

Demokrati för Barns Framtid
Democracy for Children's Future
Visby, Gotland (Sweden)

EU-MIA RESEARCH REPORT

Ida Persson

COMPAS

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Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford



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Index

1.	Introduction	6
2.	Operational Context	7
2.1	Key characteristics: demographic mix, socio-economic indicators and main challenges	7
2.2	Policy context	9
3.	The Functioning Practice (FP): Democracy for Children’s Future – <i>Demokrati för Barns Framtid</i>	12
3.1	Objective and methodology	12
3.2	Partners and networks	14
3.3	Chronology and funding of activities	15
3.4	Outcomes	17
3.5	Learning and evaluation	18
3.6	The next steps and replication	18
4.	Conclusions	20
	Annexes	22
	Annex 1 - Interviews	22
	Annex 2 - Programme (DBF Summer Camp, Gotland)	23

1. Introduction

EU-MIA (European Migrant Integration Academy) is a research-based co-operative learning and training initiative targeting and directly involving local stakeholders responsible for the development and implementation of local level integration policies in selected European cities.

The project is structured in three phases:

1. Background research, to create a repertoire of promising practices in the field of integration at city and neighbourhood level and selection of 10 Functioning Practices (FP) from throughout the European Union.
2. Fieldwork missions in the cities where the selected Functioning Practices are located, based on in-depth interviews with local stakeholders and the production of short videos.
3. Development of a cooperative learning kit based on the research component of this project which forms the basis of the training initiative Migrant Integration Academy.
4. We do not look for perfect models of integration policy which can be adopted wholesale across different city contexts, but we believe there is, across Europe, a wealth of successful initiatives carried out at city level and in partnership with civil society. Starting from this assumption, we define Functioning Practices (FP) not as the best practices on integration in Europe but as practices relating to successful initiatives that make an outstanding contribution to manage issues at hand.

The selection of Functioning Practices was based on three tools:

- literature review and web browsing;
- consultation of experts and city networks;
- nominations (including a majority of self-nominations) by local stakeholders through a Call for Practices.

These were the criteria used for the selection of Functioning Practices¹:

- a. innovative and successful measures in any fields which have clear goals in terms of integration of people with a migrant background, be they migrant-focused or not;
- b. measures carried out at local level;
- c. measures involving public authorities;
- d. live actions or recently closed actions, i.e. practices concluded within the past two years and consolidated measures that have been implemented for at least two years.

This report presents the Functioning Practice *Demokrati för Barns Framtid* – Democracy for Children's Future (DBF), with particular focus on its yearly summer camp. DBF is a grassroots organisation teaching migrant and non-migrant children about rights, social interaction, integration, and equality through various activities held throughout the year. The activities include sports, music education and events. The practice is based on the Swedish island Gotland, in its main city Visby.

¹ For further details see <http://www.eu-mia.eu/>

Empirical findings are based on analysis of official documents as well as interviews with key actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries.² We have taken a practical approach in order to foster the exchange of functioning practices, shared learning and development of knowledge-based policies. This analysis shows how the practice concretely works and assesses the main achievements and assets, on one hand, and pitfalls and difficulties, on the other hand. It ends with a look towards possible follow up and transfers.

2. Operational Context

2.1 Key characteristics: demographic mix, socio-economic indicators and main challenges

Sweden became a country of immigration, rather than emigration, towards the end of World War II. Immigration was largely dominated by labour migration from Northern, Southern, and central Europe (chiefly Finland and Turkey).³ Since the 1970s Sweden has received refugees from Latin America and East Asia and subsequently, in the 1980s, refugee immigration (and resulting family immigration) from, in particular, Yugoslavia, Somalia and the Middle East.⁴ A further increase in immigration came with Sweden joining the European Union in 1995.⁵ In Sweden the term ‘immigrant’ is an inclusive term, irrespective of the reason for migration.

In 2008 the key reasons for receiving a residence permit in Sweden were⁶:

Immigration for labour purposes	29%
EU or EES Citizen	21%
Refugee	12%
Refugee family reunification	10%
Other family reunification	28%

Gotland is an island off the East coast of Sweden (of 3,184 square kilometres) with a permanent population of ca 57,400 people with ca 22,500 of people living in the main city, Visby.⁷ In the summer months there is a huge influx of tourists, nearly doubling this figure.

² Please refer to Annex 1 for a list of interviews.

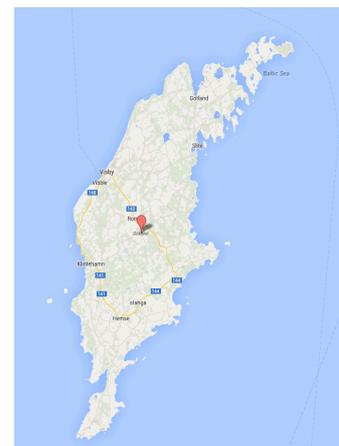
³ Swedish Integration Policy, Fact Sheet, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, Government Offices of Sweden, December 2009. <http://www.government.se/content/1/c6/13/77/34/5b7683a6.pdf>

⁴ Swedish Integration Policy, Fact Sheet, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, Government Offices of Sweden, December 2009.

⁵ Bijl, R., and Verweij, A., (Eds) *Measuring and monitoring: immigrant integration in Europe: Integration policies and monitoring efforts in 17 European countries*, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, 2012.

⁶ Bijl, R., and Verweij, A., (Eds) *Measuring and monitoring: immigrant integration in Europe: Integration policies and monitoring efforts in 17 European countries*, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, 2012.

⁷ <http://www.gotland.net/bo-leva/om-gotland>



Although it has a long history of intercultural contact through long-distance trade, and an outward-looking ethos through its involvement in tourism, Gotland is an interesting example of one of Europe's new migration and integration frontiers: small town and rural settings. In 2010 Gotland had the fewest foreign born residents in all of Sweden, measuring at only 4.6%. (In 2010 the Gotland municipality had 57,269 residents, of whom 2,704 were foreign born.)⁸

Statistics from 2012 show that of the foreign born population 1,527 were women and 1,318 were men⁹. Of the 253 people recorded to have migrated to Gotland in 2012, 40% were actually Swedes returning from other countries. Other groups were¹⁰:

11.5%	European countries outside the EU and Nordic countries
5.9%	Poland
4.7%	Finland
4.7%	Iraq
4.0%	Afghanistan
3.6%	African countries
2.4%	South America
2.4%	Thailand
2.0%	North America
1.6%	Great Britain and Northern Ireland

⁸ <http://www.migrationsinfo.se/regional-statistik/gotlands-lan/gotlands-kommun/>

⁹ Region Fakta, <http://www.regionfakta.com/Gotlands-lan/Befolkning-och-hushall/Utrikesfodda-kvinnor-och-man/>

¹⁰ Region Fakta, <http://www.regionfakta.com/Gotlands-lan/Befolkning-och-hushall/Medborgarskap-hos-lanets-in-och-utvandrare/>

0.8%	Norway
0.8%	Romania
0.4%	German
0.4%	Iran
0.4%	Syria
0.4 %	Oceania
0.4%	Stateless

Figures from 2008 show that 70.5% of migrants originating from other Nordic countries were in employment, compared to 68.2% of migrants born outside the EU.¹¹ In 2009, 41.63% of the migrant population had an academic education. The level of education (based on figures in 2008) were not too disparate between native born and foreign born men and women, in some cases more of the latter having qualifications at a particular level.¹²

However, there are still differences in employment figures for native born and foreign-born individuals, with foreign-born women struggling the most in this context. Women (both native and foreign-born) are in less employment than men, and the difference is larger for foreign-born women. Those women born outside Europe are those with lowest employment figures.¹³

Much of Gotland's migrant population is concentrated in the Gråbo area of Visby, which is also one of the more deprived parts of the island.

2.2 Policy context

Local integration policy

The aim of Swedish integration policy, generally, is to provide “equal rights, obligations and opportunities for all, regardless of ethnic or cultural background”¹⁴ seeking to ensure that “respect for fundamental values such as human rights, democratic governance and equality between women and men are maintained and strengthened”.¹⁵ The focus of the policy is to enhance fundamental values of society, and is designed to, through general measures, benefit the Swedish population as a whole.¹⁶

¹¹ <http://www.migrationsinfo.se/regional-statistik/gotlands-ln/>

¹² Region Fakta, <http://www.regionfakta.com/Gotlands-lan/Utbildning/Utbildningsniva-utrikesinrikes-fodda/>

¹³ Invandring och integration – möjligheter och utmaningar, for Gotlands framtid, Lansstyrelsen Gotlands Lan 2012 http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/gotland/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/Publikationer/Jamstallldhet/Invandring_och_integration_mojligheter_och_utmaningar_for_gotlands_framtid.pdf

¹⁴ Swedish Integration Policy, Fact Sheet, Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality, Government Offices of Sweden, December 2009.

¹⁵ Bijl, R., and Verweij, A., (Eds) *Measuring and monitoring: immigrant integration in Europe: Integration policies and monitoring efforts in 17 European countries*, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, 2012.

¹⁶ Bijl, R., and Verweij, A., (Eds) *Measuring and monitoring: immigrant integration in Europe: Integration policies and monitoring efforts in 17 European countries*, The Netherlands Institute for Social Research, 2012.

Despite the relatively low number of foreign-born residents in Gotland, many local authority representatives and politicians interviewed highlighted the fact that Gotland is keen to welcome more migration.

“There is a strong agreement between the political parties that we want more inhabitants on Gotland, we want more immigrants and we want integration into the society. We change political majority every [election] on Gotland, have done for 20 years, and this has never been a contentious issue” (Inger Harlevi, member of the Regional Council).

This was also stated by the Gotland County Administrative Board Governor, Cecilia Schelin Seidegard in 2012. *“Gotland needs more residents. We need more people who can participate in the labour market and in society [...] Today Gotland has the lowest number of foreign-born residents in the country and limited diversity. Diversity is about using the resources that exist with people and their experiences, education, ideas and culture and to see it as an asset for Gotland society”*.¹⁷ It is part of Gotland’s stated aims in Vision 2025 – a development programme for the island highlighting areas of focus for the Region’s collective work.¹⁸

Gotland’s inclusionary attitude is also witnessed in the creation of Träffpunkt Gråbo (Meeting Place Gråbo). The “Meeting Place” was created as the result of an unprovoked murder in Gråbo, which highlighted the need for a community space and community involvement, leading to action from the Church of Sweden, through its parish in Visby. The Visby City Mission bought and renovated the building, and the Red Cross coordinates its activity. It now hosts regular events, classes, homework assistance hours, and meetings for the elderly and other activities.

The Activity Manager, Mona Nylund, describes the centre as “the house of opportunity”. This centre is a cooperation network aimed at assisting and housing social projects in the Gråbo area of Visby. Organisations can share the hire of office spaces and use its facilities to manage their work, which means that they can minimise costs on logistical expenses and these funds can be spent on other organisations costs (such as activities and events). DBF shares an office in these premises, along with organisations such as the Red Cross, Region Gotland Social Services, the Job Centre, Visby City Mission, the Police, Save the Children and the Housing Association, and others (a total of 26 organisations).¹⁹ It is a way to bring together local authorities and local civil society organisations, facilitating their cooperation and collaboration. It also houses a second hand shop and a café, generating some revenue.

The Activity Manager stated that the centre aims to increase the number of organisations directly involved with foreign-born residents and that it wishes to create a larger international space.

¹⁷ Länsstyrelsen Gotlands Län http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/gotland/SiteCollectionDocuments/Sv/Publikationer/Jamstallidhet/Invandring_och_integrations_mojligheter_och_utmaningar_for_gotlands_framtid.pdf

¹⁸ Vision Gotland 2025, Regional utvecklingsprogram för Gotland – RUP, <http://www.gotland.se/38064>

¹⁹ A full list of all the associations can be seen here: <http://www.traffpunktgrabo.se>

Local authority structures and key stakeholders

Sweden is divided into 25, purely geographical, provinces. Although these have no political significance they are useful to understanding the locations of the various regions in Sweden, which is a geographical area within which an area's local governance is carried out. Local government is divided within regions into counties, which are in turn divided into municipalities. In some cases larger municipalities are also divided further into city districts (Stockholm, for example has been divided further in this manner).

- There are currently 20 *counties* in Sweden, whose political tasks are carried out by the County Council, made up of elected representatives. Their responsibilities include those that require county-wide coordination, such as healthcare. There is also a County Administrative Board, whose main responsibility is to coordinate the development of the county in line with national political goals.
- Sweden's counties are divided further into 290 *municipalities*. The municipalities, led by an elected council, are responsible for facilities and services such as housing, roads, water supply, schools, public welfare, childcare, sports, culture, care for the elderly and other local concerns.

A series of restructuring's of governance since 1952 has led to the unifying of governance and competence in a single authority in Gotland, with county and municipal functions combined in the single municipality. On 1 January 2011 the Gotland became an independent Region, governed by the municipality, under the name "Region Gotland".

Region Gotland is governed by representatives from the main Swedish political parties, the Social Democrats, Moderates, the Centre Party, the Green Party, the Left Party, and the Liberal People's Party. The majority of seats are held by the Social Democrats. Region Gotland has three key missions: municipal operations, county council operations and regional development. Region Gotland took over county council tasks such as healthcare, residential college for adult education and public transport. It is also a collaborative organisation in which the locally elected politicians are responsible for regional development.

The work of the Region is divided into key areas, such as: Children and Education, Upper Secondary and Adult Education, Social Services, Culture and Leisure, Health and Medical care, Environment and Health, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, and Technology.²⁰

Region Gotland works heavily with civil society organisations. In Gotland much emphasis is placed on the existence, funding of, and participation in individually organised societies. Although associational life (*föreningsliv*) is an important part of Swedish political culture, there is a particular vibrant associational activity in Gotland. One interviewee, working at Region Gotland's Culture and Leisure Board, told us: "We say on Gotland that every person is a member of at least three associations". She continued to highlight that the Region considered that the association structure is key to demonstrating the democratisation of society and emphasising its importance to Gotland.

²⁰ Region Gotland, <http://www.gotland.se/organisation>

The existence of many smaller associations on the island is largely due its geography. Because most of the population outside Visby live in sparsely populated areas with large distances separating them, it is easier to maintain many small associations, rather than larger groups requiring greater amounts of travel and organisation. A list of all registered associations is available from the Region, providing an opportunity to easily find a particular group. Associations then apply to the Culture and Leisure Board for venue bookings and other financial support as required.

The Culture and Leisure Board is the interface between the Region and the associations. The Board consists of 9 elected politicians, each with a substitute or deputy member. It provides over 100 heavily subsidised hire venues and spaces on the island (ranging from meeting rooms, to sports halls, swim halls to libraries) and by providing funding.²¹ The subsidised venues are the largest form of support that the Board provides.²²

The Board also give grants under various headings, such as youth support, support for pensioners, support for the disabled, association support, project and event support, venue support, youth politics, and support to academic institutions. (This is currently under review and four new headings are being considered)²³.

3. The Functioning Practice (FP): Democracy for Children's Future – *Demokrati för Barns Framtid*

As a grassroots project, started by a migrant, DBF is a good example of a bottom-up organisation. The DBF methodology of using the universal languages of sports and music allows it to reach both of its key beneficiary groups, both migrant and Swedish children, through providing an inclusive and open space based on the shared experience of youth, rather than linguistic or cultural background.

Although not initiated by local authorities, the project is ably and actively supported by them, in the context of a cross-political party consensus on the importance of increased migration to the island and international openness, creating an effective combination of the skills of the project leaders and resources of the authorities. However, the skills and the driving force of the founder of DBF are key elements of the project – a great strength and also potential risk to the continuation of the project.

3.1 Objective and methodology

Demokrati för Barns Framtid – Democracy for Children's Future (DBF) has the objective to promote the integration of children into the Swedish community. This is done through activities that promote togetherness, as well as an understanding of human rights, democracy, equality (racial and gender), leadership, social responsibilities, and an understanding of Swedish society by creating meeting points for different groups in the community. The project is based in Visby, and has recently developed smaller-scale sister organisations

²¹ Region Gotland, <http://www.gotland.se/68194>

²² Avgifter för Kultur och Fritidsnämndens Anläggningar och Material <http://www.gotland.se/75090>

²³ Region Gotland, <http://www.gotland.se/73751>

on the mainland. Claudien Tuyisabe, a refugee from Burundi who arrived in Sweden in 2008, developed it from recognition that there was not enough activity for newly arrived immigrant children. Claudien and his family founded DBF Gotland in 2010.

The practice has a number of sets of target beneficiaries:

- Children and young people are enrolled as members of DBF. The primary target beneficiaries are migrant and migrant background children and youth in Gotland. DBF's work stands out from other activities focused on children through its inclusion of children from age 5 and up.
- Increasingly, DBF works with non-migrant youth, creating opportunities for intercultural contact.
- Through the young members, DBF works with migrant families, involving parents as volunteers and in supporting their children's learning, which in turn provides an opportunity to be active in their local community.
- The annual summer camp organised by DBF now recruits children and young people from a migrant background from the mainland, in particular from Sweden's main cities, who rarely get an opportunity to spend time in a rural environment such as Gotland's.
- Finally, and unusually, the practice also has a transnational dimension, engaging in development work in Vugizo, Burundi. It raises money for school fees, has donated educational and sports materials, been involved in distributing medicine, and supported women's groups. This work is done in collaboration with the Burundi based organisation Development for Youth Future in Burundi (DAJBU).

At the heart of DBF's methodology is its programme of activities for members. The organisation meets its aims through organising activities for both Swedish and migrant children throughout the year. The methodology is to mix social and pedagogical activities and to use these (and in particular the "fun" social and sporting activities as a hook to engage migrant youth, thus facilitating their learning, personal development and social inclusion. Thus, for example, classes in human's rights (including children's rights) are integral to the activities, along with sports.

However, a second key element of the methodology is bringing migrant and non-migrant youth together, and the quality and enjoyable nature of the social activities have meant that it is able to recruit non-migrant young people, thus making it a space for social integration.

The DBF founder told us that: *"Through activities the children don't just learn how to play basketball and football. We learn a lot about respecting each other, acceptance, without saying you come from this country, or you don't speak Swedish well. It's also a way for children to resolve conflict, learn techniques to solve problems, avoid violence at school, racism [...]. It's so important because if we can play together, participate in an activity together we have to feel that we respect each other [...] otherwise we can't do anything positive [...]. It is so important – through activities we learn to get to know each other, we learn to respect each other, to accept each other, and we have to build something together. This camp is for all children, a mix of newly arrived children with immigrant backgrounds, and Swedish children".*

As already noted, DBF's work stands out from other activities focused on children through its inclusion of children as young as 5 and up. Many other activities for children, such as after school clubs, are open only to children 13 and over. As highlighted by a former head of Save the Children, Gotland: *"The unique thing about it is that is if for children of all ages. He has managed to collect all the categories, as Save the Children also defines it"*.

And a final key element of DBF's methodology is a pedagogic approach that includes the parents. Involving parents in activities is seen as facilitating their integration and developing their skills, as well as contributing to the children's development.

3.2 Partners and networks

The practice is delivered by the association *Demokrati för Barns Framtid*. DBF is very much a grassroots initiative, driven by its founding member and functioning on a voluntary basis, with much local political support. Members of the community, parents and adult friends assist the project without pay throughout the year, in order to support continued activity. It has a board of eleven people and is led by founder and President.²⁴

However, DBF works with a range of partners. It has a close partnership with Träffpunkt Gråbo, where it is based, and the network of organisations based there. In addition, it has worked closely with both municipal and civil society organisations. However, the strategies, goals and planning are set independently by DBF.

Municipal partners

Support is provided not only by individual political figures, recognising its benefits for integration on Gotland, but also by local and municipal authorities. Key stakeholders include Region Gotland's Board of Culture and Leisure, the Gotland Folk High School.

Region Gotland's Board of Culture and Leisure provide funding for the association and several of its activities. For example, DBF applies yearly for funds for the summer camp, which will be described in detail later in the report. By supporting DBF, states Johanna Larson, who works with associations support at the Culture and Leisure department, the Region is supporting the exchange of Swedish rules and habits.

The Gotland Folk High School (a College for Adult Education which is a publicly funded, free, adult education facility) provides the summer camp facilities free of charge every year. Meit Fohlin, Deputy Head of Gotland's Folk High School and Vice-Chair of the Childcare and Education Board, stated in interview: *"The College For Adult Education is a representative of Region Gotland and the tax payer. It is absolutely right that we are then also a place for this children's group and this activity"*. She also highlighted that DBF's sports and education activities contribute to the welfare of children on Gotland.

²⁴ Demokrati för Barns Framtid, <http://demokratiforbarnsframtid.se/about/styrelsen/>

Civil Society partners

Save the Children, Gotland collaborates with DBF in various ways. The organisation has been involved with Claudien and DBF since his arrival on Gotland and since the inception of DBF. Their activities with DBF range from the provision of office space, to collaborative activities. The President of DBF is also on the local Save the Children Board. Peter Herthelius (Head of Save the Children, Gotland), describes the close contact with DBF's founder from the time of his arrival, and that these contacts were subsequently formalised: "We've had that now for 3 years. Claudien also sits on the board of Save the Children Gotland, which means that Save the Children can get very close contact with the new Gotland people, and that is very positive".

Claudien's story

Demokrati för Barns Framtid was established by Claudien Tuyisabe after his arrival to Visby, Gotland, as a refugee from Burundi in 2006. Before his arrival in Sweden he was an active sportsman and involved in legal work following the genocide 1993-1994. The work in which he was engaged led him, after some years, to have to flee Burundi. As per Swedish immigration law, after being granted leave to remain he was able to choose where in Sweden he wished to reside.

He chose Gotland due to the reputation he'd heard it held as a positive place for children and human rights. He was assisted by the then Head of Save the Children in Gotland, Kerstin Blomberg, to find housing and to be reunited with his family. Soon after his arrival on Gotland, Claudien decided to establish Democracy for Children's Future. Save the Children assisted him with office space. Guidance in establishing the association, and the various formalities involved, was provided by the Culture and Leisure Board.

3.3 Chronology and funding of activities

DBF generates some of its own revenue through low membership fees. A nominal fee is payable yearly, giving access to all DBF activities. Families pay SEK200 (€22.7), Adults SEK100 (€11.4), and children 0-18 SEK30 (€3.4). The fee can be moderated according to the income of the family in question. One interviewee suggested to us that was that a membership fee – the need to pay for social activities – can in some situations be a cultural or economic obstacle to engagement. However, the low fee goes some way to counter this.

In addition to membership fees, DBF is given support from Region Gotland, Save the Children, and other foundations and organisations. It has a yearly budget of SEK300,000 (€28,103). As an association (*förening*) it is also able to avail itself of subsidised venue fees.

The integration of play and human rights is one of the distinctive features of this practice. The core activities of DBF consist of its programme for both Swedish and migrant children throughout the year. This includes international gatherings and parties, educational assistance, classes in human rights (particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child) excursions, cultural activities, play, and various sporting activities, such as swimming lessons, football matches and training, sports development support, and sports and activities summer camps.

Many activities take place on a weekly basis, others on a seasonal basis, or as one-off events. Around 35-40 children attend each separate activity. Different children attend different activities.

Summer camp

A highlight of the year is the annual summer camp. The organisation applies yearly to the Culture and Leisure Board for funds for this as it is considered a one-off event. The cost of the event is ca SEK105,000 (€11,950), which is included in the overall SEK300,000 (€34,140) budget available to DBF. This is done through a form application.²⁵ This money is used to cover any expenses for the camp, excluding venue hire.

The 2013 camp was held from 31 July to 5 August in Fårösund, Gotland. Venues were provided for free by Gotland Folk High School, which housed the camp, as well as IOGT-NTO Gotland.²⁶ The school rooms are allocated for different uses, such as accommodation, leisure space (if a child is unable to participate in an outdoor activity, for example), one to one meeting spaces, cooking spaces, sleeping quarters, and gathering space – such as a dining area and a lecture theatre used for music, theatre and film activities. Adjacent to the school is the Gotland Sports Centre, which houses a sports hall, a gym and a swimming pool. This is used for sports activities, in addition to outdoor activities.

The camp is organised in such a manner that it adheres to DBF's key aims. Both immigrant and non-immigrant children may attend the camp, and it is not necessary to be a member of DBF to attend (nor do they automatically get given priority). The maximum amount of children the camp can accommodate is 80. In 2013, 40 children took part. Of these 27 were foreign-born and 13 were Swedish.

The invitation to attend the camp is publicised on the DBF website, and is also sent to the parents of children who have attended DBF activities throughout the year. A place at the camp is given on a first come, first served basis. For children connected to the DBF organisations on the mainland, application is done via their local organisation. The amount of children from each organisation is based on the amount of camp leaders each organisation provides. In 2014 children from eight municipal areas will participate. The issue highlighted is finding funds to cover travel expenses.

The camp in 2013 opened with social and musical activities that provide the camp leaders with an opportunity to gauge each child's level of social engagement and this be able to cater specifically to that child's need, taking into consideration each child's background and experience. As the President of DBF states: "We do this to determine the individual needs of each child". This in turn gives them an opportunity to, through conversation with the relevant children understand the individual needs of that child. He states that it is important to remember that many immigrant children come from a background of war and unrest, which means that they will have different needs to some of the other children.

²⁵ Projekt och Arrangementsstöd Kultur och Fritid <http://www.gotland.se/55457>

²⁶ Demokrati för Barns Framtid, <http://demokratiforbarnsframtid.se/category/sverige/> IOGT-NTO Gotland is Sweden's largest sobriety society, based on Gotland. <http://gotland.iogt.se/om-oss/>

The activities at the camp included artistic workshops, meetings with eminent influential people, sea bathing, visiting landmarks of Gotland, sports and musical activities, performances from international and Swedish performers, cooking, human rights education, and other social activities.²⁷

The yearly, one-week summer camp organised by DBF is intended as a place for play and learning through activities to promote integration. Children stay at the camp supervised by DBF volunteers. In interview with founder and camp leader with Claudien Tuyisabe much emphasis was placed on the safety and comfort of each individual child, and an explanation of the facilities provided to allow for support of each child and catering to the choices of each child. 2013 was the first year that the camp included not only children living on Gotland, but also children from the mainland.

3.4 Outcomes

DBF currently has 522 members, of whom 200 are based in Visby (see later section about additional DBF organisations). Members come from Sweden, Burundi, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Rwanda, Kosovo, Croatia, Cuba, Uganda, France, and South Korea. Its rapid growth over is evident when noting that DBF Gotland had 60 members after one year (in 2011), after which the Lund organisation began, and numbers have increased to this amount.

As DBF does not depend on funding that requires time-bound, output-based results, it does not monitor outcomes quantitatively. However, in the interviews carried out it was clear from both local authority representatives, parents and children that the service provided by DBF is positive and contributes to increased integration of families on Gotland, and aids the personal development of the children. Through being exposed to children from different countries, working together in team building situations, learning about rights and responsibilities in Sweden immigrant children are aided in their integration into society. This is not only on a day to day basis but also on a skill level. For example ca 15-20 children involved in DBF have been assisted in their progression into mainstream sports clubs.

Parents interviewed stated that *“It is good that they open themselves up to other children and integrate with children from other countries, as well as Swedish children, they learn a lot”* and *“it’s about the mixing, they get to know each other, learn that all are individuals. You can’t say ‘those people’ are doing something, because you get learn about the person, what they are interested in, and that gives you a different perspective”*.

Eminent Swedish child psychologist and supporter of DBF Lisbeth Palme described the importance of the organisation, and specifically the camp for the well-being of children (both migrant and non-migrant), stating: *“It’s about every child, every child’s rights, not just those with good finances who can afford an expensive camp. It’s about bringing children together so they can meet, have fun together and take part*

²⁷ See Annex 2 for the schedule for the 2013 camp.

in the understanding of the importance of making your voice heard and to be allowed to express what you think and feel”.

The children’s activities also teach them to interact not only with a diverse social group, but with the community as a whole. Using public spaces, encountering different members of the community (for example when singing in public for charity fundraising) they have different experiences of their community, allowing them to understand it fully.

The growth of DBF as an organisation and the growth of the summer camp means that as children who have visited the camp previously encounter new children, they themselves can facilitate integration into society, creating a long-term openness and understanding which will be beneficial to the community and its new arrivals.

3.5 Learning and evaluation

There is no formal evaluation programme for DBF, but there are a number of mechanisms for reflection on outcomes. DBF is required to reapply for funds every year for the camp. This requires a constant awareness of activities, and needs for updating. Also, as DBF includes the involvement of families and often receives new members there is the opportunity for feedback.

Every year DBF Gotland hosts an international party to which all the parents of children involved are invited to discuss the organisation and its activities. Parents are also sent feedback letters once every academic term, but response levels for these are not very high.

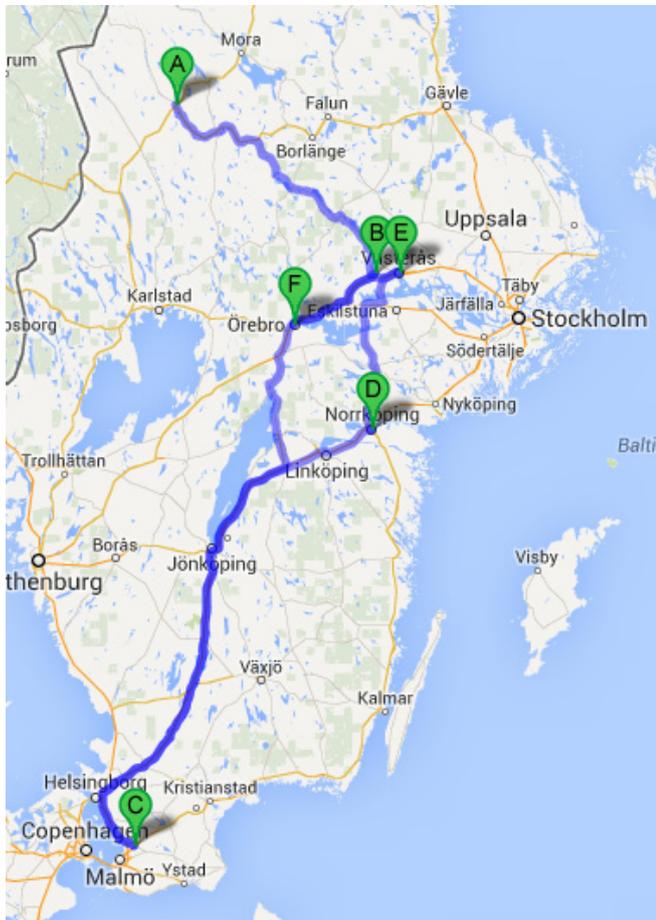
A useful marker of success has also been the formal recognitions of success that Claudien Tuyisabe has received, such as the above mentioned King Gustav V Foundation prize. Claudien was also awarded the Youth Leadership prize in 2011, for his work related to youth and integration in Gotland. Despite being a politically diverse Board, the Culture and Leisure Board was in large agreement about whom the award should go to. The yearly award of SEK10,000, is bestowed on “voluntary leaders who works with a youth association on Gotland”.

3.6 The next steps and replication

There are also plans to future dissemination about DBF. However, some of this is occurring on personal initiative, rather than in a planned, strategic way. For example, one interviewee told us that a retired teacher has plans to visit every school in Gotland that has immigrant students, to inform them about DBF’s activities, and to contact the parents of immigrant children in order to encourage the stimulation of their development and their understanding of their rights and needs.

There are other examples of future development that are planned more strategically by DBF and its municipal partners. For instance, DBF’s approach of including parents is supported by DBF’s partners, and Meit Fohlin discussed ideas about developing DBF to provide a better space for children and parents to discuss

issues together, as well as providing and equivalent adult means of understanding rights and obligations in Sweden in order to not place the entire burden of social integration on the children.



DBF continues to strengthen and aims to work with wider communities, both nationally and globally. *“It is a dream for us that we can reach many children and parents. I hope we can get financial support to employ many people. We want to work in the whole country”*, says Claudien.

DBF sister organisations have started in some mainland cities: Lund, Malung-Sälen, Halstahammar, Norrköping, Örebro and Västerås. In all these cities, the association organises weekly activities for children of mixed backgrounds, for example table tennis sessions (Västerås), trips to theme parks and similar camps to the one in Visby (Lund), musical performances (Halstahammar), homework assistance (Malung-Sälen). They all work to promote integration of immigrants and education about children’s rights through inclusive activities, such as sports events, homework assistance, musical activities, etc. In addition, Lund has also organised summer camps, like the one in Gotland.

These sister organisations represent a wide spectrum of the Swedish geography. Malung-Sälen is in the North of Sweden, Lund in the very South, Halstahammar and Västerås are in the East, outside Stockholm, and Örebro is in the middle of the country.

In map:

- A – Malun-Sälen
- B – Halstahammar
- C – Lund
- D – Norrköping
- E – Västerås
- F – Örebro

Again, the geographical spread of DBF’s activities reveals the importance of personal initiative rather than strategic planning in the practice’s development, a topic to which we return in the conclusion. For example, DBF Lund was begun in 2011 by a Swedish man who contacted DBF Gotland. He had visited Burundi to work with street children and was asked if he knew who Claudien was, and subsequently contacted Claudien and decided to begin a DBF branch.

Individuals in both Halstahammar and Malung-Sälen became aware of DBF Gotland when Claudien Tuyisabe was presented with a leadership prize by The King Gustaf V 90-year Fund for Voluntary Youth Activity Foundation in 2012. They subsequently chose to begin sister organisations in these cities.

In Örebro individuals on holiday in Gotland experienced a DBF activity and from there took the initiative to start an organisation. People from an increasing amount of cities are contacting DBF with ideas and plans for setting up a sister organisation in their areas. Most of the contact is made via the DBF website (<http://demokratiforbarnsframtid.se>).

The DBF organisations work in close contact, with financial support derived from membership costs and voluntary donations. They get given further support by DBF Gotland who raise money through events during the summer and then share the proceeds with the mainland organisations. Lund in addition, has access to community funds. DBF in various cities also have support from celebrity individuals who have been known to contribute financially such as Lisbeth Palme and Swedish singer and UNICEF ambassador Lil Lindfors.

The development of DBF sister organisations demonstrates the replicability of the practice's model.

4. Conclusions

DBF appears to fulfil one of Sweden's key integration policy points, namely "Common basic values in a society characterized by increasing diversity" through its teaching of rights and obligations in society. There are five wider conclusions that can be drawn from this: 1. the value of grassroots initiatives; 2. the added value of local authority engagement; 3. the importance of local leadership and cross-party commitment; 4. the risks and opportunities of individual-driven practices; and 5. the strength of the DBF methodology,

1. Unusually among municipal promising practices on integration, *Demokrati för Barns Framtid* is a grassroots practice initiated by migrants themselves and not by the local authority. Inger Harlevi points out that DBF serves as a good example for the need for politicians to engage with issues from the bottom-up. Claudien also states that what is needed is to "*start by talking to immigrants like me. One has to dare to begin [...] Sweden should discover that immigrants can help enrich the country if they know how to get into society*". The grassroots nature of the practice enabled it to understand and cater to the specific needs of the initial target beneficiaries, children from migrant backgrounds.

2. However, the success of the practice has been dependent on the support given by the local authority, both informally in providing help with ensuring the practice has a secure administrative and financial footing, and crucially through the support given in terms of subsidised venues as part of a wider commitment to associational life in the region. The active support of local and regional government therefore gives significant added value to what the association would be able to achieve on its own, making activities more attractive and making possible the engagement of non-migrant children.

3. The support given by the municipality demonstrates the value of local leadership and in particular cross-party consensus on supporting integration. As illustrated by the quotes from municipal leaders in section 2.2 above, Region Gotland has developed an ethos of hospitality, linked both to a perceived need to grow the population for economic development and to a shared narrative of Gotland's history as an outward-looking, cosmopolitan Hanseatic town. DBF have been able to insert themselves in this narrative, for example drawing out similarities between refugee journeys and Viking voyages. The advantage of this kind of place-making strategy – building shared narratives – is one of the key lessons of the Gotland case study.

4. It is worth noting that many individuals interviewed highlighted the founder's strength, drive and ability as an individual. This can be seen as both a positive and a negative dimension of the practice, common to many functioning practices identified in the EU-MIA research and in other research on local and regional integration practices. Positively, the practice has been driven forward by a highly committed and motivated team, and the founder's personal qualities have been central to creating partnerships that have made the practice flourish. But there is a risk too, if the practice's success or failure is dependent on the continued involvement of an individual, which raises issues for long-term sustainability. Common risks to this model – though not witnessed in the DBF case – are vulnerability to burn-out or restructuring and to petty rivalries. Reducing such risks is a key advantage of strong and sustainable institutional commitment and partnership from local authorities. It will be important to evaluate the progress of DBF sibling organisations in other cities replicating the same model without the presence of the founder, which Save the Children is committed to ensuring.

5. Finally, the methodology of DBF has valuable lessons. As described above, the practice uses sport and other such “fun” activities in three ways: as a *hook* to engage migrant and non-migrant children, as a *tool* for their personal development, and as a *space* in which meaningful social interaction between migrant and non-migrant children (and families) can occur. Such activities are primarily non-verbal and often not culturally specific, or (as in the case of music and dance activities) draw on global youth culture shared by migrant and non-migrant children. Thus positive engagement in these activities is not dependent on pre-existing language skills or cultural competences. Sport and culture have a special ability to bring people together, enable different sorts of people to flourish, open up spaces for positive/meaningful contact and intercultural communication, and build specific skills/competences (e.g. teamwork/interpersonal skills, leadership, respect, and also aspiration) which can enhance the possibility of integration.

6. Through its inclusion in the Hanseatic network (a formal network of 181 cities in 16 countries)²⁸, Gotland has developed cross-city links with other Hanseatic towns, and through this engaged in city-to-city learning, sharing its own experience and taking inspiration from other parallel initiatives. This kind of city-to-city learning can add significant value to local and regional practices.

²⁸ The modern Hanseatic network is built on the medieval Hanseatic League, whose cities had open trade agreements and freedom of movement very similar to today's European Union, making integration a topic of interest to the network.

Annexes

Annex 1 - Interviews

Summary table with key facts on interviews:

#	Date	Name	Position
1	25.06	Claudien Tuyisabe	Founder and President of DBF
2	25.06	Meit Fohlin	Deputy Head of the Gotland Folk High School and Vice – Chair of the Child and Education Board, Region Gotland
3	25.06	Peter Herthelius	Head of Save the Children, Gotland
4	25.06	Shafi H. Elmi	Volunteer active in DBF
5	25.06	Claudia Castillo	Parent of child active in DBF, and member of DBF Board
5	25.06	Latifa Goennoun	Parent of child active in DBF
6	25.06	Mona Nylund	Activities Coordinator, Träffpunkt Gråbo
7	25.06 / 26.06	Inger Harlevi	Member of the Regional Council of Gotland and Vice President of The Hansa
8	26.06	Johanna Larson	Caseworker, Recreational Facilities and Services, Culture and Leisure Board, Region Gotland
9	26.06	Lisbeth Palme	Child psychologist, and key supporter of DBF
10	26.06	Kersting Blomberg	Former Head of Save the Children, Gotland
10	26.06	Eva Lamby	Personal friend of Claudien Tuyisabe

Annex 2 - Programme (DBF Summer Camp, Gotland)

DBF Summer Camp, Gotland: 30 July – 4 August 2013

30 July

- 07:00 – 18:00 External camp participants travel to Gotland from Lund and Dalarna
Children from Lund, Dalarna, and Gotland meet
Travel to the Folk High School, Fårösund
- 19:00 – 20:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Presentation, explanation of schedule, rules and areas of use.

1 August

- 09:00 – 09:30 Breakfast
- 09:30 – 18:00 Trip to Kneippbyn (a child-friendly location with play areas and swimming)
- 18:00 – 20:00 Food, clean up, walking on Fårösund, free time
- 20:00 – 22:00 Activities designed to let the children get to know each other and about respecting different cultures, singing
- 22:00 – 23:00 Camp leaders meet

2 August

- 09:00 – 10:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 – 12:00 Fotball match, Fårösund
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 13:00 – 15:00 Walking tour of Fårö
- 15:00 – 18:30 Swimming and activities at the Bergman Centre
- 18:30 – 19:30 Dinner
- 19:30 – 21:00 Information about the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 21:00 – 23:00 Music

3 August

- 08:00 – 09:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:30 Integration activities
- 10:30 – 12:00 Nature walk, discussion of environmental issues
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 16:00 Watching film about unaccompanied asylum children
- 16:00 – 17:30 Writing and craft
- 18:00 – 22:00 Dinner and closing party in Visby
- 22:00 – 22:30 Trip back to Fårösund and sleep

4 August

- Breakfast, clean up, evaluation, travel home

The Partners

The **International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization** (ITCILO) is the consortium leader in charge of the implementation of the EU-funded EU-MIA project.

The consortium research partners are:
the **Centre on Migration, Policy and Society** (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford and the International and **European Forum of Migration Research** (FIERI).



If you want more information on the project please visit our website: www.eu-mia.eu or contact:

ITCILO

Miriam Boudraa
Programme Officer on Labour Migration
Social Protection Programme

Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10
10127 Torino (Italy)
Tel: + 39 011 693 6359
Email: m.boudraa@itcilo.org

www.itcilo.org

FIERI

Irene Ponzo
Researcher

Via Ponza, 3
10121 Torino - Italy
Tel. +39 011 5160044
Email : fieri@fieri.it

www.fieri.it

COMPAS

Ida Persson
Research & Communications Officer
COMPAS, University of Oxford

58 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6QS
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 612358
Email: ida.persson@compas.ox.ac.uk

www.compas.ox.ac.uk

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