



# Refugees Welcome to Växjö!

The Greenest City in Europe



# About Växjö

- Växjö is the largest of eight municipalities in the region of Kronoberg, which is located in southern Sweden.
- Växjö has approximately 90 000 inhabitants.



# The Greenest City in Europe

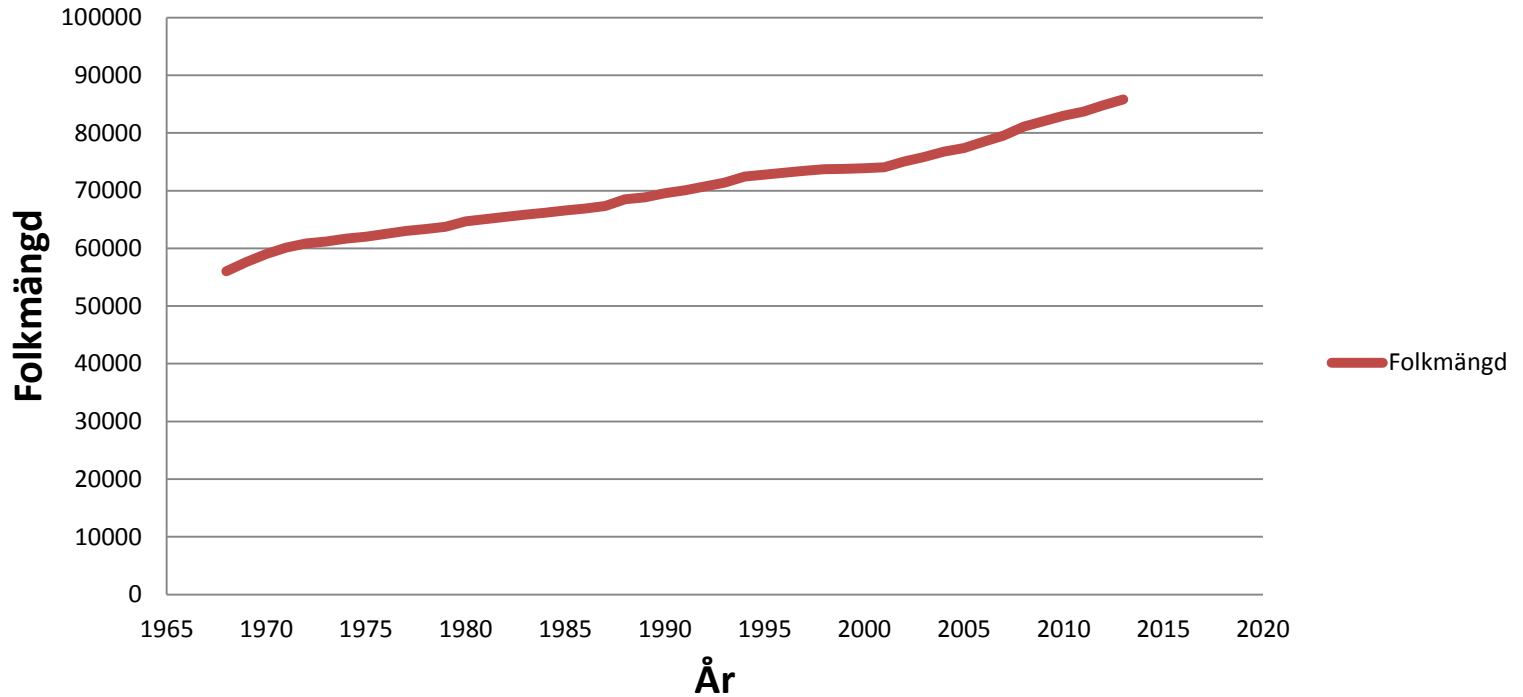
Växjö – the Greenest City in Europe, is all about ensuring a sustainable future. The aim is to be a green community characterised by innovative and broad-based environmental operations, strong growth, openness and well-being through common efforts for the future. Together we make a difference!

# The Growth Regions

In the Svenska Nav report the West Sweden Chamber of Commerce assessed the development power within Sweden's 75 labour market regions. Only the three largest city regions have a greater rate of development than Växjö.

1. Stockholm
2. Gothenburg
3. Malmö
  
4. Växjö

## Population growth in the Municipality of Växjö



Population growth in the Municipality of Växjö





# Refugee situation in Sweden

2015 was a historic year in Sweden. Never before have Sweden received such a large number of asylum seekers in one year – 163,000  
In 2015 significantly more unaccompanied minors sought asylum in Sweden compared to the previous year. The numbers went up from approximately 7 000 to 35 400



# Refugee situation in Växjö

- Large numbers of unaccompanied minors is the biggest challenge for the municipality
- In the beginning of 2015 we were planning to care for approximately 30, and by the end of 2015 we had taken care of 240 unaccompanied minors



# Successful integration of unaccompanied minors

- Key factors: professional staff and an organization that promotes employment and education
- A recent study showed that 80% of the unaccompanied minors that left municipal care during the years 2008 until 2012 were either employed or in education. The majority of the unaccompanied minors were satisfied with the care provided by the municipality and with the staff.





## Evacuation places

- During the second half of 2015 the housings provided by the Migration Agency were not enough. The Migration Agency then turned to the municipalities for help
- In Växjö municipality we arranged evacuation places for 55 asylum seekers, half of them were children
- Created job-opportunities for people that were unemployed



# Education and employment

- The municipality has a high ambition to shorten the time from asylum until the first job
- The municipality provides education in Swedish for Immigrants and information about the society.
- We also provide work-training, employment and short courses to achieve competences that are needed on the labour market
- It is a question about growth!



# Challenges

- In Växjö our biggest challenge is the lack of accommodations, we need to increase the rate of building new apartments and houses
- We also see a big challenge in the fact that we still have a high unemployment but at the same time there are companies that can't find people to employ





# Stronger together

- Uneven allocation of refugees between the municipalities
- New legislation in Sweden from the first of March, forcing all municipalities to contribute equally in the reception and integration of refugees
- Uneven allocation of refugees between the European countries
- We all need to contribute in this historical situation and it is important that all countries take responsibility





**Thanks for your attention!**

**- Per Sandberg 2016-03-16**