

## Folkbildning Sweden – Nordic-Baltic Meeting

From the 1 of January 2016 the Swedish organization for study associations changed the Swedish name from Folkbildningsförbundet to Studieförbunden.

### **The political situation for Folkbildning:**

There haven't been any changes in the financial situation for folkbildning and the ten study associations ordinary activities. The financial support on study circles with asylum seekers have however increased. In the spring budget 2016 the government assigned 72 million SEK (7750000 EURO) extra to the ten study associations study circles in Swedish. The initiative is a development of the additional funding the study associations received in 2015 and is about to offer participants in-depth studies in the Swedish language. Already the study associations got 100 million SEK 2016 to provide study circles to encourage activity, language and social skills.

Between August and December 2015, there were 73,500 asylum seekers who participated in a new initiative by the ten study associations in Sweden. In the study circles the participants studied language and society and made new contacts and networks.

[www.studieforbunden.se/asyl](http://www.studieforbunden.se/asyl)

### **New knowledge in the field of Folkbildning**

We have produced a report Swedish from day one – adult education with asylum seekers as a document about political decisions and the study associations work with asylum seekers 2015. (Accompany in Swedish and a short English summary)

The refugee crisis and study associations extended missions with study circles with asylum seekers have been accompanied by confidence and very positive opinions from the government on folkbildning and study associations.

“The Government's initiative targets study associations as we know that study associations are good at meeting a diverse range of people. That the study associations have experience of activities for asylum seekers and newly arrived immigrants, reach out to all parts of the country, can be flexible and set up new activities quickly are naturally important factors.”

Aida Hadzialic, Minister for Upper Secondary School and Adult Education and Training.

### **Activities and projects:**

Studieförbunden promotes lifelong learning and raises awareness of our ten member's activities for democratic learning, reflection and dialogue, and community organizing.

Current priorities for Studieförbunden:

- Adult education with asylum seekers
- Training for work and employment for youths and young adults
- Digital inclusion



- Art and culture for all, including music and literacy

Studieförbunden and its members are currently developing the use of social media to share information and interact with our target groups: politicians, journalists, educators and participators. This includes more use of photos, films and streaming lectures, debates and meetings.

Folkbildning with asylum seekers is a central priority for us and our member associations this year and probably also the common years. There is a great demand from participants to develop their knowledge of the Swedish language, become active in the community and study associations can facilitate establishment in the labor market and society in general. We also see an increasing need for folkbildning with established swedes about the asylum seekers situation, background and culture. This can be done with help from the study associations with meeting points and study circles that encourage meetings and social activities.

During 2016-2017 one group in focus for Studieförbunden is young people who are neither in education, employment nor training (so called "neets"). Studieförbunden have received external funding for the project which aims towards validating 2600 young people until the project ends in 2018. Key competences are competences that are important on the labor market regardless of what area of business or profession you work within. The project has developed 45 different modules for assessment of competences. Examples of general competences are social competence, basic digital skills, communicative skills and leadership skills. For 2016 the project has a certain focus on young migrants, and assessment of basic language skills and democratic competences.

The project cooperates with different organizations on the national and regional level, eg National Employment agency, National agency for vocational training and The National delegation for young who are neither in education, employment or training. In collaboration with national organizations and agencies Studieförbunden strive to raise awareness of the importance of implementing validation and other tools when working with young people who often have not finished school and have no or little work experience.