

Service Delivery System for Assistive Technology, AT in Sweden

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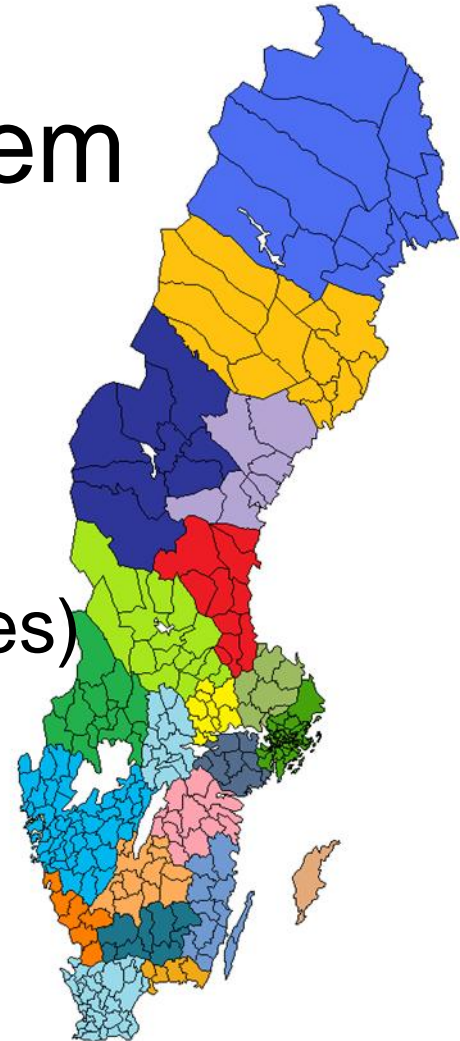
Our agenda

- Service delivery system in Sweden
- Free choice of assistive technology
- Personal budget for assistive technology
- Prescription of consumer products



A glance at Sweden and its AT delivery system

- Approx 9,5 million inhabitants
- 20% of the population has a disability
- About 10 % use assistive devices
- 21 county councils (regional authorities)
- 290 municipalities (local authorities)
- Regional and local authorities have the responsibility for the AT provision

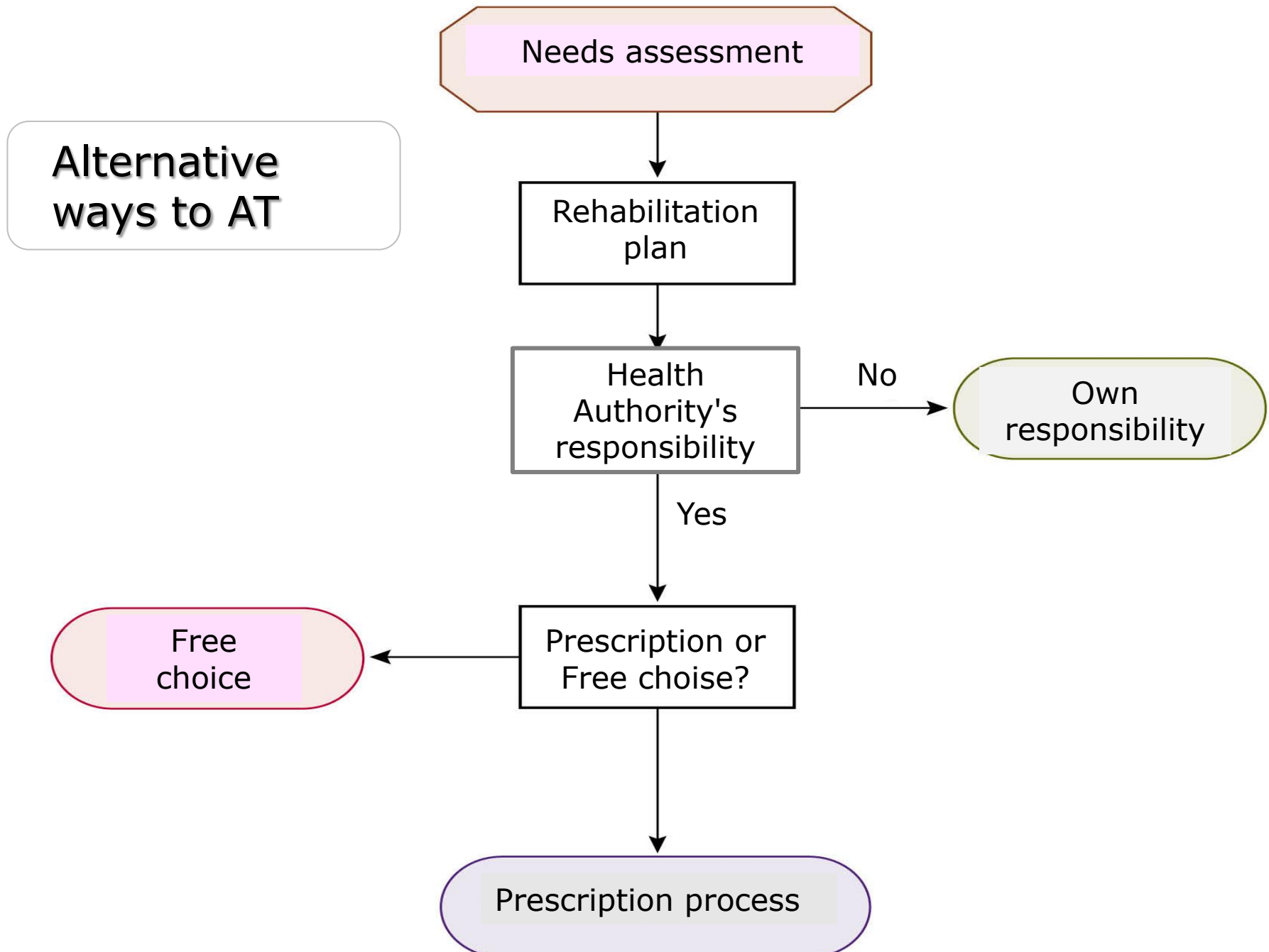


Laws and regulations

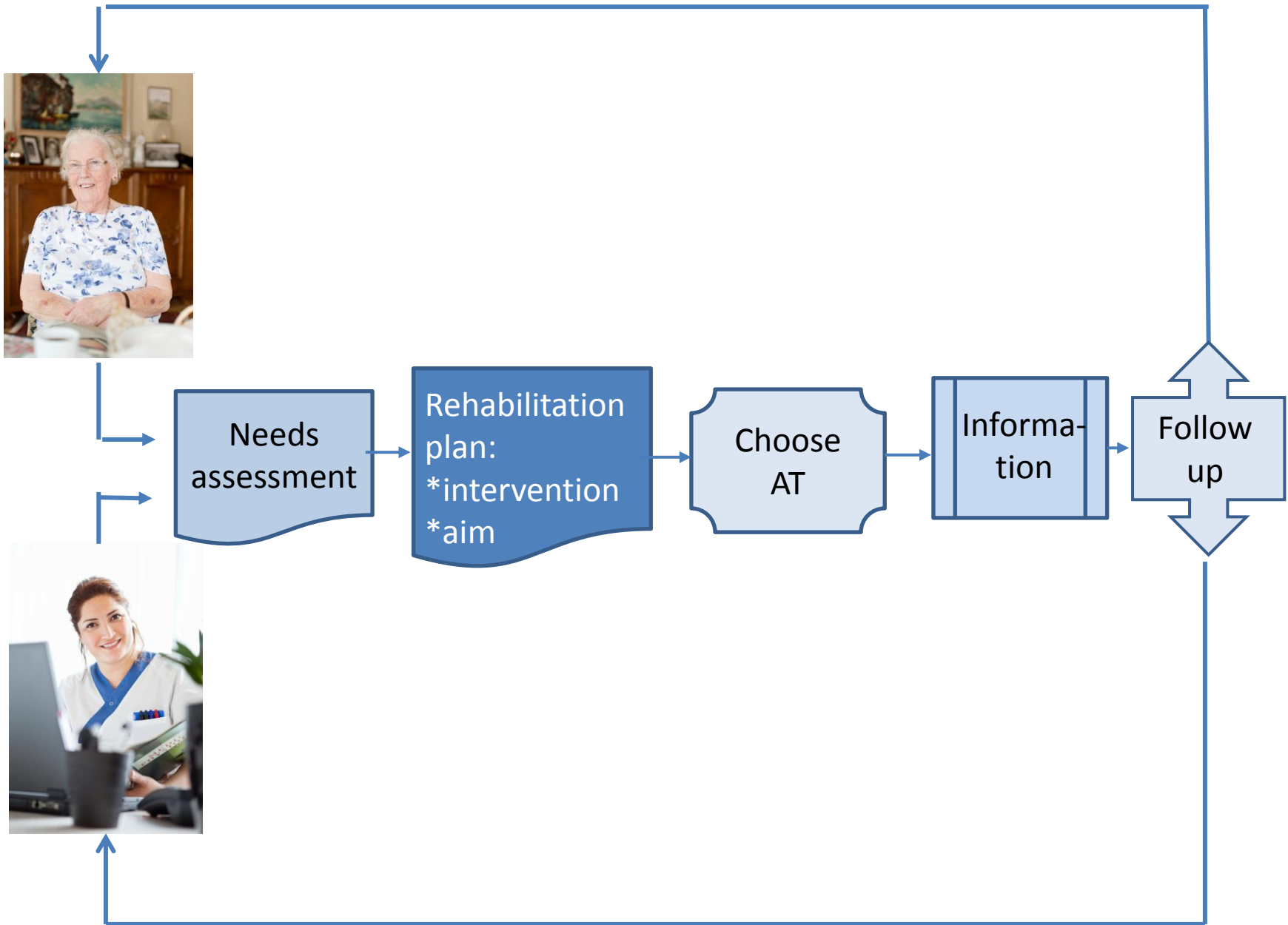
- County councils and municipalities are obliged to provide people with disabilities with assistive devices - *Health and Medical Service Act §3b + §18b*
- To support everyday life, for care and treatment
- Every regional authority decides on regulations for assistive devices and fees
- No possibility of making complaints legally when decisions are taken

Division of responsibility

- Municipalities/county councils
 - Primary health care centres
 - Assistive technology centres
- County councils:
 - Hearing centres
 - Low vision centres
 - Habilitation and rehabilitation units
 - Speech therapy clinics
 - Computer resource centres
 - Orthopaedic workshops



The prescription process



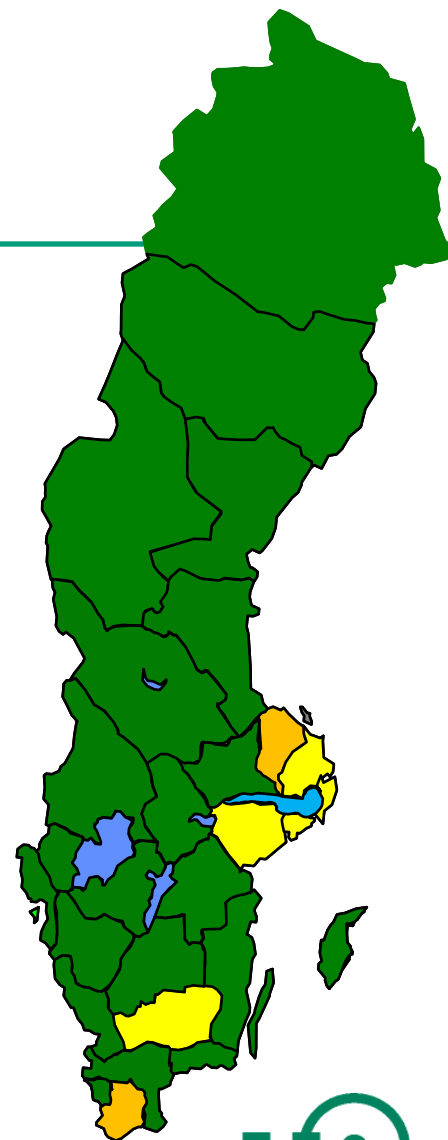
free choice
choice free

Involvement increases
quality of life



Free choice of Assistive Technology

- Practice-oriented pilot study 2007 – 2009, coordinated by SIAT
- The county councils participating were: Kronoberg, Stockholm and Sörmland
- Alternative way for user to get access to assistive technology



Why Free choice of Assistive Technology?

- Aim was to:
- Strengthens the users' participation and influence
- Increase the individual's freedom to choose the assistive device

The Free choice process, voucher



Needs
assessment

Rehabilitation
plan:
*intervention
*aim

Agree to
apply Free
choice

Voucher

Follow
up



The user buys,
owns and is
responsible for
the AT

Free choice users

- Almost 50 % were 65 – 79 years old
- Involvement in the choice of assistive device
- 7 out of 10 thought that usability had increased
- Function, features and accessories are important
- 57 % paid an extra amount to buy a more expensive device
- A few % of all prescriptions were free choice prescriptions

Hearing aids

- 40% of all free choice prescriptions during the first trials
- First time hearing aid users get more benefit from free choice system than ordinary system (IOI-HA).
- Experienced users, no verified difference in satisfaction
- Stockholm and Skåne have implemented free choice, approx 1/3 of Sweden's population
 - Also implemented free choice of caregivers (hearing shops)

Preconditions for choosing AT

- Availability of information about AT
- Find places where you can see & test devices
- www.1177.se/hitta-hjalpmedelsbutiker

The screenshot shows the 1177.se website interface. At the top, there's a red header with the 1177 logo and 'LANDSTINGET VÄSTMANLAND'. Below this is a navigation bar with links like 'STARTSIDA', 'FAKTA OCH RÅD', 'REGLER OCH RÄTTIGHETER', 'TEMASIDOR', and 'HITTA OCH JÄMFÖR VÅRD'. A search bar is also present. The main content area is titled 'Hitta hjälpmedelsbutiker och utställningar'. It shows a dropdown menu for 'Visa resultat för:' set to 'Västmanland'. Below this, there's a section 'Vad söker du efter?' with a 'Valj alla' button. The page lists several categories of assistive devices, each with a checkbox and a description:

- ☒ **Hörhjälpmedel**
Exempel på hörhjälpmedel är hörapparater, förstärkare, högtalare och väckarklockor.
- ☒ **Synhjälpmedel**
Exempel på synhjälpmedel är Daisyspelare, Läs-TV, kameror, verktyg, ledfyrrar, punktskriftsprogram och displayer.
- ☐ **Rörelsehjälpmedel**
Exempel på rörelsehjälpmedel är rullatorer,
- ☐ **Kognitionshjälpmedel**
Exempel på kognitionshjälpmedel är sakletare, planeringstavlur, tyngdtäcken, klockor och påminnelsehjälpmedel.
- ☐ **Hemhjälpmedel**
Exempel på hemhjälpmedel är gripverktyg, strumpådragare, stolsbensförhöjare och diskborstar.
- ☐ **Hygienhjälpmedel**
Exempel på hygienhjälpmedel är kroppstvättare,
- ☐ **Ortopediska hjälpmedel**
Exempel på ortopediska hjälpmedel är handledsbandage, skolinlägg, korsetter och proteser.
- ☒ **Medicinska behandlingshjälpmedel**
Exempel på medicinska behandlingshjälpmedel är inhalatorer, ventilatorer, sugar och muskelstimulatorer.
- ☐ **Kommunikationshjälpmedel**
Exempel på kommunikationshjälpmedel är

Personal budget for Assistive Technology



Personal budget for Assistive Technology

- SIAT got a governmental assignment to propose conditions for running a pilot study with personal budget for assistive technology
- Personal budget is a development of the Free choice project
- Instead of a voucher the user can get money on an account
- No decision for trials yet

Important steps to personal budget

- Rehabilitation plan
- Agreement
- Follow up



The Free choice process, personal budget



Needs
assess-
ment

Rehabilitation
plan:
*intervention
*aim

Amount
added

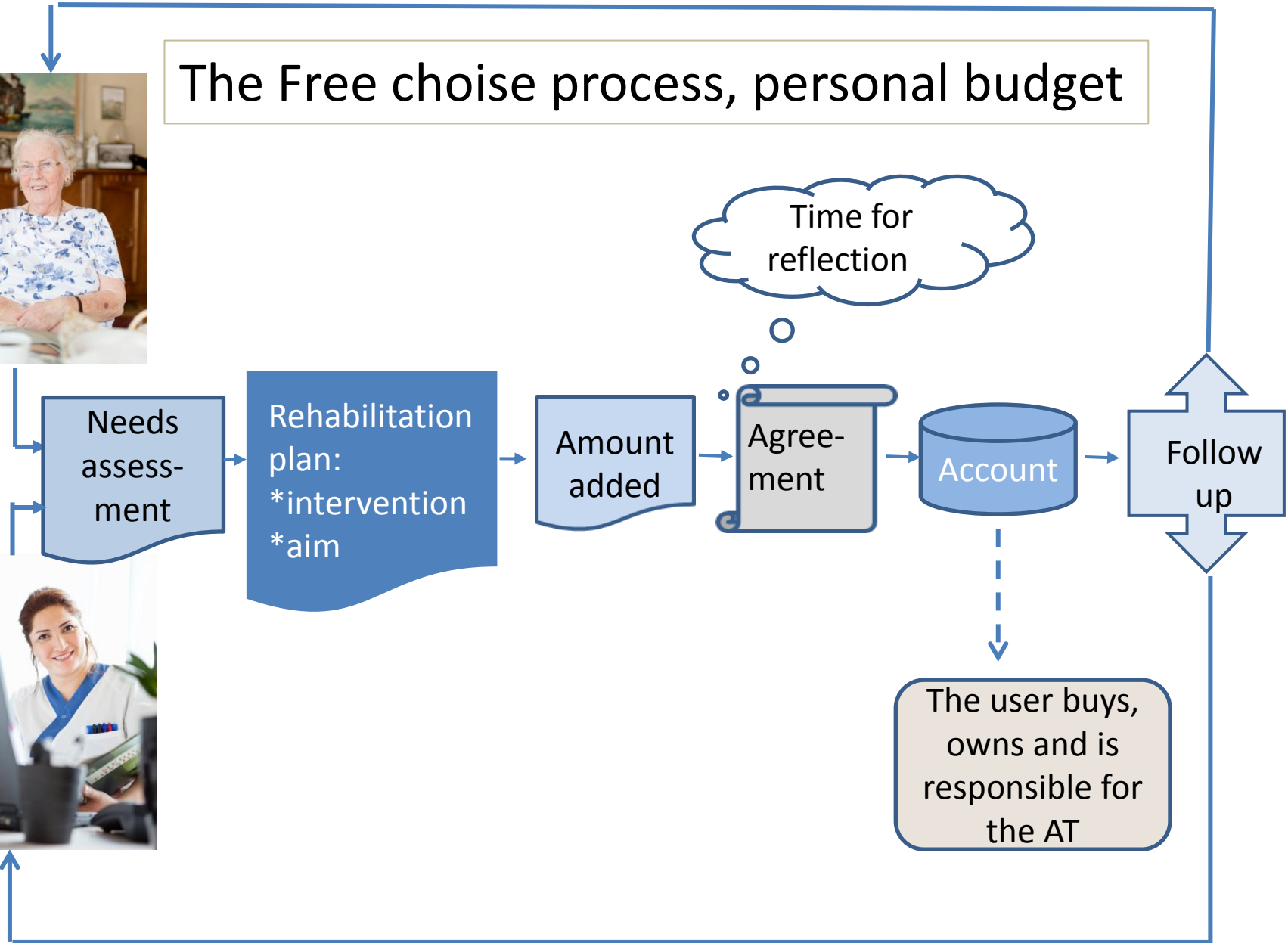
Agree-
ment

Account

Follow
up

Time for
reflection

The user buys,
owns and is
responsible for
the AT



Consumer products (& services)



Alternative telephony - For people with limited hearing/deafness or speech abilities

- Assistive technology
 - Textphones
 - Videophones
 - Total conversation (simultaneous text, video and audio)
- Mainstream technology, e.g. computers, smartphones, pads/tabs with
 - Skype, MSN Messenger, Oovoo, Tango
- Equivalent in function, but different in many ways

SIAT coordinate pilot study

- Swedish Post and Telecom Agency
 - Procures video and text relay services
 - Requires that CT can be used for relay calls
- Seven County Councils are funded for trying out new ways of dealing with AT and mainstream technology for telephony
 - Trying to fulfil user needs by prescribing CT
 - Evaluating whether CT is sufficient
 - Finding out reasonable ways to handle support, instruction etc.

Thank you!

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- Read more about Free choice: www.hi.se/sv-se/Arbetsomraden/Projekt/Fritt-val-av-hjalpmedel/Rapporter/



