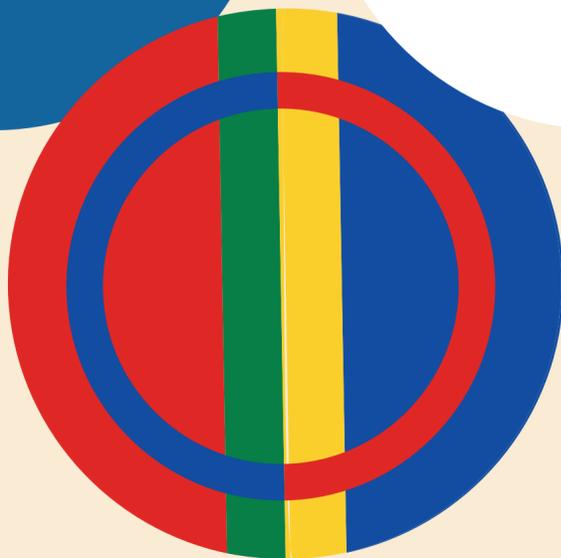


# The Official Minority Languages of Sweden



- Finnish
- Sami
- Yiddish
- Romani
- Meänkieli

## Swedish policies on cultural minorities

Laws aim to promote and preserve the minority languages. The status of the official minority languages is regulated in several laws and provisions:

### Language Act (2009:600)

Regulates the right to develop a cultural identity and to use the minority language.

### Education Act (2010:800)

Regulates the right to minority language mother tongue education. Mother tongue instruction may also be provided in other languages.

### Pre-school curriculum

The national curriculum for pre-school education (i.e. in kindergarten) states that the pre-schools are obliged to provide a basis for a minority language child to develop both Swedish and their mother tongue.

### The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

is incorporated in several laws and regulations.

Article 30: In those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin live, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practise his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

## Language and cultural identity

The minority languages shall be promoted to be vital, living languages, in order for the national minorities are aided to learn, use and develop their own cultural identity. The national minorities languages and cultures should have the right to reach the next generation. The minority languages are a part of the Swedish cultural heritage and should be preserved and developed as spoken languages.

The official language in Sweden is Swedish

There are 150–200 spoken languages. Five minority languages have special legal status, since 2000.

Laws have been updated in 2010 and 2019. The languages with protected statuses have a long history and tradition within the country.

Swedish sign language is sometimes called the sixth minority language.

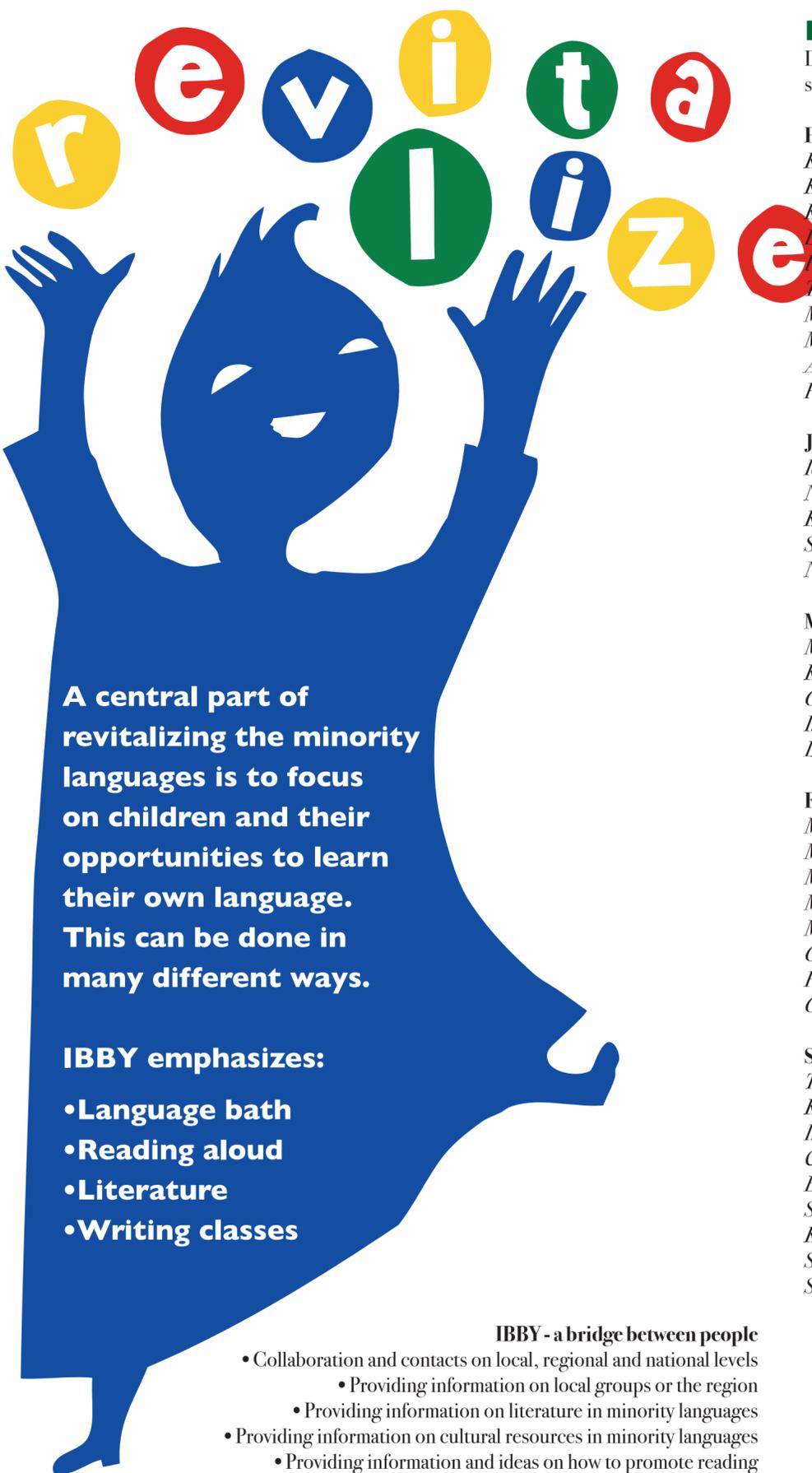
## INVEST IN THE YOUNGEST:

**Bookstart is a national project designed to stimulate early language development and targeting parents and adults close to toddlers. (0–3 years)**

**The material is available in many languages.**

**Many different institutions collaborate. To further increase the parents' understanding of children's language development, librarians make home visits.**

**Bookstart can be seen as a family literacy program which the reading initiative aims to encourage reading in the family.**



**A central part of revitalizing the minority languages is to focus on children and their opportunities to learn their own language. This can be done in many different ways.**

**IBBY emphasizes:**

- Language bath
- Reading aloud
- Literature
- Writing classes

**IBBY - a bridge between people**

- Collaboration and contacts on local, regional and national levels
  - Providing information on local groups or the region
  - Providing information on literature in minority languages
- Providing information on cultural resources in minority languages
  - Providing information and ideas on how to promote reading
  - Providing international and national prizes

**Read, play, learn!**

During 2018 the Swedish Art Council had a special commission: book gifts to pre-schools. A list of selected, up-to-date books in minority languages was made.

**FINNISH**

- Karoliina Pertamo: Pupu tykkää*
- Katariina Heilala: Oma maa mansikka*
- Kristiina Louhi: Tomppa ja Kerttu-kirjatoukka*
- Linda Bondestam: Hyvää yötä maa*
- Riikka Jäntti: Pikku hiiren puolukkamatka*
- Tiina Nopola: Siiri ja Heppa Huoleton*
- Marika Majjala: NUMEROSOPPA*
- Mauri Kunnas: Kesä Koiramäessä*
- Aino Havukainen: TATU JA PATU, ELÄMÄ JA TEOT*
- Päivi Hällström: Hillas värld = Hillan maailma*

**JEWISH**

- Ida Olniansky: Di Frukhtn - A yiddish bikhl far di same yingste*
- Niklas Olniansky: Hintern Gardin: In a yidisher heym*
- Kobi Weitzner: Der gliklekher mentsh*
- Sarah Schulman: Nöten ; Dos Nisele*
- Niklas Olniansky: Der krolik der kosmonoyt*

**MEÄNKIÄLI**

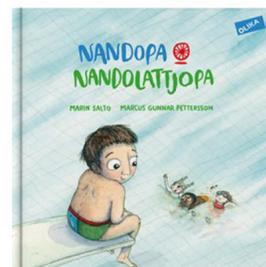
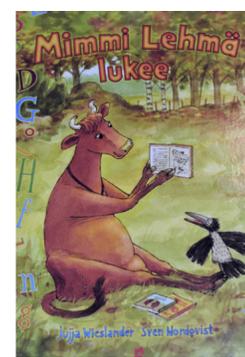
- Monika Pohjanen Meän pikku kirja 5 a*
- Kerstin Tuomas Larsson & Isabella Jakobsson: Moa ja Varis*
- Gunilla Wolde: Totte mennee tohturhiin*
- Inga Borg: Plypin kotona*
- Lina Stoltz: Vilma ja koulu*

**ROMANI**

- Marin Salto, Marcus Gunnar Pettersson : Najimaskebombi & usimaskoxutjipe*
- Marin Salto, Marcus Gunnar Pettersson O kamping & kheliba phanle ja'cha*
- Marin Salto, Marcus Gunnar Pettersson Tselibako busos & tortakobañiba*
- Marin Salto, Marcus Gunnar Pettersson Nandopa & nandolatjopa*
- Malin Eriksson: Malva i stallet*
- Gunilla Lundgren: Daniels dag (Kalderas/Swedish)*
- Fred Taikon: Barmen på Tanto (Romani/Swedish)*
- Gunilla Wolde: Totte städar (Romani chib/Kalderas)*

**SAMISH-NOT ONE LANGUAGE BUT MANY**

- Tord Nygren: Sune orre steeblegh (South Sami)*
- Kari Stai: Muarra = Moere (Ume-Sami)*
- Inga Borg: Pluppe jih miesie (South Sami)*
- Cecilie Lanes & Ilze Dambe: Guhti l vällldám guovsagisáv? (Lule-Sami)*
- Elle Márjá Vars: Baháneahkkánis bustávát (North Sami)*
- Samuel Gælok: Sarvamiehtse (Lule-Sami)*
- Kazuno Kohara: Gaskaija giirjerájus (North-Sami)*
- Sven Nordqvist: Finddoža riegdánbeaivi teaksta ja govat (North-Sami)*
- Sven Nordqvist: Paannelaepjiesmeele (South-Sami)*



2019 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF Indigenous Languages

The Sami lived in Scandinavia long before the nations were formed. There are nine different Sami languages, and most used is North Sami with 20,000-25,000 speakers. 2019 is the international year of the world's indigenous languages for the purpose of spreading knowledge and preventing languages from dying out.

**Cinderella in Rinkeby**

Cinderella in Rinkeby (a suburb of Stockholm) was created after a writing workshop with roma children, aged 6-12 years.



**Enthusiasts**

To revitalise the minority language, patient enthusiasts are a must! The author **Gunilla Lundgren** is one of them. She wrote her first book in 1972, together with seven roma children in her class.

**Gunilla Lundgren** has also run the project *Nobel in Rinkeby*. Every year, 14 year old pupils in Rinkeby, a multicultural suburb in Stockholm study the Nobel Prize and make a beautiful Nobel booklet for this year's laureates. Over the years, many Nobel laureates have over the years visited Rinkeby to receive the children's booklet on festive occasions.



**ROMANI PROJECTS**



**NEW TITLES – MORE LANGUAGES**

**A well-known author can be printed in several minority languages at the same time.**

**In this way, the minor language areas can get high quality produced editions of children's literature, in printing, design and paper.**