



AIM:
TO INSPIRE
TO ENCOURAGE
TO EDUCATE

THE SVENSKA NU NETWORK

The Svenska nu (Swedish now) network brings Finnish-speaking young people into genuine contact with the Swedish language and Swedish-speaking culture, with a view to improving the Swedish language skills of young adults and giving them the confidence to use Swedish in real situations.

Svenska nu identifies new ways of combining language learning with other school subjects, and of promoting this learning through activities and experience, with the programme in schools usually involving the use of pedagogical material before, during and after a school visit. The network engages professionals in education, culture and society, both in Sweden and Finland, with the planning process focusing on a pedagogical application of the programme that allows optimal linking of activities to other schoolwork and syllabuses.

Svenska nu has recently even begun developing forms for language learning on a larger scale in the social media, and providing incentives to continue learning and using Swedish outside the classroom. The network also supports the work of teachers of Swedish by providing continuing opportunities for professional development. Svenska nu arranges activities that enhance cultural competence and build bridges to pedagogical specialists in Sweden.

The network comes into direct contact over 70,000 students and teachers annually in schools all over Finland, with the scale of this outreach rising to 250,000 when including the use of online pedagogical materials, programmes arranged at youth fairs, and contacts occurring through the social media (e.g. Facebook and YouTube)

INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL APPLICATION, STRONG LINK TO SCHOOL WORK

The core idea of the network is to engage in an ongoing investigation of new opportunities for continuous learning and monitoring. All project activities are evaluated through surveys of teachers and students that enable the network to assess impacts and identify areas that require further work.

The project has also been involved in national research initiatives and evaluations of language learning, such as the TOKI project and the Svenska i toppen project undertaken at the University of Helsinki. The project team also participates in national meetings and training days for Swedish language teachers to canvass their ideas for potential new activities and to gather feedback on existing ones. This has helped to secure the trust and involvement of teachers, as significant impact at classroom level could not be achieved without their support.



INVOLVING IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS

The Svenska nu network is operated by Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre in Espoo, Finland, and is financed by the governments of Finland and Sweden and by several non-profit foundations and private enterprises.

The network steering group comprises representatives from Hanasaari, the Finnish-Swedish Cultural Foundation, the National Board of Education in Finland, the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland, the University of Oulu, the Association of Swedish Teachers in Finland, the Swedish Embassy in Helsinki, the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.

The work of Svenska nu is supported by a delegation including highly influential representatives from the worlds of politics, education, culture and business, who are keen to enhance Swedish language competencies in Finnish society over the long term. The Svenska nu delegation is chaired by former Finnish Premier Paavo Lipponen.

One important goal is to foster positive attitudes towards the Swedish language and language learning, and to show the opportunities that these provide both in Finland and within the Nordic frame of reference in terms of access to a broader range of educational, labour market and cultural horizons.

**The
European Commission
distinguished Svenska nu
as a best practice in
language learning between
neighboring countries
in 2011.**

The Svenska nu network is coordinated by Hanasaari – the Swedish-Finnish Cultural Centre in Espoo.



the
svenska nu

network,
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