

WELCOME TO CREAT LEARN!



We live in an uncertain world experiencing profound social change, where the global challenges of environment and climate, peace and co-existence are enormous.

In times like these, the ability for creative thinking is increasingly important for young people in their future lives and for our common societal development. Research shows that culture – both what you consume and what you take part in or create yourself – actively contributes to your creative abilities. The cultural languages, alongside traditional reading and writing, should not be missing from a young person's

educational journey in discovering the world and themselves. Nor when it comes to developing their creativity and communication skills.

Culture has a natural place in many schools today. Students may, for example see and learn about film, music, theatre and dance. Professor Anne Bamford demonstrates in her thesis “The Wow Factor” that in schools where culture has a strong presence, students thrive better and also generally perform better in all subjects.

But how can we develop new methods and how can we progress in giving culture a stronger role in the work of the school? That is what we wanted to investigate in CreatLearn.

Our project has gathered partners around the Baltic Sea, from Denmark – Guldborgsund Municipality, Germany – Hanseatic City of Rostock and Rostock County, Lithuania – Klaipeda school district and Sweden – Kalmar Municipality. Riksteatern (the Swedish National Touring Theatre) and Linnaeus University are also partners, responsible for communication and ongoing evaluation of the Swedish project. The project is an EU project within the South Baltic Programme.

Teachers and cultural experts in film, theatre, art and music, as well as students have collaborated to make CreatLearn an important development project.

The project comprises several sub-projects that have involved students of compulsory school age, and which we describe in this inspirational book. These projects are of themselves quite different, as you will discover as you read on. And that is how it has to be. They have been created on the basis of the circumstances and needs of our various countries, schools and school systems. But what they have in common is this desire for progress, for strengthening the role of culture in schools.

What also gave us direction was when, together, we decided on the common theme of Civil Courage. A theme that unfortunately is becoming increasingly relevant, but also attractive in a Europe characterised by growing social conflict.

The projects have been developed principally in each country, but educators and cultural experts have met four times during the project period to share experiences and for joint methodological workshops. Concept materials, tips on techniques and an expert pool have also been assembled along the way on our website, www.creatlearn.org where the projects can also be followed over time. Each country has its own blog stream with continual project updates, lyrics, photos and videos.

We hope that this book will provide inspiration for all of you educators, cultural workers or decision makers, but perhaps more than anything else that it will give you some concrete ideas about how to develop:

CREATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS (CreatLearn)

– Schools building competences to lead and learn in a rapidly changing world.

Björn Samuelsson

Project Leader

