HÖGSKOLAN I GÄVLE

Diversity Barometer 2018

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1. Introduction

The Diversity Barometer was created at the Institution of Sociology at the University of Uppsala 2005, a study from this year on yearly basis mapped the attitudes to ethnic diversity among the Swedish population in Sweden.

From 2013 on, University of Gavle took over the study and has from then conducted it.

The first report of the Diversity Barometer was published in year 2005 was presented based on a randomly selected sample from the Swedish population. During the next coming reports, Diversity Barometer 2006—2014 and 2016, the results were published from these surveys and were compared to previous years 'results. No studies were conducted during 2015 and 2017.

The current attitudes towards diversity among the Swedish population 2018 are in this report presented and commented. Most of the questions are the same from previous reports to be able to follow up the time series, but some questions have been modified and can only be compared with the results from 2016. Furthermore, some questions have been removed from the original questionnaire.

With this study the initiator of the study wants to contribute to the discussion to this topic by almost yearly present up-to-date results from this survey

A presentation of the current attitudes may contribute to that the complex of problems around diversity in the society can be treated in a better way when the actual attitudes are known, especially when these attitudes also can have an important impact on the future Swedish society and the development of it.

The report is based on a survey with randomly selected sample among the adults of Swedish population. The sample is from the SPAR register and the data collection has like previous years been conducted with postal data collection to answer the questions with pen and paper. The results this time is based on 613 randomly selected individuals.

Professor in Sociology, Fereshteh Ahmadi, together with Irving Palm, associate professor in Sociology, are responsible for the Diversity Barometer.

Thanks to:

The responsible for this project want to thank the University of Gavle and the Faculty of Health and Occupational Studies who have financed this survey this year.

2. Conclusion

1. **Improved working experience from people with foreign background**
   Working experience from colleagues with foreign background in school and at work is good among 74 percent of the population, which is an increase with four percentage units from 2016 and the highest measured share in the Diversity Barometer since 2005. Foremost it is men under the age of 50 years who have better experience and the result reaches the highest value (74%) for this subgroup in the history of this barometer. Previously the share for men which have good experience was 69% 2014, and 68% 2016.

2. **Deteriorated attitudes towards possibilities for people born abroad to preserve their culture**
   There is a negative trend for the attitudes to give people born abroad the possibility to conserve their culture traditions coming to Sweden, but also that this value is the lowest measured value in the Diversity of Barometer throughout the years – now only 46 percent (compared to 49% 2016, and 57% 2014). This negative trend with all-time low index value can be noted among both men and women, especially for people over the age of 50 years.

3. **Deteriorated attitudes to diversity by all-time low diversity index measurement**
   Diversity Barometers index shows off a negative trend and the all-time low value in its 13-yearly history. Index value for 2018 is now on 1.7 (2016 it was 1.8 and 2014 2.5). Also, all-time low index value for women, both with low education and with university education, and among people over the age of 50 years. In contrast, young people under 30 years have more positive attitudes and instead shows off a positive trend with improved attitudes.

4. **Relatively positive attitudes towards diversity in a working life perspective**
   No changed attitudes to diversity and working life, instead there are very stable attitudes since 2005 with the index of 1.3 2018 (to be compared with 2016 1.4 and 2014 1.2). Still 8 out of 10 have the attitude that people born abroad shall have the same working conditions as people born in Sweden. High educated are still the most positive ones towards diversity, and young people get all-time high index values for 2018 in this question about diversity and working life. But still 23 percent prefer Swedish colleagues, and the share has increased from 21 percent 2016.

5. **Attitudes towards diversity from a religious perspective is down on all-time low levels**
   Index for diversity from a religious perspective gets an all-time low level 2018 with an index value on 2.5 (compared with 2.4 2016 and 2.3 2014 – the higher value the more negative). It is foremost men with mid- or low education over the age of 50 years who have deteriorated attitudes. Also, now more think that Muslim women are more oppressed (66% against 61%

2016) and that Islamic private schools work against integration (71% 2018 against 54% 2016) and that adhans disturb more than church bells (56% 2018 against 46% 2016). In spite of these stronger negative attitudes, the acceptance to carry veil has improved a lot since the last measurement 2016 (From 2016 to 2018; at school 13% to 27%, at work 12% to 30%, in public places 33% to 42%).

6. **Very stable attitudes towards diversity from a residential perspective over time**
   Residential index for diversity is very stable (2.0 2018 against 1.9 2016, and 2.0 2014) but still 37 percent prefer Swedish neighbors, which is an increase with four percentage units from 2016. But it depends a lot on where the neighbors come from. The attitudes are much more negative towards possible neighbors from Middle East. Three out of ten would still consider moving if people from Middle East would move into the same complex building, while two out of ten would move if someone from Africa moved, while less than two out of ten from other parts of the would move in.

7. **Attitudes towards that ethical diversity develops Swedish culture deteriorates**
   Still six out of ten (59%) have the attitude that the ethnic diversity develops the Swedish culture, but this year 'result is the same as the all-time low result 2010. The last three measurements also reveal a negative trend to 59 percent from 60 percent 2016 and 66 percent 2014. Also, those who reject this statement have increased and reaches all-time high 22 percent (from 18% 2016 and 13% 2014). And almost half now think that people coming Middle East are a threat towards preserving Swedish culture (45% 2018 and 43% 2016). Women from Middle East are even considered a bigger threat towards the Swedish culture than men coming from Africa (26% for women from Middle East compared to 22% for men from Africa).

3. Method and sample description

3.2 Target group and sampling

The target group for this study is the population living in Sweden within the age interval of 18 to 75 years of age. A randomly selected sample was bought from SPAR register to get a sample that is representative for the adult population in Sweden.

The net sample size is 613 individuals. Since the sample is not weighted towards the actual population in the previous studies 2005 – 2016, there has not been any weighting for this study either to be consequent and to be able to compare the results.

3.1 Data collection

Data collection was through a postal questionnaire as in previous studies.

The postal dispatch was done on the 28th of May 2016 and then a reminder was sent out on the 18th of June. The data collection was closed on the 6th of July 2018. In total, the data collection period lasted for seven weeks.

3.3 Margin of errors

For this study with the sampling size based on 613 individuals has a margin of error about +/- 4 %-units for results around 50 percent, which means that the true result for the actual population with 95 percent security lays within the interval of 46 - 54 percent.

Results around 10 or 90 percent have a margin of error around +/- 2 %-units, which means that the true results for the whole population by 95 percent is within the interval of 8 – 12 or 88 – 92 percent.

3.4 Analyses

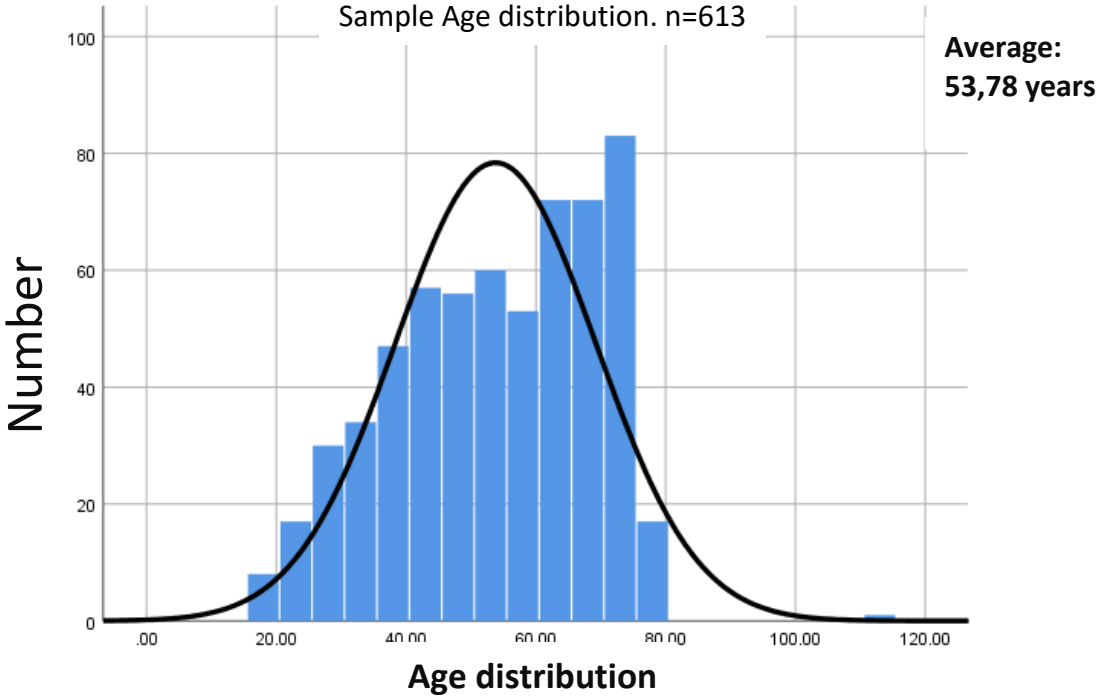
Throughout this report the results from 2018 have been compared with previous results from 2005 – 2016, if possible. For certain questions the results are presented for different subgroups in the society like gender perspective, different age groups and different groups based on education level, to better understand of the whole population.

Supported by statistical calculations different index for different areas, for example job situation, religion, housing and culture, have been created and compared with previous index values, both on total and on different subgroups like gender, age and education level.

3.5 Sample description

Down below the sample is presented based on age distribution.

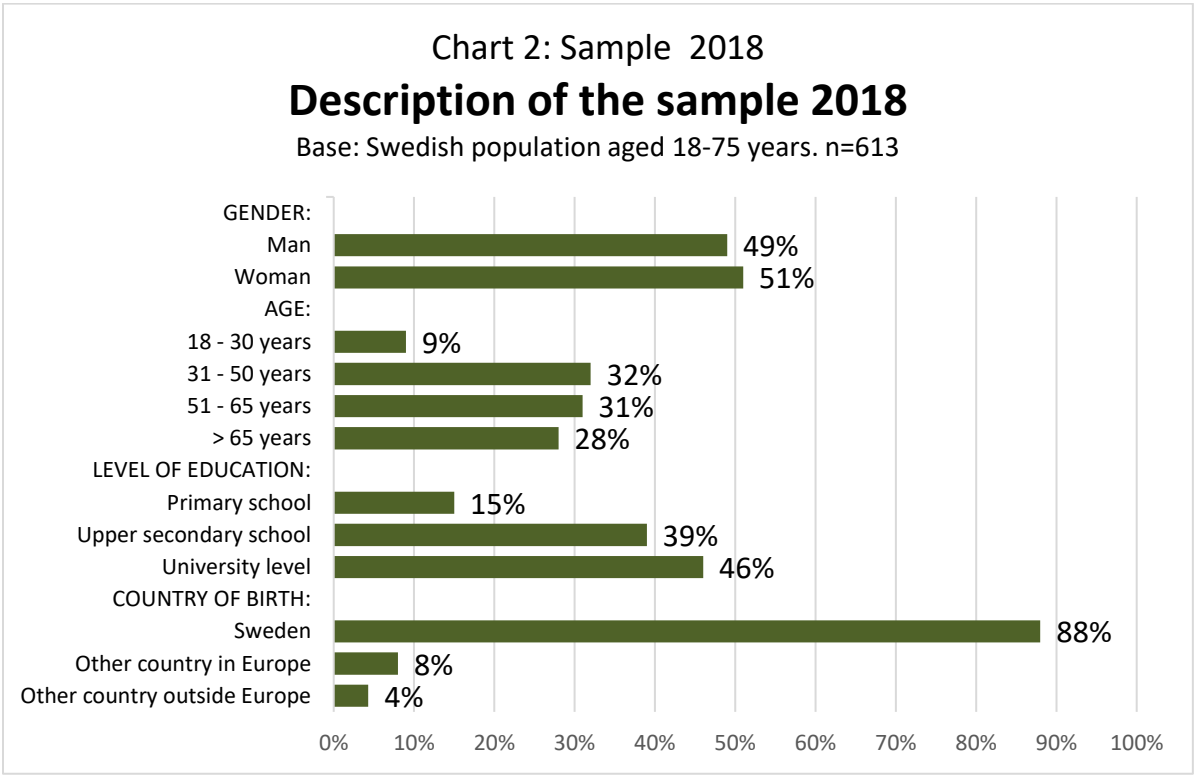
Chart 1: Age distribution



Looking at the age distribution somewhat more older respondents are included in the sample than younger individuals, which reflects the actual Swedish population even though the age distribution as such is not as skewed as in the sample.

Since the number of individuals in the youngest age group (18-30 years of age) is under-representative in the sample and only present ten percent of the sample, i.e. only 55 individuals, the results based on the youngest age group must be analyzed carefully throughout the report.

Average age for this sample is 53,78 years.



The sample 2018 has a balanced share of women and men. The youngest age group is smaller than the corresponding figures from Swedish Statistics. The age group 31-50 years of age is somewhat smaller in a comparison with actual numbers. In corresponding way, the older age groups are somewhat larger than the what the case is for the actual Swedish population.

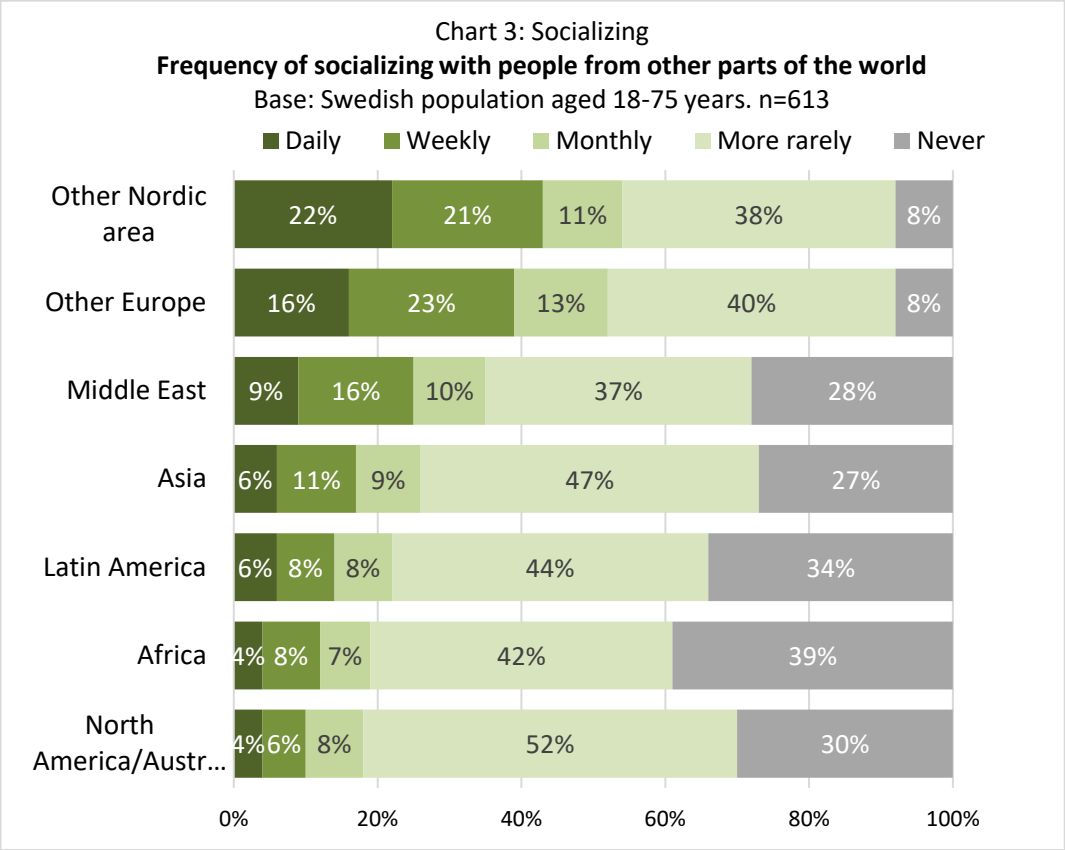
The level of education shows an answering pattern with a certain under-representativeness for the those with upper secondary education and the category of university educated are somewhat over-represented.

Nine out of ten are born in Sweden in this sample which shows a certain over-representativeness for people born in Sweden compared with those born abroad.

Even though there is an over- and under-representativeness for certain groups in the sample, the sample is on the other hand in parity with previous samples in the Diversity Barometer so that comparisons can be made over time. In the appendix there is a full description of the sample based on several sociodemographic variables and some of them are compared with previous samples.

4. More with good experience from people born abroad

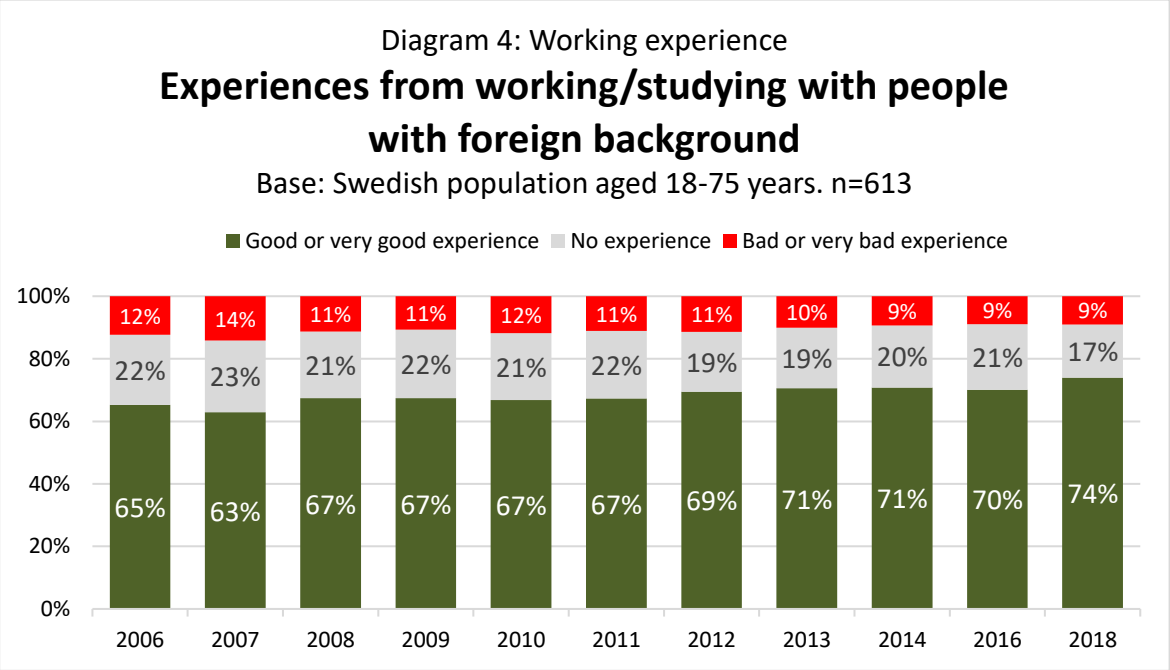
In this chapter the respondents´ actual experience from people from different parts of the world is studied to see how often they socialize, but also if the respondents have positive or negative experience from working together or going to school together with people born abroad.



About half of the Swedes have contact with people from other Nordic countries at least once a month. As many as 22 percent have contact with people from our neighbor countries every day. The contact with people from other parts of Europe, outside the Nordics, is about the same, just somewhat more rarely. The contact with other people from Europe is much more common than having contact with people from other continents. Only three out of ten have contact with people from Middle East at least once a month. Less than one of ten have a daily contact with someone from this part of the world.

Looking at other contacts then in order come contacts with people from Asia, Latin America, Africa and the least North America/Australia. Notable is that three out of ten respondents answered that they never have had any contact with anyone from Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America or North America/Australia.

Diagram 4: Working experience



Most have positive experience. The chart above shows that those who have rather or very good experience from working with colleagues born abroad since a couple of years are slightly increasing. Since the result this year is 74 percent it is the all-time high value with good experience measured, and it is also nine percentage units above the first measurement 2005.

The share of negative is stable. One out of ten (9 %) have rather or very negative experiences from working with people with foreign background. The share with bad experience has been relatively stable over the last years, but if the results are compared with the results from 2005-2006 then the share has diminished somewhat.

If it was about 30 percent that hadn´t had contact with people from different parts of the world, these results are since 17 percent say that they don't have any experience at all with people from other countries in school or at work. This figure is the all-time low value which shows that more Swedes nowadays have contact with people born abroad.

Those people with good experiences also more often socialize with people from other countries. It is not correct to say that the more people socialize with people with foreign background the better experience they have. The causality is unsure. It can be the other way around, that those who have had better experience with people with foreign background also like to socialize with them more often and there for also actually do that.

Chart 5: Experience

Experiences from working/studying with people with foreign background

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

In the chart above shows the experience from people with foreign background at work or in school, but the shares of very good respectively very bad experiences are presented separately.

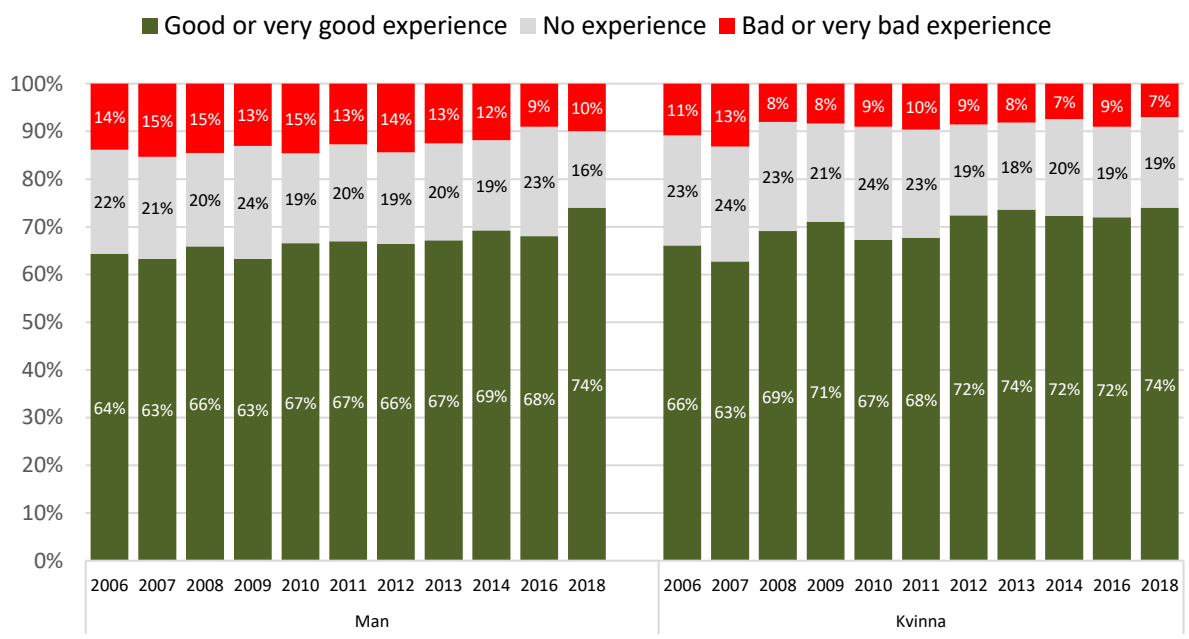
The people from the group that say that they have had very good experiences from colleagues from other countries has been stabilized around relatively high levels, compared with previous years, at 36–37 percent. It is the share with rather good experience that has increased compared with the previous measurements.

Those with very negative experience is as a group which is stable on three percent since the last five measurements. The share of people being just rather negative is also stable over time.

Chart 6: Experience

Experiences from working/studying with people with foreign background - on gender

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



Nowadays the same share of men and women have had rather or very good experience from people with foreign background at work or in school, since men now have an all-time high result like the women – 74 percent.

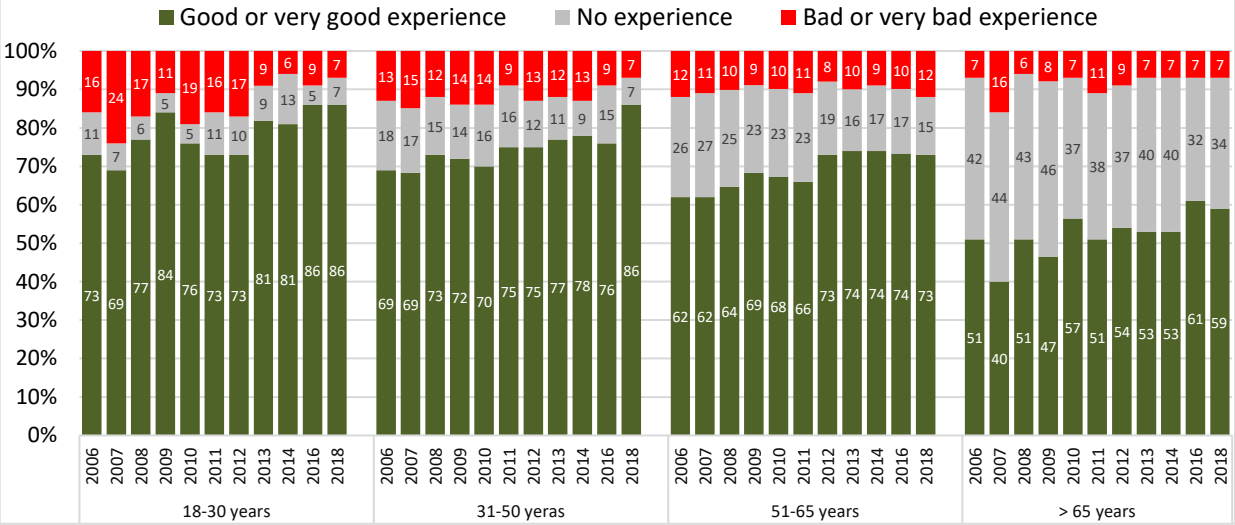
The group men with good experience has been stable since many years but has this year dramatically increased with six percentage unites. Also, the share with bad experience is relatively stable around low ten percent. It is especially men who more often have contact with people with foreign background that have become somewhat more positive.

The share of women with good experience is stable around 72–74 percent for five years back. Hardly every tenth woman have bad experience and this group is stable over time.

Chart 7: Experiences

Experiences from working/studying with people with foreign background - on age groups

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

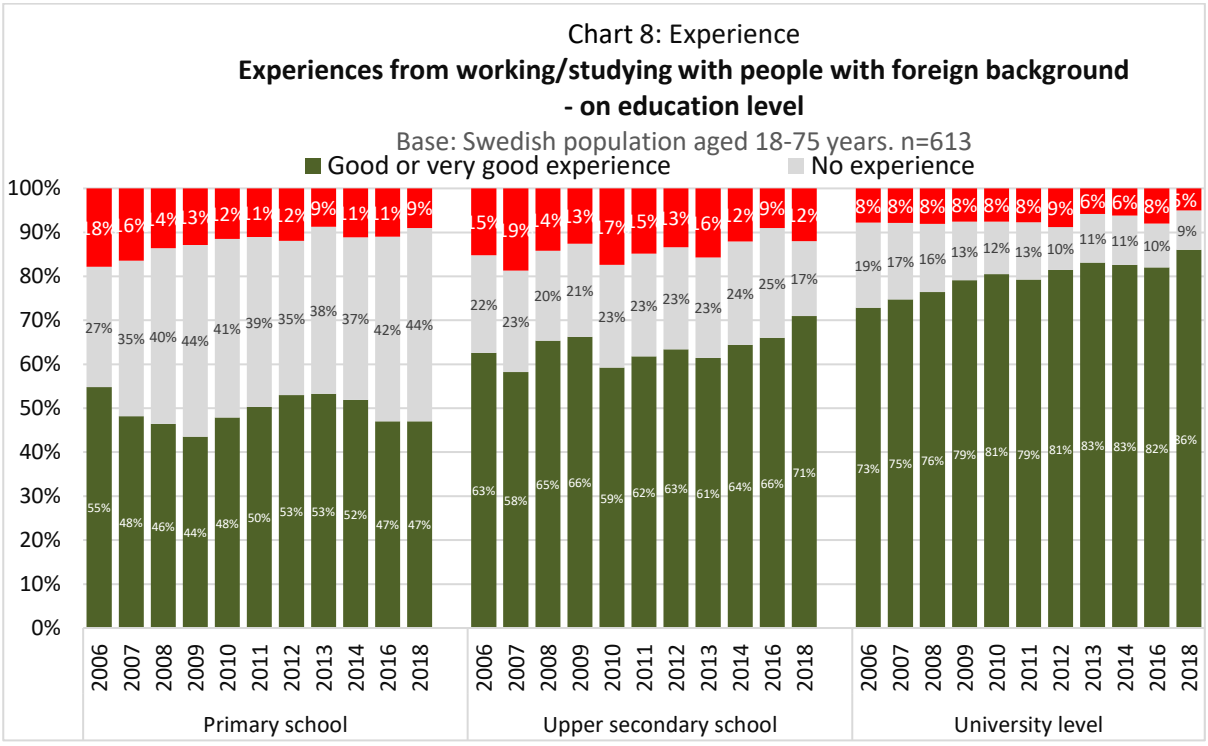


The good experience from people with foreign background at work or in school is most common for the youngest group, and this has always been the case. Over 80 percent with good experience the last four measurements. This years 'result is the highest value so far.

The age group 31–50 years of age has nowadays as good experience as the youngest group. This increase is the biggest change since 2016 among different age groups.

The age group 51–65 years of age is stable for five years back. Among the oldest group the share with good experience is 59 percent, fully comparable with previous measurement. The reason that the result for this oldest age group is relatively low is that a relatively large group doesn´t have any experience at all since they most often are retired and don´t meet people with foreign background at a work or in a school.

The age group with the worst experience is the age group 51-65 years of age who has the largest group with persons who are most negative, almost twice as large share (12 against 7%) compared with the other three age groups.



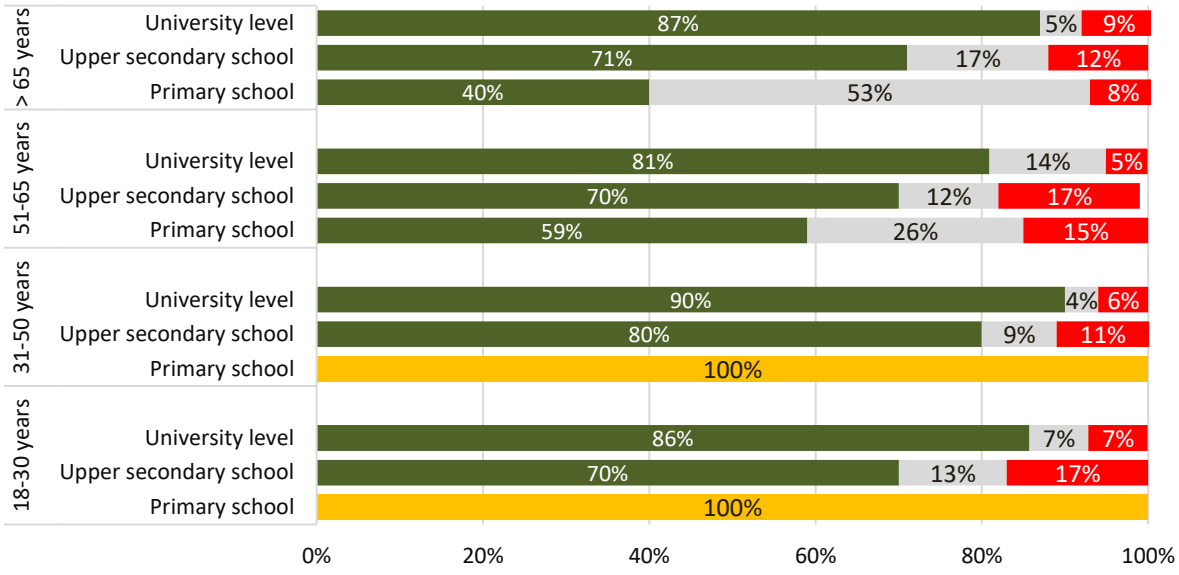
It seems to be a strong correlation between good experience from people with foreign background at work or in school with the level of education people have. The higher level of education, the better experience they have. The question is if those with higher education also socialize more often with people with foreign background with the similar background (university educated) and maybe many times have a better social situation in the society which might have an impact on the differences in attitudes. A relatively large part among the respondents with university education has good experience and that has always been the case, since 2005. The share with good experience has increased during the last years from being around 75 percent to now stabilize above the 80 percent level for five years back. Now, the last measurement, it was the all-time high result, 86 percent.

Among those with upper secondary education the share with good experience is somewhat lower, 71 percent, which also is the all-time high value for this education group. There is also a clear positive trend in positive experience from 2013. Experience for them with the lowest education has gone up and down throughout the years. The latest negative trend has stabilized at 47 percent. As many as 44 percent of the those with the lowest education level say that they don´t have any experience from people with foreign background, not from work nor from school. The largest share of people with bad experiences is those with education on upper secondary level.

Chart 9: Experience

Experiences from working/studying with people with foreign background - on age groups and education level.

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

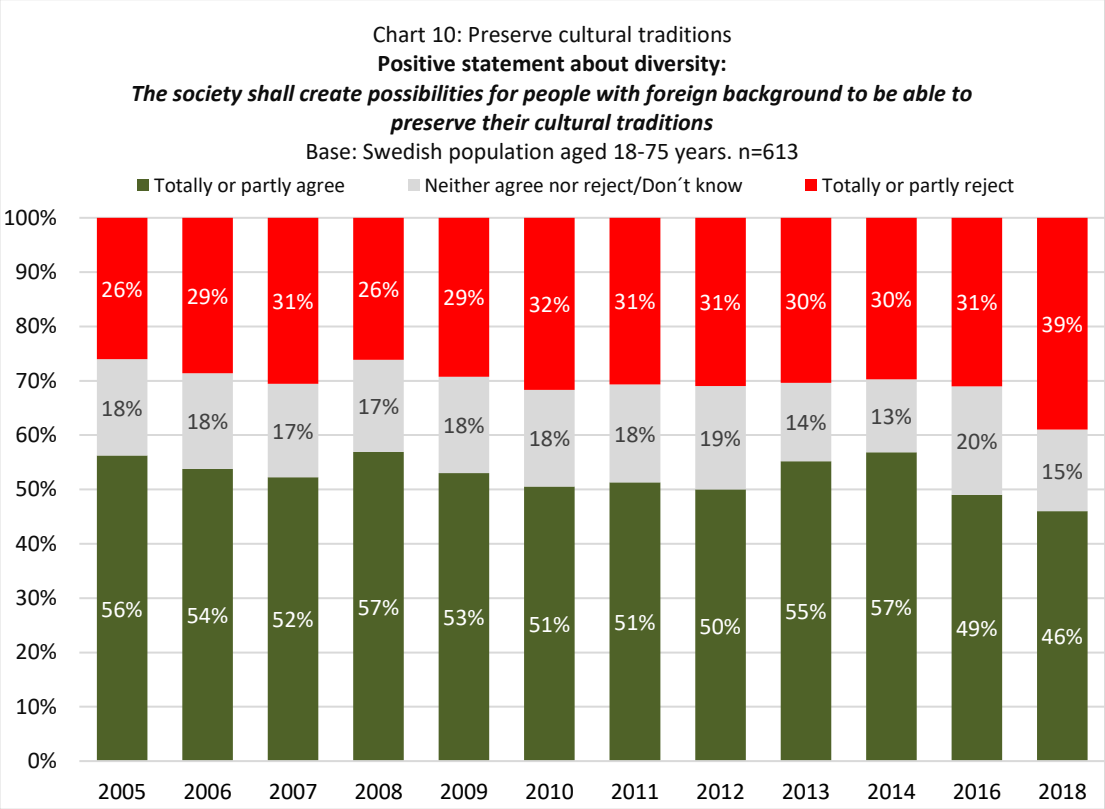


If age and education is combined there is a clear pattern that individuals with university background in larger extent have good experience with people born abroad – independently which age group they belong. All age groups have the same pattern; the higher education, the more often good experience, respectively the lower education - the worse experience.

Indeed, a larger share of those with university background within all age groups have better experience, but the biggest difference is that those with low education in larger extent totally lack of any experience rather than have bad experience.

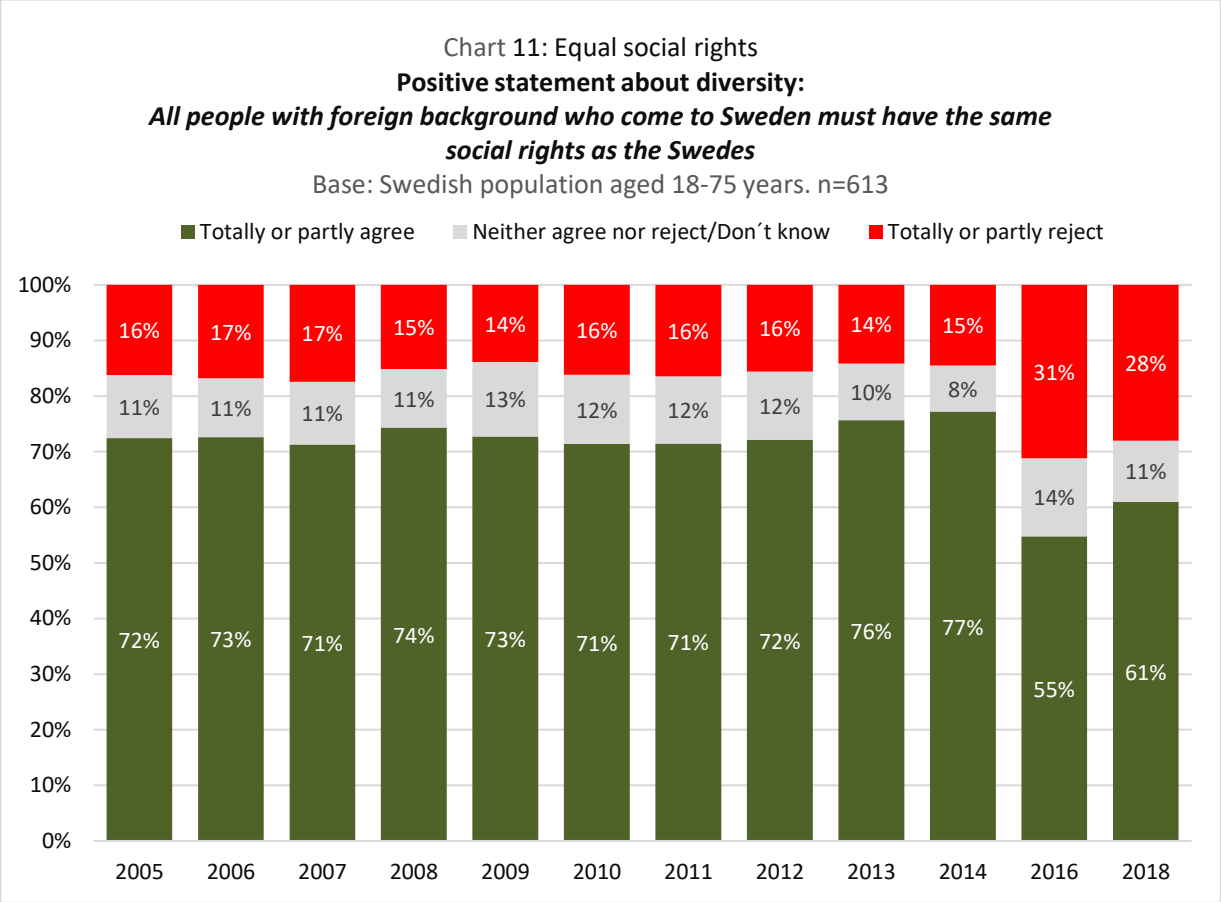
5. Fewer with positive attitudes towards diversity

In this part the attitudes towards three positive statements about rights and possibilities that newcomers have when coming to Sweden; 1) *possibility to keep their own culture*, 2) the *right to have the same social rights*, and that parents and children are given 3) the *possibility to keep their native language*.



Barely half (46%) of the respondents are positive towards the fact that the Swedish society should create possibilities for people born abroad to be able to keep their culture traditions. Four out of ten are of another opinion, namely that the society shouldn´t create these possibilities. In this case a kind of assimilation to Swedish culture is wanted. The attitudes have been rather stable over the measurements and there is a positive trend up to 2014, which disappeared 2016, and 2018 the share that agrees to this statement, about being able to keep the culture, has decreased to 46 percent – the all-time low.

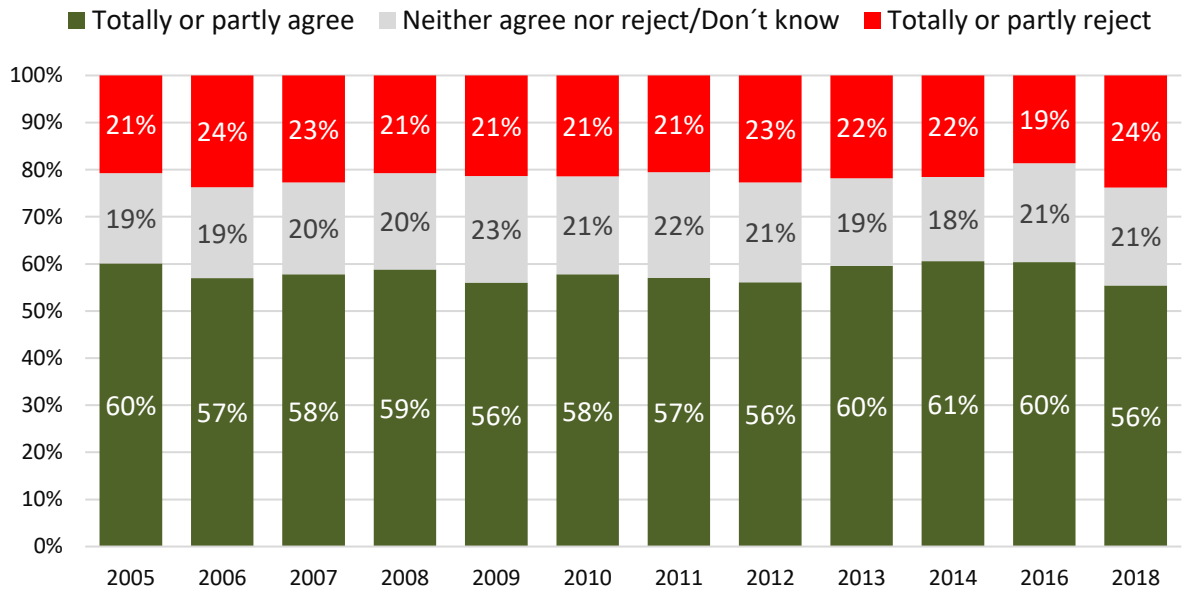
The share that takes distance from the fact that the society shall create these conditions for foreign people to keep their culture rights has previously been very stable, but now it has increased heavily (8 %- percentage units) and shows the highest result since this study started in 2005.



Earlier there was a clear majority of the population with positive attitudes towards that all people should have the same social rights independently if you are born in Sweden or born abroad. This is a good example of how equality is accepted in Sweden. Add to this, there was also a weak positive trend from 2011 that was stopped 2016 when the results deteriorated. This year the results have improved again and still the results are far from the previous results of 77 percent – now only on 61 percent.

The share that rejects this statement about same social rights for all is still close to the last measurement around 30 percent, namely 28 percent, and much higher than before.

Chart 12: Keep native language
Positive statement about diversity:
It is good that people with foreign background who have come to Sweden keep their native language and teach their children it
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

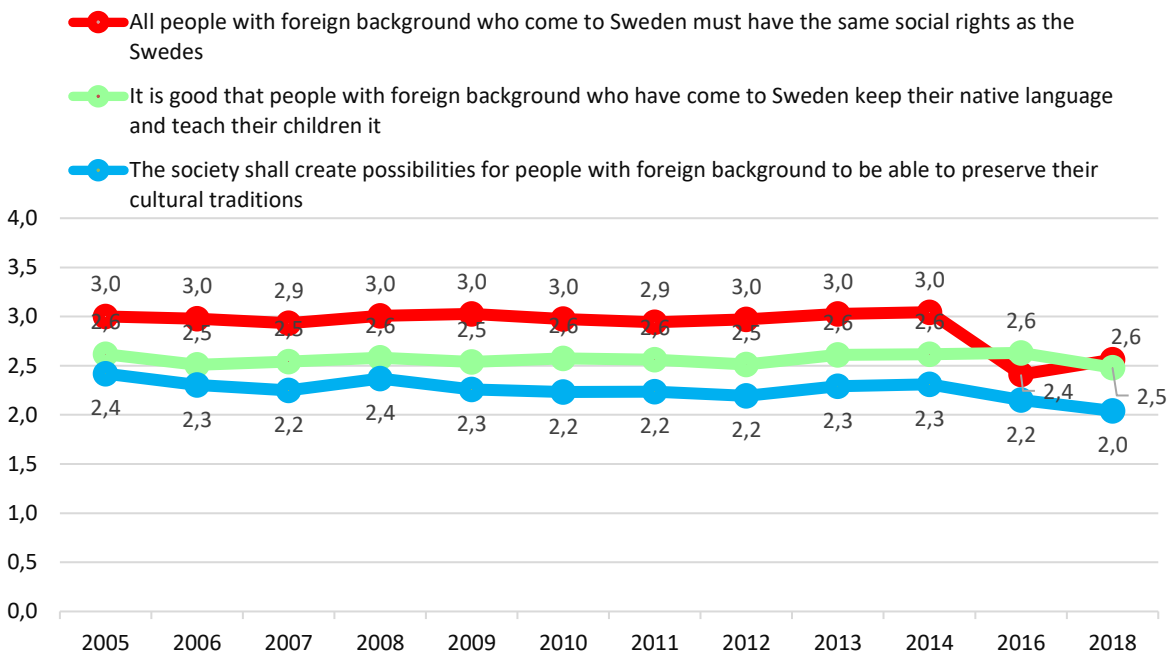


Still there is a majority, 56 percent, of the population that totally or partly agree that it is good that people who come to Sweden keep their native language and still teach their children it. The result is relatively stable since the measurements started at 2005 and is still within the interval of 56-61 percent even though the result is somewhat lower compared with 2016.

Those who reject this statement about preserving the native language has increased but is still relatively stable – in this case within the interval of 19-24 percent.

A positive diversity index has been created for each of the three positive statements about diversity to be able to follow possible trends over time and compare the three statements by balancing those who agree and with those who reject each statement.

Chart 13: Positive diversity index - all
Three index (0-4) based on three positive statements about diversity
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



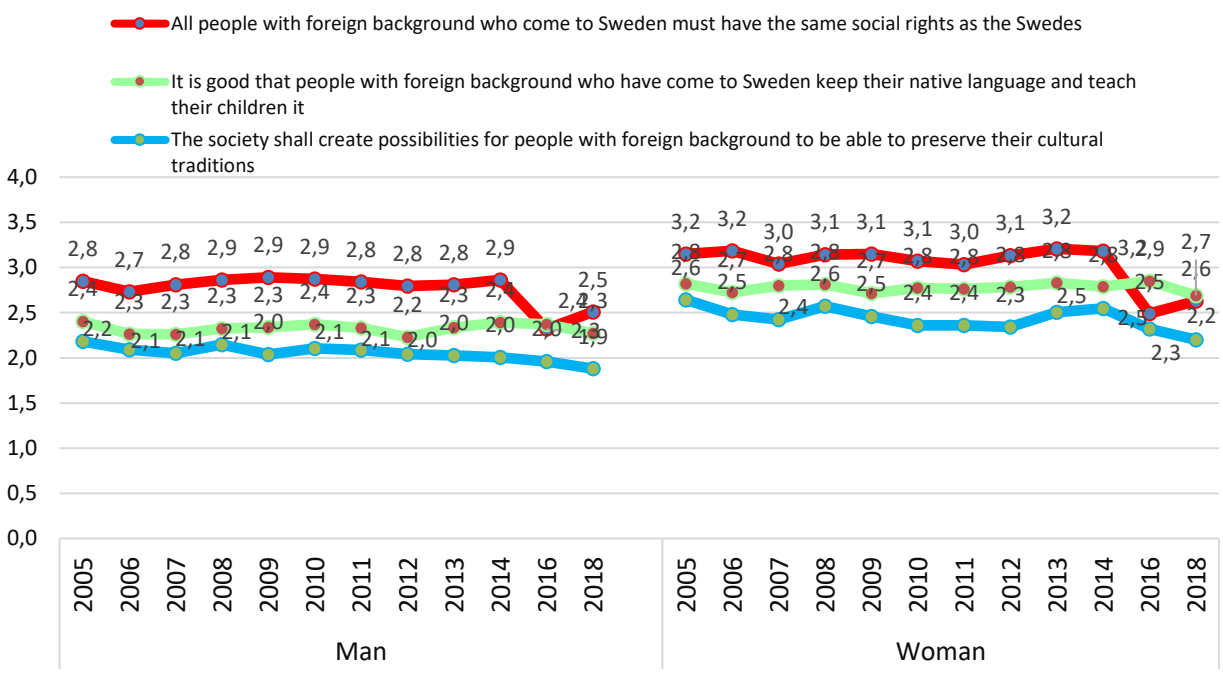
The chart about positive attitudes about diversity is recalculated to an index that shows trends over the 13 years when attitudes towards diversity has been measured. In this chart there is evident that attitudes towards these statements are relatively stable over time.

But as been shown previously the attitudes towards social rights has been recovered somewhat after the heavy decrease from 2016, which is shown in this index. So once again, it is the social rights most people agree on among these statements.

The attitudes towards the rights for native language is still very stable over time.

The attitudes towards the culture rights for newcomers to be able preserve their culture traditions is still the lowest index value of these three rights. Also, the attitudes towards this right has now a negative trend since this years 'result is the all-time low, namely 2.0.

Chart 14: Positive diversity index - gender
Three index (0-4) based on three positive statements about diversity - on gender
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



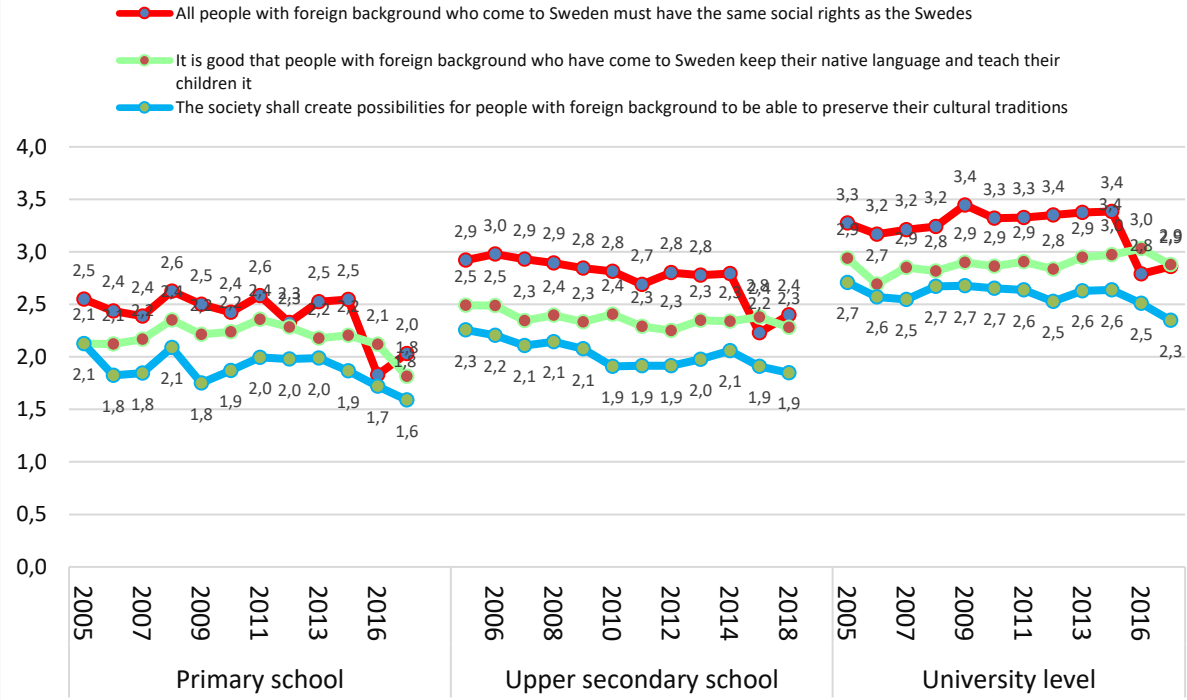
The answering pattern for the attitudes towards the three statements is somewhat different for men and women. The women are more positive towards all these three rights and possibilities than what the men are. Also, women are more positive ones towards the preserving the native language, while the men once again are more positive towards the social rights.

Men and women have in common that they give the least support to be able to preserve the culture. Also, the attitudes to the social rights were deteriorated heavily among both men and women 2016 and the results have improved somewhat 2018. There is also a weak negative trend for both women and men towards the possibility to preserve culture rights.

Chart 15: Positive diversity index - education level

Three index (0-4) based on three positive statements about diversity - on education level

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

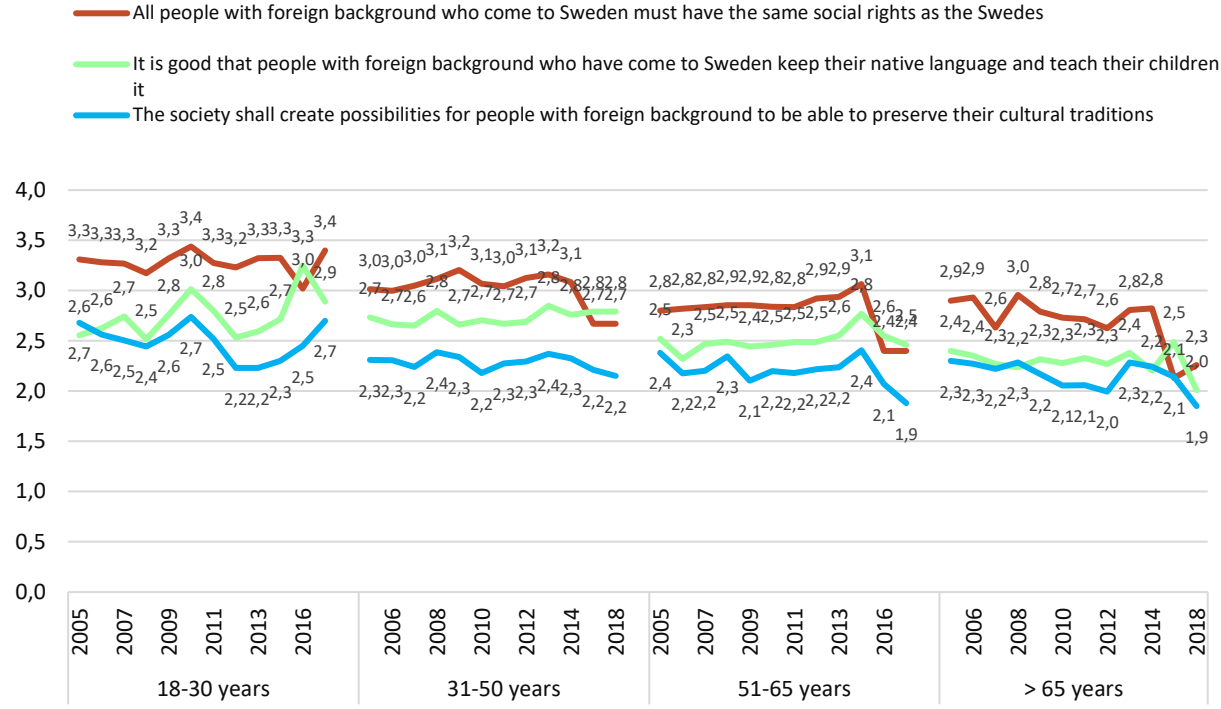


The three groups based on level of education have a similar answering pattern; they are once again most positive towards the social rights, then the possibilities to preserve the native language and finally the culture rights. In general, the well-educated are the most positive ones towards all three rights and to support the possibilities for newcomers' rights and possibilities in Sweden. Those with the lowest education, only primary school, are the least positive ones towards these statements.

The development has been relatively stable for all these three statements within each education level group, but there are some trends and changes that should be mentioned. The severe decrease of the positive attitudes towards the social rights could be found in all three groups 2016 even if the attitudes have improved somewhat 2018. But the results are still on relatively low values.

Also, there is negative trend during the latest years for all education level groups regarding the attitudes to the possibility for new comers to get the possibility to preserve their culture.

Chart 16: Positive diversity index - age groups
Three index (0-4) based on three positive statements about diversity - on age groups
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



Also, age is important for these attitudes. In general, younger people are more positive independently rights or possibility to preserve for newcomers. Social rights for new comers is the right where the youngest and oldest groups are once again most positive towards. The both middle age groups are still most positive towards that new comers should be able to preserve their native language. All age groups are most negative towards the possibility for new comers to preserve their culture.

Among the older age groups there is a negative trend for the attitudes that the newcomers should be able to keep their culture. On the other hand, there is a positive trend among the younger age group towards accepting to preserve the culture. The heavy deterioration towards social rights 2016 has now been stabilized on relatively low levels for the three older age groups. This year also all age groups have become more negative towards the possibility for new comers to preserve their language in comparison with 2016.

6. Negative attitudes towards diversity increases somewhat

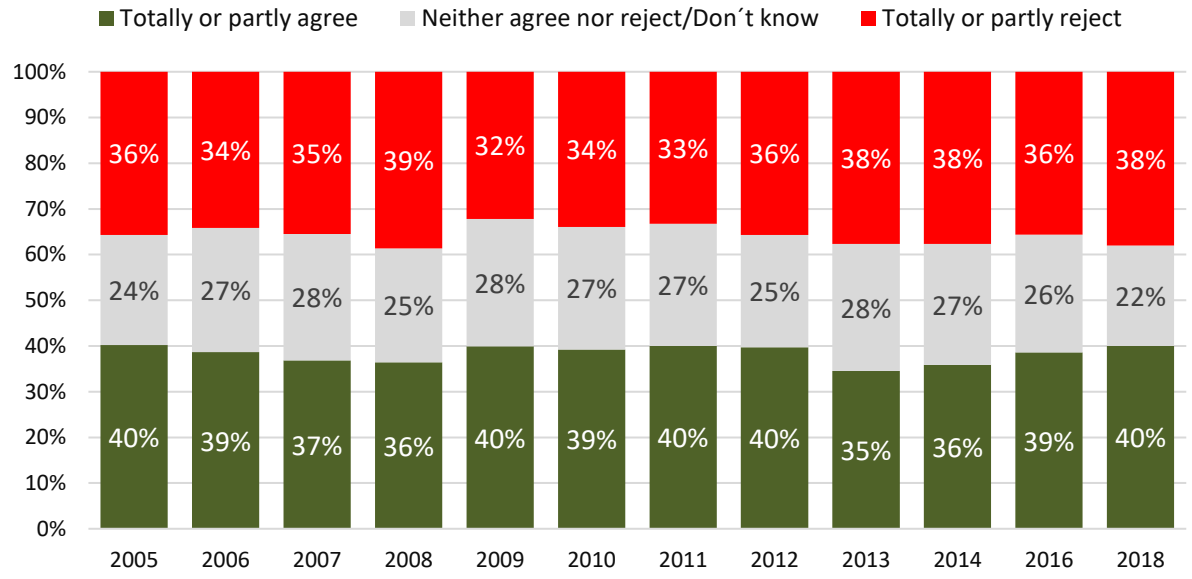
In this chapter the focus will be on negative statements toward diversity. Compared with the attitudes towards positive statements these negative attitudes are stable over time compared to 2016.

Chart 17: Exploitation of social benefits

Negative statement about diversity:

Many people with foreign background only come to Sweden to exploit the Swedish social benefits

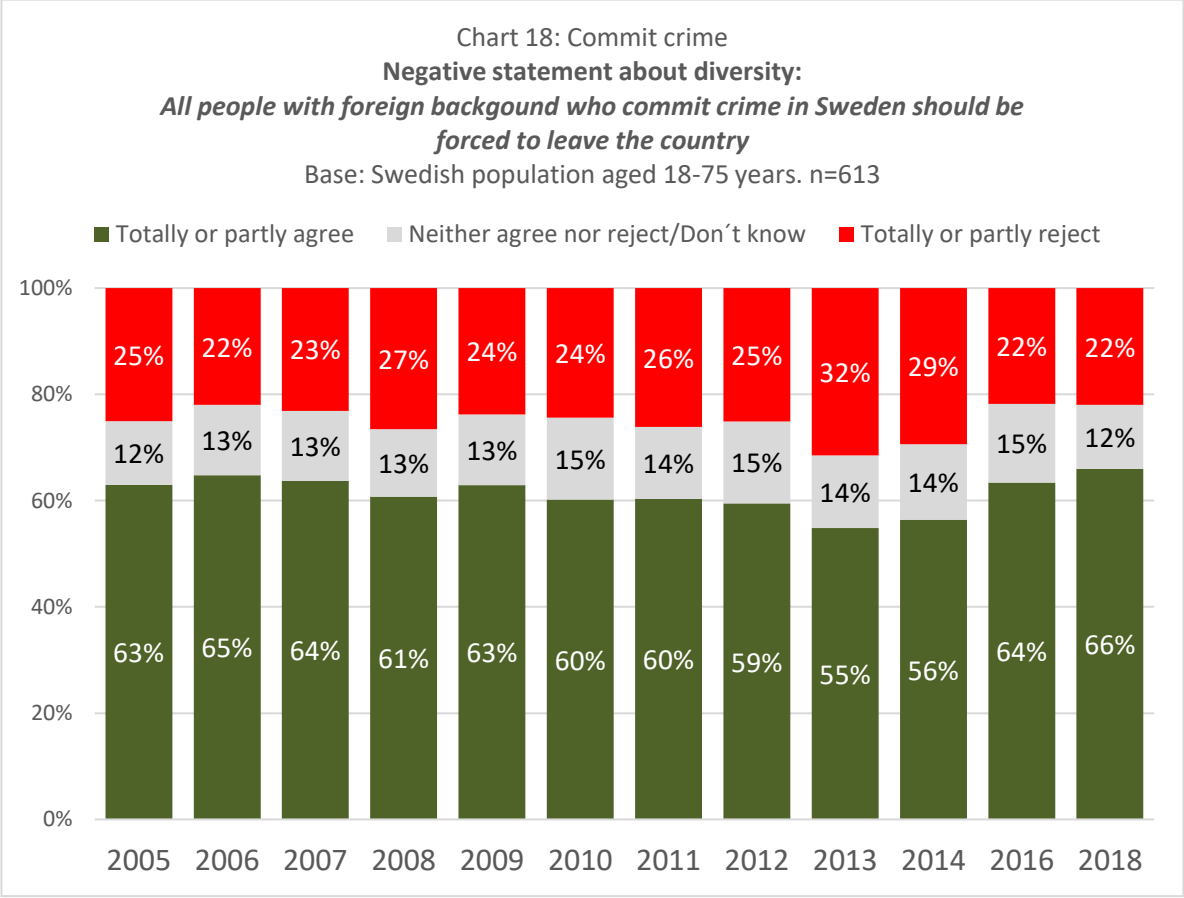
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



The negative statement that split the Swedish population the most in two groups is the statement about that many with foreign background come to Sweden to exploit from our social benefits. Four out of ten respondents agree to this statement while four out of ten reject it.

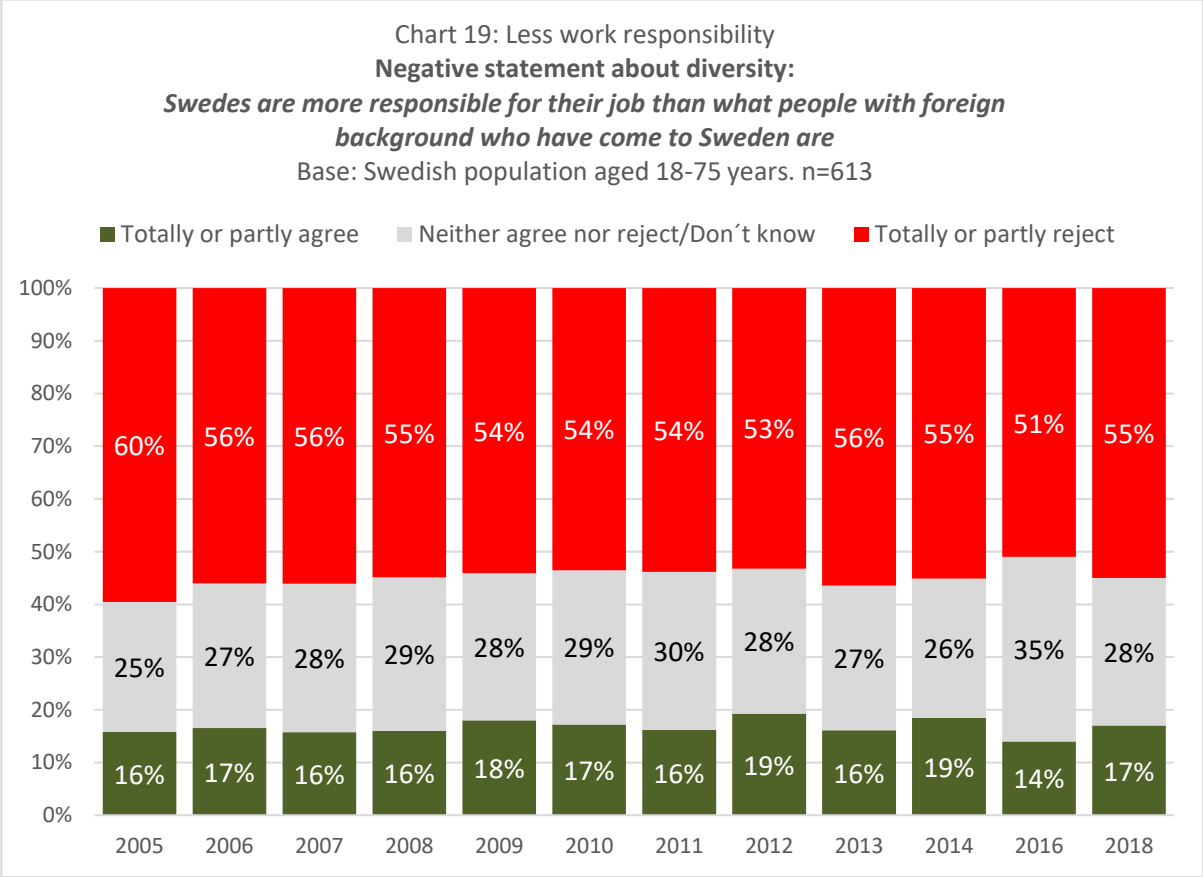
The attitudes are very stable in this question over time since the measurements started. This is for both the share that agree to this negative statement towards diversity, just like the share that reject it.

The share the neither agree nor reject has deteriorated this year and shows the lowest value so far. This can be interpreted as a tendency of polarization in attitudes towards this question.



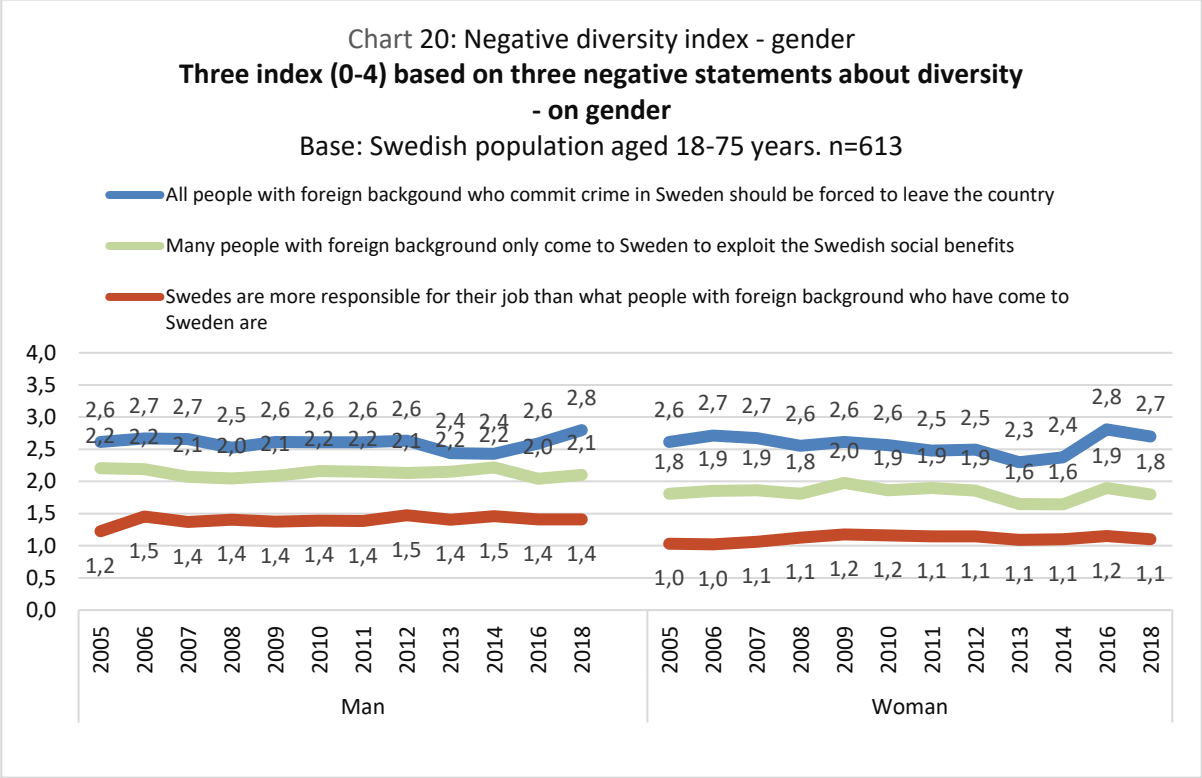
The most negative attitudes to diversity are once again possible to find about the statement about all people with foreign background who commit crime in Sweden must be forced to leave the country. After a couple of years with values around 55 percent the attitudes deteriorated once again 2016 and has now stabilized 2018 on levels that were there among the population in 2006-2007. A clear majority of 66 percent agree to this statement, totally or partly, which in fact is the highest value measured. Immigration in combination with committing crime gives really strong negative attitudes among the population.

In the same way has the share that rejects this statement stabilized in 2018 on relatively low 22 percent and remains on the same levels as 2016, which means that a negative trend since 2013 now is broken on relatively low levels.



Attitudes about that the Swedish people would feel greater responsibility for their job than the people who come from other countries, is relatively stable of time. In 2018 it is 17 percent who agree to this statement, which is an average value over time.

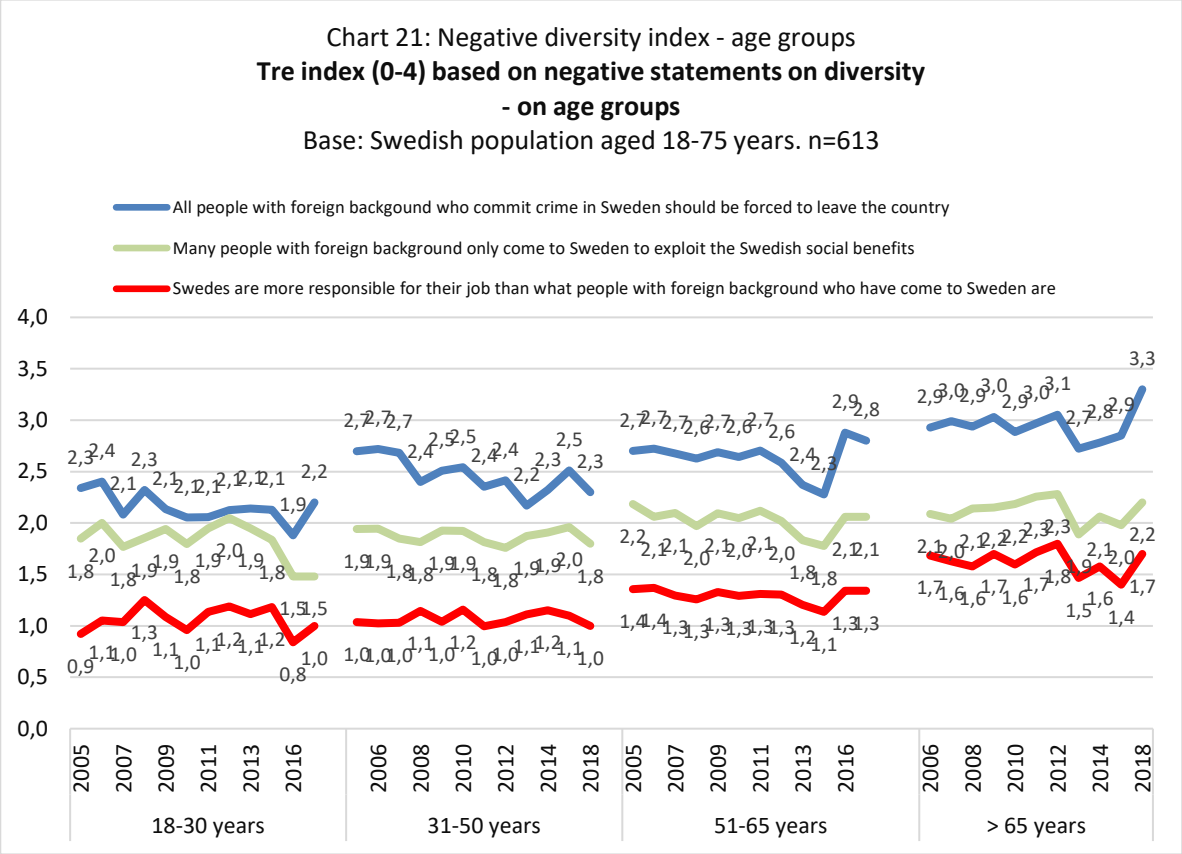
Still a majority totally or partly rejects this statement, and this group has also been stable over time.



For the breakdowns on the different society groups and their development over time this result has been turned into an index (4-0) instead as previously results was presented as a share of the population, just to get one value to be compared for each year. The higher value of the average, the more negative is the population.

Both men and women have the same ranking of these statements. Both men and women have strongest negative attitudes towards people who commit crimes need to be expelled. After that both men and women think that people only come to Sweden to exploit the social benefits. Finally, there are relatively few men and women who agree to that Swedes are more responsible for their job. But there is a trend among men that they have become more negative and reaches the all-time high negative value so far in the measurements in this question.

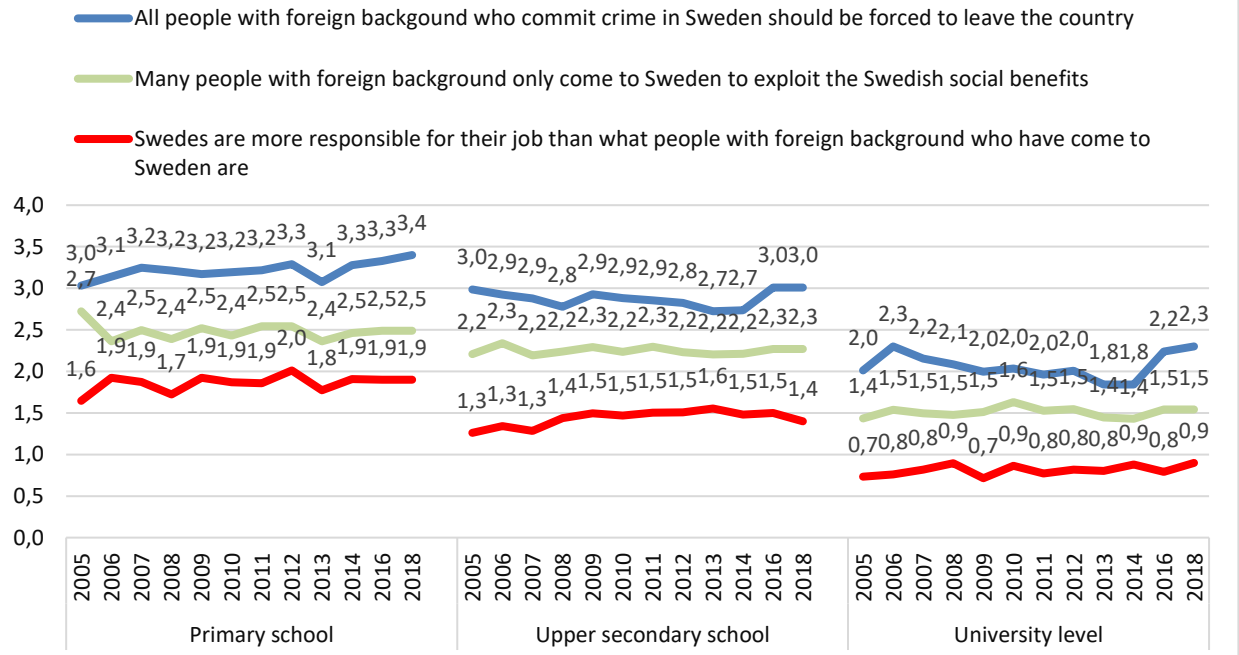
Attitudes about the exploiting of social benefits and that Swedes are more responsible for their job are both very stable over time for both men and women.



Once again similar answering pattern for all subgroups, this time for the different age categories. Attitudes towards the newcomers and crime are all subgroups most negative towards, while the attitudes towards the fact to exploit the benefits in the country is the second most negative attitude for all subgroups. In that case the statement that Swedish people would have more responsibility towards their job the statement that the least part of all subgroups agree to.

Even in these questions the older age groups are more negative towards diversity, this time to agree most to all three negative statements. The younger they are, the more positive towards diversity and the older, the more negative. The older groups are the ones with the most negative attitudes towards crime and diversity since 2015 and there is a clear trend in this question among the older age groups, like the young ones they have become more negative since 2016.

Chart 22: Negative diversity index - education level
Three index (0-4) based on three negative statements about diversity - on education level
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



The three groups based on education level have all a similar answering pattern regarding ranking of the negative statements; the negative attitudes towards immigrants and crime is strongest for all levels of education, after that there is the attitudes to exploit the social benefits in the country, and finally the negative attitudes towards the statement about that the Swedes would have a greater responsibility for their job than immigrants have.

Consistently those with low education have more negative attitudes towards all three statements than the other age groups, while the ones with university education are consistently the least negative towards all three statements.

Among those with only elementary education who think that people with foreign background should be forced to leave the country if they commit a crime, is a trend, i.e. those are negative over time and this year they are more negative than ever. It is obvious that even people with upper secondary education level and those with university education equal their most negative results for this question this year.

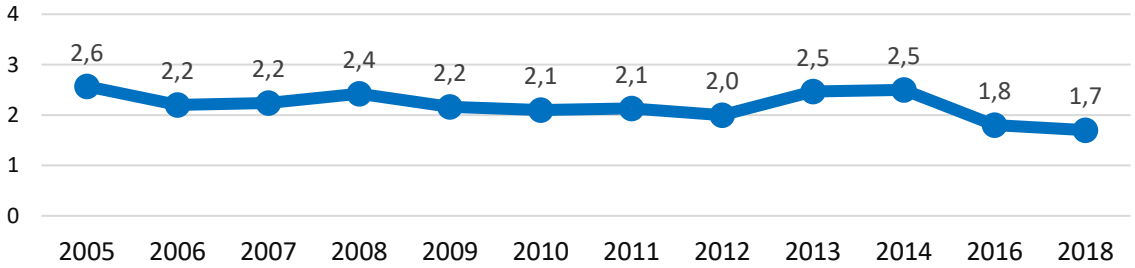
7 Diversity index down on all-time low

With support of the negative statements about diversity *"The less you notice all people with foreign background the better it is"*, *"People who are born in Sweden are more responsible for their job then the people with foreign background who have come to Sweden"*, *"Many people with foreign background come to Sweden only to exploit our social benefits"* and the positive statements towards the diversity *"The society needs to create possibilities for people with foreign background to preserve their culture traditions"*, *"All people with foreign background who come to Sweden must be given the same social benefits as the country´s own population"* and *"People with foreign background who come to Sweden must be given the right to keep their native language and teach their children it"* a common diversity index over attitudes towards diversity been constructed.

Chart 23: Diversity Index

Diversity index based on three weighted positive and three weighted negatives statements about diversity

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



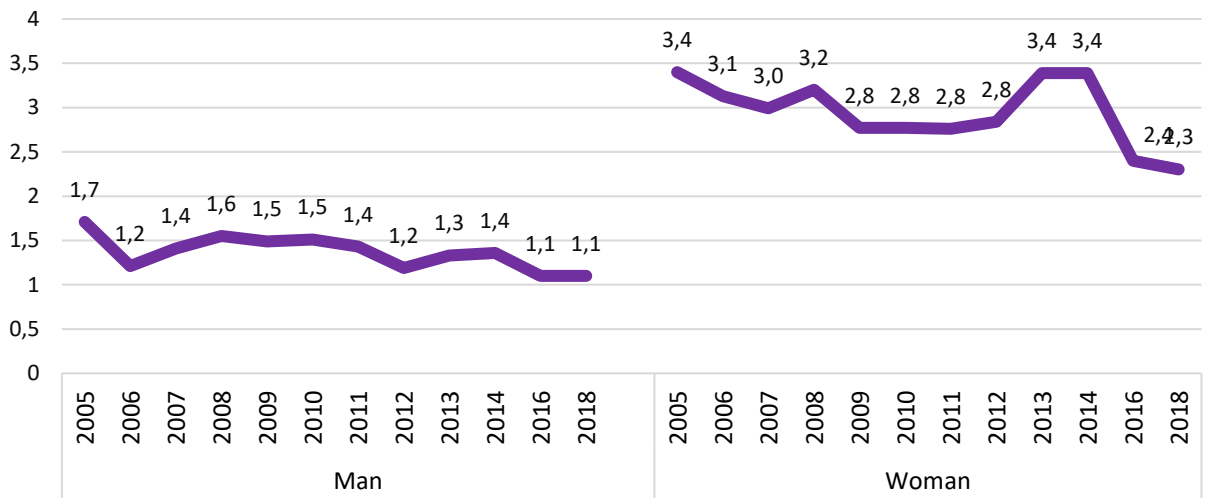
Attitudes towards diversity due to this index shows that the attitudes have been within the interval within 1.8 and 2.5. In this years 'measurement the index is 1.7, which is all-time low. The deteriorated attitudes towards diversity 2016 in comparison with 2014 has been further deteriorated during 2018. The latest two measurement are the two lowest measurements so far in the history of Diversity Barometer for this diversity index.

Chart 24: Diversity index

Diversity index based on three weighted positive and three weighted negatives statements about diversity

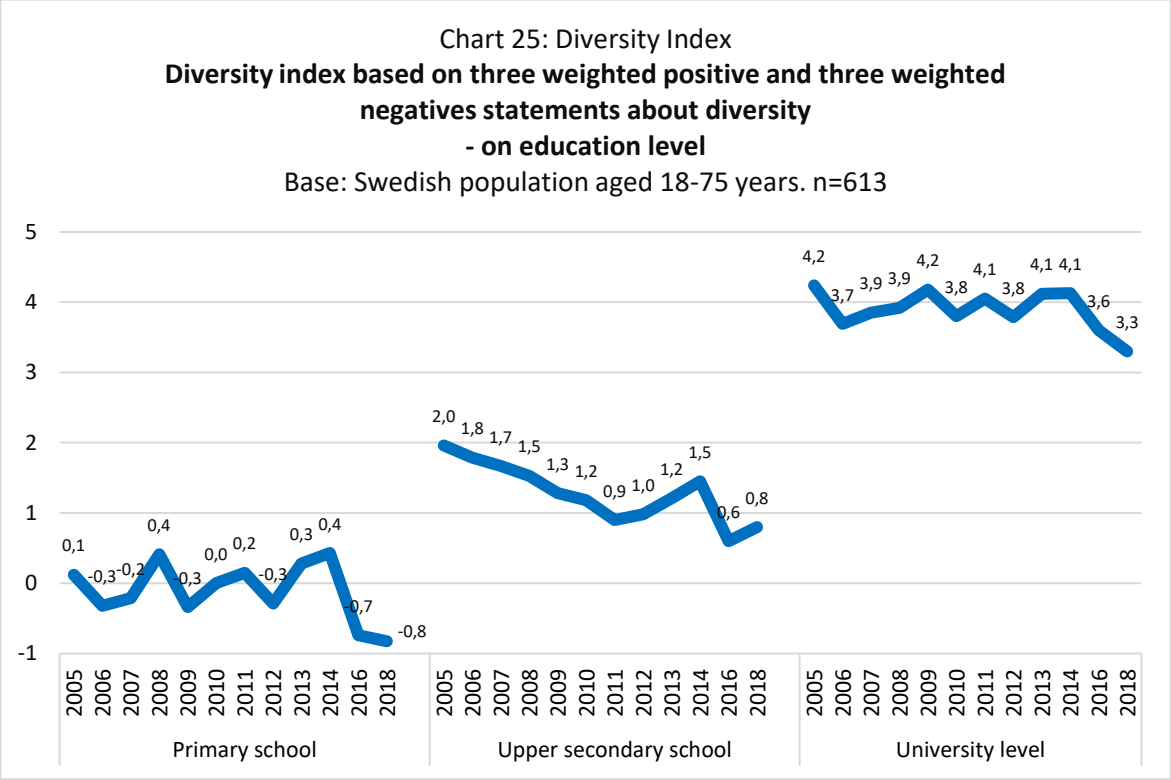
- on gender

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



Women are, and have throughout the years been, more positive than men towards diversity, which the chart above indicates. The negative trend that was presented for the total on the previous page now is explained when this chart shows that it is among women that the attitudes have been heavily deteriorated. This years 'measurement also shows deteriorated attitudes among women and the result is the lowest since the measurements started in 2005.

The attitudes among men remain on the lowest value from 2016.



Regarding the relation between education and attitudes towards diversity, it shows that even in this question that those with higher education are the ones who are the most positive towards diversity, and those with only primary education are the ones who have the most negative attitudes.

Attitudes among the university educated have been stable during many years around 4,0. But this year the result is 3.3, which means a negative trend and the lowest value ever for the well-educated.

After several of measurement among the upper secondary school educated where the index value has deteriorated there was a positive trend during the last four years ‘measurements. This trend was broken last measurement and now it has improved somewhat but this years ‘result is the second lowest value ever.

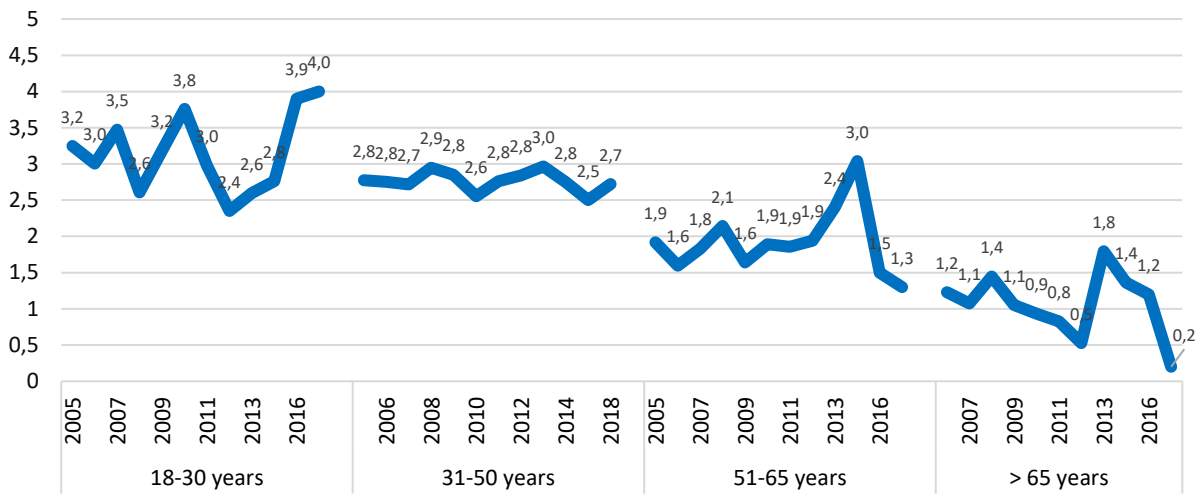
A decline can also been noted among those with primary school education who already are the most negative towards diversity. Now this group once again gets the lowest index value ever been noted and a negative trend is clear.

Chart 26: Diversity Index

Diversity index based on three weighted positive and three weighted negatives statements about diversity

- on age groups

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

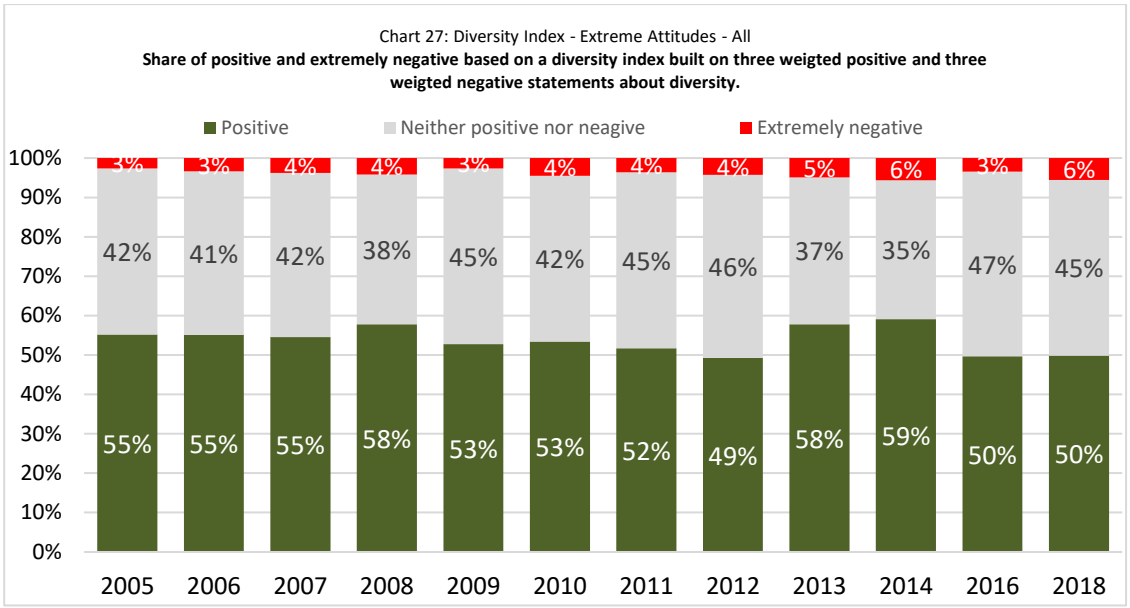


Once again there is the same pattern that the young ones are the most positive ones towards diversity and the older ones are the most negative ones.

There is a trend for a strong increase among the young group that once again gets the best results ever and can show a positive trend since 2012. The results for the age group 31-50 years is relatively stable with a small increase 2018 compared to 2016.

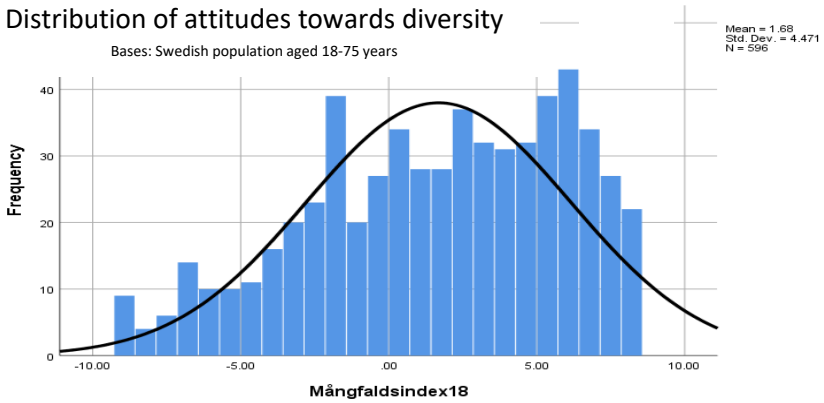
Within the age group 51–65 years instead there is a negative trend and the results for this year is the lowest ever, 1.3. It is the same for the attitudes among the oldest age group who also has a negative trend and the lowest results since the measurements started in 2005.

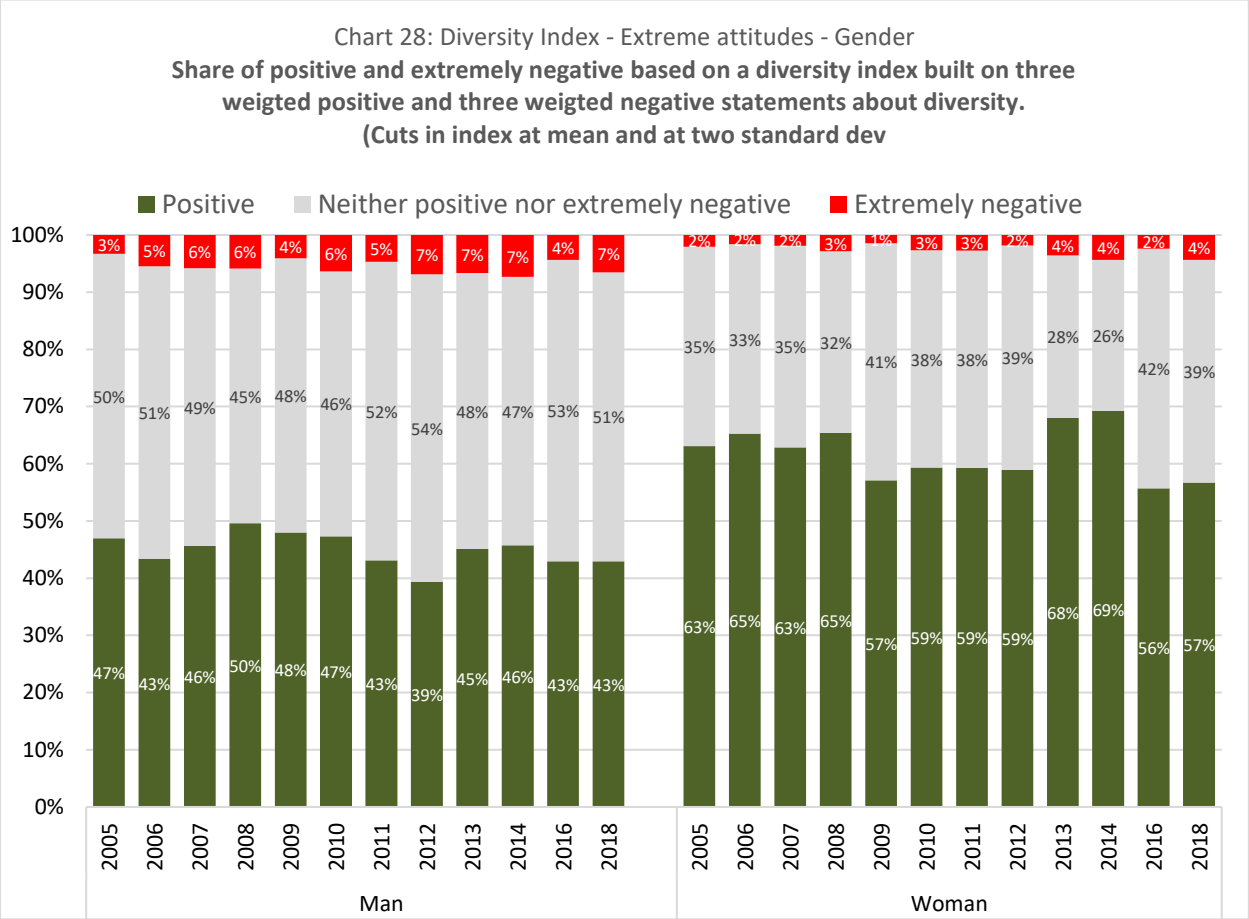
In this analysis below, we look closer at the people who are the most extreme negative ones towards diversity, and the share of them has increased over time. From the distribution of population based on this question, an index has been created. This index has been split into three groups;" Positive"," Neither positive nor extreme negative" respectively" Extremely negative". See full description of the distribution of attitudes in the chart further down on the page.



The chart shows that the share of positive is still on the same level as 2016, which was a great diminish compared with the latest measurements. In 2018 it is the same lowest value since 2005. The extremely negative ones are increasing somewhat and is the same biggest share as in 2014.

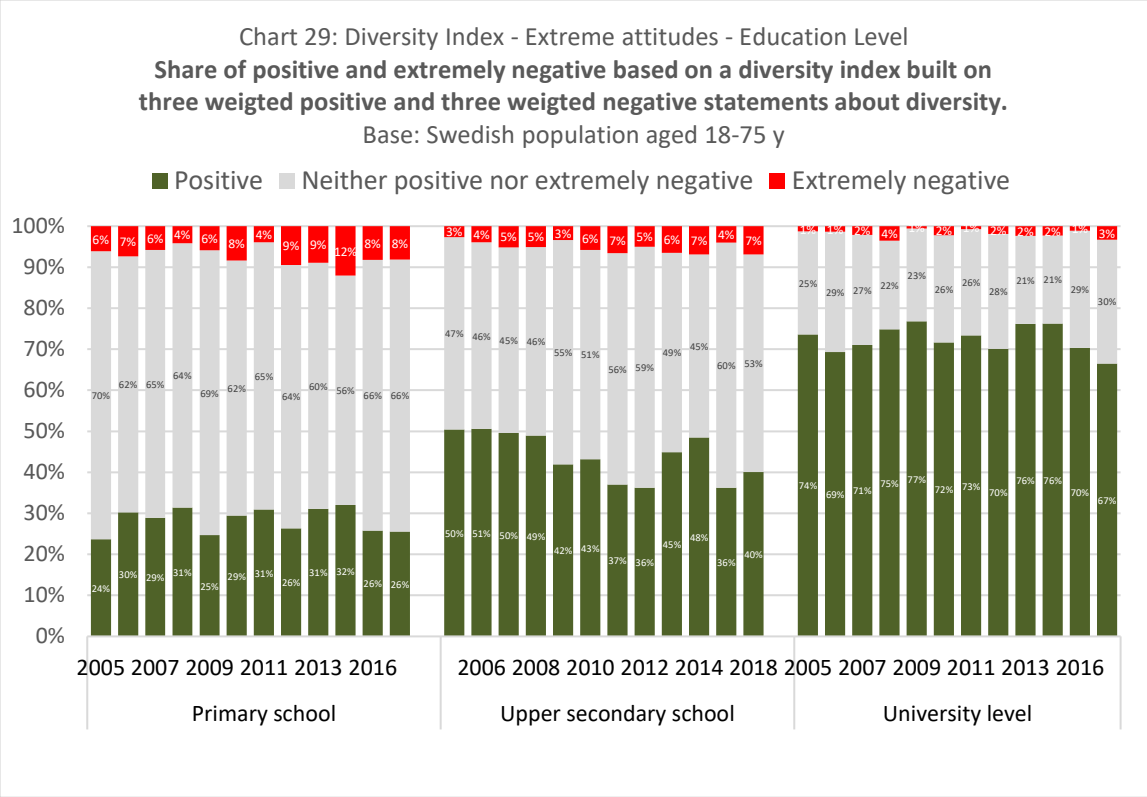
Chart 27b.





The chart above once again shows that women in general are more positive towards diversity then men, and it has always been this way. Men reaches the lowest share of those who are positive this year while womens´attitudes are stable in a middle level compared with previous measurements.

Looking at the extreme negative ones they are relatively stable among both men and women, even though both reaches their highest results this year 2018 compared with when the measurements started in 2015. It is about twice as big share who are extreme among men compared to who women are.



Education and attitudes towards diversity has a strong correlation, i.e. there is a strong positive relationship between these variables; the higher education, the more positive attitudes towards diversity.

The share of extreme negative ones is about as big among the ones with primary education as for the ones who have an upper secondary school education. The share of extreme negative ones is relatively stable over time.

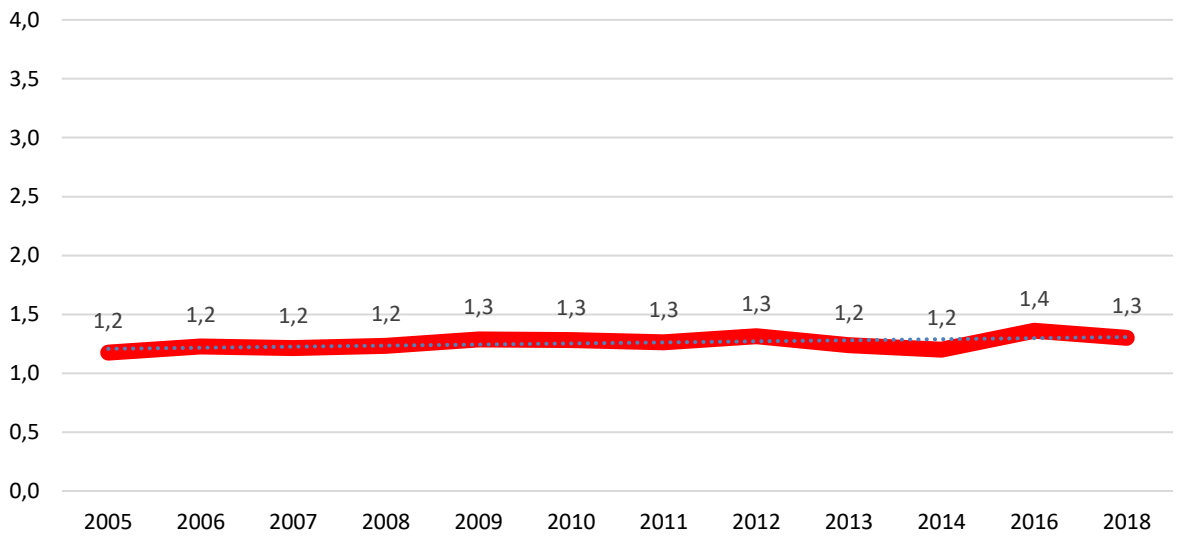
8. Attitudes towards diversity and working life are stable

In this chapter the negative attitudes towards diversity is analyzed in relation to their job and the workplace. The job situation is a dimension that creates important attitudes for the population. For this reason we have built an index that measures negative attitudes towards diversity in relationship to work by study the following statements a bit closer*: "Immigrants is a threat towards the employment", "By accepting lower salaries the immigrants will also press down the Swedish workers 'salaries", "Immigrants will take over the jobs from the Swedes", "Immigrants work inefficiently"* and *"I prefer to have Swedish colleagues at work".* These five statements will be merged into a" working life index". Zero points means no negative attitudes whatsoever, while four points means very negative attitudes towards diversity.

Chart 30: Working life Index

Working life Index (0-4) based on five negative statments about diversity within working life

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



The index value will only be 1,3 for 2018, which is both stable and relatively low. This means that the attitudes towards diversity within working life is relatively positive.

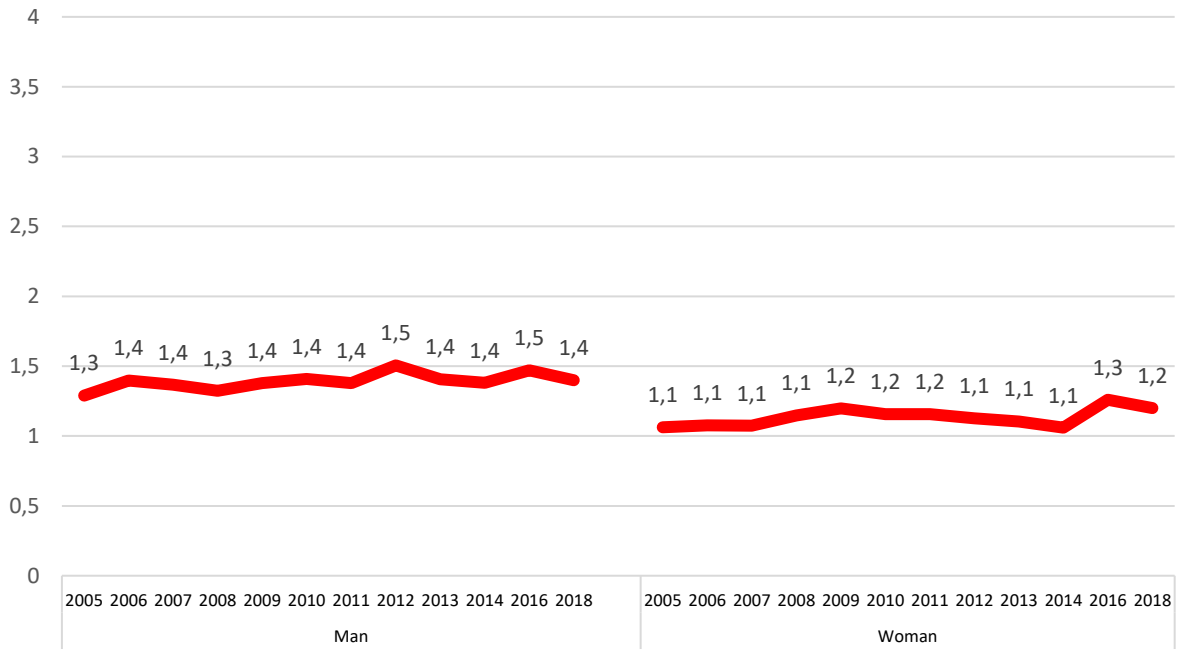
The development since the measurements started shows a trend that is very stable over time. It is not in the working life the biggest opposition towards immigrant will be found among the Swedes.

Chart 31: Working life Index

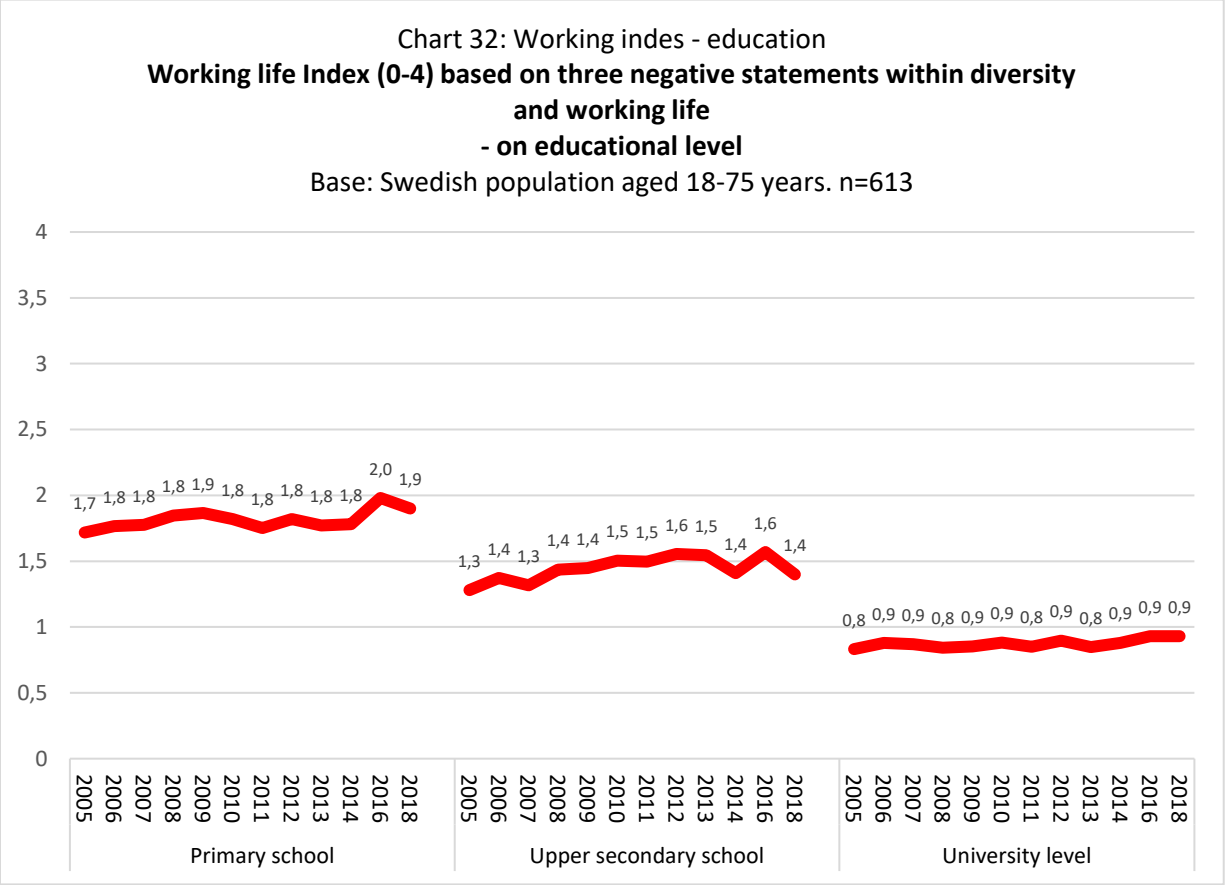
Working life Index (0-4) based on three negative statements within diversity and working life

- on gender

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

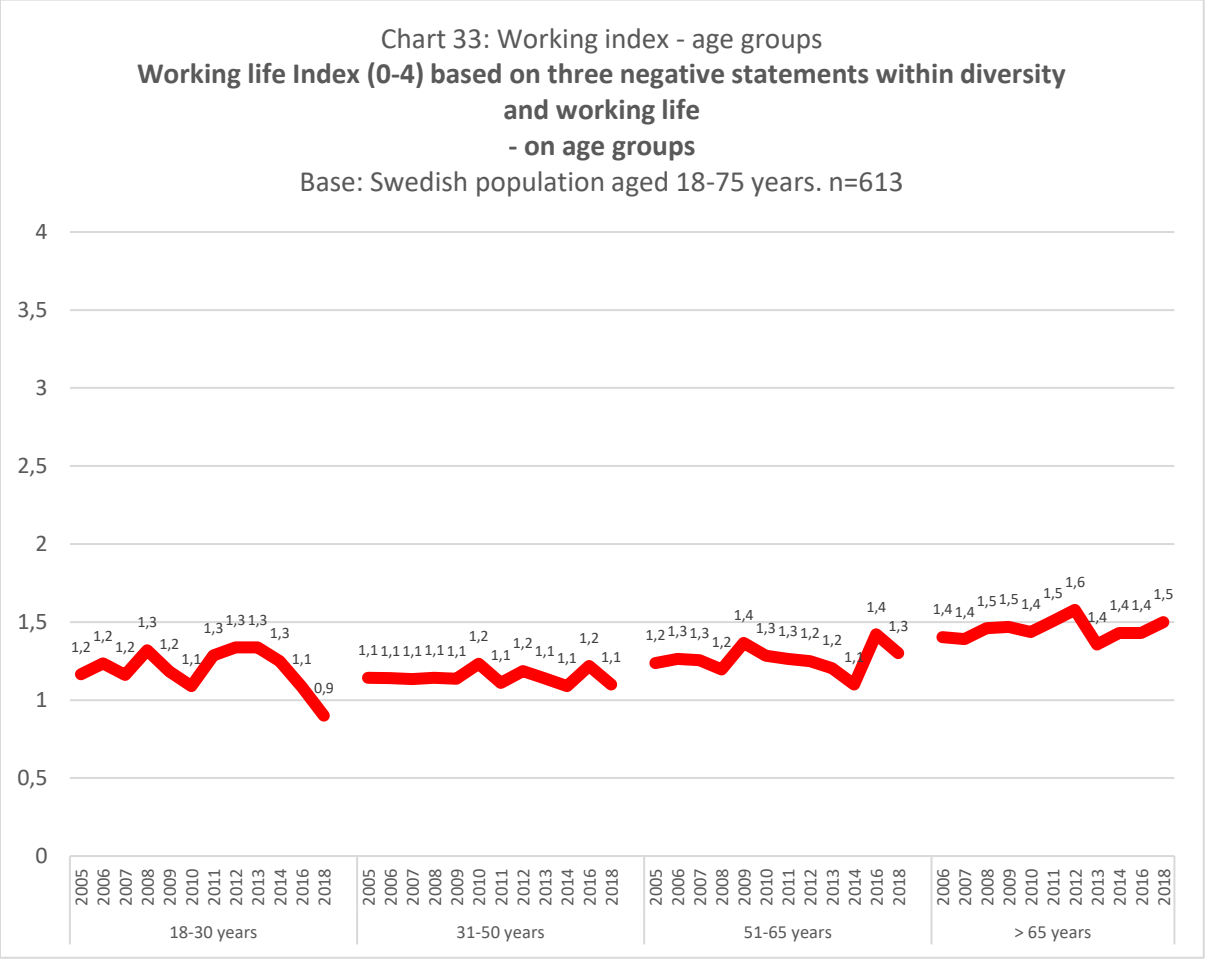


The answering pattern throughout the years shows that the women always have been somewhat less negative then men from a working life perspective. There was an increase in negative attitudes 2016, but this level now has returned to normal levels again, both for women and men.



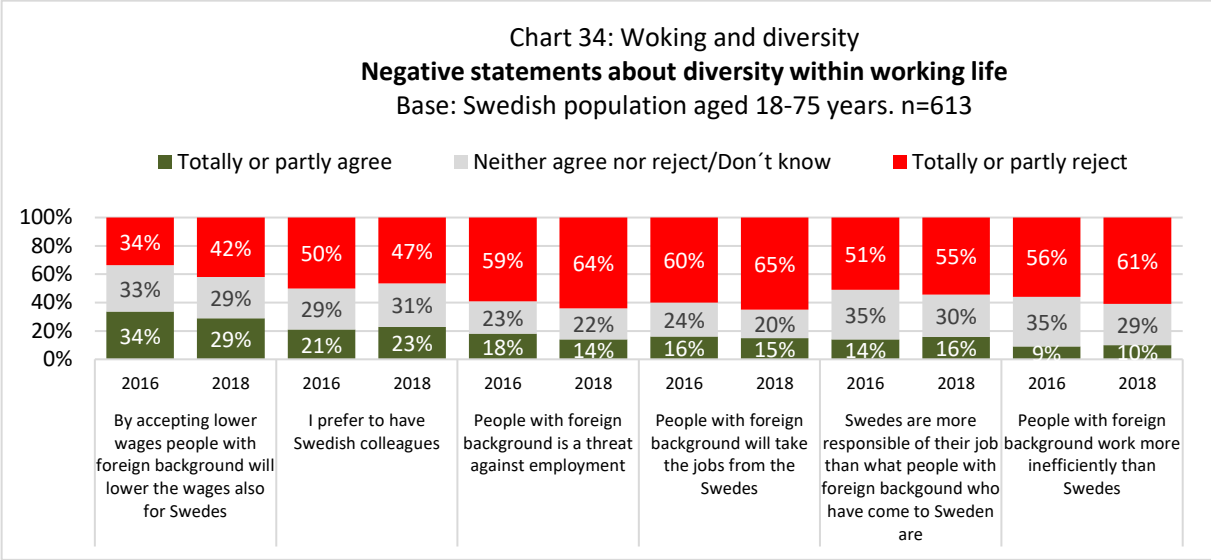
Once again, those with only primary school education level are the most negative ones towards diversity – this time in a working life perspective. After that those with upper secondary school education are somewhat less negative and the least negative are the respondents with university level of education.

The tendency was that the negative attitudes did increase among the ones with primary and upper secondary school education 2016, but these levels have now gone back to more normal levels. Overall, small movements in attitudes throughout the years for these subgroups. For the ones with university education the attitudes towards diversity and working life is very stable over time.



Once again there is an answering pattern that the young ones and those in the age interval of 31–50 years of age are the least negative towards different diversity questions, while those in the upper middle age (51-60 years) are somewhat more negative, and the oldest ones are the most negative ones towards diversity within working life.

Obviously the group of young ones shows a trend in attitudes towards diversity and working life. This year 'results is also the lowest value since 2005, which means that they have been less negative towards diversity within the working life. Within the other age groups the attitudes are relatively stable.



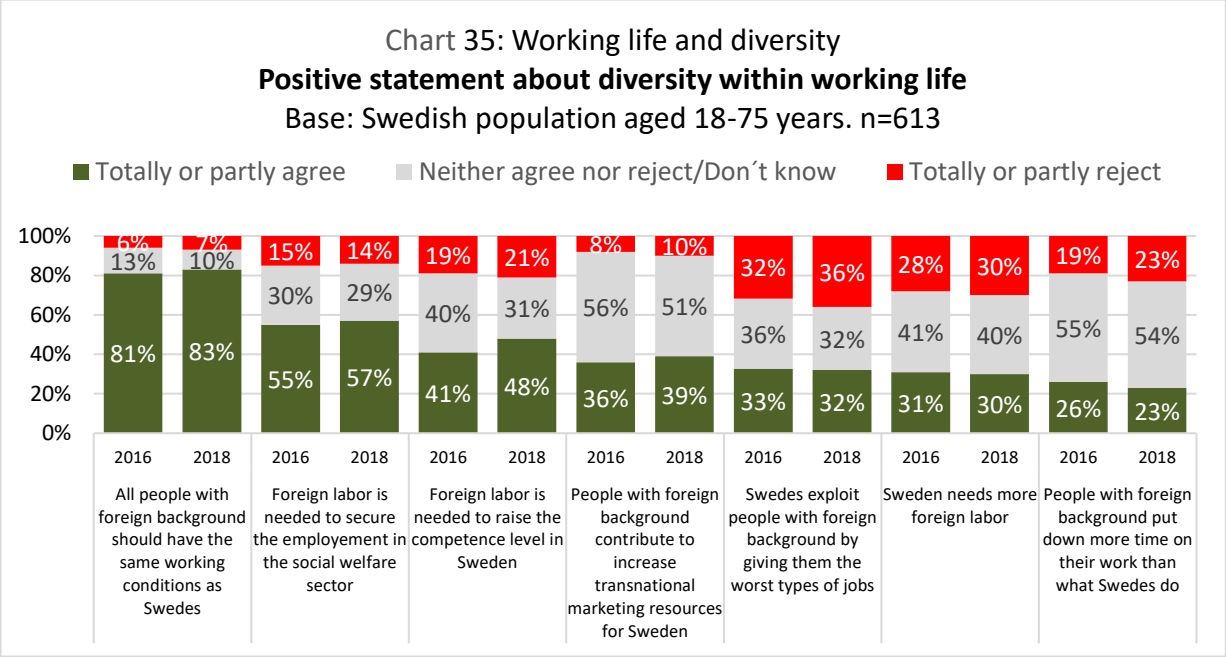
Relatively stable attitudes towards diversity within working life in a comparison between 2016 and 2018.

The chart above shows six different negative statements about diversity and working life. None of these statements gets support by most of the population. The statement that gets the most support is that by accepting lower wages the immigrants will lower the wages also for Swedes. But the respondents are very divided in this question, since there as big shares who agree respectively are not unsure about this.

Every fifth respondent say that he or she prefers Swedish colleagues before colleagues with foreign background. But half of them reject this statement.

Every fifth person living in Sweden admits that people who are born abroad would be a threat against the employment and take the jobs from the Swedes. Job opportunities which otherwise would go to native Swedes would have an impact on the employment in Sweden negatively. But six out of ten reject these statements about a these threats towards the employment.

The last two statements are about Swedes perceive how Swedish born and people born abroad actually work. One in ten in Sweden thinks that Swedish born people feel more responsible for their job than other people from other countries. Hardly one in ten thinks that people with foreign backroad work more inefficient than people born in Sweden. Once again, a majority of the population rejects totally or partly this statement.



Somewhat improved attitudes towards diversity within working life in a comparison between 2016 and 2018. In the chart above seven positive statements are presented about diversity and working life. A clear majority of the Swedish population believes all people with foreign background should have the same working conditions as Swedes have. As many as 83 percent agree to this – and it has increased since 2016. The statement that foreign labor needs to secure the service within the welfare in Sweden gets support from a majority of the country's adult inhabitants. A small increase from 2016. On the other hand, there is no majority that supports the statement that foreign labor needs to secure the level of competence in the country. But the attitudes have increased from 41 percent 2016 to 48 percent 2018.

A majority does not have enough with knowledge or awareness to be able to decide if people with foreign background contribute to increased transnational market resources to Sweden. On the other hand, a lot more agree than those who reject this statement, and the share has increased since 2016. This is the positive statement about diversity that the least share of the population reject.

The view if Swedish born exploit people with foreign background by giving them the worst types of jobs is splitting the Swedish population in three shares with similar sizes, and the attitudes are stable over time. In 2018, three out of ten think that Sweden needs foreign labor. Finally, many are unsure about if people with foreign background put down more time on their job that what the native Swedes do.

9. Deteriorated attitudes towards diversity and religion

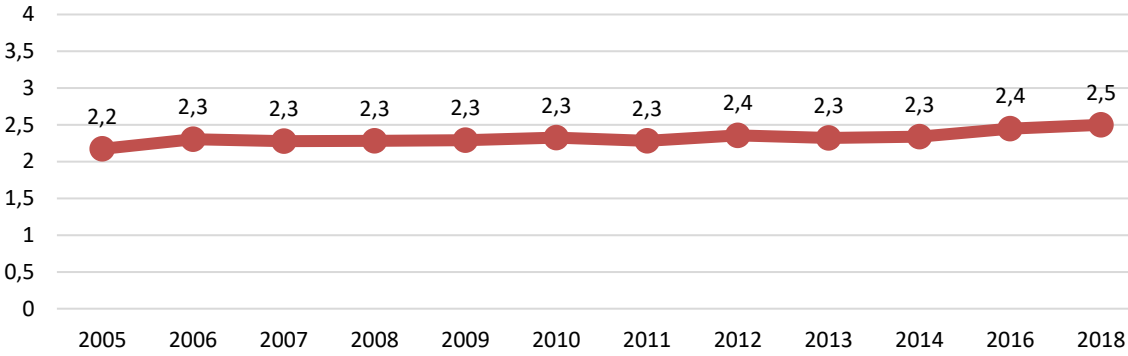
In this chapter attitudes towards diversity in a religious perspective are studied a little bit closer.

An index has been created for attitudes towards diversity in a dimension of religion. This index is built on four negative statements about diversity and religion; *"It is harder for people who don´t celebrate Swedish holidays to integrate in the Swedish society", "Adhan from mosques disturb more than the sound of church bells", "Christian values are more modern than Muslim values"* and *"Muslim women who live in Sweden are much more oppressed than what Swedish women are".*

Chart 36: Religious and diversity index

Religious and diversity index (0-4) based on three negative statements bout diversity and religion

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



As can be seen in the chart above the population is relatively negative towards diversity and religion since the average value is as high as 2,5 for the population in a scale 0—4 where 0 means not at all negative and 4 means very negative. The index values have been between 2,2 and 2,4 since 2005 and 2018 it has the highest negative value ever.

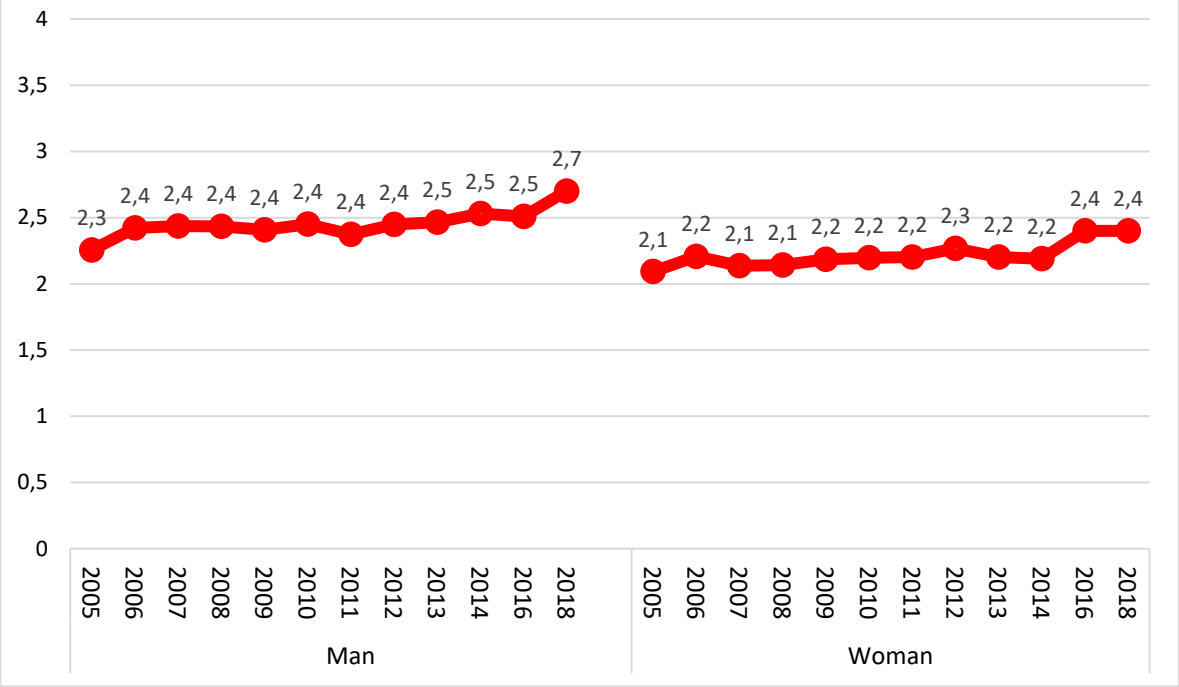
If other index are compared, this index is the one that gets the highest value, i.e. the attitudes towards diversity from a religious perspective are the worst among the people living in Sweden.

Chart 37: Religious and diversity index

Religious and diversity index (0-4) based on three negative statements bout diversity and religion

- on gender

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



When the results how the variable gender is studied it shows that the attitudes differ among men and women. The men are somewhat more negative towards diversity and religion compared to what the women are.

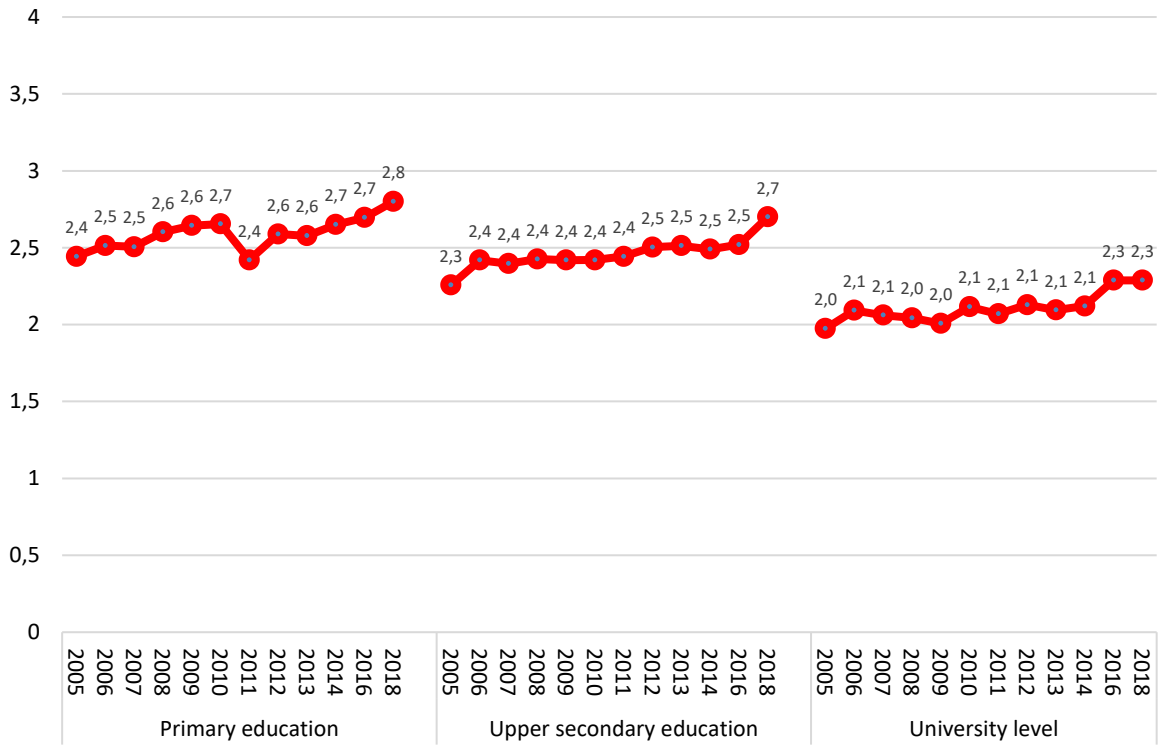
This year the women get 2,4 which is clearly the highest index value measured since the Diversity Barometer started in 2005. It is a clear sign that womens´attitudes towards diversity and religion have been deteriorated.

The men get a higher index value with 2,7 compared to 2016 which also is the worst results so far for the men´s attitudes in a diversity perspective.

Chart 38: Religious and diversity index

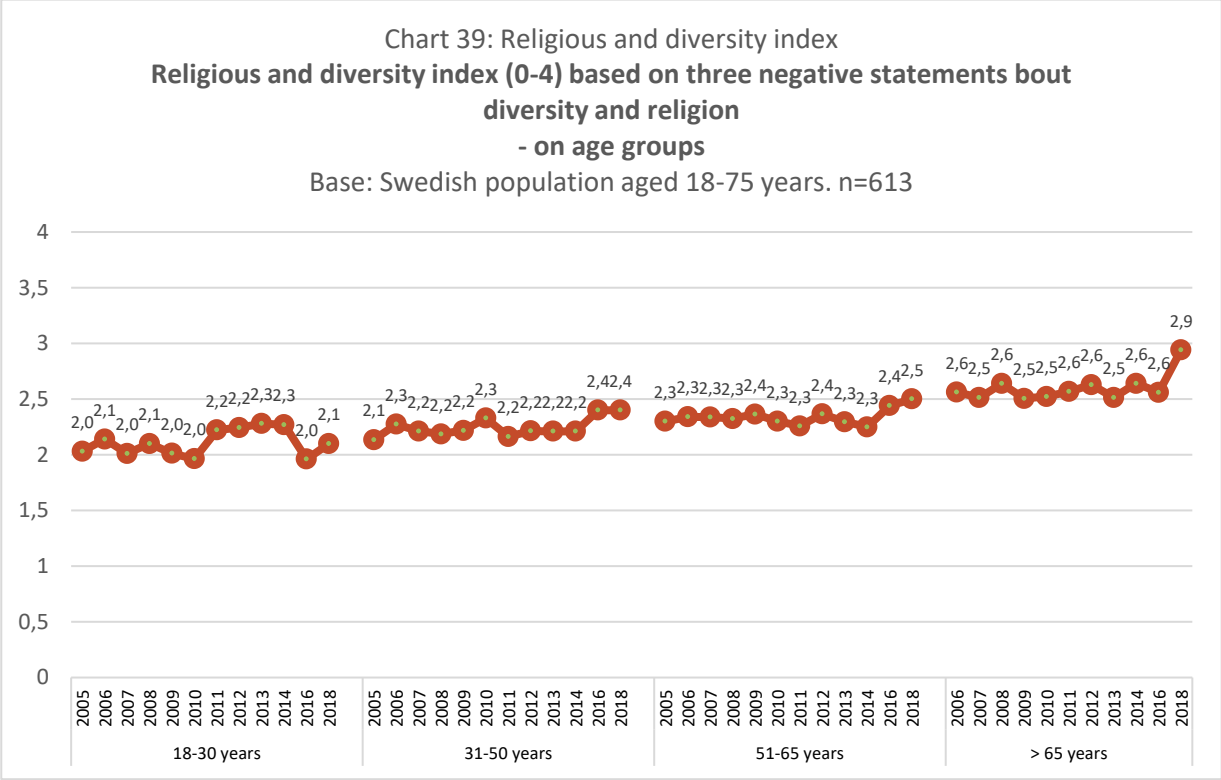
Religious and diversity index (0-4) based on three negative statements bout diversity and religion
- on educational level

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



The chart above shows as earlier that those with university studies are the least negative towards diversity – in this case together with religion – while the most negative ones are those with the lowest education. The lower education, the more negative towards diversity from a religious perspective. People with upper secondary school education are closer in attitudes with those with lower education than the ones with higher education.

Among the ones with primary school education there is a trend towards being more negative towards diversity and religion. The highest value since 2018 with 2.8. Those with upper secondary school education have also deteriorated attitudes this year in a long time trend and gets the highest value ever, namely 2.7. University level educated got in 2016 the highest value ever for the group and this year it is the same with the value of 2.3. This indicates that all groups this year reveal their highest value ever.

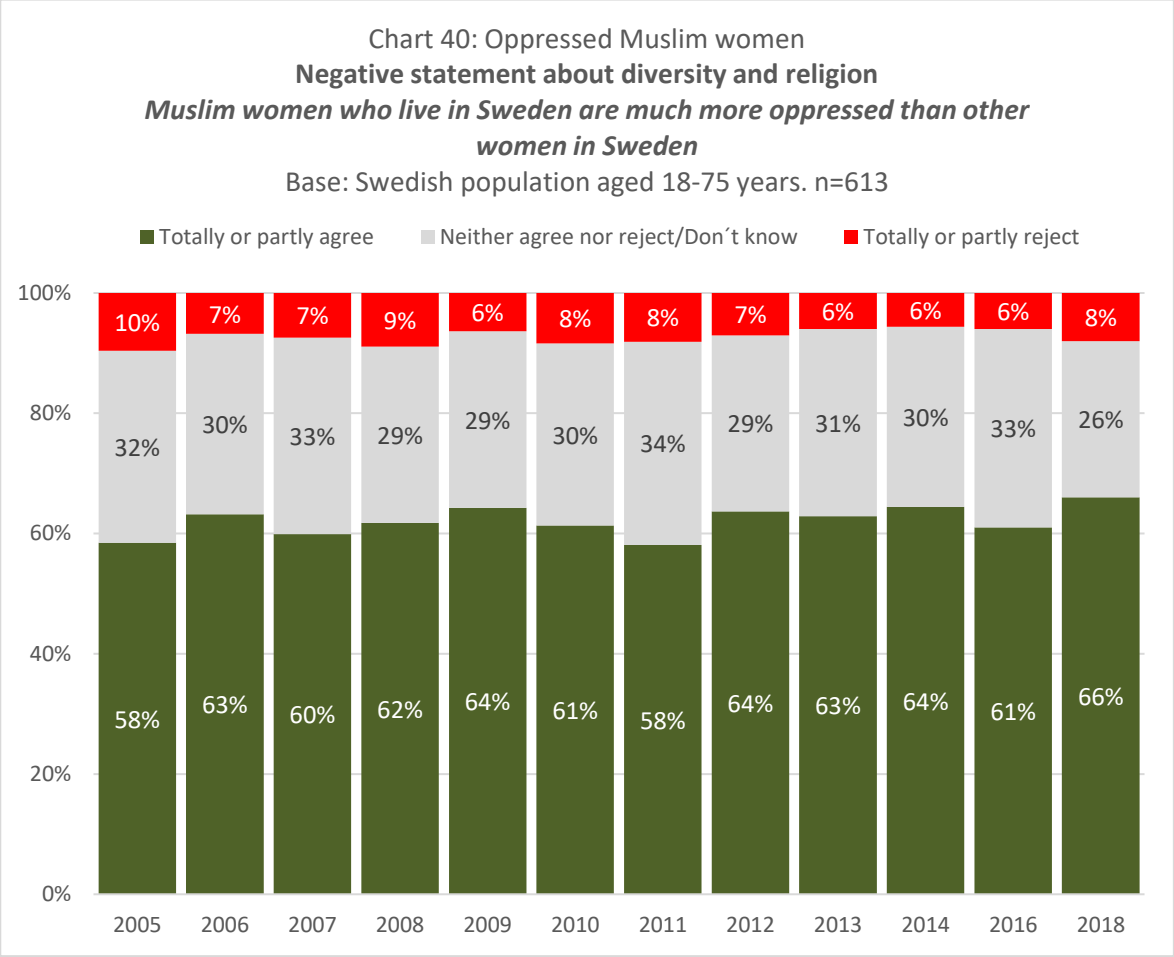


Once again there is the same answering pattern that the young are the least negative towards the diversity questions, then there are the people in the middle ages who are somewhat more negative, and that the oldest ones are the most negative ones – now also in a religious perpective.

Among the retired there is no trend but this years´result is the all-time high with the index value 2.9. For the both age groups in the middle ages it is also possible to see a deterioation of attitudes against diversity within this area. Both middle age groups have their highest values ever for these attitudes.

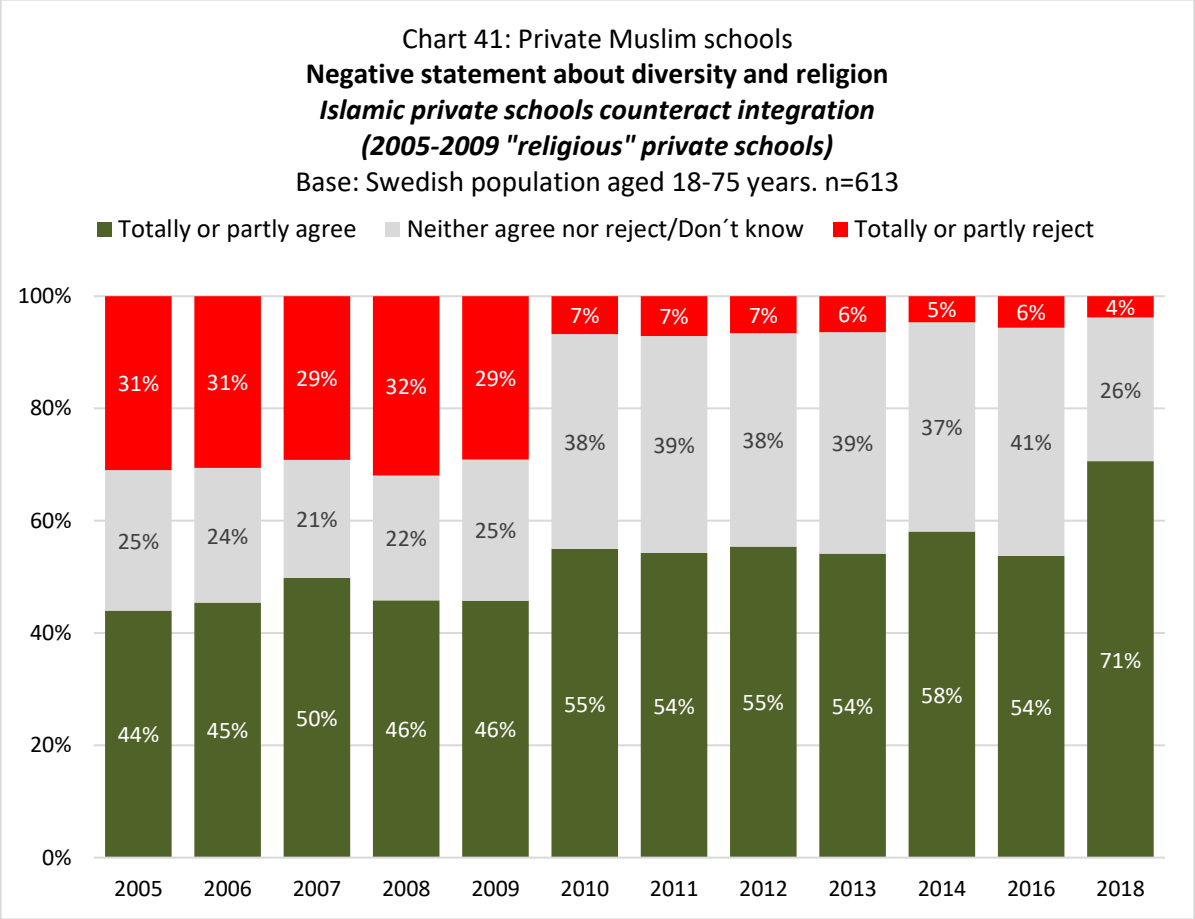
The young group under 30 years of age that goes in the same direction and shows an increase from 2016. But the result 2.1 is an average in a comparison over time.

Religion is a dimension that easily creates negative attitudes like for example the statements about religious schools and the veil.



Still there is a clear majority that thinks that Muslim women who live in Sweden are more oppressed than other women in Sweden – now 66 percent, which is the largest share ever in these measurements. But there is no clear trend, instead one single measured value.

Only eight percent reject this statement. The share of eight percent is an average value over time.



It is even a clear majority of the population that thinks that Muslim private schools counteract the integration – now 71 percent, a heavy increase with 17 percentage units since 2016. The result is the biggest share of negative attitudes ever measured in this study.

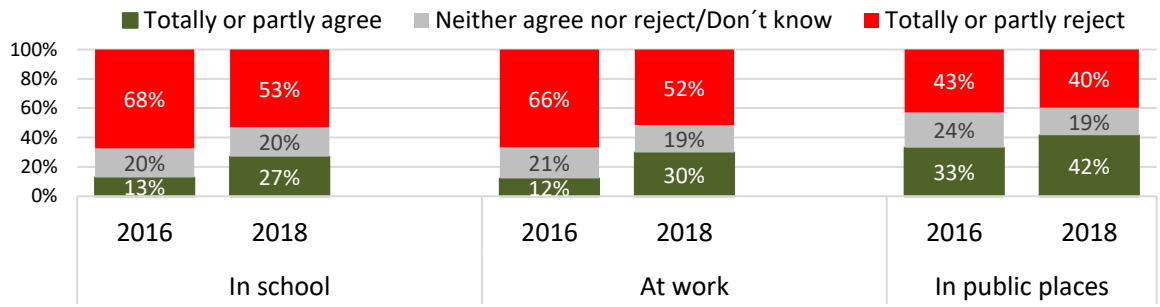
Only four percent reject this statement. These attitudes about support for the Islamic private schools is diminishing since 2010 when the question was rephrased to Islamic private schools from religious private schools.

Chart 42: Acceptance of wearing veil

Attitudes towards wearing a veil:

In many European countries people are critical towards that comprehensive veils are used in public places.What do you think about that Muslim women in Sweden wear them?

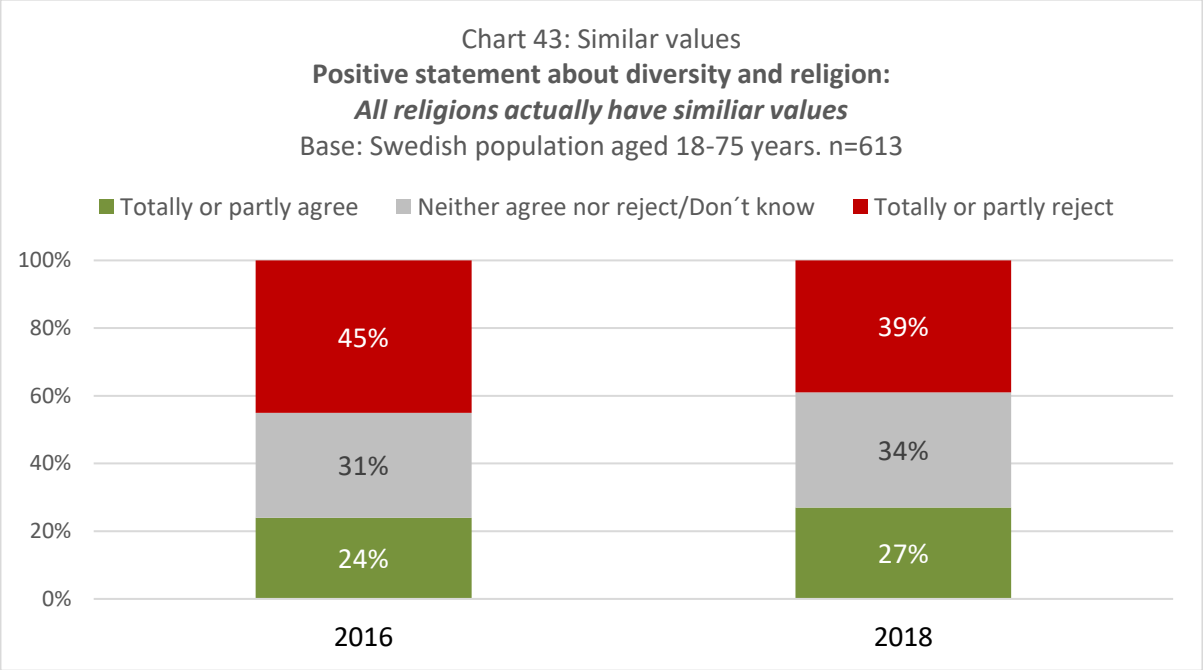
Base: Swedish popu



The results from the Diversity Barometer shows that a majority of the Swedish population thinks that it is unacceptable with wearing veils like burqa and niqab at work or in the school. Four out of ten also think that it is unacceptable in public places.

But the attitudes towards wearing veil have been improved in a comparison with 2016. The share who thinks it is acceptable has almost doubled, from 13 to 27 percent! This is also for the attitudes to veil at work where the results have tripled from 12 to 30 percent! Regarding the attitudes towards veil in public places the attitudes have also been improved from 33 to 42 percent. Nowadays more are positive than negative towards veil in public places.

What is the reason for this heavy change in attitudes? Have the Swedes got used to see Muslim women wearing veil in the streets and at work/school? Do they have more respect for the Muslim womens´ right to wear a veil and/or better understanding why, even though a larger group of people still think that the Muslim women are more oppressed than Swedish women?



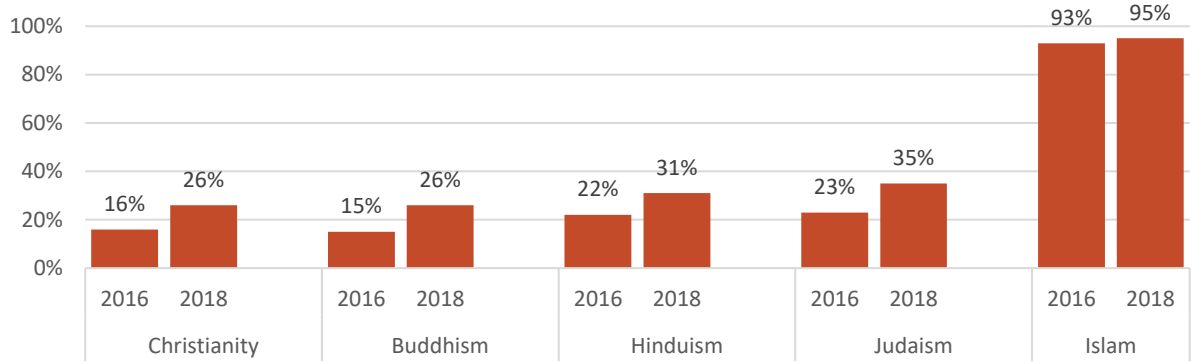
Only every fourth person in Sweden believes that all religions have similar values. Instead there are almost four out of ten which reject this statement. In a comparison with 2016 somewhat more people think that all religions have the same values even though most of them still think the opposite. Also, a large group, every third person, is unsure about this statement.

Chart 44: Similar values

Attitudes towards diversity and religion

The religion that you think have more negative values and for example collides with for example human rights

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years filtered on the 45% 2016 repectively 39%



The people living in Sweden who reject the statement about that all religions have similar values get the another questions about which religion(-s) they think have the negative values which collide with for example human rights.

There is as many as 95 percent of them who answer Islam, two percentage unites more than 2016. Every third also think that Judaism and Hinduism which are religions which dont have values that correspond to for example human rights. Somewhat fewer, every fourth person, also mentions Christianity and Buddhism. In general, the attitudes are more negative towards the different religions this year compared with 2016.

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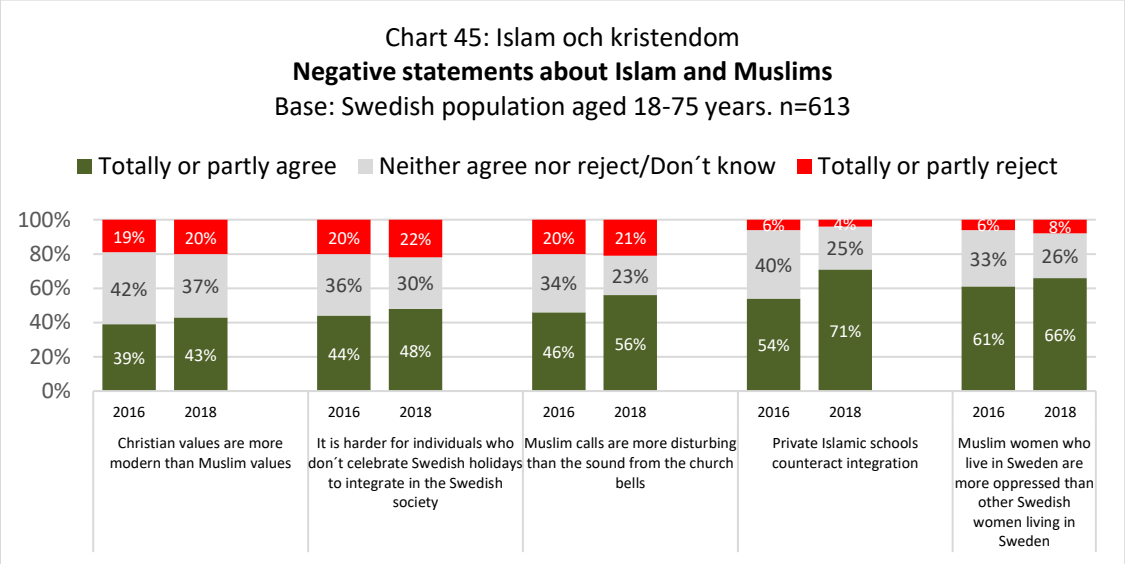


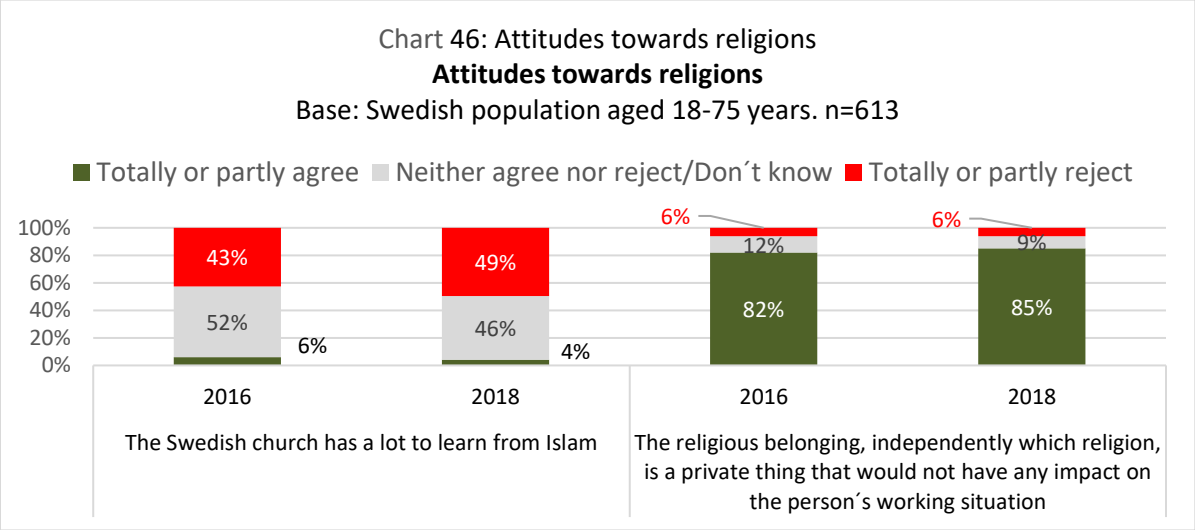
In general, there are somewhat more negative attitudes towards Islam this year in comparison to Christianity when the results from 2018 is compared with 2016.

In the chart above there are five negative statements about diversity and Islam. Many of the statements are mentioned when religion is discussed. It is a clear attitude among the population that Muslim women living in Sweden are more oppressed than what non-Muslim Swedish women are. As many as 66 percent agree to this statement while only eight percent reject it. Every fourth person is unsecure.

The largest share agrees to the statement that Islamic schools counteract the integration. Today 71 percent agree to this statement, which is a heavy increase since 2016.

Half of the population agree totally or partly with that the calls from mosques disturb more than the sound from church bells. A heavy increase with ten percentage units from 2016. But as many as 21 percent reject this statement.

Almost half think that it will get more difficult for the people to integrate into the Swedish society if they don´t celebrate the Swedish holidays, an increase also from 2016. Two out of ten reject this. Similar distribution of answers can be seen regarding the view that Christian values are more modern than Muslim values. Four out of ten agree while two in ten reject to this statement. Even here there is an improvement in attitudes towards Christianity in comparison with Islam.



Here are two positive statements about religion and Islam. It is very fundamental in Sweden that the religious aspect is a private issue, independently religion, that would not interfere with the working situation. In 2016 there was 82 percent who agreed to this, today 2018 it has increased to 85 percent.

There are very few that think that the Swedish church has a lot to learn from Islam. Only four percent think that the Swedish church has a lot to learn from Islam. Almost half, 49 percent, instead reject this statement. And the share who rejects has increased with six percentage unites in comparison with 2016. It is also interesting that about half of the respondents are unsure in this question probably because they don't have enough knowledge about these religions to decide or to have an opinion about it.

10. Stable attitudes towards diversity from a residential perspective

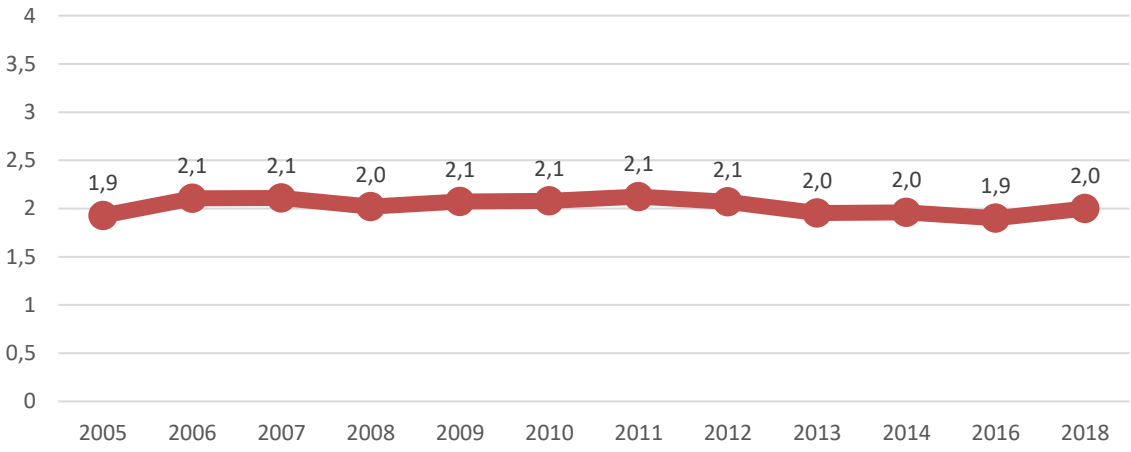
In this chapter the questions about diversity in a residential perspective are analyzed.

Chart 47: Residental index

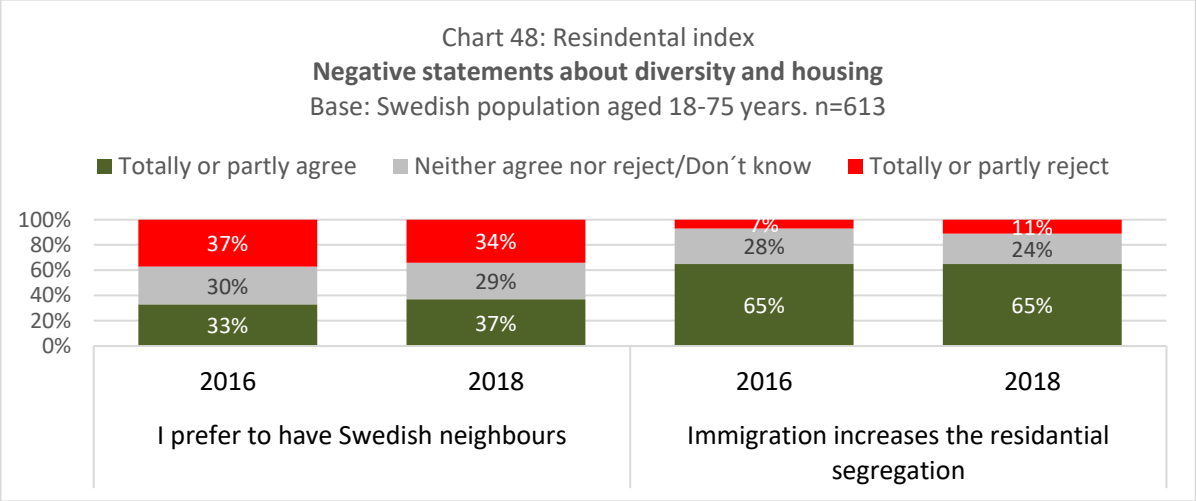
Residential index (0-4) based on a negative question about diversity and housing

I prefer to have Swedish neighbours

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

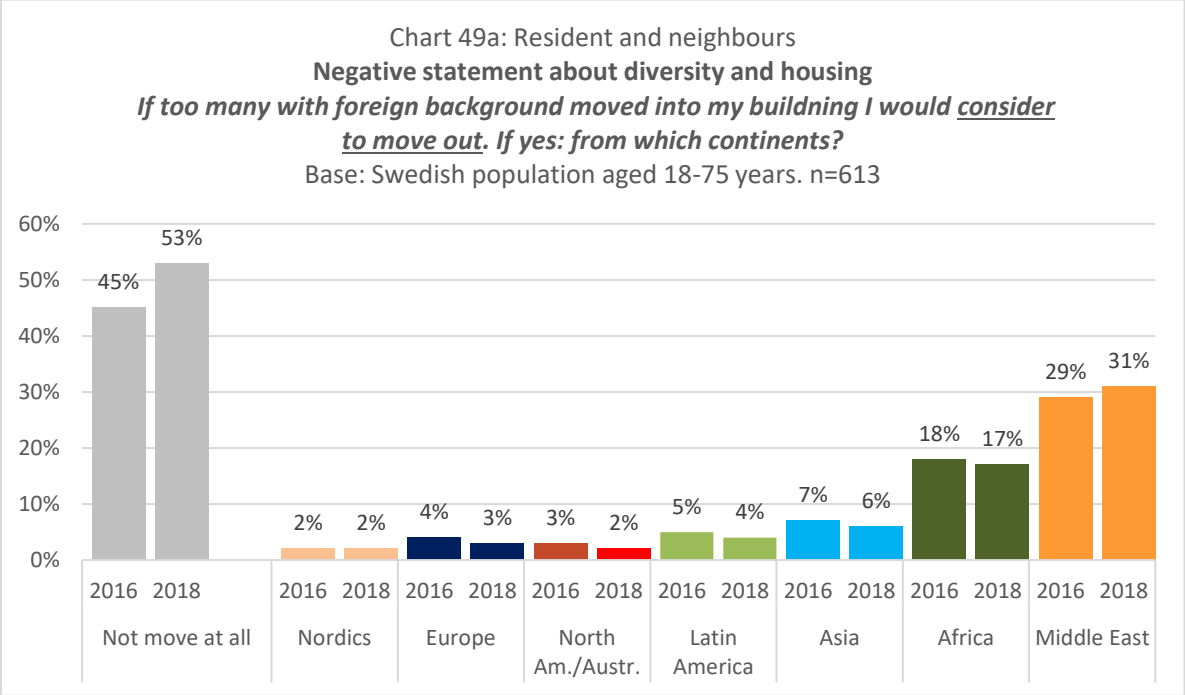


The chart above shows that the attitudes to prefer Swedish neighbors has the index value of 2.0, which is a recovery since the lowest value ever 2016. The results are otherwise very stable over time and stays within the interval of 1.9 – 2.1.

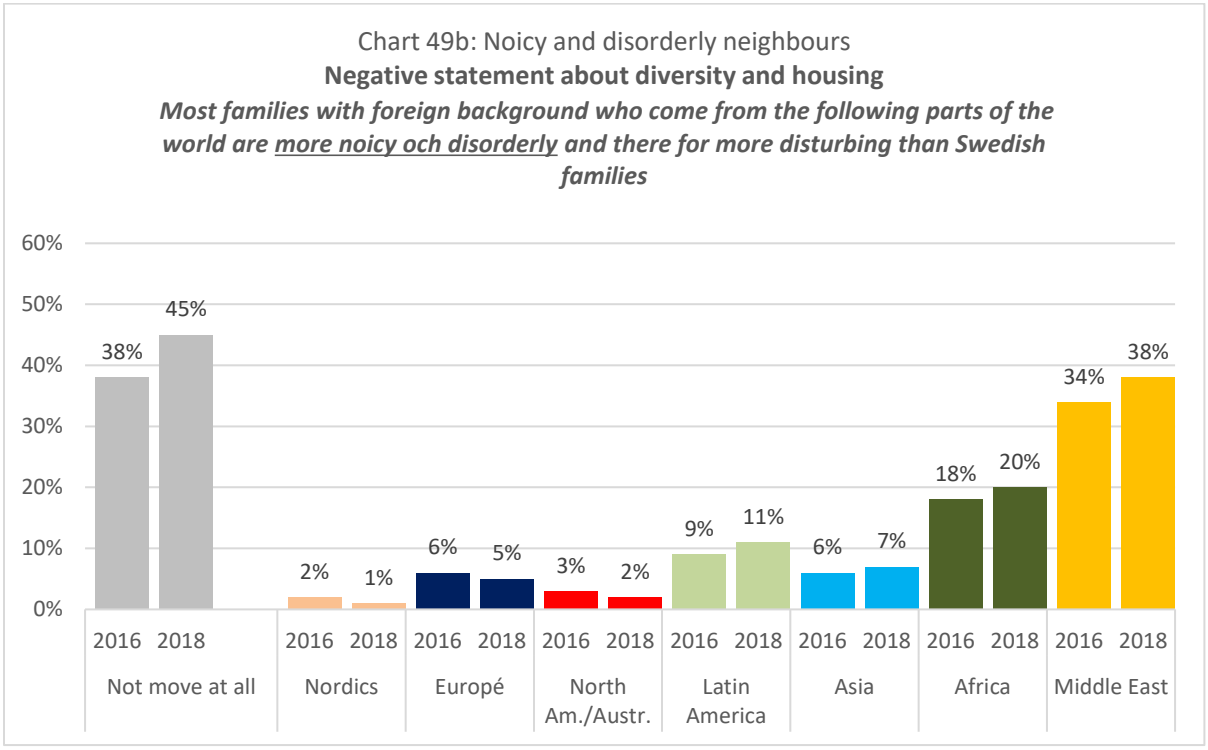


When the results from the question to prefer Swedish neighbors is presented the population is divided into three similar sizes of shares; one group agree to the statement, other group reject this, and a third group has no opinion in this question. The group that agree this statement and is positive towards diversity is somewhat bigger than the other two groups. But there is a certain decrease from a diversity perspective when more people prefer Swedish neighbors 2018 than 2016.

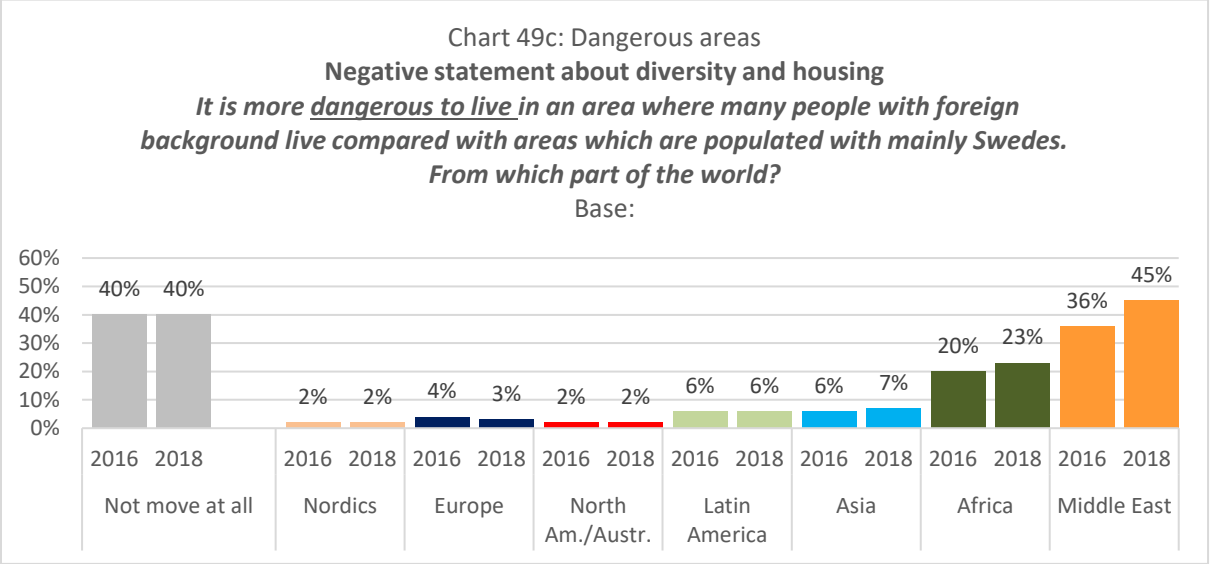
Due to the Swedes the immigration to Sweden increases the residential segregation. A clear majority, more closely 65 percent, believe this. Only eleven percent reject this statement. The attitudes are stable since 2016.



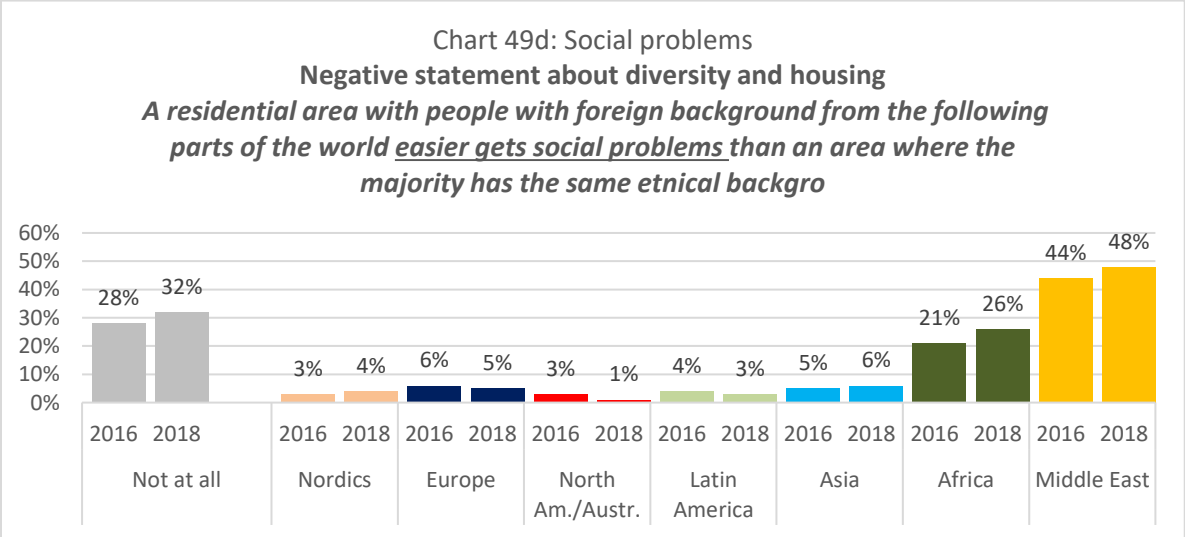
A majority (53%) would not move at all if newcomers would move into their residential building, an increase from 2016. But the ones who would move have the most negative attitudes towards people from Middle East. Small changes from 2016.



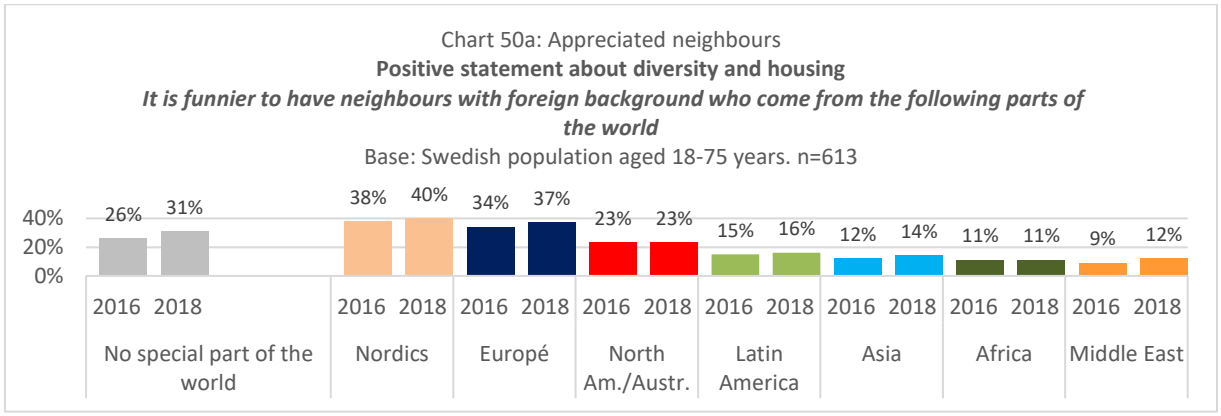
Hardly half (45%) don´t think newcomers are noisier and disorderly than what Swedes are, an clear increase in attitudes from 2016. People who are negative are even here more negative towards people from Middle East. Small differences from 2016.



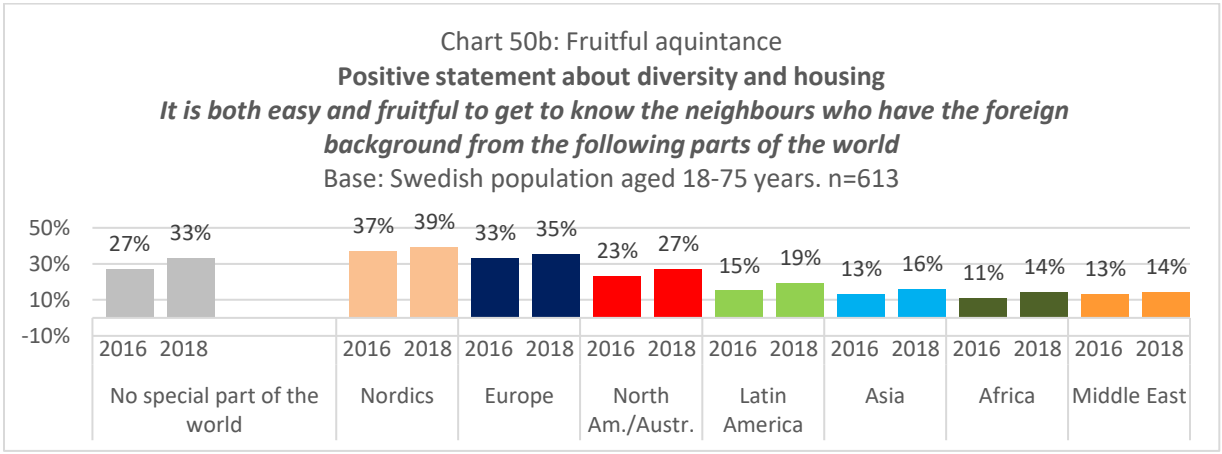
Four out of ten respondents think that it isn´t more dangerous to live in a neighborhood where many people from other countries live. But the ones who think so they most often think that it is dangerous if people come from Middle East. These attitudes have also deteriorated since 2016.



Three out of ten don´t think that a neighborhood where people from other countries live easier get problems. But the ones who think so, seven out of ten, most often think area will have more social problem if the inhabitants come from Middle East. Attitudes are even worse towards this group this year compared with 2016 but also worse towards people from Africa.



Here are the results from the two positive statements about diversity and living aspect. Due to the three out of ten Swedish people it would not be more fun to have neighbors with a specific foreign background. On the other hand, among those who think that it would be more fun they think it would be funniest if people come from other countries in the Nordics, or from other part of Europa.



Three out of ten Swedes think that it is not easy and fruitful to get to know neighbors independently from which country they come from. On the other hand, those who think so believe that the new neighbor should come from another Nordic country or from the rest of Europe.

11. Attitudes towards diversity and culture varies

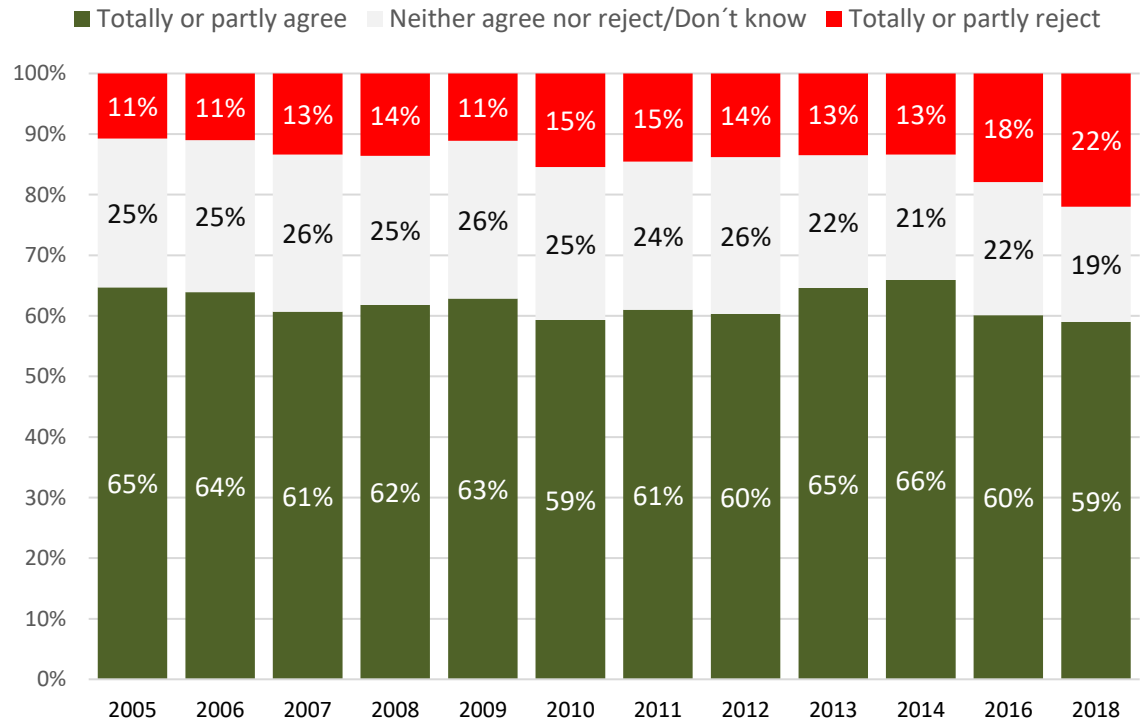
In this chapter attitudes towards diversity will be analyzed in relation to the culture.

Chart 51: Developement of culture

Positive statement about diversity and culture

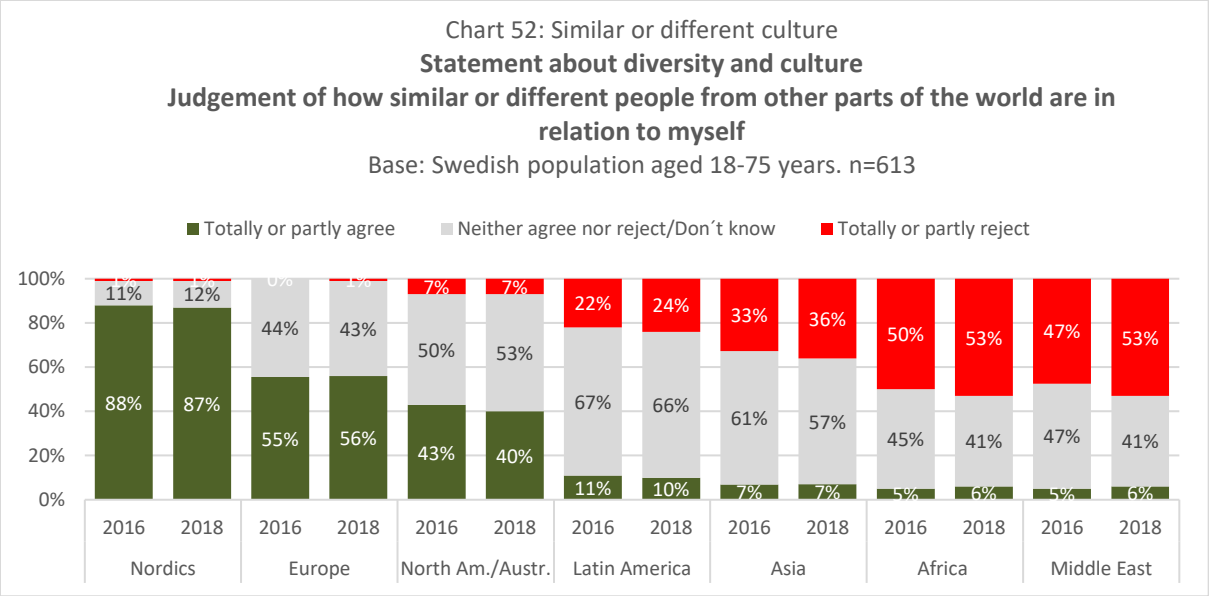
The etnic diversty develops the Swedish culture

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



Still there is most of the Swedes think diversity develops the Swedish culture. A share of 59 percent agrees to this statement. But this means a further decrease in positive attitudes compared to previous measurements – a negative trend. This result is the same as the all-time low 2010 value. Otherwise, the results have been within the interval of 59–65 percent throughout the years.

In a corresponding way the negative ones who reject this statement have increased their share, namely another three percentage units to 22 percent, which is once again an all-time high negative result. The interval was since 2005 within 11–18 percent. This can also be considered as a negative trend.

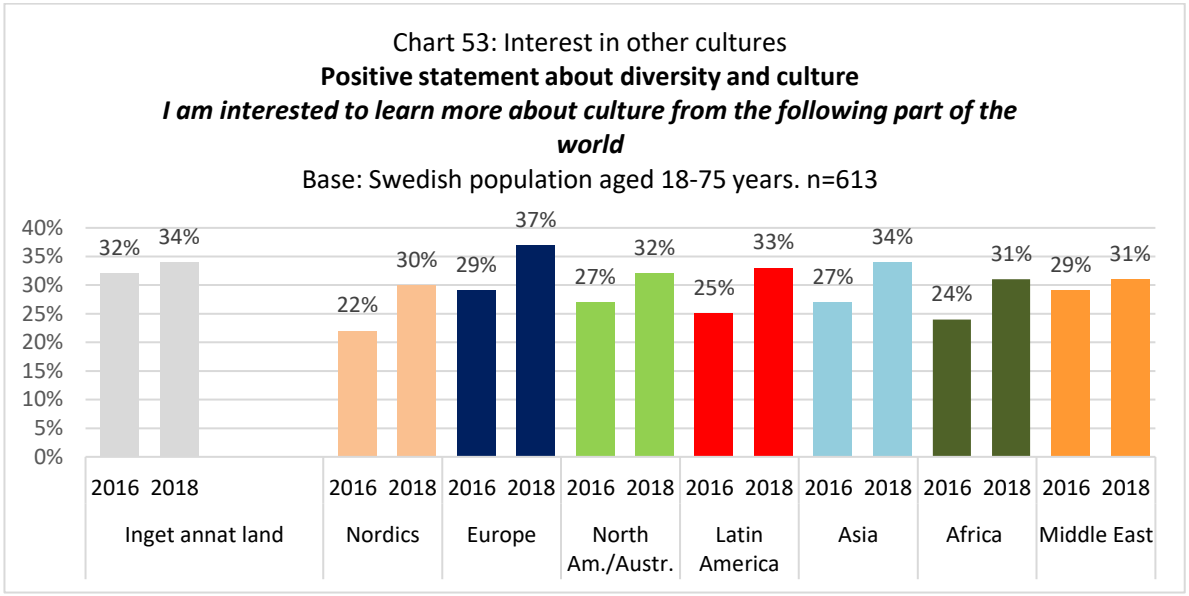


Nine out of ten Swedes think that other people from Nordics are similar or very similar to themselves. Only one percent think that the Swedish population is different or very different from the populations in the other Nordic countries. The results are stable since 2016.

A majority also think that people from other parts of Europe are similar or very similar to themselves. Hardly anyone thinks they are different. And the results are stable since 2016.

However, there is not a majority (only 4 of 10) that think they are similar to people from English speaking countries in North America and Australia. Seven percent even think that they are different. Small changes from 2016.

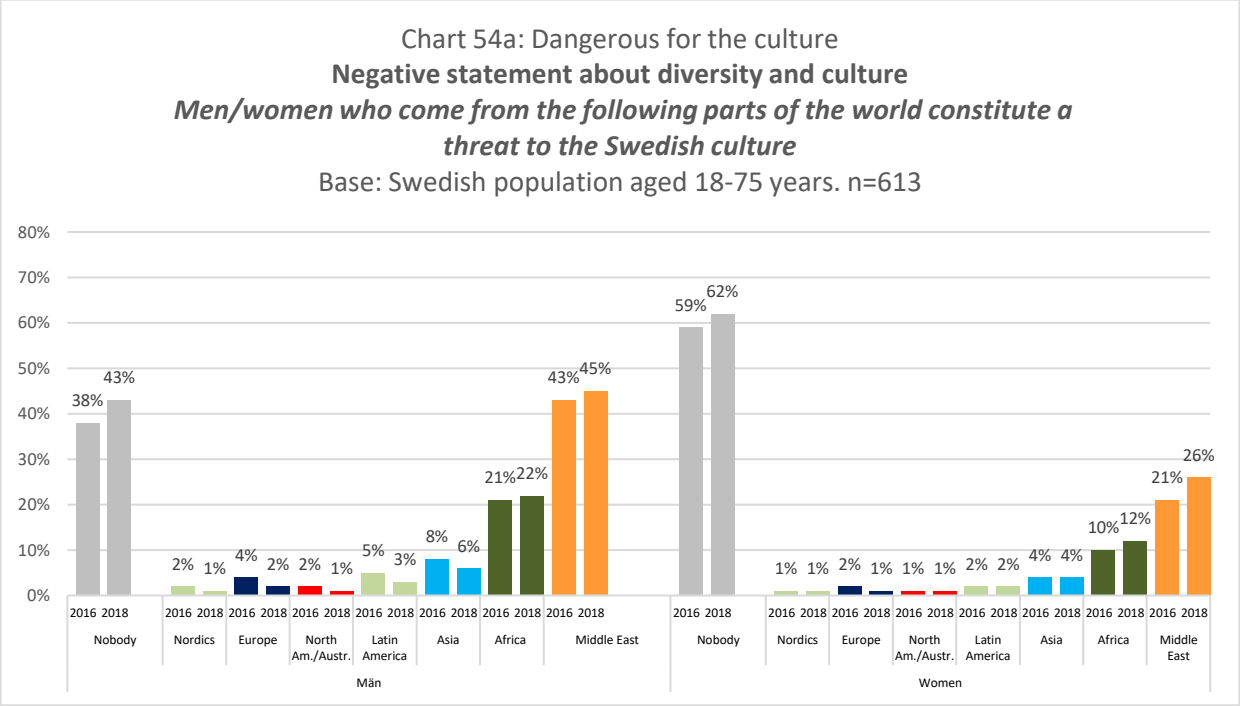
Less than ten percent think that they are similar to people in Latin-America. Instead, most of them, seven out of ten, have no opinion or if they are similar or different. Less than one out of ten think they are similar to people from Asians and only one out of twenty similar to people from Middle-East or Africa. About half think Swedes are different from people from Middle-East or Africa.



Every third think that there is no special culture in the world that they want to learn more about.

Among them who think they would like to learn more from a certain culture from a part of the world have no really a general favorite, instead they mention, also this year, many different cultures from different parts of the world.

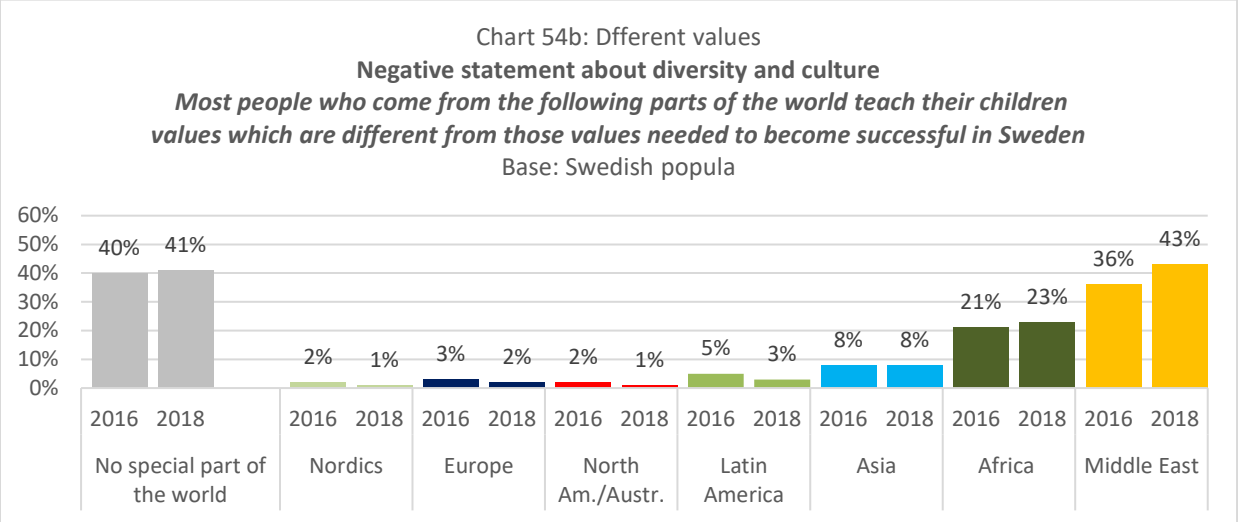
The cultures which get the most votes are the cultures from other parts of Europe and Asia. Interesting is that more mention that they are curious to learn more about cultures from Latin America, North America/Australia, Middle-East and Africa than from other part of the Nordics. The interest for different cultures has increased in general 2018. But it is not more people who have got interested, instead it is the people who are already interested in certain countries who now are more interested in more parts of the world.



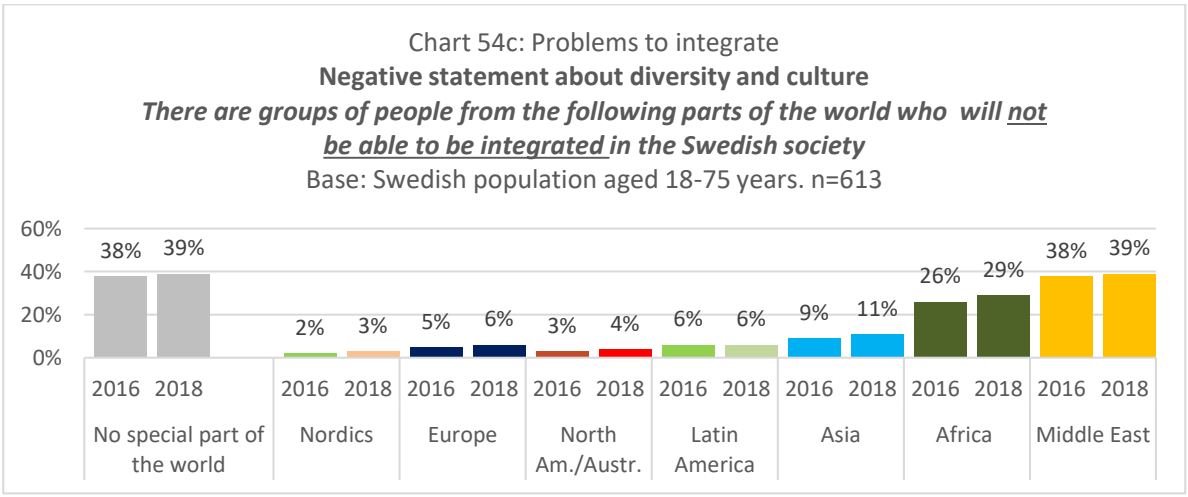
Four out of ten Swedes believe there is no part of the world that men come from that would be a threat to the Swedish culture. Corresponding figure for women is much higher, namely 62 percent.
To sum up, the threat is from men in general. And there is fewer who experience this threat from men and women from other countries towards the Swedish culture than it was in 2016.

But more than four out of ten believe men from Middle-East is a threat to the Swedish culture and the corresponding figure for women from Middle-East is less than three out of ten. This means that women from Middle East are considered as a bigger threat towards the Swedish culture then men and women from any other part of the world. Men and women from Africa are the second biggest threat. And even fewer see the same threat from men and women from other continents.

The perceived threat from men and women from Middle-East and Africa have been strengthened somewhat from 2016 to 2018, while the perceived threat from men and women from other continents are stable from 2016, or have even decreased.

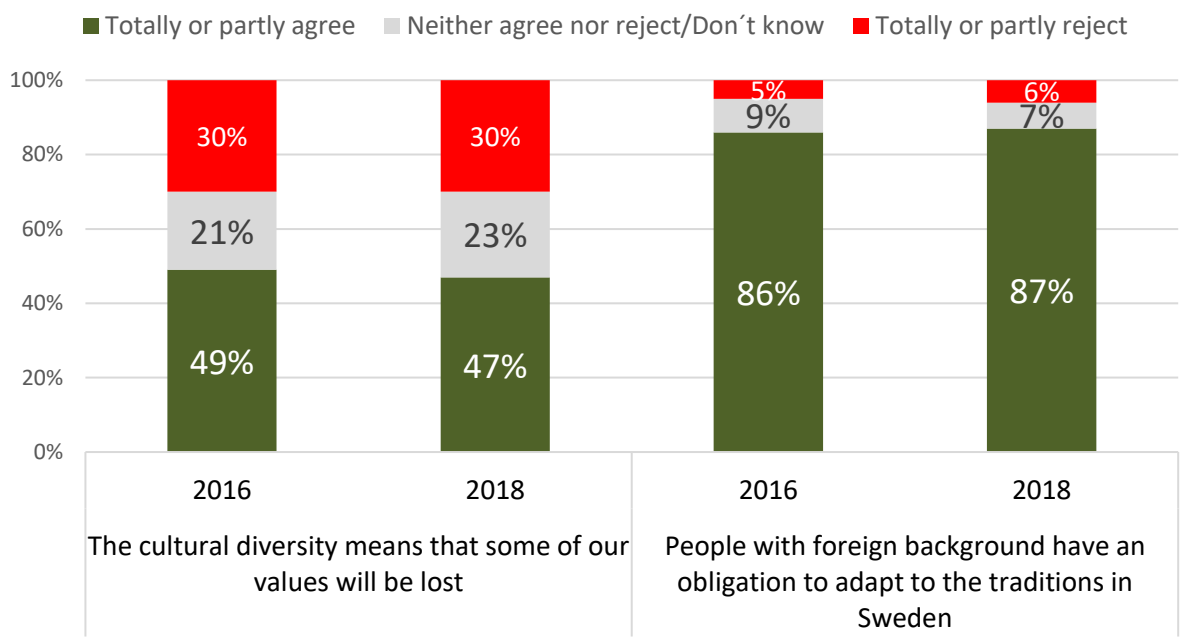


It is not harder to get successful in Sweden if they come from a special continent, due to four out of ten Swedes. However, it is almost as many who agree to that people from Middle-East learn their children different values that are needed to make them successful in Sweden. These attitudes also have been deteriorate since 2016 against people from Middle-East.



Four out of ten believe there are no groups of people from other parts of the world who would be able to integrate into the Swedish culture. However, there are quite many who agree that people from Middle East would not be able to integrate into the Swedish culture. Four out ten Swedes believe so. Three out of ten think that people from Africa can´t integrate into the Swedish culture.

Chart 55: Lost values and adaption
Negative statements about diversity and culture
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



As many as nine out of ten Swedes have the opinion that people with foreign background have an obligation to adapt to Swedish traditions and habits. Only six percent have the opposite attitude. The results are stable from 2016.

Almost half of the Swedes believe that the culture diversity means that some of the Swedish values will be lost. A relatively large group of people have the opposite attitude, when 30 percent don´t think that the Swedish values will be lost due to the culture diversity. The results are stable since 2016.

12. Appendix

12.1 Description of the samples in details

In this chapter a presentation of the sample from 2018 will be presented in details and also in a comparison with previous years within the Diversity Barometer.

Table 1:		Gender	
		Man	Woman
Year	2005	50%	50%
	2006	46%	54%
	2007	47%	53%
	2008	49%	51%
	2009	47%	53%
	2010	49%	51%
	2011	45%	55%
	2012	49%	51%
	2013	45%	55%
	2014	44%	56%
	2016	45%	55%
	2018	49%	51%

The sample this time consists of half women and half men. This even distribution is to find for several of years, but sometimes the women are over-representative.

Table 2:		Age groups			
		18-30 years	31-50 years	51-65 years	> 65 years
Year	2008	17%	36%	32%	15%
	2009	15%	32%	34%	20%
	2010	14%	35%	29%	22%
	2011	14%	35%	31%	20%
	2012	15%	33%	30%	22%
	2013	13%	31%	30%	27%
	2014	12%	30%	34%	25%
	2016	7%	24%	34%	35%
	2018	9%	32%	30%	28%

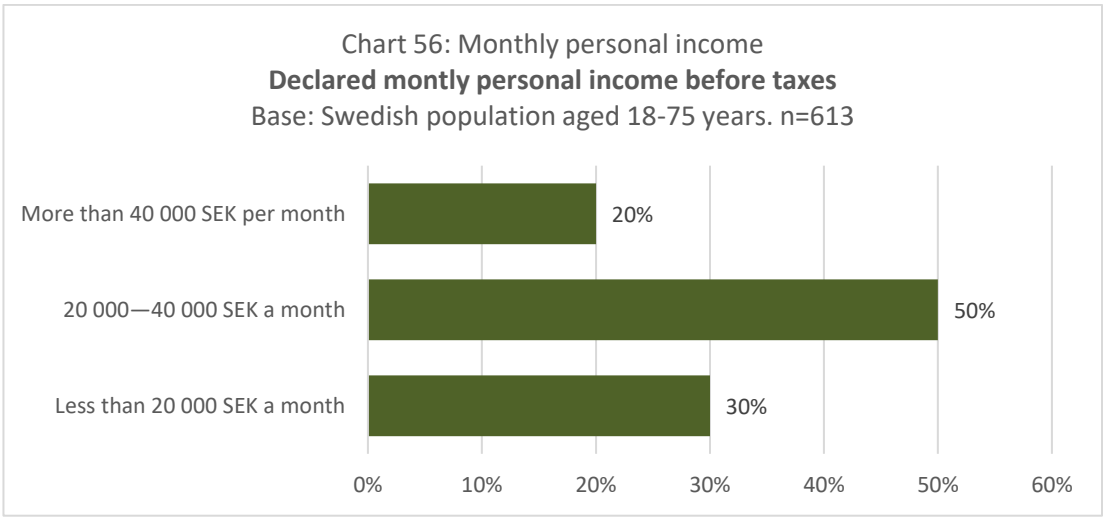
There is an over-representation of the oldest age group in 2016 and 2018 samples and in a corresponding way an under-representative among the younger age groups compared with previous studies.

Tabell 3:		Education level		
		Primary school	Upper secondary school	University level
Year	2005	17%	43%	40%
	2006	18%	41%	41%
	2007	20%	36%	44%
	2008	16%	39%	45%
	2009	17%	44%	39%
	2010	17%	39%	44%
	2011	17%	40%	43%
	2012	16%	41%	44%
	2013	14%	38%	49%
	2014	15%	36%	49%
	2016	17%	38%	45%
	2018	15%	39%	46%

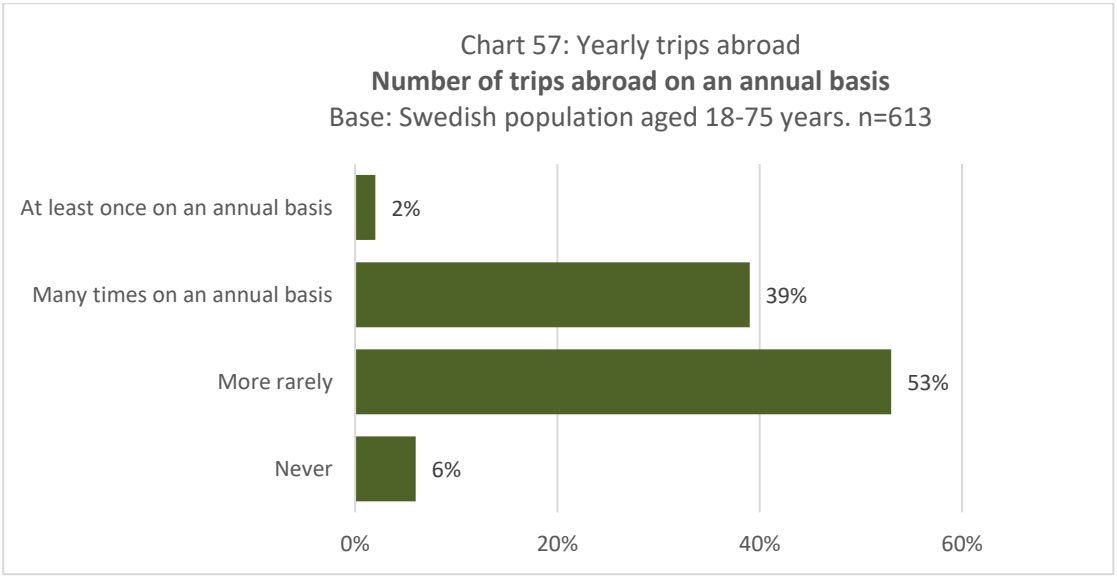
This years 'distribution of respondents based on education level is within an interval from previous studies.

Table 4:		Country of birth		
		Sweden	Other country in Europé	In a country outside Europe
Year	2005	85%	9%	6%
	2006	89%	8%	3%
	2007	89%	7%	4%
	2008	89%	6%	4%
	2009	87%	9%	4%
	2010	87%	8%	4%
	2011	87%	9%	4%
	2012	87%	8%	5%
	2013	88%	7%	4%
	2014	89%	6%	4%
	2016	89%	8%	4%
	2018	88%	8%	5%

The randomly selected sample consists of in principal nine out of ten born in Sweden. It has always been so in previous years. A smaller share of 3-6 percent is born in another country outside Europe. This is an under-representation compare to real life figures.

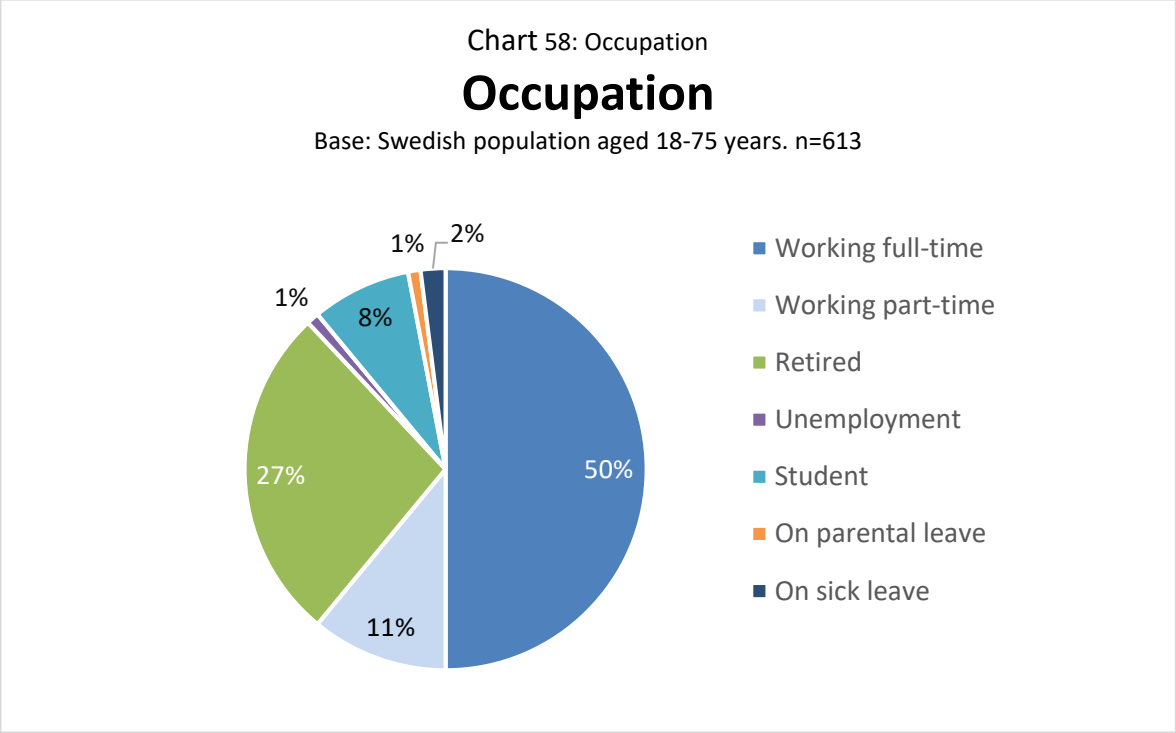


Looking at the income groups this year 'sample consists of three out of ten with an monthly personal income before taxes less than 20 000 Swedish crowns per month. The large group, half of the respondents, have a monthly personal income between 20 and 40 000 Swedish crowns before taxes.



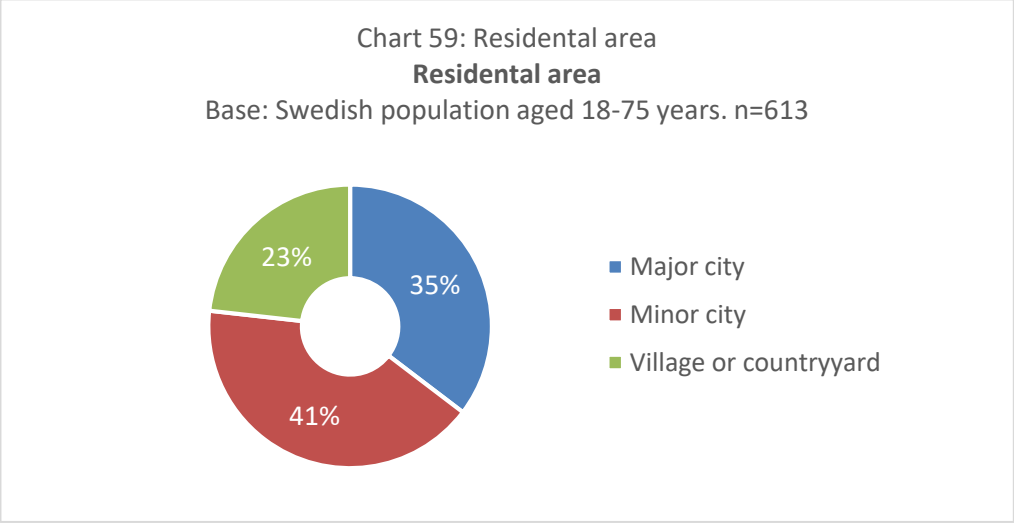
About four out of ten do trips abroad several of time a year. Six out of ten does it more seldom than that. Six percent never travel abroad while two percent does that at least every month.

Chart 58: Occupation



In the sample 61 percent work full- or part time. Every fourth person is retired. Students consists of eight percent of the sample.

Chart 59: Residental area

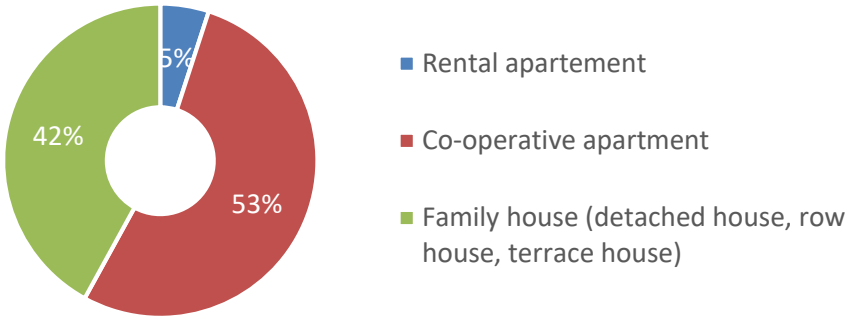


Four out of ten live in a smaller city while 35 percent live in a big city. 23 percent say they live in the country yard or in a small village.

Chart 60: Type of residential

Type of residental

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613

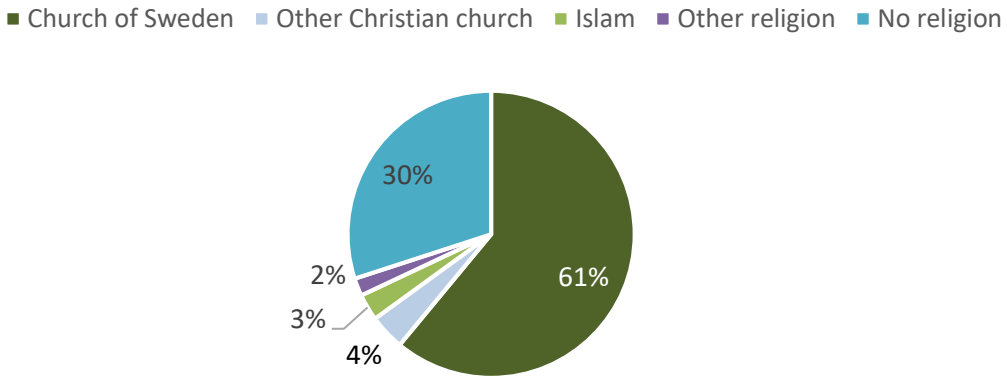


Half of them in the sample live in bought apartment while four out of ten live in an own house. Five percent live in a rental apartment.

Chart 61: Religion

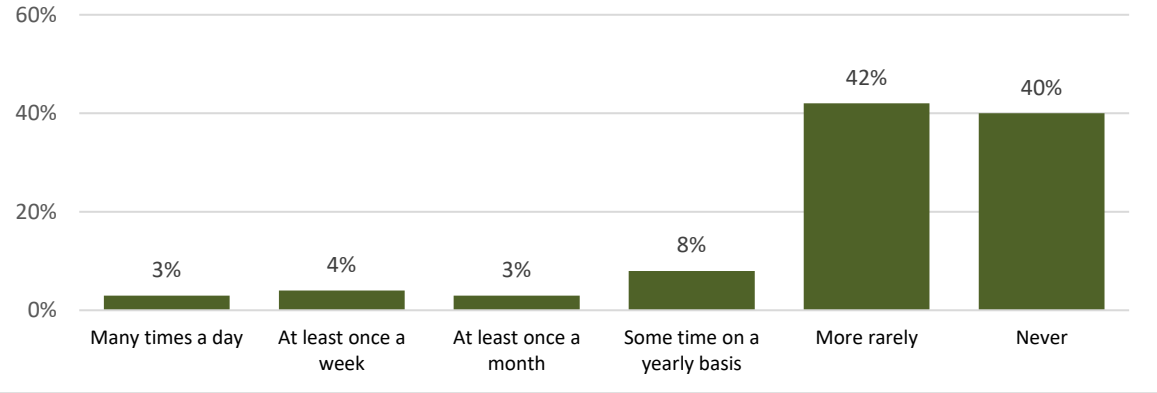
Religion

Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



A clear majority, 61 percent, is a member of the Swedish church. 30 percent do not belong to any brotherhood. Four percent are a member in another Christian church while those who belong to Islam are three percent.

Chart 62: Frequecy visiting religious ceremonies
Frequency for worship and other religious ceremonies
Base: Swedish population aged 18-75 years. n=613



Four out of ten admit they never visit any worships or other religious ceremonies, and further four out of ten that they do it more rarely than a couple of times a year. Ten percent visit these religious ceremonies at least once a month.