

Sweden national report 2016-2018

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The organization representing TICCIH in Sweden is Svenska industriminnesföreningen (SIM) / The Swedish Industrial Heritage Association. SIM is a network for industrial heritage professionals with the objective to support research, preservation and conservation efforts within the field of industrial heritage. It cooperates with ICOMOS Sweden, Europa Nostra Sweden, and other organizations in Sweden dealing with heritage. All members of SIM are members of TICCIH.

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Executive summary in English

Industry in Sweden has been dominated by branches utilizing raw materials available in the country – mining, forest, energy – but also engineering, chemicals, food and ICT. The country has been subject to de-industrialization in recent decades. Some legacies of former industry have been subject to heritagization processes, official and unofficial. Over the reporting period 2016-18, state agencies and authorities on regional and local levels have been running a number of large projects aimed at promoting IH. The Swedish TICCIH sections work has focused on handing out the annual prize “The industrial heritage site of the year”. Universities and industry related research organizations have also started up major research projects on IH.

1. Industrial Heritage in Sweden

Industry in Sweden has been dominated by branches utilizing raw materials available in the country – mining, steel, other metals industries, pulp-, paper- and saw mills and energy (hydro- and nuclear). Another prominent branch is the engineering industry and in recent decades industries producing hard- and software within ICT. A range of other industries have grown and declined – textiles, chemicals, food to name a few. In a manner similar to the rest of the western world, rationalization and globalization has led to a de-industrialization in Sweden since the mid-1970's, leaving derelict industrial areas and transformed landscapes behind. Many of these have been removed or transformed in regeneration projects, others have simply been left behind while some have been subject to heritagization processes.

2. Actors

The organizations in industrial heritage (IH) in Sweden can be divided into official and unofficial heritage actors. On the official side, The Swedish National Heritage Board (RAÄ), an agency of the Swedish government, are responsible for all heritage on the national level. They work with industrial heritage under the broader category of “the heritage of modern society”. They support SIM and other industrial heritage initiatives. On the regional level, the county administrative boards are responsible for heritage preservation. The boards involvement with IH has declined. On the local level, the municipalities are in charge of heritage preservation, including IH, which they conduct as a part of regular municipal planning. Related to this are builders, architect firms and consultancies who deal with industrial heritage through their involvement in various urban and rural regeneration projects. Other official heritage actors are some of the museums in Sweden – Tekniska museet, Textilmuseet, Nordiska Museet, Statens Maritima Museer, Arbetets museum, Trafikverkets museer, Ekomuseum Bergslagen and a number of county museums.

There is also a number of actors in the unofficial heritage sphere who deal with industrial heritage, networks such as Industrihistoria i Skåne and Industrihistoria i väst and various archives. Others are organizations within trade and industry. A vital group are the working life museums, in 2017 about 1500.

3. Heritage preservation projects 2016-2018

In the sphere of official heritage, two major industrial heritage projects stand out. The first is “Gruvuppdraget” (the mine mission), which RAÄ conducted as a part of the Swedish government mineral strategy. The objective was to develop new ways of using mines listed as cultural heritage, as tools to achieve local development. The project ended in 2017 and generated a collection of reports (downloadable <http://samla.raa.se/xmlui/discover>). The second is “Bergslagssatningen” 2007-2017, a large-scale project funded by the county administrative boards in the Bergslagen mining and steel industry region of central south Sweden, and the EU, with the objective to develop heritage tourism, first and foremost involving former industrial sites. The project has also had a R&D group, with representatives from five universities in the region, conducting research and giving lectures. The project generated a number of publications (<http://fou-anslag.raa.se/raa/default.asp?goto=raa.A&eid=Nzk1QjA4MDQxMDc5NUMwODAwMTA3ODQyMDgwMzAwMDkwOTE1Nzg3NDA0MDMwNDA4MDIwNUVC>). A follow up project is currently under way.

Other significant projects in the period are “Digital Models. Techno-historical collections, digital humanities & narratives of industrialisation” (funded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, between 2016-19) – a collaboration

between the Swedish National Museum of Science and Technology and the digital humanities hub, HUMlab at Umeå University. Based on selected parts of the museum's collections, the project aims to explore the potential of digital technologies to reframe Swedish industrialization and its stories about society, people and environments (<http://digitalamodeller.se/in-english/>). The museum has also been running a project aiming to develop the remains of the Ågesta Nuclear Plant – the first commercial nuclear plant in Sweden opening 1963 – as IH. The project was exhibited at a joint TICCIH – ICOMOS conference in 2017 (<https://www.icomos.de/index.php?lang=Deutsch&contentid=153&navid=223&detail=ja&newsid=358>) and publications are under way. Other projects at the same museum are the exhibitions “I’m Alive – Life, Death and Mobile Technology” and “Digital Now #4 : #metoo”, the former exploring refugees usage of smart phones (<https://www.tekniskamuseet.se/en/discover/exhibitions/im-alive/>), and the latter an art visualization of social media testimonies in the recent me too movement (<https://www.tekniskamuseet.se/en/discover/exhibitions/digital-now/>)

Actors in the heritage sphere in Sweden, including SIM, have also taken initiatives to save historical remains under threat of being demolished. A particularly important category are historic industrial sites located close to waterways in Sweden, which are under the threat of being demolished on a grand scale as a consequence of the EU Water Framework Directive, which requires member states to open up migration routes for fish in inland waterways.

SIM has also taken other initiative over the 2015-18 period, the most important of these being to award the prize “The Industrial Heritage site of the year”. SIM has awarded this prize since 1995, but over the last two years SIM have developed the criteria for awarding it by putting more emphasis on the way heritage organizations use and narrate their industrial heritage, rather than simply paying attention to the technology and level of preservation. SIM uses the prize as a tool for promoting IH projects which deal with important societal issues, in particular those relating to global goals for sustainable development. The prize tends to draw substantial media attention and the prize ceremony always involve participation from high level officials from regional authorities, making it a valuable tool for the awarded heritage projects in their efforts to raise financial and political support. In 2016 SIM awarded the prize to the paper mill heritage site Lessebo pappersbruk, which has produced handmade paper since the early 18th century, for their successful efforts to combine careful conservation with entrepreneurship. In 2017 the organization awarded the prize to the Långban mining heritage site, for their innovative way of using industrial heritage as a resource for the integration of refugees. Finally, in 2018, SIM gave the prize to a Dalslands kanal (a canal) for not only their impressive way of both using and preserving the canal, but also

for promoting water related IH at a time when such sites are under increasing threat from the above mentioned EU Water Framework Directive.

4. Heritage research

University based academic research on industrial heritage takes place at xx universities in Sweden – KTH-Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, University of Gothenburg, LTU-Luleå Technological University, Dalarna University, Karlstad University and Södertörn University. In the period 2015-18, KTH has secured some 5 MEUR from funding agencies in the Nordic countries (Mistra, Nordic Council of Ministers, NordForsk, Swedish research council, Formas), for research projects on legacies of industry, dealing with history, heritage, and remediation. The largest initiative is REXSAC – Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities – a Nordic center of excellence for Arctic research led by KTH, Stockholm University and Stockholm Environment Institute together with 12 partner institutions in the Nordic countries, North America and Russia (www.rexsac.org). In the field of industrial heritage REXSAC explores under which circumstances legacies of resource extraction can be a resource for building sustainable post-extraction futures (<https://www.kth.se/profile/avango/page/mining-heritage-as-a-resource-for-sustainable-communities>).

Two major research projects has focused on the legacies and heritage of nuclear power. At Södertörns University, the project “Nuclear legacies: negotiating radioactivity in France, Russia and Sweden”, has explored different ways of understanding and dealing with closed nuclear power stations (<https://nuclearlegacies.wordpress.com/>). At Stockholm University, the project “Atomic Heritage goes Critical: Waste, Community and Nuclear Imaginaries” is under way, exploring atomic power as heritage from a critical heritage perspective.

Other projects has studied the role of industrial heritage in urban transformation. Two of those at Gothenburg University has explored the role of industrial heritage in urban re-generation in Gothenburg (Visionens makt: Industrimiljöer, integrerade kulturarv och stadens omvandling) and related challenges with gentrification. One, based at LTU, has focused on heritagization and de-heritagisation in the transformation of the Arctic mining town Kiruna.

A number of research projects has dealt with IH related tourism. Dalarna Högskola is running the project Ecultours 2018-2020, which aims to improve students' skills, knowledge and employability within cultural heritage tourism, using the Falun copper mine world heritage site as a case study. At Karlstad University, The Centre for Regional Studies (CRS) has led a project dealing with the great changes in the tourism industry as an effect of digitalization – the changing conditions for how the industry communicates with visitors and how visitors experience destinations. This has an effect on how the industry uses and narrates industrial heritage sites. The overriding aim is to

stimulate new knowledge, interaction, generation of ideas and synergy effects between academia and industry through development and innovation processes (<https://www.kau.se/en/centre-regional-studies>)

Another organization conducting research on industrial heritage is The Swedish Steel Producers Association, focusing on the history of mining and metallurgy as well as the protection of related heritage sites. An important effort is their Atlas project, which aim to publish reports with archaeological and historical data pertaining to the medieval history of mining and metallurgy in Sweden. By linking material remains with cartographic records and historical information, the reports are a resource both for research and for heritage protection (<http://www.jernkontoret.se/en/research--education/research-in-the-history-of-metallurgy/>).

In addition, there are a number of actors outside of academia professional organisations conducting research and publishing in books and pamphlets – working life museums and popular history authors.

5. Publications

The list of publications on IH in Sweden 2016-2018 is long and available the Swedish industrial heritage association home page (<http://www.sim.se/dokument>).

6. Industrial heritage

Prominent IH sites in Sweden are available at the Swedish industrial heritage association home page (http://www.sim.se/industrihistoriska_miljoer)