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Sektorn för samhällsbyggnad

## **POLICY FOR DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS**

The ongoing process of globalization is making Sweden increasingly dependent on the outside world. Cooperation within the European Union is part of that process, but globalization extends beyond the borders of the EU. The importance of international contacts is also increasing on a local level.

Globalization has become a generic term for a number of development tendencies in our time. Trade between countries has been increasing substantially during the past decades. The electronic exchange of information, flows of capital, travel and migration are accelerating.

Today's wave of globalization affects an incredibly large number of people and takes place at a higher pace, than during previous periods in history.

The Swedish Globalization Council, established by the Swedish government, defines the concept of globalization as follows: "Globalization, in a broad sense, applies to trade, cross-border investments and capital flows and the exchange of information and technology between countries. Softer concepts, such as culture, environment, attitudes and philosophies of life may also be covered by the concept of globalization. Thus, globalization has been intensified and it is usually this phase of intensification to which the concept refers." (*Source: the website of The Cabinet Office and the Ministries*)

The Municipality of Härryda is part of a globalized world and it is vital and natural, as a part of the continuous developmental work of the municipality, to expand cooperation within and outside the European Union. Municipal councillors and employees possess extensive knowledge that can be shared and also have a lot to learn to allow the operation and activities within the municipality to develop.

Globalization affects all areas of the municipality, for example today's and tomorrow's labour market. To a great extent trade and businesses in Härryda operate in global competition. International comparisons significantly impact upon the educational sector. Many important issues must be handled globally, within the European Union, nationally and locally, for example environmental and climate issues and democracy development. One of the challenges for the future is to also allow mutual exchanges between people permeating all levels of municipal work.

### **Objectives for Härryda municipality**

Through international contacts, within and outside the European Union, develop the municipal's own operations, at the same time as the municipality contributes to the development of the surrounding world

By participating in various projects within the various EU funding programmes, or in other international cooperation, Härryda municipality's own work and activities develop, at the same time as good practises and ideas from our own work is spread. By taking part in cooperation projects one acquire perspectives of our own way of working. Through comparisons between different organisations and cultures one create reflections of our own ways of working and an understanding of the surrounding world, which in itself generates readiness for change.

### **The municipality of Härryda will:**

- as a natural part of the working process, develop its operations and activities by benefiting from international contacts in various ways.
- utilize experiences from other regions within the EU, but also from areas beyond the EU borders.
- encourage employees to engage in cross-border work.
- share experiences and knowledge, so that these can be spread.
- support the operation's and activities' participation in collaborative projects with the above objectives.
- provide opportunities for employees to participate in various exchange projects.
- support local association's and businesses' cooperation's within the EU-framework, but also in other international cooperation, where possible.