

Programme & Seminars

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN EUROPE

CONFERENCE 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2009
MUSEUM OF WORLD CULTURE GOTHENBURG SWEDEN

Draft programme 2009-06-02



Welcome to Active Citizenship in Europe

Advocacy in Europe

The Swedish Adult Education Association (SAEA), the umbrella organisation for Sweden's nine study organisations, and the European Association for Education of Adults (EAEA), invite you to two days of exciting discussions on advocacy through non formal adult education in Europe.

On 29 – 30 September, non-formal adult education organisations, other non-governmental organisations and decision-makers at all levels will come together. The conference is part of Sweden's EU Presidency and is being arranged in collaboration with a number of organisations, see the end of the programme.

Dance to Democracy, Muslim peace agents and an ecological centre

Experience a guided tour through the religions of Europe, the parliament of the suburbs, peace agents, an exchange of experiences on local democracy and workshops on climate and sustainable development. The conference will be infused with dance, art and music from the study associations.

The evening before the conference and on the morning of 29 September, you will have the opportunity to see local study associations in action.

Gothenburg's study associations offer visits to an ecological centre, Swedish for Immigrants (SFI), a guided tour through one of Sweden's areas of diversity and a visit to a hip-hop academy.

The conference will be broadcast on television to all EU countries

The conference room can seat about 400 people, but digital technology will enable more people to participate and contribute to the discussions. Tuesday's debate between citizens' panels, Margot Wallström, Cecilia Malmström and Astrid Thors is designed to enable simultaneous participation from different locations. The European Commission's own TV channel, Europe by Satellite, will be broadcasting from the conference to all EU countries and Swedish television station SVT 24 will be broadcasting in Sweden.

The conference language will primarily be English.



Photo: Héléne Binot



Photo: Héléne Binot



Photo: Åke Fredriksson

The venue – the Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg

The Museum of World Culture is an arena for discussion and reflection in which many different voices can be heard, where controversial and conflict-filled topics can be aired, and where people can feel at home in a space which transcends national borders. This is the place we have chosen as our space.

Current exhibitions

September sees the exhibition “Bollywood”, which looks at the Hollywood of the Indian subcontinent. Why is it so popular, and who really are the world’s most popular film stars?

The exhibition “A Stolen World” describes a world that has lain buried in the desert for more than 2,000 years, was sold secretly, and has finally come to the museum in Gothenburg. Here you will also have a chance to see the unique, well-preserved Paracas textiles from Peru. There are lots of other things to see and do, so make the most of your visit by coming early for a look around.

The Swedish Adult Education Association and EAEA warmly welcome you to Gothenburg and two days of interesting meetings. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum of World Culture!

Folkbildnings-
studieförbundens
intresséorganisation **förbundet**





Photo: FBF



European dancers

Photo: FBF



Åke Gustavsson

Photo: EAEA



Sue Waddington

Photo: Mikael Lundström



Cecilia Malmström

Programme Tuesday 29 September

The Museum of World Culture's exhibitions open at 12.00. Registration opens from 13.00 and the conference starts at 15.00.

“Dance to democracy” will launch the conference.

Åke Gustavsson, President of SAEA and Sue Waddington, President of EAEA will open the conference.

Cecilia Malmström, Sweden's EU Minister, will welcome us on behalf of the Swedish EU Presidency.

Sofia Jannok, one of the most exciting young artists in Sweden today, will sing in northern Sami.



Niklas Nordström, Prime PR, has followed Barack Obama's campaign and work as President. He will talk about active citizenship and successful advocacy on the other side of the Atlantic.

Get-together with entertainment.

Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission, **Cecilia Malmström**, Swedish EU Minister and **Astrid Thors**, Finland's Minister of Migration and European Affairs participate in an interactive debate on accessible pathways to influence in Europe. Citizens' panels and other stakeholders participate via digital broadcasting and the internet.

Reception with buffet and cultural interludes at the Museum of World Culture, hosted by the City of Göteborg and the Region of Västra Götaland.



Sofia Jannok

Photo: Carl-Johan Uusi



Niklas Nordström

Photo: Prime PR



Margot Wallström

Photo: EU-kommissionen



Astrid Thors

Photo: Antti Ollikkala

Programme Wednesday 30 September

Times are approximate

09.00 – 10.30 Seminars

11.00 – 12.30 Seminars

12.30 – 14.00 Climate-smart lunch hosted by the European Commission. NBV will transform the lunch into a study circle on food and climate

14.00 – 15.30 Seminars

15.45 – 16.30 The Conference Appeal to the institutions of the European Union

The second day of the conference contains 28 seminars. We will decide on times and rooms on the basis of the interest shown by participants, so it's important that you select three first choice and three second choice seminars.

Below the seminars are grouped into themes.

Social inclusion

1. Influencing the local environment in Eskilstuna and Lisbon

Chats between neighbours on the stairs of a block of flats in Råbergstorp in Eskilstuna turned into organised local advocacy. Portugal's ALPE clubs work with local democracy on the basis of participants' needs and using the method of forum theatre.

Seminar host: The Regional Adult Education Association of Sörmland, jointly with ALPE, Portugal

2. Europe is rich – in education and active citizenship

How can citizen initiative be enhanced and how can a European dimension be incorporated into non-formal adult education? Citizens from ten European countries met in parallel study circles to discuss European democracy.

Seminar host: Europahaus Burgenland, Austria, jointly with SV, Sweden

3. A better future

How can I rebuild my relationship with my family and how do I sort out my finances? The study circle "A better future" helps ex-prisoners find their way back into society. NBV, which has had offices in Brussels since Sweden's entry into the EU, will also talk about its work at EU level.

Seminar host: NBV, jointly with KRIS, Criminals Return Into Society, Sweden

4. Do you speak English?

English has almost become an obligatory language if you are to function as a citizen and employee in the Nordic region. The Workers' Educational Associations (ABF) in Sweden, Norway and Denmark present a project in which they teach English to employees with reading and writing difficulties within the Swedish Trade Union Confederation affiliates.

Seminar host: The Workers' Educational Association, ABF, Sweden, jointly with its sister organisations in the Nordic Countries

5. Who has the right to the stage?

What started as a study circle using innovative methods for people with developmental disabilities is today a professional, integrated theatre with actors with intellectual functional disabilities. The Mooms Theatre from Malmö present and describe their work.

Seminar host: SV, jointly with The Mooms Theatre, Sweden

6. Young Civic Radio

Young people from Austria, Germany, Norway, Hungary and Romania produce web radio on topical social issues. These may be anything from local democracy issues to topics transcending national borders.

Seminar host: European Civic Foundation/Young Civic Radio, Hungary

7. What's happening on the EU's external borders?

The Spanish and Swedish Red Cross are working to care for and integrate refugees and seek to be a voice in the EU on migration issues. In the "Buddy Project" people from Stockholm form links with people who have recently been granted a permanent residence permit.

Seminar host: Swedish Red Cross, jointly with the Study Promotion Association, Sweden

8. Everyone can be an active citizen

How can people with mental disabilities be integrated into society and become active citizens? One of the participants in the ESF project Estet talks about the process and demonstrates developments and the interaction between activity and identity.

Seminar host: Folkuniversitetet, Sweden

9. Dare to dream

Adult education projects in England and Belarus provide women in vulnerable situations with an opportunity for further education. In England the women are from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Somalia while the Belarus project focuses on single mothers and young women with little education.

Seminar host: NIACE, England & Wales, jointly with Folkuniversitetet, Sweden

10. The role of non-formal adult education in the economic crisis

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) describes how local stakeholders can work together to promote lifelong learning. Can we train our way out of the crisis? When Volvo workers in Gothenburg were given notice, ABF started an adult education programme on full pay.

Seminar host: EESC, EU, jointly with ABF, Sweden

11. Back to an active life

How do you coach people on long-term sick leave and people who are socially disadvantaged so that they can regain an active life? The Guidelife project, with partners in nine countries, took up the challenge.

Seminar host: Folkuniversitetet, Sweden

Identity

12. Young people win democracy

What can educational institutions, non-profit organisations and other stakeholders do to support young people's involvement and help them to maintain it throughout their lives? Presentation of examples from Finland and Sweden.

Seminar host: OK Study Centre, Finland, jointly with the Study Promotion Association, Sweden

13. Peace Agents – from Sweden to Europe and the world

Some people see a multi-religious Europe as a powder keg, others see it as an opportunity. 100 young Muslim peace agents have been trained in Sweden. The next step is an active European peace movement.

Seminar host: Sensus, jointly with Ibn Rushd, Sweden

14. What does being an active citizen mean?

Popular debate on citizenship and identity. What constitutes citizenship? Are there European and regional identities? The role of non-formal adult education in creating an identity for active citizenship.

Seminar host: Folkuniversitetet, Sweden

15. The exhibition as a meeting place

How can you celebrate nine new years in a single year? A multi-religious guide takes us on a journey through the world's religions. A MUSE ALL wants to transform museums from dusty storage spaces to meeting places for lifelong learning and intercultural dialogue.

Seminar host: DVV International, Germany, jointly with Sensus, Sweden

16. Europe's multicultural history

Understanding contemporary European history has become a hot topic for lifelong learning. National narratives, family history and the media play a decisive role in the creation of an identity in European society. A seminar on using role play as an educational tool.

Seminar host: DARE, Germany

17. The role of the churches in forging a shared identity

Christian faith and tradition bind people with different nationalities together in a shared identity. Can this identity contribute towards stronger EU citizenship? The churches also run cross-border work in the social economy, for example. Is this something which could reduce nationalism and increase solidarity?

Seminar host: Bilda study association, Sweden

18. Young people show the way

Forix, the parliament of the suburbs, engages young people in the suburbs of Gothenburg, Malmö and Stockholm in political issues. In 2009 the emphasis is on the EU. What are you lobbying for? “Boring EU – which EU is your EU?” gives you the answer.

Seminar host: Ibn Rushd, jointly with SV, and Vi unga, Sweden

19. Coping with everyday life in Sweden

Where can I find the nearest recycling point and where do I go to get the children on a pre-school waiting list? Swedish volunteers help recently arrived immigrants find their way around everyday life in Sweden, improving their Swedish skills at the same time.

Seminar host: Medborgarskolan, Sweden

Climate and energy

20. Food changes you – change your food

Who can you talk to to get the food in your local shop changed – the store owner, the farmer or the European Commission? Is organic food incompatible with global solidarity? How is the climate affected by what is produced and how can we make intelligent choices? Citizens need tools to make changes.

Seminar host: The Swedish Consumers’ Association jointly with the Swedish Adult Education Association, Sweden

21. The boiling frog

What can you and I do to reduce carbon dioxide emissions? The Swedish campaign “klimat.nu” (climate now) aimed to reduce human impact on the climate and increase awareness of the links between lifestyle and the environment. The study associations are using their experiences on the climate issue in Sweden and Belarus.

Seminar host: The Swedish Adult Education Association, jointly with Sensus and the Study Promotion Association, Sweden

22. Non-formal adult education is sustainable

Non-formal adult education and popular participation are the keys to the sustainable development of society. How can we narrow the gap between the population and local/national authorities and how does improving knowledge help create political pressure? Presentation of three real examples from the Nordic Countries and Europe.

Seminar host: NVL, Nordic Countries, jointly with ABE, Sweden

Advocacy and the EU

23. Giving Europe ears – from information to communication

The European Commission talks about its work to change the way it communicates with citizens. The Swedish Adult Education Association highlights the question of how citizens can affect EU policy via study associations. Seminar host: The European Commission, jointly with the Swedish Adult Education Association, Sweden

24. Lobbying at European level

On initiatives from civil society at European level and how we can improve communication between European and national/regional levels. Seminar host: EAEA, Europe

25. Influencing local issues via a detour to Brussels?

Over 60 percent of local council decisions have an EU element. Bring a local council agenda with you and let SALAR help you analyse where the issues belong. The study associations build bridges between the people and their elected representatives to create more active citizens. Seminar host: The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR, jointly with the Regional Adult Education Association of Sörmland and the Swedish Adult Education Association, Sweden

26. Networking for the future of Europe

EBZ, the European Centre for Culture and Communication, presents its networking efforts between organisations involved in education and culture. Seminar host: The Study Promotion Association, Sweden, jointly with Hessischer Volkshochschulverband, Germany

27. The Mickey Mouse Parliament

Margaret Thatcher called the European Parliament a “Mickey Mouse Parliament” – a parliament with no powers. Others claim that an MEP has more power than a minister. What do MEPs really do in Brussels and how can citizens contact them and influence them? Seminar host: The Swedish Adult Education Association, Sweden

28. The Parent Circle

How can we develop positive parenthood? The Parent Circle project has worked with different parent groups, such as parents of children with disabilities. Seminar host: VOFO, Norway

Experience non-formal adult education in action in Gothenburg

Come to Gothenburg the day before the conference and see the study associations in action. Study visits are arranged for the evening of 28 September and the morning of 29 September. Note on your registration form which study associations/activities you would like to visit and we'll do our best to organise visits for you. All visits will start at the Museum of World Culture.

Folkuniversitetet welcomes groups to their Gyllenkroken activity centre whose work centres around people with mental disabilities. They will also be presenting their Swedish for Immigrants courses, which span a wide range of differing groups from highly educated people to students with post-traumatic stress syndrome and/or a hearing impairment.

Ibn Rushd welcomes visitors to Hjällbo, a suburb of Gothenburg. Ibn Rushd will explain why non-formal adult education is extremely important in this area with great ethnic diversity and describe what the work involves here. With Forix, the parliament of the suburbs.

Medborgarskolan invites visitors to attend its popular cooking courses for single people of all ages.

NBV offers rock and pop at its activity centre in the Majorna area of Gothenburg.

Sensus presents “God has 99 Names” – an exhibition and guided tour through the many religions in Sweden. Multi-religious guides help visitors around the interactive exhibition, in which you can investigate religious temples, try on clothes typical of different religions or build your own altar.

The Study Promotion Association invites you to visit them the evening before the conference. On the morning of the 29th of September you can choose between a visit to the environmental centre Ekocentrum or joining a fascinating nature walk in central Gothenburg to learn more about all the phenomena and opportunities offered by the local environment.

Bilda welcomes visitors to the democracy project Framtidsspår (Steps to the Future) in the multicultural area of Lövgärdet, a collaboration project between authorities and civil society to combat exclusion, focussing on young people.

SV offers a visit to a hip-hop academy, a lively building in Gamlestadsstorget, a meeting place in which diversity and respect are taken for granted.

ABF will present its adult education and SFI courses at Odinsskolan.

Active citizenship forges ahead

The European institutions say that they want to enter into greater dialogue with European civil society. EU institutions which are willing to listen is only half of the process. We also need meeting places where citizens can come together, debate and become involved. Non-formal adult education works to ensure that the discussions going on in society reach the decision-makers at the right level and that these decision-makers have the opportunity to hear citizens' views via the study associations.

During the conference, an appeal will be formulated to be submitted to the new European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Council of Ministers. It will assert that lifelong learning is a prerequisite for a citizens' Europe, and will describe how study associations can be used as a bridge between the people and their elected representatives.

Practical details

The conference has its own website: www.activeineurope.org

Here you will find a registration form and the latest information about the conference.

We have also reserved about 400 rooms in central hotels and hostels in various price brackets. You can book your own accommodation easily via the website.

We must receive your registration form by Friday 14 August at the latest.

Any questions:

Marie Fredriksson, marie@studieforbunden.se

Tel. +46-8-402 01 58 or mobile +46-702-55 43 77.



Registration form – if you prefer to register by post:

Name and job title:

Organisation:

Invoicing address:

Phone:

E-mail:

I would like to attend on: Tuesday 29 September

Wednesday 30 September

The three seminars I would like to attend are (give seminar number):

First choice:

Second choice:

I would like to make the following study visits (see page 11):

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.....

.....

Conference fee: SEK 300, will be invoiced after registration and is binding but can be transferred to another person. Payment terms 30 days net.

Postal address:

The Swedish Adult Education Association/Folkbildningsförbundet
Wallingatan 38
111 24 Stockholm
Sweden

You can also register here: www.activeineurope.org
or by e-mail to: marie@studieforbunden.se

In partnership with:



OK-opintokeskus



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SWEDEN



Swedish Association
of Local Authorities
and Regions

DARE

Democracy and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning

Young Civic Radio - Europe

**Sveriges
Konsumenter**

THE SWEDISH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION



VOFO

VOKSENOPLÆRINGSFORBUNDET
STUDIEFORBUNDENES INTERESSEORGANISASJON

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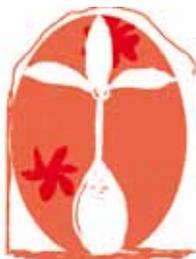
promoting adult learning



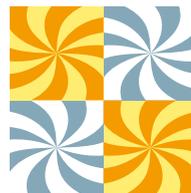
European Economic and Social Committee



Röda Korset



**EUROPAHAUS
BURGENLAND**



Folkets Hus och Parker

dvv international

Institut für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
des Deutschen Volkshochschul-Verbandes

nvl

Nordic Network for Adult Learning



Västra Götalands
BILDNINGSFÖRBUND



City of
Göteborg



VÄSTRA
GÖTALANDSREGIONEN



Länsbildningsförbundet
Sörmland



IBN RUSHD



Studieförbundet
Vuxenskolan



Folkuniversitetet



medborgarskolan

sensus



NYKTERHETSRORELSENS
BILDNINGSVERSAMHET

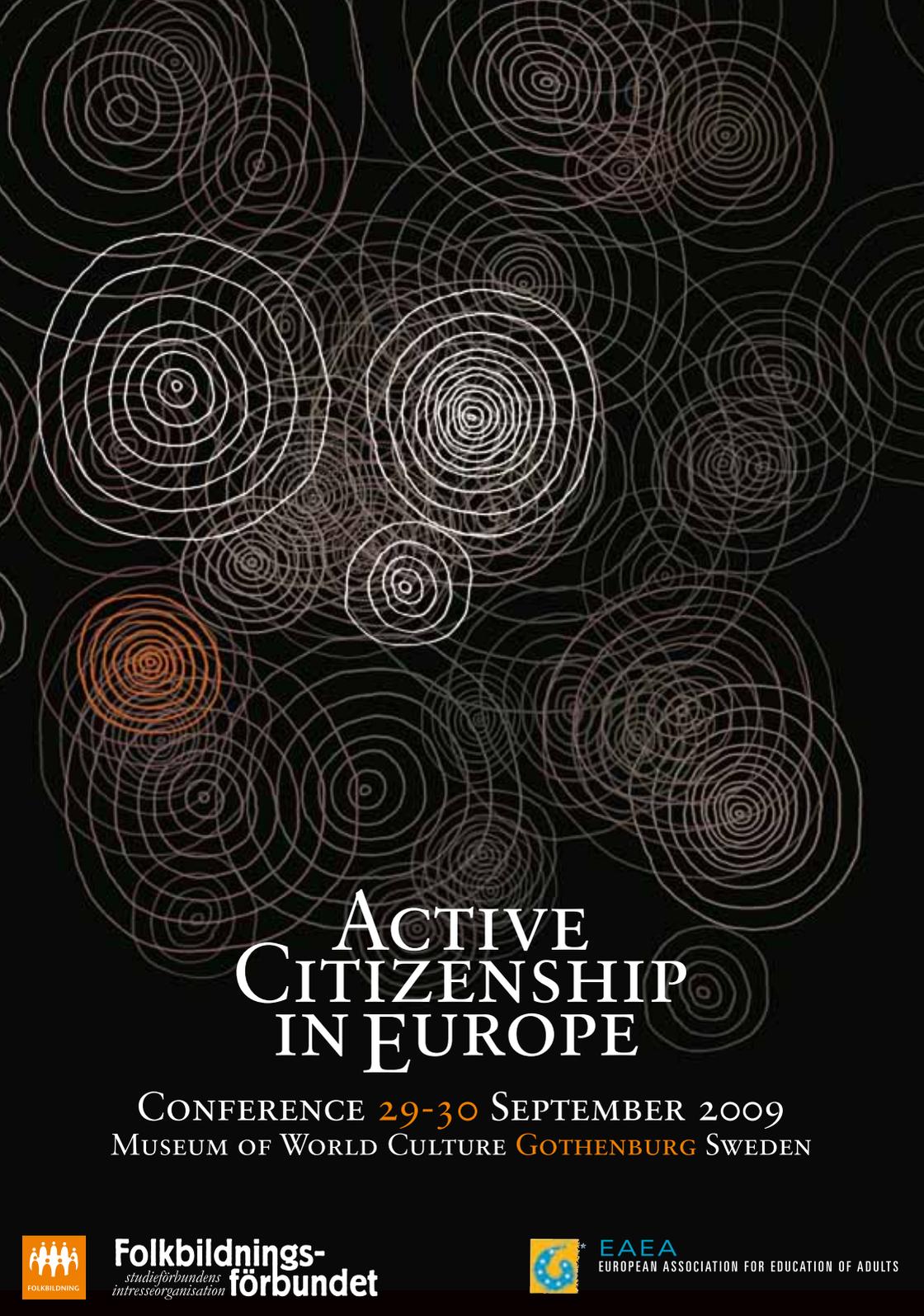
Studie 
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Bilda



ARBETARNAS BILDNINGSFÖRBUND



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**Folkbildnings-
förbundet**
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intresseorganisation*



EAEA
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION OF ADULTS