The Language Council contributes to a plain language framework in Sweden

The Language Council is a department of the Institute for Language and Folklore, the central government agency regarding language issues. The Language Council focuses on language policy and language planning, and has a mission to encourage the use of plain language within public agencies and municipalities.

An essential means for reaching out is our network of plain language contacts, representing nearly 400 public agencies and municipalities, all over Sweden. This network mainly consists of people who have been designated by their director-general, to be the Language Council’s plain language contact.

We encourage our contacts to initiate plain language projects within their agencies or municipalities, in many ways. For instance, we offer seminars on how to start – and maintain – plain language work.

We also give advice, over the phone and by e-mail, on how to start plain language work, on how to convince their superiors to finance a plain language project, and on how to implement plain language work into their routine activities. We also offer free linguistic consultation five days a week, between 9 and 12 a.m.

We regularly give lectures, in agencies and municipalities all over Sweden (about 30 lectures in 2010).

We also publish a quarterly journal on plain Swedish, distributed to some 3,000 subscribers.

Once a year, we organize a major conference, focusing on recent research and language policy. As a highlight, this all-day conference ends with no less than two prize awards, one of which is emphasizing plain language work.

This award, the Plain Language Crystal, has been assigned to state agencies and municipalities all over Sweden since 1998. The annual award ceremony is always conducted by a minister. It draws attention to plain language matters, and adds certain glamour to plain language work. The Plain Language Crystal award is something worth striving for!

For more information, please contact the Language Council of Sweden.
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