
A Public Ethos

2009 the present Swedish coalition government decided on a 2 year project aiming at reinforcing ethics and good core values throughout central government administration. The project was motivated by factors such as mobility between sectors and demographic issues - the ongoing 'generational shift'. It was labeled "Public Ethos – A Good Culture of Public Administration".

KRUS was given the commission to coordinate the efforts of the 230 governmental agencies involved. The directives made it clear that the project should reinforce core values that reflect the law.

Based on these fundamental core values, KRUS has launched a variety of toolboxes and fora for knowledge transfer, management training and the development of new approaches to delivering services.

Public Ethos has been broadly welcomed by agencies and leaders in the administration. In September 2011, the Swedish government decided to extend the project for another year.

About KRUS

The Swedish Council for Strategic HR - Development

- Staff-agency to the Government
- Established 2009
- Head of Agency: Lärke Johns
- Budget: 2,5 million €
- Staff: 18 HR-officers and administrators

DISPA-Workshop: Leadership & Ethics

- a question of trust and change in successfully evolving Public Administrations

Sweden enjoys fairly high rankings, internationally, in many ethical areas in public administration. So why initiate a project aiming at ethics within its own central public administration - and what are the experiences so far?

Two years ago the DISPA directors met in Stockholm and discussed the prerequisites and aspirations of the upcoming Swedish project 'A Public Ethos'. At that time, about 60 % of the DISPA schools had ethical training for civil servants and their managers.

The Leadership & Ethics workshop sets off with an overview of the Swedish project so far: of strategies, tools - and lessons learned. The main focus of the session will be, however, for questions, discussions and the sharing of best practices and ideas amongst DISPA-members. Some suggested points for discussion could be:

- What are the challenges for public administrations in Europe both today and for the future – and what role can professional ethics play in successfully meeting and beating them?
- What are the relative values of different ethics in leadership in the member-states? What values are held in common between our civil services, and what can we learn from any differences?
- What are the experiences and impacts of ethical training and implementation of core values to date?
- Can core values boost public image, and increase the attractiveness for recruiting the right staff?
- Can ethics foster innovation and renewal?
- What tools are – or should be - available for reinforcing professional ethics? Which are the right ones? Are we being truly oriented to the future and aiming at the right target-groups, or are there blind spots or false trails?
- What is - or could be - the role of the DISPA Network when it comes to reinforcing and developing ethics in public administration in Europe?