

Örebro – the sign language capital of Europe

Statement of Intent

Örebro City Council, Region Örebro, Örebro University, the National Agency for Special Needs Education, and Örebro County Administrative Board are seeking to develop and highlight Swedish sign language and sign language users with the ultimate aim of making Örebro the sign language capital of Europe. Primary responsibility for pursuing and coordinating this initiative based on this Statement of Intent rests with Örebro City Council.

Working in partnership, the parties concerned want sign language users living in the region to believe in the future, and to do so with a sense of involvement, trust, and responsibility. They want them to have the power and potential to influence their lives and their community.

The parties will:

- collaborate actively to establish and maintain equitable living conditions
- cooperate to provide equal opportunities for learning, education, and work
- improve awareness of sign language users within their respective organisations
- work together with language group representatives to identify and utilise the expertise and experience of sign language users
- produce a joint activity plan for the sign language capital of Europe

Definition: Sign language users living in the region are those who have Swedish sign language as their mother tongue or who use Swedish sign language. Sign language users are people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. They also include hearing children whose parents are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing, children of deaf adults, siblings of deaf children, those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have a functional impairment, and hearing people who use sign language. These groups have different cultural identities but with Swedish sign language as a unifying element.

This Statement of Intent is reviewed annually and will apply until 2030.

.....
Örebro City Council

.....
Region Örebro

.....
National Agency for Special Needs Education

.....
Örebro University

.....
Örebro County Administrative Board

