

Sweden: The Speaker from Sweden was Professor Pieter Bevelander from Malmö Institute for Studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare.

Sweden prides itself for having 17% of its total population immigrants, while also garnering top ten OECD economic prosperity. The country has always received inflow of refugee migration since the 1950s with recent arrivals of Assyrians, Kurdish, Palestinians and Chinese ethnic groups.

In response to the SCRs, it has changed its law in 2015 and 2016 (just like it did in the 70s, 80s, 90s when it received waves of migrants/refugees) to accommodate high numbers of asylum seekers. For instance, awarding permanent residency to asylum seekers that arrived prior to 20 July 2016, and temporary renewal residency for those who arrived after 20 July 2016 until 2019, with limited immediate family reunification. Those who qualify for subsidiary protection prior to 20 July 2016 also receive permanent residency, and a 13-month temporary up to 2 years renewable residency for those who arrived after 20 July 2016 until 2019, with no family reunification. As a result of providing reception to increasing numbers of asylum seekers, the inquiry time increased with lower acceptance rate. Housing has become a large issue not only for refugees but also to the general Swedish nation even before the SCRs.

The introduction program for refugees and asylum seekers with subsidiary protection needs includes courses provided by employment service, language classes, civic orientation, job training, and state and municipalities' financial resources such individual stipend higher than social welfare level. Employment services and professional organisations are involved in speeding up employment integration through 21 occupations with high demand for employees. Within the cohorts 18 to 64 years old new arrivals, those been 25 to 64 are likely entering the job market with rocketing female employment. The introduction and integration program however has not changed.

Societal Response: Societal response to SCRs were more positive as reflected in opinion polls, media, and all parties except the Sweden-Democrats. The overall attitudes remained stable between 2014 to 2016.