Roberto Scaramuzzino
PhD candidate, Faculty of Health and Society, Malmö University

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Title: The Civil Dialogue Model on Integration in Sweden – The participation of immigrant organizations, a question of influence, cooperation and conflicts

Abstract:

This seminar deals with the civil dialogue model on integration in Sweden which was initiated by the Swedish government in January 2009 and resulted 1.5 years later in a written document. The dialogue process has involved three parties, i.e. The Swedish Government, Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting (SKL - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) and civil society organisations (CSO) that are involved in the field of integration. The study analyses the participation of immigrant organisations in the dialogue process and the way in which their strategies meet different sets of factors such as the starting conditions of the dialogue, the institutional design and the leadership. Immigrant organisations participate in the dialogue process both as representatives of the sector vis-a-vis the government and SKL and as representatives of their specific perspectives, organisation, group etc. vis-a-vis other CSOs. The study shows how immigrant organisations do not speak with one voice, they rather choose different strategies and positions and respond in different ways to the three sets of factors.