

New ways of engaging with civil society

- the example of agreements

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27 March 2019



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Civil society in the Swedish context

- Voice, services and leisure

- “Voice” and school of democracy
 - New ways of involving CSOs, such as user council or collaborative forum
- Serviceproducers
 - Expectations to produce social services.
 - Expectations on social innovation.
 - In rural areas –to maintain welfare services and infrastructure
- Community and leisure



The example of agreements

- First national agreement (Överenskommelsen)- within the field of social welfare in 2008
- Background: A wish to clarify roles and relations (spelregler) between the government and CSO's (idéburna organisationer). Initiated by CS-actors
- Preceded by a long-term dialogue
- Aims: strenghten CSOs independent voice and support the emergence of diversity in welfare services
- A model and inspiration for local agreements
- In 2018 – agreements in 73 municipalities and 7 counties and regions (SKL 2018)
- Local agreements – different focus: voice and/or service, social welfare or a broader base of organisations



Experiences of agreements

Gains:

- A "tool" for cooperation and development of more equal relations (partnerships)
- Stressing the importance of dialogue
- Visibility and legitimation of CSO
- A better understanding between actors from different sectors

Challenges:

- Practical outcomes
- Top-down vs a bottom-up perspective
- Representation from CSO's
- The two legs of agreements - democracy and diversity (shared goals?)
- The importance of independence
- Understanding different logics, motivations, prerequisites in the sectors involved



Thank you!



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