

Folkbildning

Participation and Empowerment

These words sum up what the Swedish Folk high school movement stands for. In order to be able to exercise active citizenship people need rights, knowledge and tools for effective participation – that is why people need folkbildning!

Folk high schools – a tool for social movements

Since the start in 1868, the Folk high schools have been part of the demands from emerging social movements to participate in the development of society.

Beginning with the farmer's movement, other movements such as free churches, the labour movement and the women's movement succeeded in creating their own folk high schools. Folk high schools and folkbildning have played an important role in the struggle for and development of democracy in Sweden.

Public financing and freedom of curricula

Today there are 150 Folk high schools in Sweden, owned by civil society organisations and local governments. The Folk high schools are entitled to public financing and have the right to develop their own curricula according to their different identities.

Folkbildning for global justice and sustainable development

Global justice and sustainable development is a priority field of action for the Folk high schools. Just as the Folk high schools nearly 150 years ago were part of popular movements fighting for democracy within the nation state framework, the challenge is now to be part of international social movements struggling for our common needs and dreams.

It is our firm belief that folkbildning is a powerful tool for achieving goals such as poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development.

What we do

Folk high schools are engaged in global justice and sustainable development in many different ways. We organize courses on international issues. We are involved in educational projects together with social movements in many countries. We participate in exchange programs for mutual learning.

Together with our partners from other countries we are an important actor in information and communication about global issues in the Swedish society. Global justice and sustainable development is not about "them", it's about "us".

FOLAC

Folkbildning - Learning for Active Citizenship

FOLAC is the international unit for the 150 Swedish Folk high schools.

Our mission is to:

- Promote the interests of the Folk high schools from a Nordic, European and global perspective.
- Stimulate and support the participation of Folk high schools in folkbildning and adult education projects within the EU and at the global level.
- Enhance the cooperation between the folk high schools on international issues.

We want to generate contacts between persons and institutions engaged in folkbildning and adult education

For more information contact mats.ehn@folkbildning.net or visit our website, www.folac.se



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FOLKBILDNING

participation!

empowerment!

148 Swedish
Folk High Schools
Engaged in Global
Justice and Sustainable
Development



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