

It was very becoming

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Towards the end of the year English International members representing Scania (Skåne) shared a train trip. Our meeting in the bistro was a positive initiating point. The trip would take us to Stockholm City. NGO's (non-governmental organizations) gathered from around Sweden.

The Swedish Board of Integration sponsored a forum around the theme Structural Discrimination. The Lundian publisher and editor M. Arthur Diakité was present, along with scholars from across Europe, Africa and the United States. We came, we saw, and we could agree that structural discrimination exists in Sweden and needs addressing. Swedish NGO's gathered out of concern, but it also created a possibility of working closer as well as making use of the opportunity to meet one another and get a feel of how others are working and even become friends.

We gained much valuable knowledge, needless to say, during the two days. NGO's need to strengthen and focus efforts and appeal to government bodies, and this meeting provided that kind of stimulation.

" *Europe Becoming...* " used by Laura Balbo, a professor from the University of Ferrara in Italy, revealed some important points of inflexibility in the European psyche such as Eurocentrism which can perhaps give some idea about a great resistance to change. One thing is for certain as Europe grows and becomes the kind of union modeled after the US it will undoubtedly face similar challenges and pressures like discrimination.

As Bashy Quraishy of ENAR (European Network Against Racism) put it: many NGO's working together would have a far greater impact on governments than one NGO going it alone.

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