**Partner Search from West Sweden** 

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| **Programme:** | Lifelong Learning Programme, Leonardo da Vinci - PartnershipMore information:<http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/ldv_en.htm>  |
| **Deadline:** | Deadline for Leonardo da Vinci – Partnership: 21st February 2013 |
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| **Organisation** | The Municipality of Karlstad is located in the County of Värmland in the southwestern part of Sweden. Karlstad is located in the delta of the Klarälven river on the northern shore of Vänern lake, halfway between Stockholm and Oslo. The municipality has around 87,000 inhabitants, making it the 22nd largest municipality in Sweden.Karlstad is the capital city of the County of Värmland. Services are administrated here for the entire Karlstad region, which in addition to Karlstad comprises the surrounding municipalities of Forshaga, Grums, Hammarö and Kil. This region comprises around 130,000 inhabitants.Karlstad is home to one of Sweden’s youngest universities. Karlstad University has around 12,500 students studying to become teachers, engineers, accountants and nurses. Karlstad also has a hospital and is home to several key national authorities, including the Swedish Consumer Agency and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency.The Department of Labour Market and Social Service Administration is responsible for the coordination of development work around specific shared competences as well as for the municipal competences on pre-school, primary school, secondary school, labour market, social service, recreation and cultural activities and rescue association.  |
| **Project idea:** | The Municipality of Karlstad is looking for European partners interested to participate in a project proposal within the frame of Leonardo da Vinci – Partnership Project. The project activities will include the sharing of experiences and exchanging of best practices used by staff in different European organisations on how to work with young adults and families experiencing poverty and social exclusion. **Working title: Joint development to combat poverty and social exclusion****Background**: Since the late 90s the different departments working to combat policy and social exclusion have been working in silos. There is now a need to overcome the barriers resulting from this division of responsibility between administrations. Karlstad is therefore keen to develop new methods for cooperation, seek common approaches and building a common picture regarding the needs of the target groups.We are looking for partners to exchange experiences and develop common guidelines for prevention, detection and treatment plans for the areas below. We wish to send groups of professionals from different departments and we are also interested in hosting groups from other municipalities in Europe to enable them to take part in the activities of the project. **Project idea:** The project will focus on four themes:* **Child poverty;** Poverty takes different forms in Europe. Sweden is one of the most advanced countries in protecting the rights of children and individuals in general. Despite this, there are a number of areas in the public sector that need further development. We are now working on an action plan to combat child poverty.We are looking for inspiration and good examples on how to work with families who are in sustained income support promoting active parenting.
* **Dropouts;** A new project called “Horizon” started in 2011. The target group is young adults between 16 and 24. The aim is to help young adults that have dropped out of school or are near dropping out to make their own plan for the future, including an education path aimed for a specific occupation. The project will also look to increase their self-awareness, possibilities and empower them to take responsibility for their own "career planning". Karlstad will continue to work within this field and are therefore looking for partners that are interested in these issues to exchange ideas and experiences on different methods and activities.
* **Early intervention;** Swedish studies show that schools do not always identify potential concerns related to a child. At the same time, the majority of the social services investigations lead to no action. Functional support in pre-school and school is dependent on good cooperation between schools and social services. In some of Karlstad’s neighbourhoods ongoing attempts have been made to solve these problems. Cross-disciplinary teams have been created to support families with young children and social workers dedicated to outreach work and emergency service have been located in selected areas. Young adults working with children and teenagers and school staff offer parent support. This work has been evaluated and there are plans to develop this further. We wish to develop the cross-professional collaboration to support children at risk.
* **Security;** In Karlstad city centre there is a “Safety and security centre” gathering some of the services to citizens concerning safety, rescue service, police, crime victim support and the so-called “Youth for safety”, tasked with prevention and outreach in neighbourhoods. We want to look for good examples and inspiration in neighbourhood outreach work directed at children and adolescents.

**Objectives:** The goal of the exchange is to look for methods to combat poverty and social exclusion and to exchange experiences between various municipal sectors. The final result will be a catalogue of guidelines on prevention, detection and treatment plans on how to combat poverty and social exclusion. We want to exchange experiences on several levels. The following staff categories would be welcome in the project: teachers at different levels, social workers, staff working with youth recreation, managers and strategists.If you find this proposal interesting, please do not hesitate to make contact for further details **before the 12 December 2012.**  |
| **Partners searched:** | Municipalities, NGO´s, county councils and other local/regional actors. |
| **Key words:** | Child poverty, dropouts, alienation, security, early detection, field-based work |
| **Project period:** | 2013-2015 |
| **Other information:** | We would like to ask interested organisations to contact us via email. A working group will be involved in the processing of requests and will reply to all as soon as possible.  |