

Policy for the international work

Adopted by the City Council Assembly date 9 October 2014



program

policy

handlingsplan

riktlinje



VÄSTERÅS STAD

Policy for the international work for the City of Västerås

Policy for the international work for the City of Västerås replaces the previous International policy from 2006.

The City of Västerås' Policy for the international work will be used as a guideline in the city's work to provide added value and use for the Västerås people.

Enclosure:

International work - a knowledge material

As a complement for the Policy for the international work a knowledge material has been produced. The knowledge material is a living document that may be revised related to how the global world changes and evolves.

The knowledge material:

- is indicative of how the City of Västerås uses international agreements that has been and is signed in different decision levels*
- shows how we take into account the international work and perspectives, how this is linked with various forms of financing and economic governance*
- highlights the importance that the goals of the EU 2020 Strategy is integrated in the city's governing documents (European Union = EU)*
- demonstrates the ability to influence the world from multiple decision levels*

This policy is revised by 2020.

Programme	express values and attitudes for improving Västerås as a place to live, work, visit and do business in, including the City of Västerås Group
Policy	express values and attitudes for the work of the City of Västerås Group
Action plan	specify strategies and concrete actions to achieve policy objectives, as well as the goals that have been set at various levels of the organisation
Guideline	ensure correct procedures and high quality when it comes to the assistance and services that the City of Västerås Group offers

Policy for the international work in the City of Västerås

There is a strong dependence between international work, sustainable community developments, and to ensure peace, freedom and democracy for citizens and residents.

Vision Västerås in 2026 with international perspectives

Västerås Vision 2026 describes a city without limits, a city where the people feel that anything is possible. A city without limits means that we see ourselves in the world and that we see the world in Västerås. This approach reinforces the city's potential for success. Opportunities for success are also driven to maintain world-class knowledge, where we combine technology development with human needs.

The vision shows that the international perspectives are needed to develop Västerås to a continued successful and prosperous city with opportunities for a better life for everyone in Västerås.

Definition of international work

With international work it is meant that the city of Västerås in collaboration with international partners:

- develops Västerås and use external support and funding for this
- affect and implement democratic decisions, that will be and are made in international contexts, by Västerås conditions

and when the city of Västerås cooperates with the twin cities.

Purpose of international work

International work is a tool for development. It adds value and benefit to Västerås, the city of Västerås, Västerås businesses, research, education institutions and associations as well as our international partners.

International work contributes to the internationalization of Västerås and our businesses as well as our ability to live with and appreciate the values in cultural diversity.

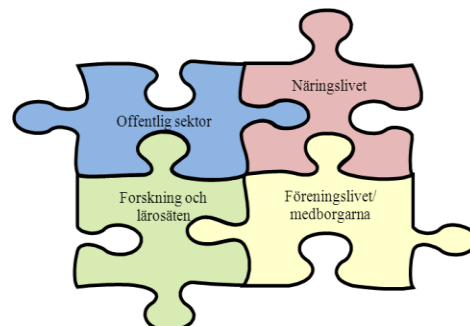


Figure 1. The city of Västerås creates added value for the public sector, industry, research and academia, as well as NGO:s, citizens and residents.

Priorities in international work

International work prioritizes

- sustainable community development
- democracy and intercultural understanding
- investments and establishments to Vasteras
- the city's attractiveness and its role as an attractive employer
- the school's internationalization according to the curriculum for all types of schools including preschool
- European Union with a focus on the EU 2020 strategy
- democratic decisions with a bearing on international work

In international work the city of Västerås mainly act in the EU, in the internal market and in the immediate area. New sister city agreements are not signed. However cooperation agreements, declarations and conventions based on concrete issues and needs, are signed. Substance and benefits are choices superior of the geographic area.

If uncertainty is associated with selection of international collaboration partners or collaboration content, the City of Västerås follows the positions of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

Strategies for the international work

To reach success in the international work the City of Västerås uses the following strategies:

We are proactive

The City of Västerås is proactive to get stimulus, knowledge and skills as well as to contribute effectively in international contexts.

- we take initiative to international collaborations and strategic partnerships in the form of projects, networks, knowledge and experience transfer
- we are actively looking for external support and funding, for example from the EU funds and programs, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Vinnova
- we act to influence national and international decisions
- we market the unique strengths in Västerås

We ensure added value and mutual benefit

We consciously broaden our perspective and exchange knowledge and experiences. We ensure that our international cooperation provide added value and mutual benefit.

We think globally and act locally

The City of Västerås is included in a global context. To a greater or lesser extent we affect and are affected by the outside world. In the local work we are led by a holistic approach. We value and take into account the extent of the work effects in space and in time.

We base our work on a multi-level perspective

We put the City of Västerås in a larger context. We are aware that:

- we affect and are affected by global, EU, national, regional and local actors
- we are governed by democratic decisions from different levels and expose them in our local decision.

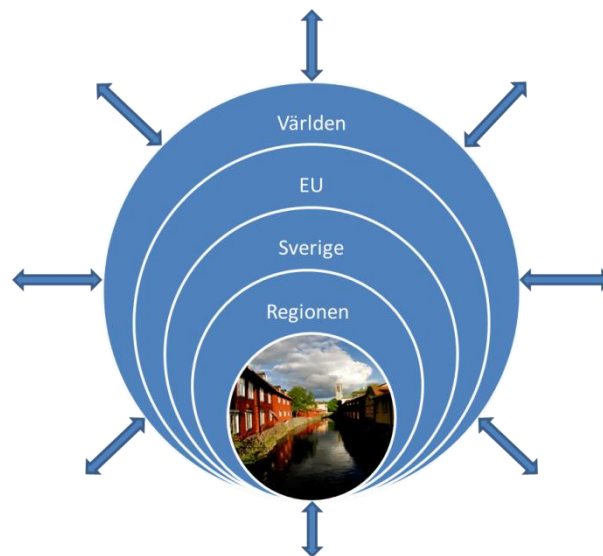


Figure 2. We put the City of Västerås in a larger context, in the world, in EU, in Sweden and in the region.



VÄSTERÅS STAD

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