not fulfil the criteria of support which means that a part of the Swedish Arts Councils funds remain. The remaining SEK 35 million is now instead being reallocated as an extra crisis support to individual artists involved in the field of creative arts.

SEK 20 million will go towards strengthening support and grants to individual cultural creators and artists who have been severely impacted during the crisis. These funds will be distributed by the Swedish Arts Grants Committee. The Performing Arts Alliances will also be supported with SEK 15 million, to help prevent individual artists working in the cultural sector unemployment as a result of the difficult financial situation. The Performing Arts Alliances are important in providing financial and social security to individuals working in the field, and are vital for strengthening the range of cultural experiences and artistic development in Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# SEK 150 million for culture in Sweden

Published 12 June 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing an investment of SEK 150 million to strengthen cultural life and the cultural infrastructure across Sweden in 2020. The funding will be allocated via the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model - a model for cooperation and funding of culture between the Government, regions and municipalities.

Cultural life across Sweden has been severely affected by the new coronavirus, as cultural activities in many ways are reliant of people physically coming together. The proposed investment of SEK 150 million for regional and local culture will support the cultural infrastructure across Sweden during the crisis. It encompasses institutions and activities such as concert halls, theatres, museums, libraries, private archives, and much more.

The allocation to the regions will be managed by the Swedish Arts Council, which is already responsible for allocating grants to regional cultural activities within Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model. Subsequently, the regions have the freedom and responsibility to allocate the funds within their county.

Certain activities in the region of Stockholm which are not included in the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model, will also receive a part of the funding. These activities receive some government funding every year, but through other means than the Swedish Cultural Cooperation Model.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# SEK 100 million to support particularly socially vulnerable people and combat isolation among the elderly during the coronavirus pandemic

Published 12 May 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing an investment of SEK 100 million in civil society to strengthen associations and organisations working to support the most vulnerable in society during the coronavirus crisis. It is proposed that SEK 50 million be assigned to help people in particularly vulnerable situations, while the remaining SEK 50 million is to combat isolation among elderly people.

Organisations within civil society such as social charities working with the homeless and associations helping the elderly have a key role when it comes to reaching and supporting people in particularly vulnerable situations. During a crisis, support for these organisations to extend their social and humanitarian activities can be of great benefit. The investment of SEK 100 million for 2020 aims to bolster civil society and give organisations the opportunity to scale up their activities during the crisis.

The investment is in two portions. SEK 50 million is being earmarked for social and humanitarian efforts where there is a particular need. This could, for example, involve initiatives for people who are homeless, have no documentation or who are in socially vulnerable situations. SEK 50 million is

being set aside to combat isolation among the elderly during the virus outbreak. This could include outreach activities by telephone to help overcome loneliness, provide assistance with digital meetings or help with food shopping.

The investment complements the previously announced investment of SEK 100 million in organisations working with children in vulnerable situations and organisations supporting women, children and LGBTQ people exposed to violence, as well as to combat violence in close relationships and honour-based violence and oppression.

The Government will announce further details about how this support will be provided and on the application process.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Crisis support to several government-funded cultural institutions

Published 08 May 2020

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals are proposing support of SEK 319 million in 2020 for several state-funded cultural institutions, including the Vasa Museum, Skansen open-air museum, the Royal Dramatic Theatre, the Royal Swedish Opera, Riksteatern and Åjtte for lost revenue due to the new coronavirus.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on Sweden's cultural institutions, which have been forced to close or experienced a huge drop in visitor numbers. As state museums, performing arts institutions and cultural activities that receive government support also depend on revenue from visitors, several institutions have already suffered significant financial difficulties. The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberals therefore propose a temporary and targeted financial support to enable these institutions to survive the crisis and to ensure that cultural life and cultural heritage can continue to be preserved, developed and be accessible when these institutions reopen.

The organisations covered by this support include performing arts institutions that are directly funded by the Government, fee-funded activities with a requirement for full cost coverage, along with certain state-funded museums and cultural institutions to which the Government allocate annual funding in government decisions. The exact size of the compensation for each organisation has not yet been decided, but will be based on the revenue loss

that the institutions have reported to the Government.

## Organisations and activities affected:

- Ájtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sami Museum
- Bildmuseet (contemporary international art museum)
- Cosmonova, which is part of the Swedish Museum of Natural History
- The contract archaeology service at the National Historical Museums
- Form/Design Center
- The Swedish Society of Crafts and Design
- The Jewish Museum in Stockholm
- Kungliga Dramatiska teatern AB
- Kungliga Operan AB
- Nobel Prize Museum
- Riksteatern (Sweden's National Touring Theatre)
- The Röhsska Museum of Design and Craft
- The Museum of Work Foundation
- The Bergman Center Foundation on Fårö
- Carl and Olga Milles' Lidingöhem Foundation
- Dansens Hus Foundation (contemporary dance venue)
- The foundations Dance Museum Fund and Rolf de Maré Memorial Fund
- Drottningholm Palace Theatre Foundation
- Nordic Museum Foundation
- Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde Foundation (art museum)
- Skansen Foundation
- Strindberg Museum Foundation
- National Museum of Science and Technology Foundation
- Thiel Gallery Foundation
- The Prison Museum of Sweden
- Unga Klara AB (children's and youth theatre)
- Vasa Museum, which is part of the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums
- Voksenåsen
- The Zorn Collections



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Additional support to the media in response to the COVID-19 virus

Published 08 May 2020

To ensure the public's access to information and mitigate the negative economic impact on news media as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government, in cooperation with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, will provide an additional SEK 500 million in support to general news media in 2020.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has had a significant impact on the media and journalism throughout the country. In a short period of time, media that are dependent on advertising have lost a large share of their income as a result of a rapid and severe weakening of the advertising market during the crisis. At the same time, there is great demand for news, journalism and reliable information. News media play a crucial role in the functioning of society, not least during a crisis. Having journalism in place throughout the country is also vital for democracy. Therefore, the Government, together with the Centre Party and the Liberal Party, is proposing additional measures to support the news media during the COVID-19 crisis.

The proposal provides an additional SEK 500 million in temporary media support for 2020 in the form of new support to general news media. Unlike the temporary distribution support to the media presented earlier in response to the COVID-19 crisis, this is a broader initiative that can help more news media than printed media alone.

The aim of the support is to strengthen the economic conditions for editorial activities and partly compensate for lost advertising revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic and thus ensure the public's access to news. This support is expected to be in place by the summer and the initiative will be in

effect during 2020. The detailed design of the support will be adapted to other crisis measures and carried out in accordance with relevant state aid rules.

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party have already presented SEK 200 million extra in media support and brought forward payment of support already decided on in response to the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the media in Sweden.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# MUCF tasked with distributing information to civil society about the coronavirus

Published 09 April 2020

The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF) is being commissioned to compile and disseminate essential information to organisations within civil society during the current crisis resulting from the new coronavirus.

“Many organisations in civil society, particularly those working with social issues, are extremely concerned at the moment about the lack of resources and how to continue with their vital work during this period. Civil society actors also need to be informed that the Government’s support packages are often aimed at them as well. The Government is therefore reprioritising agencies’ previous funding so that MUCF can now mobilise and work on a broad front to publicise vital information to those who need it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy, Amanda Lind.

The task involves MUCF disseminating information to organisations in civil society and working in collaboration with other agencies. This could involve information about how the Government’s general support initiatives in response to the spread of the coronavirus affect civil society, questions about subsidy rules, postponed annual meetings, employer issues, non-profit welfare providers, and the application of laws and regulations relating to civil society. MUCF has a well-established agency network at its disposal for coordinating communication with civil society organisations.



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Support to media in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus

Published 03 April 2020

Media throughout the country have been dramatically affected by the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party therefore propose that media support be strengthened. The Government also announced a proposal on altered advertising regulations for TV broadcasts.

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has had a significant impact on the media throughout the country. Not least media dependant on advertising have lost advertisers and thus a large share of their income. At the same time, there is great demand for news, and the importance of reliable journalism is clear. Having a diversity of media throughout the country is crucial for democracy. The Government is now presenting a number of measures for the media industry.

## Permanent reinforcement of media support

The Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party propose a permanent strengthening of media support in the amount of SEK 200 million per year, beginning this year. This is part of the Spring Amending Budget for 2020, which was presented on 15 April.

To deal with the most acute crisis, SEK 150 million has been allocated for new temporary distribution support lasting three months. This support covers all printed newspapers and thus will benefit more media than those currently receiving operating support.

It is proposed that the remaining SEK 50 million go to a doubling of the

support for coverage of geographical areas with weak or non-existent journalistic coverage.

## Temporary regulatory changes to press subsidies

To help make it easier for the media sector during the acute crisis, the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party propose two temporary regulatory changes. It will be possible to provide advance payment of press support already decided on for the current year. At the same time, the requirement that 55 per cent of editorial material must be produced in-house will be removed.

## Changed rules for TV advertising

To provide television companies with better opportunities for flexibility in their planning for advertising at a time when advertising revenue has rapidly decreased, the Government also announces a coming proposal on changed rules for broadcasting advertising on television. The proposal means that the time allowed for advertising is calculated on the basis of a longer time interval rather than per clock hour, as at present. The legislative amendment is permitted through amendments to the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, and is expected to enter into force later this autumn.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# NOD to help coordinate civil society in response to the new coronavirus

Published 02 April 2020

The national body for dialogue and consultation between Government and civil society (NOD), has been tasked with helping coordinate civil society's initiatives in response to the new coronavirus.

The spread of the new coronavirus has led to many civil society organisations feeling limited in terms of how they operate and how they can support vulnerable groups. NOD's steering group, including representatives from both civil society and the Government Offices of Sweden, has therefore decided that NOD will make its resources available in helping to manage the impact of the new coronavirus.

This will include NOD helping to coordinate civil society's efforts and produce a weekly status report detailing civil society's needs and initiatives. NOD will also provide support in discussions and cooperation between civil society and the Government Offices of Sweden and governmental agencies regarding matters that need to be addressed as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus.

“There is a huge level of commitment across Sweden, and a readiness in challenging times to support people who need it. I've met with lots of associations and other parts of civil society in recent weeks, and it's clear that there's a strong desire to help in this situation. That's why it's important for us to facilitate the work and involvement of civil society. NOD is a shared resource for civil society and the Government, and they are now being tasked with supporting civil society where it's needed the most,” says

Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Several museums and venues to receive funding in advance to manage effects of the coronavirus

Published 01 April 2020

Government funding for certain institutions will be paid in advance in order to boost their liquidity in the situation that has arisen due to the spread of the new coronavirus.

Many museums, arts venues and cultural institutions are dependent on ticket revenue and other sales in order to continue operating. The new restrictions regarding public gatherings, recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Sweden, and changes in people's behaviour due to the spread of the new coronavirus have led to fewer visitor numbers and thus a sharp decline in revenue, and greater risk of acute lack of liquidity.

“In a matter of just a few weeks, many museums, arts venues and institutions have seen a huge drop in visitors for which no-one was prepared. This has led to a significant drop in revenue and concern about the future. Bringing forward the payment of grants for several cultural institutions that receive state support is an important decision and should be regarded in the context of a package of measures decided upon by the Government given the current situation. Not having to wait for state support should provide some relief during the crisis,” says Minister for Culture, Amanda Lind.

The decision relates to the Swedish Legal Financial and Administrative Services Agency's payments to certain state-funded institutions. The Government continues with its efforts to survey needs arising as a result of the spread of the new coronavirus.

The organisations affected are:

- Form/Design Center
- The Swedish Society of Crafts and Design
- Kungliga Dramatiska teatern (Royal Dramatic Theatre)
- Kungliga Operan (Royal Swedish Opera)
- Carl and Olga Milles' Lidingöhem Foundation
- The foundation Dance Museum Fund
- Nordic Museum Foundation
- Prins Eugen's Waldemarsudde Foundation
- Skansen Foundation
- Strindberg Museum Foundation
- National Museum of Science and Technology Foundation
- Thiel Gallery Foundation
- Voksenåsen AS



Press release from Ministry of Culture

# SEK 1 billion to culture and sport as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 virus

Published 20 March 2020

The cultural sector and sports movement will receive an extra SEK 1 billion in support due to the economic consequences affecting these sectors as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The money will be distributed by grant-allocating agencies in the area of culture and by the Swedish Sports Confederation.

The funds to culture – SEK 500 million – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. Small events are also affected by the Public Health Agency of Sweden’s guidelines and by changes in public behaviour. Both large and small actors in the area of culture will be able to receive support. Organisational form will not impact the ability to receive support. State institutions are not included, but their situation is being monitored closely.

The funds to sport – SEK 500 million – will be granted to activities that lose revenue as a result of the restriction on public gatherings. The money will go to associations that organise sporting events, such as major championships, recreational races or elite-level matches.

The Government will continue to engage in dialogue with relevant actors and to examine the support that may be needed as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This is a policy agreement reached between the Government, the Liberal

Party and the Centre Party.



Press release from Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education and Research

# National initiative to increase knowledge about the Holocaust and antisemitism

Published 28 February 2020

In connection with the Government's International Forum for Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism, the Government is allocating SEK 10 million to a national initiative to increase knowledge in schools and society.

“The Holocaust and the crimes against humanity committed during the Second World War must never be forgotten. This national initiative is a continuation of the Government's strategic and comprehensive work for democracy, tolerance and human rights, and to combat antisemitism, antiziganism and other forms of racism,” says Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

This year, it is 75 years since the end of the Second World War, and 20 years since the adoption of the Stockholm Declaration at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust. In the Stockholm Declaration, Sweden has pledged to strengthen its efforts to promote remembrance, education and research about the Holocaust. In October, the Government will host an international forum on Holocaust remembrance and combating antisemitism in Malmö. In connection with this, the Government has allocated SEK 10 million in the Budget Bill for 2020 for a national initiative. It is now clear which four assignments will be included in the initiative:

- The Living History Forum will receive SEK 6 million to implement a national initiative to enhance educational initiatives about the Holocaust, antisemitism, antiziganism and other forms of racism, to particularly

target audiences that are rarely reached by the Forum's activities.

Various parts of the school and liberal adult education systems are to be the focus of the efforts. Civic orientation for newly arrived immigrants is also covered by the assignment.

- The National Historical Museums will receive SEK 2.3 million to develop a Swedish-language version of the Dimensions in Testimony installation that allows visitors to converse with Holocaust survivors via pre-recorded answers to questions made possible by artificial intelligence technology. There are few Holocaust survivors left alive today to talk about their experiences. There is therefore a need to preserve the survivors' testimonies in various ways.
- The University of Gothenburg (the Segerstedt Institute) will receive SEK 1.2 million to prepare a research review and conduct a research seminar on education in the school system that can combat antisemitism and other forms of racism. The assignment is to take both national and international research into account. The research seminar is to be conducted in conjunction with the Malmö Forum in October.
- The Swedish Defence Research Agency will receive SEK 0.5 million to produce a report on antisemitism in social media and other digital environments. The report will be part of the agency's assignment to conduct surveys and analyses of violent extremist propaganda that is spread via the internet and social media.

“Remembering is not just never forgetting. It must also mean doing everything we can to prevent something similar from happening again. Although history has shown us the ultimate consequences of hatred of one another, discrimination and racism still exist in all parts of society. This is why initiatives like this are so important,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Gitte Ørskou new director and head of Moderna Museet

Published 13 June 2019

Today the Government appointed Gitte Ørskou as the new director and head of Moderna Museet. Ms Ørskou will take up her post on 1 September 2019.

“Gitte Ørskou is a proven good leader and manager, with long experience of leading similar activities. She has sound knowledge and extensive experience of the art world, both in the Nordic countries and internationally. I am therefore very pleased she wants to assume this important position,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

“I feel strongly motivated to lead Moderna Museet; one of the world’s most important museums of modern and contemporary art. Through my career, I have been focusing on building bridges between art and people. My motivation is to touch, move and engage all kinds of people through the power of art,” says Gitte Ørskou.

## Information about Gitte Ørskou

Since 2009, Gitte Ørskou has been the director of Kunsten Museum of Modern Art Aalborg. Ms Ørskou was previously curator and later head curator of ARoS Aarhus Art Museum. In addition to these roles, Gitte Ørskou has held several positions of trust, including chair of the Danish Arts Foundation. She has long experience of working in the museum world and a solid academic background in art history and management.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Free museum admission to remain

Published 10 April 2019

Admission to a number of state-owned museums will remain free of charge under a proposal in the Government's Spring Amending Budget for 2019. The Spring Amending Budget is based on an agreement between the Green Party, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.

“The free admission reform is important in opening up our state-owned museums to more people. There is so much knowledge gathered in our museums, and this must not only benefit those who can afford it,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

The Government will therefore contribute SEK 60 million to the state-owned museums in 2019, to ensure that free admission continues to apply to a number of them. This will bring the total budget for free admission for 2019 to SEK 80 million, which is in line with previous levels.

“I want to work to ensure that our shared cultural heritage is accessible to more people, and museums play an important role in this. Visitor numbers rose after free admission was introduced, proving that this is a reform that really makes a difference,” says Ms Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Culture

# Government grants to culture schools reintroduced

Published 10 April 2019

The Government intends to reintroduce government grants to municipal culture schools. The grants, which encompass SEK 50 million, will be used to broaden the offering within culture schools and reach new groups. The proposal is made in the Government's Spring Amending Budget, which is based on an agreement between the Green Party, the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.

“More culture to more people is the lodestar of the Government's culture policy, and I am delighted that we are reintroducing support to culture schools, which will give more children and young people the opportunity to take part in their activities. This is an important initiative for more equitable culture schools,” says Minister for Culture and Democracy Amanda Lind.

Between 2016 and 2018, the Swedish Arts Council distributed grants totalling SEK 100 million annually to municipal culture schools. By the end of 2018, the majority of municipalities with culture schools had applied for grants, and these were primarily used to broaden the offering and reach new groups. The grants were removed in the budget approved by the Riksdag in December 2018, but will be reintroduced from 1 July this year. The Government proposes funding of SEK 50 million for 2019 – as opposed to SEK 100 million previously – because the funds approved now will only apply to the second half of the year.

“I really want to highlight the significance of culture schools. It is extremely important that children and young people have the opportunity to play

instruments, paint, do drama, and express themselves in other ways,” says Ms Lind.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release

# The ministers' press contacts

Published 22 January 2019

Here are the contact details for the ministers' press secretaries.

## Prime Minister's Office

Press secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

**Ingela Nilsson**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 551 41 16

**Jonatan Holst**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 227 85 35

Press Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren

**Dan Lundqvist Dahlin**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 553 66 29

## Ministry of Employment

Press Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson

**Natalie Sial**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

Press Secretary to Minister for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen

**Martin Kling**

Mobile telephone: +46 70 539 57 29

## Ministry of Finance

Press Secretary to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson

**Gösta Brunnander**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 544 28 66

Press Secretary to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund

**Hanna Hessling**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 557 38 01

Press Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardalan Shekarabi

**Matilda Malmqvist Glas**

Mobile telephone: +46 70 367 03 64

## Ministry of Defence

Press Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist

**Maja Zachrisson**

Mobile telephone: +46 70 219 81 64

## Ministry of Infrastructure

Press Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth

**Karin Röding Boman**

Mobile telephone: +46 76 116 65 62

Press Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital

## Development Anders Ygeman

### **Fredrik Persson**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 454 55 09

## Ministry of Justice

Press Secretary to Minister for Justice Morgan Johansson

### **Sofie Rudh**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 545 74 21

Press Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael  
Damberg

### **Miriam Abu Eid**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 216 95 65

## Ministry of Culture

Press Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with  
responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind

### **Anna Söderström**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 532 17 13

## Ministry of the Environment

Press secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate,  
and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin

### **Jakob Lundgren**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 08 92

### **Kristoffer Talltorp**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 542 80 32

## Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Press Secretary to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation  
Ibrahim Baylan

**Sami Mashial**

Mobile telephone: +46 76 144 17 03

Press Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson

**Maria Soläng**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 206 19 47

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs  
Lena Hallengren

**Jens Petersen**

Mobile telephone: +46 70 293 69 35

Press Secretary to Minister for Social Security Annika  
Strandhäll

**Victor Harju**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 504 36 70

Ministry of Education and Research

Press secretaries to Minister for Education Anna Ekström

**Natalie Sial**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 520 54 49

**Tora Heckscher**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 233 84 39

Press Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and  
Research Matilda Ernkrans

**Daniel Ferreira**

Mobile telephone: +46 76 135 56 92

## Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström

### **Isabel Lundin**

Mobile telephone: +46 76 296 46 38

Press Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson

### **Hanna Hessling**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 55 738 07

Press Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde

### **Joanna Abrahamsson**

Mobile telephone: +46 72 543 84 89



**Government Offices of Sweden**

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Employment, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices

# New state secretaries at the Government Offices

Published 22 January 2019

The Government today appointed 31 state secretaries at the Government Offices. Former state secretaries have been dismissed from their positions. Most of the state secretaries have previously held corresponding positions at the Government Offices.

## Prime Minister's Office

The Government has appointed Nils Vikmång as the Prime Minister's State Secretary. The Government has also appointed Madeleine Harby Samuelsson and Karin Wallensteen as state secretaries to Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

The Government has appointed Paula Carvalho Olovsson as State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs Hans Dahlgren.

The Government has appointed Mats Andersson and Maria Ferm as state secretaries in the coordinating committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

## Ministry of Employment

The Government has appointed Annika Dahl as State Secretary to Minister for Employment Ylva Johansson.

The Government has appointed Karin Strandås as State Secretary to Minister

for Gender Equality, with responsibility for anti-discrimination and anti-segregation, Åsa Lindhagen.

## Ministry of Finance

The Government has appointed Max Elger and Leif Jacobsson as state secretaries to Minister for Finance Magdalena Andersson.

The Government has appointed Ulf Holm and Elin Olsson as state secretaries to Minister for Financial Markets and Housing, Deputy Minister for Finance, Per Bolund.

The Government has appointed Alejandro Firpo as State Secretary to Minister for Public Administration Ardan Shekarabi.

## Ministry of Defence

The Government has appointed Jan-Olof Lind as State Secretary to Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist.

## Ministry of Infrastructure

The Government has appointed Mattias Landgren as State Secretary to Minister for Infrastructure Tomas Eneroth.

The Government has appointed Sebastian De Toro as State Secretary to Minister for Energy and Digital Development Anders Ygeman.

## Ministry of Justice

The Government has appointed Catharina Espmark and Lars Westbratt as state secretaries to Minister for Justice and Migration Morgan Johansson.

The Government has appointed Elisabeth Backteman as State Secretary to Minister for Home Affairs Mikael Damberg.

## Ministry of Culture

The Government has appointed Helene Öberg as State Secretary to Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport, Amanda Lind.

## Ministry of the Environment

The Government has appointed Eva Svedling and Gunvor Ericson as state secretaries to Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister, Isabella Lövin.

## Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

The Government has appointed Stina Billinger and Emil Högberg as state secretaries to Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The Government has appointed Per Callenberg as State Secretary to Minister for Rural Affairs Jennie Nilsson.

## Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

The Government has appointed Maja Fjaestad as State Secretary to Minister for Health and Social Affairs Lena Hallengren.

## Ministry of Education and Research

The Government has appointed Erik Nilsson as State Secretary to Minister for Education Anna Ekström.

The Government has appointed Malin Cederfeldt Östberg as State Secretary to Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

## Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Government has appointed Annika Söder as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström.

The Government has appointed Per Olsson Fridh as State Secretary to Minister for International Development Cooperation Peter Eriksson.

The Government has appointed Niklas Johansson as State Secretary to Minister for Foreign Trade, with responsibility for Nordic affairs, Ann Linde.