

# Sweden + Slovenia = True!

Creating a common ground  
for systematic quality development

# Agenda

- Background - Youth work in Sweden
- Creating and implementing a system for documentation and follow up
- Consequences for quality and competence
- Some conclusions...

## Youth work in Sweden

Leisure time activities for young people

Municipal leisure time leaders

Often a double agenda:

- Officially: Democracy, equality, health, ...
- Unofficially: “Keep the boys of the streets”
- Officially: Promotion
- Unofficially: Prevention

## Youth work in Sweden

Consequences:

- Unclear aims
- No structured follow up
- Blurred identity
- Weak position
- Low status
- Insufficient resources

## Youth work in Sweden

### ➔ **KEKS**

Three municipalities that 15 years ago wanted:

- Clear and measurable aims related to the social needs of young people
- A system for follow up that showed how young people perceived youth work

## KEKS

So, we started to discuss:

- What are the basic social needs of young people?
  - ✓ If school satisfy the need for knowledge
  - ✓ If hospitals satisfy the need for 'being cured'?
- Which needs should youth work satisfy?

## KEKS

We ended up with the aims that:

“Young people should be given stimulation and support for satisfying their need for:

- Being part of a community
- Having influence
- Participation
- Learning

## KEKS

Soon other local departments, working in various contexts, got interested:

- Small rural communities in the north
- Mid-sized towns
- Deprived city districts in big towns



## KEKS

And with each new department, each group of youth workers, we had the same discussions ...

➡ **Coming to the same conclusions**

Which is not so strange ...

## KEKS

In order to follow up we ran a questionnaire:

- Do you feel part of a community?
  - Are you influencing?
  - Are you participating?
  - Are you learning?
  - ... ?
- + Background questions

# KEKS

We started to see patterns:

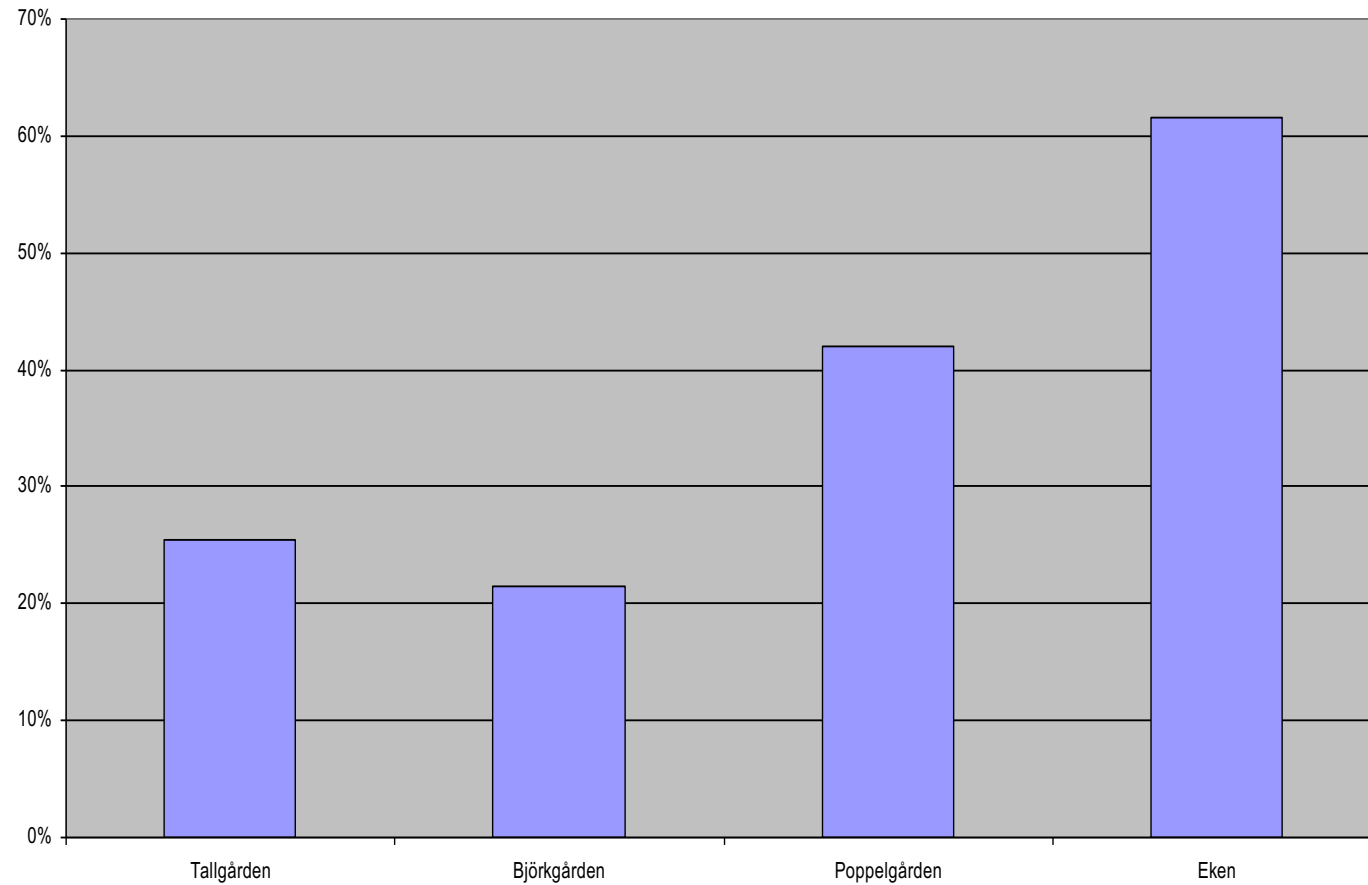


## KEKS

We could see that participation lead to:

- More equal gender balance
- Security/Safety
- More young people taking part
- New, attractive activities
- Economical efficiency
- And learning ...

# KEKS



## KEKS

At the same time we could see that:

- Our follow up was not nuanced enough
- Our competence development did not work

**➔ A research project**

What enhances or prevents young people's participation in youth work?

## KEKS

And the answer was that the conditions for youth participation are determined by:

- The thought patterns of youth workers!

Not by:

- Context or resources
- Policy documents or education

## KEKS

The thought patterns of youth workers is the decisive factor!

How they think about:

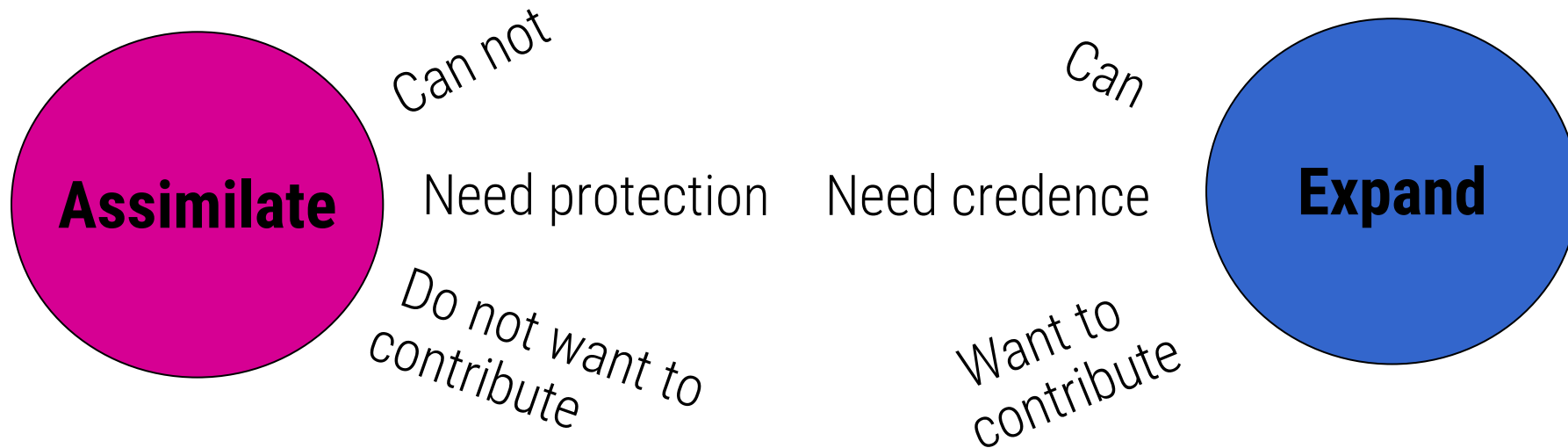
- Young people
- Socialization

will determine the degree of youth participation



# KEKS

Views on young people:



## KEKS

Based on this we realized that:

- You can't change the way people think only through competence development and policy documents
- We had to be more stringent in our definition of participation and in our questions to young people

## KEKS

Based on this we realized that:

- We had to make clear the relation between outcomes and actions
- We had to provide possibilities for a continuous process of reflection
- We had to concretize the 'demand'

## KEKS

So we:

- ‘Sharpened’ our aims
- Revised our questionnaires
- Developed the first version of The Logbook

## KEKS

As a result from this we have:

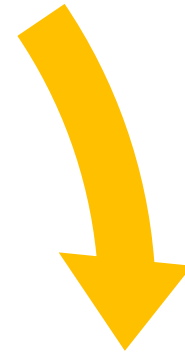
- Gathered a lot of knowledge
- A solid base for peer learning
- Established a well functioning work and quality development circle



Activities



Documentation



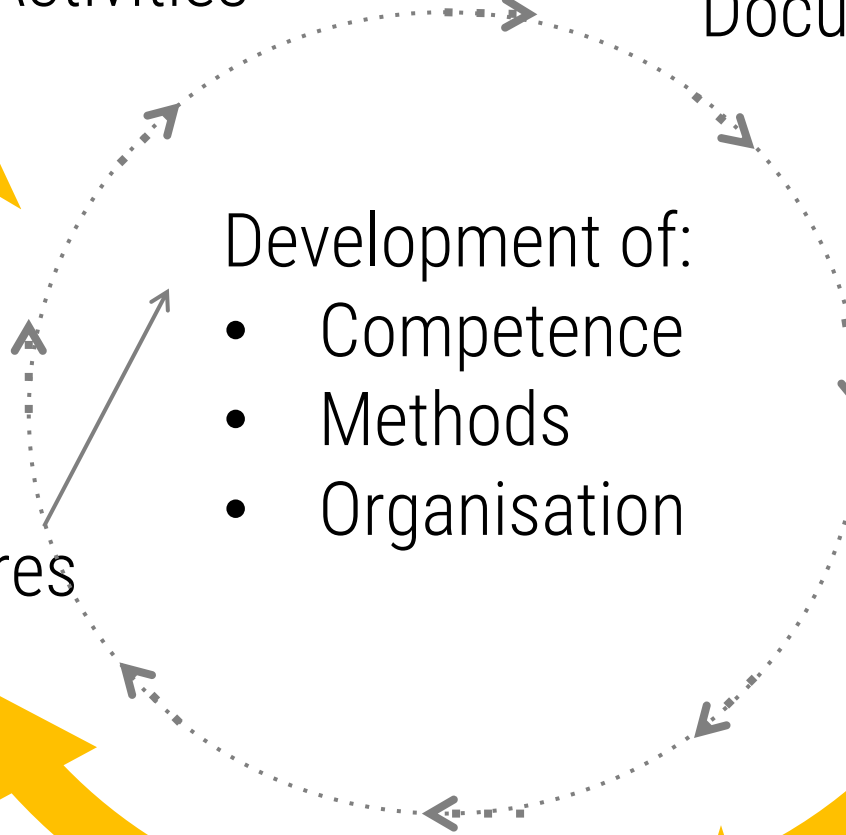
Follow up



Analysis  
Reflection



Measures



Development of:

- Competence
- Methods
- Organisation

## KEKS

As a result from this:

- We do knowledge-based advocacy
- We have been growing in Sweden

**➡ Then came some guys from Slovenia ...!**

# Movit



## Creating a common ground

The question is:

- Where we actually creating common ground?
- It was already there!
- We just had to do some digging to find it!

# KEKS

How "different" are we?

- Gothenburg – Arvidsjaur
- Ljubljana. – Novo Mesto

## KEKS

How hard it is to find a common ground and to implement a systematic approach to quality development depends on:

- The thought patterns of youth workers!
  - ✓ How they think about young people
  - ✓ How they think about themselves
- Not on where they work

## KEKS

In order to find a common ground and to implement a systematic approach you need to:

- Create a common understanding
  - ✓ Through discussions ...
    - ... linked to a structured system for documentation and follow up

## KEKS

Which is what I think we have done together  
in Slovenia ...

➡ **But there is of course also the  
other perspective ...!**

# Ljubljana, Novo Mesto and MaMa

## Conclusions

- Systems and structures related to aims, not competence development, is the driving force for development
- The system should concretize the 'demand' on a daily basis
- The system should create incentive for reflection and further development

## Conclusions

Continuous and systematic documentation and follow up:

- Keeps aims and ideas alive
- Creates relevant input and motivation for competence development
- Raises the level of awareness and discussion among youth workers



## Conclusions

Continuous and systematic documentation and follow up:

- Makes advocacy easier and more credible
- Leads to better and better youth work!

## Time for discussions

Frame and starting point:

- Groups of 4 – 5 persons
- 1 secretary
- Finish at 12.45
- Short reports

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Thank you!