

Heritage and Historic Environment Issues in Sweden Changes and Chances

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Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Sweden



- In 1630 a national custodian – Riksantikvarie – was commissioned the task of documenting and compiling inventories of the country's ancient monuments
- 1666 the first draft of Sweden's decree on ancient monuments
- The Collegium on Antiquities was established in 1666
- The Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities was established in 1753



Laws and Protection



- The laws reflect changes in position on issues concerning preservation during different periods but also important changes in society
- During the 19th century the protection of ancient remains was strengthened. Permits were required for archaeological excavations
- Protection of the country's churches grew, many medieval churches were abandoned and demolished in the 19th century
- 1942 - new laws on the protection of ancient remains and remarkable historical buildings. Privately owned buildings could now also be protected
- 1989 - a common law was introduced for all cultural heritage which stated that the historic environment was a national concern and a responsibility shared by all

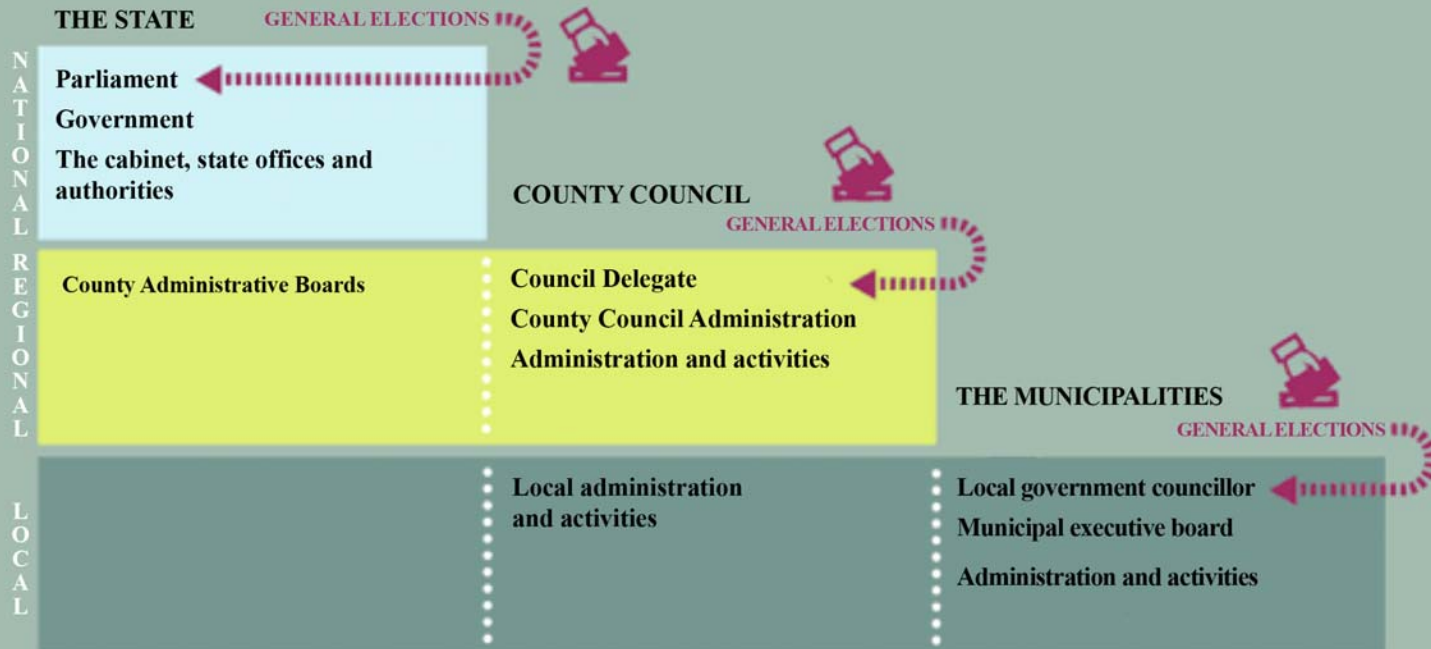


Reforms and Decentralisation

- The desire to strengthen the protection of the historic environment as in environmental protection
- International discussions at UNESCO on the value of cultural heritage for the individual and for nations
- Individual and social responsibility for the cultural heritage was emphasised
- The cultural heritage management work was integrated in planning at country administrative level
- The new task at central level was to collaborate with other sectors and to broaden the work on historic environment issues



HOW SWEDEN IS GOVERNED ON THREE LEVELS



Advantages of Decentralisation

- The preservation of the cultural heritage directly included in strategic considerations at the county administrative boards
- Influence on municipal planning
- Museums and local heritage societies could take part in debates and influence opinion and contribute with knowledge for the operations at the county administrative boards.
- Improved legal procedures
- The status of the preservation of the cultural heritage in society was strengthened



Disadvantages of Decentralisation

- The regional museums found it difficult to adjust to their new roles and colleagues and conflicts arose
- Lack of clarity in the pooling of responsibilities caused confusion among the general public
- A discussion on financing via state subsidy to the regional museums. The county administrative boards depended on the regional museums' services but had no funds to pay for them
- Knowledge production and decision making were separated



A New Role for the Swedish National Heritage Board

- Coordination and overall view
- Organise conferences and meeting places for the development of cultural heritage management work
- Broadening and deepening collaboration with other actors and sectors in society
- Strengthening the status of cultural heritage as a positive force in the development of society
- Developing international work

Challenges:

- Large scale structural changes
- Multicultural society
- Increased participation and dialogue with citizens



New Opportunities and Challenges

The Committee of Inquiry on Cultural Policy and the Museum Coordinator propose:

- New cultural political objectives
- New authority structure at the national level
- Increased collaboration between state and regional level



New Objectives for Cultural Policy

On the basis of the nature of their tasks and areas of responsibility, state authorities and institutions will work

- to promote diversity, cultural pluralism and international collaboration,
- to support artistic creativity and to provide a place for the artist's ability to create, break with patterns and broaden the realm of possibilities,
- towards the preservation, use and interpretation of our cultural heritage,
- for the use of cultural skills and creativity in order to contribute to a social, environmental and economically sustainable development,
- towards the accessibility and provision of information and knowledge.

The aims should act as a guideline for public culture policy even beyond the state.



Collaboration between State, County Council, Municipality

- Better collaboration through implementation of portfolio model
- Funds distributed following negotiation state – region
- Motivation for model:
 - Decentralisation
 - Regional and local involvement and responsibility
 - Room for regional variation
 - Long-term agreements
 - Follow-up and evaluation



The Museum Coordinator's Proposal

- Permanent function for coordination of museums
- Included in the sphere of contemporary society, history and the living environment or NHB
- NHB board of experts on issues regarding preservation of collections and objects
- Responsibility mission for central museums removed
- Enhanced responsibility for national museum collections which are not under the auspice of the Ministry of Culture
- Web based interaction and access to information emphasised

