LUND SYDVÄSTRA

MITIGATING THE HOUSING CRISIS IN SWEDEN’S “CITY OF IDEAS”

For people who live in Sweden, the term ‘housing crisis’ has become an everyday component of life. Complaints about the difficulty of finding a place to live in big cities like Stockholm or Gothenburg cannot be considered as something extraordinary, but these days Sweden’s housing shortage is seen as a serious national problem. In accordance to the country’s National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, 255 of Sweden’s 290 municipalities now report a housing shortage and this might be considered as the highest amount since the agency started recording data.

Lund is a university town and students is one of the main reasons of the growing pressure on the housing market. In the most likely scenario of development, Lund will experience a stable growth in the nearest couple of decades. Population is expected to grow steadily: overall net migration will remain positive, the number of students will likely increase, a fairly big number of refugees is expected to be accepted, and, in addition to that, the completion of Brunnskog will facilitate an inflow of people into the town. According to forecasts made by Lund Municipalities, Lund’s population might reach 200 000 inhabitants in 40 years. One of the major problems Lund is currently facing is an acute shortage of housing. The pressure on the housing market started to emerge a couple of decades ago and, since the population growth of the last decade exceeded all expectations, the existing construction pace is a way too low to supply an amount of housing needed to accommodate all the people.

Lund Sydvästra is one of the places highlighted as an important area for future development. It is marked by municipalities as an ‘important point’ for regional cooperation and development. The master plan for the area has not been approved and the planning process is still undergoing, hence, there is a place for new ideas and solutions which would contribute into mitigation of the housing shortage in the region.