

Sustainable procurement in School Food – comparing UK with Sweden and Denmark



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- **My background -**
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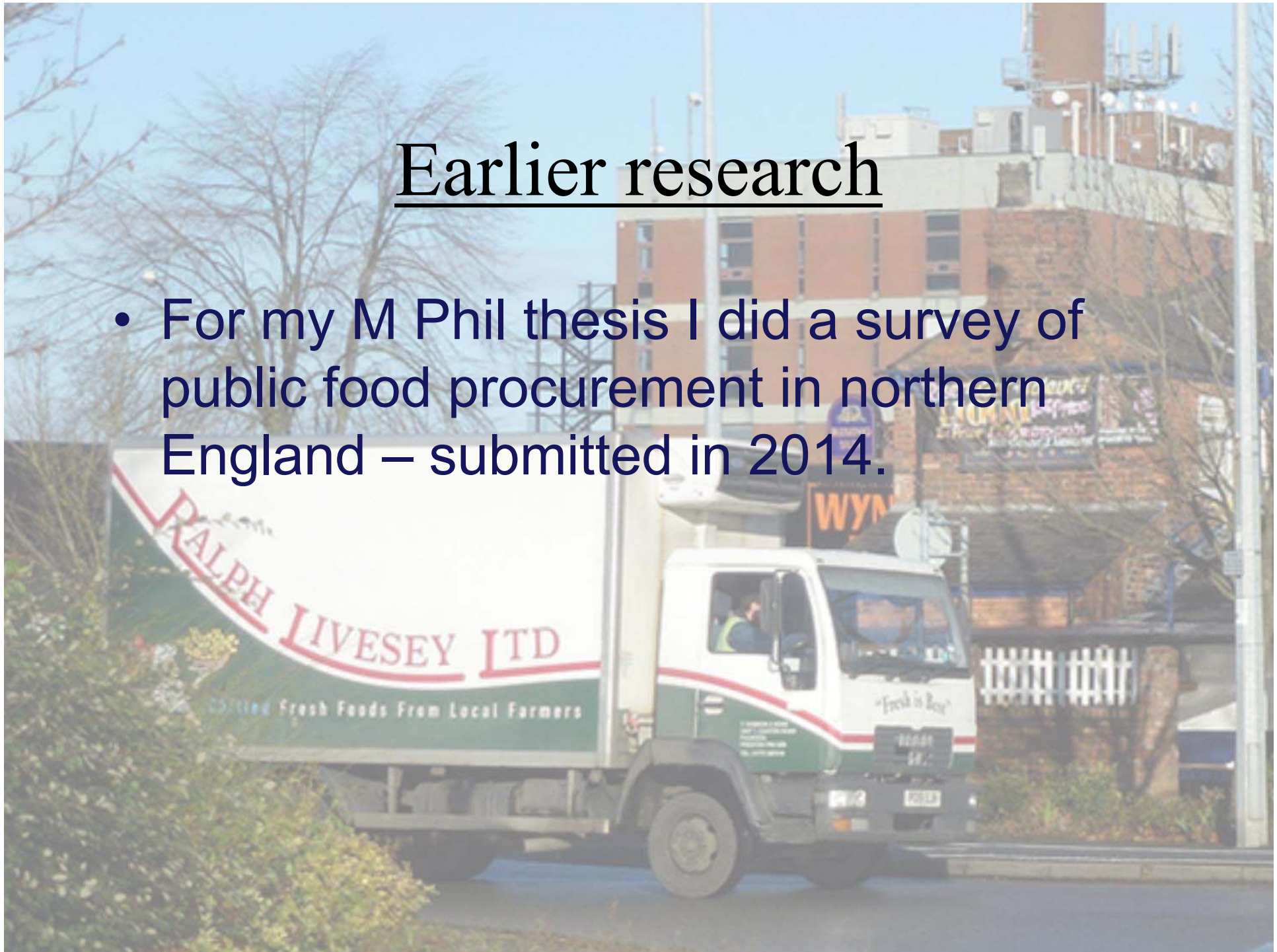
The Research

- Compares sustainable food procurement policies for public catering – particularly schools and nurseries – also elderly care and hospitals
- Assess and explain policy similarities and differences between the countries



Earlier research

- For my M Phil thesis I did a survey of public food procurement in northern England – submitted in 2014.



A photograph of children and an adult looking at horses in a paddock. The scene is outdoors with a fence in the foreground and trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

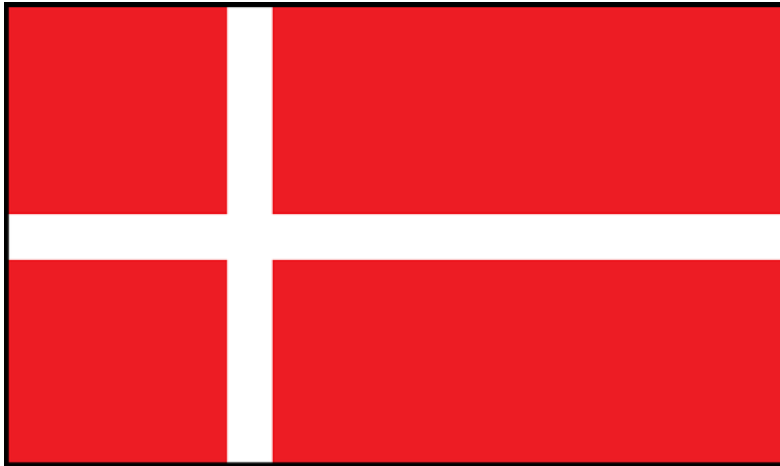
Public food provision

Sweden - national system of free meals at nurseries and schools. Since 1997. Also elderly food.

Denmark: Most public food is for elderly. No national provision for children. Some kommuner provide food in schools and/or nurseries. Most parents pay for food – some subsidy

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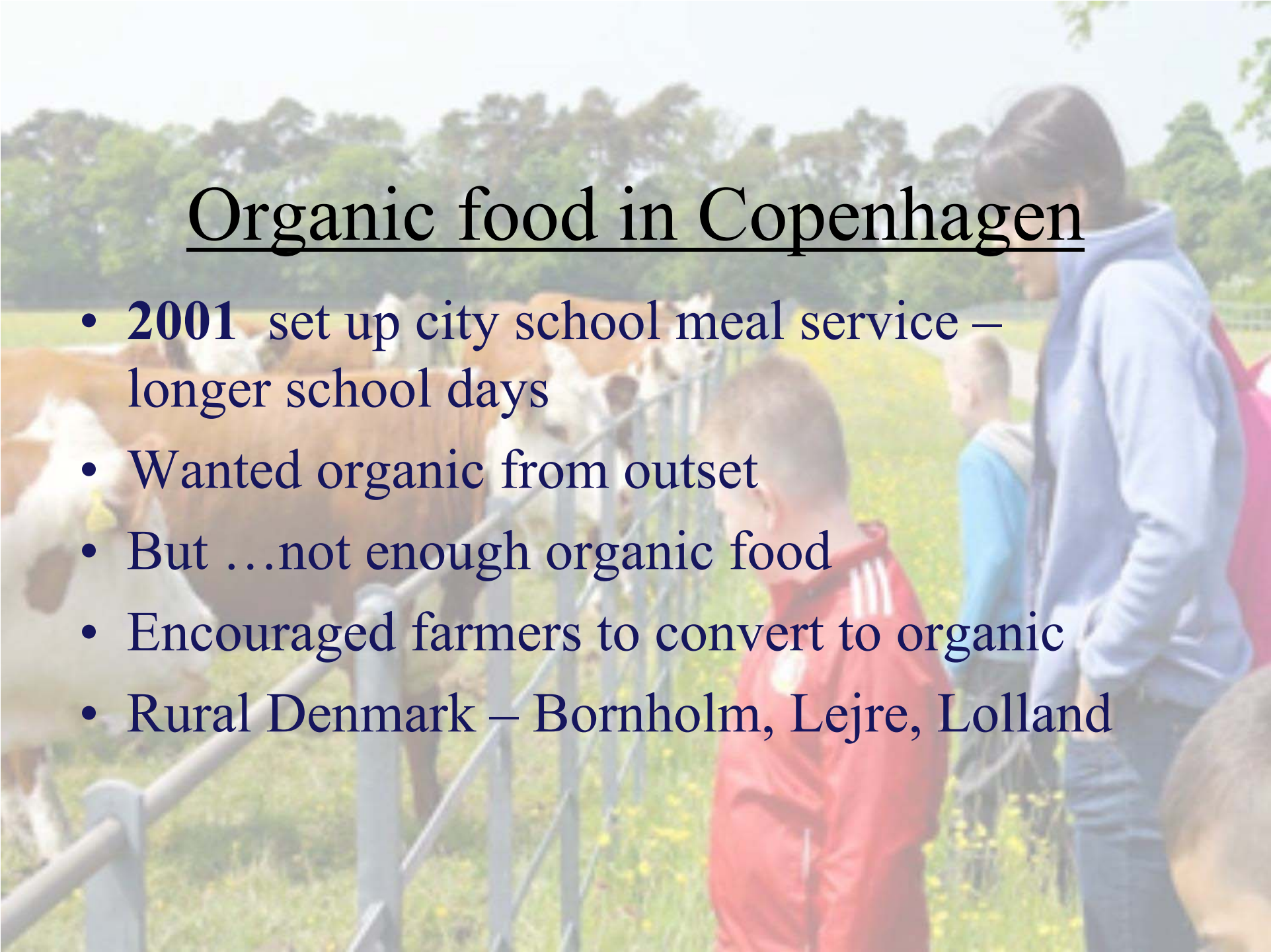
Denmark



Denmark – major food exporter

- bacon and butter
- growing animal feed
- drinking water
polluted – pesticides,
herbicides & fertilizer
- growth of organic
agriculture to protect
water



A photograph of a woman and two children in a field with cows behind a fence. The woman is on the right, wearing a blue hoodie and dark pants. A child in a red jacket is in the foreground, and another child in a blue jacket is behind them. The cows are behind a metal fence in a grassy field with trees in the background.

Organic food in Copenhagen

- **2001** set up city school meal service – longer school days
- Wanted organic from outset
- But ...not enough organic food
- Encouraged farmers to convert to organic
- Rural Denmark – Bornholm, Lejre, Lolland

Copenhagen – 90% target

- 2007 51%
- City Council - unanimous vote for 90% target
- Achieved 2016 - within same budget
- Training & advice – **Copenhagen House of Food – critical role**



Copenhagen House of Food 2007



Can you afford to buy organic on a public budget?

- **Simple Substitution of organic for conventional food**
- 6m euros pa – 15% annual budget increase
- **Organic conversion within a fixed budget.** Cost 6m euros over 10 years for training & consultancy by Copenhagen House of Food

Anya Hultberg

Presentation Brussels

November 2012

Organic conversion – Danish model (Copenhagen)

Totally reorganise the public kitchen:

- Produce all meals from base in the kitchen
- Use fresh and raw foods
- Use local and seasonal foods
- Limit meat consumption
- Increase the volume of plant-based foods
- Reduce food waste

Sørensen, N. N., Tetens, I., Lassen, A. D., & Løje, H. (2016).
Organic food conversion in Danish public kitchens:



Organic Conversion

- Mapping of existing kitchen budget
- & current production system and user demand
- Reformulate menus – less meat
- Advance cooking-skills
- Education on recipes using local and seasonal foods, less traditional ingredients
- Education on nutritional content of menus and user needs
- Plan re-use of leftovers – minimise waste

Danish Tastemark/Spisemærke

- Launched 2009
- % organic in large kitchens
- Bronze 30-60
- Silver 60-90
- Gold 90-100





90-100% økologi



60-90% økologi



30-60% økologi

UDVIKLINGEN I ANTAL AF KØKKENER MED ET ØKOLOGISK SPISEMÆRKE







Danish Organic Action Plan, 2015-2018

Grants to kommuner for organic conversion

- Goal – 60% organic food in public kitchens by 2020 within existing budgets.
- Grants to 31 of 98 kommuner
- Organic conversion consultancy and training by Copenhagen House of Food & other consultants

A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket and a woman in a blue hoodie are looking towards a group of cows. The cows are behind a metal fence. The background shows a green field and trees under a clear sky.

18 June 2015 Danish election

- Centre-right coalition elected
- Venstre - conventional farmers
- Cut organic conversion grants

A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a metal fence runs across the frame. Behind the fence, several children are looking towards a group of cows. One child in the foreground is wearing a red jacket, and another child further back is wearing a blue jacket. The cows are of various colors, including brown and white. The background shows a grassy field and a line of trees under a clear sky.

However

- Regions fund organic conversion in hospitals
- ERDF funding - organic conversion & local food
- 2017 local elections – campaign for organic food

The background image is a blurred photograph of a farm. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket is looking towards a group of people and animals. To his right, a woman in a blue hoodie is looking down. In the background, there are several people, including a man in a blue jacket, and a group of animals, possibly cows or horses, behind a metal fence. The setting is outdoors with trees and a clear sky in the distance.

Spending cuts but organic grows

- 2% pa cuts to commune budgets
- Organic food not generally affected
- Political commitment
- Hospital – 25% cut in kitchen budget
- Consultant – found savings to maintain organic catering mark

Organic market growth

- Export success –
Germany, Sweden
- Higher volumes =
greater availability &
cheaper
- Organic more
affordable



Centralised Procurement

- National contract – conventional & organic food at a low price
- National wholesaler
- Some kommuner also buy from local suppliers



A photograph of a woman and a child in a red jacket looking at cows behind a metal fence in a field. The woman is wearing a blue hoodie and the child is wearing a red jacket. They are standing in a grassy field with yellow flowers. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

General Election - May 2019

- New Social Democrat-led government
- increasing public spending
- Climate change - reducing GHG emissions
- Support for organic
- Copenhagen and Aarhus - reducing meat & dairy in public kitchens

Copenhagen & Aarhus

- Two biggest cities
 - push to reduce carbon footprint by reducing meat & dairy in public kitchens



Sweden



Sweden

- History – exports of forest products, minerals, machinery
- Self-sufficient in food – protected market
- Joined EU in 1994
- Government wanted to cut high food prices by encouraging cheaper imports



The background image is a blurred photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a person in a red jacket is partially visible, looking towards the left. To their right, another person in a blue jacket is standing. In the background, there are several white and brown cows behind a metal fence. The setting appears to be a grassy field with trees in the distance under a bright sky.

Sweden

- Encouraging organic agriculture mid-1980s
- Taxes on fertilizer and pesticide usage and subsidies for organic producers since 1989
- Encouraging organic food in public kitchens
- 2005 – govt announced 25 per cent target
- 2004 4% organic food
- 2008 10% organic food

Ekomatcentrum - promoting organic food in public kitchens

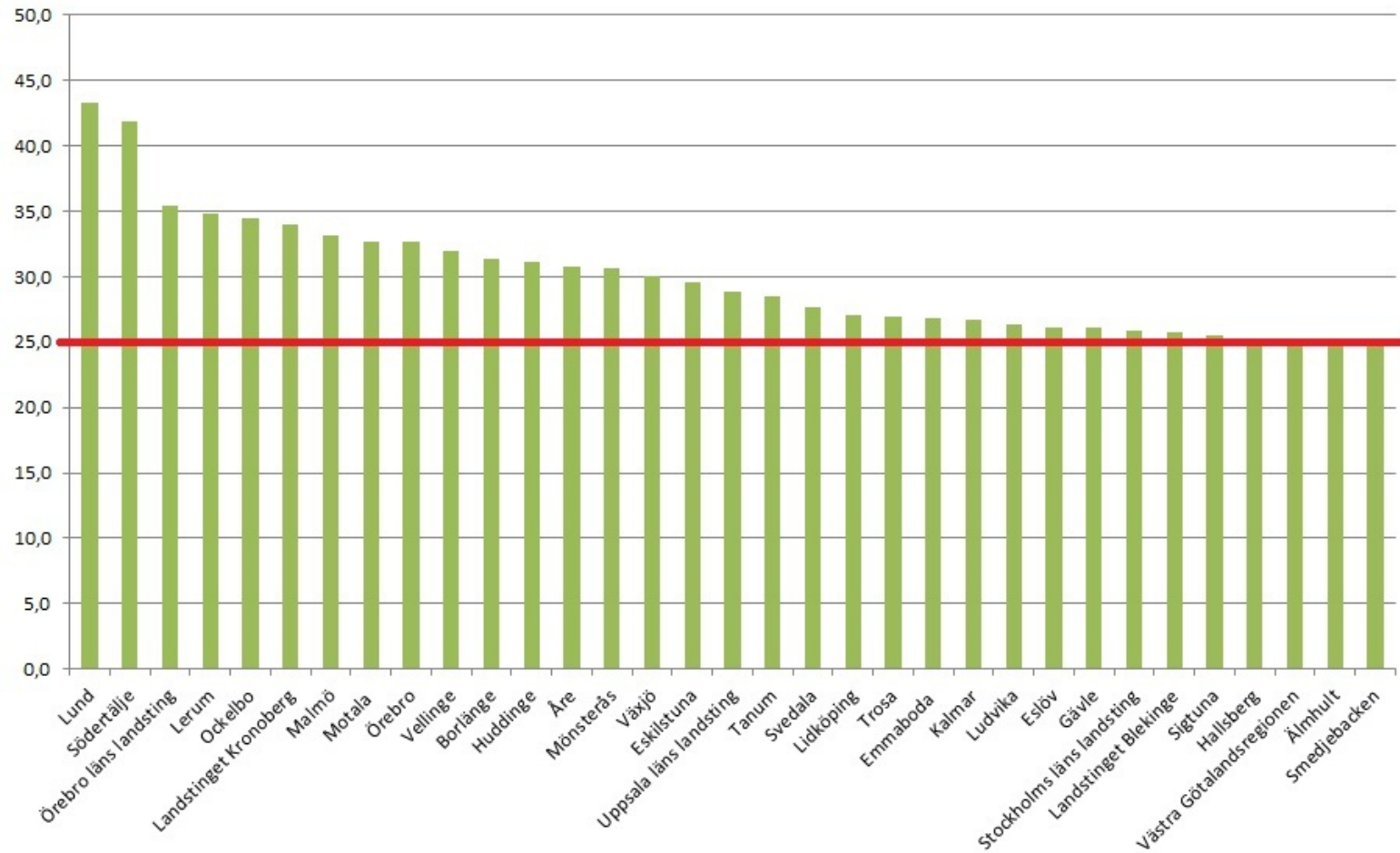


The background image shows a farm scene with several people and cows. A woman in a blue jacket is in the foreground on the right, looking towards the left. In the center, a child in a red jacket is looking down. To the left, a man in a white shirt is reaching towards a cow. The scene is outdoors with trees and a fence in the background.

Organic food campaign - league tables and awards

- From 2008 regular reports on organic food with figures from individual kommuner
- Culture in Sweden – supporting voluntary initiatives, league tables, awards
- Transparency - willingness to publicly disclose info about how much organic food you are purchasing

2011 LEAGUE TABLE



A photograph of a woman and a child looking at cows in a field. The woman is wearing a blue jacket and the child is wearing a red jacket. They are standing behind a metal fence. In the background, there are several cows of different colors (brown, white, black) in a green field. The sky is blue and there are trees in the distance.

De-centralized campaign for organic food

- Not led by Stockholm
- De-centralised country
- Large number of very small local authorities 290 kommunes, 33,000 average population
- Smaller cities can take a lead

Small municipalities in Sweden can be sustainability leaders



- Vaxjo
- Population 66,000
- “Green Capital of Europe”
- 42% organic food
- Expect to increase organic to 80%

Lund (pop 91,000)



- Organic food percentage
- 1998 0 pc pilot in one school
- 2002 3 pc
- 2004 10 pc
- 2006 adoption of 40% goal [all politicians]
- 2010 38 pc
- 2019 over 80 & aiming at 100 pc by 2020
- **How are these changes being achieved?**



Organic conversion – same as Danish model (Copenhagen)

Re-organise the public kitchen:

- Produce all meals from base in the kitchen
- Use fresh and raw foods
- Use local and seasonal foods
- Limit meat consumption
- Increase the volume of plant-based foods
- Reduce food waste

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Organic food conversion in Danish public kitchens:

The background image is a blurred photograph of a farm scene. It shows several people, including a woman in a blue hoodie and a child in a red jacket, standing near a metal fence. In the background, there are white sheep and a brown horse. The setting appears to be an outdoor farm area with trees in the distance.

National government policies

- **June 2017:** First national food strategy
- Minimize imports & boost exports
- Encouraging organic and Swedish food
- Early 2018: Organic action plan adopted – 30 % of agricultural land to be organic and 60% organic food in public kitchens,
- Voluntary targets promoted by funding package.

A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket and a woman in a blue jacket are looking towards a group of cows behind a metal fence. The cows are of various colors, including brown and white. The background shows a green field and trees under a clear sky.

Rapid growth in organic food in public kitchens

- 2015-2018
- Also big increase in Swedish organic food
- Still a considerable gap – substantial level of imports
- Lund in 2019 – 82% organic and 52% Swedish organic – highest in Sweden.

De-centralized procurement

- 290 communes
- Only 14 above 100,000 population
- 170 below 20,000 population
- Such communes can procure independently
- Typical arrangement – Sodertalje (96,000) buys food with five smaller communes.
Total population = 183,000



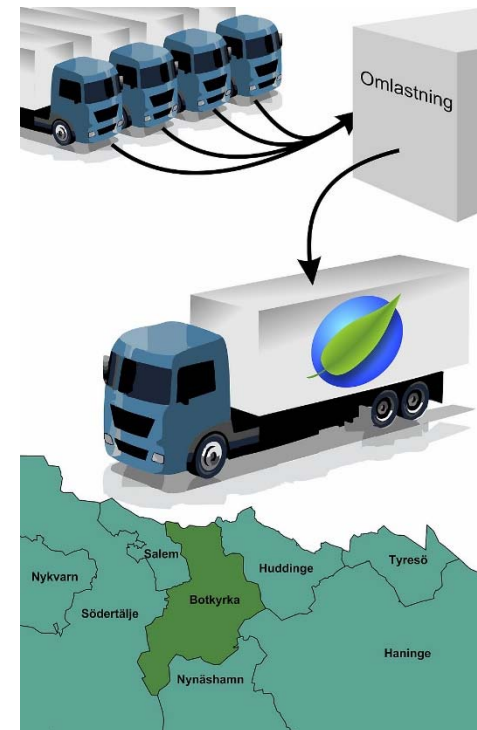
Encouraging local producers

- Smaller communes – small contract size and informal contact with suppliers
- Vaxjo organic egg tender 2019 – pop 66,000 – contract £600,000/2 years Lotted by neighbourhood. Awarded to local supplier.
- **Lotting**
- **Co-ordinated distribution**

Co-ordinated distribution



- Pioneered by Borlange (pop 51,000)
- Single distribution centre for municipal food & supplies
- Reduces vehicle movements
- Help small suppliers?
- Developed by Vaxjo (66,000) & Ystad (28,000)
- Promoted nationally and internationally



Innovation

- Developing new and more sustainable protein sources
- Growing legumes in Denmark & Sweden to replace imported soya from South America
- New plant-based foods developed – sale to public kitchens – Sweden & Denmark

General Election - September 2018

- Red-Green minority government survives – after four months of negotiations
- 60 pc organic target for public kitchens continues at national level - voluntary



A photograph of a farm scene. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket and a woman in a light blue hoodie are looking towards a group of cows behind a metal fence. The cows are of various colors, including brown and white. The background shows a green field and trees under a bright sky.

Replacing organic by Swedish?

- Changes of political control resulting from 2018 kommune elections
- Lund & Gothenburg - organic targets removed
- Giving more business to Swedish producers of conventional food – high animal welfare standards



Climate Change is the new priority

Emphasis now on

- Reducing meat & dairy - two meatless days a week in some places.
- Reducing food waste – first national survey

A blurred background image of a farm scene. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket is looking towards a group of cows behind a metal fence. To his right, a woman in a light blue jacket is also looking towards the cows. The background shows a green field with yellow flowers and a line of trees under a bright sky.

Comparisons with UK [i]

- **Similar cooking practices**
- Cooking from fresh ingredients
- Seasonal menus
- Meat reduction – esp Sweden, Denmark lagging?
- Waste reduction – UK ahead of Sweden?
- **Some shared distribution arrangements**

The background image is a blurred photograph of a farm. In the foreground, a young boy in a red jacket is looking towards a group of cows behind a metal fence. To his right, a woman in a blue jacket is also looking towards the cows. The background shows a green field with more cows and trees under a bright sky.

Comparisons with UK [ii]

- **Different government policies**
- Political support for organic
- Council funding
- Outsourcing of public kitchens – very limited
- **Large scale of most public food procurement** - city, regional or sub-regional contracts YPO ESPO

Influence on the rest of Europe

- Growth of organic food in public kitchens in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland
- Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg & Berlin
(*setting up House of Food modelled on Copenhagen*)
- France – new law requiring 20% organic food in public kitchens



Any questions?

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