

# Social Dialogue Gender Equality

21 April 2015 Henrik Stålspets - Swedish performing Arts





- Swedish Performing Arts the Swedish employers organization for the Performing Arts
- 100 organizations and companies in the field of theatre, music, and dance
- Create the best possible conditions in order for our member organizations to carry out their activities both nationally and internationally

#### Why is gender equality so interesting?



 gender equality contributes to more successful organizations

 gender equality is important for society at large, and here the performing arts institutions have a double responsibility – to embody gender equality in their own place of work and to challenge audiences to do the same in their lives

 Sweden's reputation of gender equality

- The performing arts, in no way best in class
- "art needs to be free" (yeah, right...)

Diversity is a factor for success!



 Representative for the employer or for the employee; different points of entry

 Laws that govern employer responsability; antidiscrimination

Awareness of discrimination

Importance of seminars, discussions and training

Increasing focus since (around) the year 2000

Questions raised by the owners

A study made by the Swedish Government; men had greater acess to necessary resources than women

The Swedish Arts Council strengthening gender equality

What have we done as employers' representative?

- Leadership education for future leaders within the performing arts; women only!
- Today more or less 50/50
- Positive spiral

In 2013, similar leadership program within the music life ("Spela Jämnt"); women only!

 Enable more women to high positions within the musical life

Also a very positive feedback

All directors/management are key individuals

Gender equality checklist

- A result of cooperation between employers and employees
- Creating a living dialogue and a constant questioning
- Available in English, <u>www.svenskscenkonst.se</u>



Checklist regarding diversity in a broader sense

- Including other grounds of discrimination such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, age etc.
- Concluded in 2014
- A result of a common working group with the union
- Directors and management in the working group

Other examples:

Panel discussion at Swedish Performing Arts annual meeting (gender equality and diversity)

The Göteborg Opera, review of policy documents and of the rehearsal process

Not only collaborations; pay attention to and respect our different point of views

 As employer you have certain obligations and you must be able to take responsability and handle difficult situations

A centralized organization might be able to support

Future perspective

 Gender equality/diversity is natural and must be treated as a positive challenge

