

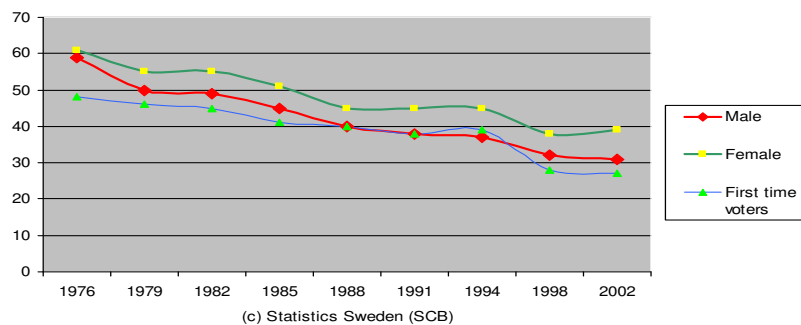
Developing democracy! IT is not enough, but it sure helps?

Strategies and activities of the Swedish Parliament

Christer Winbäck
Swedish Parliament
MP, The Liberal Party

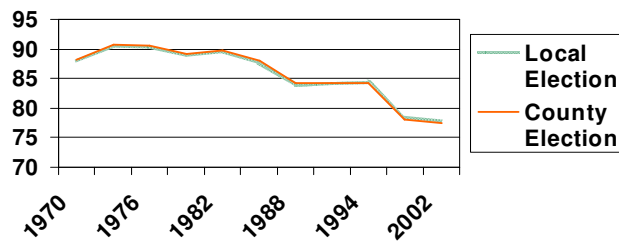
National Context (1)

Sweden: Local Election Participation



National Context (2)

Sweden: Election participation,
Local Election and County Election

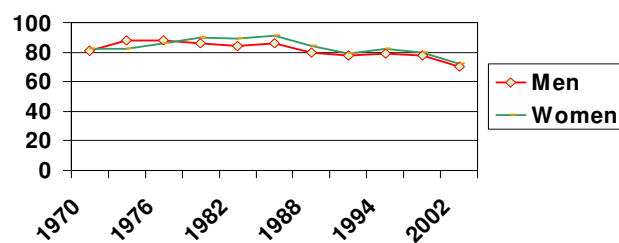


(c) Statistics Sweden (SCB)

3

National Context (3)

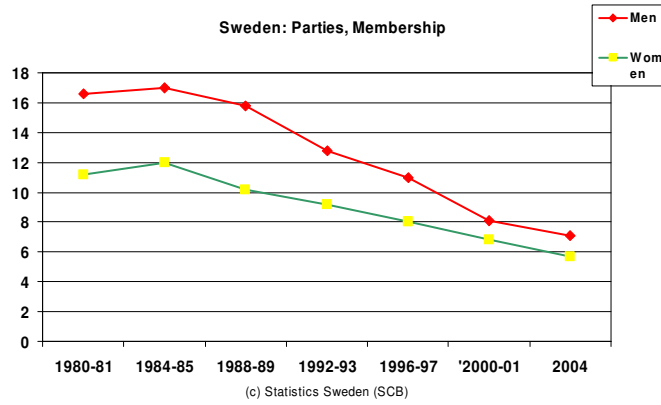
Sweden: National Elections, First
time voters



(c) Statistics Sweden (SCB)

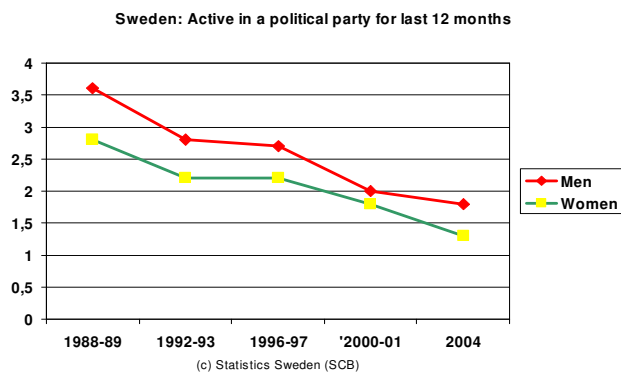
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National Context (4)



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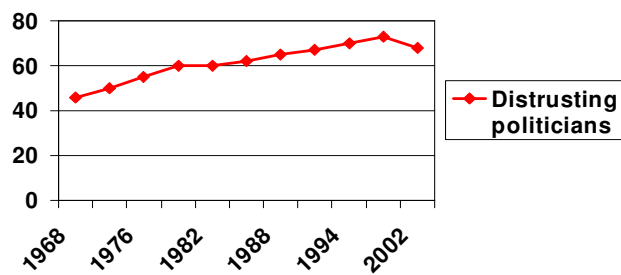
National Context (5)



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National Context (6)

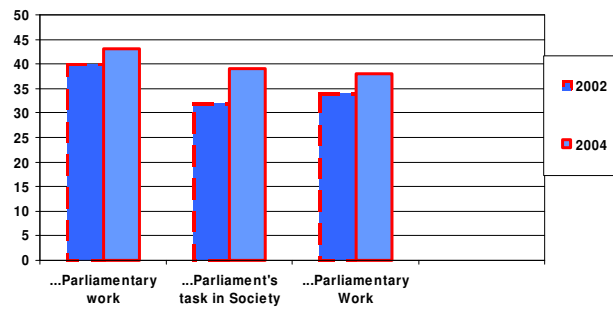
Sweden: Distrusting politicians



(c) Statistics Sweden (SCB)

National Context (7)

Would you like to know more about...



(c) TEMO AB Public Image 2004

**Developing Democracy?
IT is not enough, but it sure
helps!"**

What do they want/need ?

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**The purpose of IT as a means of assisting
the dialogue between politicians and
citizens**

tools for moulding public opinion

means of providing information

create better understanding for democracy

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From the politician to the citizen

Facts, information

Newsletters

Speeches

From the politician to the citizen

Are more citizens getting
interested or
are the already interested
getting more/better information?

blogging

- Why?
- For whom?
- Is it discovered?

From the citizen to the politician

Comments via

- e-mail
- Blog

Threats to IT and IT-threats

- Excessive information
- Excluded groups
- Big Brother
- Unrealistic expectations

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What is Parliament's role?

- Improve the democratic dialogue
- Create the necessary prerequisites for developing society

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Challenge

Make the information understandable for the “not so interested”

Make understanding for the democratic system

Swedish Parliament: Strategies

<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Why?</i>
Openness	Comprehensive Information System, Fundamental requirement in a democracy, Precondition for an Active Dialogue
Transparency	Parliament: Special responsibility for providing impartial information without political bias
Promote knowledge and interest	Knowledge of Political Process: Prerequisite for citizens who want to exercise their influence. Fundamental basis for commitment and responsibility

Parliament: Present activities (1)

Activity	Target Group(s)	Objective(s)
The Parliament's web site	All Citizens,	
(Regional) InfoSpots	All Citizens	Providing information for citizens who live outside the Greater Stockholm Area
Youth Parliament	Students in Upper Secondary schools (ages 16-18)	Explaining the decision making process. Create a better understanding for political work
Democracy workshop	Students in Lower Secondary schools (ages 14-16)	Explaining the decision making process. Create a better understanding for political work

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Parliament: Present activities (2)

Activity	Target Group(s)	Objective(s)
Meet an MP	All Citizens	Allowing voters to meet an MP in a more relaxed way, and giving them the opportunity to put forward more spontaneous questions
Open House	All Citizens	To give all people an opportunity to see more of the Parliament that what is otherwise being shown at normal guided tours. The audience gets to meet representatives from all parties and can ask questions about the work in Parliament

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Parliament: Present activities (3)

Activity	Target Group(s)	Objective(s)
One day courses for librarians and teachers, journalists	Librarians, teachers, journalists	To spread knowledge about the parliamentary process and to keep participants updated on what is happening at the Parliament

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Plans for the future

- e-Democracy
- Discussion forums
- Chat-rooms

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Parliament: Future activities

Activity	Target Group(s)	Objective(s)
Supporting MP dialogue with voters through the web (e.g. chat sessions)	MP:s and General Public	To bring electorate and elected closer to one another

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Parliament: Present activities (European issues)

Activity	Target Group(s)	Objective(s)
The Web Site of the EU-Information	The General Public	To provide complete and all-round information about the EU and the Swedish Membership
IPEX – Interparliamentary EU-information Exchange	Primarily staff and members of the Parliament but the General Public will also have access to most of the site	To make possible the exchange of information about how National Parliaments deal with proposals from the European Commission and also to make it possible to follow e.g. the scrutiny process in various countries.

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Is the result the democratic society?