

## Open Space for Democracy – Together in Dialogue and Action

Democracy is the foundation of a sustainable society, but it needs both protection and development. That is why Open Space for Democracy was created – an initiative that brings people together to strengthen democracy in Sweden. Behind the initiative are Kinna Skoglund, a well-known grassroots activist and committed democracy advocate, and Thomas Herrmann, an enthusiastic proponent of co-creative work methods in everyday life in villages and cities worldwide.



## Open Space Technology – Democracy in Practice

We use Open Space Technology for our annual gatherings. The third meeting will take place on April 2–4, 2025, at Gullbrannagården in Halmstad. The method is a tool for real democracy, enabling participants to explore their most important questions, engage in dialogue, and create collective action plans. The outcomes live on as participants and groups continue their work after the event – over one hundred organizations are involved – a process that truly makes a difference.

## What Have We Achieved?

Since our first Open Space for Democracy in September 2023, several inspiring initiatives have taken shape, such as:

- A democracy podcast and a folk high school course on ecological democracy.
- Regional and local Open Space meetings that have deepened collaboration among societal actors.
- The campaign #TakeAStepForward to increase voter turnout in the EU elections.
- New networks and associations that strengthen civil society.
- Workshops on funding and project management.
- Meeting spaces for young adults and initiatives focused on integration.
- Increased focus on democracy in schools and a democracy school to empower everyday democracy.
- Several participants have used Open Space Technology to develop their organizations in a democratic spirit.

## Ongoing Work and Visions for the Future

We continue to develop and broaden our activities with a focus on:

- Attracting even more people who want to engage in the future of democracy. We aim to further increase participation from people across all parts of society.
- Inviting organizations working on democracy issues to use the annual days at Gullbrannagården to create or refine their operational plans. By working intensively on-site, they gain new perspectives, inspiration, networks, and opportunities for collaboration with other participants.
- Strengthening support for groups and individuals who want to develop everyday democracy by using Open Space Technology in their workplaces, associations, or communities.
- Local pilot projects for democracy development in areas facing tensions and challenges.

## Why Participate?

By joining Open Space for Democracy, you become part of a movement that drives real change. Here, you can contribute your perspectives, build networks, and develop concrete solutions – all to shape a more inclusive and action-oriented democracy.

Those attending with several members from the same organization can take the opportunity to work on their own organizational development while gaining input from other engaged participants. It's also a chance to showcase your activities to others.

## Welcome to Make a Difference!

Do you want to strengthen democracy together with us? We look forward to welcoming you to Gullbrannagården on April 2–4, 2025. Let's shape the future together!



*I do not want to be included.*

*I want to lead my own development*