



For more information have a look on <http://www.folkbildning.net/rkrh/> (in English) or contact the course teachers.

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Fair Trade Distance Education 2008

Why are some countries richer than others?

How does Fair Trade favour small scale producers?

What role do the trade unions play?

Is Fair Trade mainly about trade or politics?

Do you wish to discuss humanitarian values?

Take part in Swedish adult education where learning about Fair Trade happens right within the Fair Trade movement.

Do you want to become a Fair Trade Ambassador?

Develop your knowledge and get inspired to motivate others to increase their knowledge on Fair Trade and global development!

Are you eager to learn beyond boundaries?

Take active responsibility for your own and your colleagues' motivation and contribute to the design of the course yourself!

Are you interested in becoming an active citizen?

Spark interest for global questions through information and campaign efforts directed towards society.



Red Cross in Sweden and Fair Trade

During one year, students from all over Sweden deepen their knowledge on and their commitment for Fair Trade in a course given by the Red Cross Community College (RKFH) in Stockholm. Interested foreigners with Swedish language knowledge are welcome to join.

The youth wing of Red Cross in Sweden (RKUF) has been actively involved in campaigning for Fair Trade in Sweden for a long time.

Believing that *knowledge is the key to understanding and that understanding is the key to a better life, both at home and in the world at large*, RKUF and RKFH have made a common effort to start a Fair Trade study programme in close cooperation with some of the main NGOs involved in issues around Fair Trade.

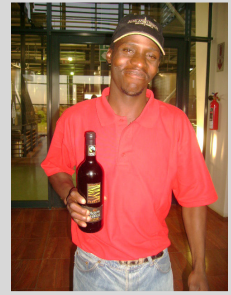
Since 2004 based in Stockholm the Red Cross Community College has played an important role in developing and promoting the Fair Trade scene in Sweden.

"Our aim is to get 75 % of the students become active in Fair Trade beyond the course. We want to train activists - "Ambassadors" for Fair Trade labelling, Fair Trade entrepreneurs, volunteers in world shops, lobbyists for Fair Trade, etc."

So far, some students have found employment in the Fair trade sector each year.

Distance learning course

- studies about world trade and ways to promote Fair Trade via special world shops or Fair Trade labelling;
- done together with Swedish Fair Trade importers and retailer organisations such as the Swedish owned textile factory *Dem Collective* or the Fair Trade company *Watabaran*, which produced recycled handmade paper products;
- since beginning in 2000 attended by 20 participants -aged between 19 and 63 - each year;
- study trip to Sri Lanka and Nepal in Asia to meet producers in the South which export, or may have the potential to export Fair Trade goods to Europe;
- cooperation with associations and (small scale) producer groups in the handicraft sector - most of them IFAT members - but also producers in the food sector from within the FLO-structure, mainly on tea farms (for definitions see "Fair Trade");
- contact with trade unions and NGOs working with trade related issues.
- writing of a report on each producer, as well as a concluding report as a summary of the finding of each study group.



The products that are being imported to the rich northern countries are often produced under unfair conditions by farmers and workers in the developing countries. The Fair Trade movement, organised as a partnership between producers, importers and consumers, is striving to offer an alternative to the established and often unfair system of international trade.

The **Fair Trade movement** intends to encourage production conditions and trading relations that comply with the following standards:

- ✓ Small scale producers can participate in a democratic organisation
- ✓ plantation/factory workers can participate in trade union activities and have decent wages, housing and health and safety standards
- ✓ No forced or child labour
- ✓ Programmes to improve environmental sustainability
- ✓ A price that covers the cost of production
- ✓ A social premium to improve living conditions such as schools, etc.
- ✓ Advance payment to avoid small producer organisations falling into debt
- ✓ Contracts that allow long term production planning and sustainable production prices

IFAT International Federation of Alternative Trade

FLO Fair Trade Labelling Organisation

fair trade



Course Teachers

- **Bertil Högberg** has been involved in the course since its inception. He has been active in the Fair Trade movement since his first involvement in the mid 70s. As one of the leaders in the Swedish solidarity and anti-Apartheid work, he displays a deep understanding of southern Africa.
- **Benton Wolgers** is the course coordinator and has been a teacher in human rights and globalisation for 20 years. He has been actively campaigning for a stronger Fair Trade Movement by organising the yearly Fair Trade Forum within the course structures and by coordinating the Swedish Fair Trade Network together with Andrea. He is also taking the students to Sri Lanka.
- **Andrea Lindgren** has been the coordinator of the emerging Swedish Fair Trade Network. She is responsible for taking the students to Nepal. She was a Fair Trade student herself in 2005.

Theory and practical work reinforce each other through the inclusion of experts in the domain of Fair Trade and sustainable development as well as resource people from a number of NGOs.

Resource People and Guest Speakers

- Världsbutikerna (World shops)
- Rättvisemärkt (Swedish FLO Initiative)
- Rena Kläder (Clean Clothes Campaign)
- Svenska Kyrkan (Swedish Church Organisation)
- Afrika Grupperna (NGO with focus on Africa)
- IFAT import organisations
- Fair Trade Enterprise Network in Nepal
- Camino (Swedish Lifestyle Magazin)
- Fair Trade Center (Advocacy Group)
- Nätverket för Rättvis handel (network for Fair Trade and its member organisations)



Red Cross Community High School

The Red Cross Community High School would like to contribute to an increased understanding of the world. This is why our travelling courses have international issues as their main focus. Field studies in a relevant country are a key component of the travelling courses.

We believe

- field studies provide practical examples to theoretical aspects of the courses and inspire a will to see the big picture.
- the effect of global trade becomes clearer once you meet the workers and farmers affected by it.
- the media's reports of the poor parts of the world are being challenged when you have actually visited them.
- interaction with people who work to make life better for themselves and others inspires students to share what they have learned.
- studying in a Community High school is an unforgettable experience. What matters are fellowship, dialogue, tuition building on your knowledge and specific needs.
- and –last but not least– this dissemination of ideas and experiences is an important part of the travelling courses.

Adult and Popular Education

Adult and popular education has a long tradition in Sweden. As early as the 1860s, the first Community high schools –so called community colleges– were established. At the turn of the century, the first lecture associations and study circles started as a result of the popular labour movements:

The idea is to give all adults

"the opportunity to broaden and deepen their knowledge and skills in order to promote personal development, democracy, equality of opportunity, economic growth and employment, and an equitable distribution of wealth."

p. 2 www.nordvux.net/download/609/vux_utb_se_eng.pdf

Thanks to incorporation of these thoughts into the Swedish educational system and ongoing political commitment, participants – often university students taking this course on top of their studies– are able to get government loans and grants for the field trips.

study

Teaching Phases

Introduction

Jan. 1st to Jan. 17th

Studyperiod 1

Studyperiod 2

Studyperiod 3

Studyperiod 4

Jan. 21st – Feb. 28th

March 3rd – April 17th

April 21st – May 22nd

May 26th – June 14th

Field study 3 weeks

Field study + 2 weeks

Studyperiod 5

Studyperiod 6

September

October

Round up weekend

December

January – June (1-4)

During three study sessions delving into Fair Trade and the globalisation debate theoretically, essay writing; besides ongoing discussions online in the time between the four weekend-meetings where there is place for practical exercises and discussions. Lectures are given by resource people from several Swedish Fair Trade organisations and NGOs supporting the course.

July – August

During three to five weeks, each group studies Fair Trade in its real conditions in a country in Nepal and Sri Lanka in the light of a specific question.

Themes and topics

Trade and development; the World Trade Organisation (WTO), world trade figures and facts; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); Fair trade actors, such as trade unions, IFAT, FLO, Fair Trade importers, political parties; Fair Trade goods; Criteria for Fair Trade: IFAT, FLO; Country specific studies: in 2008 Sri Lanka and Nepal; Information strategies, campaigning; etc.

September – October (5)

Preparation of the information campaigns wherever possible in close collaboration with one of the organisations intended for a wider public in line with each group's question.

Organisation of the yearly Fair Trade Forum, a gathering for the movement in Sweden where each group presents their findings in a seminar.

November – December (6)

You are asked to deepen a specific aspect of your own choice in a short essay. E.g. *Is free trade and Fair Trade complementary or contradictory?* or *What advantages and disadvantages do you see with FLO and IFAT systems?*

study plan



Features of Participation

The course takes up 25% of full time work or of a study week which corresponds to one day per week during the study periods. You can also choose the option to study in a 50% or even full time mode. By doing so, you combine your distance learning studies with a specific task, for example organising the yearly Fair Trade Forum or working as volunteer in a world shop.

In addition, full time presence is expected on four weekends in spring and three weekends in autumn, plus on the field study accounting to between three and five weeks.

You receive the course certificate upon

- ✓ full participation on course weekends
- ✓ active participation in the online discussions during the whole year
- ✓ reading others' comments
- ✓ fully accomplished assignments
- ✓ participation in the field study trip
- ✓ accomplished and reported information work

During the study year you will receive a diploma of "Fair Trade Ambassador" from Rättvisemärkt.

Who can apply?

The Community High School offers education for adults, which means you have to be at least 18 to be accepted. Each autumn a round of interviews is offered, giving you the opportunity to meet the teachers, other future course participants and to introduce yourself.

Collaboration by Distance Education

Between the course meetings given by resource people from several Swedish Fair Trade organisations and NGOs supporting the course, ongoing discussions and practical exercises on each study session's topics and questions take place based on the distance education platform First Class (an open source collaborative learning software).

Working together with others in a stimulating environment enables you to make much faster progress than studying alone.

Teaching Model

The Red Cross Community College functions as a "neutral dialog shaper" in the teaching model and during the different learning and study phases.

While resource people, alumni from past courses and representatives from NGOs supporting the course enable the students to deepen their knowledge, the field study in the South allows the students to get to know producers, importers, labelling-organisations and other important players.

The Fair Trade Forum and the information campaign in autumn ought to give the students a chance to reflect their experiences and share their gained knowledge with the broad society.

As a student you are expected to become an active member of the Fair Trade movement in Sweden. Within the structure of the course you are given opportunities to contribute in activities, to take part in and initiate actions. Our focus is to foster activism rather than academic studies.