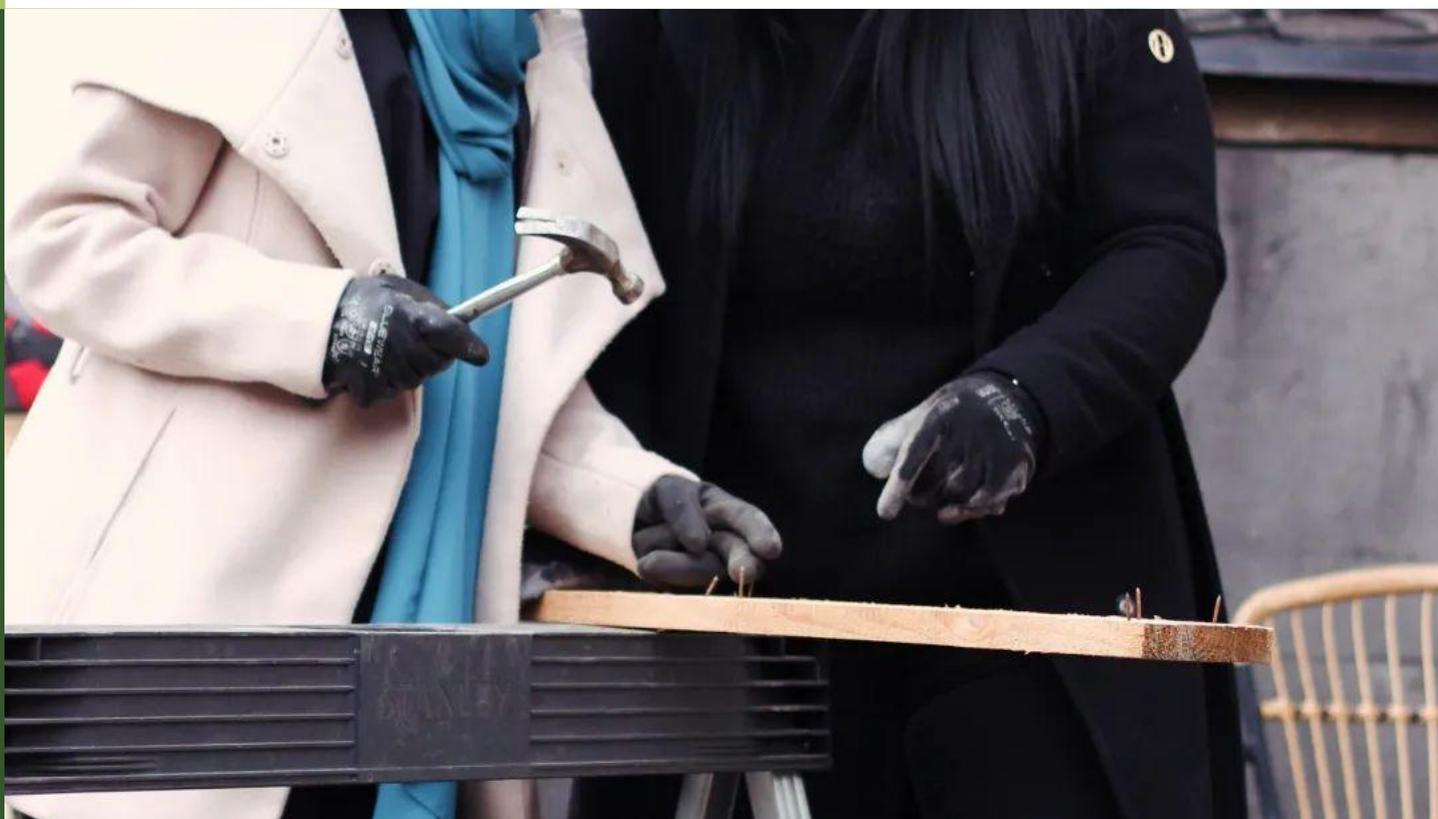




Case Report: Course curriculum – Crafts for Urban Transition



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Case: Course curriculum – Crafts for Urban Transition

As part of exploring how the learning offers can develop at Glokala Folkhögskolan, a new course curriculum has been drafted in collaboration with staff of the association Växtväcket. The idea of the course concept is to contribute to sustainable ecological and social development in urban transition, reutilisation and construction crafts – while creating the conditions for job opportunities in construction crafts based on the needs of the individual, the sector and society. As part of drafting the course curriculum and trying out methods, practical workshops have been held with participants currently studying for secondary high school qualifications at Glokala.

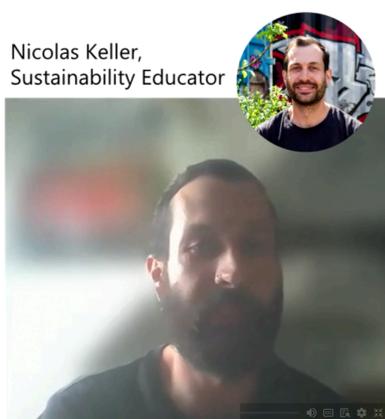
Glokala is a Folk high school (Adult education centre) based in Malmö, Sweden. Starting from the notion of 'thinking globally and acting locally', the school provides secondary education, vocational training for teaching assistants and courses in film, music, art and social entrepreneurship; all connected to urban culture, social change and sustainability. Glokala is also well connected with local associations in the field of sustainability, asylum rights and community development.

Växtväcket is a group of designers, landscape architects, garden engineers and educators based in Malmö, who are passionate about and work for child-friendly and sustainable cities. Since the start of 2014, they have worked action-driven with a focus on participant involvement. Together with children and residents, they create and activate green learning environments and meeting places in the city and implement valued activities in site development, urban gardening and outdoor pedagogy. Växtväcket is an association with both employees and volunteers.

Watch an interview with Nicolas Keller, Sustainability Educator at Växtväcket (4 min):

<https://vimeo.com/1013760341/80f63fe521?share=copy>

Drafting a new
course curriculum:
Crafts for
Urban Transition



Exploring new learning offers

During spring 2024 a new course curriculum was drafted in collaboration between pedagogues of Glokala Folkhögskolan and the association Växtväcket, mainly Klara Sager of Glokala and Nicolas Keller of Växtväcket. This work relates to the area *Engagement of learners* of the SMALEI Sustainability Matrix; and among others its sub-areas *Learning offers and curriculum*, and *Methodology*. For both organisations, an intention has been to explore the role as education actors in the urban context, looking at how we can enable an urban transition.

Crafts for Urban Transition

In the Swedish context, there are quite a few courses at Folk high schools relating to living more sustainably and being part of transition initiatives, but mainly connected to a rural setting. At the same time, there are not that many opportunities in vocational training when it comes to building crafts with emphasis on building conservation and reuse of materials. The new course curriculum drafted, with the title “Crafts for Urban Transition”, seeks to give participants the opportunity to learn and explore their role and possible pathways for further learning and work – formulated as the following learning objectives:

At the end of the course, participants will have acquired practical knowledge in several areas needed to live in an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable urban environment. They will also have developed basic practical skills in building crafts and gained knowledge of the industry and further education programmes. By the end of the course, participants should

- have acquired practical skills to carry out simple craft, maintenance and renovation projects
- be able to identify resources for reuse and recycle local materials
- be able to present and implement a project focussing on urban transition
- have developed theoretical knowledge of urban regeneration, reuse, building crafts and building conservation techniques
- have a good orientation to apply for further education in sustainable crafts and building conservation
- feel involved in their local community and have the opportunity to be active citizens
- have insight and knowledge of the craft and building conservation sector

Scope and content

The course is intended to be a one year course (two semesters) on location, with 50% study pace. The main content of the course:

- Introduction Urban Transition (Transition Towns, Permaculture)
- Practical craft and building conservation elements
- Wood basics (material knowledge, simple carpentry, surface treatment)
- Basic knowledge of clay building and masonry
- Introduction recycled materials (sources, quality and use)
- Basic knowledge of building crafts and building conservation (introduction, history, overview of techniques, pathways to further training and job opportunities)
- Lectures, feedback and study visits to working craftsmen and building conservation companies
- Final project or internship with a relevant organisation



Workshops – testing together with participants

As part of drafting the course curriculum and trying out methods, practical workshops have been held with participants currently studying for secondary high school qualifications at Glokala. The workshops have among other things centered on re-making of a green space, exploring materials and carpentry, and building small-scale furniture from pallets.



Reflections and Outcomes

The course curriculum is an important contribution, adding a new possible dimension in terms of learning offers in sustainability and transition – ready to be put to use. At present, however, a lack of funding prevents the course from being implemented as such. Nevertheless, the methodology and practical ways of working that were tested and well received by the participants at Glokala can be used to some extent as part of the ongoing courses. Hopefully, there will also be new opportunities for funding and further cooperation between Glokala Folkhögskolan and Växtväcket.





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