

# Nordic Folk High School Summit



April 11-12 2024 in Sweden

## INVITATION:

## Young people's equal and active participation in democracy – rethinking the democratic spaces in education

### A DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT

The current war in Europe and multiple threats to democracy – polarization, disengagement, gender imbalance, and climate crises – highlight the urgent need for democratic education and training of the civil society, particularly for the youth. They are both central in crafting solutions and most impacted by weakening democratic values.

In addition, emerging societal landscapes pose new challenges like exclusion from political processes, declining mental health, and rising performance pressures. A reevaluation of our educational strategies becomes imperative.

### NORDIC EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS

Our conference reexamines Nordic democratic education, focusing on folk high schools. Through discussions, workshops, and speakers, we seek to equip educators to empower students in comprehending, questioning, and actively engaging in democratic aspects spanning politics, media, civil society, economics, and the legal system.

Come, share your experiences at this crucial conference! As educators, we play a vital role in shaping democratic solutions to the current threats. Join us, researchers, decision-makers, and stakeholders, in laying the groundwork for future initiatives. Together, we can pave the way for a democratic future.

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Time: April 11-12 2024

Location: Sundsgårdens Folkhögskola, Örbyvägen 10, 257 30 Rydebäck, Helsingborg, Sweden

Registration: <https://ffd.nemtilmeld.dk/375/>

### Language

The conference will be in English.

### ORGANIZER

The Nordic Folk High School Council (NFR) – NFR is a political body that, through national folk high school associations in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, represents more than 350 folk high schools. The purpose of NFR is to ensure the vitality of folk high schools in their efforts towards democratic and sustainable societal development in the Nordic region.

**NORDISK FOLKEHØJSKOLERÅD**  
**THE NORDIC FOLK HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

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## PROGRAM

### THURSDAY APRIL 11TH

12:00 Lunch and Arrival

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**13:00 Opening: A renewed focus on democratic formation** by Lisbeth Trinskjær, chairman of the [Folk High School Association in Denmark](#) and president of the [Nordic Folk High School Council](#).

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**13:10 Opening speech & talk: What is the Nordic's role in the world today in regards to strengthening democracies?** by [Karen Ellemann](#), General Secretary, the Nordic Council of Ministers.

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**13:40 A challenged Democratic Europe – tendencies for youth participation in civil society.** Panel:

- Maria Bruselius-Jensen, Associate Professor and Ph.D., [Danish Centre for Youth Research](#) (CeFu), Denmark.
- Eliana Hercz, Leader and Study Counselor, [Dialogpiloterne](#), Universitetet i Oslo.
- Tarek Hussein, [Dansk Flygtningehjælp Ungdom](#).
- [Lisa Kings](#), associated professor and senior lecturer in Social work at Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden.

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14:30 Break

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**15:00 Tasks for education – tendencies and analysis' from praxis.** Panel:

- Sergey Chumachenko, Head of the [Folk High School "Vovchok"](#), Ukraine.
- Åke Larsson, vice principal, [Kista Folkhögskola](#), Sweden.
- Magne Ekker, vice principal and teacher at [Nansen Academy](#), Norway.
- Melanie Lenehan, Principal, [Fircroft College](#), Nordic Network for folk high school Research, UK.

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**16:15 Workshop - deep democracy**  
Common analysis. Panel and group discussions.

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18:00 Dinner with 3-course menu and democratic dialogue.

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**20:00 Communal event with music** and group singing as the centerpiece by Rasmus Skov Borring, composer, author, and presenter, FFD, Denmark.

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### FRIDAY APRIL 12TH

08:30 Morning assembly

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**09:30 Thinking Spaces What are the solutions – together and sector wise?**  
We think and draft together in smaller groups based on different themes, such as: polarization, youth representation, inclusion.

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**11:30 Closing Remarks**  
by the Nordic folk high school council

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12:00 Lunch and Goodbye.

#### LOCATION

Sundsgårdens Folkhögskola, Örbyvägen  
10, 257 30 Rydebäck, Helsingborg, Sweden

#### PROGRAM

There might be changes to the program.

#### REGISTRATION

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