After School – a summary

The municipality of Robertsfors is currently working on establishing an EVS-project within the municipality’s junior high school to work with unsafety-issues that the youths have experienced recently. In a large survey several of the youths pointed out that a specific area in the school is very unsafe because of the “void” it has, which attracts other youths that don’t want to go home after the school. These youths often partake in “un-meaningful activities”, which often mean that they get more and more polarized from the rest of the youths. We have also noticed that there is a polarization between the youths that arrived to Sweden as refugees and the rest of the youths.

All of this means that the municipality will have to work more with integration and social inclusion. With the help of an experienced tutor (an employed youth worker from A-net) we believe that the school would need “more hands” and new perspectives to work with these challenges, which in the long run lead to a safer school for everyone. The volunteers would be “stationed” within the school in the experienced unsafe area to try to “fill the void” with meaningful activities instead. The main activity during the day would be to have a “cafeteria”, but with a lot of activities around this. With the help of the tutor the volunteers would hold events, arrange discussion groups, plan for competitions and so on. All of these activities would keep “filling up the void” of the area until the youths have to go home in the afternoon. The volunteers would have every possibility to be creative with what they want to do, and they would have the constant support of the tutor and other personnel in the school.

The purpose of this project would be to make the youths feel safer within the school, decrease the polarization and empower the integration process. The volunteers would thus work with issues that are increasing throughout Europe, and they would receive much needed experience.

The accommodations for the volunteers would be in an apartment with separate bedrooms. Currently we can host two volunteers. The project would begin in Oktober 2016 and it would end in August 2017, so that the project would follow the schools semesters.

The volunteers should be older than the youths within the junior high school (who are up to 16 years old), and we are searching for individuals between 20 and 30 years old. We are not searching for individuals with specific qualifications of any kind; instead we are searching for creative individuals that are eager to work with the previous mentioned challenges. The volunteers would have to be able to work with other individuals and to have social encounters, as this is a central part of the project.