



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET  
INST FÖR SPRÅK OCH LITTERATURER

# The situation of minority languages in Swedish public schools, especially with regard to Somali.

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# Basic facts

Population      Area (km<sup>2</sup>)      Density

- Sweden

2010: 9 M  
2015: 10 M      450 000      22 p/km<sup>2</sup>

- Italy

62 M      300 000      205 p/km<sup>2</sup>





# Major regions

	population	area (km <sup>2</sup> )
Northern territory	1.2 M = 12%	261 300 = 58%
Svea territory	4.0 M = 40%	91 100 = 20%
Göta territory	4.7 M = 48%	97 800 = 22%





# 12 largest cities

Stockholm	1,372,565
Göteborg	549,839
Malmö	280,415
Uppsala	140,454
Västerås	110,877
Örebro	107,038
Linköping	104,232
Helsingborg	97,122
Jönköping	89,396
Norrköping	87,247
Lund	82,800
Umeå	79,594





# Indigenous minorities in Northern Sweden

Sami (Southern & Northern dialect)

Finns

Tornedalians (speaking Meänkieli)





# Sámit

Appr. 40 000 in Norway  
18 000 in Sweden  
7 000 in Finland  
2 000 in Russia

About 50% speak Sami.  
A number of mutually  
unintelligible varieties.

In Sweden mainly  
North Sami 20 000 and  
Lule Sami 2 000, whereas  
Ume Sami, Pite Sami and  
South Sami is only spoken  
by a few dozens.





# Very early immigration 1800's

- Finns in Central Sweden
- Jews speaking Yiddish
- Romani
- Until cca 1960 rather monolingual space.





# Modern immigration 1960's, 1970's

- Mainly work-related immigration.
- Mainly from Finland, south-east Europe and Turkey.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Finland	195 447	193 465	191 515	189 341	186 589	183 685	180 906	178 179	175 113	172 218	169 521	166 723	163 867	161 129	158 488	156 045
Yugoslavia	71 972	73 274	74 418	75 099	74 559	74 032	73 671	72 939	72 285	71 578	70 819	70 050	69 269	68 554	67 892	67 190
Chile	26 842	27 153	27 345	27 528	27 699	27 811	27 967	28 019	28 118	28 320	28 378	28 385	28 425	28 341	28 216	28 072
Turkey	31 894	32 453	33 094	34 083	34 965	35 853	37 107	38 158	39 230	40 766	42 527	43 909	45 085	45 676	46 146	46 373
Greece	10 851	10 880	10 911	10 853	10 794	10 749	10 760	10 833	11 043	11 217	11 381	12 062	13 205	14 313	15 176	16 025
Italy	6 337	6 538	6 570	6 584	6 597	6 597	6 721	6 845	7 243	7 531	7 804	8 126	8 636	9 305	10 016	10 769





# Modern immigration 1980's, 1990's

- Iran, Poland, Bosnia, Iraq, Lebanon
- Mainly political & war refugees.
- New recent work-related Polish immigration

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Iran	51 101	51 844	52 721	53 241	53 982	54 470	55 747	56 516	57 663	59 922	62 120	63 828	65 649	67 211	68 436	69 067
Poland	40 123	40 506	41 119	41 608	43 472	46 203	51 743	58 180	63 822	67 518	70 253	72 865	75 323	78 175	81 697	85 517
Bosnia & Herce	51 526	52 198	52 948	53 949	54 514	54 813	55 465	55 713	55 960	56 127	56 183	56 290	56 595	56 804	57 289	57 705
Iraq	49 372	55 696	62 751	67 645	70 117	72 553	82 827	97 513	109 446	117 919	121 761	125 499	127 860	128 946	130 178	131 888
Libanon	20 038	20 228	20 473	20 811	21 106	21 441	22 697	22 967	23 291	23 701	24 116	24 394	24 743	25 212	25 699	26 159



# Modern immigration 2000's, 2010's

- New groups: Somalis, Syrians, Eritreans, Afghans
- Many unaccompanied children, especially Afghan boys, but also Somalis.
- Still many Iraqis, Poles (work) and Iranians

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Somalia	13 082	13 489	14 005	14 809	15 294	16 045	18 342	21 597	25 159	31 734	37 846	40 165	43 966	54 221	57 906	60 623
Syria	14 162	14 646	15 156	15 692	16 168	16 772	17 768	18 229	18 786	19 646	20 758	22 357	27 510	41 748	67 671	98 216
Eritrea	3 054	3 465	3 943	4 353	4 743	5 371	6 066	6 769	7 775	8 963	10 301	11 994	13 735	16 592	21 827	28 616
Afghanistan	4 287	5 211	6 122	7 017	7 830	8 345	9 872	10 605	11 446	12 745	14 420	17 489	21 484	25 144	28 443	31 267



# Largest minorities

## 2000 and 2015

1	Finland	195447
2	Yugoslavia	71972
3	Bosnia & Hercegovina	51526
4	Iran	51101
5	Iraq	49372
6	Norway	42464
7	Poland	40123
8	Denmark	38190
9	Germany	38155
10	Turkey	31894
11	Chile	26842
12	Lebanon	20038
13	Great Britain & N.Ireland	14602
14	USA	14413
15	Syria	14162
16	Hungary	14127
17	Somalia	13082
18	Ethiopian	11907
19	Romania	11776
20	India	11110
21	Vietnam	10898
22	Greece	10851
23	Thailand	10353
24	Estonia	10253
25	South Korea	9170

Arabic speakers  
more than  
2000: 85 000  
2015: 260 000

Somali speakers  
more than  
2000: 13 000  
2015: 61 000

1	Finland	156045
2	Iraq	131888
3	Syria	98216
4	Poland	85517
5	Iran	69067
6	Yugoslavia	67190
7	Somalia	60623
8	Bosnia & Hercegovina	57705
9	Germany	49586
10	Turkey	46373
11	Norway	42074
12	Denmark	41870
13	Thailand	38792
14	Afghanistan	31267
15	Eritrea	28616
16	China	28410
17	Chile	28072
18	Romania	26358
19	Lebanon	26159
20	Great Britain & N. Ireland	25266
21	India	23237
22	USA	19515
23	Russia	19450
24	Vietnam	17085
25	Ethiopia	16704



# Somali speakers in Sweden

## 31 December 2015

60.623 born in Somalia (with 10-12 M Somalis)

20.769 with both parents born in Somalia

8.017 with one parent born in Somalia

**89.409 total**

But that does not include an unknown number of Somali speakers born in

- Kenya (with more than 2.5 M Somalis),
- Ethiopia (with appr. 7 M Somalis),
- Djibouti (with appr. 0.5 M Somalis),
- and other countries,
- as well as a large number of their children.





# Swedish Language Legislation

- 2009 :  
The Language Law
- 2010:  
The Law about National Minorities and Minority Languages
- 2011:  
The (latest) School Law





# The Language Law (2009)

- Swedish is the official language of Sweden. (For the first time!)
- The national minority languages are Finnish, Yiddish, Tornedalian, Romani and Sami. Authorities have a responsibility to protect and promote them.
- Authorities also have a responsibility to protect and promote the Swedish Sign Language.
- Authorities must use cultivated, simple and reader friendly language. (First mentioned in a royal directive of 1907.)





# The Language Law (2009)

- Persons belonging to a national minority have the right to **learn**, develop and use their language.
- Persons who are deaf or have impaired hearing as well as others who need to use sign language has the right to **learn**, develop and use the Swedish Sign Language.
- Persons who have another mother tongue than the ones mentioned above have the right to develop and use their mother tongue.
- Authorities have the responsibility to offer such possibilities.





# The Law about National Minorities and Minority Languages (2010)

- To promote the possibility to keep and develop the cultural heritage of the national minorities Jews, Romani, Sami, Finns and Tornedalians
- States the rights to use Sami, Finnish and Meänkieli in contacts with authorities and courts as well as in public schools in those parts of Sweden where these languages are indigenous.







# The School Law (2011)

- gives the right to develop your mother tongue from pre-school to secondary school.
- A pupil with one parent with another language than Swedish as L1 has the right to mother tongue education if
  1. the pupil uses that language on a daily basis at home and
  2. the pupil has basic proficiency in that language.
- However, mother tongue education only has to be offered if there are **five** pupils interested in education in the same language and if it is possible to find a suitable teacher.
- Education in national minority languages must be organised without regard to the number of pupils if a suitable teacher can be found.





# The School Law (2011)

- The headmaster of the school decides who is a suitable teacher.
- Adopted pupils with basic proficiency in their mother tongue have the right to mother tongue education even if the language is not used at home on a daily basis.
- If a pupil has insufficient proficiency in Swedish, the education may be delivered in the pupil's mother tongue or in a third language.





# The School Law (2011)

- If needed, pupils have the right to study guidance in their mother tongue.
- Pupils that have previously studied in another language than their mother tongue may receive study guidance in that language instead of the mother tongue.





# The School Law (2011)

- Mother tongue education may be arranged
  1. as a foreign language,
  2. as a “free choice”,
  3. additionally to other required subjects.
- Each pupil cannot participate in education in more than one language.
- However, Romani pupils born abroad may receive education in two languages if there are specific reasons for that.





# The School Law (2011)

- Distance teaching may be arranged in order to teach a mother tongue or to offer study guidance if
  - there is no suitable teacher or
  - the number of pupils is insufficient.
- There is a curriculum for mother tongue that must be followed.
- Grades A, B, C, D, E or Fail are given from year 6.





# Quality

- A fully qualified teacher with a mother tongue teacher's license must have a teacher's degree in other subjects + 30 ects in the specific language.
- The headmaster decides who is the most qualified and suitable.
- In practice, 30 ects are normally enough to get a permanent position, if there isn't somebody more qualified.





# Quantity

- Nothing is said in the law about the number of hours per week that a pupil should receive.
- 60 minutes per week is very common.
- If studied as a foreign language, instead of Spanish, French, German, Chinese... this means 3--4 hours per week.
- If studied as a “free choice”, this means 2 hours per week.



**Pupils in Swedish Primary Schools who speak another language than Swedish with at least one of their parents**

2015/16	250 000	25.4%	of	984 000							
2104/15	225 000	23.8%		945 000							
2013/14	211 000	22.9%		921 000							
2012/13	184 000	20.5%		898 000							
2011/12	184 000	20.7%		889 000							
2010/11	181 000	20.5%		883 000							
2009/10	173 000	19.4%		892 000							
2008/09	164 000	18.1%		906 000							
2007/08	155 000	16.6%		934 000							
2006/07	149 000	15.4%		968 000							
2005/06	147 000	14.8%		993 000							
2004/05	144 000	14.0%		1 029 000							
2003/04	142 000	13.6%		1 044 000							
2002/03	136 000	12.9%		1 054 000							
2001/02	128 000	12.1%		1 058 000							
2000/01	125 000	11.9%		1 050 000							
1999/00	123 000	11.9%		1 034 000							
1998/99	119 000	11.8%		1 001 000							
1997/98	116 000	11.8%		983 000							
1996/97	111 000	11.6%		957 000							
1995/96	110 000	11.7%		940 000							
1994/95	112 000	12.2%		918 000							
1993/94	102 000	11.4%		895 000							
1992/93	105 000	11.8%		890 000							
1991/92	103 000	11.8%		873 000							



Pupils in Swedish Primary Schools who speak another language than Swedish with at least one of their parents											
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Other
2015/16	53 Arabic	20 Somali	16 English	15 BoCrSe	13 Persian	13 Spanish	12 Kurdish	9 Finnish	9 Albanian	8 Polish	83 000
2104/15	44 Arabic	18 Somali	15 BoCrSe	14 English	12 Spanish	11 Persian	8 Finnish	8 Albanian	8 Polish	7 Turkish	80 000
2013/14	38 Arabic	15 Somali	14 BoCrSe	13 English	12 Spanish	10 Persian	8 Finnish	8 Albanian	7 Polish	7 Turkish	78 000
2012/13	34 Arabic	13 BoCrSe	12 English	11 Spanish	10 Somali	9 Persian	8 Finnish	7 Albanian	6 Polish	6 Turkish	69 000
2011/12	33 Arabic	14 BoCrSe	11 English	11 Spanish	10 Somali	8 Finnish	7 Albanian	7 Persian	6 Polish	6 Turkish	70 000
2010/11	33 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	11 English	11 Spanish	10 Somali	9 Finnish	7 Albanian	7 Persian	6 Turkish	6 Polish	67 000
2009/10	32 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	10 English	9 Somali	8 Finnish	7 Albanian	7 Persian	6 Kurdish	6 Turkish	63 000
2008/09	30 Arabic	14 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	9 English	9 Finnish	7 Somali	7 Albanian	7 Persian	6 Kurdish	6 Turkish	60 000
2007/08	28 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	8 Finnish	8 English	8 Albanian	7 Persian	6 Somali	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	56 000
2006/07	26 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	9 Finnish	8 Albanian	8 English	7 Persian	5 Turkish	5 Somali	5 Kurdish	52 000
2005/06	25 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	10 Finnish	10 Spanish	8 Albanian	7 English	7 Persian	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	5 Somali	51 000
2004/05	24 Arabic	15BoCrSe	10 Spanish	10 Finnish	8 Albanian	7 English	7 Persian	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	4 Somali	48 000
2003/04	23 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	11 Finnish	10 Spanish	8 Albanian	7 English	7 Persian	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	4 Somali	47 000
2002/03	21 Arabic	15 BoCrSe	11 Finnish	10 Spanish	8 Albanian	7 Persian	6 English	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	4 Somali	44 000
2001/02	19 Arabic	14 BoCrSe	11Finnish	10 Spanish	8 Albanian	6 Persian	6 English	5 Turkish	5 Kurdish	4 Polish	40 000
2000/01	18 Arabic	14 BoCrSe	13 Finnish	10 Spanish	7 Albanian	7 Persian	5 English	5 Turkish	4 Polish	4 Kurdish	37 000
1999/00	17 Arabic	14 BoCrSe	14 Finnish	10 Spanish	7 Albanian	7 Persian	5 English	5 Turkish	4 Polish	4 Kurdish	36 000
1998/99	16 Arabic	14 Finnish	14 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	7 Persian	6 Albanian	5 English	5 Turkish	4 Polish	4 Kurdish	34 000
1997/98	15 Finnish	14 Arabic	13 BoCrSe	10 Spanish	8 Persian	6 Albanian	5 Turkish	5 English	4 Polish	3 Kurdish	32 000
1996/97	15 Finnish	13 Arabic	13 BoCrSe	9 Spanish	8 Persian	5 Albanian	5 Turkish	4 English	4 Polish	3 Kurdish	31 000
1995/96	17 Finnish	13 BoCrSe	12 Arabic	9 Spanish	8 Persian	5 Turkish	5 Polish	5 Albanian	4 English	3 Kurdish	25 000
1994/95	19 Finnish	12 Arabic	11 BoCrSe	7 Spanish	8 Persian	5 Polish	5 Turkish	5 English	3 Albanian	3 Kurdish	32 000



Mother Tongue		Entitled	Relative to all	Participated	Relative to all	entitled	After school
<b>Total</b>		<b>250 399</b>	<b>25,4</b>	<b>140 959</b>	<b>14,3</b>	<b>56,3</b>	<b>59,6</b>
			%		%	%	%
Arabic		52 822	5,4	34 664	3,5	65,6	57,5
Somali		20 026	2,0	15 096	1,5	75,4	54,0
English		15 506	1,6	8 075	0,8	52,1	56,7
Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian		15 360	1,6	7 946	0,8	51,7	65,7
Persian		13 172	1,3	7 360	0,7	55,9	60,5
Spanish		13 011	1,3	6 781	0,7	52,1	64,3
Kurdish		11 750	1,2	6 622	0,7	56,4	67,6
Finnish		8 900	0,9	4 256	0,4	47,8	39,7
Albanian		8 516	0,9	5 273	0,5	61,9	53,1
Polish		8 309	0,8	4 952	0,5	59,6	63,4
Other (142 different)		83 027	8,4	39 934	4,1	48,1	63,1





# Resources for mother tongue teaching





# UR play, UR skola

- [Children's stories](#)
- [Arabic](#)





# Lexin

- 28 500 entries
- Swedish explanatory dictionary for L2 learners.
- Also as translation dictionary into 19 languages.

[http://lexin.nada.kth.se/lexin/#searchinfo=both,swe\\_som;](http://lexin.nada.kth.se/lexin/#searchinfo=both,swe_som;)





# Tema Modersmål

- <http://modersmal.skolverket.se/sites/svenska/>
- Collection of teaching materials managed by the Swedish School Board
- There are also other similar sites based on private initiatives, e.g. <http://lektion.se>





# Governmental investigation 2006

- led to the recognition of needs for higher education in two large immigrant languages and two national minority languages that did not exist at Swedish universities.





# New languages in higher education 2008

- Somali
- Albanian
- Meänkieli
- Yiddish







# Somali allocated in Gothenburg

- Due to Sweden's only professorship in African languages  
Tore Jansson (199?-2001)  
Karsten Legère (2001-2010)  
Laura Downing (2012-)





# Background for Somali

2008

- Taught as a foreign language in Naples and London .
- Not taught as L1 anywhere.

2009, 2011 taught as L1 in Norway.

2009--2011 taught as a foreign language in Gothenburg.

Today

- Taught as a foreign language in Naples, London, Columbus, Helsinki.
- Taught as L1 in Jigjiga, Dire Dawa and Gothenburg.





# Courses in Gothenburg 2009-2011

30 ects for beginners, part time students (50%)

	registered	passed exams
2008 autumn	29	
2009 spring	33	14
2009 autumn	28	13
2010 spring	32	14
2010 autumn	53	18
2011 spring	24	41
later		1





# New needs

Growing number of Somali children in Swedish public school.

Growing need for teachers and study assistants in Somali.

New requirements concerning the teachers' education, min. 30 ect.

No education available in Somali.

The Pedagogical Faculty in Gothenburg reacts to these needs.





# New courses since 2014

Funding from the Pedagogical Faculty.

Courses specifically designed for mother tongue teachers.

Also open for other Somalis with interest in the Somali language.

Distance courses with campus meetings every 6 weeks on weekends.

More and more young participants and women.





# No of students

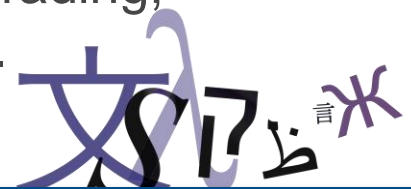
Mother tongue	Autumn semester		Spring semester	
	Registered	Finished (from Gothenburg)	Registered	Finished (from Gothenburg)
2014/2015	43 (21)	33	31 (12)	31
2015/2016	22 (9)	19	19 (6)	19
2016/2017	38 (16)	33		
Somali for teachers of Swedish				
2015	15 (13)	9		





# Course Contents

1. Basic linguistics and contrastive Somali – Swedish grammar.
2. Somali in use: history, dialects, standardisation, orthography, terminology etc.
3. The structure of Somali: Phonology, morphology and syntax, Somali linguistic terminology.
4. Somali in Swedish schools: laws, regulations, school books and other teaching aids & resources, planning, testing, grading, sharing best practices, authoring teaching materials.





# Course Activities

Critical reading of existing literature on Somali language.

Writing of short scientific texts on Somali linguistics:

Corpus investigations of

frequency and use of synonyms

spelling variants

morphological variants etc.

Work on Somali teaching materials:

Explanatory dictionary for children

Terminological dictionary: maths, biology, physics, chemistry

Orthographical dictionary for children

Grammar for children

Exercises on vocabulary (synonyms) and grammar





Casharkaan waxaad ku baran doontaa:

- Magacu waxa uu yahay.
- Sida lagu garto magaca.

Magacu waa qayb ka mid ah hadalka, waxuuna tilmaamaa:

**Dad,xaywaan, dhir:**

wiil, libaax,ubax, qalin

**Magac** aan la dareemi karin:

jaceyl, farxad

**Waqti:**

habeen

} magac guud

**Magac qof/shey :**

Maxamed, kismaayo

} magac gaar

Sidee lagu gartaa ereyada magaca ah?

**gadaal Ka raacsi qodob**

Waxaa lagu ogaan karaa in gadaal laga raaciyo QODOB, si ay u noqoto qof ama wax la isla yaqaanna.

Tusaale:

Qodob la'	Qodob leh
wiil	wiilka
maalin	maalinta
deribi	derbiga
mind	mindida

Qodobadu waa:  
-ka -ha,-ga  
-ta -dha, -sha, -a



3

U kala saar magac iyo qodob, erayada calaa-  
madeysan ee qaanada kujira.

Magac	Qodob
wiil	-ka

- Wiilka cabitaan sii!
- Guriga waxaa nadiifisay Canab.
- Waraabaha ayaa cunay hibibka.
- Suuqa waa ciriiri.
- Mindidu way afbeeshay.
- Qorraxdu maanta waa kulayl.
- Kabta midig gasho marka hore.

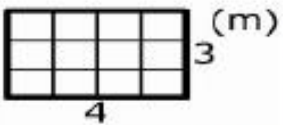
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Hoosta ka xariiq ereyada magaca ah.

Buug, malaay, qor, seexo, aqri, magaalo, cun, webi, bad, kursi,geesi

# Joomitari

## Bed area



Bedku waa inta uu la egyahay cabbir uu ku fadhiyo dhul ama walax.

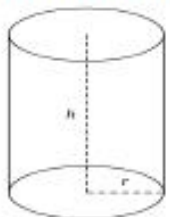


## Dherer lāngd



dhinac shey u dheeryahay ama qof dhererkiis marka la cabbirayo waxaa la dhahaa dherer.

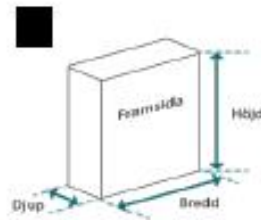
## Dhululubo cylinder



Waa jaantus sida koombada u eg.



## Joog höjd



Joog waxaa la adeegsadaa marka la cabbirayo dhererka shey dhulka qotoma. Waxaa la cabbirayaa inta dhererkiisu sagxadda ama salkiisa u jiro.

## Kiilogaraam kilogram



kiilogaraam = 1000 garaam, Waxaa lagu cabbiraa culayska.

## Labajibbaarane: afargeesle kvadrat fyrkant

Är de båda orden helt synonyma?



afartiisa dhinac ayaa isla eg.





# Arabic follows Somali in 2017

Many mother tongue teacher of Arabic take our beginner's course in order to acquire the required 30 ects.

They learn the script, some 300 words and very simple grammar.

They need something completely different.





# Course Contents

1. Basic linguistics and contrastive Arabic – Swedish grammar.
2. Arabic sociolinguistics: the “dialects”.
3. The structure of Arabic.
4. Arabic in Swedish schools.

