

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN IMMIGRANTS AND NATIVES

The programme with Refugee guides, nationally coordinated by Eskilstuna municipality, is currently in use all over Sweden in 58 municipalities. In many places the programme is in collaboration with local organizations and volunteer parties such as the Red Cross, local churches, Rotary etc. Visit our national website for more info:

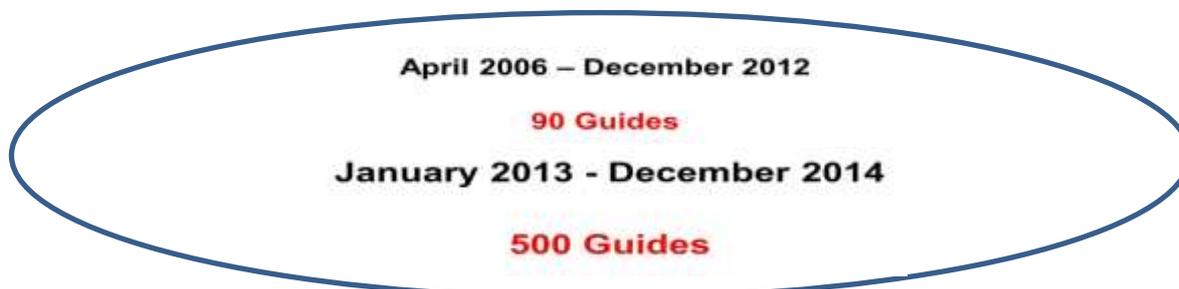
www.sprakvan.se (swedish only)



This programme, matching immigrants with natives, has been successfully active in Eskilstuna since 2006. We have a clear model on how to start new projects nationwide, as well as a specific step-to-step outline. We also offer different kinds of documents (posters, brochures, rollups etc.) free of charge to use and edit according to local demands.

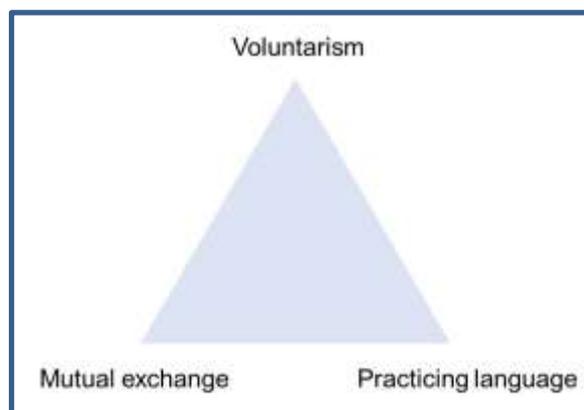


In 2006 the initiative was taken by our current integration coordinator to start the Refugee guide programme. In late 2012 the municipality officially decided to back it up. From that moment on, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of participants.



After the initial meeting between immigrant, native and coordinator, the participants decide on their own how often they will meet. They also come to a mutual understanding regarding what kind of activities (dinner invitations, cultural events, exercising etc.) they will be doing. Their whole contact together is based on the three pillars below:

The idea is that people, with help and support from the municipality, get in contact with individuals from other cultural backgrounds and then form relationships on their own that favour the integration process in a practical and personal way. The municipality can always be contacted in case of emergency or if any need for assistance occur from the participants.



We also provide activities for both immigrants and natives (cultural lectures, recreational events, study visits etc.) in order to show our support for and connect with participants.

RESULTS

The main results of this programme is faster and more efficient language learning and cultural understanding on both sides. We also see a reduction in ignorance, segregation and preconceptions, but what we are most proud of is that almost two-thirds continue their relationship after the usual one year agreement and many people become friends for life!

Do you want to know more?

Please visit our websites or contact us

www.eskilstuna.se/flyktingguide

www.sprakvan.se

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