

# Swedish Policies for HE and Employability - consequences for non-traditional students

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## Aim

- To address the relation between equality and employability for Swedish non-traditional students
- To match students' patterns of participation in HE with the demands of the labour market and society



# Non-traditional students

- Under-represented groups participating in HE
- Students that are the first in their families to enter HE in Sweden
- A specific focus on class and ethnicity



# Swedish HE policies

- HE a means for employment and for making society more equal by widening participation
- A strong tradition of widening access
- Employability – students’ skills in relation to the needs of the labour market
- Focus on the match between supply and needs from the labour market and society



# Class inequalities persists

- 44 per cent of the population born 1988 had begun to study by the age of 25
- 22 per cent of students with low educated parents
- 47 per cent of students in vocational teaching and 41 per cent of students in pre-school teaching have low educated parents
- 70 per cent of students in medicine have high educated parents



# Inequalities concerning ethnicity

- 41 per cent of students with an international background compared to 44 per cent of the population born 1988 had begun to study in HE by the age of 25
- 55 per cent of Iranians compared to 21 per cent of Somalians participated in HE 2011/2012
- 59 per cent of students with an international background study dental hygiene, 55 dentists and 49 biomedical laboratory science



# Employment in Sweden

- 5 per cent of HE graduates are unemployed compared to 7,5 for graduates from upper secondary and 21 per cent from lower secondary school
- 78 per cent of those graduating from HE 2009/10 had established themselves in the labour market 2011



# Match or mismatch?

- There is a future lack of occupations related to the health care sector and the educational sector
- In the health sector there is a lack of places on offer
- In the educational sector there is a lack of students applying
- More students than needed apply to become artists, social workers and journalists





# The employability of non-traditional students in HE

## Educational sector

- Students from low educated families are to a large extent applying and participating
- Increasing their employability – good chances to become employed

## Health care sector

- Students with international backgrounds are applying and participating
- Increasing their employability – good chances to become employed



# Conclusions

- Despite widening access inequalities persists
- Market forces have taken over the policy of equality in HE
- HE becomes a means for a segregated labour market rather than an arena for equality and social mobility
- Employability contributes to a segregated society
- More research of non-traditional students, equality and employability is needed



# Thank you!!