

ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS – ACTIVITIES 2008 AND 2009 - SUMMARY RESULTS

Kulturrådet (the Swedish Arts Council) has chosen to publish statistics for 2008 and 2009 on the activities of the adult education associations on the Arts Council's website in the form of tables and diagrams. Because the educational associations' culture-oriented activities are of considerable importance to the Arts Council, the summary of the results focuses primarily on these activities. A summary of the results is presented below:

Throughout 2009, the educational associations had almost 20 million participants taking part in their activities.

Cultural programmes attracted the most participants - just over 17 million, which is the equivalent of 86% of the total amount of participants. Between 2004 and 2009, the number of participants in cultural programmes increased by slightly more than 12% and between 2008 and 2009, the number of participants increased by 800,000 which is an increase of 5%. The next highest number of participants in 2009 was for study circle activities with 1.9 million participants. "Other group activities" had almost 900,000 participants. These activities are carried out in freer and more flexible forms than the study circles and the participants here may be greater in number and younger.

Even when you study the number of activities which the educational associations conducted throughout 2009, cultural programmes increased dramatically and are now greater in number compared to study circles. Throughout the period 2004 and 2009, the number of cultural programmes increased by 41% and over the past year alone the number of cultural programmes increased by 9%.

Cultural programmes which in 2009 had the most participants included singing and music where the amount of participants was just over 7.4 million, which is the equivalent of 43% of the total amount. Lectures had the next largest number of participants with just over 3.6 million participants, which is the equivalent of 21% of the total amount of participants.

Study circle activities have slowly but surely decreased in volume over the past few years. Over the past five years (between 2004 and 2009), the number of participants has decreased by 24%, the number of meetings by 22%, the number of study hours by 19% and the number of study circles by 9%. Even when you analyse the number of study meetings and the number of participants per study circle, you find that they have decreased over the past five years. The subjects that attracted the most participants in 2009 were within the humanities and the arts, with 67% of the participants in total. In 2004, 58% of study circle participants participated in the humanities and the arts. The study circles' five largest subject groups were (in descending order) improvisational music (rock, jazz etc.), singing and music in groups, looking after pets, history and choir singing.

The number of activities within the framework of other group activities decreased by 14% over the past five year period at the same time as the amount of participants decreased by slightly more than 8%. Over the past year however, the number of participants has increased by almost 60,000, an increase of 7%. The number of activities increased by 6% or just over 4,000 activities. In 2009, the subject area that attracted the most participants was the humanities and arts. Little more than one half million participants chose this subject area, which was the equivalent of 60% of all participants.

If you study the participants within the educational associations' activities more closely based on gender, women made up 56% respectively 57% of the total amount of participants in cultural programmes and study circles and not less than 62% in other group activities. On disclosure of the amount of participants in the study circles 2009 based on age, it transpires that the share of youths within the ages 13-24 was 15%. In other group activities, children under 13 years made up 21% of the total and youths between the ages of 13-24 made up 10% of the total amount of participants. For the participants within the ages 13-24, the following five subjects in study circle activities and other group activities had the most participants: 1. Improvisational music (rock, jazz etc.), 2. other education in religion, 3. theatre and drama (onstage performances), 4. other dancing and 5. modern art dance.

The educational association that had the most participants in 2009 was ABF (Workers Educational Association) with close to 5.4 million participants, which is the equivalent of 27% of the total amount of participants. Sensus had the next largest number of participants with a little more than 3 million participants, which is the equivalent of 15% of the total amount of participants. The third largest educational association was Studieförbundet Vuxenskolan which had 2.8 million participants, which is the equivalent of 14% of the total amount of participants.

Of the contributions/grants which during 2009 were made to the educational associations' activities, the state provided 71%, which can be compared with 61% 10 years earlier. The municipalities were the next largest contributor providing 17%, which compares with 24% 10 years earlier. The third largest contributor were the county councils contributing 12%, which was 3% less than 10 years ago.