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# Strategies for tackling the super-ageing process in a welfare society

Policy-making, welfare technology and refurbishments in Sweden of 2040

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. . . . in Sweden of 2040, ageing will be a  
natural stage in human living . . .  
. . . . and people are only as old as they feel !

## case study on white papers 2011-2016

Year	Government Orders (GO):						GO, total number
	1. GAA	2. GDC	3. IGR	4. OGR	5. GRD	6. GRP	
2011	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
2012	7	2	1	1	0	0	11
2013	5	0	1	2	1	1	10
2014	7	2	2	0	0	0	11
2015	8	1	0	1	0	0	10
2016	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
	42	5	4	4	2	2	59

**LEGEND:** GO=Government Orders that refer to: GAA=Government Assignments to Authorities; GDC=Government Directives for Committees; IGR=Internal Government Reports; OGR=Official Government Reports; GRD=Government Reform Drafts; GRP=Government Reform Propositions.

- key word string consisted of 'assignment' (uppdrag) AND 'older people' (äldre) on the website of the Swedish government: [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se);
- close-reading process and discursive analysis of 59 white papers that focused on ageing, age attitudes, elderly care, housing and assistive technologies.

Andersson, J., 2017: Tackling the super-ageing process in a welfare society. Refurbishments, policy-making and welfare technology in Sweden of 2040 (working paper).



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## table of contents

1. framing ageing in Sweden of 2040
2. financial consequences of ageing
3. challenges for municipal elderly care
4. existential aspects in housing for ageing
5. ageing with assistive technologies



# 1. framing ageing in Sweden of 2040

# 1. Ageing in Sweden



- UN Convention on rights for people with disabilities
- Madrid International Plan on Ageing (MIPAA)
- UNECE strategy for 2011-2016:
  1. Encourage prolonged working life and professional participation
  2. Promotion of participation, non-discrimination and social inclusion of older people
  3. Affirmation of dignity, health and independence in older age
  4. Enhancement of inter-generational solidarity



# 1. current trends



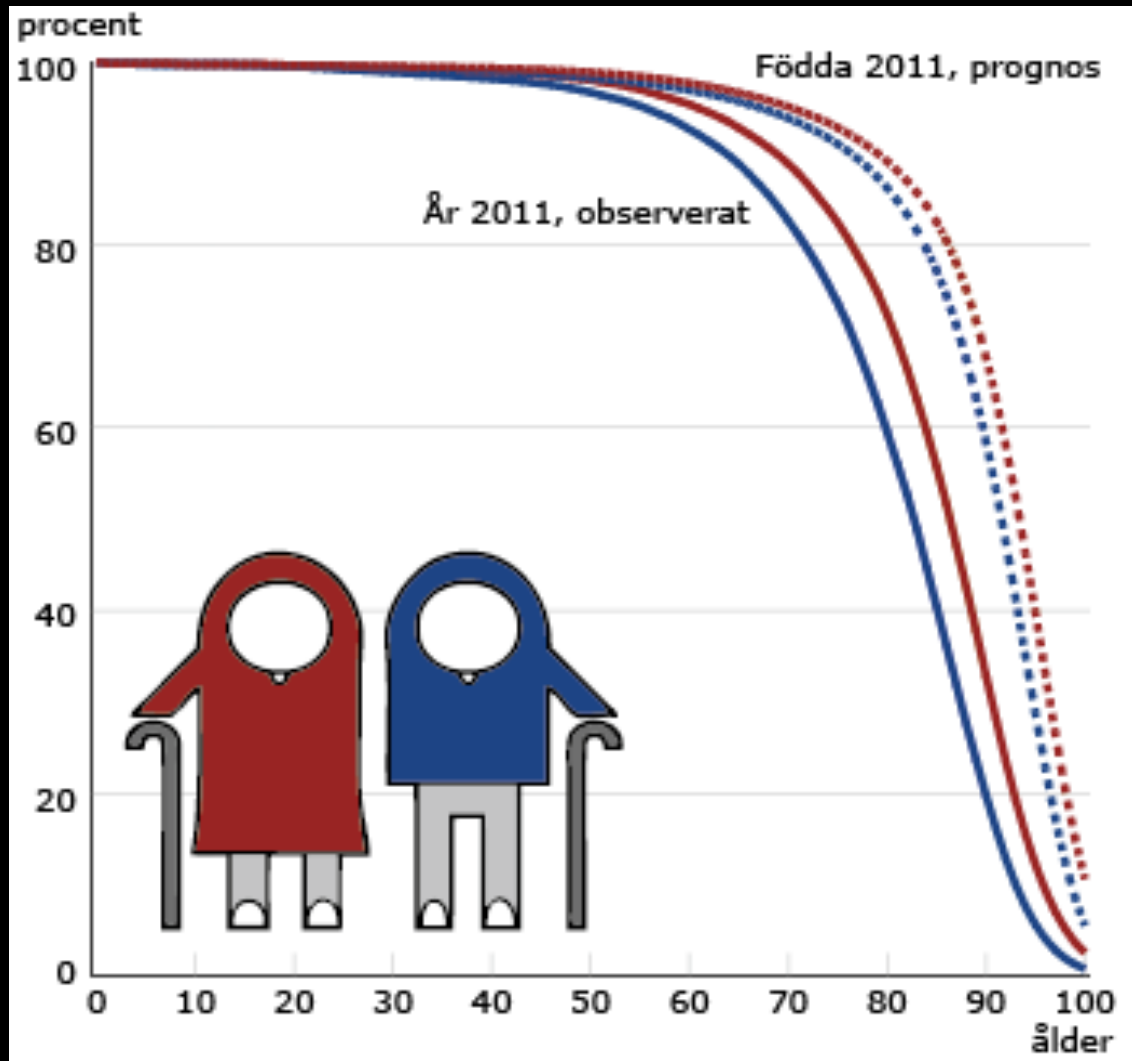
- Dementia main cause for moving to a residential care home;
- Appr. 160.000 persons with dementia in 2016 (1,6 %), prevalence rate of appr. 24.000 new cases per year;
- Targeted tax-funded elderly care 16 % of the older population;
- Family provided elderly care about 9.3 % (av. Europe 12.7%);
- Elderly people aged 65 years and older appr. 19.8%, of which 5.4% are aged 80 years and older;
- High old age dependency ratio 27 % (av. OECD countries 20%);
- Housing shortage for elderly people within the ordinary stock as well as special housing in residential care homes.

Source: Rostgaard, T; Szebehely, M. 2012: Changing policies, changing patterns of care: Danish and Swedish home care at the crossroads. In European Journal of Ageing, 2012 (9), pp. 101-09

Source: OECD, 2017: Elderly population indicator, <https://data.oecd.org/pop/elderly-population.htm>

Images: Jonas E. Andersson

# 1. health and life expectancy



## Improved health and increased longevity

Men: 80,1 years (2013)

Women: 83.7 years (2013)

## Compressed morbidity

## Postponed morbidity

Prognostics for health and longevity: about half of the children born in 2011 are expected to reach an average age of 92: girls born in 2011 have a life expectancy of 93 years, while boys born in 2011 have a life expectancy of 91 years.

In 2040: Young people under 20: 23%

Working population: 55%

Elderly people above 65: 22%

Source: [http://www.scb.se/sv/\\_Hitta-statistik/Artiklar/Medellivslangden-okar-stadigt/](http://www.scb.se/sv/_Hitta-statistik/Artiklar/Medellivslangden-okar-stadigt/)



## 2. financial consequences of ageing

# 2. ageing for self-realisation

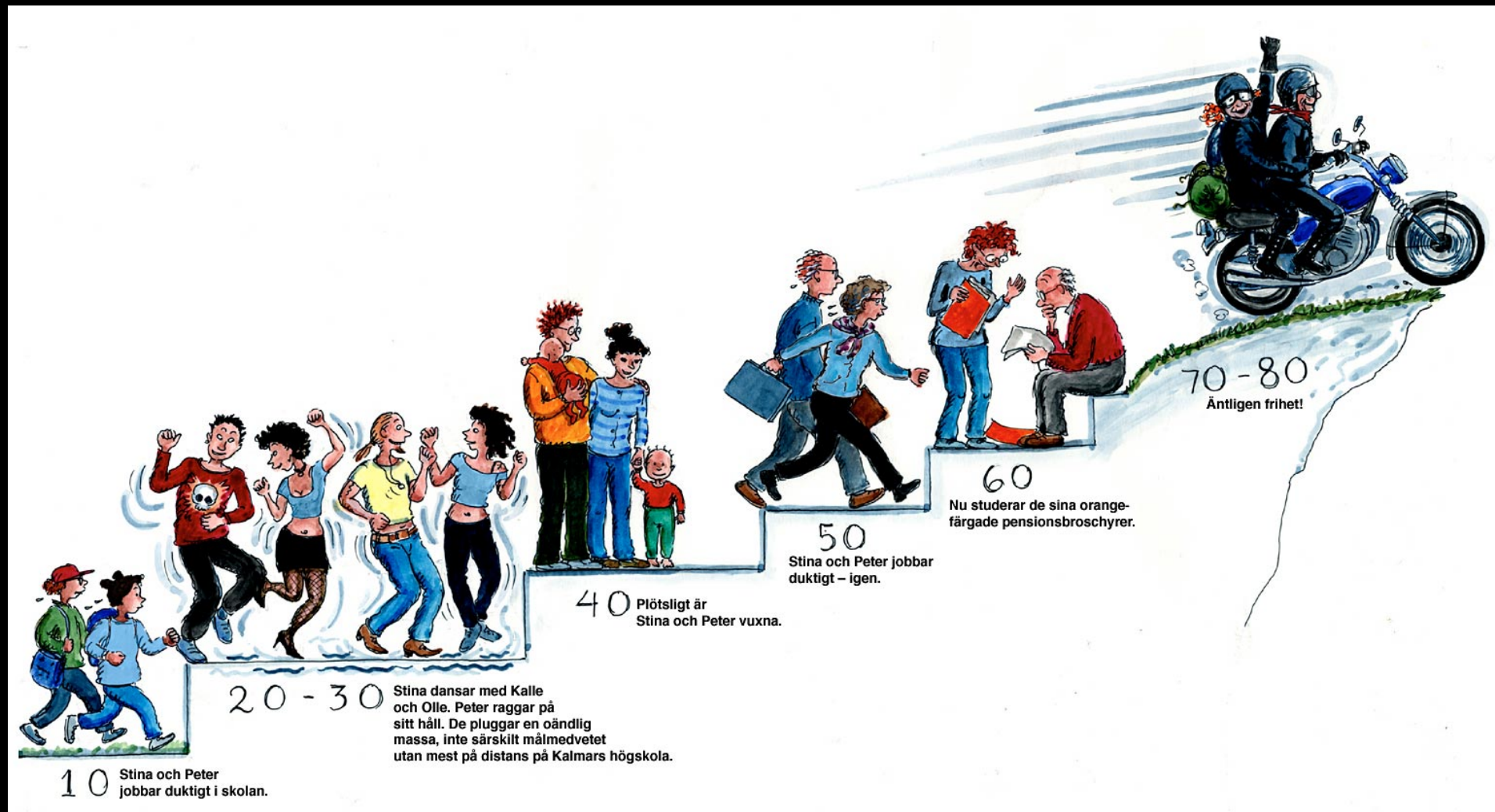


Image: Cecilia Torrud, 2005. IN: Holmqvist A., Kerpner, J.: 2005: Full fart, från 0 till 100. Stockholm: Aftonbladet

# 2. high level of decommodification

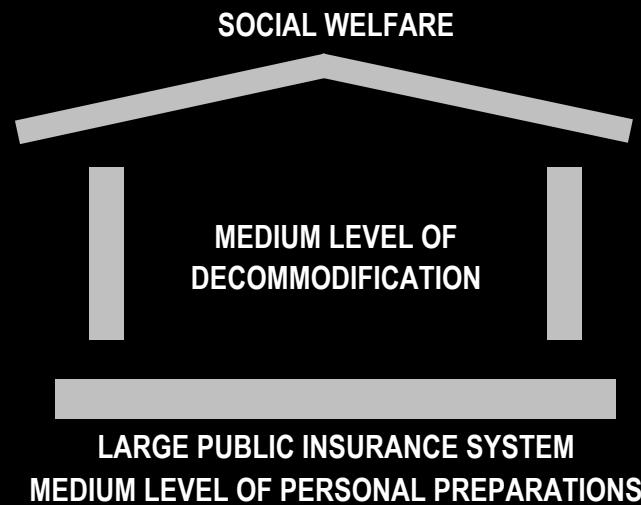
## welfare regime trilogy

conservative-corporative regime



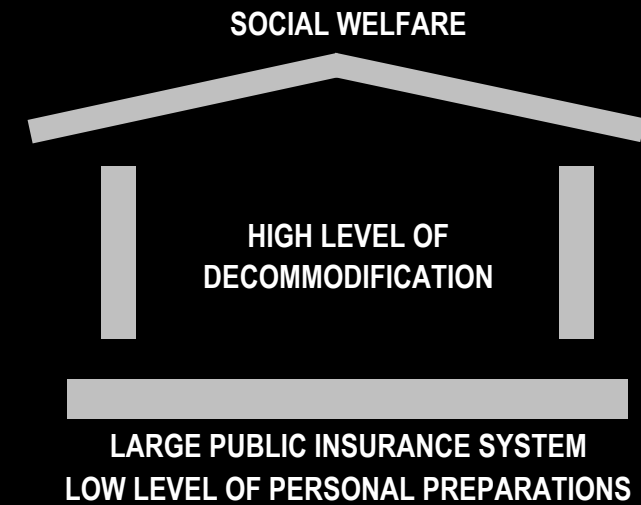
Countries like : France, Germany, Italy. High level of welfare but related to class, religion and social status

liberalistic regime



Countries like : Australia, UK, USA  
The level of welfare is related to the market principle and active citizens.

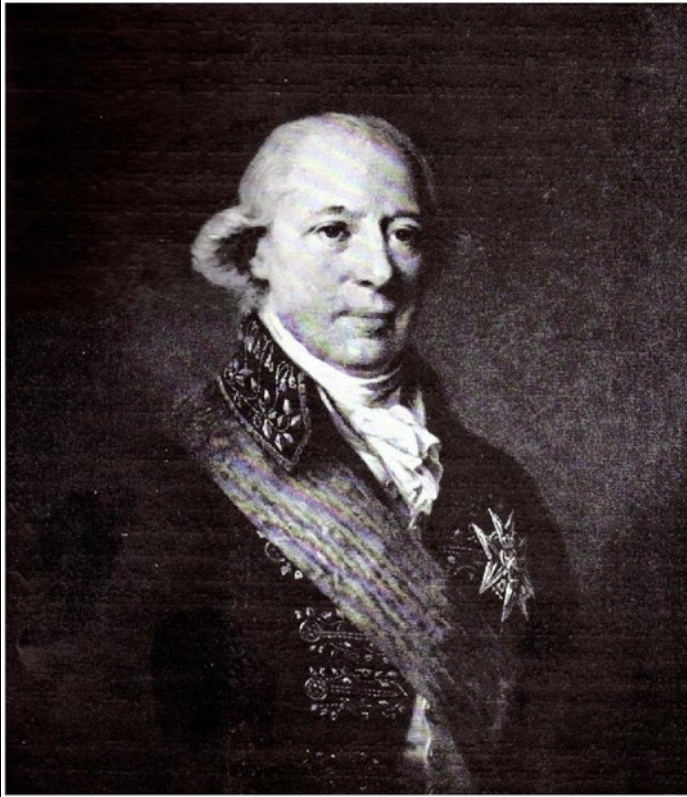
social democratic regime



Countries like : The Nordic countries.  
Welfare is provided based on an egalitarian principle, and made available regardless of class, religion and social status

SOURCE: ESPING-ANDERSEN, G, 1990: THE THREE WORLDS OF CAPITALISM. CAMBRIDGE: POLITY PRESS.

## 2. postponed retirement age



**David von Schulzenheim (1732-1823)**  
Physician, economist and professor, founder of the forerunner to the modern National Board of Social Welfare and Health .

Painting: Carl Fredrik von Breda, NBSWH

- Pension reform first introduced in 1913 with retirement age set to 67 years
- Current retirement age set to 65 years, but early retirement age at age 61 and late retirement age at 67;
- In 2012, average retirement age was 64 years for both men and women
- Proposal by Retirement Age Committee to pair retirement age with present trend of healthy ageing, thus, pushing retirement age to 63-69 years;
- Political consensus on postponing retirement age in the future.

### 3. challenges for municipal elderly care

# 3. societal re-organisation



Image: Jonas E. Andersson

- re-organisation of the societal structure for care, nursing, medicine
- 1 existing authority National Board for Social Welfare and Health ([www.socialstyrelsen.se](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se)), founded in 1913, and
- 4 new authorities
- Health and Social Care Inspectorate ([www.ivo.se](http://www.ivo.se))
- Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services ([www.sbu.se](http://www.sbu.se))
- Swedish Agency for Health and Care Service Analysis ([www.vardanalys.se](http://www.vardanalys.se))
- The Public Health Agency of Sweden ([www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se](http://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se))

# 3. comparing quality in care



Image: Jonas E. Andersson

- 800.000 Swedes, mostly elderly and people with disabilities, receive assistance and support from municipal care;
- 4 major structural problems in care for elderly people:
  1. shortage of staff,
  2. low education among staff members,
  3. uneven quality in care giving and nursing,
  4. complex daily care and medical care;
- continued living together in a residential care home
- innovation of municipal and regional elderly care (training of staff members, quality criteria for public procurement)

## 4. existential aspects in housing for ageing



# 4. animating memories and recollections



Image: Jonas E. Andersson

- culture projects that focused on animating memories and recollections of older people, mostly persons with dementia;
  1. ballroom dancing
  2. memorabilia
  3. music
  4. movement
  5. scenography
- culture put in action at residential care homes or at senior centres

# 4. grants for increasing housing

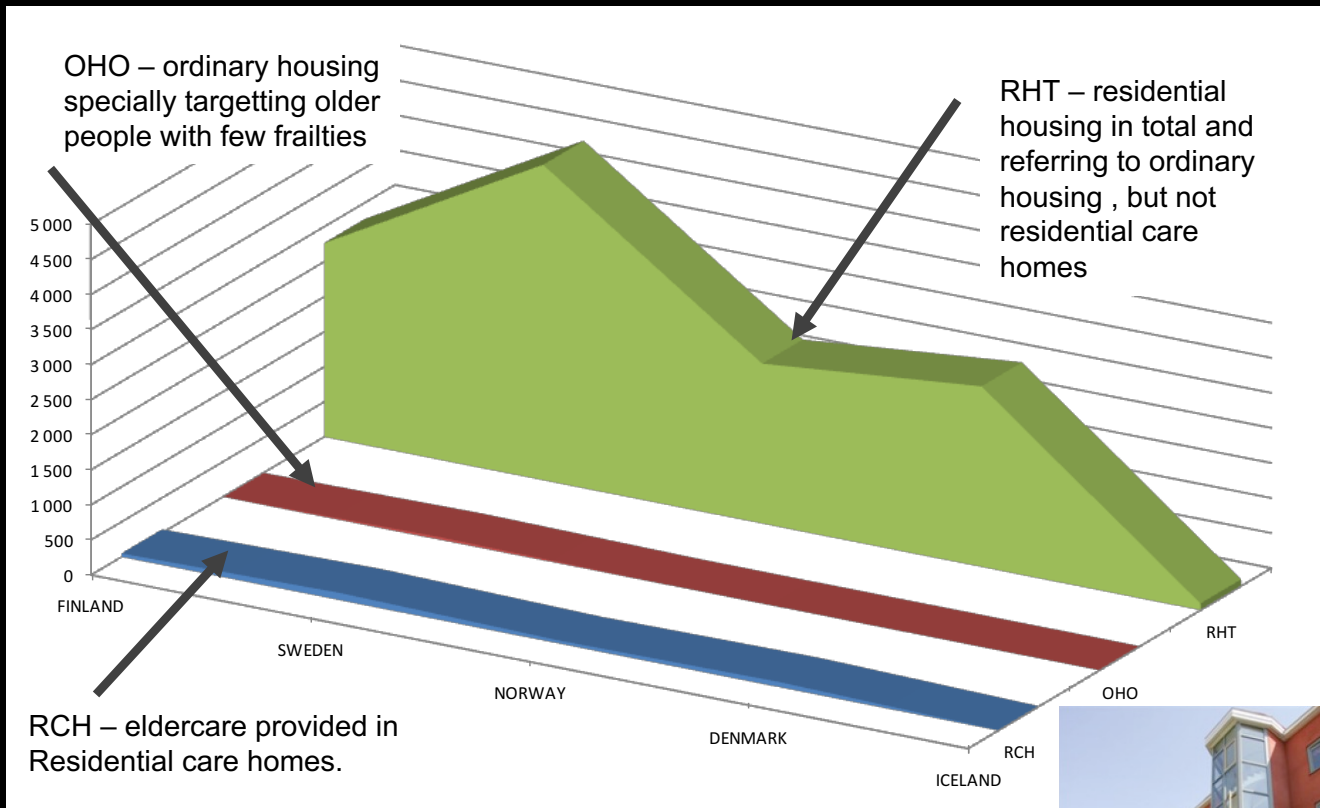
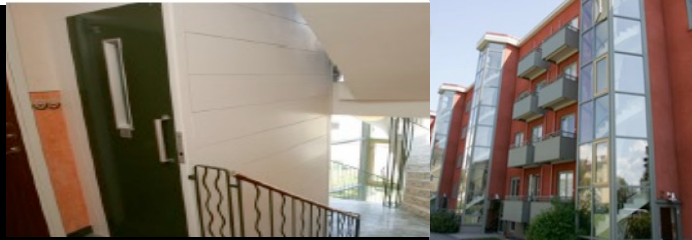


Image: Hissförbundet, 2016: Fakta om att efterinstallera hiss i flerbostadshus. [Facts about retro-installing elevators in residential housing. Swedish Association of lifts and escalators]. Stockholm: Hissförbundet. Graph: Jonas E. Andersson



- state investments in innovating housing for older people, i.e. Living well, Growing old (architectural competitions and case study projects on housing aspects);
- exploration of housing conditions in the existing residential architecture prior to 1975 and the introduction of accessibility as a spatial parameter for producing housing accessible for everyone regardless of age or disability issues;
- Proposals for reforming the existing building act and introduce state subsidies for retro-installations of elevators.

## 5. ageing in place with assistive technologies

# 5. ageing with assistive technologies



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Images: Swedish Agency for Participation



conclusion

The positive effects of the Swedish welfare society on longevity promote a view on ageing as a type of self-realisation process, in which age is never an obstacle, but always an asset. Sweden is on the verge of changing ageing as a chronological factor into viewing ageing in terms of maintaining functional capacities.

**Many think it's difficult.**

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<http://www.mfd.se/valfardsteknologi/>



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***thank you for your attention***

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