



# BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

**Who is allowed to call  
themselves an artist?**

**Green Transition and Support  
of Artistic Expression**

**JULY 2024**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Who is allowed to call themselves an artist?

## – Green Transition and Support of Artistic Expression

### Context and Initiative Details

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Name of the initiative     | Who is allowed to call themselves an artist   |
| Geographical scope         | Örebro Municipality   |
| Sources of funding         | Trappan was an ESF-funded project led by ABF Örebro County in collaboration with the Employment Service, Örebro Municipality, Örebrobostäder (Housing companies), and Region Örebro County.   |
| Duration of the initiative | 2018 – 2022   |
| Target audience            | Individuals with various types of functional variations who have both an interest and a need for creative expression in various forms, as well as a desire to contribute/be involved in the mainstream cultural offerings in their own hometown and elsewhere in Sweden.  |
| Social justice focus area  | Inclusion and accessibility   |
| Goals of the initiative    | <p>The goals of the project are to organize five major exhibitions in different regions of Sweden and reach at least 30 young artists with disabilities. The project aims to become known among the public, politicians, officials, and business leaders through lectures, debates, and media. At least five well-known artists will be involved as mentors to strengthen the young artists' self-esteem and confidence. We aim to attract at least 5,000 visitors to the exhibitions and to hold an educational camp in Hallsberg. The project will also compile customized educational materials and provide artists with the opportunity to plan and execute their own exhibitions. New expressions and markets for the art will be explored, and a national association, "aniAras Vänner," will be established. Collaborations with local art schools, exhibition halls, and museums will be formed, and a website and social media accounts with accessible interfaces will be launched. Kulturrummet aniAra will serve as a knowledge base and model for similar activities in other locations.</p> <p>A central part of the project will focus on the green transition through reuse and recycling in art. The artists will be encouraged to use recycled materials in their works and to explore sustainable art methods. Workshops and lectures on sustainability and environmental awareness will be included, providing participants with knowledge on how they can contribute to a more sustainable future through their art.</p> |

### Good Practices Description

#### Stakeholder engagement in the process

Stiftelsen Activa in Örebro County, Botkyrka Municipality, ABF Örebro County, ABF Botkyrka-Salem, Ängelholm Municipality, ABF Northeast Skåne, Skellefteå Municipality, ABF Skellefteå, Kulturbyråkraterna, Coompanion Örebro

#### Methodology used

Form interest associations for artists with disabilities:

- Finance
- Marketing
- Environmental analysis
- Entrepreneurship

- Procurement
- Organizing exhibitions
- Advocacy
- Green transition

### Teaching approaches

Popular education is characterized by learner-centered instruction that takes place in small groups. The focus is on active participation, where all members contribute their experiences and knowledge. This creates a democratic and inclusive environment where all voices are heard. The leader acts as a facilitator who supports and guides the group rather than teaching in a traditional manner. The content of popular education is often tailored to the interests and needs of the participants, making learning relevant and engaging. The pedagogy of popular education promotes independent learning, collaboration, and the practical application of knowledge.

### Challenges and outcomes

#### Key factors contributing to success

The project has provided the target group with validation for their creative pursuits, fostering personal growth and eliciting entirely new attitudes from all those fortunate enough to encounter them in various settings. The target group takes pride in contributing to a green transition within culture. Ultimately, it's our incredible participants from across the country, with their boundless imagination and creativity, together with steadfast support from leaders and other passionate individuals, who have made this project surpass our wildest expectations.

#### Encountered difficulties and challenges

The most significant obstacle we've encountered has been the shortcomings in our contacts with individual officials in decision-making positions. These individuals have failed to grasp that our project is fundamentally based on the individual's perspective and has been essentially participant-driven. Some of these officials perceive their efforts towards participants/target group and any collaborations from a top-down perspective (as it has been felt), and do not respect that the participants are thinking beings with their own dreams, emotions, and considerable knowledge. Unfortunately, it became apparent all too often that our participants were not respected in various locations and became very saddened and disheartened as a result. The project team thus had to invest a lot of time and energy in trying to uplift those who had been needlessly affected by poor attitudes from people who should have known better, considering their profession.

#### Recommendations

Improve the knowledge and understanding among decision-makers and service providers about the target group and their needs to avoid incorrect decisions and harsh consequences.

Implement information and educational initiatives in society to raise awareness about the needs and rights of the target group. Promote a perspective that starts from the needs and experiences of the target group among decision-makers and professionals by encouraging imagination and creative thinking.

Challenge the common perception that society is for everyone by addressing and rectifying the actual deficiencies and obstacles encountered by the target group. Offer opportunities for the target group to meet and engage with other people through activities such as art creation, which can provide hope for a better future on various levels.

#### Impact

The project has been immensely meaningful for the target group by providing them with the opportunity to participate in contexts that previously seemed inaccessible to them. It has served as significant affirmation of their ability to impact others and be appreciated for their own talents and contributions. They are proud to be involved in both advocacy and practical efforts towards the green transition, playing a part in saving our world. Participation has also helped them break their social isolation and instead become part of a community where they are valued for who they are, regardless of diagnosis or challenges. This has resulted in significant personal growth with improved self-confidence and self-esteem, surpassing their expectations. In total, 60 people with disabilities have been involved in the project.