

Folkbildning



[ˈfɔlkˌbɪldnɪŋ]

The folkbildning is a deep part of the Swedish society and can almost be considered as a part of the Swedish soul. In the nature of folkbildning lies that it is free from governmental steering and voluntary for people to take part in. In this lies an important power for the society.

Folkbildning offers meeting between people who want to develop themselves. In the folkbildning people look for new knowledge and share old one. Folkbildning is also a way of experiencing culture. Since folkbildning is such an important part of the society, it receives public support from the state, county councils/regions and municipalities. The state is the biggest donator and has become more important as county councils/regions and municipalities have cut down there subsidies.

Government subsidies to folkbildning shall aim to:

- support activities that contribute towards strengthening and developing democracy.
- contribute towards making it possible for people to influence their situation in life and create a commitment to participating in the development of society.
- contribute towards evening out gulfs in education and increasing the level of education and cultural awareness in society.
- contribute towards increasing and broadening interest and participation in cultural life.

Financing the folkbildning work carried out by the study associations

The Swedish government earmarks approximately EUR 155 million a year.

Sweden's regions and municipalities earmark approximately EUR 63 million a year.

Folkbildning is also funded by fees from participants: approximately EUR 71 million a year.

Other proceeds and grants: approximately EUR 71 million a year.

= In total: approximately EUR 360 million a year.

Folkbildning in Sweden

Sweden's population: 9,3 million

Number of participants in study circles/year:
2.1 million

Number of study circles/year: 285,000

Number of visitors to cultural programmes/year:
15 million

Number of cultural programmes/year: 250,000

This makes folkbildning Sweden's largest meeting place for people looking to develop and learn. Study associations are thus also Sweden's largest organiser of cultural events.

Folkbildningsförbundet (The Swedish Adult Education Association) is an umbrella organisation for the ten study associations. We seek to highlight the role of folkbildning in public debate. We do so on the basis of the several million people who meet in folkbildning every year. We particularly prioritise active citizenship, culture, ethics and quality. We are also a negotiation body for the study associations and enter into joint agreements. The Swedish Adult Education Association was founded in 1903, and has been working to promote folkbildning ever since.



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