

**A UNESCO CENTRE IN BOTKYRKA!
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE?**

**Participate in the feasibility study.
Influence the result.
Contribute to the future.**

**BOTKYRKA
KOMMUN**



Långt ifrån lagom



UNESCO IN BOTKYRKA, WHY?

Botkyrka, with its unique mixed population, is known outside Sweden. In many places, our municipal district is considered to be a modern concentrate of the challenges being faced by both Sweden and other countries in the world. The fact that we have been working intensively and strategically with the questions which arise as a result of an ethnically and religiously mixed population has attracted interest in both the European Council and Unesco.

Unesco considers that the stability which prevails in Sweden is important in order, with others, to create the conditions for a sustainable long-term development, and Unesco is therefore supportive of the idea of opening a local Unesco centre in Botkyrka, the first in northern Europe. In order to establish this unique meeting place, we need support, commitment and knowledgeable cooperation partners, on both the local and the national level. In the first place, this is a question of a feasibility study during the spring of 2012.

BOTKYRKA, SWEDEN, THE WORLD

It is our belief that there is only one way to go in Sweden – forward. This means that we face the challenge of creating social cohesion and harmony in an increasingly complex world. At the same time, we realise that we cannot create a sustainable development on our own. Instead, we need to gather together all the wise and positive forces around us in order to be able to create a good future and to increase the rate of development both locally and globally. One important force can be a Unesco Centre, which will be a positive force for the whole of Sweden and will help us also to inspire other countries to focus on the important questions. We shall begin with a feasibility study. We hope that you will join us in this!

WHAT ARE THE MAIN ADVANTAGES OF A LOCAL UNESCO CENTRE?

1. We receive local development support through the establishment of global links.

The UN and other international organs are increasingly identifying municipalities and cities as the places where international ambitions for peace, security and respect for human rights are



rising to the surface and become visibly manifested. Unesco's central work is therefore focusing more and more on providing support for municipal authorities and cities. This helps municipalities and cities to go from words to action in tasks which give not only local benefits but also positive effects in a global context. This applies particularly to community factors such as politics, culture and social and economic development.

The establishment of northern Europe's first local Unesco centre is a matter of national interest. It is a question of what active role we can together play in the task of creating a just and equal society, both locally and globally. These are future questions from which must not hide.

2. We create social cohesion and a natural meeting place

In Sweden there are still large gaps in our understanding of how to create a sustainable development of society when the population becomes increasingly mixed in terms of identity and religion. To create social cohesion in such a context requires careful consideration. It is also promoted if wise and constructive forces at different levels in society have a natural meeting place. A Unesco

centre would be perfect for this.

3. We gather together both theoretical knowledge and the knowledge of the civil society

A local Unesco centre with national support aims to gather together the knowledge which is available scattered throughout Sweden relating to the sustainable intercultural development of society and to develop methods of going from words to action. The ambition is to gather together both theoretical knowledge and the knowledge based on practical experience which the citizens and organizations in the civil society possess.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

During the spring of 2012, we are carrying out the very important feasibility study concerning a Unesco centre, where we are investigating how a local Unesco centre with national support and a wide partnership can best be realised.

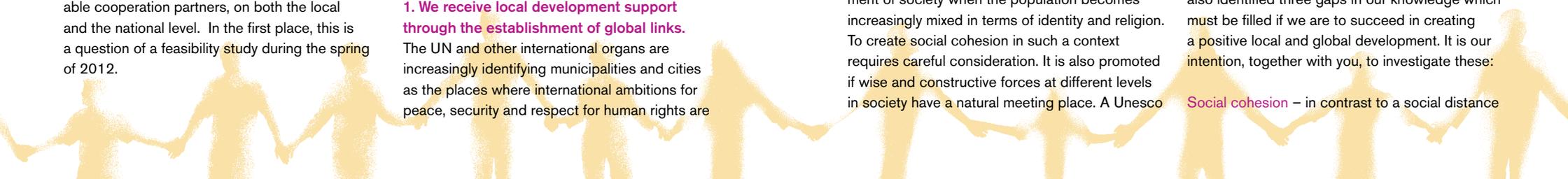
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

On the basis of the results from the feasibility study, we shall put forward a proposal for a start-up phase of 1–3 years which the Botkyrka Municipal Council will consider in August 2012. The organisation proposal which we then put forward shall have the capacity to go from the gathering of the theoretical and civil society based knowledge to the systematic utilisation of this knowledge as a tool for real society development. The proposed manner of working will naturally involve and engage both citizens and partners. We shall also suggest the type of leadership which is required in an action oriented work field towards society development.

THREE WORKSHOPS TO WHICH YOU ARE WELCOME

As a part of the feasibility study, we extend an invitation during the spring to three workshops where we shall together define the role which a Unesco centre can play in Sweden. We have also identified three gaps in our knowledge which must be filled if we are to succeed in creating a positive local and global development. It is our intention, together with you, to investigate these:

Social cohesion – in contrast to a social distance



between different groups, between municipal authorities, and between districts. What are the consequences for the development of society of being excluded from the community?

Inter-religious dialogue – Religion is important even in a secular society like Sweden. It can create tensions within and between different groups, but it can also be a gateway for new meetings. What are the consequences of failing to relate to religion's role as a coherent and meaningful factor in a local context in our secularised society?

Place identity and national identity – Who belongs, and who is left outside? How is the individual's identity and freedom influenced by the joint identity? What are the risks of a passive attitude?

Times and place for the workshops:

1. Inter-religious dialogue: 22 February, 18.00 – 20.30 pm
2. Social harmony: 28 March, 9.00 am – 12.00 noon
3. National identity – place identity: 19 April, 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Important!

What knowledge and what support are required in these three fields? How can we work together and individually?

You will find the invitations and the dates for our workshops on www.botkyrka.se

HAVE YOU ANY QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS?

Contact the project leader Helena Rojas
Head of Development
helena.rojas@botkyrka.se
Mobile tel: 00-46-708-861412

or the interim committee for the Unesco Centre:

Jens Sjöström (s), chairman
jens.sjostrom@botkyrka.se
Mobile tel: 00-46-708-861101

Christina Zedell (s)
christina.zedell@riksdagen.se
Mobile tel: 00-46-70-530 42 28

Jimmy Baker (m)
jimmy.baker@moderat.se
Mobile tel: 00-46-701-42 25 00



WHAT IS UNESCO?

Unesco is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, established in 1945 as a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Its purpose is to work for peace and security by promoting international cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture without regard for race, gender, language or religion in order to promote universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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