



Partnership Skåne

*Holistic and Inclusive Integration  
of Newly Arrived Migrants*

# PS – PARTNERSHIP SKÅNE

People have always been on the move. Migration is not going to decline, quite the opposite. In addition to war and conflicts, poverty and climate change are becoming increasingly significant causes of migration.

Migrants' opportunities for empowerment, health, and social participation are key factors for a sustainable social development. In 2008, "Partnership Skåne" (PS) was adopted as a model for cross sectorial collaboration and holistic development in order to support the integration process of

newly arrived migrants in Sweden. The goal is to facilitate an active role in community life, development and growth for the newly arrived as soon as possible.

PS is a multi-level governance partnership for integration; where Region Skåne, municipalities, local, regional, and national partners cooperate. The work is coordinated by the County Administrative Board in Skåne with the task of promoting capacity in the reception of newly arrived migrants.

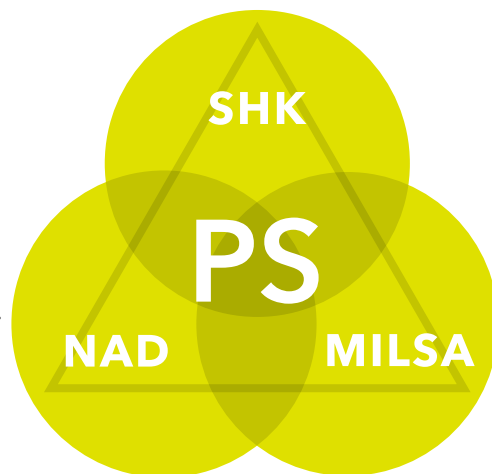


**Santino Severoni**, Regional Coordinator Public Health and Migration Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, WHO European Region: "The world needs effective models and methods that improve refugees' and migrants' opportunities for health, well-being and social inclusion, as inspiration for them to create their own models. Partnership Skåne is such a model."

**THE TARGET GROUP'S NEEDS AND PERSPECTIVES (SHK)** Quality-assured civic and health communication, provided to newly arrived migrants in their mother tongue, as a basis for empowerment, democracy and health equity.

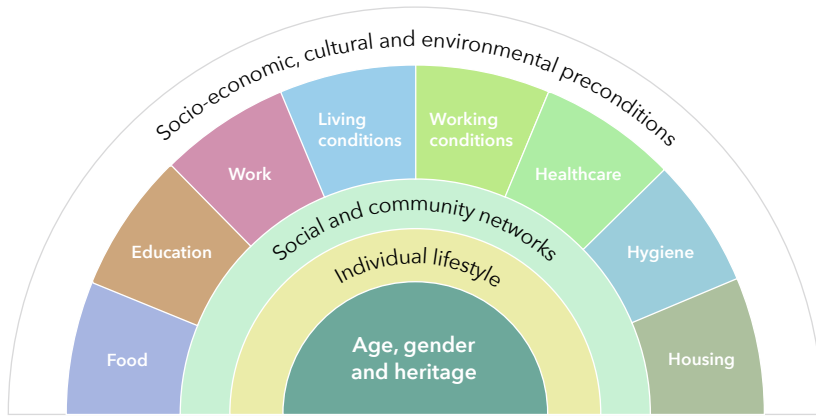
**HOLISTIC AND INCLUSIVE (NAD)** Partnership with civil society organisations. The Network-Activity-Participation method generates activities that enable creating new networks, trust and health.

**BASED ON KNOWLEDGE (MILSA)** Joint action between actors representing different sectors and researchers from various disciplines to facilitate a high-quality, knowledge-based and health-promoting integration process.



WELCOME TO SKÅNE -  
MALMÖ MUSEUM

*Given the right conditions, mobility is a positive force that creates economic growth as well as social and cultural development*



PS is based on a holistic perspective. The picture illustrates how people's living conditions are simultaneously affected by a range of factors.

Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991



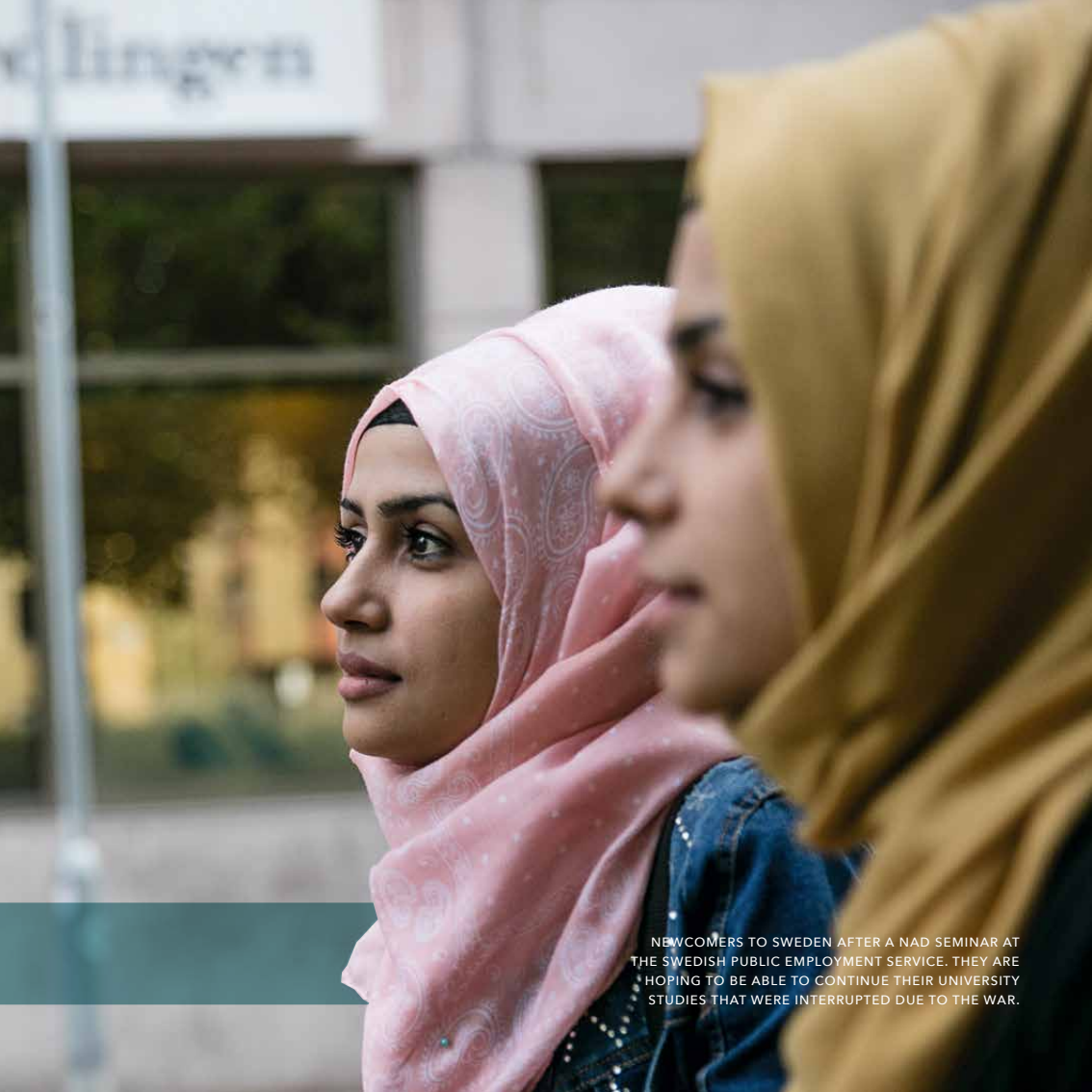
ALAA ALKURDI, ISLAM ABUNAHLA  
& DAWUD NEGZAD, SHK

Experiencing forced migration and finding oneself in a completely new environment is a stressful situation. Things that used to be self-evident and simple can become difficult. Research shows that the process of migration is hazardous for health. The very first years in a new country are often crucial for migrants' health and future development of opportunities.

PS is a support system that makes important resources available. Activities provided help create the necessary preconditions for physical and mental health; inclusion in society; empowerment and well-being.

*Trust, confidence, and networks  
– key factors for integration*

**HEALTH AND PARTICIPATION**



NEWCOMERS TO SWEDEN AFTER A NAD SEMINAR AT THE SWEDISH PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. THEY ARE HOPING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR UNIVERSITY STUDIES THAT WERE INTERRUPTED DUE TO THE WAR.



Civic and Health Communication (SHK) is the core of PS. Everyone has the right to make their own choices in life based on knowledge and information. SHK provides quality-assured information in the newcomers' native languages about society and health in the municipalities of Skåne.

The programme enables important information and dialogue about issues such as democracy, equality, health and parenting in Sweden. The Civic and Health Communicators are academics with personal experience of migration and of being a newcomer in Sweden.

Civic and Health Communicators serve as ambassadors of Swedish society, providing newly arrived migrants with valuable knowledge. The SHK also presents opportunities provided by civil society organisations and other associations. Finally, SHK serves as a crucial communication channel between the newly arrived migrants and the researchers within the MILSA platform.

The municipalities of Skåne have been providing civic orientation and health communication in collaboration with the SHK since 2008.




**Ziad Jomaa**, Head of SHK, the County Administrative Board of Skåne: "Many things need to be communicated and explained, everything from laws and societal values to sexual and reproductive health, traditions and environmental issues. Some languages don't even have a word for certain phenomena so in these cases we really have to start from scratch."



NEWLY ARRIVED MIGRANTS TAKING PART IN THE  
"WELCOME TO SKANE" PROGRAMME AT THE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY. LIBRARIAN MATILDA FALCK,  
ASEEL ABBAS AND ILHAM EL REFAI, SHK.

**SHK - CIVIC AND HEALTH  
COMMUNICATION**



"WELCOME TO SKÅNE" BRINGS ALL THE PS ACTIVITIES TOGETHER. THIS GIVES RISE TO MANY BENEFICIAL COMBINED EFFECTS. HERE, VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS COLLABORATE IN ORDER TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEWCOMERS TO PRACTISE THE SWEDISH LANGUAGE.

**WELCOME TO SKÅNE!**



Successful integration is all about creating the right conditions facilitating social participation.

The “Welcome to Skåne” project consists of an extended civic and health communication programme. The aim is to create early opportunities for vital social and cultural contacts and meaningful experiences in the local communities. Local history and culture is introduced through cooperation between

community representatives from businesses and working life, cultural institutions and voluntary associations, and the Civic and Health Communicators.

According to MILSA’s evaluation, cooperation between different sectors is of crucial importance for facilitating the integration of newly arrived migrants and achieving the prerequisites for active involvement in community life.



“Welcome to Skåne” brings together representatives of Skåne’s communities and newcomers in a variety of social arenas. Non-profit and private sectors play vital roles in this collaboration with the public sector. “This work has resulted in many fascinating insights and positive experiences – for us locals and the newcomers both! We see that the programme is really contributing to Skåne’s growth and supply of skills,” says regional councillor Anders Åkesson, Charlotta Levin from the Department of Business Development and Labour Market, and Caisa Lindfors and Ann Lundborg from the Department of Culture in Region Skåne.

Civil society is a natural part of the establishment process for newly arrived migrants in Skåne. NAD is a method for partnership between the public and the social economy in Skåne, and a vital part of PS' activities.

The coordinators of NAD work together with the coordinators at the Swedish Public Employment Service to create activities in support of language acquisition, health promotion, and network building.

The method enables carefully planned, high quality activities offered to newly arrived migrants through their establishment programme. NAD also cooperates with municipalities in matching newcomers with local associations.

The work is based on the six principles of co-operation in the "Regional Agreement Skåne" and the European Code of Conduct on Partnership in decision-making processes.



## NAD - NETWORK

**Henrik Nilsson**, Social Economy Network Skåne: "NAD is a systematic and effective method for social inclusion and participation. We focus on the needs and interests of the newcomers. Working in partnership, we can truly contribute to a positive and sustainable development."



## - ACTIVITY - PARTICIPATION

NEWLY ARRIVED MIGRANTS TAKING PART IN A NAD ACTIVITY,  
TESTING THE HEIMLICH MANOEUVRE AT A FIRST AID  
COURSE PROVIDED BY THE RED CROSS. NAD COORDINATOR  
SOFIE HARTNOR SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND.



KATARINA CARLZÉN, HEAD OF PS,  
THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD, SKÅNE  
SLOBODAN ZDRAVKOVIC,  
COORDINATOR MILSA, MALMÖ UNIVERSITY

# MILSA - SUPPORT PLATFORM FOR MIGRATION AND HEALTH



MILSA is a platform where researchers work together with practitioners to facilitate knowledge-based and health-promoting integration processes. One area of activity is the national development of capacity building regarding quality-assured civic and health communication. The work involves the coordinated development of knowledge and education in areas such as migration health, development of democracy, gender equality, support for parenting and mental well-being.

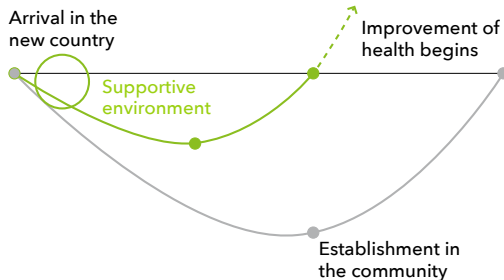
PS is based on proven expertise, whilst continuously producing new knowledge on migration and health. The results are implemented through practical activities.

**Knowledge production through surveys and studies.**

**Knowledge base for alliances among public, non-profit, and private sectors.**

**Knowledge-based support and recommendations.**

### *Health curve for newly arrived migrants*



*Source: MILSA anthology*

Poor physical and mental health is more common among newly arrived refugees than among native Swedes, or immigrants who have relocated for other reasons.

Poor health is partly linked to events experienced during the migration process, but another important factor is the initial time spent in Sweden. This is a period when the health of many migrants deteriorates. This can somewhat be explained by a lack of trust in society at large, the absence of a meaningful occupation, and difficulties in establishing social networks with the general population. Often it is only when people feel they are really a part of society that they begin the recovery process, as demonstrated in the curve above. Supportive and early interventions have the power to prevent or diminish negative developments.



# THE SMART PARTNERSHIP

**The goal - an inclusive and holistic process of integration**

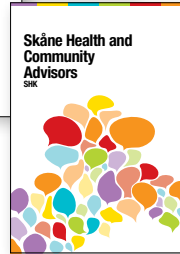
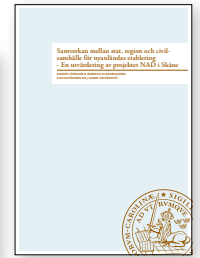
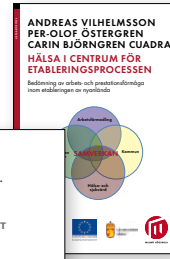
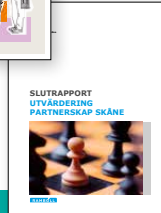
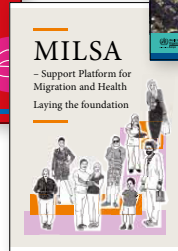
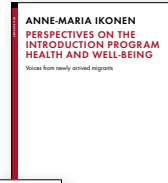
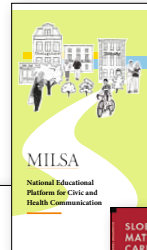
based on knowledge and needs - is clearly defined and shared by everyone.

**Human rights - everyone's right to health equity and prerequisites for participation** comprise a common set of values.

**A variety of paths towards the goal** are offered in order to address the diverse needs of different individuals and organizations.

**Practical activities** in combination with anchoring at systemic level.

**Communication as a leading approach.**  
The recipient's point of view is essential.



A selection of brochures,  
reports and publications.  
Länsstyrelsen Skåne  
[katarina.carlzen@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:katarina.carlzen@lansstyrelsen.se)  
[skane@lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:skane@lansstyrelsen.se)  
[lansstyrelsen.se/skane](http://lansstyrelsen.se/skane)

We have adopted united responsibility for a sustainable Skåne – collaborating since 2008 developing Skåne's reception process for newly arrived migrants to Sweden.



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



EUROPEAN UNION  
Asylum, Migration  
and Integration Fund



*Publisher: The County Administrative  
Board of Skåne*

*Editors: Icecream Consulting  
Photography: Nils Bergendahl*

*Photo p. 11: Øyvind Sviland*

*Layout: Helsinkifrostbites*

*Print: Exakta*



REGION  
SKÅNE



Länsstyrelsen  
Skåne



Skåne Association of  
Local Authorities



3041 0417

PS ACTIVITIES  
REPRESENTATIVES



Partnership Skåne

**Part of the implementation  
of the regional development  
strategy "Open Skåne 2030".**

**Part of the regional agreement to  
facilitate the integration of newly  
arrived migrants to Sweden.**

**Part of the Regional Agreement for  
Collaboration between the Social  
Economy of Skåne, Region Skåne,  
and the County Administrative Board.**

PS is linked to formal collaboration forums at local, regional and national levels.

PS activities are funded by municipalities, Region Skåne, the Swedish Public Employment Service, the County Administrative Board of Skåne, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and by the European AMIF and ESF funds.

PS is organised in the form of regional hubs.