

**Intercultural Dialogue in and across Swedish museums: the case of Swedish for immigrants (SFI)**

Dr. Dimitra Christidou & Dr. Sara Grut, Researchers and Project Managers at the Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning and Creativity.

dimitra.christidou@nckultur.org; sara.grut@nckultur.org

The aim of this presentation is twofold: to provide a mapping of the cross-institutional collaborations between SFI schools and museums in Sweden and to introduce the first findings of the ongoing project titled *Intercultural Dialogue in Swedish museums*.

Cross-institutional synergies between cultural institutions and SFI schools have been a long tradition in Sweden as the regulation of the curriculum for Swedish for immigrants (SFI) stresses the need for students to develop and hone, in addition to linguistic communication tools, their "intercultural skills by reflecting upon their own cultural experiences and compare them with their experience of leading a social and working life in Sweden". Museums in Sweden have been actively engaged in facilitating immigrants’ cultural and linguistic integration by running activities addressing this particular group’s needs. They see the use of the exhibitions as a resource for learning about the country’s history and language but also as a prompt facilitating intercultural dialogue.

For this presentation, we will provide a summary of the SFI programmes and activities run by museums in Sweden in order to reflect upon what has already taken place in the country while postulating the function of museums as a community resource. Following this summary, the *Intercultural Dialogue in Swedish museums* project will beintroduced. As it is an ongoing project, the first results will be presented. This project seeks to identify detailed and in depth insights of the practices used by the museums by interviewing the museum practitioners from nine museums responsible for designing and running these programmes. The project is a systematic qualitative attempt to provide detailed and in depth insights of the practices gained through the implementation of these SFI museum programmes.