

ISF Report 2013:3

## Co-operate in order to facilitate rehabilitation

A study of how the development and implementation of a renewed model for co-operation between The Swedish Social Insurance Agency and the Swedish Public Employment Service are being conducted

Swedish Social Insurance Inspectorate

Stockholm 2013

© Inspektionen för socialförsäkringen

# Summary

The Swedish Social Insurance Inspectorate (Inspektionen för socialförsäkringen, ISF) is an independent supervisory agency for the Swedish social insurance system. The objectives of the agency are to strengthen compliance with legislation and other statutes and to improve the efficiency of the social insurance system through system supervision and efficiency analysis and evaluation.

The ISF's work is mainly conducted on a project basis and is commissioned by the Government or initiated autonomously by the agency. This report has been commissioned by the Government.

## *Background*

The Swedish Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) and the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) cooperate in order to facilitate rehabilitation and return to work for people who are dependent on the sickness insurance system. For the past seven years the two agencies have used a set model for their co-operation, but due to changes in legislation in recent years, a need has arisen to update the model. The agencies were commissioned by the Government in 2011 to develop their co-operation further so that early interventions could be made, enabling rehabilitation measures in order to support individuals' return to work process.

## *Objectives*

The ISF has been commissioned by the Government to carry out a study of how the development and implementation of a renewed model for co-operation between the agencies are being conducted. Since the ISF is carrying out its study simultaneously with the agencies' development and implementation of the new model, the emphasis has been on the two agencies' central levels of bureaucracy. Two main questions are addressed in this report.

- How are the agencies developing their co-operation and what does it encompass?
- Does the enhanced model contribute to increased possibilities for cooperation involving the individual?

### *Method*

This study uses a qualitative method. Relevant documents from the agencies were revised in order to map out the process. Since the two agencies have largely been given the task of identifying and formulating their own policy, a model of the policy process was used to classify the documents. The documents were then sorted into chronological order. Semi-structured interviews with representatives from both agencies were also conducted as a supplement to the study of documents.

### *Findings*

The ISF can conclude that the agencies have responded to their mission for the most part. They have developed the model for co-operation in such a way that it improves the possibility for early intervention and offers rehabilitation measures at an earlier stage than before. This has also had the effect that the group of people who could be offered rehabilitation measures has become larger.

Another feature of the model is that it enables better opportunities for sharing relevant information between the agencies, the individual and the other parties (for example, health services and employers) concerned.

However, these major feature changes in the co-operation model are not captured in the data, which is of concern when it comes to following up and evaluating the change in policy. The ISF also finds that the development and changes made could all have been carried out within the realm of the previous model.

The ISF will continue to study the co-operation and implementation of the new model within the agencies on a regional and local level.