SWEDEN

Sami (Lapps)

Activity: 1973-2020

General notes

NA

Movement start and end dates

- In 1945, Same Atnam (the National Association of Saamiland) was founded to "promote Saami interests that are not connected with reindeer herding" (Wessendorf 2005: 196). These include land, cultural, and language rights (Wessendorf 2005), and hence not self-determination as we define it. This was followed by the National Union of Swedish Saami (SSR 1950) and the Swedish Saami Youth Association (1963).
- Sami activists formed the Nordic Saami Institute in 1973 to press for political and land rights, hence the start date of the movement. Since 1973, the Sami have elected a representative body, a Sami Parliament. Its 20 representatives are elected every four years and the purpose of the Sami Parliament is to attend to the rights and interests of the Sami by presenting initiatives and proposals and by preparing opinions to the authorities. We therefore peg the start date of the movement at 1973.
- In 1983 Sami leaders declared the sovereignty of the divided nation (the Sami are also found in Finland and Sweden). In 1986 the Chernobyl disaster spread radiation across Lapland and made necessary the destruction of reindeer herds, the Sami's livelihood. Two years later Sami leaders demanded the creation of a Sami parliament that would have influence over planning and development of the region.
- In 2000, the Sami Parliamentary Council was formed to represent the Sami parliaments in Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Issues include cultural and language autonomy as well as the freedom to cross borders between the countries. (Anaya 2011; Hewitt & Cheetham 2000: 261; Keesing's; Lexis Nexis; Minahan 1996: 484ff, 2002: 1636ff; MAR; MRGI; GALDU; Sapmi; Synak 1995; Wessendorf 2005).
- Roth (2015: 24) describes the movement as ongoing. The movement's focus is on cultural and land rights (Impact News Service 2020; Minahan 2016; Samediggi 2017; Nordic Daily 2019; Impact News Service 2020; Canadian Press 2020) [start date: 1973; end date: ongoing]

Dominant claim

- The movement onset is coded in 1973 with the formation of the Nordic Saami Institute. According to Minahan (2002), the organization pressed for political and land rights. Despite the crosscutting Sami territory, there is hardly any evidence of an claim for reunification of the Sami territory as most of their goals are related to the protection of their traditional way of life, their culture and language. We thus code autonomy as the dominant claim of the Sami.
- This is confirmed by statements of the Sami Parliamentary Council, which was formed in 2000 to represent the Sami parliaments in Norway, Sweden, and Finland. The council demands cultural and linguistic autonomy and the freedom to cross borders between the countries. Its representatives have always made clear that "their goal of securing relations among their people across borders [...] is not based on a desire to form a separate Sami State" (United Nations Report 2011: 10). They stressed that their claims are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which wants self-determination for indigenous

- peoples to be exercised "within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of the State" (United Nations Report 2011: 10).
- In recent years there have been four additional organisations that promote Sami national rights: the Sami Council (Samerådet), two national federations (RSÄ and SSR) and the youth organisation Sáminuorra. The movement's main claim remained for autonomy and land rights (Samediggi 2017; Nordic Daily 2019; Samiraddi 2020; State News Service 2018). [1973-2020: autonomy claim]

Independence claims

NA

Irredentist claims

NA

Claimed territory

- Sami claims concern their traditional territory, which is called Sápmi. The vast territory stretches over northern parts of Finland, Sweden, and Norway, but also includes some areas in Russia (Roth 2015: 24). However, we code only the territories within the borders of Finland, Sweden, and Norway since the self-determination movement has made specific demands within these countries. We code this claim within Sweden's borders based on the map by Roth (2015: 22).

Sovereignty declarations

- According to Minahan (2002: 1640) the Sami leaders from the Nordic countries "declared the collective sovereignty of the divided Sami nation" in 1983. However, there is no other source confirming this declaration and hence we do not code it.

Separatist armed conflict

- No separatist violence was found. [NVIOLSD]

Historical context

- A semi-nomadic tribe of early Mongol origin, the Sami gradually came under the control of the Nordic kingdoms in the in early Middle Ages. Their traditional lifestyle built around reindeer herding was, however, only little affected, as they were granted the right to travel freely across international frontiers (Hewitt and Cheetham 2000; Minahan 2002).
- The Sami territory was subjected to constantly changing geopolitical situations for centuries and was occupied by Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden. Today's state borders were established between the middle of the eighteenth century, when the frontier between Sweden and Norway was agreed, and the middle of the nineteenth century, when the frontier between Norway and Russia was delimited (1826). These demarcations crosscut the Sami territory and divided the various Sami tribes between Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden (Minahan 2002; Somby 2011; United Nations Report 2011). From the nineteenth century until around the time of the Second World War, the respective governments primarily followed policies of assimilation. Swedish settlement in the Sami territory was encouraged with incentives of land and water rights (United Nations Report 2011).

Concessions and restrictions

- In 1992, the Swedish Parliament passed the Saami Parliament Act establishing a national Swedish Sami Assembly, On 1 January 1993, the Sami parliament was established. The parliament is a publicly elected body that comprises 31 members who are elected every four years and who meet three times a year in the Plenary Assembly (Minority Rights Group International; United Nations Report; Sapmi 2009). The act states that the parliament's primary purpose was the monitoring of issues that relate to Sami culture and to promote the Sami culture. To conduct its operations as a government agency, the parliament receives funds from the Swedish state. Funds for the parliaments work as an independent publicly elected body are only minimal (United Nations Report 2011). The parliament is thus not a body for self-government, which was also made clear by the Swedish government when it stated that "there is no question of it being a body for self-determination that shall act instead [of] the Riksdag or the municipal council, or in competition with these bodies" (United Nations Report 2011: 12). On later occasions the Swedish government acknowledged the Sami Parliament's function as a body through which the Sami can exercise their right to self-government. The parliament, however, remained a state administrative agency with no decision-making powers. Hence, we code a cultural rights concession in 1992, also because the establishment of the Sami Parliament itself already "entails a kind of recognition of the Sami as a separate people" (Sapmi 2009). [1992: cultural rights concession]
- In 1993 the Swedish government removed the Sami's exclusive rights to fishing and hunting in the Girjas region, a cultural and heritage zone of great significance to the Sami. The subsequent influx of non-Sami hunters threatened the sustainability of Same cultural modes of living such as pastoral herding of reindeer and hunting (Impact News Service 2020). [1993: autonomy restriction]
- In 1999, Sweden agreed to ratify the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (Cunningham 2014: 225). Sweden formally ascended to the convention in 2000. As a result of this, Sweden officially recognized Sami as a minority language together with four other languages in 2000. The legislation enabled the use of Sami when dealing with state authorities and the court in the Sami administrative area. In addition, the new law also provided for Sami-language education within the Sami area where 'Sami schools' give instruction in both Swedish and the Sami language (Minority Rights Group International). [2000: cultural rights concession]
- Also in 2000, the Sami Parliamentary Council was established in order to represent the Sami parliaments in Norway, Sweden, and Finland (Somby 2011; United Nations Report 2011). This transnational body is not a concession by the government but unilaterally established and furthermore does not increase the Sami level of self-determination. This event is hence not coded.
- The Act on National Minorities and National Minority Languages was passed in 2009 and entered into force in January 2010. It strengthened the rights of minorities and the use of their languages and furthermore amended the Sami Parliament Act. The most important element of the law was the expansion of the Sami administrative area to an additional 13 municipalities. This move gave more individuals the right to use Sami in their dealings with the authorities as lined out in the act of 2000. The rights of the Sami speaking population is also strengthened outside the administrative area as Sami individuals were granted the right to use their language in their dealings with authorities provided that their case can be handled by personnel proficient in the language (Ekberg 2011; Swedish Ministry for Integration and Gender Equality 2009; United Nations Report 2011). [2009: cultural rights concession]
- An amendment to the Swedish Constitution of January 2011 explicitly recognizes the Sami as a people. In doing so, they are distinguished from other minority groups in Sweden, as had been requested by the Sami for many years (Minority Rights Group International; United Nations Report 2011). [2011: cultural rights concession]
- In 2019, the Swedish parliament agreed to finance a Sami Truth and Reconcilliation Commission to investigate state abuses of Sami peoples and suggest avenues for rapprochement (Canadian Press 2020: Impact News Service 2021). This does not seem to be a concession as defined here.
- In 2020, a Swedish court overturned an almost three decades-old government policy that restricted the hunting and fishing rights of the Sami in the Girjas region (Impact News Service 2020). [2020: autonomy concession]

Regional autonomy

- Sweden is a centralized, unitary state. The Sami Parliament has no decision-making power, thus a regional autonomy coding is not justified. [no autonomy]

De facto independence

NA

Major territorial changes

NA

EPR2SDM

Movement	Sami (Lapps)
Scenario	No match
EPR group(s)	-
Gwgroupid(s)	-

Power access

- According to EPR, ethnicity is politically not relevant in Sweden, which is why the country is not coded. Sami people have had no representation in Swedish national politics as, since the introduction of universal suffrage, no Saami has been elected to the Swedish Riksdag (Josefsen 2010: 12). [1973-2020: powerless]

Group size

- Both the Minority Rights Group International and a report by the United Nations Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples (2011) state that there are approximately 15,000-20,000 Sami in Sweden. These numbers are in line with Josefsen (2010: 5), who states that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 Sami in Sweden and Minahan (2002: 1636) who reports 22,000 Samis. We assume 20,000, since this is also the official number given by Sweden. With Sweden's population totaling 9.348 million in 2010 (Swedish Census), we code a population share of 0.002. [0.0021]

Regional concentration

 We code 20,000 Sami in Sweden. There are around 700,000 people in Swedish Sapmi (the counties Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Västernorrland and Jämtland), and the Sami live relatively dispersed across Sapmi. Hence, the threshold for territorial concentration is not met. [not concentrated]

Kin

- According to Minahan (2002: 1636), there are Sami communities in Finland (8,000), Norway (70,000), and Russia (3,000). Minahan's estimates of the number of Samis are likely inflated (see

- above), but this does not matter since even according to Minahan the numeric threshold is not met. [no kin]
 - O Note: According to Minahen (2002: 1637) the Samis in Norway are commonly called Finns, which raises the question whether the Finns shoud be coded as ethnic kin. The main reason why the Samis are sometimes seen as related to the Finns is that the Finnish and the Sami language have a common ancestor (Proto-Finno-Saamic). However, the two languages split 3000 years ago, and we could not find additional evidence of strong ethnic ties between the two groups. Thus we do not code the Finns as ethnic kin of the Sami.

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Scanians

Activity: 1979-2020

General notes

NA

Movement start and end dates

- The Skanepartiet (Scanian Party) was formed in 1979, hence the start date of the movement. Today, the party is mostly known for its right-wing, anti-immigration politics, but it has always also made claims for autonomy or even outright independence.
- The Stiftelsen Skånsk Framtid (SSF), another organization representing the Scanian claim for more self-determination, was founded in 1989 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the cultural, social and economic interests of the Region of Scania. It has actively campaigned for devolution in Sweden and its goal is that Scania, being a distinct region, will survive as a cultural entity with its own regional government in the forthcoming "Europe of Regions".
- In 2015, the SSF merged with another Scanian group, Stiftelsen Skåneländska Flaggs Dag. The group continued to make claims for self-rule. The group remains rather fringe, though.
- The movement remains ongoing. The Skanepartiet, in particular, has continued to advocate increased self-rule for Scania. The party has lost in popular support, but remained active as of 2020 (Keesing's; Minahan 1996: 499ff, 2002: 1680ff; Expose 2005; Roth 2015: 20f; Skaneflaggan 2015; Stiftelsen Skånsk Framtid 2015; Swedish Radio 2015; Skanepartiet 2003, 2014, 2019, 2020). [start date: 1979; end date: ongoing]

Dominant claim

- The Skanepartiet is sometimes described as autonomist, but according to Minahan (2002: 1684), the party is "openly separatist" and wants a "fully autonomous Scania" in a 'Europe of Regions'. The independence claim is confirmed by the party's 12-point program where 'a free Scanian republic within the EU and NATO' is listed as one of the party's goals. Skanepartiet has shifted much of its focus in recent years towards populist anti-immigration rhetoric, with a statement in 2019 drawing parallels between UK Brexit efforts and the need for a fully independent Scania framed within a context of fear of immigration and the incomatibilty of Swedish governance with Scanian needs (Skanepartiet 2010, 2019).
 - Roth (2015: 21) suggests "currently, the Scanian Party has scaled back its ambitions from independence to autonomy." We could not find more detailed information and the claim for independence appears to have re-emerged. We code an independence claim throughout.
- In 1989 another SD organization was formed, Stiftelsen Skånsk Framtid (SSF). The SSF is dedicated to safeguarding the cultural, social and economic interests of the Region of Scania and advocates devolution. However, the Skanepartiet is the dominant representative of the Scanian self-determination movement, which is why we code independence as the dominant claim throughout. [1979-2020: independence claim]

Independence claims

- See above. [start date: 1979; end date: ongoing]

Irredentist claims

NA

Claimed territory

- Scanians have claimed the Scania region, which includes the official region of Scania, formed from Malmöhaus and Kristianstad Provinces in 1997, and the provinces of Blekinge and Halland (Minahan 2002: 1680). Some nationalists also consider the Danish island of Bornholm as a territory of Scania (Roth 2015: 21), but our coding focuses exclusively on areas within Sweden, in keeping with SDM coding rules on cross-border claims. We code this claim using data on admin units from the Global Administrative Areas Database.

Sovereignty declarations

NA

Separatist armed conflict

- We found no reports of separatist violence, hence a NVIOLSD classification. [NVIOLSD]

Historical context

- Scania was brought under under the Danish crown in 811 and henceforth formed the eastern part of the kingdom of Denmark. With Danish rule in Scania being challenged by an emerging Swedish power in the north and with Scania's geographical position at the entrance to the Baltic Sea, the territory of Scania was disputed for hundreds of years (Minahan 2002).
- Against the will of the Danish-loyal Scanians, Sweden seized Halland in 1645 and the remaining Scanian regions in 1658. With the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658, Scania was ceded to the Swedish Crown. The Scanian War from 1675-1679 did not change the boundaries and the province was eventually integrated into the kingdom of Sweden (Minahan 2002).
- The Scanians suffered from repressive policies by the Swedish government as a result of Scanian support for the Danes in the Scanian War. However, over time, a distinct Scanian culture emerged and when another Danish attempt to regain its lost provinces happened in 1710, Scanian sentiments were rather loyal to Sweden (Minahan 2002). According to Minahan (2002), cultural and linguistic restrictions were relaxed in the nineteenth century.

Concessions and restrictions

Until the mid-1990s, the province of Scania was divided into the administrative counties Kristianstad County and Malmöhus County which were both under a governor appointed by the central government. In 1997 the Swedish government joined two counties of Malmöhaus and Kristianstad in a new county of Scania (Regionen Skane) with 33 municipalities. According to Minahan (2002: 1685), however, "autonomy is still very limited". The newly formed Skane Regional Council was responsible for the public healthcare system, public transport and the developement of the region. We did not find any evidence that confirms an increase in the level of self-determination brought about by the establishment of the Skane Regional Council. Prior to the latter's formation, the regional development was under the responsibility of the Regional Association that comprised the 33 municipalities together with the Kristianstad and Malmöhus county councils (World Heritage Encyclopedia 2014). Hence, we do not code this act.

- In 2005 there were implicit statements made by the leader of one of the largest parties in Sweden, Moderaterna, in which they articulated a desire to dismantle regional Scanian governance. On the concept of regional self-rule, the leader of the state level party Moderaterna said... "Only two levels are necessary - the state and the local level" (UNPO 2005). While noteworthy this does not consistute a restriction on Scanian autonomy as no action to curtail self-governance was taken and the statements were merely rhethorical.

NA

De facto independence

NA

Major territorial changes

NA

EPR2SDM

Movement	Scanians
Scenario	No match
EPR group(s)	-
Gwgroupid(s)	-

Power access

- According to EPR, ethnicity is politically not relevant in Sweden, which is why the country is not coded. Although we found no Scanian prime minister, there were several ministers from Scania in the period of activity, which is why we code the Scanians is junior partner throughout (Teller Report 2021). [1979-2020: junior partner]

Group size

- Minahan (2002: 1680) remains ambiguous as to how many Scanians live in Sweden, thus we draw on the population of the Skane region. According to Sweden Statistics, the county of Skane had a population of 1,262,068 in 2012. With Sweden's population totaling 9.546 million in 2012, we code a population share of 0.132. [0.1322]

Regional concentration

- According to Minahan (2002: 1680), the Scanians are concentrated in Scania, where they make up 91% of the population. This amounts to 1.416 million Scanians, which is even more than half of the 1.645 million Scanians in all of Scandinavia. [concentrated]

Kin

- Following the numbers provided by Minahan (2002: 1680), there are around 220,000 Scanians outside Scania (some of them in Sweden itself, particularly Stockholm). Following the narrative in Minahan, the largest Scanian community outside of Scania is based on the Danish island of Bornholm (approx. 40,000 inhabitants); smaller communities are in neighboring regions of Denmark as well as in Copenhagen. Minahan does not give exact figures, but it appears more likely than not that the Danish Scanian community is below the numeric threshold. No other evidence for ethnic kin found. [no kin]

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