



**MALMÖ UNIVERSITY**  
FACULTY OF CULTURE  
AND SOCIETY

# **Project NAD - Participant evaluation**

Experiences of newly arrived refugees in  
Kristianstad and Helsingborg

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# Data collection

Semi-structured individual interviews, 45-60 minutes

29 persons

20 women, 9 men

Different ages

14 young adults, 11 middle aged, 4 elderly

Different ethnicities Syria, Palestine, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Russia and Chechnya

Different educational backgrounds

Time in Sweden

5 months to 5 years

# Research questions

How do the interviewees perceive their situation of social integration? What kind of resources, aims and barriers they identify in their everyday lives?

How do the interviewees experience the activities they have been participating in? Are such activities meaningful in terms of social inclusion?

# Daily lives and challenges

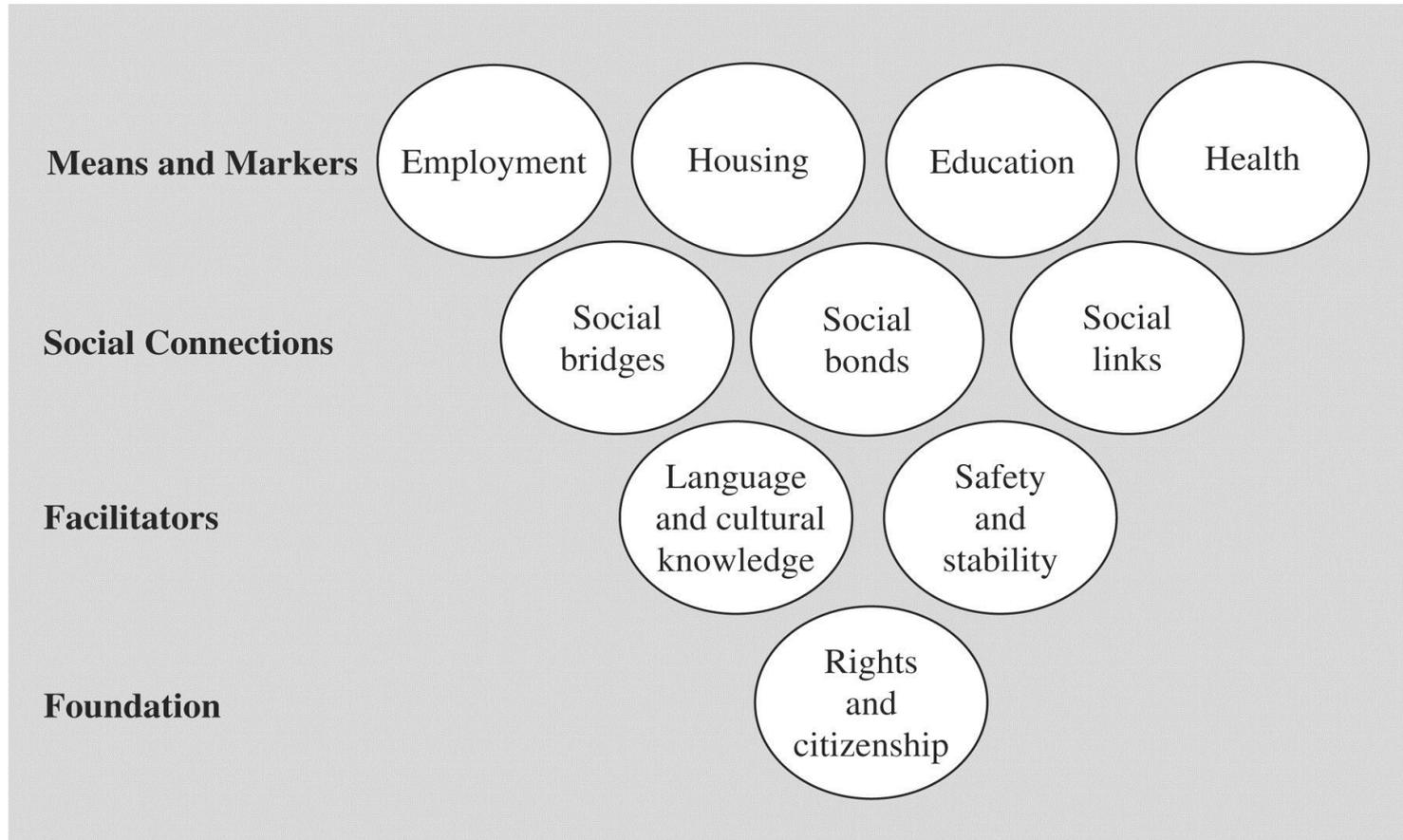
Family - a source of joy, support, concern and longing

Language learning - focus of attention and a major challenge

Social distance - troubling and difficult to overcome

A job - an aim difficult to reach

# Social integration model (by Ager and Strang)



# Importance of match-making

Meaningfulness of activity is conditioned by individual factors

- alleviates problems

(language, lack of social contacts)

- supports personal objectives

(job, traineeship, studies)

- fits to daily life in general

(time, family, interests)

# Experiences from activities

High level of satisfaction in general

Much too short time

Very valuable language training

Activities suitable for everyone

Very positive social relations

Relaxed and welcoming atmosphere

Self confidence and well being

# Volunteering impact assessment

Human capital (very high gains)

Social capital (moderate to high gains)

Physical capital (moderate gains)

Cultural capital (moderate to high gains)

Economic capital (not identified)

(by Rochester, Ellis Paine and Howlett)

# Experiences of social inclusion

Hard and soft inclusion  
factual participation vs.  
feeling “being part of”

Access, participation and empowerment

(by Stigendal; and Gidley, Hampson and Wheeler)

# Challenges identified

There is more interest than activities available

Match making requires resources

More time needed in activities

Role of family members

Late afternoon schedules

Information

Transition when the activity is over

# Next steps

Final report out in June

Experiences of organizers?

Thank You!