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# The Sweden America Center changes its name

## An old institution expands its operations

The Sweden America Center in Karlstad, Sweden, recently decided to change its name to *The Swedish Migration Center* which better tells about the Center's present direction.

One of the goals for the Center is to study both migration from and to Sweden. The institution has been studying the "Great emigration" of the period of 1845–1930, a work of utmost importance to understand why, how, and when this happened.

The results have been very helpful to individuals that have wanted to find out about their own family members. This work will continue on many levels.

But Sweden is these days also an immigration country, and the history of these "new Swedes" must also be preserved. This is one of the new ambitions of the Swedish Migration

Center, so there will be documentation of the origins for people from all parts of the world. This will be available when their descendants become interested in their own history. It is necessary with a special institution of this kind, so people will know where they should ask their questions.

The Center has the last years used parallels from the historical migration while working on school projects, which has been a fruitful way of showing that migration is something that is always going on, that impacts people all over the world.

That it is important to increase the knowledge about migration is clearly seen in society today. There is an ongoing debate about questions on migration and integration. These are often complicated questions that need



a stable basis for decision-making. Through documentation of the experiences of immigrants we will create such material. We always carry our background – the knowledge gathered by the Swedes that emigrated to get a better life.

*(Press release 2013 Sep. 13)*

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