

Winnet Sweden's mission

The mission of Winnet Sweden is, through coordinating and supporting regional and local resource centres and networks, to work to ensure that

- women claim their share of society's resources
- women's competence is utilised by society
- efforts made by women and men are equally valued.

The Winnet Sweden generates public opinion and spreads information about women's life situation. The Winnet Sweden shall, through influencing and cooperating with organisations and authorities, nationally and internationally, promote a society in which women's potential, rights and obligations are upheld. The Winnet Sweden works to ensure that women and men have the same conditions and opportunities concerning work, working conditions, development potential and entrepreneurship and to promote an equal gender division in respect of power and influence.

Membership

Local and Regional Resource Centres and women's networks can apply for membership in Winnet Sweden at www.winnetsverige.se. Private individuals who support the work of the Winnet Sweden can become supporting members. The membership fee for 2010 is 100 SEK, plus 400 SEK service fee, 500 SEK in all.

Activities

The Winnet Sweden works to ensure women's inclusion and participation on equal terms in growth and development work locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. This work is conducted on various fronts, such as the labour market for women, entrepreneurship and business administration, leadership and management issues, health, women and technology, and the conditions and opportunities for young women.

One of the fundamental concepts of resource centres and networks is that they shall develop and grow out of local needs and prerequisites. An important task is therefore to contribute to reinforcing the work of the resource centres on a local level so as to with collective force reinforce and uphold women's possibilities to independently make a living and support themselves through education, employment or running their own businesses.

How it began

During the 1980s women's rights enthusiasts were working proactively with local village development and women's issues. This included work within the framework of the countryside campaign called "Let all Sweden live", which was part of regional development policy. Some women formed a group that initiated various cooperative projects, conferences and network building efforts. The group was linked to the Swedish National Rural Development Delegation at the Ministry of Labour from 1988 to 1992. The women's group sought to give regional policies a women's perspective through lobbying regarding the distribution of funds for regional policies and the unequal gender division in regional policy issues.

Women's Power

Women's Power was a three-year project that started in 1992 where the women's group had left off. It was linked organisationally to the Swedish National Rural Development Agency, which, together with the Ministry of Labour, financed the project. A secretariat was established in Stockholm.

Women's Power conferences were held all over the country. The goal was to create Regional Resource Centres and also create a National Resource Centre in Stockholm.

Board of the Winnet Sweden

The board of the Winnet Sweden comprises members from the whole of Sweden.

All board members have an email address that follows the pattern: first name.family name@winnetsverige.se

Chairperson

Britt-Marie Torstensson, Gävle

Treasurer

Ann-Sofie Granzell, Västerås

Board members

Bodil Nilsson, Malmö, vice ordförande

Pia Ramirez Måård, Luleå, sekreterare

Britta Berglund, Kiruna

Chatarina Nordström, Kalmar

Emelie Fischer, Halmstad

Böret Segolsson-Knutsson, Karlstad

Britt-Marie Wallin, Sölvesborg

Contact

More information about the Winnet Sweden can be found on our website www.winnetsverige.se

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According to a parliamentary decision public funding can be granted for financing activities within local and regional resource centres. Applications for funding are dealt with by Tillväxtverket www.tillvaxtverket.se/resurscentra

Women's Power achieved these goals when the government decided in June 1994 to give the County Administrative Boards the responsibility to prioritise means of establishing Regional Resource Centres for women. The Parliament also decided to give the Swedish Business Development Agency (NUTEK) and the Swedish National Rural Development Agency the mission to set up a National Resource Centre for women in NUTEK.

NRC (National Resource Centre for women)

And so the NRC was born. The government successively prolonged the project until 1999. The main task for the NRC was to support and coordinate the work of the Resource Centres nationwide. The NRC developed a variety of educational courses, produced research and investigation reports, published the news pamphlet "Women's Power" and organised conferences.

When the NRC's project term was over, the project was wound up and the staff disbanded. NUTEK was to integrate the work NRC staff had previously done into NUTEK's other operations – i.e. mainstreaming.

The board of the NRC felt that the knowledge, competence and experience built up in the NRC project should be put to good use. Accordingly the board decided to create a non-profit association. On the 16th of December 1999, the Swedish National Federation of Resource Centres for women was founded.