

# REOPENING THE LOCAL SCHOOL

KOSTER



## ISLAND & IDEA TITLE

KOSTER

REOPENING THE LOCAL SCHOOL - REVITALIZING ISLAND LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION DESIGNED TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION, FAMILY RETENTION, AND YEAR-ROUND LIVING ON KOSTER BY REOPENING AND REIMAGINING THE LOCAL SCHOOL AS A FLEXIBLE, COMMUNITY-CENTERED LEARNING HUB.



## TARGET GROUP

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, POTENTIAL IN-MOVERS & CURRENT RESIDENTS  
SEASONAL WORKERS WITH CHILDREN  
EDUCATORS  
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS



## PROBLEM AND OPPORTUNITY

THE CLOSURE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL ON KOSTER HAS MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR FAMILIES TO LIVE YEAR-ROUND ON THE ISLAND, LEADING TO POPULATION AGING AND FEWER SERVICES  
CAN RE-ANCHOR FAMILIES AND SPARK LONG-TERM VITALITY



## SOLUTION

A SMALL-SCALE, MULTI-AGE "ISLAND LEARNING HUB" USING DIGITAL BLENDED LEARNING  
FOCUS ON LOCAL KNOWLEDGE, CRAFTS, MARITIME AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
SHARED USE OF THE BUILDING FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



## WHAT ALREADY EXISTS?

FORMER SCHOOL BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
INTEREST FROM YOUNG FAMILIES AND ASSOCIATIONS  
DIGITAL EDUCATION TOOLS  
FREIIA COLLABORATION WITH STRÖMSTAD MUNICIPALITY  
INSPIRATION FROM OTHER NORDIC ISLAND SCHOOLS



## WHAT IS NEEDED?

RENOVATION OR ADAPTATION OF SCHOOL SPACE  
TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND FLEXIBLE STAFFING  
MUNICIPAL PERMISSION AND CO-FINANCING  
PARENT-STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND CO-MANAGEMENT MODEL  
PILOT EDUCATION DESIGN AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH DIGITAL PLATFORMS



## WHO IMPLEMENTS IT?

MUNICIPALITY OF STRÖMSTAD  
FREIIA STUDENTS  
PARENTS AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS  
REGIONAL EDUCATION BODIES  
CROSS-BORDER PARTNERS



## WHEN IS IT FEASIBLE?

FEASIBILITY STUDY AND STAKEHOLDER PROCESS: AUTUMN 2025  
BUILDING UPGRADE AND STAFFING: SPRING 2026  
PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCH: AUTUMN 2026



## EXPECTED IMPACTS

RETENTION AND ATTRACTION OF FAMILIES, MORE VIBRANT YEAR-ROUND POPULATION  
LOCAL, RELEVANT, AND FUTURE-FACING LEARNING MODEL  
NEW JOBS, MORE SUSTAINABLE SERVICE BASE  
PRESERVATION AND ACTIVATION OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE



## RISK FACTORS AND MITIGATION

### STRATEGIES

LOW ENROLLMENT → USE MULTI-AGE GROUP AND DIGITAL LEARNING MODEL  
STAFFING CHALLENGES → FLEXIBLE TEACHER ROLE, HOUSING SUPPORT  
MUNICIPAL BUDGET LIMITS → SEEK CO-FUNDING FROM REGION AND EU



## POSSIBLE FUNDING OR BUSINESS

### MODEL

EU INTERREG (EDUCATION, RURAL RESILIENCE)  
SWEDISH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS  
NATIONAL EDUCATION INNOVATION GRANTS  
SHARED PUBLIC-PRIVATE FUNDING MODEL (LOCAL CO-OP, MUNICIPALITY)  
INCOME FROM SHARED BUILDING USE (ADULT EDUCATION, EVENTS)



## SUGGESTED NEXT

### STEPS

PRESENT CONCEPT TO MUNICIPALITY OF STRÖMSTAD AND REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD  
ORGANIZE FEASIBILITY MEETING WITH PARENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS  
DEVELOP SCHOOL MODEL BASED ON BLENDED LEARNING AND LOCAL CURRICULUM  
EXPLORE CROSS-BORDER LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS  
PREPARE PILOT LAUNCH FOR 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

Island: Koster (Sweden)

Title: **Reopening the Local School** – Revitalizing Island Life Through Education designed to support community revitalization, family retention, and year-round living on Koster by reopening and reimagining the local school as a flexible, community-centered learning hub.

### 1. Target group

Families with children, potential in-movers, current residents, seasonal workers with children, educators, local associations.

### 2. Problem and opportunity

The closure of the local school on Koster has made it more difficult for families to live year-round on the island, leading to population aging and fewer services.

Children now commute by ferry to mainland schools, limiting flexibility and community connection. Reopening the school – not just as a traditional classroom, but as a multifunctional education and community hub – can re-anchor families and spark long-term vitality.

### 3. Your solution

Reopen the Koster school with a new model:

A small-scale, multi-age “Island Learning Hub” using digital blended learning

Focus on local knowledge, crafts, maritime and environmental education

Shared use of the building for after-school programs, adult education and community events

Exchange visits with other island schools in Norway, Sweden and Denmark

Operate with municipal approval and regional educational support

### 4. What already exists?

- Former school building and infrastructure
- Interest from young families and associations
- Digital education tools
- FREIIA collaboration with Strömstad Municipality
- Inspiration from other Nordic island schools

### 5. What is needed?

Renovation or adaptation of school space

Teacher recruitment and flexible staffing

Municipal permission and co-financing

Parent-student association and co-management model

Pilot education design and partnerships with digital platforms

## **6. Who implements it?**

Municipality of Strömstad – education authority and facility owner  
FREIIA students – concept development and co-design  
Parents and local associations – governance and program support  
Regional education bodies – regulatory and funding partner  
Cross-border partners – for pedagogical exchange and model inspiration

## **7. When is it feasible?**

Feasibility study and stakeholder process: Autumn 2025  
Building upgrade and staffing: Spring 2026  
Pilot program launch: Autumn 2026

## **8. Expected Impacts**

Social: Retention and attraction of families, more vibrant year-round population  
Educational: Local, relevant, and future-facing learning model  
Economic: New jobs, more sustainable service base  
Cultural: Preservation and activation of local knowledge

## **9. Risk Factors and Mitigation Strategies**

Low enrollment → Use multi-age group and digital learning model  
Staffing challenges → Flexible teacher role, housing support  
Municipal budget limits → Seek co-funding from region and EU

## **10. Possible Funding or Business Model**

EU Interreg (education, rural resilience)  
Swedish regional development funds  
National education innovation grants  
Shared public-private funding model (local co-op, municipality)  
Income from shared building use (adult education, events)

## **11. Suggested Next Steps**

Present concept to Municipality of Strömstad and regional education board  
Organize feasibility meeting with parents and associations  
Develop school model based on blended learning and local curriculum  
Explore cross-border learning partnerships  
Prepare pilot launch for 2026–2027 academic year

## Municipality's Facilitating Role (RUDDER Framework)

Leadership: Position school reopening as a core pillar of island resilience and repopulation; assign education innovation lead.

Connector: Link educators, families, students, and Nordic island school networks.

Facilitator / Creator: Enable regulatory flexibility, co-design process and pedagogical testing.

Provider: Offer building, support services, and digital infrastructure.

Ambassador: Promote the reopened school regionally and nationally as a rural innovation case.

Leverage / Capitalize: Use the school as a hub for broader Koster development and services.

Network Orbiting: Connect to other island education experiments in Sweden and the Nordics.

Procurement Trendsetter: Enable innovative contracts for shared education and community services.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Interest/Motivation
Students (FREIIA, HiØ, HIV)	Education concept development, stakeholder process	Place-based innovation, community impact
Municipality of Strömstad	Regulatory and facility owner, co-funder	Education equity, year-round livability
Local families and parents	Primary users and co-designers	Quality of life, reduced travel, community belonging
Teachers and pedagogical staff	Educators and model testers	Innovation, flexible work in meaningful setting
Local associations and cultural actors	Co-users of space, program partners	Strengthen services and cultural life
Nordic school partners	Exchange and model development partners	Cross-border learning and innovation