

Analysis and Recommendations for Enhancing Cultural and Civic Engagement “Folkbildning” in Sjuhärad

This report is the result of a comprehensive dialogue and analysis process conducted as part of the implementation of Sjuhärad's regional cultural plan (2024–2027).

The study was carried out through structured discussions, mapping of existing collaboration forums, and in-depth evaluations of the roles of civic education and study associations in fostering cultural participation.

The report identifies specific attention should be given to enhance collaboration between study associations and public actors. It presents recommendations based on evidence gathered during the dialogue process, proposing structures to formalize partnerships and improve strategic alignment.

By combining participatory methods with strategic analysis, the report offers a robust foundation for building a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable cultural ecosystem in Sjuhärad. It highlights the transformative potential of civic and cultural collaboration in addressing regional needs and fostering long-term social and cultural development.

The study sets out the following goals: mapping existing collaboration forums, evaluating the roles of culture and civic education in fostering engagement, identifying factors influencing collaboration between study associations and municipalities, and recommending new or adapted structures to strengthen partnerships.

Civic education, facilitated by study associations, is pivotal in fostering cultural participation, strengthening democracy, and promoting social sustainability. Study associations serve as enablers by creating meeting spaces, organizing educational and cultural activities, and supporting their member organizations. Their contributions extend across cultural engagement, lifelong learning, and social cohesion, making them essential actors in Sjuhärad's cultural and civic landscape.

The report highlights the importance of formalizing collaborative structures, recommending the establishment of a dedicated working group consisting of cultural managers and study association representatives. Boråsregionen is suggested as the coordinating entity, ensuring regular dialogue and strategic alignment. Such a structure aims to enhance understanding, improve resource allocation, and foster a shared vision for cultural and civic engagement in the region.

Long-term benefits of this collaboration include increased access to cultural activities, improved infrastructure for cultural participation, and a more inclusive and democratic cultural ecosystem. The study concludes that fostering strategic partnerships between the public and civic sectors will not only support cultural associations but also ensure that culture remains accessible and relevant to all residents of Sjuhärad, regardless of location or socioeconomic background.

This collaborative model positions culture as a catalyst for regional development, offering a sustainable framework for enhancing cultural life and social cohesion in Sjuhärad.

For more information contact Lisa Haeger, Cultural Strategist, Boråsregionen
lisa.haeger@borasregionen.se