

<p><i>Theme: Asylum and migration; Young people; User group: Migrants; Young People; Language: English; Country: Sweden; Year: 2017 Event: ESN Migration Seminar 2017</i></p>	
<p>Programme's name:</p> <p><i>Original title:</i></p>	<p>Folk High School Track Project: Integrating unaccompanied young migrants in schools</p> <p><i>Folkhögskolespåret</i></p>
<p><u>Organisation / Country:</u></p>	<p>Folk High School Track, Skåne County - Sweden</p>
<p><u>Website:</u></p>	<p>www.folkhogskolesparet.se</p>
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<p><u>Summary:</u></p>	<p>Folk High Schools (FHS) were established in Sweden over 100 years ago. Now, there are 154 FHS and they are financed by the government, the counties and municipalities. The majority of FHS are boarding schools, which means that students live and study in the same campus. FHS in Sweden have a long tradition of meeting the needs of different types of disadvantaged groups. The school format allows students to find their way into society and enables them to build up extended networks and contacts with local community or employers. At the national level, an initiative to include unaccompanied migrant young people in Folk High Schools is referred to as 'Folk High School Track'.</p> <p>Since 2012, the project also gives the opportunity to unaccompanied migrant young people aged 18 to 21 years old to live and study at Folk High Schools (FHS) across Sweden. The project will last until the beginning of 2018 unless funding is renewed. Five regions in Sweden have implemented and developed the 'Folk High School Track' for unaccompanied young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skåne • Västra Götaland • Stockholm • Gävleborg • Västerbotten County. <p>Folk High School Track in Skåne, situated in the southern part of Sweden, oversees the national coordination of the project. In 2017, around 70 young unaccompanied migrants attended 15 different FHS all over Sweden where they had the opportunity to improve their Swedish language skills, widen their social</p>

	<p>networks, helped find summer jobs, and participate in activities both inside and outside the school.</p> <p>FHS offer the following courses: General, Special and Vocational courses. General courses allow students to qualify for higher education. Among other subjects, students attend the following courses: Swedish, English, maths and social studies. Special courses allow student to specialise in a particular area of interest: music, media, arts and crafts, drama, languages, etc. Unlike General courses, Special ones do not qualify students for higher education. Finally, Vocational courses are intended to develop practical skills in a certain area.</p>
<p><u>Resources:</u></p>	<p>The ‘Folk High School Track’ project, is financed through the counties’ funding programme: ‘§ 37 funds’. Funding covers salaries for project managers, travel, expenses for information meetings, training and conferences. Education in itself at FHS is covered by regular government funds and the schools charge a fee to municipalities for housing, food and other support for children.</p>
<p><u>Objectives:</u></p>	<p>Based on the project's previous results during the period 2012-2016, a number of main objectives have been set for 2017- 2018. The main goals are in line with the proposals for measures made by Ramböll (a consultant company) in the report ‘Scaling up the Folk High School Track’, which was submitted to the Ministry of Education in February 2016. The project aims for 500 unaccompanied young migrants to be living and studying at a FHS in 2018. In addition to coordinating the project at national level, ‘Folk High School Track’ in Skåne identifies and tackles common issues and provides a basis for an exchange of experience.</p> <p>The general objectives of “Folk High School Track” project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide support to other counties in Sweden concerning the work of FHS and actively coordinate, support and strengthen regional conferences and working groups; - inform ministries, central authorities and organisations to further facilitate the placement of unaccompanied children in FHS and work to remove obstacles in legislation and regulations; - work with FHS so that they increasingly take over the responsibility to inform unaccompanied children about the possibility to live and study at FHS; - develop internships and connections with the labour market in a number of the FHS;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue working for targeted state funding for unaccompanied young people attending FHS; - enhance the exchange of experience and knowledge sharing between different FHS about teaching, support and integration of unaccompanied young migrants through conferences, seminars and web-based material; - follow up the results and the social integration of unaccompanied young people participating in the project.
<p><u>Issues encountered:</u></p>	<p>160,000 migrants arrived in Sweden in 2015 and out of them, 36,000 are unaccompanied children. This forced the government to introduce new laws and regulations to reduce the inflow of asylum seekers. However, the new regulations hinder the possibility for unaccompanied migrant children to attend FHS. Moreover, the cooperation between different authorities in the municipalities does not always work. This concerns the cooperation between schools, children´s homes or supported accommodation, and social authorities. As a result of the new regulations at national level, social departments in the municipalities have undergone several re-organisations that created instability in the reception system and a high staff turnover. Therefore, the main issue encountered during the implementation of the project is that an extensive amount of work needs to be done to influence ministries, government agencies and municipalities.</p> <p>Finally, unaccompanied young migrants are not aware enough of the possibilities of attending FHS. The same applies to the staff that young people meet in school or in their accommodation.</p>
<p><u>Outcomes:</u></p>	<p>In Autumn 2017, a total of 70 unaccompanied migrant young people will participate in the Folk High School Track project. So far, the project has reached over 3,000 professionals through information meetings, trainings and conferences. The project is also known by several government officials in relevant ministries. Out of the 24 Swedish counties, 16 counties have carried out practical actions to inform the public about the project, and over 100 municipalities have been reached. The project has a very well-visited website and is available on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation of practice:</u></p>	<p>Through surveys and interviews with unaccompanied young migrants attending FHS, we found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they usually very much enjoy the school;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- in most cases they end up speaking Swedish fluently or greatly improve their language skills;- they have a wider social network;- 75% find a summer job;- they participate in activities both inside and outside school;- they encounter difficulties learning English when they learn Swedish at the same time;- they often have to start at primary school level before they can attend the secondary level.
<u>Sources of further information:</u>	www.folkhogskolesparet.se